



SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION of FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES

BULLETIN

APRIL 2008

Executive Committee - Chairman: Neil W Murray; Deputy Chairman: Bruce B Bishop; Secretary: Ken Nisbet; Treasurer: Jean I Sanderson; Editor: Janet M Bishop

2008 SAFHS Conference "Down Nostalgic Avenues"

Saturday 26th April, Motherwell Theatre and Concert Hall

This year's Conference is being organised by Lanarkshire FHS in association with Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS. Plans are well advanced for both the conference and the fair. Because of the floor area of Motherwell Concert Hall, we have extended the Fair to include Local History as well as Family History. There will be representation from Glasgow Police Museum, Wilsontown Iron Works Restoration Project, Renfrewshire Local History Forum and Croy Historical Group, to mention just a few. We also hope to have Strathclyde Fire & Rescue Service and Strathclyde Police Community Involvement units along. Entry to the Fair will be FREE to the public.

The Conference and the Family & Local History Fair are currently listed on various web-sites, including "visitclydevalley.com" and "visitlanarkshire.com", and will be on the events diary page of most Family History Magazines. Both events will also be mentioned in most of the Lanarkshire Newspapers.

We are distributing 400 A4-size posters to Libraries, Community Centres, and other locations throughout Glasgow and Lanarkshire. This advertising should attract more public into the fair, thus giving the SAFHS Societies attending a much greater chance of selling their publications and potentially attracting new members. Conference places are still available. We look forward to seeing you all at Motherwell.

The next meeting of SAFHS is on Saturday, 18 October 2008 at the Gillis Centre, Edinburgh

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM was held on 15 March 2008, at the Gillis Centre, Edinburgh. Peter Ruthven-Murray, our retiring President, was thanked for his services, and was made a Life Member of SAFHS. Ken Nisbet was re-elected as Secretary, and Janet Bishop was elected Bulletin Editor. It was agreed that subscriptions for the next year would remain unchanged.

FUTURE CONFERENCES

2009 Aberdeen & NESFHS
2010 West Lothian
2011 Scottish Genealogy Society

It is hoped that there might be an Island Conference sometime in the near future, perhaps in Orkney.

RED DOUGLAS DESCENDANTS

The Douglas Surname yDNA Project is asking for participation from Douglas families who can trace their lineage to James Douglas, 4th Earl of Morton, who was a Red Douglas. This would also include Douglas-Hamiltons, who are Red Douglases. The group is willing to pay for the test for suitable candidates, in order to establish the DNA group of the Red Douglases. Contact: Beryl Turner.

[http://www.familyreedna.com/\(we5jr2ewkhoxqe55wspcbh55\)/public/Douglas/index.asp](http://www.familyreedna.com/(we5jr2ewkhoxqe55wspcbh55)/public/Douglas/index.asp)

SAFHS CONTACTS

Chairman

Neil W Murray:

Deputy Chairman

Bruce B Bishop:

Secretary

Ken Nisbet:

Treasurer

Jean Sanderson:

Editor

Janet M Bishop:

Publications

Margaret Mackay:

GROS and the new Family History Centre

GROS will be introducing their new charging system for the new Family History Centre, with effect from 28 April 2008. Charges will be as follows:

Daily entrance fee for full or part-day to search rooms - £10.00

Quarterly entrance fee to search rooms - £440.00

Annual entrance fee to search rooms - £1250.00

Evening visits, 8-20 persons - £200.00

Evening visits, 21-40 persons - £250.00

A4 black and white print - 50p

Once the new Centre is fully operational, there will also be an opportunity to search for 2 hours, free of charge. It is also planned to introduce assisted searches in the Reid Room in GRH, at a cost of £20.00 per hour.

OTHER SAFHS NEWS

Editor

Janet Bishop, who represents ASGRA, has taken over as Editor, from this issue.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on Sunday 3 February 2008, and a synopsis of the minutes of the meeting has been circulated to member societies.

Graveyard Working Group

The Graveyard Working Group has continued to develop the Graveyard Inventory CD over the winter, and, thanks to the contributions of SAFHS member societies, and all the hard work put in by the group members, especially Margaret MacKay, the inventory now covers at least 95% of Scotland. There are only a few small areas where information has not been forthcoming, and those missing parishes will be researched as a desk-based exercise over the next few months.

It is envisaged that by the time of the October Council meeting we will have a fully-searchable CD available for purchase by SAFHS members, which will contain information on the burial grounds in every Scottish parish. The CD will include information as to whether the MI's for specific sites have been recorded, by whom, and whether there are published versions available, or unpublished records held by individual FHS.

ScotlandsPeople User Group

Ken Nisbet represents SAFHS on this group.

Executive Committee of Scotland's Family History Project

Jean Sanderson represents SAFHS on this committee.

The Scottish Council on Archives

Neil Murray represents SAFHS on this council.

The Family History Society of Buchan

Having provided all of the required information, the FHS of Buchan has been admitted as a full member of SAFHS, bringing the number of full members to 30 and associate members to 18.

News from Member Societies

Aberdeen & NE Scotland FHS

Meetings of the Society and its branches have continued to be well-attended. The November talk at Aberdeen, on the "Anglo-Scottish Union of 1707", was given by Professor Alan McInnes. The Christmas Social was well-attended this year. The February talk by Gordon Casely was on the subject of "Heraldry".

The Glasgow Group had talks on the "Treasures of the Scottish Screen Archive", by Ruth Washbrook in November, and the

February talk, "Searching before the Census", was given by Elizabeth Mortimer. In November, Jean Shirer spoke to the Moray/Banff Branch on "Getting started with your Family History", and the February talk by Keith Mitchell was on the subject of "Understanding Old Documents".

The Society is completing its holdings of the Census Films for all of Scotland 1841 to 1891, which also include Scottish Ships in European Ports in 1881 and 1891. A set of Roy's Maps of Scotland 1745-1755 is now available in the Society's Library.

During 2007 the Society gained 762 new members.

Latest Publications: Monumental Inscriptions for Echt New Churchyard; Dalmaik (Parish of Drumoak); Drumoak New Kirkyard; and Banchory-Ternan, each priced at £2.25. Postage is extra for all publications.

For further information contact:

Hon Secretary, Aberdeen and NE Scotland FHS, 158/164 King Street, Aberdeen AB24 5BD Tel. 01224 646323; Fax 01224 639096

Website: www.anesfhs.org.uk

Alloway and Southern Ayrshire FHS

Our Society's website is proving to be very successful, supplying a steady flow of new members and orders for publications, particularly with the aid of the Paypal facility.

The postcode of our new mailing address has been adjusted slightly, and is noted below.

The MI booklet for Maybole Cemetery Old Section has now been published, price £5.00, plus £1.00 postage and packing, and can be ordered either by post or from our website.

So far this year, we have had 2 fascinating speakers, who attracted large audiences – Robin Nelson on "How Railways changed Ayrshire", and John Millar, telling the story of the Book Smugglers of Lithuania at the end of the 19th Century. Reading material in the Lithuanian language was forbidden by the then Russian government, and the smugglers swam across a river and negotiated border patrols, to carry the forbidden material to the people.

Meetings later this session feature "James Crosbie's Diary" and "The Kennedys of Culzean".

We meet at Alloway Church Halls, on the third Thursday of the month, from September to May, and visitors and new members are always welcome.

For further information, contact:

The Secretary, Alloway and Southern Ayrshire FHS, c/o Alloway Church Halls, Auld Nick's View, Ayr, KA7 4RT

Website: www.asafhs.co.uk

Anglo-Scottish FHS

We have had an interesting year, with a full programme of meetings, all well-attended, and we hope this will continue into

the future. Recent topics include "Heraldry, the Shorthand of History", by Charles Burnett, Ross Herald of Arms. Our forthcoming programme contains a mix of subjects, varying from discussions on the pros and cons of Family History software, Scottish resources available at local archives, histories of Scottish regiments, as well as our usual members' discussions on their heirlooms and ancestral breakthroughs or problems.

We have visited a number of local family history fairs, to bring to visitors' attention the benefits of joining a Society, either our own, or, if the location of their ancestors is known, a Society elsewhere in Scotland. In this way, a number of new members have been enrolled.

Our work on transcribing the baptisms, marriages and communicant details from our local URC records continues. Our "Scottish Marriage Index" continues to grow, and it is very gratifying when this index proves to be beneficial in helping with a person's research.

Meetings are held every third Saturday of the month, except August and December, and non-members are welcome.

Michael J Couper

Website: www.mfhs.org.uk/AngloScots

ASGRA

The changes that have taken place in the genealogical world, resulting in easier access to records, etc, have inevitably brought with them a change in the type of research a professional genealogist is asked to carry out. Our members continually adapt to the changes, and remain busy, indicating that the professional will always have an important role to play.

Vivienne Murdoch has recently been admitted as a Full Member of ASGRA, having previously served as a Probationer. We welcome enquiries about membership of ASGRA, and they should be addressed to:

*Janet M Bishop, Hon Secretary, ASGRA, 259 Broad Street,
Cowdenbeath, Fife, KY48LG*

Website: www.asgra.co.uk

Borders FHS

The Society is enjoying considerable growth in membership, numbers attending meetings, sales of publications, and (paid for) requests for research.

We are looking forward to re-opening our archive at Old Gala House, Galashiels, for the summer. As last year, it will be open to the public 3 days per week.

Our website, www.bordersfhs.org.uk, is growing in usage, attracting new members and higher publications sales. There are searchable indexes to our MI volumes, magazine articles, queries, family trees, and surname interests, and, just recently introduced, forums. The online joining and renewals form, introduced at the end of June 2007, has proved very popular, with over 150 new members and many renewals. Work is still underway on adding requests for research and publication

sales to the website.

The facility to record surname interests is still very popular, and it is open to everyone to record their interests, not just members. The number of interests recorded encompasses over 1750 distinct surnames, all over Scotland, and many in England and overseas too. Our family tree index has been extended significantly, now with more than 4,100 distinct surnames. The forums haven't been as popular as we had expected, but there have been many interesting topics, some of which have generated a lot of discussion. We hope that other Societies will make these facilities known to their members.

We are holding an Open Day on 17th May in Innerleithen Church Hall, Leithen Road, Innerleithen, EH44 6HX, and the National Trust for Scotland will have a stand too. Other history groups have been invited. Visitors will have the opportunity to see what we do, visit our library, ask questions, and do research.

New Publications:

1: **Bowden Monumental Inscriptions** (CD only - £7.50 plus postage). The 318 gravestone inscriptions in the graveyard of this picturesque Borders village have all been recorded and photographed, and some school records from 1864 to 1873 are included.

2: There is a new revised edition of the **Crailing and Nisbet Monumental Inscriptions** volume, now as a CD, at £6 plus postage, with 91 additional stones, making 355 in all, and photographs of 294 stones.

3: We are pleased to announce the availability of **Brierylaw Monumental Inscriptions** (CD only - £10 plus postage). Brierylaw is a Selkirk graveyard containing 1054 gravestones.

4: **Selkirk Shawfield Monumental Inscriptions** (CD only - £10 plus postage) - another excellent CD of the Shawfield cemetery containing 323 gravestones, researched by the Selkirkshire Antiquarians Society, and published by us, now completes the three Selkirk graveyards, the Auld Kirkyard Cemetery, and Brierylaw, being the other two.

Work on producing MIs for Innerleithen, Lilliesleaf, Oxnam and Traquair is in progress.

We have had some well-attended talks with good speakers this session. The remainder of the programme is below:

16 th March 2008 – Rachel Hosker The Progress of Local Family & Archive Centre, Hawick 27 th April 2008 – David Rudram AGM and The Archives at Robert Smail's Printing Works 17 th May 2008 – Innerleithen Church Hall Family History Open Day
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We warmly invite you to attend our Society meetings, whether you are a member or not. There is no admission charge. Meetings are held in the Corn Exchange & Ormiston Institute, Market Square, Melrose. Speakers at Society meetings occasionally need to be changed at the last minute, due to circumstances beyond our control. Where time permits, changes will be shown on our website What's On page.

For further information contact:

Fred Kennington, 35 Corbar Road, Stockport, Cheshire, SK2 6EP, England

Website: www.bordersfhs.org.uk

Central Scotland FHS

The recently-introduced discounted vouchers for the ScotlandsPeople website have proved popular with members, and a second batch has now been received.

At the March meeting, the Society was joined by Dr Nina M Ray of Boise State University, Idaho, USA. Dr Ray is Professor of Marketing and is on sabbatical this term. She is undertaking a funded survey of the reasons people become involved in family history, including questions on why they started and what they hope to achieve. Members were asked to help with the project, and forms were distributed, which could either be filled in on the night or posted to Dr Ray in the prepaid envelopes provided. This proved to be very popular with the audience that evening - so much so that all available forms were uplifted on the evening, with a few people asking for one to be sent to them.

Having completed the indexing and publishing of the 1851 census and pre-1855 burials for the area covered by the Society, approaches are being made to local archives, to see if there is a project in which the Society could become involved. The main difficulty is the problem of members having to be able to work in the archives on a fairly regular basis, as items cannot be removed or photocopied in many cases. Discussions are ongoing.

Work on the members' only area of the website is making good progress, and members have been asked to contribute items or put forward new ideas for consideration.

For further information contact: *Hon Secretary, Central Scotland Family History Society, 11 Springbank Gardens, Dunblane, FK15 9JX*

Website: www.csfhs.org.uk

East Ayrshire FHS

Membership remains at about 270. The Society meets at 7.30 pm in the Gateway Centre, Foregate Square, Kilmarnock on the second Thursday of the months September to May. Workshops are held in The Cabin, Witch Road, Kilmarnock on other Thursday afternoons. On the first Wednesday afternoon of most months, an open Family History Workshop is held at The Baird Institute, Cumnock, in association with East Ayrshire Library Services.

At a recent talk, we learned about "Wandering Scots", mentioned in various resources, and about the countries to which they travelled. We look forward to hearing in March about 18th century smuggling on the Ayrshire Coast. The topic for the April meeting, "Mauchline Ware", is of great local interest and may remind us that there could have been 'Cash in the Attic' had we not thrown out granny's summer holiday souvenirs.

Publications (all on CD): Indexes to 1851 and 1861 Censuses for Ayrshire; digitised local books, including: Muirkirk in Bygone Days (published 1910) by J G A Baird, Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry by W S Cooper, and Saltcoats Old & New (published 1909) by P Charles Carragher. For other titles see the EAFHS website.

For further information please contact: *Secretary, East Ayrshire FHS, c/o Dick Institute, Elmbank Avenue, Kilmarnock, KA1 3BU*

Website: www.eastayrshirefhs.org.uk

Fife FHS

Since recommencing our programme after the winter break, we had a talk in February, by Alison Rosie, on the resources of the National Archives.

Planned for the rest of the season are talks on The Duries of Fife, in March, on Old Dunfermline in April, and a visit to the Scottish Fisheries Museum in Anstruther in May. The season finishes with the AGM and Social Evening in June.

We attended the Methil Heritage Society Family History Day, and will be represented at the Tay Valley Family History Fair in September.

Committee members have attended meetings of various other bodies, including the Fife Ancestral Forum Group. We continue to lobby for the setting up of a Fife Family History Centre. Work is progressing for the 2009 Fife Family History Fair, which will be held in the Rothes Halls, Glenrothes, on Saturday 3 October 2009. The theme of the lectures will be tied in with "The Year of the Homecoming".

We continue with the production of our 3 Journals and Publications for the year, and have produced an index of "Members' Interests", which was sent free to all members of the Society.

Publication No 37 was "*Monumental Notes*" for various Fife Churchyards, by Erskine Beveridge and Robert Monteith.

We have increased our list of data CD-Roms, with the addition of "*Non-Establishment Baptisms in Fife*", "*Fife Deaths Abroad*" and "*Fife Emigrants to Australia and New Zealand*", the last 2 being on a single disk.

Our latest addition is "*Fife Traders and Shopkeepers, 1820-1870*" a mammoth list, extracted from Fife newspapers by Andrew Campbell. The advantage of producing these documents in Adobe PDF format is that they are then fully searchable. We hope to add to this list in the next financial year.

Website: www.fifefhs.org

Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS

The membership of the Society is remaining at around 2,200 members. We are seeing the number of overseas members dropping, but the UK membership is increasing. The monthly meetings of the Society on the third Monday of the month continue to be well-attended. The AGM will be on 21st April, and the final meeting of the session will be on 16th June, when there should be an entertaining evening, with a panel of three experts. This has been billed as a question and answer, with the audience vs the experts. Please note that this last meeting will be in St Peter's Hall in White Street, and not the normal venue of the Boyd Orr Building of Glasgow University.

New Publications: The complete set of 1841 census for Argyll on CD Rom is now available for sale at £10, and the set for Lorn (Argyll) has been reduced to £5. Details about these and our other publications can be found on our website.

Work continues on the records of Ramshorn and Blackfriars, for the Death & Burial Index Project. The Southern Necropolis and Glasgow Cathedral Old Burying Ground Projects are ongoing.

Several members of the Society participated in Radio Scotland's programme "Digging up your Roots", which was broadcast on Sunday mornings in January and February. We are also continuing with our outreach policy, to continue bringing the Society to the attention of more people.

For further information contact:

*G&WSFHS, Unit 13, 32 Mansfield Street, Glasgow G11 5QP
Tel: 0141-339 8303*

Website: www.gwsfhs.org.uk

Guild of One-Name Studies

The Guild has been having trouble with its website, and it has been necessary to move to a new kind of server, so that the search facilities that are available to the public will work efficiently. We are sorry that some of our facilities have not been available for some time (I believe that the problem has been rectified, but I was not able to check this as my own computer is temporarily out of action). In addition, the Guild has a number of planned improvements it wishes to make to its website.

A new feature is being tried this year, concerning the elections to the Guild committee, and to the various other posts. On the reverse of the nomination form there was a list of all the posts that must be filled by members of the committee, and all the other appointments, which are made annually by the committee. Members were invited to offer themselves for all of these and to give brief reasons why they considered they were suitable. We might get more than one person putting them forward for secretary and registrar, etc. The current SAFHS rep indicated that his experience was carrying out these duties for more than 10 years! By the time of the SAFHS Conference, I will have feedback from the AGM about the success of this new venture.

One of the projects carried out by the Guild for members is the Marriage Challenge. An individual or group takes responsibility for one of the England and Wales Registration Districts, and looks up the marriages from 1837-1911 for the registered surnames of members. They look up the entries in the County Record Office (CRO), and produce all the information, which is like getting a copy of a marriage certificate for free. One Guild member discovered that many of the non-conformist registers are not available in the CRO, but he approached some of the churches, and encouraged them to give their registers to the CRO on permanent loan. This means that he can get a higher success rate with his marriage challenge, and the records are available to all family historians. We are still unable to get "free copies" of the marriages that took place in the registrar's offices.

I will have copies of the Guild 2008 Register at the SAFHS Conference, for people to consult, to see if any of their names are being investigated by a Guild Member.

For further information contact: *Secretary, Kirsty Gray, Guild of One-Name Studies, Box G, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA*

Website: www.one-name.org

SAFHS Representative: *G Tuley,*

Highland FHS

The move to a new venue, where we are now holding our regular monthly meetings, has been a great success. In previous years, on a good night we would hope to get an attendance of about 35. The first four talks this session have attracted 48, 49, 48 and 66 members and non-members. The latter talk on the Redcastle Estate on the Black Isle attracted about 20 non-members, a few of whom decided to join the Society. We hope that the next meeting, which starts with the AGM, will also be well-attended, as we are making significant changes to the wording of our constitution, to bring us into line with the new legislation regarding charities.

Two more indexes to the 1851 census have been compiled - for the parishes of Loth in Sutherland and Dores in Inverness-shire. The committee had a long discussion about the format that our publications should be produced in from now on. We will continue to publish books of monumental inscriptions. It has also been decided to produce these in PDF format as well as all the 1851 census indexes and our older journals for which we still have the original pages on one of the Society's PCs. Once we have decided what to charge for the PDF version, we will change our stand on the GENfair website to reflect this. These should be popular with our overseas members and customers as there will be no postage, and with the publications team, as there will be no need to make up parcels and traipse to the Post Office with them.

Open Office has been loaded onto the PC located in our office in Albyn House, and several databases are now being loaded, using the facilities available with that package. Further databases will be added, including the library catalogue. The wallets that contain family trees, etc, sent in by members over the years, are being checked through in great detail at the moment. It is recognized that those containing lists of strays found in census returns outside the Highlands should be removed and added to our Strays database, and the index to the wallets adjusted accordingly.

With Spring not so far away and the weather hopefully settling down, the job of checking the monumental inscriptions at Moy Churchyard can be started, and we are confident that the results will be published during the Summer.

For further information about the society contact:

The Secretary: Angus Bethune

Lanarkshire FHS

Since September, LFHS has had a varied programme of speakers at our monthly meetings, including Dr Anne Cameron on "History of Civil Birth, Marriage and Death Registration", Tom Lawton "Forth & Clyde Canal", and Mary McHugh on "Family History in Scottish Catholic Records". In December we had our Christmas social, when we had an evening of old Silent movies, including the Opening of the Forth Road Bridge. With January being the month when most local members come to the meeting wishing to pay their membership, instead of a speaker we ran the evening like a "Fair" - tables were set up with Microfiche Viewers and Laptops with Scottish and Irish IGI's, Scottish Poor Law, 1851 Lanarkshire Census, 1901 Census Index, all running. There were also information tables for Irish Questions, a Military Table and General Information and help.

Our March meeting saw us once again back to a "Fair" style evening, when we had along from North Lanarkshire Council, Archivist Wiebke McGee, also NLC Local Studies Officers Margaret McGarry and Alan Mackenzie based at NLC Cumbernauld Archives, Motherwell Heritage Centre and Airdrie Library Discovery Room respectively. Also from South Lanarkshire Council we had SLC Archivist Helen Black, and from Hamilton Reference Library John McGarrity and Raymond Cameron.

Numbers attending the monthly meetings are normally between 60-80. Membership numbers are remaining steady.

The Society attended Open Days/Clinics at Bellshill, Rutherglen and Hamilton, and we were also present at Glasgow Peoples Palace "Glasgow Roots" event on Sunday 24th February.

We also held a discussion group evening in our Research Centre to encourage new members to "get involved". The starting topic for the evening was *Organising your Family Research Paperwork*. This event appears to have gone down well with those that attended.

SAFHS Conference 2008 is now taking shape, with everything in place. All we need now is for more members to book for the lectures and for the public to come to the Fair.

For further information contact: *Secretary at Lanarkshire Family History Society, 26A Motherwell Business Centre, Coursington Road, Motherwell ML1 1PW*

Web-site: www.lanarkshirefhs.org.uk

The Lothians FHS

The Spring session of meetings began with talks on "Midlothian Archaeology" and "Aberlady's Heritage". Future talks include "Taking Oral Histories" and "Edinburgh - a Jekyll and Hyde city". Visitors are always welcome. Talks take place on the second Wednesday of each month, September to November, and January to May, at 7 pm, in the school lecture theatre.

Meetings are held each Wednesday evening in the school library, from 7 till 9 pm, and a visit to New Register House in

Edinburgh is organised for the fourth Wednesday of each month, throughout the year.

For further information contact: *Lothians FHS, Lasswade High School Centre, Eskdale Drive, Bonnyrigg, EH19 2LA*

Website: www.lothiansfhs.org.uk

Moray Burial Ground Research Group

Over the past year the group has conducted monumental inscription recording and buried tombstone research at various sites throughout Moray and Banffshire. Monumental Inscription work at Elgin Cathedral is just about complete, and recording of MI's is finished at Downan, Glenrines, Buiternach and Dallas. The recording of buried tombstones at Birnie is now complete, a report is currently being prepared for Historic Scotland, and the publication of the buried stones at Birnie is planned for later this year. Ongoing work is being conducted by the group at Dundurcas (MI's and buried stones) and Duffus New Cemetery (MI's). Individual members of the group are currently recording MI's at Forres (Clunyhill), Lossiemouth New Cemetery and at Dyke. Following a complete photographic record of MI's at Kinnedar and Birnie, an updated list of MI's for these sites has also been prepared.

The MBGRG entry for the recent BBC History Magazine Competition for "the most surprising, enigmatic or bizarre historical gravestone epitaph in Britain" resulted in both of their entries appearing in the top ten - the only Scottish ones to be included. An application has been made to Historic Scotland for 'Scheduled Monument Consent', and 'Site in Special Care Consent', to allow us to start work on MI's and buried tombstones at Duffus St Peter's Old Churchyard, and indications are that the group will receive permission for this work on a churchyard which is almost paved with moss-covered recumbent stones - a massive cleaning task. Membership of the group currently stands at 27 Ordinary Members and 21 Associate Members.

Latest Publications: Monumental Inscriptions for Rafford Old Churchyard and New Cemetery (including buried stones), price £5.99; Boharm Churchyard; Downan, Buiternach & Glenrines Burial Grounds; and Dallas Churchyard, each priced at £4.00. The latest publication in the 'Forgotten Tombstones' series, Volume 5, records the buried tombstones at Alves Churchyard, and is priced at £5.99. Postage is extra for all publications.

For further information contact: *Hon Secretary, Moray Burial Ground Research Group, Rivendell, Milntonduff, Elgin, IV30 8TJ. Tel 01343 549509*

Website: www.mbgrg.org

Scotslot

Scotslot are an informal group of Family Historians with Scottish Forebears.

We meet regularly in Harpenden in Hertfordshire to discuss any and every aspect of Scottish family history: news from archives, members problems and frequently have presentations from guest speakers and from speakers within the membership.

During the autumn, we had presentations from Alan Stewart on Internet sites and their usefulness in family history research and

Joy Dodd gave an account of her research in 18th century East Lothian Taxation Records.

Our last meeting looked at how our ancestors got into trouble: June Wiggins discussed court records, Kirk Session minutes, newspaper reports and personal accounts of family scandals as sources on the Black Sheep of the family!

Forthcoming presentations during 2008 include: a talk by Richard McGregor entitled 'Motive, Motive, Motive' on getting into the mind of your ancestor. A presentation on the life of a mystery Scottish/Welsh lady, Gwyneth Morgan, will be given by Willie Cross. In the autumn, among other topics, we will be looking at 'Scotchness' in our lives: habits, recipes, traditions and the words we use.

Contact: *Stuart Laing, 16 Bloomfield Road, Harpenden, Herts, AL5 5DB*

Shetland FHS

There has been a steady stream of visitors to the Society's rooms at 6 Hillhead right through the winter – gone are the days when it was only summer travel to the Isles – callers have come from as far away as New Zealand and British Columbia.

February is now the "quiet" month, and the Society has been undertaking volunteer training to get everyone well-equipped to deal with the next flood of researchers.

The final CD of Shetland Censuses for 1841 should be available very soon, completing the five-year project, which has been a very worthwhile one. The Society hopes to host a publicity day in the new Museum & Archives, to mark the success of this work in the research of Shetland families.

Also, the SFHS is taking a stand at the *Who Do You Think You Are LIVE* exhibition at Olympia, London, from 2nd - 4th May, where we hope to be the furthest-travelled UK exhibitors, raising Shetland's profile and hopefully attracting some new Society members.

The usual opening times for the premises still apply - every weekday afternoon, 2-4pm, Monday & Thursday evenings, 7-9pm, and, during the summer months of June to September, on Tuesday & Wednesday mornings from 10am-12 noon. Details of opening times and publications are available on the Society's website.

For further information, contact: *The Secretary, Mrs E M Angus, 6 Hillhead, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0FJ*

Website: www.shetland-fhs.org.uk

Tay Valley FHS

Work is continuing in connection with the Angus & Dundee Roots Festival, which takes place from 6th - 13th September 2008. Throughout the week there will be a programme of events, from which delegates can choose, eg a visit to Verdant Jute Works, a guided tour of Brechin. During that week, our

research centre will remain open every day, including evenings. We will also be helping out at the 'Tracing Your Ancestors'

workshops. On Thursday 11th September, a free day for delegates, we intend to offer visiting members bespoke outings, during which they can, for example, visit a particular graveyard in the Angus glens, or be taken to photograph an ancestor's house. That day, there will also be two walking tours of old Dundee, at 11am and 2pm. These will be led by Douglas Soutar, a former chairman of the society. On the 13th, we are hosting a family history fair in St. Andrew's Church Hall [Glassite Hall], King Street, Dundee, from 10am to 5pm. For the Roots Festival, the Society has also produced a DVD - 'A Valentine from Dundee', which follows one of our members from Canada, who comes to Dundee and Angus to trace his roots.

The last lecture of the winter season takes place on 16th April in the University of Abertay. Steven Timoney, Outreach Officer for Perth and Kinross Heritage Trusts 'Exploring Perthshire's Past' project, will speak about 'Buildings at Risk'.

Our spring graveyard outing takes place on 10th and 11th May when we will be recording the monumental inscriptions in Balmerino Churchyard in Fife.

Contact Details: *Tay Valley FHS, 179-181 Princes Street, Dundee, DD4 6DQ*
Tel/Fax: 01382 461845

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

Troon@Ayrshire FHS

The 2008-9 season has progressed well so far, having had 6 well-attended meetings on disparate subjects. Attendance invariably exceeds a third of the membership of this small society, which is gratifying. A "Who Do You Think You Are" evening has become an established feature of our programme, in which 3 members each show us some of their own family research. Quite apart from the variety of family stories this displays, it is surprising how interestingly different the styles of presentation have been, by no means all depending on modern, hi-tech approaches..

The remainder of this year's programme includes 2 "away-from-home days", with visits to New Register House and to the Necropolis in Glasgow, both eagerly anticipated. Traditional MI recording has been continuing, as we deal with more modern cemeteries, which were naturally by-passed in earlier years' activity in this field. The disappearance of the SAFHS insurance cover casts a shadow over the future of such projects, which we hope to dispel by some means.

Also, in the area of producing family research reference booklets/CDs, there has been a departure (for us), in the publishing of the first of an intended series of up to 10 books composed of snippets of Ayrshire news from bygone newspaper editions. The first volume covers 1788 to 1799, and the series, all going well, will eventually cover up to 1900. Quite apart from the specific family information scattered through these reports, the miscellany of other items provides very good "mood music" for anyone wanting to develop a feel for the context of the lives of their ancestors. As with all our

recent publications, these are being offered in either/or booklet/CD, with all the production being undertaken "in-house" by society volunteers, a process which has to contend with the fact that we do not have premises for our exclusive use.

Like some other societies, we continue to have difficulty in formally filling some of the central roles on our committee, thus becoming vulnerable to too much depending on the availability of the willing.

For further information contact: *The Chairman, Troon @ Ayrshire FHS, c/o MERC, Troon Library, South Beach, Troon, Ayrshire, KA10 6EF*

Website: www.troonayrshirefhs.org.uk

West Lothian FHS

The Society Membership now stands at 130, with 44 new members and 86 renewals. Members and friends attending our monthly meetings average 40, and we regularly have 6 volunteers at our monthly Saturday workshops at Connolly House and local libraries. We have also provided speakers to fly the flag at Silver Surfers courses, run by West Lothian Library.

The main event this year is a Family History Fair at Linlithgow Academy. This is a joint venture with West Lothian Libraries, and stalls will be available for other Family History Societies wishing to join us on 20 September.

For further information contact: *Hon Secretary, 23 Templar Rise, Livingston EH54 6PJ*

Website: www.wlfhs.co.uk

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Australia Institute of Genealogical Studies, P.O. Box 339, Blackburn, Victoria 3130, Australia

British Columbia Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 88054, Landsdowne Mail, Richmond, British Columbia, V6X 3T6, Canada

British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa, P.O. Box 38026, Ottawa, Ontario, K2C 1N0, Canada

Cumbria Family History Society, Ulpha, 32 Granada Road, Denton, Manchester, M34 2LJ

International Society for British Genealogy & Family History, PO Box 350459, Westminster, CO 80035-0459, USA

New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc, P.O. Box 8795, 1 Symonds Street, Auckland 1035, New Zealand

Queensland Family History Society Inc, P.O. Box 171, Indooroopilly, Queensland 4068, Australia

Scottish Ancestry Group, Genealogical Society of Victoria, Level B1, 257 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000, Australia

Scottish Group, Genealogical Society of Queensland, P.O. Box 8423, Woolloongabba 4102, Queensland, Australia

Scottish Interest Group, Western Australian Genealogical Society, 6/48 May Street, Bayswater, 6053, Western Australia

Shoalhaven Family History Society, P.O. Box 591, Nowra, NSW 2541, Australia

Society of Australian Genealogists, Richmond Villa, 120 Kent Street, Sydney, NSW 2000, Australia

South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society Inc, Society Library, 201 Unley Road, Unley, 5061, South Australia

The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc, GPO Box 585, Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia.