



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

August 2026



Low tide at Cramond, Sunday 19 July

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

We meet on **Sundays 10.30-11.30 am** at the Open Door, 420 Morningside Road, and remotely by Zoom (hybrid).

Recent notices and late changes are sent by weekly email. Join the email list by clicking the link at <https://quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh>

On the **First Thursday** of each month we meet for **30 min at 7.30 pm** by Zoom, followed by chat.

Children are welcome anytime. For details of planned activities, see online.

Other local meetings

Central Edinburgh and Portobello-Musselburgh are closest: *look out for recent changes to their schedule*. For full info, times, and a map, see <https://quakerscotland.org>

Several South Edinburgh Friends also attend **Midweek Meeting on Wednesdays**. *During Aug and on 2 Sep, 11.30 for 30 mins (1 hour earlier)* at Victoria Terrace meeting house. Tea and coffee available, and you can bring a packed lunch.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Our charity in August is **Refugee Sanctuary Scotland**, a small Glasgow based group which provides practical support to prevent destitution and homelessness among refugees. Deirdre Armstrong will speak to this. Read more and donate <https://refugeesanctuaryscotland.org.uk>

QUAKER EVENTS

Latest updates at <https://bit.ly/SEdQuakEvents>

Edinburgh Meeting House is Venue 40 run by C venues ('C Alto'), so availability is reduced from 26 July to Sun 6 Sep:

- Midweek Meetings (Wednesday) will continue *but an hour earlier* (11.30 for 30 mins)
- On Sundays there will be reduced space, and no lunch after 11 am meeting
- 9.30 am Sunday Meeting will be online only
- As an experiment, the organisers may sell (moderate) alcohol to those attending events

Annual Faslane Christian Peace Witness Vigil on **Sat 1 Aug** at Faslane North Gate with buses departing from Edinburgh and Glasgow. More info and sign-up at <https://bit.ly/4wvaJVJ>

Quakers in Scotland online meeting 09.30-1.30 on **Sat 22 Aug**. Agenda and links to join in email.

Songs Of Unity Join folk singer Kim Edgar for a day of uplifting 'scratch choir' singing at Stockbridge Church **Sat 29 Aug**. No experience or music-reading required. Learn songs 11:30-5 (bring own lunch), then perform in some numbers in her evening concert 7-9 pm. 25% discount on prices (full £20-35) by emailing kimtedgar@hotmail.com before 15 Aug. Concert-only tickets also available – at www.edfringe.com/tickets search for Kim Edgar.

Garden Meeting – on **Sun 30 Aug** (5th Sunday) *No meeting at the Open Door*. Instead we will meet in Helen and Neil's garden at 10.30, or indoors if weather says otherwise. 30 mins meeting, 30 worship sharing, followed by lunch – bring something for that if you remember.

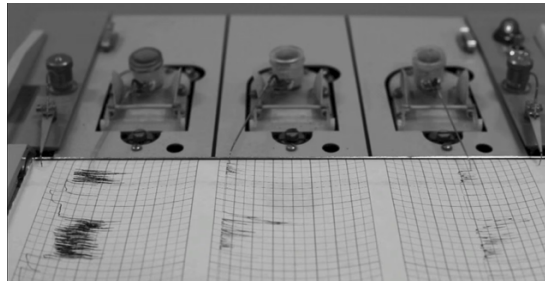
During August no Edinburgh Central book group, and no Thursday coffee at Rachel's



Helen with Helen at the Women in Black vigil. 'For justice – against war'. They're in front of Register House every Saturday 1-2 pm.

The sound of the inside of the world

In 2013 Dutch artist Lotte Geeven travelled to the KTB super-deep borehole in Southern Germany to record the sound 9 kilometres beneath the surface.



There have been deeper holes: the Kola super-deep borehole near the Finland border in Russia reached over 12 km (8 miles). The Deepwater Horizon borehole in the Gulf of Mexico (the 2010 oil spill does not seem to have been related to that depth) was almost as deep. However these holes have both been closed. More about Lotte Geeven at <https://bit.ly/4fP7guD>

Another engineering triumph



'Like a temple', one Friend said, as did Nikolaus Pevsner. But it's a Victorian sewage pump! Thinking through the improvements in air quality and health it created explains the pride. Crossness pumping station was a critical component of Bazalgette's revolutionary new London 'interceptor sewers', keeping foulness out of the Thames at the extreme West end of the Southern main sewer. It opened in 1865.

Edinburgh opened a comparable but much smaller intercepting sewer along the Water of Leith in 1867. South Edinburgh's growth led to installation of a Jordan Burn intercepting sewer after 1882, after 1884 extending East along the Powburn.

Other engineering: QiS and SESAM

At the SESAM meeting in Kelso there was mention of resources for those still concerned about the implications of South East Scotland joining Friends from other regions of Scotland as a single Area Meeting, 'Quakers in Scotland' (QiS). We are already members of QiS as the replacement for General Meeting, but other Area Meetings have passed on all their legal responsibilities to QiS, so that it has now become their Area Meeting. Some of the issues that have caused concern to SESAM members were mentioned, and two documents outlining some responses were offered.

You can find these under point 10 at <https://quakerscotland.org/qis/documents>

The sun is shining, come on in



Tarlair pool (1931) on the Moray Firth. From above (JThompson), in its heyday, and now – good café in the restored pavilion, local walks, but swimming not restored yet. Portobello's equivalent (below) opened 90 years ago in 1936.

Pressure to restore sea pools (of which Scotland had quite a lot) are coinciding with campaigns to restore inland lidos, which seem to be mostly located in the south of England. Heating climates may be helping persuade, but it's surely a good thing.

In Scotland the hydropathic hotel movement was a strong antecedent in the late 1800s, but our local Portobello was amongst the resorts to have enclosed sea pools, supported in that instance by warming from the adjacent power station (photo in Oct 2025 issue). Now a tiny sauna caravan on the seafront encourages quick sea dips before or after, and there is similar by the beach in St Andrews. Portobello also offers a splendid Victorian indoor public pool and sauna.

Many lidos and seawater pools were created in the 1930s, but abandoned as affordable air travel drew holidaymakers to warmer zones.

Outdoor Swimmer is the world's only monthly magazine devoted to outdoor swimming, surprisingly, making a subscription an excellent early Christmas idea; <https://outdoorswimmer.com> A recent issue focuses on Night swimming; those below feature swimming in January, and other hazards.



Josh graduation



Rufus was very touched to be invited along to see Josh, now 36, graduate at the Usher Hall in July. Many may remember his. younger version.

Other news and future events

Hiroshima Day is **Thur Aug 6**. Dominic has written something around this, we hope to include it next month, or ask for an early view.

Open Doors Day – volunteers will be sought to take on 2 hour stints at Edinburgh Meeting House on **Sat 26 Sep**, to answer Qs about the building and/or Quakers. Info resources provided. Contact details to follow.

Enquirers day – a Scotland-wide day will be held in Perth on **Sat 3 October**. (Same date as SESAM).

Becoming a story teller – at Edinburgh Meeting House on **Sat 10 Oct**. SESAM event.

The People's Emergency – this film about the climate emergency will be screened at Edinburgh Meeting House on **Sat 14 Nov** followed by discussion on actions. Volunteers sought to help with organisation – contact Janet Saunders (Central Edin).

More events at <https://bit.ly/SEdQuakEvents>

Space to pencil your contribution to the next issue. Your 30-word Festival review would fit perfectly. Or notes on the niche obsession/interest you'd like to share.

Happy Birthday

August birthdays of notable Quakers include:

Joseph John Gurney (238 years) Quaker banker and travelling preacher, brother of Elizabeth Fry. His evangelical approach and American followers (Gurneyites) contributed to Quaker schisms there.

Cyrus Clark (225y) co-founder of Clark's shoes.

John Cadbury (225y) man of chocolate.

Thomas Hodgkin (228y) renowned Guy's Hospital physician, trained at Edinburgh medical school, first described Hodgkin's disease.

William Allen (256y) scientist, abolitionist and philanthropist who founded pharmaceutical company Allen and Hanbury (later part of Glaxo).

Joseph E Southall (165y) artist, member of the Arts and Crafts movement.



Portrait of the Artist's Mother by JE Southall. (Birmingham Museums Trust)



The Botanists (1928. Herefordshire Museums)

Our newsletter is published near the last Sunday each month. Niche expertise and eccentric interest-based content to neilturn@gmail.com
Find this edition, plus archives of previous, at www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh