



SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION of FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES

BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 2008

Executive Committee - Chairman: Neil W Murray; Deputy Chairman: Bruce B Bishop; Secretary: Ken Nisbet; Treasurer: Vacant; Editor: Janet M Bishop; Publications Manager: Margaret Mackay

NEW PATRON OF SAFHS

Following the retirement of Robin Blair earlier this year, we are pleased to announce that David Sellar, FSA Scot, FRHistS, Lord Lyon King of Arms, has accepted our invitation to become the new Patron of SAFHS.

OCTOBER COUNCIL MEETING

The Council Meeting was held on 25 October 2008, at the Gillis Centre, Edinburgh. As usual, Minutes of the meeting will be sent to all member societies. A new SAFHS leaflet, "Planning the SAFHS Annual Conference", has been produced by the Projects Working Group, and each member society was issued with a sample copy for information.

Tay Valley Family History Society intimated that they were considering the possibility of hosting the 2012 SAFHS Conference, possibly in Perth.

FUTURE CONFERENCES

2009 Aberdeen & NESFHS
2010 West Lothian
2011 Scottish Genealogy Society

SAFHS CONTACTS

Chairman

Neil W Murray:

Deputy Chairman

Bruce B Bishop:

Secretary

Ken Nisbet:

Treasurer

Vacant

Editor

Janet M Bishop:

Publications

Margaret Mackay:

Webmaster

Peter Munro:

The next meeting of SAFHS is on Saturday, 4 April 2009 in the Boardroom, Central Youth Hostel, Haddington Place, Leith Walk, Edinburgh

COPYRIGHT? DOES IT MEAN ANYTHING!

In 2007, the SAFHS Graveyard Working Group produced a CD, the "Inventory of Scottish Graveyards 2007". The information on the CD came from volunteers from the various Scottish Family History Societies, and it was compiled and added to by the members of the Working Group. We knew it should have been a programme rather than a spreadsheet, but we had promised SAFHS a CD for the 2007 Conference, and we delivered.

SAFHS holds the copyright, so you can imagine how we felt when we discovered in August that the Scalan Association of Glenlivet had the information displayed on their website – lock stock and barrel, as the saying goes. What is even more galling is that I, as Publications Manager, cannot even recall selling them a copy of the CD!

We asked them to remove the information from their website, and, eventually, after further correspondence, it was.

We were so proud of that CD, but once it was published and we stood back a bit, we realised that there were quite a few errors on it, even though it had been checked and re-checked. This will be ringing bells with those of you who have produced CDs and indeed books. In a way, we were quite pleased that the mistakes were there, as it meant that the information on the Scalan site was flawed!

Our new CD will (hopefully) be protected. I say "hopefully", as this is, as I write, being worked on by our programmer. I think the information on the 2008 CD is excellent. What burial grounds and cemeteries are there in a parish? Was it open when great granny died? Where are the burial records held? Have the MIs been published? Are the MIs pre-1855 or are they up to the present day? The SAFHS CD has the answers.

We were too trusting, by putting out an unprotected CD. We have now learned our lesson, and I hope you will also learn from our mistake.

Margaret Mackay

The new Family History Centre

Although the new Family History Centre was officially opened by H M The Queen, on 4 July 2008, the centre is not actually open to the public yet. The 2-hour free "taster" sessions are however in operation in the refurbished building, and the shop is also open. Charges are as previously intimated:

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

OTHER SAFHS NEWS

Conference Guide

The Projects Working Group has produced a Guide for host member societies "Planning the SAFHS Annual Conference". A sample copy has been given to each member society. The Working Group meets regularly, and welcome suggestions for future SAFHS publications.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on Sunday 17 August 2008, in Inverness, and a synopsis of the minutes of the meeting has been circulated to member societies.

Graveyard Working Group

The Graveyard Working Group has completed the Graveyard Inventory CD 2008, and it will be issued in the next few weeks.

ScotlandsPeople User Group

Ken Nisbet represents SAFHS on this group.

Executive Committee of Scotland's Family History Project

Bruce Bishop represents SAFHS on this committee.

The Scottish Council on Archives

Neil Murray represents SAFHS on this council.

Homecoming Scotland 2009

HomecomingScotland 2009 will be amazing! Hundreds of events all over the nation. - from Burns Night to St Andrew's Day, the whole country will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of the birth of our national bard, whisky, innovation and great Scottish minds, gold – and, of course, the wealth of ancestry and heritage that brings everyone of Scottish descent back to their roots.

The University of Strathclyde was one of the first to declare an event for Homecoming, back in 2006. This has now come to its full flowering, in the International Genealogy Festival. For four days (Tuesday 21 – Friday 24 July) – and happily sitting right between the Open Championship at Turnberry and The Clan and Family Gathering in Edinburgh – this is a Genealogy Festival of a different kind.

Overseas Family History Societies – as well as our own – will have an opportunity to exhibit their records and services (tables are free to volunteer bodies). There will also be advice and look-ups from GROS, TNA and NAS, plus Ancestry and other companies; genealogy workshops, daunders around historic Glasgow and The Necropolis; loads of heraldry and a full programme of lectures, including Dr Marjory Harper on Scots in New Zealand, Dr David Dobson on the the earliest Scots in America, and lots, lots more!

There will be a Ceilidh on Thursday 23rd at the fabulous and historic Barony Church, and also a comedy night. For more information, see www.strath.ac.uk/homecomingscotland

Bruce Durie

Editor's Note:

Dr Bruce Durie is Course Director, Genealogical Studies, University of Strathclyde, which offers the only post-graduate, professional university qualification in genealogy, family history, heraldry and related subjects. Information on courses is available at www.strath.ac.uk/genealogy

News from Member Societies

Aberdeen & NE Scotland FHS

Meetings of the Society and its branches have continued to be well-attended. The March talk at Aberdeen, entitled "Aberdeen, Jacobites, the '15 and the '45" was given by Keiran Germa which treated the audience to a finely argued and detailed review of the impact that Jacobitism had on Aberdeen. The subject of the April meeting was "Medieval Aberdeen", and Neil Cooney gave a very well-received talk on the history of Aberdeen from the 12th century until the late 17th century. The talk in May "Moray, its lands and people" was given by Bruce Bishop, and was a wide ranging discussion of the history of the 'Province of Moray' from earliest times right up to the present day.

The May meeting of the Glasgow Group was the annual Member's Day, and took a different tack from the usual idea of members giving short talks. This time the members were invited to bring an issue to a "Problem Corner", an approach which went down very well with the members present.

At the April meeting of the Moray and Banff Group Cameron Taylor of Seabridge Consultants spoke to the group about the 'Ancestral Moray' project, which is part of an integrated programme to encourage ancestral tourism across Scotland. In May Mary Evans gave the third talk in her series on the use of DNA in genealogical research which provided an interesting overview of really how little effect the various waves of immigration or invasion had on the continuation of the original basic Pictish DNA profiles. The June meeting was the usual 'walk', this time around historic Forres.

The Society has recently purchased additional premises at 136 King Street, just down the road from the existing shop and research centre. This will be used by the admin people, and thereby free up additional space for the public in the existing building. The preparation work for the April SAFHS

Conference and Family History Fair is well under way and delegates are already booking their places at the event. The current membership of the Society stands at 5067.

Latest Publications: Monumental Inscriptions for New Pitsligo, Parish of Tyrie, and for Portlethen, Parish of Banchory-Devenick, each priced at £2.25. Postage 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.ork.uk

Anglo-Scottish FHS

Membership figures have remained fairly static, although there have been some changes to personnel. Meetings are well attended, mainly due to the work of Ina Penneyston in arranging such a varied range of topics. These include sessions where member's problems can be aired, and usually some new line of enquiry towards a solution is found.

We continue to visit local family history fairs, to push the benefits of joining a Society, and so enable researchers to add items of interest to their family tree over and above the usual BMD dates.

Work continues on our projects but I am sure we are not alone in having difficulty finding sufficient transcribers.

Meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month, except August and December.

Michael J Couper

Website www.mlfs.org.uk/AngloScots

ASGRA

Chairman, Diane Baptie, and Secretary, Janet Bishop, were invited to represent ASGRA at the official opening, by HM The Queen, of the new ScotlandsPeople Centre, on 4 July 2008. It was an enjoyable event, and we were pleased to be part of it.

ASGRA's 2008 annual outing was to the archives at Hopetoun House, where we had a most informative talk by the archivist, Patrick Cadell. Members who attended were pleasantly surprised by the volume of the records held at Hopetoun, and it was a very enjoyable day. The Hopetoun records are accessible through the National Register of Archives.

We are always actively encouraging new applications for membership, and any professional researcher interested should contact:

Janet M Bishop, Hon Secretary, ASGRA, 259 Broad Street, Cowdenbeath, Fife, KY4 8LG

Website: www.asgra.co.uk

Borders FHS

The Society is still enjoying considerable growth in membership, about 90 new members since March. We've had a successful summer at our archive at Old Gala House, Galashiels. The changes made by Mary Thomson have been most favourably commented on. Overall, numbers have fallen a bit, but we continue to provide a valuable service to members and others and, judging by the entries in the visitors' book, our efforts do seem to be appreciated. Success can never be guaranteed, but a number of visitors have left having made substantial progress in their researches. Provided that sufficient prior notice is given, we can usually arrange access over the winter months.

The archive continues to grow, and an up to date list of all volumes is contained on our website.

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, surname interests and forums. 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's open for everyone to record their interests, not just members. The number of interests recorded encompasses almost 2000 distinct surnames, all over Scotland, and many in England and overseas too. With the addition of new burial places, our MIs now cover more than 3,750 distinct surnames in the Borders. The forums have become more popular, too. We hope that other Societies will make these facilities known to their members.

We held an Open Day on 17th May 2008 in Innerleithen, and, although we provided space for other family history societies and social history organisations, we had a disappointing turnout. In spite of this, we intend to hold a similar event in Duns in April 2009.

We gave talks to other organisations in Hawick and Jedburgh. We will also be at the Charities Christmas Fare in Peebles on 22nd November, so come and see us there.

We have several new publications:

1. **Oxnam Monumental Inscriptions** (CD - £6.00 plus postage). This is the 2nd edition, with 156 more gravestones, making 420 gravestones in all, including photographs of all the gravestone inscriptions.
2. **Traquair and Kailzie Monumental Inscriptions** (CD - £10.00 plus postage). This is our first volume for Peeblesshire. As well as 297 gravestone inscriptions, and their photos, it also contains Traquair School admission records from 1872 to 1886.
3. We're pleased to announce the availability of **Houndwood Monumental Inscriptions** (CD - £7.50 plus postage), with 321 gravestone inscriptions and accompanying photographs. Houndwood is in the parish of Coldingham.

Work on producing MIs for Bunkle & Preston, Cranshaws, Ettrick, Galashiels-Ladhope, Hounam and Linton (revised

edition), Innerleithen, Stow, and Yarrow is in progress.

The remainder of our programme is below:

23 rd Nov 2008	Scots in Poland	Mrs Mona Lewis
22 nd Feb 2009	"Robert Gibson-Champion Lawn Bowler"	Kenneth Nichol
22 nd Mar 2009	"Grandpa's Bawbees" and other Scottish coins	Peter Munro
26 th Apr 2009	AGM and "Pagodas, Platinum and Penicillin"	Isobel Gordon

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; or through our website Contacts page

Website: www.bordersfhs.org.uk

Central Scotland FHS

Over the summer we have been compiling an index for two books held by Falkirk Archives. The indices contain many names and addresses and once indexed they will be of more use to the Archives and members of the public than they are at the moment. We are also discussing with the Archives plans to index lair records they hold. The idea is to digitally photograph the pages and produce copies on cds for members to use at home. This hopefully will speed up the process and cut out time consuming visits to the Archives department.

Our first meeting of the session was very well attended and the speaker, Mr Louis Stott from Aberfoyle, demonstrated the wealth of information about the population that could be gleaned from the census. Louis recently published a book on the Aberfoyle Slate Quarries and his research followed the community from before the first census up to 1901. A surprising fact was that at one time almost half the population were Gaelic speaking. These families had moved to Aberfoyle from Ballachulish in search of work.

Whilst the Society is not holding an event for the Year of the Homecoming due to the fact that Stirling Library and Archive Services are hosting a 3 day event, the Society is donating £300 sponsorship for the Conference Day on the Saturday. We have chosen to sponsor local speakers who have been good friends to the Society.

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

The Society meets at 7.30 pm on the second Thursday of the month in the Gateway Centre, Foregate Square, Kilmarnock. Workshops are held in The Cabin, Witch Road, Kilmarnock from 1.30 pm on the other Thursday afternoons.

At the September meeting, members had the opportunity to access some online websites and try searching for records available at ScotlandsPeople. In October, Mr John McGill spoke about the people through the ages who lived in Cessnock Castle, near Galston. After his talk, Mr McGill answered questions from members and visitors, including one of the present owners of the castle. Among the topics of the talks over the winter are Mining, Dundonald Castle and a database of records relating to Maybole.

During 2009, the Year of the Homecoming, the new Burns Monument Centre in Kilmarnock will be ready for opening and should provide a welcome new facility for the general public. The centre will house a registrar's department with computers linked to the system available in New Register House and bring together family history resources relocated from libraries in Cumnock and Kilmarnock.

Publications (all on CD): details are given on the EAFHS website. Among the latest titles added to the series of e-books is: "A History of the County of Ayr Vol. 2 (with a genealogical account of families of Ayrshire)", a facsimile of the book by James Paterson, published in 1852.

Website: www.eastayrshirefhs.org.uk

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

Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS

The new session of Society meetings on the third Monday of the month started in September with a talk by Fr. Neil McGarrity with the interesting title "So Who Are We Related To? A Biblical Reflection of Genealogies in the Old Testament". Dr David Dobson followed this in October with a talk on Scottish Emigration to Colonial America from 1607 to 1785. After the Social and Heirloom Evening on 8th December held in St Peter's Hall, Chancellor Street, Partick the subsequent meetings will be in the Boyd Orr Building of Glasgow University, University Avenue, Glasgow. We look forward in the new year to having talks on "Heritage Services in East Renfrewshire" in January, followed by "Glasgow University and Slavery" in February and then in March "Paisley Abbey". Information on the meetings can be found on the Society's website and reports of the talks are usually given in the Society's Newsletter that is published three times a year (October, March and June).

Membership of the Society remains at about 2200 and the Society is pleased that there is a continuing flow of new members. To continue bringing the Society to the attention of more people we opened the Research Centre for Doors Open Day in September. This event was well attended by members of the public and resulted in several joining the Society; thanks are due to all those volunteers who helped out on the days.

The Society attended the National Family History Fair at Gateshead and the Angus Roots Fair in Dundee. Our sales were well down from previous years at the Gateshead fair and we may need to review our attendance at this fair next year.

Our Research Centre in Partick is now open on the second Saturday of the month from 10am until noon. This is in

addition to the normal opening times of 2pm to 4.30pm on Tuesdays, 10am to 8.30pm on Thursdays and 2pm to 4.30pm on Saturdays. This is made possible by having a dedicated band of volunteers willing to staff the centre. New additions are continually being added to the library and the catalogue can be viewed on our website.

The Society is involved with indexing projects in co-operation with Glasgow City Archives at the Mitchell Library. One of the current indexing projects is the Glasgow Burgh Register of Sasines 1694-1809.

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

I have recently received a Preliminary Booking Form for the Guild's 30th Anniversary Conference and AGM, which is to be held in Peterborough from 17th to 19th April 2009. It only seems a couple of years ago that we celebrated 25 years. When I am at the conference, I will be able to collect the latest names registered with the Guild on A3-sized sheets, so that I can have them available at the next SAFHS Conference.

The Guild has been busy on a digitisation project, and there are now more than 170,000 pages of PDF searchable data from documents deposited in the Guild Library.

For those who are interested in websites – in the last Bulletin I mentioned that there had been a problem with the Guild website, but now I can record that recently the Guild won second place in the Specialist Section of the Federation of Family History Societies annual web awards. I must admit I am not a great user of websites, and get into trouble from some members of the Guild Committee, because I hardly ever look at the website. One of the other things that I have not got involved with is the use of DNA in my one-name study, although quite a number of Guild members are using this technique and there are often articles on the subject in the Journal. I know that there is illegitimacy in my TULEY ancestral line, but when I have time to get involved it might be useful for other families I am investigating as part of my one-name study.

For many years, the Guild has produced an annual printed Register of members names and their interests. This Register has been available for sale, but, unlike Guild members, who used to get 3 printed updates during the year, with their copy of the Guild Journal, those members of the public who bought a copy did not get any updates. The paper updates were stopped some time ago, and from next year, members are being given the option of not having a paper copy, because it is available on the website and is updated frequently. I plan to have paper copies of the 2009 version available for inspection as usual on the Guild table at the 2009 SAFHS Conference, for those who regularly come to check and for anyone who is interested in checking if someone is working on one of their surnames.

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

As promised in the last Bulletin we have completed the checking of the monumental inscriptions at Moy Churchyard and the end product was published in mid September. That brings the total of such publications to 21 and work has started recently on two more burial grounds, those at Dalarossie and Dunlichity. All three are located in Inverness-shire.

In September the Society held a Social Evening as a similar event last year, to celebrate (a little late) the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Society, was very successful. This time next year the new Highland Archives building should have opened. To bring members up to date with how the project was progressing and to answer questions about the facilities being made available in the new building we asked the archivist, some members of her staff and the Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths to be our guests at the Social Evening. This new facility will bring together records of interest to family historians which are at present to be found in four separate locations. With this new venture the future of genealogical research in the Highlands is looking very positive.

The first of the autumn/winter season of talks is to take place on the 30th October at the Netley Centre when Cameron Taylor is the speaker. He has titled his talk "*Rooted in Scotland: explaining ancestral connections*". Other talks will cover a variety of subjects - army records, the clearances, Scottish surnames, Clan Campbell and the Scottish Poor Law. We hope that our latest selection of speakers and the subjects of their talks will continue to attract the consistently good audiences we had last year.

For further information about the society, contact: The Secretary, Angus Bethune.

Website: www.highlandfhs.org.uk.

Lanarkshire Family History Society

Since our last report in March, LFHS has had a varied programme of speakers at our monthly meetings, including Helen Moir "History of Dalserf Parish", Dr Kevin O'Dell "Genetics in Family History", Dr Irene O'Brien "History of Glasgow City Archives", Rebecca Quinton "Dating Photographs from Costumes", and Alistair Tough "British and Irish Health Records from 1800s. Numbers attending our monthly meetings in the GLO Centre Motherwell are normally 70-80. Membership numbers are staying steady.

2008 SAFHS Conference has passed, and by all accounts it was a great success. Having organised the Conference with assistance from Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS, we have hopefully created a working relationship that will foster a better understanding between the two societies.

The Society bookstall attended Family History Fairs at Troon, Dundee and Glenrothes. We also attended Open Days/Clinics at Rutherglen and Hamilton Libraries. Our bookstall was also present at Glasgow Peoples Palace "Glasgow Roots" event and an Open day at Dalserf Parish Church. The last outing for the bookstall was to the Biggar "Little Festival". We have also supplied speakers to various local Clubs, giving talks on family history research.

The Committee discussed over the summer the setting up of some new groups within the society. There are always questions being asked by members about every topic you can think of, but Irish and Military research generates the most questions. To have the following groups, namely "Irish Interests", "Military Matters" and also the "Parish Information Project", we hope to be able to supply members with more information and help them resolve problems they have in these areas. There is also an increasing interest in getting a Graveyard Group together. We are now gradually establishing these groups and we are sure that they will add value to the society and encourage new members.

For further information contact:

Secretary, Lanarkshire Family History Society, 26A Motherwell Business Centre, Coursington Road, Motherwell ML1 1PW

Website: www.lanarkshirefhs.org.uk

Moray Burial Ground Research Group

Over the past year, the group has continued to conduct monumental inscription recording and buried tombstone research at various sites throughout Moray and Banffshire. The booklet recording the buried stones at Birnie is now in print, as are the MI's for Duffus New Cemetery and Extension. The combined MI and buried tombstone book for Dundurcas and Macallan, and also the MI book for Chapelton and Tombae in the Braes of Glenlivet will be in print in the next two months. Monumental Inscription recording at Elgin Cathedral is now finished, and the production of this book is in progress with publication expected in the first half of 2009.

Scheduled Monument consent has now been given by Historic Scotland for work to commence at their "site in special care" at Duffus Old Church (St Peter's), and consent is also shortly expected to be granted for Kinloss Abbey, where the group will work in conjunction with the Kinloss Abbey Trust. The visible MI's and the buried tombstones will be studied at both of these sites.

Latest Publications: Monumental Inscriptions for Duffus New Cemetery and Extension, priced at £7.99, and Volume 6 in the "Forgotten Tombstones" series records the buried tombstones in Birnie 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, Miltonduff, Elgin, IV30 8TJ. Tel 01343 549509*

Website: www.mbrg.org

Scotslot

Scotslot has had several interesting speakers during 2008! Richard McGregor, visiting from Lancashire talked to us on 'Motive, Motive, Motive – getting into the mind of your ancestor' illustrated with many documents from his study of the McGregor family. The previous day he spoke to the Hertfordshire FHS on DNA in Genealogy, which several members attended. Both talks offered us many suggestions for further work.

The life history of 'Gwynneth Morgan: a less than Honourable Life' was presented by Willie Cross and Monty Dart. Although born in Wales, Gwynneth had three Scottish grandparents and the research in Scotland piecing her family history was described. An interesting and informative talk.

Subsequent meetings have been member led with discussions on research into 'Post 1901 ancestors' and finding the elusive relation that has just vanished! At our Christmas meeting, we will be talking about 'Scotchness' in our lives – perhaps even more relevant for those living in exile!

Scotslot, an informal group of Family Historians with Scottish Forebears, meets regularly in Harpenden, Hertfordshire, within easy reach of London and the northern Home Counties. As well as having guest speakers, we discuss every aspect of Scottish local and family history and welcome anyone to our meetings.

For further information contact: *Scotslot, 16 Bloomfield Road, Harpenden, Herts*

Shetland FHS

Travelling to London in May for the "Who Do You Think You Are LIVE" exhibition started our summer season in great style with about 100 visitors to our stand logging their interest in Shetland. Members also turned out in force to support us – one even coming from the Channel Isles!

The final Shetland census CD of the project for 1785/1841 is selling well and the Society is now working on the next project to make available the OPR Shetland deaths.

Two trips for members have taken place during the very fine summer weather – one to Burra Isle for a talk by travel writer Keith Gregson and the other a day trip to the island of Yell. Though tourist numbers are said to be down this year, the Society has still had a steady stream, with some arriving on cruise liners to spend a day researching their ancestors. Others have been attracted by Shetland music on previous visits and return to combine research with the local Folk and Accordion & Fiddle Festivals, with members from Belfast and New Zealand at the latter for the second year running!

Shetland is not participating in the *Year of Homecoming 2009* as we are preparing for the 50th anniversary of our first *Hamefarin* (exiles return) in 2010. Details of this is on www.shetlandhamefarin.com website.

Usual opening times for the premises still apply – every weekday afternoon, 2-4p.m., Monday & Thursday evenings, 7-9p.m. 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 0EJ*

Website : www.shetland-fhs.org.uk

Tay Valley FHS

We have a new Chairman, John Irvine, and a new Deputy Chairman Helen Beat.

Since our last Bulletin, we have been extremely busy. Firstly we ran a series of spring talks in Waterstones Bookshop. This was most successful.

Making good use of the summer weather, we completed recording and photographing the following graveyards: Dunnichen; The North Angus Glens; The Murroes and Dunbarney/Rhynd. They have all been released on CD. We now have five more graveyards in progress for early next year. Our publishing arm has gone from strength to strength, and we released a number of new items in time for the Roots Festival in September.

Dr Nick Barrett was the keynote speaker at the inaugural dinner for the Roots Festival. During the Roots Festival, we ran another series of talks in Waterstones Bookshop, (including a book launch), local town walks, and also additional help for the visitors in the research centre and assisting the visitors on bespoke tours of the county. This all culminated in a Family History Fair on Saturday 13th September, which was officially opened by John Swinney MSP, and proved to be most successful locally.

This winter, we have arranged a series of talks, which started with Dr David Dobson on Scottish Emigration to Colonial America, and on the 15th of October, Bill Dow will be speaking on "The People who built the Harbour of Dundee". Others will follow through to April 2009. The talks are held in the Abertay University, Dundee and are very well attended.

Membership is on a steady rise, even in spite of the internet. This trend is expected to continue, and to cope with this we are adding to our computer network and increasing the number of websites we subscribe to.

All our latest publications are listed in our new booklist issued in August 2008.

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

In its current session, the Troon Society will reach its twentieth anniversary, a milestone which will not be shared by its founding father, Gordon Killicoat, who died recently. Featuring many of the original members, the anniversary will be marked with an appropriate evening of nostalgia... but aren't all family history events based on that?

Two meetings so far this autumn have been significant successes, with attendances well exceeding half our local membership. Given the age of many society members, and absolutely foul weather on both evenings, that spoke volumes. Both meetings consisted entirely of presentations by our own members about their own families. We recognise that the intrinsic attraction of such content may sometimes have been under-rated in forming syllabuses in the past. An attraction of these own-family presentations has been the unexpectedly wide range of styles – all effective – that individuals select.

Publication sales, of both booklets and CDs, have been in a vigorous phase. In-house production of all our publications on a more or less print-to-order basis has permitted us to tackle successfully some projects, which would otherwise have been too expensive. It also permits offering a publication in either CD or booklet form, without incurring any stock cost concerns. The pleasure of browsing through a booklet still seems to be quite widely felt.

Like many other small local societies, we have difficulty getting volunteers for the principal committee offices. Though this has often been so, it is more pronounced at present.

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 continues to grow in West Lothian, and our regular monthly meeting sees a turnout of 40 members. The volunteer group at our monthly Saturday workshop and the series of West Lothian Library Roadshows have increased, and plans are in hand to provide a rota of helpers for an open week for tourists during the peak of Homecoming 2009.

We are continuing our monthly evening visits to New Register House, although problems have arisen recently with the railway disruption between Bathgate and Waverley. The Society has provided speakers for local community groups, and has supported classes for "silver surfers", being run by the Library & Heritage Department of West Lothian Council.

Contact has been made with the Local Authority, to establish our requirements for the Conference in Livingston on 17th April 2010. The venue for this event will be the Howden Park Centre, Livingston. The Conference team is already discussing the theme, and it is hoped that our twinned city, Grapevine, Texas, will be sending over some delegates. Flyers for the Conference will be available for issue before the opening of the Aberdeen 2009 Conference.

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

Website: www.wlfhs.co.uk

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Updated on 8.11.08

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

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

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

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.