



SAFHS BULLETIN

Scottish Charity Number SC029006

March 2023

www.safhs.org.uk

***Executive Committee** – Chairman: Ken Nisbet; Deputy Chairman: Alison Murray; Secretary: vacant;
Treasurer: Christine Thomas; Bulletin Editor: Alison Murray; Member Alex Inglis*



Ken Nisbet - Chairman

As SAFHS Chairman writing an article for the March Bulletin is a combination of looking both forward to what is going to happen and also what has happened since the publication of the previous bulletin. The programme of talks that Aberdeen and North East Scotland FHS have put together for the 2023 SAFHS conference shows every sign of leading to a most successful conference. Whilst at present SAFHS is looking for host societies for 2024 and 2025 we hope to have some news by the issue of the next bulletin. The good news is although in some cases societies are down on the number of volunteers, all SAFHS member societies have survived the “Covid” epidemic and are recovering in membership numbers and progressing with projects as will be seen in the reports produced in the bulletin.

Looking back, on the 30th of November 2022 at long last family historians got the opportunity to see the 1921 Scottish Census, with the 1931 census hopefully to appear in eight years in 2031. For myself personally this was the first census where all four of my grandparents are to be found, my maternal grandmother was an 8-year-old school girl living at Petty Invernesshire her husband to be was 17 and working as horseman on a farm in the parish of Cawdor,

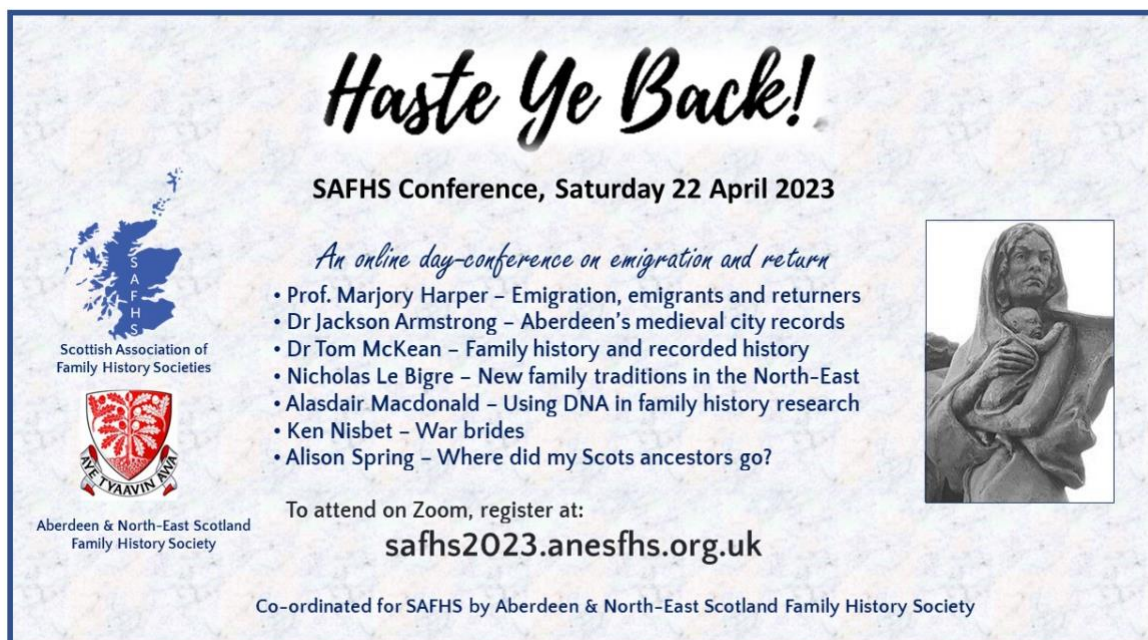
Nairnshire. On my father's side my paternal grandfather having served with the Royal Garrison Artillery in the Great War had returned to his job with the Inland Revenue, his wife my paternal grandmother whom he married in 1923 was working as an assistant at Miller & Co and Wholesale Warehouse in Glasgow. The 1921 census usefully names the employer of our relatives if they were employed. It also gives ages in a more accurate manner, for children under 16 states if either one or both parents were alive or deceased. It also is the first census to show if an individual was divorced.

So, to all readers I would encourage you to remain members of your local family history society and join others for the areas where you relatives originated from. You will be made welcome, and Family History Societies can have access to sources that cannot be found elsewhere.

Kenneth A M Nisbet
SAFHS Chairman

SAFHS 2023 Conference- *Haste Ye Back*

Saturday 22nd April 2023



Haste Ye Back!

SAFHS Conference, Saturday 22 April 2023

An online day-conference on emigration and return

- Prof. Marjory Harper – Emigration, emigrants and returners
- Dr Jackson Armstrong – Aberdeen's medieval city records
- Dr Tom McKean – Family history and recorded history
- Nicholas Le Bigre – New family traditions in the North-East
- Alasdair Macdonald – Using DNA in family history research
- Ken Nisbet – War brides
- Alison Spring – Where did my Scots ancestors go?

To attend on Zoom, register at:
safhs2023.anesfhs.org.uk

Co-ordinated for SAFHS by Aberdeen & North-East Scotland Family History Society

Scottish Association of Family History Societies

Aberdeen & North-East Scotland Family History Society

'*Haste Ye Back*' is the theme of the SAFHS 33rd annual one-day conference, which will take place as an online event on Saturday 22 April 2023. The conference is being hosted on behalf of SAFHS by the Aberdeen and North East Scotland Family History Society (ANESFHS) in partnership with the Elphinstone Institute of the University of Aberdeen and it will explore different aspects of settlement and migration in the north east with reference wherever possible to considerations and resources for family history research.

The underpinning theme is the settlement and movement of peoples through the north east and, by extension, Scotland. The theme of '*Haste Ye Back*' encompasses not only the conditions that provide the impetus for migration or resettlement but also the ways that the telling and recording of family histories enrich a culture. The papers will consider diaspora through emigration and war, etc and then revitalisation through returning settlers and new Scots. Family History as a pursuit is a great example of that revitalisation of engagement with the past and with our heritage.

We think this theme will be particularly topical at a time when more folk contemplate resuming long-distance travel to maintain family connections and pursue family history.

Planning is well advanced for the conference with seven speakers and topics confirmed:

Prof Marjory Harper (University of Aberdeen) – Emigration, emigrants, and returners
Dr Jackson Armstrong (University of Aberdeen) – Digitising Aberdeen's medieval city records
Dr Tom McKean (University of Aberdeen) – Family history interfacing with recorded history
Nicholas Le Bigre (University of Aberdeen) – New family traditions in the north east
Alasdair Macdonald (University of Strathclyde) - Using DNA in Family History Research
Ken Nisbet - (SAFHS/SGS) – War Brides
Alison Spring - Where Did My Scots Ancestors Go?

The website <https://safhs2023.anesfhs.org.uk> will manage registrations for the event. Various family history-related Facebook pages will help generate advance publicity for the event. The conference team members are keen to liaise with individual Societies to optimise the cascade of information and also to include Information about local Family History Societies in the conference online documentation and as scrolling screen shots between the papers.

For more information, please contact

elaine.petrie@asnesfhs.org.uk or ivor.normand@asnesfhs.org.uk



SOCIETY NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS



Anglo Scottish FHS

Continuing the practice established earlier in the year we continued with Zoom meeting for the majority of our sessions over the winter period. Although we have now established that the holding of hybrid meetings may be possible at our meeting venue the practicalities still have to be sorted. Whether members will travel into Manchester for such meetings is another matter that is to be resolved.

Our winter programme included Michelle Leonard speaking about the Fromelles Genealogical Project, Dr. Michael Winstanley talking about the Highland Clearances, were they by choice or by coercion' L. Bruce-Keith talking about Milestones, entitled "Are we There yet" on the occasion of our 40th anniversary when milestones from those 40 years were discussed and finally Kete Keter talking about how she traced the rather distressed children of an unfortunate family through children's homes and travel from Scotland to Canada and USA.

Our future programme includes talks by Emma Maxwell on Scottish Prisons and their records and an introduction to the Scottish records held by the Society of Genealogists in London. We decided to cancel our meeting in May due to a certain Coronation and bank holiday.

We continue to receive contributions to and interest in our Scottish Marriage Index. You can access the Index within our new website <https://mlfhs.uk/anglo-scots>. [Further contributions are always welcomed.](#)

Distribution of our monthly newsletter continues to grow. This is not restricted to our members but available to anyone. Past editions can be viewed on the website, where you can also subscribe to receive future editions.

Meetings will be held on the 1st Saturday of each month, starting at 2.00 pm., except August and non-members of the Society are always welcome. Details of meetings are on our website and booking is via Eventbrite.

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Email: angloscots@mlfhs.org.uk
Website: <https://mlfhs.uk/anglo-scots>

Borders Family History Society



Having had an extended break over Christmas & New Year, our research room is open again and the team are welcoming visitors at 52 Overhaugh Street, Galashiels.

Our spring talks had a great start in February with an interesting talk by Chris Veitch on The Life and Times of James Veitch of Inchbonny, Jedburgh.

Planned talks for March and April will be held at St Peters Church in Galashiels while the venue for the May meeting is still to be confirmed.

Mar 26th A Berwick Boyhood between the Wars by Elisabeth Wilson
Apr 30th Writing a Family History for my Grandchildren by Dr. Murray Watson
May 28th The Western Front Then and Now by Margot Laurie

Borders FHS volunteers have taken advantage of the winter months to visit overgrown churchyards when the nettles are less of a challenge and there are no leaves on the trees. Many gravestones are hidden during the summer months and overhead leaf cover can make it difficult to read and photograph inscriptions. If looking for Monumental Inscriptions for your Borders ancestors, contact our Research Team as we have monumental inscription recorded for burial places throughout the Borders.

The latest members magazine, published in February includes articles on "Borders Names in the Radio Security Service during WW2", on "Building a Business", recounting the shops set up and run by Bunyan family and on found documents which shed light on the life of a young Galashiels man, Henry Mitchell. BordersFHS publishes 3 members magazines per annum. Members may opt for a pdf version delivered by email or a printed version to arrive on their doorstep.

When researching your family history, it helps to have more than names, dates and places. Our Poor Law project continues to provide fascinating detail on the lives and times of our ancestors. Indexes of the names in the Jedburgh and Melrose Poor registers are available to search on our website and we have many more available for research. Please contact us to find out more about your ancestors.

Our Research Team is now available on Tuesdays and Thursdays or by appointment. If you are looking for assistance with your family history research, drop in anytime or contact us to arrange a visit. Visitors may browse our growing library of local and family history books.

If you are unable to visit Galashiels, we offer a Research Service. Contact us via our website, email, facebook or by post. We can help you break down those brick walls and source information on your ancestors and their families. Our knowledgeable volunteer members are available to help with your research and look forward to welcoming visitors to our Archive & Research Room.

Address: 52 Overhaugh Street, Galashiels, TD1 1DP

Website: www.bordersfhs.org.uk

Research – research@bordersfhs.org.uk

Enquiries - info@bordersfhs.org.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BordersFHS>

Twitter: @bordersfhs

Elma Fleming



CAITHNESS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
<https://caithnessfhs.org.uk>

CFHS have continued their monthly meetings with a combination of virtual and “in person” talks held mainly in Wick due to Highland Council letting restrictions.

Our AGM had an increased attendance with several new members joining the Committee. We were given advice from Emma Maxwell from Scottish Indexes regarding their website which was very helpful to members living in the far north and overseas.

A local resident recalled his upbringing all over the Highlands and Islands as his father was a policeman in so many different locations. He then joined the Army, became a lighthouse keeper and eventually joined Northern Constabulary himself. His family recollections, both humorous and very sad were so interesting and varied that his late wife encouraged him to write a book which has been very successful.

A local historian told us about correspondence with an overseas family regarding a Caithness connection and after lengthy exchanges it was proved how a simple discrepancy could put you down the wrong line altogether – and which took a bit of untangling!

In February we were entertained by our Journal Editor – a 21-year-old who has been researching his family history for 7 years. He has produced several booklets and his recent book about Stroma has been an outstanding success.

In March we are due to hear how a photograph in the wonderful Johnston collection held by the Wick Society helped solve a family mystery – sounds intriguing.

Although only 1 talk was virtual most are available on CFHS website.

We were delighted to take part in an open afternoon at Nucleus in which valuation rolls, minute books, employment registers and local newspapers were displayed. These afternoons, highlighting different aspects of Caithness life have proved very popular.

Unfortunately, we do not have designated opening hours for help and research, but appointments can be made through our website and members are willing to meet and advise any visitors. We hope to encourage their research and if possible, get them to contribute to our programme or possibly write an article for our Journal.

Janet Mowat
Chairman
Email: jsmowat@btinternet.com



East Ayrshire FHS

www.eastayrshirefhs.co.uk

Meetings: Meetings of the Society are held in Take A Bow Opportunity Centre, Kilmarnock on Thursday afternoons from 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm. On the second Thursday of the month there is a speaker; workshops take place on the other Thursdays. Visitors are welcome.

Talks: The speaker in January was member and former chairman, John Stevenson, who had successfully researched one of his ancestral lines from the 16th century to the present day and guided us through “Fifteen Generations of Smiths”.

In February, James Gray told us about the historic Glencairn Aisle and Monument which is associated with the parish church in Kilmaurs. The Aisle contains the burial crypt of the Cunninghams, Earls of Glencairn, and houses an ornately decorated stone memorial dated 1600, the oldest such monument in Scotland. The Aisle has seen a number of substantial changes over the centuries. In modern times various necessary repairs have been carried out. In 2021, Clan Cunningham International and local supporters formed the Glencairn Aisle Preservation Trust.

We look forward to hearing Robert Watt, of Past and Present in Stewarton, speak to us in March about “War Medals”

Details of the talks in April and May remain to be confirmed.

Events: The last live event at which the Society was represented was probably the SAFHS Conference in Wick. We are hoping that in 2023 we will be able to “get out there”, at least locally. On Saturday 27th May, a community event is being held in Darvel Town Hall to celebrate 150 years since Darvel was granted Burgh status and we are applying to take part. Darvel originated as a small hamlet but became established as a town based on the lace industry. Another claim to fame is that Sir Alexander Fleming was born close by.

Publications: Details are on the Shop pages of the EAFHS website. Publications which were normally provided on CD are now also available as digital files. You may wish to email about availability and format before making a purchase, especially if you are ordering more than one item to be sent by post.

Postal address: Secretary, East Ayrshire FHS, % Dick Institute, Elmbank Avenue, Kilmarnock, KA1 3BU

Email: enquiries@eastayrshirefhs.co.uk

Website: www.eastayrshirefhs.co.uk

Postal address: Secretary, East Ayrshire FHS, % Dick Institute, Elmbank Avenue, Kilmarnock, KA1 3BU

Email: enquiries@eastayrshirefhs.co.uk

Website: www.eastayrshirefhs.co.uk

FIFE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



www.fifefhs.org

Since becoming a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) we have been approached by two other member societies (SAFHS) for help and advice regarding the procedure/application to OSCR. We are happy to assist others who may wish to investigate this route. It is certainly now recommended to organisations wishing to seek charitable status.

Publications Sales

Our publications are selling well, particularly at the two farmer's market days in Cupar and the Family History Fair that we hosted last March. Online sale continue on a steady basis and sales of digital publications are selling well. We have introduced a number of new books to our online store including 50 Gems of Fife by Jack Gillon and Graveyards and Cemeteries of Fife by Charlotte Golledge, both published by Amberley Publishing.

e-Journal

The next members 'E' Journal is almost ready to be emailed out to our membership via Mailchimp. We have had a good response to an appeal for articles.

Library Premises

Our Trustees recently met with member of Fife Cultural Trust to look at how we can prepare to open our archive in Cupar Library on a more frequent basis. Currently, we have an online appointment booking facility through our website, however, we are hoping to reinstate a volunteer rota to extend these times.

Cupar's Big Weekend - Saturday 16th September

We are currently discussing plans to take part in Cupar's Big Weekend, a celebration weekend held over 3 days in the town and surrounding district. We have been invited to organize a Family History Fair on the Saturday in Cupar's Corn Exchange. Details of this will be made available on our website and interested should email: chairman@fifefhs.org

AGM – Tuesday 13th June 2023 via Zoom. All information will be made available in due courses on our website www.fifefhs.org

Alison Murray
Chairman

Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS



Website

We reached the limit to the volume of data that we can load into our current website for our members' only area. Members and visitors reported problems with the search engine. Whenever we loaded more data, the site had timeouts affecting payments and general usability during the indexing of the new data. We suspended our plans to load more data pending redesign of the database.

In January, we were saddened by the death of our data administration volunteer, David Hart, after a short illness. We seek new volunteers to help us to prepare data for our website, our publications, and transfer to Findmypast.

It is four years since we launched our new website. We have begun a redesign and Council has allocated funds for the first phase of the redevelopment.

Membership

Many new members do not renew their membership on their first anniversary. We want to improve retention of our new members. We are improving our engagement with new members. We invited new and existing members who stay locally to visit our research centre and library outwith normal opening hours for a tour and an introduction to our facilities.

Members' Meetings

We have a full syllabus of meetings for the current 2022-23 session and the coming 2023-24 session. All meetings are held remotely using Zoom. We now schedule meetings for the whole of the year, including the northern hemisphere Summer, which are Winter months for our members in the southern hemisphere.

The ANESFHS kindly invites our members to attend the in-person meetings of their Glasgow group. We advertised these in our Journal 126 in March, and we will advertise them more prominently on our website. If some of our members attend these meetings, that will help the ANESFHS to justify the cost and effort to host these events.

We formed a DNA special interest group which meets fortnightly in our premises. We plan to form more special interest groups on other topics.

Research Centre and Library

Our research centre and library are open to members and the public on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays 13:00 – 16:00. These are fewer hours than prior to the pandemic. We used to open one evening per week; we do not plan to resume evening openings. Patronage has increased and we are often busy.

In November 2022, our centre became a FamilySearch Affiliate Library. We did not publicise our affiliation until March, so that we had time to learn and train our volunteer assistants. We must offer free access to FamilySearch to visitors, although we encourage them to join our society.

We use our centre outwith the public opening hours for booked visits by individuals and groups, such as U3A. We use it for project work and our special interest groups and so our utilisation of our centre is increasing even though we haven't been able to increase our public opening hours.

Our librarian is reviewing our holdings and we have purchased some titles and received some donations that close some gaps in our catalogue. The role of the library has changed now that many out of copyright books are available online and a lot of data is published on the subscription websites.

Social Media

We have an active private Facebook group with 4,855 members, almost three times the membership of our society. Members of the group post queries, and other members post answers. We direct many queries received from non-members to our Facebook group. We use the group to promote our society generally and our publications. We decided not to activate the forum function of our website because we don't have volunteers to moderate it. We joined Instagram in order to engage with a younger generation of family history researchers.

Events

We attended several in-person and virtual events. There was a steady stream of visitors to our stand at the virtual show hosted by the East Surrey Family History Society. Volunteers who stood at the Family History Federation stand at the Craft Show at the SEC in March reported increased public interest and good sales.

Publications

We published the current issue of our full-colour Journal 126 in March, on the topic of DNA. Forthcoming issues will be on themes including family links with Ireland (June) and immigration to Glasgow (October).

We published three more Monumental Inscription books in PDF format. We registered with Digital Deposit Scotland and submitted our digital publications to comply with our legal deposit obligations.

Project volunteers are working on transcriptions and indexes to Mis for two more cemeteries.

Contacts

Address: 32 Mansfield St, Glasgow, G11 5QP, Scotland

Website: <http://www.gwsfhs.org.uk/>

Research: <https://www.gwsfhs.org.uk/contact/>

Enquiries: <https://www.gwsfhs.org.uk/contact/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gwsfhs/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/gwsfhs>

Murray Archer
Minutes Secretary



GLASGOW & WEST OF SCOTLAND
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



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AGM and talk "Creating an Ancestor's Life Story Book" – Christine Woodcock

Date: Monday 17th April 2023 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Venue: Zoom Presentation

Christine Woodcock is a genealogy educator. She began her foray into family history by creating a family history book which was shared with her aunts, uncles and numerous cousins and which quickly became a treasured family heirloom. As a family historian Christine believes she has an obligation to preserve the stories of her ancestors in ways that can be shared with others. She does this in a variety of ways, including documenting life stories.

North Ayrshire Family History Society



Our new session is running very smoothly. We are now meeting in our new venue, Largs Museum which has excellent facilities, including a new projector and screen for viewing presentations. We have a good turnout at our monthly workshops which are held on Friday afternoons, and we have enjoyed listening to a variety of speakers. Most of us like meeting face to face again and enjoying a cup of tea and a chat after the meetings.

On Tuesday 11th October Ken Nisbet spoke to our members on 'Newspapers for Family History Research'. Ken is well known to our members and is currently the chairperson of SAFHS

On Tuesday 8th November Richard & Fiona Williamson gave a presentation on 'Walking Round Alloway, including Rozelle, Belleisle and Cambusdoon'. This included stories about the families who lived in these former mansions.

On Tuesday 13th December June Wiggins gave an interesting presentation to us about 'A Servant's Life' This was followed by refreshments and our annual Christmas Social.

On Tuesday 10th January Kay McMeekin came to talk to us. Kay represents Cumnock History Group, and she was able to tell us about their group and projects they are currently involved in.

On 14th February we decided to hold another informal Show and Tell where members of our group brought along an item to talk about. A wide range of objects were shown including a variety of tools used for calculating eg Napier's Bones and an early scientific calculator; certificates belonging to a family member who became a mine manager; a letter given to a school pupil on leaving school in the 1930s which had been signed by the Lord Provost of Glasgow; A grandmother's diary covering a period up till 1935; some photographs and documents belonging to a Glasgow Police Officer, who joined the police in 1896 and rose to the rank of inspector and some family photographs including one of our member's great uncles who served in World War 1

On 24th February Barbara Graham gave us a fascinating presentation on 'Alexander Graham Bell'. We all learned so much more about his life and work.

On 14th March Melvyn Gibson gave us an interesting talk on Robert Burns and an attempt made by two suffragettes to burn down Burns cottage in Alloway.

We publish two Journals each year which contain articles on a variety of topics. The spring Journal included reports of previous talks and articles about Dr William Walker of Kilbirnie; Alexander Macdonald's Police Notebook (a transcription of the notebook); a couple of articles on the 1921 Census; Lyon Playfair, 1st Baron Playfair; The Titanic Honour & Glory Exhibition; Fake or Fortune – the story of a painting owned by St John the Baptist RC Church in Port Glasgow and an account of The Nesbitt/Nisbet Society Gathering in Edinburgh.

Shetland Family History Society

News:

- Garthspool is open again after Christmas and New Year holidays and a particularly bad winter. Hoping for better weather in the summer.
- The Shetland Library is now selling a small quantity of SFHS items in the Shetland Room so merchandise is available for sale outwith Garthspool opening hours.
- The society have a Battlefields Tour for July 2023 and members are looking forward to this informative tour.
- The new website is up and running with plenty of good comments.
- The 1921 census will be online soon. We are 75% finished.
- We have a video about our society. It can be found on the website.
[SFHS - A Peerie Look Inside - YouTube](#)

Events:

- The society held a very successful conference in October. It is available on You Tube if you missed some or all the presentations. [SFHS 2022 \(shetland-fhs.org.uk\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) The topics were:
John Goodlad - The reach of the Shetland fishing industry throughout history.
Marsali Taylor - The Giffords of Busta: a family tragedy and its consequences.
James Stewart - Political families of Shetland.
Rebecca Leniham - New Zealand Shetland Migrants 1840-1920
- The Tall Ships race is paying its third visit to Lerwick. Shetland Museum will have an exhibition on the subject of Shetland Masters of 19th century sailing ships and we hope to contribute.
- Our society will be jointly hosting the Sharing Shetland Surnames event for those with any Hay connections in the Aith Public Hall on June 24th and 25th 2023

Projects:

- The new website is now up and running. We are grateful for the donations received and to Shetland Community Benefit Fund for a grant to help with the cost.
- The MI project is nearly finished. Skerries graveyard will be the pilot once we start adding the photos.

Contacts:

- Selection of Memberships available starting with online Electronic for only £12 per year. See our website: <https://www.shetland-fhs.org.uk>
- RESEARCH ENQUIRIES: Members free, Non-Members £25
- Find us on Facebook here: <https://facebook.com/groups/614219502528208>
- The Society office - Shetland Family History Society
Shetland Amenity Trust
Garthspool
Lerwick
ZE1 0NY
- email: secretary@shetland-fhs.org.uk



Tay Valley Family History Society

tae ken oor kin

Our main focus just now (as this goes to press) is on our Fair - 15th April, 10.00-16.00, in the Glasite Hall, Kingsgait Kirk, King Street, Dundee. (Kingsgait is the new name for St Andrew's Church.) See image at the end of this bulletin.

Upgrades and changes

We've seen a few much needed refurbishments in our Centre in Princes Street, Dundee: we have a new door, new windows which keep out the draughts and no longer rattle whenever a bus goes past, and new computers which don't take nearly as long to start up. and display everything much faster and more smoothly. These changes were enabled by a very generous bequest received last year from the estate of a deceased member of the Society.

The Historian

Our journal, *The Historian*, published its 124th issue in February 2023. The journal's theme for this year is 'Recovery and Renewal', well demonstrated for us by articles entitled 'Don't Tempt the Fates' showing the changes occasioned by the industrial revolution to one Lanarkshire family, and 'Robert Annan - a life turned around' displaying the recovery of one man who went from a rowdy young life to becoming a notable citizen of Dundee.

Our Tay Valley Talks series

Our most recent 'talk' was from Murray Nicoll, on the victims of the Tay Railway Bridge disaster. This video talk (with Q&A discussion in February) attracted many viewings and was well received. Further talks this year will include the second from our President, Iain Flett, on the Hospitalmaister of Dundee, and others from Emma Maxwell (of Scottish Indexes) and Jenny Blain. Dates for the Question and Answer sessions for our members will be the last Monday of April, July and October.

New Website

Our new website at tayvalleyfhs.org.uk is 'live' and we're pleased with it! There are still a few 'teething problems' which we're sorting out, of course. We welcome visitors, and the site includes a substantial members' area. And as ever, we welcome views of our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/tayvalleyfhs> (with also a discussion group for members).

Genealogy Classes

Several years ago we used to run evening classes. We're preparing to start these again, for our members, for a small fee. They will include sessions on getting started, types of records and how/where to find these, being wary of online 'finds' from popular sites, organising data, reading and interpreting older records and so forth.

Family and Local History Fair

As said at the outset, this is our current main focus. We're very pleased to be welcoming various other Family History Societies who have taken tables at this event, together with several local Archives and the Abertay Historical Society. We are looking forward to seeing other societies displaying their publications and connecting with the visitors to the Fair and hope that all will find it a profitable day. Many people have ancestry from outwith the area where they're living - in the case of the writer, from Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, Galloway, Stirlingshire and Lothians in addition to Dundee, Angus, Fife and Perthshire.

Jenny Blain, acting chair TVFHS

Contacts: TVFHS website tayvalleyfhs.org.uk, Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/tayvalleyfhs/>. Main email tvfhs@tayvalleyfhs.org.uk, premises 179-181 Princes Street, Dundee, DD4 6DQ



Tay Valley Family History Society hosts our
Family and Local History
FAIR

**Stalls include: Tay Valley Fhs; Fife Fhs; ANESFHS;
Lanarkshire Fhs; GWSFHS; Highland Fhs and more...**

**Abertay Historical Society
Local archives and museums
Publishers...**

**Saturday 15th April, Glasite Hall
St Andrew's Church (now named Kingsgait Church)
King Street, Dundee 10.00-16.00**

More details from TVFHS at tayvalleyfhs.org.uk and on our Facebook page

WEST LOTHIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



WLFHS Update

Our first meeting in 2023 was held on 7 February at Crofthead Community Centre, Livingston, where our members were enthralled to hear Dr Joseph Morrow, the Right Honourable the Lord Lyon, deliver a very informative talk peppered with wonderful stories.

Website: www.wlfhs.org.uk

Our website has contact details, including direct email addresses, for our librarian and on-line help desk. Amongst other things you will find a comprehensive resource section that can be accessed by everyone, as well as a members only section and forum.

Facebook page: [west lothian family history society – wlfhs](#)

Our Facebook page keeps members up to date with things that may be of interest to them, such as videos, on-line courses, and conferences.

Outlook: wlfhshelp@outlook.com

If you need help with your research, we have an Outlook email address where our volunteers would be pleased to give any assistance.

Linlithgow Library

Our Linlithgow volunteers meet within the Local History Library on the first floor of Linlithgow Library on Tuesdays and Fridays and offer to assist any visitor between 11.00 am and 3.00 pm.

Livingston Torridon House

We have office space for our helpdesk at Torridon House, Almondvale Boulevard, Livingston on Mondays and Thursdays and offer assistance to all visitors between 11.00 am and 3.00 pm on these days, and other days by appointment, depending on volunteer availability.

We are not equipped to take card payments so visitors should be prepared to pay by cash for Scotlands People Certificate look-ups and print-outs of documents.

Transcription of records is continuing at WLFHS.

Our membership remains at £10 for single members, £15 for a couple from the same household and £12.00 for overseas membership.

We will continue to send out our journal, the "Oaktree", in PDF format and answer members' queries [if we can] on our forum. We also provide a limited number of paper copies for those who request them.

For further information contact: Secretary, West Lothian Family History Society, c/o 21 Willowpark, Fauldhouse, West Lothian EH47 9HN

Email: sec@wlfhs.org.uk

Membership Enquiries: member@wlfhs.org.uk



The Scottish SIG continues to be a vibrant and engaged community. We have 595 members, adding an additional 68 over last year.

- we held 12 webinars in 2022.
- We hosted a full day Symposium exploring the lives of our ancestors who worked on the water.
- We continue with our monthly interest drop-in groups for members whose ancestors settled in Glengarry, Stormont, Dundas as well as for those whose ancestors lived in Paisley Scotland. We have two experts from the Renfrewshire Family History Society who join these meetings monthly. And we have guests join us in the GSD group on occasion.
- We have started a time-limited drop in for those who are eager to get their family history research into a shareable format that can be left for future generations so that our research is not lost. We have over 50 people join us each month.

- We have our Surname database for members who can share their interests and connect with one another if they wish.
- Our Facebook group is at 1200 members and is a place
- where we share photos of our trips, stories of our ancestors, history and social history. It is a great learning space for anyone with Scottish ancestors.
- We were present at 3 highland festivals this summer and are looking forward to returning in 2023.

We would love to have anyone with Scottish ancestors or who has an interest in Scottish history join us. <https://scottishsig.ogs.on.ca/>

Christine Woodcock & Heather McTavish Taylor
Co-Chairs, Scottish SIG, OGS

SAFHS VACANCIES- Urgent

Secretary

This position requires:

Taking minutes at both the Executive and Council Meetings. The Executive meet quarterly and the Council meet twice a year.

Processing emails addressed to the secretary and directing any enquiries to the relevant person.

This office bearing position requires the applicant to become a Trustee of the Association which is a charity registered in Scotland.

Bulletin Editor

This position requires:

Good computer skills and preferably experience in desktop publishing. The Bulletin is issued twice a year in March and November and is sent via email.

The Bulletin is an important place to share information from our members, advertise events and share news.

If you are interested and would like to come on board this friendly team please email: secretary@safhs.org.uk