



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

July 2021



Chimney pots, South Edinburgh

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Meetings every **Sunday 10.30-11.30 am**. Zoom and limited in-person options are available. In-person includes limited numbers at the Open Door, and in a garden (p4). If you'd like to join one of these, booking is essential.

Joining instructions for Zoom, and how to book in-person, are sent in emails via our South Edinburgh Announce email list. To be added, see <https://quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh>. If you have technical problems with Zoom, Martin Burnell offers help.

Midweek Meeting may be resuming at Victoria Terrace Meeting House soon. Again, booking required to join in person. Details will be in emails, or Alison Burnley is keeping in touch.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Our collection in July is for **Families Outside**, a Scottish charity which works on behalf of families affected by imprisonment, providing information and practical and emotional support. Deirdre Armstrong will speak to this. More information and online donations at www.familiesoutside.org.uk

QUAKER EVENTS

July and August tend to be thin months for events and for this newsletter, with school holidays and the Edinburgh Festival usually filling the time nicely.

Britain Yearly Meeting Gathering (YMG) is over three online weeks this year, its final week running into Yearly Meeting sessions over the weekends from **Fri 31 July** and **Fri 6 Aug**. Key themes are anti-racism, gender diversity, and climate justice. www.quaker.org.uk/ym

Current restrictions (June 30) affecting our meetings are subject to change. A possible further relaxation from July 19 may or may not happen. So at present, the Open Door has a capacity of 10, or 12 if some people are from shared households. Outdoors, up to 8 people; indoors in a house, 6 people from up to 3 households.

South Edinburgh Friends are very welcome to join the following Edinburgh Central Meeting events. All via Zoom: details from rachel.frith@waitrose.com

Singing Group – meets every first Tue at 7.30 pm

Online coffee – *holidaying*, resume Aug 19.

Book Group – 12.15 (after Central MfW) on **4th Sundays**. This month *Miss Benson's Beetle* by Rachel Joyce.



North Uist Sea Pinks, via [@JohnGillies6](https://twitter.com/JohnGillies6)
More remote islands in Shorts, page 3

Road to COP26

COP26 is the UN Climate Change Conference taking place in Glasgow **1-12 Nov**. <https://ukcop26.org>

What are Quakers doing? See <https://quakerscotland.org/cop26>

The Edinburgh COP26 coalition

The coalition is part of a countrywide civil society initiative to use the international focus on the COP26 in Glasgow this November to press for immediate and necessary action on climate change. They say that they are working to build a broad, creative and positive movement including all parties with a concern for the present and future stewardship of our planet. Join their mailing list and be notified of future events by contacting edinburghcop26coalition@gmail.com Or follow them on social media

The Loving Earth project

Is creating textile artistry for an exhibition around the COP26 meeting in Glasgow, but particularly from Scotland, also for practical help in linking with the COP culture group, and on social media. <https://lovingearth-project.uk> Please contact lovingearthproject@gmail.com if you can help with organisation.

More ... repeated from June

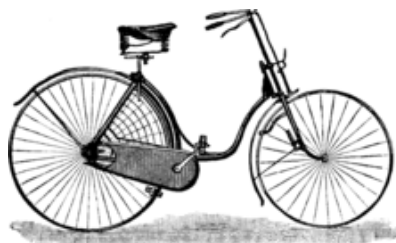
Stitches – help create 1.5 miles of scarf. See <https://stitchesforsurvival.earth> – June's Sesame has a detailed description of the initiative.

Relay – the Young Christian Climate Network is organising a phased relay to COP26, which will have an Edinburgh-Glasgow leg on **Thur-Sat Oct 21-3**. Walking, running, or cycling permitted. All ages welcome to join in. Sign up at <https://www.yccn.uk/relay>

Relevant to COP26: bicycles

Bicycles were just a dangerous novelty until the invention of the Safety Bicycle, which became widely available in the 1890s, just as South Morningside and South Edinburgh were expanding rapidly.

On the roads it vied with horse buses, the new tram lines that were being built (Edinburgh's first cable tram began in 1888 and the network grew), and at the end of the 1890s the very earliest powered road vehicles – steam, petrol (new and alarming), and even electric (see June issue).



An 1889 woman's safety bicycle (Haabet, Wikimedia Commons)

From the moral point of view another danger has been discovered by the Woman's Rescue League of Washington: That the bicycle is nothing more or less than the devil's advance agent, and through the opportunities which it offers is causing an alarming increase of immorality among women. The writer believes this to be true only in so far as it affects those women upon whom the devil already has a mortgage, and employs the wheel only as a subterfuge to foreclose the claim. The

Some seemed alarmed by the independence it gave to women, who also controversially dressed less restrictedly in order to cycle. A Rational Dress Society had been formed in 1881 and the movement received a great fillip. At the same time there were allegations that bicycles were a threat to the health of women, but curiously not men, and for a time this was a heated topic. The extreme example above right is from the Dominion Medical Monthly Journal of Canada in November 1896. Its editor(s) felt it essential to speak out. A bizarre but lively debate continued in its columns for several months, with strong opposition as well as some support for their stance. The appetite for bicycles only grew. They still are liberating to all sexes.

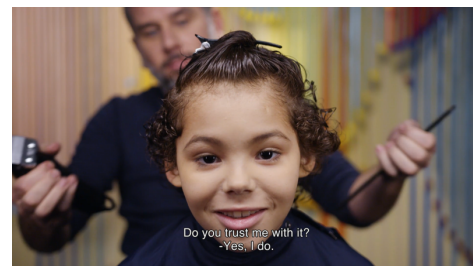
Our **Wikipedia page of the month** is [History of the Bicycle](#) (715 views/day), but don't miss the alternative lively, lavishly illustrated account from the **National Museum of Scotland**, which also points to Scottish contributions including the pneumatic tyre, at <https://bit.ly/3xeARpz>

There are additional fascinating but less-read Wikipedia pages on the [Rational Dress Society](#) and on [Victorian Dress Reform](#) in the USA and Europe (18 and 97 views per day).

Shorts of the month

Earthy Documentaries that don't keep you out of the summer air for more than 15 mins. Earthy in that they put your feet right on the ground. Most via <https://aeon.co>

Talking Heads is a Dutch TV show in which Marko Suds speaks straightforwardly to children while cutting their hair. At <https://vimeo.com/343459028> subjects include Tourette's, a father with a severe stroke, and speculating about an unknown father. More at <https://vimeo.com/keplerfilm>



No Crying at the Dinner Table is another 15 mins, deservedly 'one of the most acclaimed shorts of 2020'. Carol Nguyen shows individual interviews with her mother, father, and sister, then showing them all to all together at the kitchen table. A family where emotion is not expressed. And we thought that a British thing. May make you cry at <https://vimeo.com/482032869>

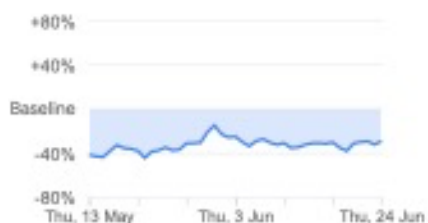
Mining Poems or Odes is 10 mins from Glaswegian poet and former Govan welder Robert Fullerton. Proud of both of his professions, with fulsome credits to his workplace mentors. Another place where the love was mostly unspoken. <https://vimeo.com/131406587>



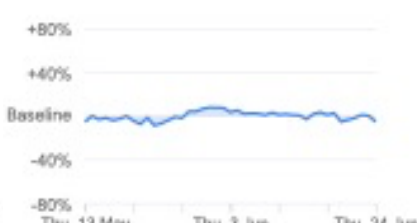
Light – North Ronaldsay is an atmospheric short film by Fiona Sanderson that pulls together photos and film of her grandmother, who married the lighthouse keeper, and wonderful archive resources of farming, fishing and life, to a beautiful soundtrack *Chi Mi Bhuan* by Burd Ellen <https://bit.ly/3dtEzUF> The map there links to more coastal impressions. More North Ronaldsay videos at <https://vimeo.com/search?q=north%20ronaldsay>

What are people doing now?

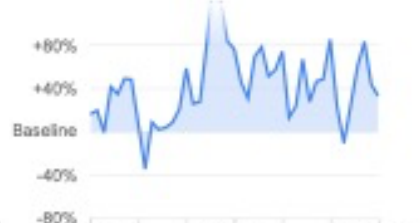
Pooled data from Google shows where people are using their electronic devices, compared with the months before the first lockdown. You can search by country or region at www.google.com/covid19/mobility – this is some of the data from Edinburgh:



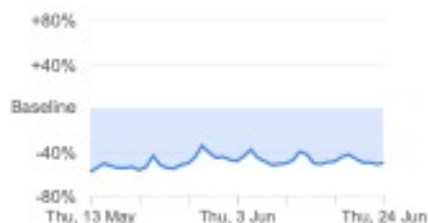
Retail and recreation, down 29%.



Supermarkets & pharmacies, level



Parks, up 33%, with peakiness *



Public transport hubs, down 50%



Workplaces, still down 45%



At home, up 14%

* The Economist looked at all this data internationally and tested it for associations with birthrate (<https://econ.st/3jpvAHX>). They were trying to find clues to explain the large drop in births seen in developed countries during the pandemic. Apparently 11% fewer babies were born in Jan 2020 than Jan 2019. That could contribute as much to population reduction as the number of additional deaths. Birthrate by country correlated with park visits – more visits, more babies (or really, smaller reduction in babies). It seems unlikely that there has been a surge of conceptions in parks, so how would you explain that?

NEWS

Truth in the Era of Fake News. Journalist and great great grandson of Anna Southall (see April issue) Thomas Penny will be giving the **Swarthmore Lecture** on **31 July** as part of YMG. More info at <http://bit.ly/swarthmore21>

Refugee journeys – Of 80 million displaced people, in the world, 30 million are refugees. This and various other images display their journeys (Al Jazeera <https://bit.ly/2SByXjR>). The UK doesn't register as a dot on this map.

REFUGEES

Refugee journeys during 2020

In the midst of a global pandemic, **more than 1.2 million people had to flee their homes in 64 countries**. There are **now more than 30 million refugees worldwide**.

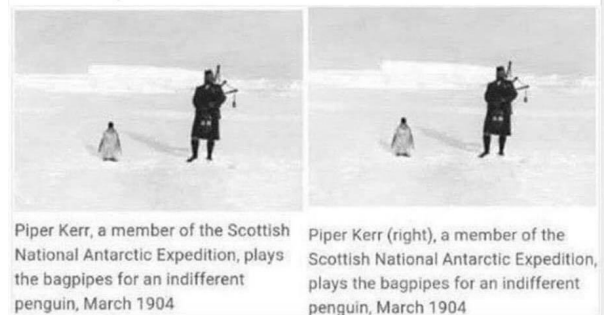


Peace education

There have been 18,000 downloads of free lessons from Quakers in Britain on peace, at the Times Educational Supplement teachers' resource pages www.tes.com/teaching-resources/shop/QuakerPeaceEducation

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Very happy birthday to **Kenneth** who will be 16 on the 21st. May yours liven up this event-lite month, particularly as it's your 16th, enabling you to move on to such adult things as not seeing your birthday here.



Illustrated by 'The greatest Wikipedia edit of all time'

OTHER INTERNETS

The remarkable Greta Thunberg's talk to the Austria World Summit (prop. A Schwarzenegger) accuses leaders of Climate Action Theatre. Worth 7 minutes watching at <https://bit.ly/36bDQDy> @GretaThunberg has 4.9M followers.

Our newsletter is published near the last Sunday of each month. Send your midsummer maddeningness to neilturn@gmail.com

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

