



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

September 2024



A Festival walking tour of Edinburgh's building stones

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Meetings usually **every Sunday 10.30-11.30 am**

Held at the Open Door, 420 Morningside Road, or remotely by Zoom (hybrid).

Notices, other options, 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.

Arrangements for children: see online.

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 **Midweek Meeting on Wednesdays**, 12.30 for 30 mins at Victoria Terrace meeting house. Tea and coffee available after, you can bring packed lunch.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Our collection in September is for **Wiston Lodge**, where we have held residential weekends annually, but at other times gives opportunities to young people and vulnerable adults for outdoor education, personal development and community building. Recently a volunteer has helped to bring their large market garden back into operation. Deirdre Armstrong will speak to this. More info and donations <https://wistonlodge.com/donate>

QUAKER EVENTS

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

Local Meeting for Business will be held after MfW on **Sun Sep 1st**. After a short break for lunch - bring a sandwich.

Book group meets at 2pm on **Thur 12 Sep** to discuss Margaret Elphinstone's *Voyageurs*. Contact Catriona Courtier or Carol Jennings.

Wiston weekend is Fri 13 – Sun 15 Sep

Area Meeting on **Wed 18 Sep**, 7-9 pm (changed from 4 Sep), agenda in emails. This and GM to include further discussion on possible 'Quakers in Scotland' organisational change.

General Meeting in Inverness, **Sat 21 Sep** (changed to avoid Wiston weekend).

Woodbrooke in Edinburgh: *Trusting the spirit: understanding discernment*. Rhiannon Grant. 10-4 on **Sat 28 Sep** at Victoria Terrace. Book at www.woodbrooke.org.uk/sescotland by 19 Sep. Login details below table at (see top of column).

From Rachel Frith of Edinburgh Central:

Coffee at Rachel's house, from 10.15 am on first and third Thursdays. Please confirm with Rachel.

Book Group – third Sundays after soup: **Sun 15 Sep** *Drive the plow over the bones of the dead* by Olga Tokarczuk.



Historic and current Wiston Lodge

Get to Know: John Hampton

I was born in London, 96 years ago. My father, who died of pneumonia before I was a year old, had been in the army for 20 years and served in WW1. My mother remarried and had two more children and, though my stepfather was rather remote, he was kind and supportive.

After being a day pupil at a prep school, I moved to a public school when I was 13 and, because of WW2 we were evacuated to a building near Reading for four years and were boarded in hostels in the village. We cycled four miles to and from school each day. In 1945 the school moved back to London, to Hammersmith, where I continued my education.

My preferred subjects were scientific, but when I was put into an A level class for history – not my best subject – I decided instead not to postpone conscription but to go into the army (technically war service, but the fighting was over.) The suggestion was that I attend a teacher training course and teach, without a degree, when I came out. I was meantime given the job of teaching a boy to read and write. When I discovered that he could read the football results and write to his girlfriend but was unable to read notices about work rotas, I realised that knowledge was not everything!

I served in Malta for eighteen months and while there, I met the Bishop of Malta, and with his encouragement, decided to offer myself for ordination.

I flew back to England, ostensibly for a camouflage course, but actually to be assessed for ordination in the Church of England. I had sufficient qualifications for a place at Oxford and was accepted to read theology (the only place with a vacancy) at Lincoln College. I was supposed to learn Greek between March and October. I didn't! While at Oxford, I met a girl at the church youth club, and six years later, she became my wife.

After graduating, I trained for ordained ministry at a college in Cambridge and was ordained in 1953. I was curate of a church in the parish of Rugby for three years. Then I was chaplain in my old school, St Paul's, also teaching physics, chemistry and divinity and went on to serve the church in various capacities for forty years.

I retired in 1993 and we moved to Aberdeen to be near two of our daughters and five grandchildren and lived there for eighteen years. In 2005 my wife developed symptoms of dementia and moved into a nursing home three years later. Then, in 2011, my daughter, Sally, and her husband, who had been doing up a large house in Morningside, invited us to take Ann out of care and come to live with them in Edinburgh. Ann died eight months later, a few days after our diamond wedding anniversary.

I became an associate minister in St Cuthbert's Church in Colinton for eight years and retired for the second time when I was 90.

When I gave up my part time work in Colinton, I began to attend Wednesday Quaker meetings at Victoria Terrace (I had gone to Quaker meetings on fifth Sundays in Aberdeen.) And four years ago, I began attending South Edinburgh meeting. Now I worship at Greenbank Parish Church on the first Sunday of the month; and in St Cuthbert's Colinton on the second Sunday; and at South Edinburgh Quaker Meeting on the third and fourth Sundays.

I have been a religious explorer for many years, trying to find out what is there rather than being a seeker, looking for something I know is there. At Oxford I had realised that the Bible and New Testament were the compilation of writings of many people and much more complex than one had thought and that Christianity, as expressed in mainstream religion, is far from what Jesus was talking about two thousand years ago. At St Cuthbert's, there was a theological discussion group where I thought about my unhappiness with the language and theological terms of established religion. I have difficulty with thought forms like the Doctrine of Atonement which are not satisfactory from a moral point of view. It has been a lifelong quest. I am not an atheist, because science does not have all the answers and may yet discover something we have not found yet. I am a Christian agnostic. I cannot accept the traditional acceptance of Jesus as God – the Trinitarian belief.

Quakers suit me well because it does not insist on doctrines I have to wholeheartedly swallow. However, I do not wish to become a member, in part because of my loyalty to my religious background, and also because I cannot be a pacifist. I believe that there are extreme circumstances when the only possible response is violent opposition. Many other groups are not pacifists and, for example, in WW2 opposition was needed to Hitler's regime.



John spoke to Alison Chalmers in June 2024

Festival reviews

Box Tale Soup Take a book and tell it. They make all their props and clothes and have picked interesting books, starting with Northanger Abbey. This year's *Gulliver's Travels* was wonderful.

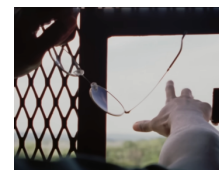


Shakespeare for Breakfast A perennial. "*The Tempest meets 10 Things I Hate About You and High School Musical in a teen rom-com-romp*", described by our critic as 'Young people enjoying themselves' – always entertaining, 'maybe spoken too fast'.

Sawdust symphony German trio delivers a schwedenplatte of carpentry, circus and ballet, with elements of whackamole and unexpected beauty.



Trainspotting Live Vivid and visceral retelling of famous dark Edinburgh movie translated to an intimate stage that merges actors and audience. Fake bodily fluids free to those in front row.



Sing Sing A film from its director's 8-year association with a drama programme in a notorious New York State prison. 85% of the cast have been through the programme. Follows a play through script development, improvisation, and up to the dress rehearsal, seeing human frailty, struggle, anger, and friendship. 'Trust the process' a recurring phrase. This discipline held them together. Now on general release including the Cameo.

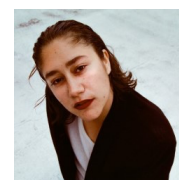
Richard Holloway interviewed by Allan Little in the Book Festival. Tracing his journey from Anglican priest, one time Bishop of Edinburgh, to his present agnosticism. He embraces *uncertainty*. Life is amazing and mysterious. We cannot *know*. Certainty has been the bugbear of religion throughout the ages. Belief can be set aside – what is important is kindness and caring for others. Atheists who can be as dogmatic as any religious fundamentalist. Inspiring and encouraging. His latest book is called *On Reflection*.

Sh!t Theatre Poignant and sometimes painfully moving; there was grief and there was laughter. People have always sung about losses in their lives. So well performed and sung, and followed by a singaround. Moments from this show keep coming back to me.



Hamlet by Peruvian actors with Downs Syndrome. Phenomenal, so much life. Brought own sense of being excluded, not believed, and subjected to heavy parental control, somehow exuded energy even in the darkest parts, and always spoke directly which suited the Shakespeare monologues so well.

The Christening of Prince Imogene A candid, moving account of a teenager's journey to feel comfortable within themselves and in their fluid gender identity. Otis Wolodarsky carried the solo show memorably, with integral piano and songs.



My Mother's Funeral Director rejects '*Alien Ants*' having expected re-run of Black working class realism, threatening funding of playwright's mum's funeral. Great cast, beautifully done.

Rachel Parris Acerbic, quick-witted and musical commentary on life and the patriarchy from Austentatious and Mash Report star.

Mark Thomas Man with microphone gives it to all the people who need to know how we feel! Brilliant.

Why I Stuck a Flare Up My Less laddish banter than you might expect in this 1-man 90 minutes. Explains wanting to belong to a thuggish group of football followers, developing into tales of male friendship, depression, and eventually suicide. Memorable serious humour.



Amy's View 1997 David Hare play portraying divisions between theatre versus film, but also between actor mother, her daughter, and daughter's film maker partner, and a grandmother and financial adviser with competing interests. Impressive by Edinburgh Makars and director Martin Burnell.

Thanks to our critics Anon, Deirdre Armstrong, Dorothy Buglass, Alison Burnley, Helen Cameron, Malcolm Gentry, EL, Ola Oduku, Rosamond Robertson, MT, Neil T.

News and future events

Edinburgh Meeting House Manager needed for 7 Victoria Terrace. Accommodation available but residence not a requirement. Full details at www.equaker.org.uk/vacancies/managers-2024 Closing date **Sun 15 Sep**.

Accommodation/B&B – could you? Central Edinburgh's **Quaker B&B Scheme** supports AM expenses and Edinburgh Meeting House. If you have a spare bedroom, could you sometimes accommodate travelling Quakers and Quaker-connected people? In return for meeting interesting people, reimbursement of your costs, and a donation by visitors to AM funds. Please contact judith.a.benton@gmail.com (phone number in book).

Quaker connections to The Archers are described in the Woodbrooke blog at www.woodbrooke.org.uk/quakers-and-the-archers – including that a Quaker first suggested it!

From **Wed 4 Sep** a trio of weekly Zoom sessions discuss contemporary issues presented in the World's longest-running soap. Book your place at <https://bit.ly/3AFNS2d>

More Woodbrooke – if you don't get their monthly email you can read them all at www.woodbrooke.org.uk/newsletters including course and events listings.

On their YouTube channel you can watch Swarthmore lectures and many and varied other things. www.youtube.com/user/WoodbrookeUK

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

Art

Portobello Art Walk and Susie's exhibition

Susie Reade has an exhibition as part of the Portobello Art Walk – catch it 10-6 on Sat-Sun **Sep 7-8** and **Sep 14-15** at 10 John Street. Map and more details at www.artwalkporty.co.uk



Panoramas, first virtual reality experience?

You went in a tunnel, upstairs to a round platform surrounded by a huge painted panorama of Edinburgh (first tested here), London, Venice, Pompei ... all the rage in 1810. Free, Edinburgh Uni Library in George Sq, ends 28 Sep.



Ei Anatsui 50 years of work from this Ghanaian artist at the Talbot Rice Gallery in Old College (by W College St door), ends 29 Sep. First of three African artists featured in the Festival:

Chris Ofili's wonderful triptych at Dovecot Studios, ends Oct 5th.

Ibrahim Mahama *Songs about Roses* at the Fruitmarket Gallery ends Oct 6.

Dressing the Georgians (not African) at the King's Gallery, Holyrood, ends Sep 22.

Lavery, 'Irish impressionist' at RSA ends Oct 27.