



# SAFHS BULLETIN

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November 2022

[www.safhs.org.uk](http://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 and a regular speaker to many of SAFHS Member Societies it gives me great pleasure to see so many of the member societies starting talks again in person and by zoom and in some case hybrid meetings. Just this past week I was doing a talk in person for North Ayrshire FHS at Largs and was made most welcome. My talk was on using Newspapers for Family Historians and it reminds me how much has changed since I first did the talk some 25 years ago, with microfilms and physical copies being replaced by digital copies and accessing the information through websites. Recent news from National Records of Scotland is that the 1921 Scottish Census should hopefully be available before the end of 2022 but no specific launch date is available at the current date. The Reid Room at the Scotland's People Centre has reopened for Seat booking although the website information still needs updated and its best to go the <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/seat-booking> page.

The SAFHS conference for 2023 is to be hosted by the Aberdeen and North East of Scotland Family History Society and is to be titled as "Haste Ye Back". All the speakers are arranged, the conference will be online and free to watch and listen to. For more information, please see below and keep an eye on the SAFHS and host societies websites.

Societies have continued to do projects on monumental inscriptions and it's always worth checking the individual society's websites to see what their most recent publications are.

# SAFHS 2023 Conference- *Haste Ye Back*

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2023

'*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?

A conference website is currently under construction and will launch shortly. The website 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](mailto:elaine.petrie@asnesfhs.org.uk) or [ivor.normand@asnesfhs.org.uk](mailto:ivor.normand@asnesfhs.org.uk)

## SOCIETY NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS



### **Anglo Scottish FHS**

The lifting of Covid restrictions did not lead to the hoped-for return of members to our physical meetings. In fact, the response has been very disappointing. However, we are pleased that by having Zoom meetings we can engage with members from overseas, and indeed with members in the UK whose residence makes it impossible to be at our physical meetings. It is intended that our future programme will contain more Zoom based meetings so as to allow this greater participation by members. It is not possible to hold hybrid meetings as the internet service provided at our meeting rooms will not permit the use of Zoom on security grounds.

Our September meeting was a very interesting online palaeography workshop directed by Alison Diamond of Scottish Records Association, giving us all who attended an introduction to the old secretary hand of writing and the opportunity to try our hand at transcribing. In October our speaker was Michelle Leonard talking about the Fromelles Genealogy Project. Our November meeting will be a celebration of our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and in December a talk about the Highland Clearances by Dr. Winstanley. Next year we will be visited by Kate Keter and Emma Maxwell, both via Zoom. More details are available on our website.

We continue to receive contributions to and interest in our Scottish Marriage Index. You can access the Index within our new website <https://www.mlfhs.uk/anglo-scots> Distribution of our 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 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month, starting at 2.00 pm., except August and non-members of the Society are always welcome.

Michael J Couper  
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Gavinton church

Gavinton Memorial Inscriptions are published in A5 book format. Including a layout plan of the churchyard. Available for £8.00 plus p&p. Contact our sales team through our website Monumental Inscriptions for the churchyard at the Scottish Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist in Jedburgh have also been published. In addition to the recorded memorial inscriptions, Borders FHS were kindly granted permission to transcribe the Burial books – for 1844-1935 and for 1935-2021. Also included is the Burial book 1864-1894.

Jedburgh St Johns Monumental Inscriptions are published in A5 book format. Including layout plan of the churchyard. Available for £10.00 plus p&p. Contact our sales team through our website

BordersFHS publishes 3 members magazines per annum. Members may opt for a pdf version delivered by email, and this should have reached members in the first week of October. Members may choose a printed version which they should receive by the end of October. Articles this month include “Letter from America” written home by Robert Bunyie in 1799 to his friends in Newstead; “A tale of two tapestries” where the family histories of two young seamstresses are researched and an article on a Turnbull DNA project.

When researching your family history, it helps to have more than names, dates and places. Our Poor Law and Police & Criminal projects continue and can provide interesting details 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, 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](http://www.bordersfhs.org.uk)

Research – [research@bordersfhs.org.uk](mailto:research@bordersfhs.org.uk)

Enquiries - [info@bordersfhs.org.uk](mailto:info@bordersfhs.org.uk)

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

Twitter: @bordersfhs



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

Since the last bulletin we agreed to continue with virtual talks rather than 'in person' ones even through restrictions on meeting together had been lifted. The committee felt that our audience grew with the use of Zoom, and we interacted much more with members who did not live in the county. The Society is deeply indebted to those members who were so willing to take up the challenge to deliver virtual talks.

In April Jacquie Aitken, Heritage & Digital Curator, Timespan Museum, Helmsdale told of the days when Brora was a very industrialised township. She took us along the various routeways these industries took to get their goods - salt, coal, bricks - to market either by rail or sea. Little remains of its industrial heritage but there is still a few visible signs of tracks and routeways

Our May talk 'DNA and my family' was delivered by a past chairperson of the Society Allan Lannon. His detailed presentation explained how his DNA results further helped with his family history research.

The last talk before our summer break was entitled "Alan's Archives". Alan McIvor a Society member and chairperson of Thurso Heritage Society gave an informative potted history on items which are in his personal collection - this included communion tokens, paintings, maps, funeral cards, advertising posters etc.

During Covid all our Journals were electronically delivered to members, but the committee agreed to have the May 2022 one printed and posted to every members - a celebration to mark the end of Covid restrictions. Decisions on future issues is pending.

This summer has seen the return to Caithness of visitors and members requesting help with their family history researches and grateful thanks is expressed to those who helped.

Our AGM held on 11 October saw all previous office-bearers and committee re-elected for a further year with the addition of three new members to the committee.

Janet Mowat  
Chairman  
Email: [jsmowat@btinternet.com](mailto:jsmowat@btinternet.com)





## East Ayrshire FHS

[www.eastayrshirefhs.co.uk](http://www.eastayrshirefhs.co.uk)

**Meetings:** All meetings are being held in the **Take A Bow Opportunity Centre, Kilmarnock** on Thursday afternoons from 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm. There is usually a speaker on the second Thursday of the month, with workshops being held on the other Thursdays. Details will be on the website when confirmed. Visitors are welcome.

**Talks:** In September, we enjoyed an *Adventure in Postcards* presented by Dan Ross. Dan used some of his extensive collection of postcards to take us on an illustrated journey which began in Kilmarnock and visited nearby villages and towns, including Auchinleck. Special mention was made of Auchinleck House and its association with James Boswell and Dr Samuel Johnson. We were delighted to be able to welcome to the meeting two members visiting from different parts of Australia.

At the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> December there will be a Members Christmas Social.

**Publications:** Details are on the Shop pages of the EAFHS website. You may wish to email about availability etc before making a purchase, especially if buying more than one item.

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

**Email:** [enquiries@eastayrshirefhs.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastayrshirefhs.co.uk)

**Website:** [www.eastayrshirefhs.co.uk](http://www.eastayrshirefhs.co.uk)

# FIFE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



[www.fifefhs.org](http://www.fifefhs.org)

We have been quiet throughout the summer months due to restricted opening hours in Cupar Library (undergoing a 4-year period of recovery and redevelopment, post pandemic). We have, however had several visitors who have booked online through our dedicated appointment system on our website. Until such times that the library opening hours increase, we are not able to offer longer opening times or appointments which is frustrating.

We have set up a sub-group to look at future projects. One of which is the 'Galloway' collection. We hope to identify more projects to digitize and make available to our members on our website in the members area.

## Publications Sales

We were fortunate in that we digitized a lot of our publications prior to the pandemic and made them available to purchase and download from our online shop. These digital downloads are selling well and avoids the necessity to package and post items which in turn reduces our carbon footprint.

## e-Journal

The Winter members 'E' Journal is being prepared by the Editorial Team and should be ready to send out by Mailchimp to our members at the end of November. Articles relating to Fife family and local history are always welcome.

## Find My Past

We are delighted to have added our Fife Shopkeepers and Traders Directory (1820-1870) to Find My Past. This is in addition to the Pre 1855 Fife Death Index (over 250,000) entries, The Fife Kalendar of Convicts, and some non-established church records.

We are pleased to report that our Chairman, Alison Murray has been recognised as an exceptional volunteer. The certificate of recognition was awarded by various agencies in Fife and endorsed by Cllr Jim Leishman MBE, Provost of Fife and Mr Robert Balfour, Lord-Lieutenant of Fife.

Alison had been a committee member of FFHS since 2010 and has been Chairman since 2018.





## Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS



### **Website**

We launched a new website in October 2019, built by a commercial website builder. Society volunteers maintain the website content and work with our supplier on the technical administration.

The website has a member only area with nineteen sets of our data, a video archive of our member meeting talks (subject to agreement with the speaker) and a complete searchable archive of our newsletters. Members may also view the current newsletter.

The website has a Shop for sales of publications as booklets or PDF files. Customers can purchase PDF's for immediate download to their own computer. We accept card payments via Stripe or PayPal. Now, most sales are publications in PDF format.

All visitors to our website can search our library catalogue, articles, newsletters, data sets and shop. If they want to view member only content, the website prompts them to join our society.

### **Membership**

All new members purchase their membership through our website. These memberships expire on the anniversary of the joining date. Members who joined our society before the new website was launched have memberships that expire on 31<sup>st</sup> July each year. All renewals are processed through our website apart from renewals by members who don't have access to the website and a few long-standing members who still pay by standing order. Our new website reduced the work to administer memberships but issues with the interaction with PayPal increased the workload on our webmaster.

Anecdotal evidence from some new members is that they found our society through our new website. Some remote members joined our society to register for the Members' Meetings on Zoom. We want to improve the retention of new members; many of them do not renew their membership after the initial year.

### **Members' Meetings**

Prior to the pandemic, members' meetings were held in person. Now, all members' meetings are held using Zoom. We can no longer justify the cost to hire a venue for in person meetings for a small audience, especially as the hirers have increased their charges since the pandemic. Approximately 1,000 of our members reside outwith the G-postcode area and so Zoom gives them the opportunity to attend our talks wherever they are worldwide. Our Zoom talks are a member-only benefit.

We have a syllabus of monthly meetings from September through to May. There is a speaker at each meeting. We record these meetings, and the recordings are available to our members via our website.

### **Library**

Our library and research centre in Partick re-opened in stages after the pandemic restrictions were lifted. We are now open three afternoons per week: Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 13:00-16:00. All visitors are welcome; there is no need to book in advance unless you want to reserve a computer for your own use. Our opening hours are limited by the availability of volunteers.

In October, our library became a FamilySearch Affiliate Library. This affiliation gives researchers and visitors on-site in our library access to many FamilySearch collections that are restricted to FamilySearch libraries and affiliates. Some of these collections include Scottish data.

### **Publicity**

In 2021, we changed our logo (see above) and we are re-branding our publications with the new logo.

We send a monthly e-news email to subscribers. Anyone may subscribe to our e-news, it is not restricted to members only. We use e-news to publicise our events, new publications, new data sets on our website, and general family history news.

We shared the Family History Federation stand at the Craft Shows held at the SEC in March and October; we had a stand at the Inverclyde Heritage Fair in May and the BygoneCon event at Rutherglen Library in October.

### **Publications**

We decided to withdraw our CDs from sale. We are working to republish the MI transcriptions from these CDs in PDF format for sale through our website shop. Photographs of the monuments will not be included in the PDF's.

We are working to re-brand and re-publish our booklets in PDF format for sale through our website.

In 2018, we licenced some of our data to FindMyPast.

### **Journal**

We publish three issues per year, in March, June and October. Our journal is a member only benefit. In October 2020, Sheila Duffy, our editor for 20 years, retired from her post. Fortunately, after an interim period, we were able to recruit a new editor, Karen Hunter. We now publish our journal in full colour.

### **Projects**

We are working to load more data to the member only data sets on our website. Currently, we are loading Dr Arthur Jamieson's transcriptions of High Kirk Baptisms 1609-1777. Previously, these were available only as typewritten books in our library and the Mitchell Library.

A small team is working on the Glasgow High Kirk MIs, which is a project we started many years ago.

The West Dunbartonshire Council Arts and Heritage Service has agreed that we may publish MI transcriptions done by a former librarian, Arthur F. Jones, in the 1970's. Many of these inscriptions are now lost or illegible. The first publication will be the Renton Millburn MI's (which we previously published on CD).

### **Future**

As always, we depend upon many hours of unpaid work by volunteers. Our Council meetings are held on Zoom, and we now have Council members who reside outside of the Glasgow area (two of them reside overseas). Our new website and Zoom meetings have increased our engagement with our remote members. We have started a review and we will write a 5-year Strategic Plan.

### **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



## North Ayrshire Family History Society

Last session 2021/2022 our society held our regular monthly meetings on Zoom. In April we had a successful Afternoon Tea fundraising event and in May we were able to hold our AGM face to face once again.

Our new session started on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022. This was an informal evening, when members were invited to bring a photograph, or an object belonging to their family and share its story. This proved to be a very successful meeting, where topics discussed included the launching of the QE2, an Argyll policeman's notebook, a schoolboy's leaving certificate and reference, memorial windows in a local church, family photos from a cruise and other interesting family photographs and artefacts.

On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September one of our members, John Riddell delivered a talk on 'Fife & Fairlie' in Fairlie Village Hall. In his presentation John explored the development of the William Fife yacht building yard once located in Bay Street, Fairlie and discussed how the yard contributed to the expansion of the village from a few fishermen's houses to that which exists today.

On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December June Wiggins will be talking to us about 'A Servant's Life' This will be followed by refreshments and our annual Christmas Social.

In addition to these meetings, we hold regular monthly workshops in Largs Museum where more experienced members of the group are available to give support and encouragement to novice family history researchers.

This year our meetings and workshops will be held at 7.30pm in Largs Museum, Manse Court, Largs.

We publish two Journals each year which contain articles on a variety of topics. The Autumn Journal included reports of previous talks and articles about Henry Faulds - fingerprint pioneer, Hawaiian Scot - David McHattie Forbes, Bessy Dunlop the Dalry Witch and a follow up to Emma Maxwell's talk on 'Overcoming Brick Walls' where one of our members solved a long running family history puzzle.

Secretary – Fiona Williamson

Email – [nafhsociety@gmail.com](mailto:nafhsociety@gmail.com)

Website – [www.northayrshirefhs.org.uk](http://www.northayrshirefhs.org.uk)

Facebook – North Ayrshire Family History Society



## The Scottish Interest Group – Ontario Genealogical Society

The Scottish SIG is a success story. We have renewed, rejuvenated, and re-energized and it almost feels like SCOTTISH SIG 2.0

Since April 1, we have added 175 new members having gone from 352 members to 527 members.

In addition:

- we have held 15 webinars from beginning Scottish research to researching and understanding archives, catalogues and even the occupations of our ancestors. We have another 8 scheduled. Our webinars are open to anyone with an interest. You can sign up at: <https://scottishsig.ogs.on.ca/calendar/>
- We have held 7 drop-in sessions with local family history societies in Scotland to learn more about their resources and to connect with the local records in our homeland
- We have set up a special interest drop-in group for members whose ancestors settled in Glengarry, Stormont, Dundas as well as a special interest drop-in group for those whose ancestors came from Paisley (Renfrewshire)
- We have put together a member's interest surname database and this has been an incredible feat. From this, we have 635 surnames (including variations of spelling), 173 members have contributed to the database, creating 1236 entries. Based on the database, there have been a total of 27 connections of SIG members who share an interest in a surname.
- We just about to release the information for our virtual Symposium to be held on October 1 with the theme "Engaged by Water" Watch our website for registration information and details on topics and presenters
- Our Facebook group is now at over 1100 and this has been a great place to share history, resources, information about learning opportunities and just to share the memories of our Scottish ancestors. We take great joy and pride in our heritage, and it shows.

Christine Woodcock & Heather McTavish Taylor

Co-Chairs, Scottish SIG, OGS

[scottishsigchair@ogs.on.ca](mailto:scottishsigchair@ogs.on.ca)

## Shetland Family History Society

### News:

- At Garthspool the number of visitors has been steady this summer. Email research request numbers has fluctuated and there has been a rise in the number of e-members joining us
- We are closing on the 5th December for the winter and will open on 30th January 2023. We can still open for anyone who books through Elinor at [secretary@shetland-fhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@shetland-fhs.org.uk)
- We have a video about our society. It can be found on the website. [SFHS - A Peerie Look Inside - YouTube](#)

### Events:

- 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. The Shetland Family History Society is contributing research to the exhibition.
- 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
- We are planning the Covid postponed Battlefields Tour for July 2023. Last chance to book the Battlefield Tour with Secretary

### Projects:

- The new website is almost there. We are grateful for the donations received and to Shetland Community Benefit Fund for a grant to help with the cost
- Merchant Navy Discharge Books. This is a huge, on-going project to log all the information held in these documents – invaluable for the details contained of the lives, ships and voyages of Shetland seamen throughout many years

### Contacts:

- Our website: <https://www.shetland-fhs.org.uk>
- Find us on Facebook here: <https://facebook.com/groups/614219502528208>
- The Society office - Shetland Family History Society  
Shetland Amenity Trust  
Garthspool  
Lerwick  
ZE1 ONY
- email: [secretary@shetland-fhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@shetland-fhs.org.uk)





# Tay Valley Family History Society

tae ken oor kin

## **Tay Valley Family History Society Update**

We have been very pleased to see more people returning to our premises following the period of covid. Our hours are still a little restricted, but we are now open on all weekdays and more volunteers are becoming involved. As always, we welcome new volunteers and celebrate the efforts of all those who keep the centre going and the society vibrant.

As the bulletin goes to press, we're working towards our AGM on 15th November. And we are planning for the Family and Local History Fair which we're hosting in April.

### **The Historian**

Our journal, The Historian, published its 122nd issue in June and the 123rd issue in October, the latter including tributes to two of our members who departed this life in the last year and a compilation on 'Women who have inspired us'. The June issue included an introduction to our new President, Iain Flett, and also initiated the challenge to write about women who inspired us, together with examples of some both women and men who had done so in various ways; especially 'Grandma Louie'.

### **Our Website**

Our new website is reaching - almost - the point of 'going live'. This has been a great deal of work, ongoing through the year, and we're excited about it reaching fruition! The url will remain the same, [tayvalleyfhs.org.uk](http://tayvalleyfhs.org.uk).

### **Inaugural Presidential Talk**

June saw the inaugural Presidential Video Talk, given by Iain Flett, on 'The Kirkmaister of Dundee'. This was an area that not many of us have explored so was opening new ground for us. Iain told of the role of the Kirkmaister in 800 years of the Burgh Kirk of Dundee - from David Earl of Huntingdon through the Rough Wooing, the Monck occupation, destructions and rebuildings (and their costs) to the great Hospital Act of the Victorian age when the Dundee Burgh clergy complained that they weren't being paid enough. Fascinating insights into history, and also into some of the resources of the Dundee City Archives.

### **Others in our Tay Valley Video Talks series**

Earlier in April we had a Video Talk on 'The Plight of the Poor of Dundee' in the 19th century, with examples - some horrendous - from Kirk Session minutes, the Statistical Accounts, and newspaper articles. In August we had a Video Talk on 'Robertson's Land, the Highest Tenement in Dundee', from our guest speaker Jennifer Jolly, and the ensuing Zoom discussion included another guest who had been born in that very tenement building. The most recent of our Video Talks, given by Louise Bowles, was on 'Ancestry DNA: its accuracy

and a tool for building one's family history tree', and this resulted in a lively and enthusiastic Question and Answer discussion on Zoom. Several members had undertaken DNA testing, some hadn't, and so the pros and cons were much debated. Most of the video talks (other than the Presidential talk) are accessible from the playlist at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYtE7Qcih6cNxEvIGVHs1KX3Q3TxkA3Zs>

### **'Outreach' events, talks and videos**

We were pleased to respond to the call for contributions to the Ontario Ancestors Conference 2022. Many Canadians have ancestors from our area, and we produced some information and a short video which is online at <https://conference2022.ogs.on.ca/2022/04/24/tay-valley-family-history-society/> - encouraging visits from our overseas cousins.

In September we participated in the renewed 'Dundee Open Days' programme. This was a late attempt by the Heritage Trust to get the programme started again, and organisations involved are hoping for a better turnout and publicising next year. But, good to have it re-started and to have our name known to the organisers.

Murray Nicoll has been giving talks for members of The Macular Society, in various locations around Angus, on victims of the Tay Bridge Disaster, and Jenny Blain gave a talk for the Dundee branch of the Soroptimists, on histories of women in her own family and resources for research. TVFHS is in communication with several other local history and heritage organisations.

Thinking back to the Monck occupation (mentioned in our President's talk) - we'd like to remind all readers that we have still some copies of the facsimile edition of Lamb's 'Dundee, its Quaint and Historic Buildings', including many illustrations, one being of 'Monck's Lodging' aka the birthplace of the Duchess of Monmouth, which was sadly demolished in the mid 20th century.

As always, we welcome people to view our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/tayvalleyfhs> and our members also have a dedicated discussion group.



# Tay Valley FHS Family and Local History Fair

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023



Photograph Dundee City Council

Tay Valley FHS is in the midst of organising a Family History and Local history Fair to be held in the Glasite Hall, St Andrews Church, DUNDEE on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023 we are in the process of inviting various Family History Societies and archives and are waiting on replies from them. The fair will be open from 10am to 4pm and is free to visitor attendees. We hope many visitors will attend due to the ongoing interest on social media and television of *Who Do You Think You Are*.

We hope that many FHS join in as one of the aims of the fair is to widen the attention and attraction of genealogy. Many people have relatives/ancestors out with the area they live in and want information on how they can improve their knowledge of not only their ancestors but on how these ancestors lived and where they can obtain this information.

There's a small charge for a table at the Fair (to help with the costs to TVFHS) but we're sure you'll think it's worthwhile! Several Family or Local History societies have already signed up.

At this time, FHS are seeing a reduction in their membership. A fair such as the one we hope to hold will encourage people to join FHS local to the areas they are interested in. Education of the masses on how they obtain information is essential as the problem of WDYTYA is it only shows a limited view on how such information is gained. The general public feels that such information on their ancestors/relatives is easy to obtain and is free, which as all of us know, is not the case - it takes time and dedication, and nothing beats local knowledge.

[www.tayvalleyfhs.org.uk](http://www.tayvalleyfhs.org.uk)

# WEST LOTHIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



## WEST LOTHIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

### WLFHS Update

Our first members' meeting, following lockdown, was held on 3 May 2022 at Crofthead Community Centre, Templar Rise, Dedridge, Livingston EH54 6DG, where a number of our members heard our Honorary Vice President, Sybil Cavenagh give a very interesting talk on old parish registers.

Our second meeting, and the first for this current session, was held on 6 September 2022, where we welcomed members and new members. Future meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of the month, culminating in our Christmas get-together on 6 December 2022. Thereafter, our first members' meeting of 2023 will be held on 7 February, a "Gee's a Haun" night where we assist members with any brick walls.

On 4 October 2022 we were joined by Margaret Fox who gave a very interesting and informative talk on old Scottish handwriting from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries – cracking the code.

Our first AGM, following lockdown, was held on 7 June 2022 in Crofthead Community Centre.

Website: [www.wlfhs.org.uk](http://www.wlfhs.org.uk)

Our website has contact details, including direct email addresses, for our librarian and volunteers help line. 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](mailto: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 volunteers at our Linlithgow helpdesk meet within the Local History 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 for all 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.

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

Email: [sec@wlfhs.org.uk](mailto:sec@wlfhs.org.uk)

Membership Enquiries: [member@wlfhs.org.uk](mailto:member@wlfhs.org.uk)

## SAFHS VACANCIES

### 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](mailto:secretary@safhs.org.uk)