

SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

April 2020



One of the beautiful Phoebe Anne Traquair illustrations from St Mary's Song School, 1897. CC-BY Univ Edinburgh Collections, <http://images.is.ed.ac.uk>
More good things to view from home on page 5.

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP



We are not holding physical Meetings for Worship during the current epidemic. However online MfW organised by Edinburgh Central Meeting on 22 Mar was very successful, 60-65 Friends joining from 50 locations.

You are very welcome to join a meeting online. Both South and Central Edinburgh will be holding meetings online. Instructions in emails, and with paper copies of this newsletter.

It is possible to join by phone too, but then you don't get to see everyone.

I went but it was over – Clocks go forward on 28/29 March, so Meeting will feel an hour earlier.

THINKING OF FRIENDS

We are aware that a number of Friends are suffering from COVID-19 infections at present. Others will catch it, and many more are isolated because of it. Please look out for each other.

Our thoughts are also with Patience and Leo and their family in Norway. Patience has been admitted to a hospice there.

QUAKER EVENTS

Most scheduled Quaker events that involve physical meetings have been cancelled for April. The same seems likely for events in May and June.

Joining instructions to these events to follow by email:

Singing Together will be remote, by Zoom (experimental!) on **Tue 7 April at 7.30 pm.**

Book group – will again use Zoom to discuss Jon McGregor's *Reservoir 13* on **Sun 26 April.** 'A chilling take on loss and time' written partly when the author was staying at the Quaker community in Bamford. Ideas for May and June welcomed by Rachel Frith.

KEEPING UP WITH QUAKERS

We will continue to circulate our Newsletter (this one) electronically each month, but please don't hesitate to **ask for a paper copy** if that is better.

Our **email list** permits shorter-notice news and happenings to be circulated to all. Details of how to be added to it (or removed) are on page 3.

Don't have email or the Internet? Please discuss with your Elder/Overseer so we can make sure someone is lined up to keep you in touch.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

We have changed our planned charity for April to the **Edinburgh Foodbank**. It is harder for them to collect donations from shops, and to find volunteers, but they are still operating, by delivery only. Their work is likely to be even more important.

Please volunteer or donate £ if you can, at <https://edinburghnw.foodbank.org.uk/give-help> – their website also gives detailed information about who they help and how. Or to donate £5, you can simply text EFP33 to 70970.

Susan Robertson writes about charity giving on p3.

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

Minutes of Local Meeting for Business held 7 March 2020

1. Opening Worship: We heard from Quaker Faith & Practice 19.61 where Margaret Fell shared her belief in the enduring power of God in everything. We were 10 present.

2. Minutes of our 27 October 2019 meeting – Matters Arising:

- **Charities 2020-21:** We heard that Elders and Overseers have chosen the following:

Feb 2020	Gracemount Grows Stronger www.transitionedinburghsouth.org.uk	Deirdre Armstrong
Mar	Young Friends General Meeting http://yfgm.quaker.org.uk	Alison B
April	<i>Family Holiday Trust; changed subsequently to</i> Edinburgh Foodbank, see page 1, http://edinburghnw.foodbank.org.uk *	
May	Action Village India www.actionvillageindia.org.uk	Deirdre Armstrong
June	Second Sight www.secondsight.org.uk	Deirdre Armstrong
July	Quaker Homeless Action www.qha.org.uk	Alison Burnley
Aug	Quaker Social Action https://quakersocialaction.org.uk	Alison Burnley
Sep	Wiston https://wistonlodge.com	Deirdre Armstrong
Oct	Christmas Hampers for Refugees and Asylum Seekers	Esther
Nov	Aid and Abet www.aidnabet.org	Alistair
Dec	Open Door http://theopendoor.org.uk	Susan Robertson
Jan 2021	Peace and Justice Centre Project: Peace Building http://peaceandjustice.org.uk/projects	David Somervell

- **Gender Diversity:** We reflected on the very enjoyable Meeting for Learning led by Rici and Mairi on 1 March – exploring Young Friends General Meeting statement on Trans and non-binary inclusion and Quaker Life Central Committee’s initial statement on Quakers and Gender Diversity. We felt we were at the start of a journey of discovery and asked that a further MfL on the subject be organised. Jo has prepared a report for our newsletters so others might hear of our learnings. We heard that Scottish Parliament has begun discussions on a revision to the Gender Recognition Act 2004 and ask for this to be included in the planned MfL along with how this intersects with the Equality Act 2010. We ask the clerk to inform Meetings for Sufferings that we have started out on a learning journey about Gender Diversity and await further discernment which we shall report later.
- **Young people and the Climate and Ecological Emergency:** We hope to arrange a Meeting for Learning to hear from young Quakers what they are doing.

3. Meetings with our Elected Representatives

We considered the issues we raise with our MP and MSP and agreed these should reflect gathered concerns of Local Meeting in our Local Meeting for Business – or those on which General Meeting for Scotland or Britain Yearly Meeting have a clear position. We recognised the value of these meetings with our MP and MSP and thank those who undertake this work.

4. Rendition and Torture (Q-CAT)

We were concerned to hear that – in her final week as Prime Minister – Theresa May had closed down the idea of holding a Judicial Inquiry into UK personnel involvement in Rendition and Torture. We asked our clerk to continue correspondence with Ian Murray MP on this issue with a view to identifying possible new “asks” of the UK Government and to identify Scottish MPs who have been appointed to relevant backbench Select Committees – so that other Local Meetings might raise this Quaker concern with their MP and keep the issue alive. We hope to discuss further at our next Local Meeting for Business planned for 10 May.

5. Sanctuary Meetings Gathering in Scotland?

Esther reported on early discussions with friends in Portobello / Musselburgh and Dunblane LMs to plan a get-together of Quakers wishing to provide practical and other support to refugees and asylum seekers in Scotland. Meeting online, along with Tatiana from Sanctuary Everywhere programme at Friends House, each friend had reflected that their Local Meeting “was not doing very much (even though many individual

friends are)”. The group had suggested possibly asking for a session at General Meeting for Scotland in Dundee on 12 September.

6. Any Other Business

We recognised that we are due to host Area Meeting on Saturday 27 June – immediately after the end of School Summer Term [not ideal timing for involving Young Quakers] and considered “Where to meet?” Concerned that The Open Door might not be large enough / is not ideal for wheelchairs etc, we hosted at Greenbank Church Halls in June 2018.

We ask our clerk to offer the Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace, Edinburgh EH10 4RT [beside Dominion Cinema] as a preferred venue when we host in June and that any future June Area Meeting be held much earlier in the month.

7. Dates of Next Local Meetings for Worship for Business

Dates are now on Sundays: **10 May [revised date]**, 20 September and 29 November – straight after Meeting for Worship. [+ Our Area Meeting: 27 June] Put in your diary.

Our email lists

Our January newsletter each year contains this reminder, but it seems timely to repeat it.

The **South Edinburgh Announcements list** (72 email addresses) is used for short-notice news. Usually less than one message each week, though there are likely to be a few more while we are unable to hold physical meetings. To receive these messages, go to our webpage at <http://quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh> and click on the link to the South Edinburgh Announcements mailing list. There you can enter your details, and someone will approve behind the scenes. We may email back to check who you are. You can unsubscribe there too.

The **email list for the newsletter** is separate and broader (95 addresses), including quite a few Friends who have moved away but like to keep in touch, and other interested folk. Contact neilturn@gmail.com directly about that.

I want more Quaker email Quake is a lively, interesting, and topical monthly short read from Britain Yearly Meeting. See previous issues and sign up at www.quaker.org.uk/resources/newsletters/quake

Charity Collections during Coronavirus restrictions

We have been puzzling over the best way to continue to support our nominated monthly charities.

For those who are in strict self-isolation, i.e. not shopping, and who don't have access to or are not comfortable with making payments via a website, and who don't want to send money directly to the charity, you may consider putting a cash donation into a clearly labelled envelope and keeping it until we can at last congregate in Meeting once again. The envelopes will be collected and the monies recorded and banked as normal. This system can be applied to as many collections as necessary but please make sure that your envelopes are properly labelled if you want to use this system.

Susan Robertson

Out with the old, in with the new

It's taken us 4 years to adopt the official Quaker 'wooden' icon. Even longer really, as Scotland dragged its feet. Opinions and suggestions for improvement welcome:



versus



A list of Quaker charities

Alison Burnley prepared this incomplete list of Quaker charities to help us choose which to support when we allocate these once a year. Also useful for demystifying some Quaker abbreviations, or setting up a truly eccentric household quiz.

Scotland

BYM	Britain Yearly Meeting
GM	General Meeting for Scotland
SESAM	South East Scotland Area Meeting

UK

YFGM	Young Friends General Meeting
CAAT	Campaign Against the Arms Trade
QCAT	Quaker Concern for the Abolition of Torture
QSA	Quaker Social Action
	Northern Friends Peace Board
AVP	Alternatives to Violence
	Quaker Housing Trust
	The Retreat (historic psychiatry enterprise in York)
	Quaker Service in Ulster (Belfast)
	Swarthmoor Hall
	Glebe House
	Our Homeless Neighbour
	Sheffield Asylum Seekers
QAAD	Quaker Action on Alcohol and Drugs

Connected

	Aid and Abet
	Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre
	Corrymeela
IFDAS	Independence from Drugs and Alcohol Scotland (River Garden at Auchincruive) www.ifdas.net

International aims

FWCC	Friends World Committee for Consultation
EMES	FWCC Section of Europe and the Middle East
EAPPI	Ecumenical Accompaniers (Israel/Palestine)
	Bolivia Link
	Dorothy Peace Centre – Ebola Orphanage in Sierra Leone dorothypeace.org
	Money for Madagascar moneyformadagascar.org
	Quaker Witness in Zimbabwe – Hlekweni www.friendsofhlekweni.org.uk/

Internationally located

QCEA	Quaker Committee for European Affairs (Brussels)
QUNO	Quaker United Nations Office (Geneva)
	Capetown Peace Centre
	Great Lakes (Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Uganda) – Peace
	Ramallah School (Palestine)
	Brumanna School (Jordan)

RESOURCES FOR A SHUT-IN

Seriously

NHS advice about Coronavirus COVID-19: www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus

Quaker activities – advice from Friends House: www.quaker.org.uk/coronavirus

Guide to holding Quaker Meetings online (Woodbrooke): <https://bit.ly/33AqfDJ>

Staying healthy at home

Good basic tips from the Royal College of Occupational Therapists: www.rcot.co.uk/staying-well-when-social-distancing Remember to book in times for virtual coffee and catch-ups with friends, relatives, colleagues.

About 2 million people are watching **PE with Joe** every day, live streamed on YouTube at 9am on weekday mornings. Why be left out? Fri 27 March <https://youtu.be/qGKGNzNbWjU>

Worrying? Many people are. How to stop the habit of worrying (mental rumination) <https://bit.ly/2QqwCgY>
NHS advice on breathing exercises is good and has links to other www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/ways-relieve-stress

Entertainment

Many people have published lists of things to do beyond BBC iPlayer, Netflix, YouTube, Amazon. Here is a small selection beyond pure fun, but with some of that. Rosemary Hartill put a great list in Terrace Talk too.

Arty

Open Culture – www.openculture.com lists a huge range of resources.

CNN's selection of some of the museums and galleries that you can visit virtually <https://cnn.it/3atuYd4>

National Theatre at home www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/nt-at-home – every Thursday something new

The Royal Opera House – Opera and Ballet. <https://bit.ly/2JmaA1n>

Scottish Ballet www.scottishballet.co.uk/tv continues to be imaginative and innovative. It not only has ballet by dancers, but also ballet fitness for children aged 55+. Particularly recommended, the 6-minute duet *Maze* in decaying Govanhill Baths, from 2016, <https://youtu.be/YkBVba4GFVE>.

The University of Edinburgh's open Image Collections <http://images.is.ed.ac.uk> Many can be reused freely.

Books

The wonderful Internet Archive has just made over 1.4 million books available online as the National Emergency Library. US, but available to all at <http://archive.org/NEL>

Nature

Penguin cam There are lots of these, but Long beach, California's is underwater with restful bubbling sounds that you can just leave soothingly simmering away your bandwidth <https://bit.ly/2WWifvc> By comparison, Edinburgh's look a bit boring and bedraggled just now <https://bit.ly/2UHKHOT> But **Puffins** have just arrived on the Isle of May <https://bit.ly/3dAs5ZE> , so we're hoping the Sumburgh cam will start up again soon.

Loch Ness webcam – very restful but no sound. <https://youtu.be/0r95g-hm6Gs>



There will almost certainly be a continuing need for your ideas for this section next month. Please send.

Credits: Rayya Ghul, Sam Turner, Rosemary Hartill, people on Twitter.

MORE NEWS AND DATES

At the time of writing it was still hoped to hold the events listed here, but all remain uncertain.

Summer Shindig is the famous residential summer event for 11-16 year old North British Friends or Attenders. It is due to be held at Ackworth School, Pontefract, from **Sat 25 July to Sat 1 Aug**. Apply by **April 4**. Volunteers to join staff also welcome. Bursaries available. More from www.quaker.org.uk/events/summer-shindig or email summershindig@gmail.com

Yearly Meeting Gathering is scheduled from **1-7 Aug** (Sat to Fri) at the University of Bath. Further info at www.quaker.org.uk/ym

EAPPI: Seeking human rights monitors to serve in Palestine and Israel for **3 months in 2021**, with the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme. You would be providing protection by presence, monitoring human rights abuses, supporting Israeli and Palestinian peace activists, and working for an end to the military occupation of Palestine. No particular prior experience or expertise required. Apply by **24 April**. www.quaker.org.uk/eappi

Climate issues have been almost completely displaced from the news – hopefully temporarily. But you can read **Climate Justice – a Quaker View** at <https://bit.ly/2UqmVYK>

In other newsletters

SESAME includes Jo Swanson's report on our recent Meeting for Learning report on Trans and non-binary identities, also mentioned in our MfB minutes on p2. She particularly points to Chloe's testimony, quakerspeak.com/transgender-quaker (9 mins, some other interesting videos there too). Get Sesame at <http://quakerscotland.org/south-east> and turn to page 20)

Palm Oil is the subject of a detailed analysis also in SESAME. More complex than simple 'avoid it', and points out that problems with its production have been recognised for over a hundred years. Even has a couple of good words for Nutella.

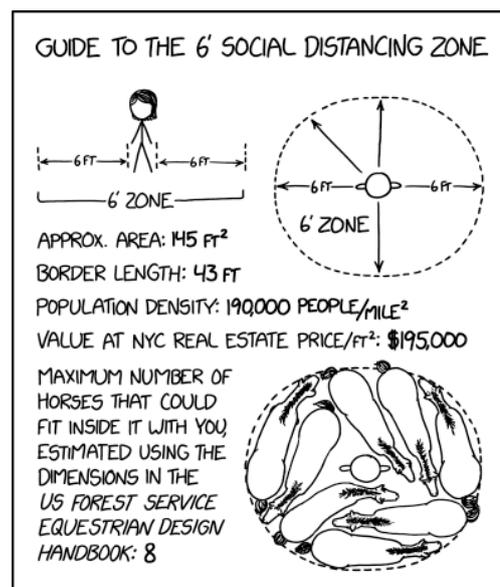
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To **Jacob**, who will be 9 on the 2nd. Here are some Easter wedding favours that were looking for something to do following a COVID cancellation:



@thaispicytravel

TOPICAL



Technically it's a 34 foot zone. xkcd.com/2286

This newsletter is usually published on the last Sunday of each month. Send your ideas to neiltturn@gmail.com

Please get in touch if you know someone who would benefit from a paper copy, posted or delivered.

This edition, plus archives of previous in case you're running out of books, available from quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh