



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

September 2022



MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Meetings **every Sunday 10.30-11.30 am** at the Open Door, remotely by Zoom (hybrid, except on the last Sun of each month, for a trial period), and sometimes in a local garden. *Please check for late changes arriving via email.* To be added to the South Edinburgh Announce email list, see <https://quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh>

On the **First Thursday of each month** we also meet for **30 min at 8 pm** by Zoom, followed by chat.

Other local meetings

Central Edinburgh and Portobello-Musselburgh are closest. Times are listed in SESAME, but for full info and a map, see <https://quakerscotland.org>

Several South Edinburgh Friends also attend Central Edinburgh's **Midweek Meeting on Wednesdays**, 12.30 for 30 mins at Victoria Terrace meeting house. Tea and coffee are available, and you can bring a packed lunch.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Our collection in September is for **Wiston Lodge**, where many of us will be on Sep 9-11. Deirdre Armstrong will speak to this, and there is more information on p3. Donations online at www.wistonlodge.com/donate

QUAKER EVENTS

Evening Meeting by Zoom on first Thursdays at 8pm, so **Thur 1 Sep**.

RESTORE day – Sat 3 Sep, 10-3, led by Zoe Prosser. Details on p3. For all, notably including anyone who is new, or able to attend only infrequently.

Area Meeting will be held on **Wed 7 Sep**, 7-9 pm, at Victoria Terrace Meeting House and online.

Our annual **Wiston weekend** which takes place **Fri-Sun 9-11 Sep**. Bookings closed though.

General Meeting in Edinburgh on **Sat 10 Sep**, at Victoria Terrace and by Zoom. 11 am to 3.30 with lunch 1-2. Please contact Rachel Frith if you are able to offer gifts of cake, scones etc.

Sun 25 Sep MfW – not hybrid. On the last Sun of each month we are testing *not* linking our MfW worshipping groups via Zoom. Meetings will take place independently and unlinked at the Open Door, as an online group, or in other gatherings.

Meetings for Witness for Peace in Princes St Gardens are scheduled to coincide with meetings at Faslane on **Sun 25 Sep, 13 Nov**. 10.30 am.

SEE ALSO two early October notices on p4

South Edin friends are welcome to these Edinburgh Central events. In-person only. Qs to Rachel Frith.

Coffee – at Rachel's house on first and third Thursdays, from 10.15 am. Please contact Rachel in advance to ensure numbers OK.

Singing group, 3.30 pm on First Tuesdays at Victoria Terrace, resumes on Tue 6.

Book Group – meets 4th Sundays at 12.15 after Central MfW. For Sep: *To the Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolf.



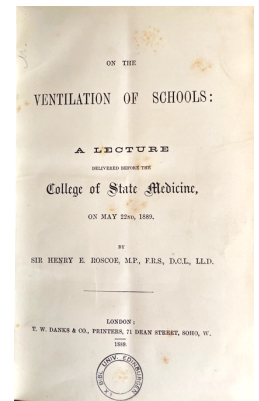
Along the Shore, a 1914 painting in tempera by Quaker artist Joseph Southall. More Quaker shore artists on p4.

Trending: Sewage and ventilation



London sewage. In 1858 London suffered a 'Great Stink' as the Thames filled with sewage in hot weather. This was just 4 years after Dr John Snow proved that cholera was caused by contaminated water. At last the huge sums of money required were made available to construct the London Embankment with its massive new intercepting sewers, as well as the District Railway line. The sewers became operational in 1878, preventing sewage emptying into the river in the city, to be pumped by enormous steam engines downstream well out of London – but still directly into the Thames. Left: 'Your money or your life' from Punch, 10 July 1858.

Edinburgh air. Bad air had previously been blamed for cholera, but increasingly was associated with phthisis (TB) and other ills. The 1889 paper to the right impressively measured carbon dioxide levels in classrooms, houses, and various urban and other settings in Edinburgh and Scotland, as an indication of adequacy of ventilation. It strongly argued that more spacious and better ventilated (and heated) schools were needed. This and other evidence shaped the design of schools for decades, and perhaps you also attended one with high classrooms, big windows, and rooms orientated so that right-handed children did not have shadows on their work.



Edinburgh sewage. Edinburgh's sewers emptied directly into open streams/ sewers and thence into the Firth of Forth until its first interceptor sewer, intercepting 180 pipes that previously emptied directly into the river, which opened along the line of the Water of Leith in 1867. This cleaned the river, but sewage still entered the sea at Leith. Other areas drained along three stream beds, via either side of the Canongate, and along Dumbiedykes/ St Leonards. These foul water courses (orange below) became progressively culverted and covered over with time, their use as water sources abandoned. All joined to form the *East Foul Burn*. This fragrantly entered extensive meadows (hence Meadowbank), where the solids were collected and sold, and the water used to grow grass for the city's resident cows and horses, creating a profitable enterprise.

Morningside sewage. The Jordan Burn, near the Open Door (later in its course known as the Pow Burn, reaching the sea at Portobello beach) became a major drainage route as high density building moved South. It became severely overloaded. A Portobello council vs. City of Edinburgh court case in 1882 forced the building of a Jordan Burn intercepting sewer (pink below), and in 1884 the Powburn Outfall Act forced the building of a more extensive sewer all the way to the sea (purple).



DEVELOPMENT OF EDINBURGH'S SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEME

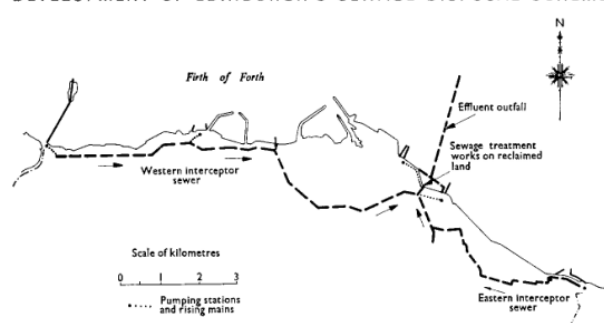


Fig. 2. Scheme in outline

All Edinburgh's sewage passed directly into the Firth of Forth, through 9 discharge points, until the massive Seafield project in the 1970s (yellow above) added interceptor sewers along the coast, and a treatment plant. A fascinating tale told at <https://bit.ly/3R9aU57> (@cocteautriplets again*). Effluent from the treatment plant is piped 2 km out. From 1978 to 98 solids were emptied 24 km off the Fife coast via the ship *Gardylloo* 3 times weekly. Now they are pasteurised at Seafield and sold again as manure.

* **Tales of obsession.** Those prone to rabbit hole study will not be pleased to learn that Andy Arthur has listed some years of his Twitter threads about Edinburgh history at <https://bit.ly/3wntde6> The history of its sewage accounts for at least 4.

Notes from Local MfW for Business, Sun 14 Aug 2022

Minutes have been circulated by email. Please request a paper copy if you cannot get them that way.

- We recorded a memorial minute for our Friend Sheila Menzies, who died in July 2020 aged 79. She is pictured to the right with her husband John King.
- We will continue to ask Friends to wear masks during Meeting at the Open Door, and we will continue with high levels of ventilation there. Please continue cautious behaviour during tea and coffee after Meeting. Consider taking your drink and chat outside.
- We collected some ideas for priorities for next year for Zoe Prosser, our Local Development Worker for Scotland. If you have any further ideas, please let Rici know by mid September.
- If you would like to suggest the name of any Friend to serve as Elder in our meeting, please let Rici Marshall Cross know before the next business meeting.
- The date of our next MfW for Business needed to be changed. It will be **October 9th** in place of the previously published 23 Oct. (*Date confirmed after the meeting*)



RESTORE – Saturday 3rd September 10 am – 3 pm

“Helps communities recognise where they are now, and begin to rebuild and plan for an exciting future”

In Neil and Helen's garden if dry, Open Door if wet. Drinks provided, but please bring your own lunch.

A chance for us to see where we are at as a meeting, identify any areas for support meetings to reconnect, acknowledge what has happened over the past few years, and then plan for an exciting future. Other meetings have found this process has been brilliant for helping meetings to come together and plan for the future. The day will be led by our local development worker for Scotland, Zoe Prosser. More at www.quakerscotland.org/our-work/support-for-meetings/restore

Wiston Lodge (this month's appeal) <https://wistonlodge.com>

We have long supported Wiston Lodge, near Biggar, and their facilities on our weekends with Quakers there. While delivering tailored learning programmes to children and young people, vulnerable adults, and to the staff of the organisations that support them, they aim to

- Work with the surrounding community to support, sustain and build a brighter future for our local area.
- Offer hospitality, recreational facilities, and training, to groups who support their charitable purpose.

Four core activities are at the heart of their programmes:

- Adventure Activities
- Nature Connections (bushcraft, conservation, gardening)
- Music and Art
- Renewable Energy Education

Our past donations have helped them build a new Hub where they run education programmes, provide facilities for people who are camping, and also it is where the Lanark Quaker Meeting meets.

They have helped many young people who have found formal education difficult, providing a different environment and the wonderful outdoor space in which to develop their potential.

Deirdre Armstrong

NEWS



Susie on the Shore Susie Reade invites us all to her little exhibition in Portobello Art Walk, 10 John Street EH15 2EE, adjacent to the Promenade. 10-6 Sat, 11-5 Sun, on the weekends **Sep 3-4** and **10-11**.

The subject matter is our use of the sea: in peacetime and war time, harbours, boat yards

and rusty fishing boats.

She will be giving a short talk about her work on **Sun 11 Sep** at 11am.

Afterwards consider taking a few steps to the nearby **Coade Stone Columns**, explained at www.atlasobscura.com/places/coade-stone-columns



Don't say 'climate emergency' – but why not, when it is? Olivia Hanks explains the risk that messages of fear can make people switch off, and why it cannot be a sprint. Interesting short post on the Quaker blog at <https://bit.ly/3oTB6nN>

OPEN DOOR: could you represent us? David Somervell is our representative on the board for the Open Door, which has been doing good things in Morningside since 1982. More information at www.theopendoor.org.uk and from David.

Failte project update: The Area Meeting project to support a refugee family settling in Edinburgh is no longer theoretical – they are here! Thanks to the many who have contributed to their welcoming, and who continue to help them settle into life in the city.



Join another meeting on World Quaker Day? FWCC invites Quakers everywhere to join in on **Sun 2 Oct** by sending visitors to another Quaker community – in person or online. Sign up at www.worldquakerday.org

Local Meeting for Business will be held after MfW on **Sun 9 Oct** – brought forward from the originally planned date of 23 Oct.

There will be a **40th anniversary thanksgiving service for the Open Door** at Greenbank Parish Church at 3pm on **Sat 29 Oct**.

INTERWEBS: Personal Quaker blogs

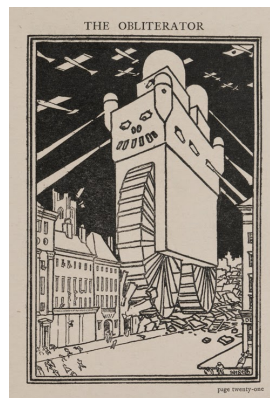
Perhaps it's time to feature some real Quakers here, instead of their biscuits. Starting with *Gil S* from Yorkshire, who describes herself as 'a retired librarian who reads a lot'. But she writes very well too, since 2005 keeping a tremendous, well-illustrated blog focusing particularly on histories of individual Quakers.

<https://stumblingstepping.blogspot.com>

For example the shore scene on p1 is by the Midlands Quaker artist Joseph Southall (1861-1944), who painted beautiful images as well as serious religio-political topics <http://bit.ly/3CrUErc>



The food queue (Oldham Art Gallery)



The Obliterator from *Fables and Illustrations* 1918



He painted Anna Elizabeth Baker 6 years before they married. On the right, the couple 14 years later in 1911.

Our newsletter is usually published near the last Sunday of each month. October offerings to neiltur@gmail.com
Find this edition, plus archives of previous, at www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh