



The Scottish  
Association of  
Family History  
Societies

# SAFHS BULLETIN

Scottish Charity Number SC029006

July 2024

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

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



As I read the articles and e-mails sent to me by the member societies and associate members

of SAFHS, it encourages me greatly to see the many projects that are being undertaken with many transcription projects taking place. The commercial companies continue to take an interest in Scottish records with find My Past in particular working closely with our member societies and although its never as much as we would like Scottish Newspapers continuing to appear through the British Library Newspapers Project. At the time of writing National Records of Scotland still have the same pricing structure for accessing statutory records and though I am aware this may change its good to see they have not increased unlike the GRO charges for English and Welsh Records. Although the summer weather has not been good enough for continuous periods, it's still been sufficient enough for me to visit cemeteries and see the work carried out "friends" of various cemeteries and the CWGC volunteers who look after the war graves in Scotland's graveyards and cemeteries.

Ken Nisbet

SAFHS Chairman

## SOCIETY NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS



# Aberdeen & North-East Scotland Family History Society

Registered Charity SC012478

ANESFHS exists to assist and promote the study of genealogy and family history based on the North-East corner of Scotland. This area covers the old counties of Aberdeenshire, Banffshire, Kincardineshire and Morayshire.

The Society has around 3,000 per year, with over 24,000 having joined the Society since its foundation in 1979. We run a monthly programme of meetings with speakers in Aberdeen from September to May each year. We have active local area groups based in Moray Banff (Elgin), Edinburgh, Glasgow, Southern Ontario, London and Australia/New Zealand (Melbourne), most of whom meet around four times per year. Our meetings are usually hybrid (simultaneously in person and online).

Our Family History Resource Centre at 158 King Street in Aberdeen is an affiliate member of Ancestry and FamilySearch and has a well-stocked Reference Library. The library has over 5,500 books on its shelves, plus journals from other societies worldwide, magazines, ancestor charts and maps and many hard-to-find records relating to the North-East. The Society's Facebook group provides a lively forum for anyone researching their family history in North-East Scotland with participants sharing queries, research, stories and photos. You don't have to be a Society member to join the group and it is a good way to get involved.

The Society has published around 80 MI booklets. The most recent additions are:

### The Kirkyard of Aucterless

Little information exists about the church before 1157. St. Donan is the patron saint and local folklore says he threw his staff into the Ythan, which runs close by, and where it came to rest is where they built the original church. The pre reformation church ruins are still to be seen in the graveyard, and the gable wall of a church built around 1780 is still standing. This church was significantly changed in 1832 to seat over 650 parishioners. Today's magnificent church with its tall spire can be seen from miles around. Local people paid for the Mears and Steinbeck bell, which weighs just over 22 cwt. The Wadsworth organ was installed in 1904 at a cost of £300. It is remarkable that between 1811 & 1946 there were only three ministers in the parish, George Dingwall, Alexander Gray & Alexander Duncan.

This has been a challenge and indeed a "monumental" job as this is such a large and complicated shaped churchyard, which is split into 3 sections (with further memorials inside the church).

### The Kirkyard of Strichen

An incomplete version, had long languished among the "Unpublished MIs", but ANESFHS member Jim Campbell has now produced a fully revised reading, which is accompanied by all-

new kirkyard plans.

The Kirkyard comprises three sections: the original “Old Ground”, a small extension dating from around 1870, and the larger “New Ground” opened in 1906. These contain a total of 733 stones (as against 549 in the “Unpublished” version) with details of over 2,700 individuals, dating from 1691 to 2019.

The transcription plus index runs to 114 pages, and the plans cover both sides of an A3 sheet. As this is well beyond the capacity of one of our usual stapled booklets, “The Kirkyard of Strichen”) is a “perfect-bound” A5 volume with the folded plan in a pocket in the rear cover,.

Kirkyard of Strichen, Item Code: AA068 Price: £9.00 (plus postage and packing)

Kirkyard of Auchterless, Item Code: AA085 Price: £9.00 (plus postage and packing)

*Research Centre:* 158–164 King Street, Aberdeen AB24 5BD (staffed by volunteers)

*Opening hours:* 10am to 4pm, Monday to Friday (Saturday morning by

Appointment)

*Telephone:* 01224 646323 (answering machine outside opening hours)

*Website:* <https://www.anesfhs.org.uk>

*General enquiries:* [enquiries@anesfhs.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@anesfhs.org.uk)

*Facebook:* [facebook.com/anesfhs](https://www.facebook.com/anesfhs)



## ANGLO SCOTTISH FHS

Our first 3 meetings this year were via Zoom but we are hoping to encourage more members to attend physical meeting at Manchester Central Library. Our recent programme included Mr Ken Nisbet talking on the commemoration of service personnel and how this changed over time, a talk by Dr. K Williams on how the promise of 'homes fit for heroes' was fulfilled. We next welcomed Dr. B Durie to Manchester when he spoke about 'who are the Scots, what is a clan and why are we not Celts', leaving us with something to think about. Niel Frazer of Historic Environments Scotland gave us a very thorough introduction of the resources available on their website, including 'Britain from above'. We finished our summer programme with a detailed look at the documents available on our website and the best way to navigate one's way to the data.

Our future programme includes a talk 'Beneath the Surface' which celebrates Scotland's rich underground heritage - both natural and the product of man's endeavours, a new book by Bruce Keith, and an introduction to the 'Scottish Colourists' by Julia Harwood of Manchester Art Gallery.

We have recently added a new database to our website, 'Scottish Cotton Workers'. This gives the Names appearing in a House of Lords report published in 1819 on the subject of child workers in the cotton industry. Contains records of families in Sorn and Mauchline, Ayr, Deanston, Perth and Lecropt in Perth/Stirling. Includes information such as years married and number of children.

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 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month, starting at 2.00 pm., except January and August and non-members of the Society are always welcome. Details of meetings are on our website and booking is via Eventbrite.

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Manchester Central Library

St Peter's Square

Manchester

M2 5PD

Email: [angloscots@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:angloscots@mlfhs.org.uk)

Website: <https://mlfhs.uk/anglo-scots>

# BORDERS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



Our June 2024 members' magazine is on its way to members around the world. Articles include the second instalment on The Grieves of Duns, their Descendants and Connections which looks at the family who moved to Eyemouth in the 18th century. A study on the hamlet of Redpath, looks at the mills in the village and the Forsan, Lythgow and Shillinglaw families who lived and worked there. The author refers to a wide range of sources used for research and which are useful for any family history researcher. For around 110 years, the lives of the Watson family were intertwined with Jedburgh Abbey, as keepers, curators, travel guides and historians. An article on The Keepers of Jedburgh Abbey describes the descendants of Serjeant Major James Watson and their working lives and links with the Abbey. A box of postcards can be a gem of a find and each postcard is a snapshot of a time and place and of the sender and recipient. The contents of the box and the subsequent research is described in the article Wish You were Here. The member's magazine is published three times a year and members may opt for a pdf version delivered by email or a printed version to arrive on their doorstep.

Borders FHS volunteers continue to visit churchyards throughout the Borders in summer months and in the winter too, to record and photograph memorials. If looking for Monumental Inscriptions for your Borders ancestors, contact our Research Team as we have transcriptions for burial places throughout the Borders.

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. We have also indexed Registers and Payroll books for parishes throughout the Borders – from Eyemouth in the east to Tweedsmuir and from the 1840's to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Please contact us to find out more about your ancestors, their families and their lives.

Our Research Room at 52 Overhaugh Street, Galashiels is open to visitors on Tuesday and Thursday from 10am to 4pm. If you are looking for assistance with your family history research, drop in anytime or contact us to arrange an appointment. Group visits may also be arranged for family groups or for fellow members of a club or group. 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](https://twitter.com/bordersfhs)



## CENTRAL SCOTLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

We have finalised out syllabus for the next 2024 - 2025, having a mix of in-person and Zoom meetings seems to be working well for our members. Local members still get a chance to meet and chat after the in person talks while we have members from other parts of the country and overseas attending the Zoom ones.

### Syllabus

2024 October 9<sup>th</sup> "History of Mining in Central Scotland" by Ian Scott  
(In-person)

2024 November 13<sup>th</sup> "Scottish Passports issued 1850 – WW1" by Morag Peers.  
(In-person)

2024 December 11<sup>th</sup> "Overcoming Brick walls" by Emma Maxwell of Scottish (zoom) Indexes

2025 January 8<sup>th</sup> "Using Familysearch for Scottish Genealogy Research" (zoom) by Alison Spring

2025 February 12<sup>th</sup> "Guilds and Trades" by Dr Irene O'Brien, City Archives and (zoom) Record Manager, Glasgow Life

2025 March 12<sup>th</sup> "Society of One-Place Studies" by Jane Harris

(zoom)

2025 April 9<sup>th</sup> “Alexander Nicoll Black and the Forth Shipbuilding and  
(In-person) Engineering Company Ltd, Alloa” by Susan Mills

2025 May 14<sup>th</sup> AGM and Social event  
(In-person)



## East Ayrshire FHS

**Meetings:** The new session begins on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August. Meetings are held on Thursdays from 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm in Belford Mill, 16 Brewery Road, Kilmarnock, KA1 3HZ. There is a speaker on the second Thursday of most months. Visitors are welcome but, if travelling a distance, are advised to email in advance or look at the website to check details.

**Talks:** The syllabus until the end of 2024 is:

12<sup>th</sup> September Illustrated talk by John Smillie

10<sup>th</sup> October Talk by Ian Pollock on *The History of Newmilns*

14<sup>th</sup> November Talk by Stewart Finlay, chairman of the Kilmarnock branch of Royal British Legion Scotland.

**Joint meeting:** There will be a joint meeting of the Ayrshire family history societies on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October. This is being hosted by Troon @ Ayrshire FHS and will be held at 7.30 pm in Portland Church Hall, Troon. North Ayrshire FHS has arranged for Chris Paton to be the speaker on the topic of *DNA*.

**Publications:** Please see the Shop pages on the EAFHS website. **Increases in postal charges have resulted in the need to increase prices for printed and CD publications sent out by post. Most of our publications are now available as digital files. Ordering in this format is less expensive. Existing stocks of some printed publications may not be replaced when they run out.** You may wish to email and check availability if you are interested in buying a printed publication.

**Membership:** Members receive three magazines per year, either digitally or in printed form according to the subscription they choose. Volunteers do their best to assist members with their family history research.

The subscription rates are now as follows: E-membership (worldwide) £10.50; full UK membership £15; full overseas membership £20; additional family member (no magazines) £6.

**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

Fife Family History Society [www.fifefhs.org](http://www.fifefhs.org) Publication Sales Online sales of our digital downloads have increased as we are phasing out the CD format. Book sales have been very good this year. Recently added books were, An Illustrated History of Kirkcaldy Harbour, Newburgh's WW2 Evacuees and Recollections of East Fife Fisher Folk. We have also published in our members section, an up to date list of contacts/phone numbers, for access to Fife Cemeteries and Burial Grounds, which has posed a problem in the recent past. Library Premises The Trustees are hoping to extend our opening hours as we have recruited 3 new volunteers to cope with the various projects that are in progress and being planned. e-Journal Our members' e-Journal was emailed out by Mailchimp in May and we have received positive comments regarding the contents. We have a good number of articles for our next e-Journal due to be published in October 2024, but we are always looking for fresh articles. Visits and Roadshows We are organising a visit to Perth Museum some time in August and we are in the process of setting up roadshows in different locations in Fife. The Trustees are at present inspecting various premises for their suitability. AGM No date has been set for our AGM, but may be in September, but will be via Zoom. Information will be post on our website

[WWW.FIFEFHS.ORG](http://WWW.FIFEFHS.ORG)



## Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS

### **Website**

We uploaded headstone photographs and transcriptions of the monumental inscriptions for Tollcross Cemetery, Shettleston. Any visitor may search the full name index. The photographs and transcriptions are available to view in our members' area. We used to sell this data on CD.

We have started to load headstone photographs and transcriptions for the Glasgow Necropolis. Our volunteers took these photographs in 2010-12. Some of these headstones are no longer legible. It will be months of work for us to load approximately 7,000 images with their associated transcriptions and a full name index.

In June, we upgraded the shop in our website to allow visitors to browse our products. We are working to improve the description of each product. We will make the shop search function more prominent for visitors who prefer to search than to browse.

We uploaded PDF copies of exchange journals from other societies to our members' area.

One of our volunteers, a former Google employee, is helping us to improve our rankings in Google search results. We have started to analyse the origin of visits to our website.

### **Membership**

Last year, we increased our membership subscriptions for the 2023-24 session; UK £20.00 (includes a printed Journal); Overseas £25.00 (printed Journal) or £20.00 (PDF Journal). This year, we decided on no increase for the 2024-25 session.

Memberships purchased since our new website launched in 2019 are due for renewal on the anniversary of the purchase. Older memberships are due for renewal on the first of August. As the proportion of our memberships purchased on the new terms increases, our income is becoming more evenly distributed over the year.

### **Members' Meetings**

Our monthly members' meetings on Zoom continue to be well attended; sometimes we must purchase additional 'seats' for more than 100 attendees. We are grateful to Christine Woodcock for arranging our syllabus and hosting our speakers.

Our DNA special interest group meets fortnightly in our premises and online as a hybrid meeting.

### **Research Centre and Library**

Our premises are open to the public on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons, 1pm to 4pm. Volunteer assistants are available to help visitors to organise their research and to access resources in our library or on-line.

We are open on Wednesdays to members only. We expect members who visit on Wednesdays to be mostly self-sufficient. This is an opportunity for members to access FamilySearch and other resources when the premises are quieter than on public opening times.

We use our premises at other times for our DNA special interest group, volunteers working on projects and pre-arranged visits by members visiting from afar.

### **Social Media**

Our Facebook group remains very active. There are over 5,000 members. Many participants in this group help others by posting answers to queries, which reduces the demand on our formal research assistance service. We are trying to encourage more members of this group to join our society. We post regularly on Instagram.

### **Events**

We attended:

- The virtual FHF Really Useful Family History Show in November 2023, and
- The Family History Show Online on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2024, and

- The Hobby & Craft Show at the SEC on 7-9<sup>th</sup> March 2024 (thanks to the FHF), and
- The North Lanarkshire Local and Family History Fair at Summerlee Museum on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024, and
- The Local and Family History Fair at the David Livingstone Centre on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2024 (thanks to the Lanarkshire FHS), and
- The Inverclyde Heritage Fair on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at the Watt Library, Greenock.

We were not able to exhibit at the BygoneCon Event on 11th May 2024 at the Hamilton Town House Library. However, some members attended in a personal capacity.

Our Chairman and our Minutes Secretary attended the University of Strathclyde *Advancing Genetic Genealogy* Conference on 7th – 8th June 2024. Some of our volunteers are graduates of the courses taught at the Strathclyde Institute for Genealogical Studies at this University.

## **Publications**

The post of Publications Officer is still vacant.

In July, we published a PDF booklet of monumental inscriptions in Cardross parish. Cardross Parish, Dunbartonshire was first surveyed in about 1968 by J & S Mitchell when they recorded the pre 1855 burials. It was done again during 1978-80 by Arthur F. Jones when he was the Librarian in Dumbarton. We acknowledge the assistance and permission of West Dunbartonshire Council Arts &

Heritage Service to reproduce and use the original sources stored at Dumbarton Library Heritage Centre and the permission of Arthur F Jones to use his material.

We made little progress on the publication of other books due to being unable to appoint a Publications Officer.

We sent monumental inscription transcripts, photographs and name indexes to Find My Past. FMP estimate that they will publish this data in October or November 2024.

We published, in paperback, the second edition of our popular *My Family Tree* workbook. The new edition includes space for the 1921 Census.

We reprinted a few of our booklets that are now out of print, to fulfil specific orders. We plan to reprint other out-of-stock items. We are investigating cost effective services for small print runs.

## **Projects**

Southern Necropolis interment registers. Many years ago, we ran a Southern Necropolis Indexing Project (SNIP). Our volunteers name indexed 58,000 interments from the interment registers for the western section of the Southern Necropolis for the period 1850-1890. We suspended this project when the original registers were taken to be filmed. This index is available to search on our computers in our premises.

We now have access to the images of the interment registers at FamilySearch. Recently, we resumed our project and we are working to name index the remaining registers for the western section through to the 1930's. Then we will start to name index the other registers for this cemetery.

We made little progress on our High Kirk Burial Ground project due to other commitments.

A volunteer is extracting information from the Protocol Books of the old Glasgow Burgh.

## **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>





## Lanarkshire Family History Society

Lanarkshire Family History Society

The society is now back to normal after the pandemic. The Research Centre is open again and the members are gradually coming back to continue their research.

The invitation is always there for the other SAHFS society's members to visit us for assistance with their ancestors Lanarkshire research.

We are open on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday 12:00 – 3:00pm, and also Tuesday and Thursday 7:00 – 9:00pm.

Our address is 122-124 Merry Street, Motherwell, ML1 1NA.

Our latest new publications are: -

[1] "The Fallen of the Crawford Parishes" WW1.

[2] "Shotts "A Village that Went to War - Again" WW2.

We have also worked at getting the following two books back in print.

[3] "Lanarkshire Coal Miners and Their Wives".

[4] "The Lost Villages" near Airdrie.

Our new web-site can be found at: -

<https://www.lanarkshirefhs.org.uk>



## RENFREWSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Renfrewshire Family History Society was founded in March 1999 and has charitable status.

The Society exists to promote the study of Family History within the area of the former County of Renfrewshire, encompassing Abbey Parish, Cathcart, Eaglesham, Erskine, Eastwood, Greenock, Houston & Killellan, Inchinnan, Inverkip, Kilbarchan, Kilmacolm, Lochwinnoch, Mearns, Neilston, Paisley, Port Glasgow and Renfrew.

### Assistance and Advice

Renfrewshire Family History Society offers support and assistance to members and others seeking to find out more about their family history.

Enquiries are regularly received and dealt with via e-mail. In addition, local residents and visitors to Renfrewshire can 'drop-in' to seek in person assistance and advice from RFHS volunteers on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the Abbey Mill Business Centre, 12 Seedhill Road Paisley, Renfrewshire PA1 1JS.

Visitors might find it helpful to know that the Paisley Heritage Centre is located at the Abbey Mill Business Centre, see <https://paisley.is/visit/heritage-centre/> for more information.

*Heritage information relating to other parts of the County can be found via the links below*

*East Renfrewshire*      <https://www.ercultureandleisure.org/libraries/heritage/>

*Glasgow*              <https://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/libraries/family-history>

*Inverclyde*            <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/tourism-and-visitor-attractions/heritage>

### Events

Monthly members' meetings featuring guest speakers are held on the third Thursday evening of each month (from September to May). In-person meetings recommenced in March 2024; these are held at the Paisley South Church of Scotland Hall, 123 Rowan Street, Paisley, PA2 6RZ, commencing 7:30 pm (GMT) and ending by 9 pm. Light refreshments are available.

Members who cannot attend in-person may still participate via a 'Zoom' link which is circulated to members ahead of each meeting date. Any non-members wishing to participate should express their interest by contacting the Society at [secretary@renfrewshirefhs.co.uk](mailto:secretary@renfrewshirefhs.co.uk) and the relevant link will be provided.

Forthcoming meetings include: -

19<sup>th</sup> September 2024 "Reformatory Schools in Scotland"

Guest Speaker: Morag Peers, Genealogist

17<sup>th</sup> October 2024 "For the Salvation of Destitute and Neglected Children"

Guest Speaker: Christine Woodcock, Genealogist

21<sup>st</sup> November 2024 "Irish Migrants to Greenock 1831-1861"

Isobel Lind, OBE

### Publications

The Society has a number of publications available for purchase (many in both printed and electronic formats), details are available from the RHFS website publications page at: -

<https://renfrewshirefhs.co.uk/publications/>

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

**Contact** [secretary@renfrewshirefhs.co.uk](mailto:secretary@renfrewshirefhs.co.uk)

Postal contact via The Secretary  
Renfrewshire Family History Society  
c/o 38 Lubnaig Drive  
Erskine Renfrewshire PA8 6AU

## SHETLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

The Conference 2024 - Shetland FHS online conference programme has been announced for 21<sup>st</sup> September. The speakers are:

Mark Smith - Shetland Archives: The Archives Catalogue

Karen Inkster Vance - Spinsters, Widows and Wives: Telling the Stories of

Shetland's

Women

Linda Riddell - Honouring 'Shetland's Heroes': WW1 Memorials

Laureen Johnson and Mary Blance - The Shetland Dialect Through Poetry

Rose Staveley-Wadham - Find My Past, making most of the historic Shetland

Times

newspapers online

Question and Answer session. An opportunity for you to ask questions of a specialist panel

of Shetland experts

Registration is now open here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/6017168973499/WN\\_c52oP3GOQ-StVsPNwlg7ZA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/6017168973499/WN_c52oP3GOQ-StVsPNwlg7ZA)

The 1911 census is searchable on line through the members area on the website. It will bring up the whole household and neighbours each side.

Exchange Journals from other Family History societies are available to view on our office computers. We also have the BMDs from the Newspapers.

Shetland Family History Society's has a selection of books, binders, magazines and CDs of fascinating archive material, for sale, online and in the shop. 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 website continues to grow, with the first 26 Coontin Kin journals and more Monumental Inscription images now added. Gulberwick, Quarff, Dunrossness, Northmavine, Whalsay, Skerries, Lunna, Vidlin and Fair Isle available to members. This is in addition to the memorial inscription booklets.

Work is in progress to complete the 2nd stage of the website, the photographic project and the 1921 census checking

#### Contacts:

Office summer opening hours 2-4pm weekdays.

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>

We have a video about our society. It can be found on the website.

[SFHS - A Peerie Look Inside - YouTube](#)

The Society office - Shetland Family History Society

Shetland Amenity Trust

Garthspool

Lerwick

ZE1 0NY

email: [secretary@shetland-fhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@shetland-fhs.org.uk)



## THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY

We are now well into the spring/summer season here in Edinburgh, with many visitors coming from all around the world looking (and sometimes just hoping) to trace their Scottish ancestry. It never fails to amaze us the places they've come from – testimony to how far our ancestors travelled.

### SCIO

As mentioned previously we had started the process of becoming a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) and we are pleased to say we are now registered. All that remains are the household tasks like changing stationery, bank accounts, etc. Our thanks go to our SCIO team who gave their time to get us to this stage.

### Syllabus

The second half of our syllabus begins on 16 September with a talk by Vincent Mason: *The Royal Company of Merchants of the City of Edinburgh Archives and Treasurers Committee*. This is followed on 14 October with L Bruce Keith on *“Are we nearly there yet?” – A Study of British Milestones*; and lastly a talk by Margaret Fox, Archivist on 18 November: *“The Servants in Traquair House” – What the Archives tell us about their lives*. All our talks are held at the Augustine United Church, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh and start at 7.30pm.

### Events

After a hiatus of a few years, we recently took a space at the Edinburgh Meadows Festival. For those not familiar with this event, it takes place annually at the Meadows park in the centre of town. It's a great event for us to publicise the Society with hundreds, if not thousands of visitors attending (and thankfully the weather stayed fine!)

We are also taking part in the 2024 Doors Open event and will be participating on Saturday 28 September. In the past we have found this another great opportunity to advertise the Society and it's all free!

Scottish Genealogy Society, 15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2JL

Contact: Liz Watson

Tel: 0131 220 3677

Web: [www.scotsgenealogy.com](http://www.scotsgenealogy.com)

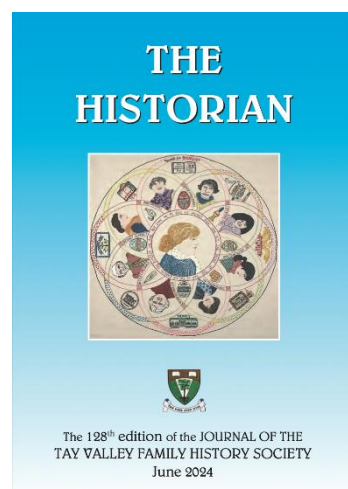


## TAY VALLEY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

At the time of writing, we at TVFHS are preparing for our AGM (26th September) and for various local events happening around that time, while continuing with the regular production of our journal *The Historian*, which published its 128th issue in June 2024, and of our video talks series, along with visits to community organisations and of course assisting members with their research. In the spring we also ran a series of genealogy classes.

### The Historian

The table of contents for the most recent *Historian* is on our website in the 'news' blog. The articles display the breadth of interests of our members and the variety of their ancestors' lives. The cover image for this current *Historian* featured a panel from the Dundee Tapestry, that of 'Muggie Sha'. (All 35 panels were displayed in Dundee's V&A this spring).



Our Editor is challenging members to write short articles (just 150 words) on their use of objects - photographs, letters, trophies, pottery or others - in their researches, for the next issue of the journal, following a lively discussion at our last online question and answer session following our April video talk.

### Our Tay Valley Talks series

In 2024, our video talks have included *A Town where Women Rule the Roost - A History of Dundee's Irishwomen*, given by Dr Naimh Coffey in January, and *Objects in Family History, and their Stories*, by Jennifer Jolly in April, with examples of how three objects had inspired her own researches. July sees our President Iain Flett's third annual talk on the historic Dundee burgh office holders - this time on the Dean of Guild. Iain says, 'The Guild of Merchants, now known

as The Guildry, would have been in with the bricks at the formation of Dundee as a burgh trading centre in the late 12th century. Although it's difficult to pinpoint accurately Dundee's burgh formation as its early charters were destroyed or ransomed in the Wars of independence, a formation date of 1191 was chosen and celebrated throughout the octocentenary in 1991. What we do know from the Latin charter rolls in The National Archives (TNA) Kew is that King John of England, he of Magna Carta, granted in 1199 the burgesses of Earl David (of Huntingdon) the valuable right to trade in the ports of southeast England.'

In his talk, Iain points to the continuation of the Guildry from the mediaeval period to the present, including mentions of particular individuals and gravestones in The Howff, the surviving records and what they contain, and the current charitable activities of the Dean of Guild and the Guildry. (Dundonian Dr Joe Morrow, Lord Lyon King of Arms of Scotland, is the current Dean of Guild.)

This talk is available to view at <https://youtu.be/X9TP7AvfGQQ>, with our usual Question and Answer session for members on the last Monday of July. The October talk, given by City Archivist Martin Allan, will address what 'Archives' are and what archivists do - something which many members ask about. And the first talk of 2025 is to be on Witch Trials in our area.

### **Our genealogy classes**

This year we ran six sessions of 'introductory' classes, followed by three 'advanced'. These took place in our centre in Princes Street, Dundee, with the intro classes covering most common resources both on and off-line and how to access and make use of these, with pointers to less usual resources, issues with records (and handwriting), and also touching on research outwith Scotland. The advanced classes focused on reading handwriting including Secretary Hand, making use of DNA testing, and finding and using less well-known resources, so moving beyond the 'basics'.

### **Our research activities**

Research continues both in members' personal quests (and our Volunteers love to assist these) and with the endeavours of our Research Team, of particular benefit to people further away geographically. The research centre and library is open on weekdays and the opening hours are notified on our website, [tayvalleyfhs.org.uk](http://tayvalleyfhs.org.uk) - 10.00-16.00 three days a week, 13.00-16.00 on the remaining two.

Our Research Team was called upon to assist in discovering some stories of the real women behind the fictional 'Muggie Sha' for the stitchers of her panel in the Dundee Tapestry, hence our featuring that panel in our journal cover. The team's comment - 'We were so glad to be able to help the stitchers.'

## **Future events**

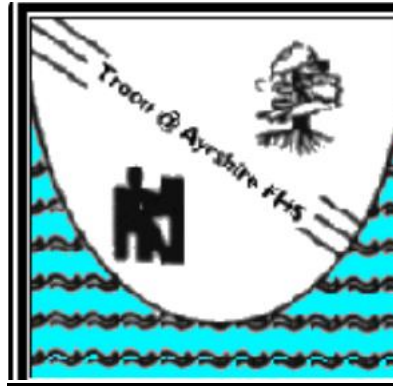
Our President has offered two guided tours of The Howff, the old burial ground of Dundee, with particular reference to the merchants' marks on gravestones, to tie in with his video talk on the Guildry. We don't yet have a date for these, and of course there's the weather to take into account, in this exceedingly wet summer.

We have moved our hybrid AGM to 26th September, to accommodate people coming into Dundee for the event so as to avoid winter darkness while as always welcoming our overseas members via an internet platform. This year we've been experimenting with various audio and video technologies to facilitate the event, and we hope to have a guest speaker from the Court of the Lord Lyon.

In the same week, we are participating in the Dundee City Archives Local and Family History Fair, on 21st September, in the Glasite Hall - and also our research centre welcomes visitors on Saturday 28th September as part of Dundee Open Doors Days. A very busy week! Luckily we have many volunteers for these events, though as always more are better.

And as always, we welcome people to our Centre, 179-181 Princes Street in Dundee, to our Facebook page and (for members) discussion group, our Video Talks, and of course our Website at <https://tayvalleyfhs.org.uk/>.





## TROON & AYRSHIRE FHS

Another year has flown by and the Troon@Ayrshire Family History Society have had an excellent programme.

We started our monthly meetings in September when we were delighted to welcome Ken Nisbet. Ken is a minefield of family history knowledge and gave a very inspiring talk on "Newspapers for your Family History Research." It was a revelation to us all how much one can glean from old newspapers whether it's births, marriages (including what the bridesmaids wore), deaths, divorces or bigamy, military connections, appointments, awards, criminal activity of a family member, accidents involving your relatives, business history or contracts being awarded to your ancestors.

October saw Sandra McCallum give a talk entitled "Truth as Fiction". She told us the importance of preserving our own and our ancestors personal family history so that younger members of our family can glean information about their own ancestry. She also told us about the two factual historical books she had written and would give members advice about writing and publishing any possible books.

November's meeting was a trip down memory lane. We went to the pictures. In the 1890s moving pictures hit the world and Scotland showed its first films in 1896. A year later Ayrshire showed its first film in Mauchline. June Wiggins, our speaker, went on to describe the growth of the film industry over the next 120 years. This included the construction of specific buildings called cinemas, the advent of "Talkies", down to the closure of many of these places because Television had hit the scenes. Now there are only a few cinemas left but films are still being shown in town halls, community centres and modern film complexes.

December's meeting was our Annual Quiz Night when Rowenna Kennedy provided us with, among other teasers, a picture quiz of a difference. Yes, we had to name several places and buildings in Ayrshire but the pictures were taken from unusual angles, and many local members were well and truly flummoxed! It was a great evening and the usual refreshments were thoroughly enjoyed.

Into 2024 and January's meeting was a first for the Society. Christine Woodstock, who lives in Canada, recorded her talk and sent it to us. Her subject was "Creating a Life Story Book." She gave us a lot of advice about what to include - certificates, announcements, photos, places, schools, even things like recipes. Also it's important to include any historical events.

Neil Fraser from HES was the speaker at the February meeting. He did a presentation entitled "Troon from the Archives of Historic Environment Scotland". He showed us images of archaeological sites, buildings, etc and images from museums and archives throughout Scotland. We were given a lot of advice about Canmore and Scran websites, as well as aerial imagery from NCAP. There is a wide range of Troon records, including Shore bye-laws and famous golfers visiting Troon.

March's meeting was an insight into the seaside towns of Troon and Prestwick. Richard Wiggins, the March speaker, gave a presentation entitled "By the Seaside in Bye-gone Days". We learnt a lot about beach entertainment from 1910. This included Pierrots. Needless to say many people came to Troon for a game of golf as well as the beach. There was also a swimming pool, but as well as sand, many families would enjoy looking into the rock pools at the north end of the south Beach. Prestwick was also a very popular beach area for families with beach huts, putting and donkey rides.

April's very informative talk was given by Alison Spring. It was entitled "There shall be a Record Kept - Finding Scottish Ancestors Before 1855". Alison has a wealth of information about how to delve deeper into records. There are many routes you can take to find out your ancestral history and Alison is an expert.

The Annual Outing in May was to Dean Castle in Kilmarnock. If you have never been it's well worth a visit. We had a very good guide, Garry. His enthusiasm for the castle was palpable. He gave us a wealth of information about the buildings, the families, and the battles. This was followed by refreshments and a Question and Answer session. A thoroughly good time was had by all. Many thanks to East Ayrshire Council for their arranging of this trip.

At the time of writing this report we are still to have our AGM and Social evening which closes the Family History Year 2023-2024. Our programme for next year is progressing well and we are looking forward to it with anticipation.



## WEST LOTHIAN FHS

The AGM took place on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

We are looking forward to the second half of 2024 with some events confirmed. These are:

September 3 Regular meeting where we welcome old and new members and sort out membership, subscriptions etc. There are always members on hand to help with any queries you may have so bring these along with you.

October 1 Speaker - Clare Wilson - Preserving and passing on your family research.

November 5 Speaker - Ken Nisbet - Down on the Farm.

December 3 Xmas 'gie's a haun' night – where members bring along queries for assistance or would like a hands on update on available websites, records etc

All events will take place in Crofthead Community Centre, Templar Rise, Dedridge, Livingston, EH54 6DG until further notice. Details will be confirmed in the Events area of our website before the September start date. There is parking available.

**Website:** [www.wlfhs.org.uk](http://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](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 Linlithgow volunteers meet within the Local History Library on the first floor of Linlithgow Library on Tuesdays and Fridays and offer to assist visitors between 11.00 am and 3.00 pm. This is not restricted to WLFHS members.

### **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 at Linlithgow or Livingston 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. Transcriptions will be added to our Resources section when completed and available for purchase/lookup.

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- Urgent

### 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)