



## SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

October 2024



Harvest, East Lothian.

### 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). **Except 27 Oct at the Steiner School**, see next column.

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, you can eat your packed lunch.

### SPECIAL COLLECTION

Our collection in October is for **Aid and Abet**, which supports prison leavers in Glasgow, Edinburgh and the Lothians. Deirdre Armstrong will speak to this. More at [www.aidnabet.org](http://www.aidnabet.org) (donate link top right).

## QUAKER EVENTS

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

**Simple, Radical, Spiritual: Quaker Week** runs from **Sat 28 Sep - Sun 6 Oct**. Outreach materials available from <https://bit.ly/3Xsj4uM>

George Fox's 400<sup>th</sup> birthday will be a common theme this year. *See also Sat 5 Oct.*

**Visit to Steiner School** as a potential future meeting place. **Fri 4 Oct**. Meet outside the main entrance, 60-64 Spylaw Rd, 3.15 for 3.30. *See also Sun 27th Oct.*

**Life and times of George Fox and the relevance of his ministry today** – as part of Quaker Week, on **Sat 5 Oct** led by Ben Pink Dandelion. 12.45 – 4.45, lunch provided. Free but donations will be collected for Edin Central funds. Space limited, booking essential at <https://tinyurl.com/2a5n4xaw>

**South Edin Book group** meets at 2pm on **Thur 24 Oct** to discuss Laura Thompson's *Take Six Girls*. Contact Catriona Courtier or Carol Jennings.

**South Edinburgh Meeting** will be held at the **Steiner School** on **Sun 27 Oct** (60-64 Spylaw Rd EH10 5BR). It will be followed by a shared lunch, as it's a 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday and we should test that too.

---

From Rachel Frith of Edinburgh Central:

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

**Central Book Group** – usually third Sundays after soup, except postponed this month to **Sun Oct 27**. This month, *The Weekend* by Charlotte Wood.



The end of coal (p3).  
Highland Folk Museum, Newtonmore.

## Notes from Local Meeting for Business Sun 1 Sep 2024

Full minutes have been circulated by email, but please ask if you need a paper copy. Key points:

- We heard a memorial minute for Mary Halliday.
- Our meetings at the Open Door have become harder to set up, less adaptable to larger numbers, and limited to use of the basement room only. This will be raised with the Open Door, but Rosamond presented initial findings from her exploration of possible alternative venues, in particular a nice room in the Steiner School in Spylaw Road. South Edinburgh Friends met there 1976-82, but in a prefabricated building at 49 Polwarth Terrace. This possibility was heard with great interest, and there will be visit possibilities (*see front page*).
- There was strong support for continuing Meetings for Peace in Princes St Gardens, scheduled to coincide with meetings at the gates of Faslane. Ways to make their purpose clearer to passers by will be considered, and Monthly Meeting will be asked to publicise and support.
- Bring and share lunch after Meeting – we will hold these every 4th Sunday, starting 27<sup>th</sup> October, as long as that can be accommodated at the Open Door.
- We were asked, *Should we hold business meetings more frequently?* And answered No. We settled on a pattern of quarterly meetings on 4th Sundays to match shared lunch dates, fixing our next meeting for **Sun 24 Nov**.

## Clerking crisis at SE Scotland Area Meeting

Alastair Cameron completed his second 3-year term as AM Clerk at the end of September, and Cath Dyer will complete her second 3-year term as Assistant AM Clerk in December. In the absence of successors, both have agreed to serve for a further 12 months.

AM Nominations Committee and clerking team have both given this consideration over a number of years now. No one has yet been found who is prepared to take on these roles.

Esther Shreeve (South Edin) is taking on the role of Assistant AM Clerk (Membership), replacing Richard Williams (Central Edin). We have identified one or more other members who may be interested in joining the clerking team, but not yet.

This is now a crisis: a new team needs to be identified within the next six months to allow handover from Alastair and Cath.

## Quakers in Scotland news

Area Meeting on 18 Sep was enlivened by a number of contributions from South Edinburgh in favour of joining other AMs with QiS. Earlier in the year SESAM had requested a halt to further development until more detail of how the experience of being a Quaker in Scotland might be changed. This had been addressed by discussions and consultation, and moving on with the project was now supported. At Inverness on 21 Sep General Meeting approved the creation of a new charity, Quakers in Scotland, and continuing work to propose detailed ways of working by the QiS Coordinating Group, together with foundation trustees of the new charity. One foundation trustee is requested from each AM.

Updates and more detail can be found at QiS News: <https://quakerscotland.org/general-meeting/qis-news>

## Central governance for Quakers in the UK

How can our central governance evolve and adapt to new challenges while remaining true to that which makes us distinctly Quaker? 'Simplifying our structures' is presented at <https://bit.ly/3TLnavV>

## Wider news

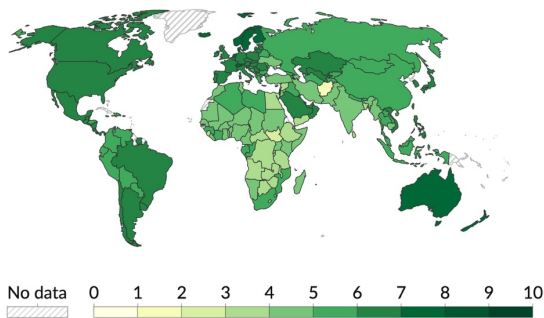
According to questions in an annual worldwide Gallup poll, levels of satisfaction with life haven't changed much since 2012. Healthier and richer countries tend to have higher scores. Just one of four graphs we're sharing from [@OurWorldInData](#)

Other graphs show: rapidly falling coal consumption in most countries. Life expectancy: out of line with wealth in the USA; most countries show signs of recovering after COVID dip. Falling global death rates from malaria, even though it is too soon for the effects of new vaccines to be shown here.

### Self-reported life satisfaction, 2023

Our World in Data

Average of responses to the 'Cantril Ladder' question in the Gallup World Poll. The survey asks respondents to think of their current place on a ladder, with the best possible life for them being a 10, and the worst possible life being a 0.

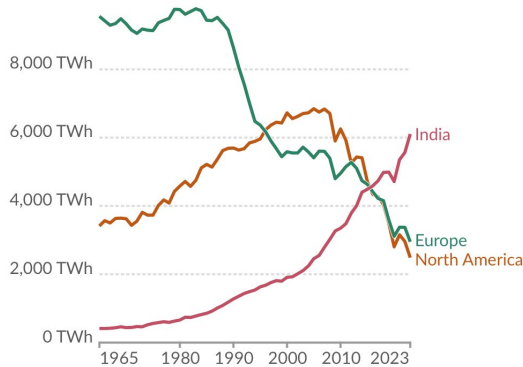


Data source: World Happiness Report (2012-2024)  
OurWorldInData.org/happiness-and-life-satisfaction | CC BY

### Coal consumption

Our World in Data

Annual consumption of coal for primary energy, measured in terawatt-hours (TWh).

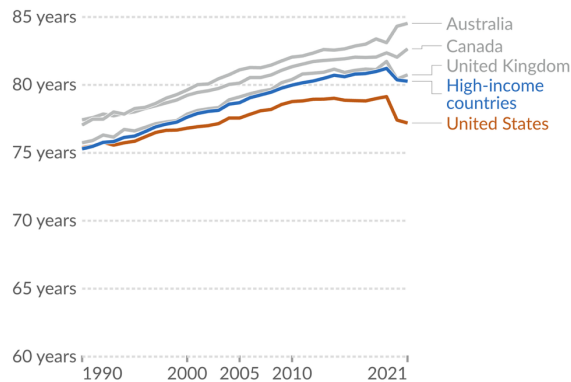


Data source: Energy Institute - Statistical Review of World Energy (2024)  
OurWorldInData.org/fossil-fuels | CC BY

### Life expectancy in the United States is lower than peer nations

Our World in Data

The period life expectancy at birth, in a given year.

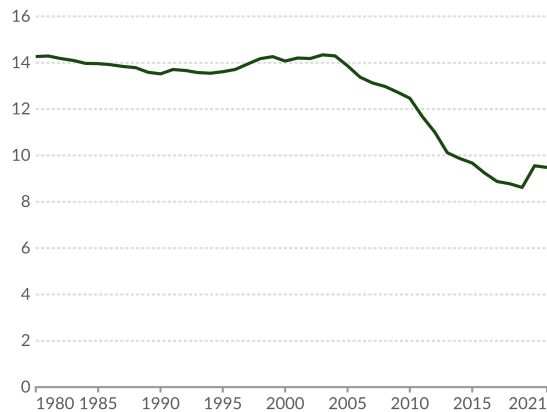


Data source: UN WPP (2022); HMD (2023); Zijdeman et al. (2015); Riley (2005)  
OurWorldInData.org/life-expectancy | CC BY

### Global malaria death rate

Our World in Data

Estimated deaths from malaria, per 100,000 people.



Data source: IHME, Global Burden of Disease (2024)  
OurWorldInData.org/malaria | CC BY

## More energy news

China's carbon dioxide emissions fell by 1% in the second quarter of 2024, the first quarterly fall since COVID-19, and the first ever structural decline due to growth in renewables. Electricity generation from wind and solar grew by 171 TWh in the first half of the year, and the increase in the number of EVs on China's roads cut demand for transport fuels by approximately 4%.

In Norway in August, 94% of new cars registered were all-electric.

In the UK, the last ever trainload of coal for electricity generation was delivered in September, to our last coal-burning power station, Ratcliff on Soar in Nottinghamshire, which is closing in early October.

## News and future events

**Christian Aid climate change event** – in Perth on **Sat 19 Oct** from 10 am. More info at <https://bit.ly/4d7WwUG>

**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](mailto:judith.a.benton@gmail.com) (phone number in book).

**Throwaway culture: Single use cup consultation** We get through an average of 71 per person each year. The Scottish Government is proposing a 25p surcharge on drinks sold in disposable cups. Read about it and respond by **Thur 14 Nov** at <https://bit.ly/3ZFsnZR>

**Edinburgh Young Adult Quakers** have local get togethers and a WhatsApp group. Central Edinburgh meeting has several active members, and there are details of a national forum at [www.quaker.org.uk/communities/young-adult-quakers](http://www.quaker.org.uk/communities/young-adult-quakers)

**Updated Pastoral Care lists** have gone to all by email, and there should be some paper copies at Meeting.



**Stitched: Scotland's Embroidered Art '80** exquisite pieces 1720-1920. At the Dovecot Studios in Infirmary Street from **25 Oct** (£). <https://dovecotstudios.com/exhibitions/stitched>

## Even more news

**South Edinburgh appointments to AM** It is excellent news that from 1<sup>st</sup> October Esther Shreeve becomes Assistant Clerk (membership) to AM, and Ian Robertson becomes an AM trustee.

**Wanted:** volunteer co-ordinator for the **Warm Space** programme at Edinburgh Meeting House during Jan and Feb 2025. 3h/week for 9 weeks, plus organisation (request grant, advertise for volunteers to add to existing 4, print fliers and advertise, organise rota and supplies). Contact Lynne Barty for more details and to offer help.



**The work that reconnects** – a series of five workshops for anyone currently involved in addressing the climate and ecological crises or who wishes to become more active. Leaders include SESAM Friends Chris Booth, Jane Lewis, and Lesley Morrison.

Sessions held at St Mary's Cathedral Song School (home of Phoebe Anna Traquair's 'song of creation' murals) on five Monday evenings over 6 weeks from **Mon Oct 14**. ££ donations requested. More info and booking at <https://bit.ly/47RwiF6>

*Our newsletter is published near the last Sunday of each month. Nice things for November to [neilturn@gmail.com](mailto:neilturn@gmail.com)  
Find this edition, plus archives of previous, at [www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh](http://www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh)*