



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

December 2019



Making Christmas crackers in 1910. 6-min video, a remarkable snapshot <https://youtu.be/kT2nqHU6f7I>

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

South Edinburgh: every Sunday at 10.30 am at the Open Door, 420 Morningside Road, EH10 5HY, with separate children's meeting.

Central Edinburgh – on Sundays holds a small, quiet, shorter meeting at Victoria Terrace at 9.30 am in addition to the main meeting at 11.00 am. Half-hour meetings at 8am on Mon and Fri, Midweek meeting 12.30 Wed.

Portobello: 2nd and 4th Sundays at 11am, Bellfield, 16B Bellfield Street, Portobello, EH15 2BP. With children's meeting. 1st Sunday evening meetings 7.30-8 also at Bellfield.

Broughton St Mary's: 4th Sunday. 7pm in the Drummond Room at Broughton St Mary's Church, 22 Bellevue Cresc.

More meetings are listed in Sesame, or see quakerscotland.org

SPECIAL COLLECTION

In December is for **UK Friends of the Bereaved Families Forum** - supporting 600 bereft Israeli and Palestinian families <http://familiesforum.co.uk> David Somervell will speak to this.

LOCAL QUAKER EVENTS

South Edinburgh's Seasonal Party is again being hosted at Deirdre and David's house, 4-6pm on **Sun 8 Dec**. Please bring a little food to share and a story or a game which can include young and old, able-bodied and those without sight.

Carols and lunch at Wiston on **Sun 15 Dec**. Please contact Deirdre about lifts to Wiston, and Meg Beresford (meg.beresford@gn.apc.org) about your lunch!

Sylvia Massey offers **Christmas Day Meeting** at her home at 10.30 am on December 25th.

Sun 29 Dec As the Open Door will be very cold after the break we are all invited to worship at 11 am with Central Edinburgh at Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terr - followed by informal lunch of soup.

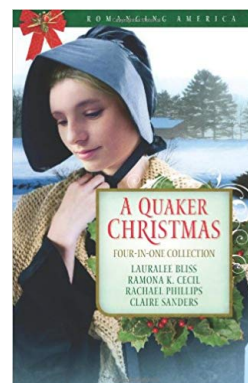
On **1st Jan**, Rachel Frith offers **Tea and a walk**. Tea at 10 East Parkside from 2.15, then up Arthur's Seat. South Edinburgh Friends welcome.

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS

Rachel Frith offers **Coffee at Rachel's** at 10.15 on the 1st and 3rd Thur of each month. The champagne was a one-off.

Carols and mince pies at Victoria Terrace, **Tue 17 Dec**, 7.30 pm.

Book Group is on vacation till **Sun Jan 26**, when South Edinburgh has recommended *West* by Carys Davies. Meets ~1pm after meeting at Victoria Terrace on 4th Sundays. Further ideas for 2020 to Rachel Frith please!



A Quaker Christmas, from Romancing America, 2011. Copy heading straight to our library.

[More Events and News on the Back Page](#)

Minutes of Local Meeting for Business held on 27 October 2019

1. Opening Worship

We heard from Quaker Faith & Practice 23.36 – Meeting for Sufferings' Statement of Intent on Racism, 1988 – on seeing that of God in every single person.

We were 13 present – meeting straight after Meeting for Worship was better!

2. Minutes of our 25 August 2019 meeting – Matters Arising:

- QPSW Call for Expressions of Interest in hosting a Climate Action Field Worker
We heard that East Lothian LM has bid for a post being established in SE Scotland and two local Meetings in West of Scotland AM also applied.
- Quaker Week Display was in Open Door window for two weeks from 29 September
- Kirsteen Powell has a new job. Simon Warr is Operations Manager at Open Door.

3. Reviewing After Words

We had decided in 2018 to discontinue the time set aside after the end on Meeting for Worship for sharing ideas that had not made it into ministry. We discussed “Is this working OK? or will we adopt another idea which enables friends to share greetings?”

Esther reported on discussions among Elders and Overseers – in particular their wish to hold absent friends and others in the light.

We heard that North Edinburgh LM meets monthly for 45 minutes in silence followed by half an hour of open discussion. Many of us however value a full hour of worship.

We agreed to ask that when closing the Meeting our Elders / Overseers enquire after absent friends and for any situation to be held in the light; and for this short time to be strictly time limited so that – together with Notices – this ends by 11.45am.

4. Planning Ahead

Our LM Christmas Party was set for 4-6pm Sunday 8 December at 71 Nile Grove.

All were invited to Wiston Lodge Quaker Meeting and Carol Singing on Sunday 15 December – speak to Deirdre if wishing a lift.

We decided to meet as usual on Sunday 22 December but at 10.30am Wednesday 25 & Sunday 29 December we were invited to Sylvia's home for Meeting for Worship.

We asked our Clerk to circulate proposed dates for Local Business Meetings in 2020.

Susan Robertson invited suggestions for 2020 Monthly Charities by early December.

We heard the Kenneth / Kay MacIver has been invited to share Youth Climate Strike concerns at a short Meeting for Learning straight after MfW – date to be confirmed.

5. Date of Next Meeting

We agreed to meet again for Worship for Business on Sunday 26 January after Meeting for Worship.

In other newsletters

In **Quake**, the Friends House blog, Elizabeth Payne extends work on Quaker characters in literature to Quaker characters in film. Accounts and excerpts of seven at www.quaker.org.uk/blog/quakers-in-film-and-tv Thanks to Rosemary Hartill for the pointer in **Terrace Talk**.

The article includes a link to a how-it-came-about Radio Times item about Fleabag's Quaker meeting scene. We learn that the idea came from Andrew Scott, evermore condemned to hear his name followed by 'Sexy Priest'. Read/watch at <http://bit.ly/2QJY6pc> and we will promise not to mention it again during 2019.

SESAME reprints a thought-provoking John Punshon essay from his 1989 Pendle Hill pamphlet *Letter to a Universalist: the Basis of Quakerism*. Tackling the question of whether we can remain together simply by sharing a list of values, almost denying our Christian origins. 30 years old, but still skewers us nicely.

UK CONSTITUENCIES BY DEPRIVATION

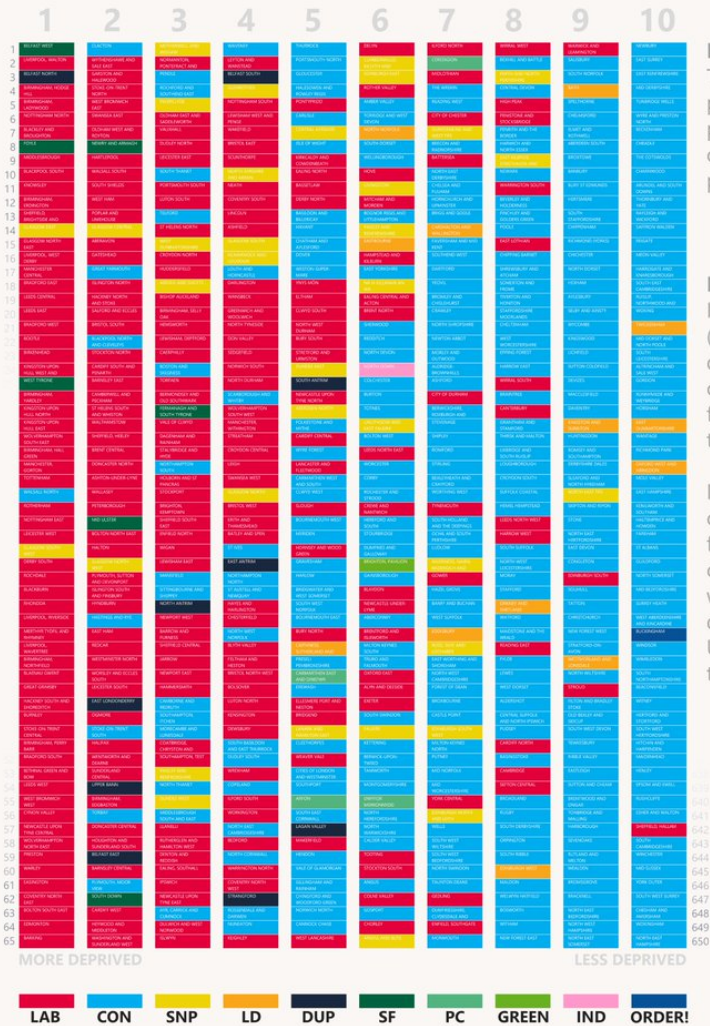
2017 Results and Relative Deprivation

There are 650 constituencies in the UK and they are ordered here in groups of 65, ranked by deprivation from top left (most deprived) to bottom right (least deprived).

So, the first column contains the 65 most deprived constituencies, the second one has the next 65 most deprived, and so on.

This UK-wide ranking was put together by Abel et al. (2016) in order to allow UK-wide comparison between areas in relation to deprivation.

It uses slightly older data than that currently available for England but the results are a close match for the most recent Index of Multiple Deprivation for England.



NOTE
The colours tell you which party won in 2017, not the party of the MP at the end of the most recent parliamentary session.

METHOD
I used the Abel et al. (2016) small area deprivation data to calculate a UK-wide rank for all 42,148 small areas in the UK.

I then assigned these to constituencies on a 'best-fit' basis and then calculated the population-weighted average deprivation score for each UK constituency to create the ranking you see here.

Source: UK-wide deprivation data by Gary Abel, Rupert Payne, Matt Barclay (2016)
UK Deprivation Indices. <https://doi.org/10.5523/bris.1ef3q32gybk001v77c1fmy7x>.

I used this dataset to derive a UK-wide constituency deprivation ranking.
Thanks to Will Ball (@WillBall12 for the tip-off).

Alasdair Rae

This sobering diagram from Sheffield academic Alasdair Rae lists constituencies in order of deprivation, then coloured according to the way voting went in the 2017 general election. The most deprived regions are to the left, the most advantaged to the right: Belfast West to North-East Hampshire.

Larger at http://ajrae.staff.shef.ac.uk/img/constit_deprivation.html
More like this at @undertheraedar and <http://ajrae.staff.shef.ac.uk>

MORE NEWS AND DATES

Nativity and Carols on the Mound, organised by Edinburgh Churches Together – **Sun 1 Dec**, 3pm.

Is there a charity you'd like us to support? If so, please contact Susan Robertson **RIGHT AWAY**.

Each year we choose several Quaker and several other charities. We favour local or Scottish organisations, or those in which Friends have particular involvement. Meeting for Business on **Sun Jan 26** after MfW will set charities for the next 12 months. If selected, proposers speak for 2-3 minutes on their chosen charity on its first Sunday.

Woodbrooke on the Road Victoria Terrace Meeting House on **Sat 22 Feb 2020** – Jesus: a Quaker approach (all day).



Quaker reflections in Parliament. Alastair Cameron (clerk of SESAM) was impressive on our behalf in the Time for Reflection slot at the Scottish parliament on Oct 1st. He focused particularly on arrests of Quakers acting on conscience, historically and now.

<http://quakerscotland.org/news/time-reflection>

QUAKER B&B SCHEME – could you?

For over 30 years the Edinburgh Quaker B&B Scheme has raised funds for Area Meeting, and provided a much-appreciated service for Quakers visiting Edinburgh. Now many of the original volunteer hosts are retiring or downsizing and we just don't have enough hosts.

If you have a spare bedroom, please will you consider joining our thinning ranks? Each time you get an email and can decide whether to offer B&B. You will never be under pressure to offer more often than you can comfortably manage.

Please note that living some way out of Edinburgh doesn't make you unsuitable, if there are reasonable transport links.

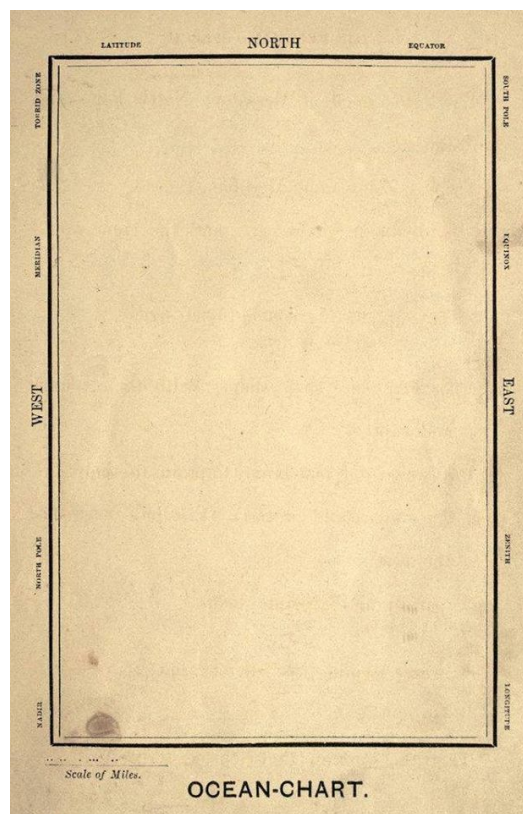
For more information, please contact Judith Benton, judith.a.benton@gmail.com or 0131 441 6080.

What we're reading

The Redemption of Galen Pike won the VS Pritchett short story prize, and others, for Carys Davies in 2011. It has a central Quaker character and is touching, funny in a dark way, and wise in a light way. Free online at <http://bit.ly/2NYkt8N>

Susie Reade

Bargain Christmas present



*He had bought a large map representing the sea,
Without the least vestige of land:
And the crew were much pleased when they found it to be*

A map they could all understand.

Lewis Carrol, *Hunting of the Snark* 1876.

This newsletter is published on the last Sunday of each month. Send musings and surplus liquorice allsorts to neilturn@gmail.com

This edition, plus archives and more, available from quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh