



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

December 2021



The death of petrol? Via [@AlanWilson_SP](#), whose fine Edinburgh street photography is worth following.

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Meetings every **Sunday 10.30-11.30 am** at the Open Door, in person or remotely by Zoom.

Christmas meetings – plans subject to change

Sun 19 Dec as usual both in person and on Zoom

Sat 25 Dec 10.30 for half an hour, **Zoom only**

Sun 26 Dec 10.30 as usual but **Zoom only**

Sun 2 Jan 10.30 as usual but **Zoom only**

Joining information for meetings is sent 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.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Our collection in December is for **The Welcoming**, which welcomes new Scots to Edinburgh, through language classes, job finding, friendship, connections and collaboration. David Somervell will speak to this. Further info and online donations at www.thewelcoming.org

QUAKER EVENTS

We will hold our first **Thursday evening meeting** by Zoom on **Thur 2 Dec** (first Thursday of each month) at 8 pm, for 30 minutes, followed by chat.



Problems foreseen, 1959

The following Edinburgh Central events may be happening in person, *but please contact Rachel Frith to confirm that, and because some have limited capacity.* Some changed days too:

Carols at Victoria Terrace, 7.30 pm on **Mon 13th**, replaces usual singing group, and has mince pies.

Coffee – at Rachel Frith's house on first and third Thursdays, from 10.15 am. **Plus Thur 30 Dec** instead of Jan 6. Limited to 10 friends.

Book Group – will meet on **Sun 2 Jan** after Central MfW to discuss *Empireland* by Sathnam Sanghera. Not yet settled whether by Zoom or in person.

Greek alphabet			
Αα	Alpha	Νν	Nu
Ββ	Beta	Ξξ	Xi
Γγ	Gamma	Οο	Omicron
Δδ	Delta	Ππ	Pi
Εε	Epsilon	Ρρ	Rho
Ζζ	Zeta	Σσς	Sigma
Ηη	Eta	Ττ	Tau
Θθ	Theta	Υυ	Upsilon
Ιι	Iota	Φφ	Phi
Κκ	Kappa	Χχ	Chi
Λλ	Lambda	Ψψ	Psi
Μμ	Mu	Ωω	Omega
Ͳͳ	Digamma	Ͱͱ	Qoppa
Ͳͳ	San	Ͱͱ	Sampi
Ͳͳ	Stigma	Ͱͱ	Sho
Ͳͳ	Heta		

It seems we're going to have to learn the whole alphabet. Attrib to *SunDevil Lee, Flickr*.

A Timeline of Travelling to Meeting



South Morningside station in 1900 with horse tram, for which this was the terminus, and just 5 years on, cable trams now go down Comiston Road, and horse cabs at the stand opposite the station. A postcard from 1925 [<https://bit.ly/3EJNJHV>] shows an electric tram and cars, and the shop on the corner at the site of the Bank of Scotland is Baird *The Bootmaker*.

Pre-1830	Shanks' pony You'd be walking, unless wealthy enough to hire or own a horse or carriage.
1830-1910?	Horse buses ran in London 1829-1910, probably similar in Edinburgh. Small but costly, as they required two hungry horses with extra on some hills, and a crew of two.
1831	' Innocent Railway ' to St Leonards Station pulled by horses and a steam-hauled cable at St Leonards; steam engines 1845. The tunnel under Holyrood Park was dug 1827-30.
1842-	Railway to Glasgow Queen St , terminating at Haymarket.
1846-	Railway to Berwick , terminating at North Bridge
1848-1965	Caledonian Railway to Carlisle and Glasgow Central, terminating at Lothian Road, later Princes Street Station. Only the Caledonian hotel survives.
1871-1907	Horse trams introduced by the Street Tramways Company, initially running Haymarket to Leith. More efficient than horse buses, so cheaper where lines could be laid. The company later became Edinburgh Northern Tramways and ran cable trams.
1884-1923	Cable trams established by Edinburgh Northern Tramways. Taken over by Edinburgh Corporation in 1919; later to become Lothian buses. From 1923, all trams were electric.
1884-62	Morningside Road Station opened 1884, on the Edinburgh Suburban and Southside Railway. The passenger service ceased and station closed in 1962.
1890s-	Bicycles : the Safety Bicycle became available
1895-	Motor vehicles : The first appeared: steam, electric, and internal combustion engines.
1899-1922	Cable trams to Morningside . As in San Francisco, pulled by gripping a moving cable in a central groove in the road. A steam engine at the Tollcross depot powered a cable loop. From 1902, trams were permitted to run on Sundays.
1905-1956	Electric trams introduced by Leith Tram Company. To go to Leith you changed from a cable tram to an electric tram at Pilrig Street. After the 1919 takeover of trams by Edinburgh Corporation, cable routes were converted to electricity, completed by 1923.
1919-	Motor buses introduced and rapidly grew to several hundreds. Trams ceased in 1956.
2014-	Electric trams return. First line from City centre to airport. Electric buses are also creeping in: Lothian buses began to run single deckers in 2017, double decker in 2021.

Our **Wikipedia page of the month** is [Morningside Road Station](#) (4 views per day). Wikipedia is strong on railways, old railway stations, and on transport in general. It has info on all these, but you might also enjoy:

- Lothian buses: <https://www.lothianbuses.com/our-heritage> (but there's more on Wikipedia)
- Cable car guy: <http://www.cable-car-guy.com/html/ccuk.html#ed>

Local Meeting for Business, Sunday 7 November 2021

10 Friends were present in person at the Open Door and 7 via Zoom. Full Minutes have been circulated by email, please ask for a paper copy if you do not receive emails. Here we note key points:

- We agreed to invest in a laptop, camera and appropriate microphone to improve our blended meetings, as they seem here for longer period.
- Children's Committee aim to resume Sunday Children's meetings, at the Open Door if possible.
- We agreed to hold an additional Meeting for Worship in the evening of the first Thursday of each month, via Zoom, for 30 minutes at 8pm, followed by conversation .
- We are taking over nominations as a Meeting now, and a suggestion for a new Overseer was agreed.
- The content for a meeting with our MP Ian Murray, arranged for 13 November, was discussed – report below.
- Rici Marshal Cross reported on the submission she made on our behalf to the consultation on prohibiting LGBT+ conversion therapy.

Meeting with Ian Murray 13 Nov 2021

Refugees – numbers getting here are tiny in comparison to other European countries. Ian will bring up the question of the right to work for asylum seekers and refugees. If Afghans have refugee status here why can they not work?

Nationality and Borders bill – is causing us great concern. Ian will call on the Home Secretary to publish results of the public consultation which took place before the Nationality & Borders Bill was launched in Parliament. And monitor when the Stop and Search report is published (due 18 Nov).

Arms sales to Saudi Arabia – Ian will contact Martin Griffiths as 'penholder' of a UN committee on Yemen to ask him about the situation now. Can Ian let us know if the new Committee can have any impact?

Green House Gas (GHG) emissions of the UK military and arms manufacture – Ian will ask a Parliamentary question on the direct emissions from the operations of the armed forces; and what percentage are they of UK emissions as a whole; and what are the GHG emissions from UK military equipment manufacturers?

Other topics raised included Erosion of democracy, including bypassing of parliament, and restrictions around voting; and Rendition and torture, previously discussed with him.

Deirdre Armstrong

Meeting for Learning on Transgender Inclusion 15 Nov 2021

Organised by South Edinburgh and including people from other Meetings in South East Scotland.

We held this meeting for learning on Zoom. We felt it was a good place to listen, learn and air our confusion and ignorance of some issues. People felt it had been helpful to hear personal testimonies from people who have transitioned and to think more deeply about the Britain Yearly Meeting minute on inclusion and how it applies to us.

We felt there was a lot more we needed to do to become truly inclusive and that there were some issues we had not had time to look at properly. We will try to organise another meeting in the New Year to continue our work.

Deirdre Armstrong

NEWS

Advent – FWCC have made a series of videos for Advent at <https://bit.ly/3FTTyTG>

Find your Quaker group – there's something for everybody in the list of Quaker Recognised Bodies www.quaker.org.uk/our-organisation/quaker-groups

There are concerns that the **Policing Bill threatens to severely limit non-violent demonstrations**. More information in a short post dated 27 Oct at www.quaker.org.uk/blog and an online petition that you can sign at <https://bit.ly/31626a1>

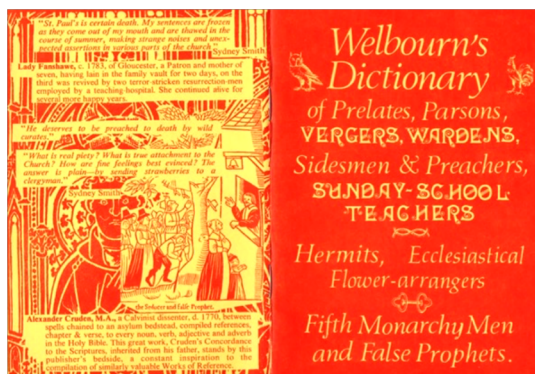
CHRISTMAS IDEAS

Revel in the eccentricity and diversion provided by JL Carr's 50 or so pocket booklets, published by the Quince Tree Press at £2. Each is crammed with quotations and poetry from famous authors, poets, artists, often spliced with woodcuts in haphazard layout. If you order some (not a smooth online process) from <http://www.quincetreepress.co.uk> you may get a thank you note from his daughter.

The booklets have 16 pages within coloured card covers, approximately 5 by 3.5 inches: *"These books hover between a greeting and a present. They fit a common envelope and go for minimum postage. In cold bedrooms only one hand to the wrist need suffer exposure. A distinguished novelist recommends them for reading in the bath. An ambassador, albeit American, claims they can be palmed from the cuff during tedious speeches & profitless sermons."*

A Newsletter editor's revenge

Thos. Sturgess-Jones, Rector of Garboldisham, Norfolk, c. 1922, silenced criticism that his parish magazine contained too little controversial matter by weekly publishing the village cricket team's batting and bowling averages.

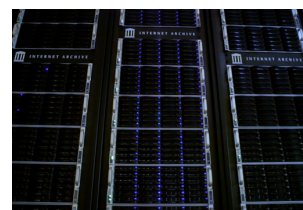


From Welbourn's Dictionary, published by JL Carr.

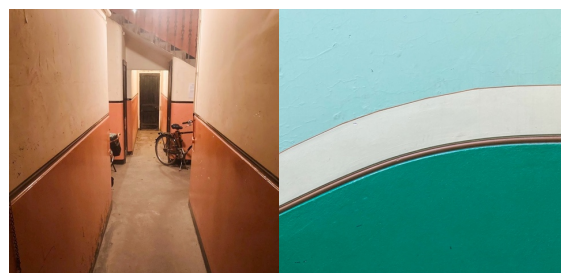
HAPPY BIRTHDAY INTERNETS



Happy 25th birthday and Happy Christmas to the admirable **Internet Archive**. It began downloading the Internet in May 1996, and made it available to all via the Wayback Machine 20 years ago in October 2001. Bruce Kahle tells the tale in 2 minutes at <https://bit.ly/30VpN5s> It also scans 1,000 books per day, and displays out-of-copyright music and film. All free to explore at <https://archive.org> (donations welcome).



10 petabytes of data in 2012



Our **Twitter account of the month** is **Tenement Close Colours @HColoursClose** (1,317 followers, 356 Tweets). Just that.

Our newsletter is usually published near the last Sunday of each month. Post-Christmas crackers to neilturn@gmail.com

Find this edition, plus archives of previous, at www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh