



e-Scotia

Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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Anglo Scottish Family History Society

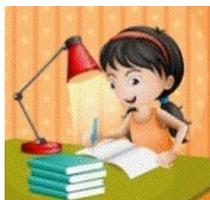
Welcome: to the March edition of the newsletter. In this newsletter we are going to make no reference to cv - I think we are all cv'd out - other than to make suggestions as to how we might make use of this time imposed on us. What it has meant of course is that all our Branch meetings have been suspended until further notice. Hopefully not too far in the future. In the meantime I share with you a photograph of life in our garden. These daffodils have been flowering for many weeks now and seem to know that their job at this time of year is to cheer us all up and point us in the direction of life to come. Let's rejoice in that hope.



No Branch AGM: in view of recent events we were not able to hold our AGM this year. Apart from other business it is the occasion that the Branch committee is open to scrutiny and members are elected. I suppose the former was addressed through the recent survey that was carried out by our chairman, Michael Couper. The results of that, despite a limited response, indicated that those Branch members that did respond were content with the work of the committee and the direction in which we are going. With regard to the latter, all current committee members indicated their willingness to continue serving the Branch and therefore the line-up remains as follows;



From L to R: Michael Couper, (Chairman); David Muil; Ina Penneyston, (SAFHS Rep); Yvonne Gill-Martin, (Speaker organiser); Linda McInnes, (Secretary); Hilary Hartigan; Mark Campbell.

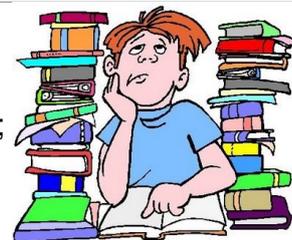


Things to do: as family history aficionados the word "bored" should never find a place in our vocabulary. We have far too much to be getting on with. In fact sometimes we are so busy that we neglect our own research and, having lost the discipline, we forget how to get going again. So here are some suggestions to help you on that road, or encourage you to keep going.

Old photographs: now is the opportunity to get out all those photographs of grandparents; aunts; uncles, cousins and, yes, even your own photographs and start writing on the back who the people are. How many times have we come across photographs of ancestors only to realise that whilst we know they are our parent's aunts and uncles and cousins (or perhaps not) we do not know who is who. What if our own grandparents had written on photographs from their own time identifying the people on it. How helpful would that be? I suspect that most of us are of an age when we are now those grandparents or aged relatives and it is likely that our own children do not know who is who on our photographs. So come on, get out those group wedding photographs or party photographs and start telling your descendants who they are. In years to come they will be in the position you are in and asking "who is that".



Brush up on genealogy: I am indebted to a fellow researcher and newsletter editor, Jane Milne of the Bolton Branch, for reminding me of the course being run by the University of Strathclyde ([click here](#)) on the topic of genealogical research with the by-line; “Develop an understanding of genealogy – how to research your family tree and share the results – with this free online course.”



Yes, the course is free and although it started on the 9th March it is divided into sessions that mean that you can catch up quite easily. I recall doing this course some time ago. I found much of it quite basic as it is aimed at relative newcomers to genealogy, but there was also much to learn, not least the need for discipline and structure. Anyway, have a look. It will also be available to our readers in other parts of the world.



Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society Forum: I am aware that some of you receiving this newsletter are not members of the MLFH Society. For those of you who are please remember that you have access to a large number of resources including the *Forum*. This is the arena where members of the Society share information, insights and suggestions as well as seeking help with research from fellow members when difficulties arise. During this time of quiet I notice that the Forum is attracting more entries with many suggestions from members as to what we might all do with our extra time. One of the most popular suggestions is that members get around to writing their family history research, putting it into a format that would be helpful to other family members instead of the large quantity of notes and miscellaneous records that currently reflect our research efforts. I admit to finding this a daunting prospect given the vast amount of information I have and “where to start” and “what form to follow” remain unanswered questions. There are many books and articles addressing this issue but one of the simplest I found for me was an online suggestion from *Family Tree* ([click here](#)). But have a search around because there is no doubt that if all the research that we have done is not to find its way into a cupboard (or the bin!!) when we have gone we are going to have to put it into a format that descendants will enjoy.

National Library of Scotland: I have just received the latest update for the NLS with the information that, like most other venues, they are closing their doors to researchers. However they remind us of their huge digital archive that is always available. In fact I have been looking at the photographic and art archive that they referred to in their February newsletter. Under the heading of “*Watercolour World*” ([click here](#)) you have access to a whole library of watercolour art. There is a choice of searching by way of Keyword or Location. For obvious reasons most of the art is British but there are also watercolours of other parts of the world accessed through clicking on the Location tab. It is a very easy to use site. To test sites I always search for something I know and so on this occasion - ok I know you will not be surprised - I searched for Dundee and found a host of watercolours relating to Dundee and its surrounds. This is one of Scott’s ship, Discovery, currently moored in Dundee harbour beside the new Tate Gallery.



However around the same site I came across the NLS “Digital Gallery” ([click here](#)). You will never be bored on this site I promise. There is a huge catalogue of material available to search, including one dedicated to “Family History” with various sub-sites including WW1 photographs, military lists and searchable maps relevant to family history research. There is another series entitled “From Shore to Shore”. This is a series of old photographs of the coastal areas around Scotland searchable via a map. This is one of the paddle steamer leaving the Broomielaw in Glasgow.



It is here also that you can access the Post Office Directories for the years 1774 until 1911. It is worth noting that this resource is not simply a list of names and addresses but a “Did you know?” section that gives interesting figures and curious facts can be found in directories. You will be at this all day!!

FamilySearch Newsletter: for those of you who do not get the FamilySearch newsletter this is their latest offering in response to the “please stay at home” message throughout the world. It is a whole series of activities that you can involve yourself with and include family members. Access to the site can be found here [\(click here\)](#)

Family History Activities

In-Home and online activities designed for the whole family. It's family history in a whole new way!



Where am I from?

Where in the world did you come from?



All About Me

What is special about your name and birth year?



Compare-a-Face

Compare your face to your relatives' faces, and see whom you most resemble.



Record My Story

Tell your stories and the stories of your family.



Picture My Heritage

Connect to your heritage. Add your face to historical photos.



In-Home Activities

Family activities that help you discover, gather, and connect with your family—past and present.

Scotlands Places: [\(click here\)](#) please do not ignore this wonderful site. There is a wealth of resources here to



inform any research that you are involved in. And it is all **Free**. Some of us will remember when **ScotlandsPlaces** was launched only a few years ago with the aim of bringing together all the records of Scotland to be found in the National Library, the National Records Office and the Historic Environment Office to be accessed under the banner of a place name. This was a great idea since most of us doing research identify with one or two particular places. So by clicking on a particular place all the records pertaining to that place are made available. Sadly, it is apparent that cost factors have led to the closing down of the project, hopefully, temporarily, but the enormous amount of work already achieved remains available.

Scottish Archives Site: [\(click here\)](#) this is a site that I was not familiar with and became aware of it through a recent article by Chris Paton. Some of my ancestors in Scotland were Episcopalian but finding records of that Church has proved difficult. Chris indicates that some assistance might be had through this site. From what I have seen at a very cursory glance is that it is a site, not so much with resources, but indicating where those resources might be found. No bad thing, so something else I shall be having a look at over the next few days/weeks/months!!!!



And finally: A rat catcher walks into a doctor's office.

“I was putting down some poison when one of the little beggars bit off my finger.”

“Which one,” asked the doctor.

“How should I know” the man replied, “they all look the same to me”.

