



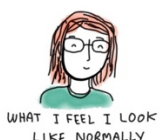
SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

January 2021



MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

A score of Friends each week have been joining Sunday meeting via Zoom. Every **Sunday 10.30 am**. Instructions in emails (email list details at <https://quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh> and p2). If you have problems with Zoom, Martin Burnell may be able to help. Unless it's this one:



@twisteddoodles

Some meetings in South East Scotland are now/still holding physical meetings, but with severely limited capacity – booking is essential. Portobello indoor; Central Edinburgh offers a simultaneous online/ in person experience; Kelso, indoor. As it has snowed we won't even mention Tweeddale's outdoor meetings.

QUAKER EVENTS

Area Meeting will be held by Zoom on **Mon 18 Jan** 7-9 pm. Link in emails. Will include a presentation from Andrew Tomlinson, our new Parliamentary engagement officer, and Grace Da Costa, Public affairs and advocacy manager for Quakers in Britain.

A **Special General Meeting** to discuss the future use of technology and blended meetings will be held on **Sat 6 Feb**, 10-11.30 am.

Our next Local Meeting for Business is scheduled for Sun Feb 28. See page 2 for a table of local and national business meetings in 2021.

South Edinburgh Friends are very welcome to join the following Edinburgh Central Meeting events. All via Zoom: *joining details in the email with this newsletter*, or contact rachel.frith@waitrose.com

Book group – on **Sun 3 Jan** at 12.15, RK Narayan's *The English Teacher*. Also on 31st Jan.

Singing Group – meets on **Tue 5 Jan**, 7.30 pm

Online coffee – bring your own to an online conversation, 10.30-12 on **Thur 7 and 21 Jan**.

Book group – on **Sun 31 Jan** at 12.15, William Faulkner's *Light in August*.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

In January will be for the **Peace and Justice Centre's Peace Building project**. David Somervell will speak to this. More info at <http://peaceandjustice.org.uk/projects>



Low-carbon vehicle (MHT, future influencer)

More Events and News on the Back Page

SOUTH EDINBURGH QUAKER CALENDAR 2021

Especially for 2021, please double-check locations and dates near the time.

2020	Local Meeting (us. 3rd Sun)	Area Meeting	GM and other meetings
Jan		Mon 18 (Zoom) 7-9pm	
Feb	28 February		Sat 6 – Special GM (see page 1)
Mar		Sat 20 (East Lothian nominally) am + pm	Sat 6 GM – North (Aberdeen nominally)
April	25 April		
May		Tue 11 (Central Edin nominally) 7-9pm	
June	6 June	Sat 19 (South Edin nominally) am + pm	Sat 12 GM – East (Dundee nominally)
July			
Aug			Fri 31 Jul to Sat 8 Aug – Britain Yearly Meeting (online)
Sep	5 Sep	Wed 8 (Central Edin TBC) 7-9pm	Sat 11 GM – West (Glasgow TBC)
Oct			
Nov	7 Nov	Sat 27 (Penicuik TBC) am + pm	Sat 20 GM – South-East (Edinburgh TBC) (Next GM will be Sat 6 Mar 2021, North)
Dec			

Local Meeting for business: Follows our Sunday morning meeting five times a year. Kept brief.

Meetings for Witness at the North Gate, Faslane: **Currently suspended** – dates may follow later in the year. A 2-hour drive from Edinburgh, starts 11am. Bring something to sit on, clothing that deals with the weather – from rain to midges – and something to eat before the journey home. Coordinated by Alison Burnley.

Other things around the UK

LIST: www.quaker.org.uk/events has an excellent list. You can filter it to show type of event and who it's suitable for (young, old, workshops, conferences)

Woodbrooke Learning 2020 – browse and search at www.woodbrooke.org.uk/learn/courses Courses at **Swarthmore Hall** are currently suspended, www.swarthmoorhall.co.uk – but you can book to stay there.

Hearing from us by email

Through **South Edinburgh Announcements** you can receive emails from South Edinburgh Quakers. This is used for short-notice news, additional information about interesting events, and Zoom details for online meetings. To join this list, see details on our webpage at <http://quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh> Enrolling includes an approval step to make sure it's a list of people we know.

The email list for the **newsletter** is broader, contact neilturn@gmail.com



I want more Quaker news!

- The **BYM blog** at www.quaker.org.uk/blog is refreshingly varied, interesting, and concise. **Quake** is a topical monthly short email from BYM. Sign up at www.quaker.org.uk/resources/newsletters/quake
- You can subscribe (£) to **The Friend** at <https://thefriend.org>

What we do with data – an occasional reminder, and our Privacy Notice

We followed the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) for many years before it came into force in 2018. GDPR stresses that we should make it clear what data we hold, and why. We need active permission to keep non-essential details, or pass anything on. See also our info about emails (p2).

We keep contact details of members, and of attenders who have opted in to this, in our Local and Area Meetings records, and with General Meeting for Scotland. We don't pass details on to any other organisations, and we ask your permission before we publish them in our Book of Members.

We have to contact each other in order to function as a Society. So if you've given us your address, phone number, email, etc, we don't need additional consent to use them for core activities, but you can change your preferences about how we contact you at any time.

You can ask for your name to be removed from our records, and so far as we are able, we will do that. We are obliged to keep some of our records for varying time periods by law. Some non-sensitive records (minutes of our business meetings, for example) may be kept indefinitely as they are deemed historical. There is more information about these and some other intricacies, including a bold attempt to list all our lists, in General Meeting's longer document on data privacy, available from <http://quakerscotland.org/general-meeting>

Pandemic party

Comments on Covid from all-age party-by-Zoom, 20th Dec. Poem: James McT. Photo: historical archives.



Distanced Beanies

To Covid-19, who tried to cancel Christmas

You could not cancel Christmas
My mother would never agree.
She'll have her family, old friends on the phone
And her beautiful Christmas tree.

You thought you'd cancelled Christmas
The Quakers aren't retreating
Kids in the Meadows, Skype and Zoom
Are our new ways of meeting.

You tried to cancel Christmas
You might as well have tried
To cancel Spring, or birds, or stars
Or rainy Scottish skies.

We'll always have a Christmas
And there will be another
And any day is Christmas
When we all have each another.

Minutes of Local Meeting for Worship for Business, held online on Sun 29 Nov 2020

1. Opening Worship

In the quiet when we gathered, we heard a memorial minute celebrating the life of Ann Barrett who died 11 October aged 90 (attached). We were 15 in attendance via Zoom.

2. Minutes of our 20 September 2020 meeting – Matters Arising:

• Meetings for Learning

- **Scottish Youth Climate Strike** – speaker date still to be confirmed
- **Gender Diversity 201** – date still to be confirmed
- **Black Lives Matter to Quakers** – Four study groups have met since September and continue into December. Contributions so far revealed a remarkable range of lived experience of racism. *“It feels like the beginning of a journey. We want to continue this learning.”* said one friend. *“We recognise that change comes from within,”* said another. Reflecting on sessions so far one friend said *“We have so much to learn. We can become more loving and more lovable if we take on board these leadings ... that support our testimony to equality.”* We recognised we have so much to learn:
 - Learning about Black History
 - Consciousness raising about our White Privilege / White Supremacy
 - Just the start of uncovering systemic racism.

We look forward to a session early in 2021 on how to confidently respond when we encounter racism in everyday lives.

We were pleased to hear that Edwina Peart, Inclusion and Diversity Coordinator for Quakers in Britain now has a permanent post at Friends House.

• Meeting our constituency MP – We were glad that three friends had met with Ian Murray on 27 November, raising our concern about these issues:

- Rendition and torture – he agreed to follow up on guidance on treatment of detainees
- Asylum Seekers – Ian explained how bad the atmosphere is in the Home Office which (mis)manages the appeal system for asylum seekers.
- Arms exports to Saudi Arabia – Ian mentioned that Mark Garnier MP is the new chair of the Committees on Arms Export Controls [note oral evidence review coming up 15 Dec]
- Support for all citizens in the pandemic. Ian shared the Labour Party approaches to tackling poverty and austerity in such a difficult time when the government at Westminster have such a very large majority. We had a good exchange of views.

• Meeting our constituency MSP – concerns we raise with Daniel Johnson – next LMFB.

3. The role of Clerk

We heard that David Somervell and Neil Turner had served as clerk and assistant clerk respectively since 2013 and sought release from service. They were warmly thanked for their contribution to the life of the meeting.

We appointed Rici Marshall Cross as our clerk from December 2020 to November 2023.

As we were not yet clear how we might best support her in this role we agreed that Rici will call on friends meanwhile, and we might appoint an assistant clerk in the future.

4. Arrangements for the holiday period

- Rock Trust AND Food Bank collections – Something special for young homeless people and the necessities of life for many others – to go to Deirdre
- Meetings for Worship – We agreed to meet together expectantly at 10.30am for 30 minutes on 25 December - online with usual link.
- We await formal ideas from the coming meeting of the Children's Committee for an informal all age festive meet-up on a date and time they sense will attract most of us.

5. Powers of Attorney, Advance Directive and Funeral Preferences

We were reminded to formally record our decisions about what should happen to us as we grow old and die; and to regularly review them:

- **Continuing Power of Attorney** relates to financial / property affairs and may take effect immediately and continue when you lose your capability; or you can decide you only want it to begin if you become incapable. www.mygov.scot/power-of-attorney/

- **Welfare Power of Attorney** allows someone you have appointed to make welfare decisions for you, and this only starts if you have lost the capacity to make decisions.
- **Advance Directives:** Formerly called living wills, these set out medical treatments to which you do or do not consent. Discuss with a doctor and your Welfare Power of Attorney; it's helpful to carry a card with your wishes. Template here <https://bit.ly/ad-s>
- **Funeral Preferences:** Write down your wishes for your funeral – for those bereaved and Quaker elders supporting them. Use form at AM website <https://bit.ly/sesam-fp>

6. Other business and Announcements

We heard that Area Meeting on 28 November had agreed to send £30,000 contribution from AM funds to Britain Yearly Meeting – less than we contributed last year. Friends who are able to were encouraged to make a [direct contribution to BYM](#) to make up for the £3million shortfall in income in 2020 for the Society which threatens the retention of our staff. Options at <https://bit.ly/BYMgiving>.

Date of Next Local Meeting for Worship for Business to be advised – *subsequently agreed for 28 Feb.*

Memorial Minute for Ann Barrett

Ann Macdonald was born in Glasgow on 26th June 1930. Ann's early years were spent in an orphanage, or with foster parents. Ann's mother Flora visited her regularly, and Ann called her 'Day' because she only visited 'for the day'. When Ann's grandmother realised that Ann was not thriving, Ann was 'adopted' back into their family home in South Clark Street, Edinburgh. Fond memories of this time were of a close-knit matriarchal household with a wider coterie of aunts and uncles.

Ann attended the Mary Erskine School for Girls, before going up to Edinburgh University to read English Literature. Her tales of these years include attending concerts and enjoying the first Edinburgh Festival in 1947. Ann developed a love of poetry, languages and history. Following teacher training, Ann became a schoolmistress at the Jersey College for Girls and was loved by her pupils. In Jersey, Ann met and married Ron Barrett, and during the next few short years she had four children (all boys!).

Ann joined the Society of Friends as a member of Leicester meeting around 1973, where she used her excellent language skills to co-edit the local Friends newsletter for many years. Ann was also pivotal in organising and supporting the Leicester Friends 'Arts Circle' group. Ann was also a key member of the Leicester Friends fortnightly 'Prayer Group'.

Ron's death resulted in Ann moving back to Edinburgh in 2011, where she transferred her membership to South Edinburgh meeting. Unfortunately, Ann's failing health (including her acute deafness) meant that her attendance at meeting declined over the years, to the point where she wasn't able to attend South Edinburgh meeting for about the last three years.

Ann died at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary on 11th October 2020, and her funeral was held at Warriston Crematorium on 27th October 2020.



Because I could not stop for death – Emily Dickinson's 160 year old modern and beautiful short poem is silently explained in this animated reading. 2 mins at <https://youtu.be/4eGFMw3U1ts> Words from the Poetry Foundation, with audio by a different reader, at <https://bit.ly/38J7eSp> Or read 17 essays on her poem at <https://bit.ly/3rNuFCW> (3 hours plus).

Please think how you would like to manage your end of life plans and arrangements. It is so much easier for those who care for us if they have some guidance. A few years ago people were encouraged to complete a funeral preference form. This might be the time to revise that and make sure it still reflects your wishes, or maybe you have never thought about it, and now might be the time.

Read Minute 5 above for more info. Please talk to your Elder or Overseer if helpful.

Esther Shreeve

NEWS

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland – many Quakers are involved in this initiative. Info session **14 Jan** <https://climatefringe.org/scss-live-events> 5.30pm. Statement from the Scottish Religious Leaders Forum: <https://youtu.be/WqF2cb9qyFw>

Job opportunity: Local development worker for Quakers in Scotland – closes **14 Jan**. www.quaker.org.uk/job-opportunities/jobs



Nuclear weapons ban – 50 states have ratified the UN Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons. This means it has 'international legal force' from **22 Jan**, when there is a campaign to display and photograph banners. Janet Fenton is coordinating for Scotland, <https://bit.ly/37UDrXL>.

A nice example of short, good to read posts from the BYM blog: Isabel (Izzy) Cartwright on **Peace in schools** post-pandemic, <https://bit.ly/38Ek0lg>

International Quaker statement on Migration – the UN declared International Migrants Day on 18 Dec, their webpage <https://bit.ly/3nWqC8I> summarises some issues, and was supported by international quakers. Localisation on BYM's page <https://bit.ly/3n2q8Jj>



Tim Cresswell's short poem *A Theory of Migration*, words below. Hear him reading it, 1 min at <https://bit.ly/3aPrQv4> with intro.

A Theory of Migration

Push. The slowing down of everything
but you. Like when the driver hits the brakes
and you're slo-mo through the windscreen.

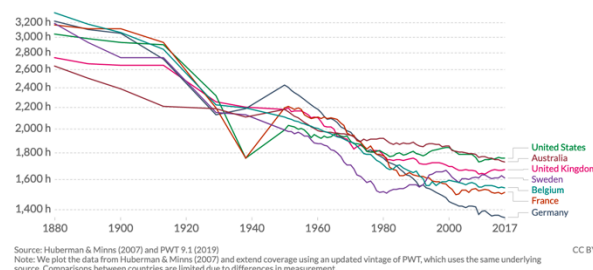
Pull. The earthly tug of gravity
on space debris. The fizzing blue light
that zaps the bugs by the turquoise sea.

Tim Cresswell

Internet of the moment

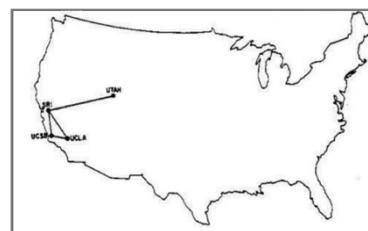
Our **Wikipedia page of the month** is **Fertility Deities** (440 visits/day). There are hundreds.

Good news



Data from ourworldindata.org suggests that we

- work half the hours we did 120 years ago (graph above)
- spend 3-5 times as much time with our children as we did 60 years ago



The Internet in 1969 (@TerribleMaps)
What if there had been a pandemic then?

Our newsletter is usually published on the last Sunday of each month. Send your publishable thoughts to neilturn@gmail.com

This edition, plus archives of previous issues, at www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh