



e-Scotia

Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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Anglo Scottish Family History Society

Welcome: to the July edition of the newsletter. Traditionally our July Branch gathering is an organised visit to a place of interest and this year we chose the newly refurbished Jewish museum. The opportunity to visit was taken up by a small but enthusiastic number of members. I am indebted to some of these for a report on the visit and to a number of photographs detailing aspects of the old synagogue. I attach a communication between the SAFHS and Scotlands People and add a couple of items that may serve to entertain and inform your Scottish Family History Research..

Editor.



Visit to Manchester Jewish Museum

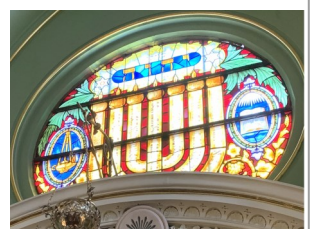
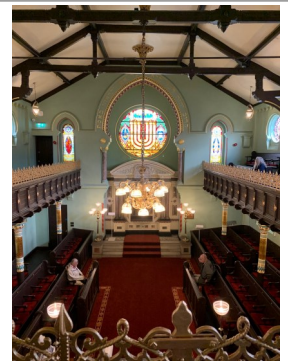
The Jewish presence in Manchester is well established and is the second largest in the country next to London. Whilst the Jewish community has expanded over much of north Manchester, their genesis was in the Cheetham Hill area.

The Jews of the diaspora to Manchester came from many parts of Europe and the building, now the museum, housed the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue built to meet the needs of the Sephardi Jews who originated in the Iberian peninsula. In 1872 members of the growing community met and planned a synagogue to meet their own needs. This opened in 1874 and continued as a place of worship for 100 years. As members of the congregation drifted away to other parts of Manchester plans were put in place to save, restore, and make use of the building.

The building opened as a museum in 1984 and welcomed thousands of visitors. In 2019 funds were raised to undertake a £6 million complete restoration and the building of new premises to house exhibition material and a cafe. This new venture was completed in 2021 and the doors opened in July 2021. Whilst tours are available there is also the opportunity of a self-guide making use of small speakers installed at each exhibit. The exhibits are not only generic but also personal relating stories of what immigrants were able to bring with them from their home country, their experience of arriving in Manchester and others about being born in Manchester and being raised in the community.

The highlight of the visit however was the move from the exhibition hall into the synagogue building itself. Initially entry is into the upper gallery where the women and children would sit. From there is the best view of the magnificent stained glass window depicting the menorah, the Jewish candlestick.

A few short steps down leads into the main part of the synagogue, the furnishings and carpets all reflecting the original colours used. For one of our members a memorable feature related to the seating for men. Every seat was carefully numbered but here and there, the curator had added pictures and a description of the man who occupied that seat telling something of him and his family and their place in the community. A nice personal touch in keeping with a family's history. A great visit enjoyed by all.



Scottish Association of Family History Societies (SAFHS): as you know the Anglo Scottish Branch are members (indeed founder members) of SAFHS and we have a representative on the SAFHS Board that meets regularly every year. SAFHS co-ordinates activities and communication between all the affiliated members. All the SAFHS bulletins are available to be read on the Exchange Journal site on the Society web page and these keep you up-to-date with what is going on in the family history world in Scotland. SAFHS also represent our family history societies on the various committees linked with the Scottish National Archives and the Scottish Record Office and a few weeks ago our representative (and chairman) Ken Nisbet asked questions on various topics of **Scotlands People** on our behalf and I attach their response to items that I think might be of most interest to our members.



ScotlandsPeople Website

1. Why were Prison records put on for Perth when the full set of virtual volumes for the Kirk Session Records had not yet been made available on the site?

The prison register index uploaded to ScotlandsPeople was completed prior to the initial release of kirk session records, but its release on ScotlandsPeople had to be delayed as a result of lockdown. The original intention had been to release the prison registers prior to the kirk session records, but the lockdown experience affected priorities. Work is still ongoing on identifying and uploading additional Church of Scotland presbytery and synod records.

2. Why were historical records not made available free? When N.R.O. Discovery was allowing free downloads and is still doing so

Our charges are provided for in legislation, approved by the Scottish Parliament, and currently there are no plans to change them. As the NRS is a separate organisation from NRO we are not obliged to follow suit in how their pricing model operates. However there are a substantial number of images that are available to view for free and they are listed at the web link below. Free access is possible because the legislative provisions do not cover these records.
<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/content/what-can-i-do-free>

3. Is there a possibility of a subscription for the website either for individuals or societies? This is particularly relevant for those societies who have premises but there is no possibility in short or long term of having a Scotland's People Hub in their area. It is also felt that many individuals would be willing to take out subscriptions to the website if that possibility was offered. You could, like NRO Discovery, limit the number on images that can be downloaded within a certain period, this would limit mass downloading.

There is no facility for a subscription service to allow similar access provided by the website available through search rooms and Local Family History Centres (LFHC). Access to the system allowing viewing of modern-day records and unlimited viewing of the records is tightly controlled, the existing established LFHCs have to ensure that local registrars staff are in attendance in their facilities and take responsibility for ensuring access and viewing is appropriate. Allowing customers to access this information without proper supervision is not permitted. If a local authority does not have a LFHC they can contact NRs to discuss if this would be possible for their area.

Feedback from customers in an earlier NRS Customer Survey highlighted the issue of subscriptions for the website but also other users were strongly supportive of the current pay-to-view model for the flexibility which works well for their needs so it is important that NRS seek to deliver a balanced model that meets all customer needs.

Although NRS are not able to offer the subscription type access to ScotlandsPeople online that you request, I hope that the work which we are currently undertaking to enhance our online offer, will support your family history research during this time of significant service restrictions.

4. Will the cost of viewing the index and images for the 1921 census be that same as for other census that is a free index and six credits to view image?

Similarly to the previous censuses on site from 1841 to 1911 the census indexes for 1921 will be free to search and the cost to view and save an image from 1921 will be the same as for the earlier year.

National Library of Scotland: We are frequently referring to the National Library map collection to be accessed at maps.nls.uk and encouraging readers to make use of them in their Scottish family history research. As if to underline this, the NLS are offering an online workshop entitled “**Maps for Family and Local History**” with the intention of demonstrating how the use of maps can help our family and local history research. Information about it and access to tickets can be found here ([click](#)). It is on Monday 1st August from 1700 to 1800 BST and it is **free**. What’s not to like!!! So for those on home territory you can watch it whilst having your tea. For our readers in Australia and New Zealand whilst having your breakfast and for those in USA and Canada whilst having your lunch. We can all join in and benefit. There is no indication as to a limit on numbers but I always think it a good idea to book early.



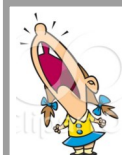
On the same theme a recent contribution on the Society forum from our reader in Fort William, Martin Briscoe encourages fellow readers to sign up for CAIRT, the NLS map newsletter. Martin writes;

I have probably mentioned before but if interested in maps, it is worth signing up to receive CAIRT to hear about new additions and just interesting information about maps. <https://maps.nls.uk/additions/>

Thanks Martin. A great piece of advice.

Find My Past: wherever our readers are we are all in some kind of holiday period. So whilst, hopefully, relaxing a bit more, why not catch up and have a look at the Find My Past “[Friday Blog](#)” You don’t have to be a subscriber to Find My Past. Just follow the link or upload the web site and at the foot of the page click the “Read our blog” link. There are loads of interesting worldwide new records but some Scottish records also.

Film Archives: like using maps in our family history research, watching film of earlier times does enhance our understanding of the times of our ancestors. We are familiar with the digital film archive of the National Library of Scotland at movingimage.nls.uk which is always worth searching. However, now the BBC have announced and brought online [BBC. Rewind](#) where you are able to access and view many of the past film reports of the BBC. Not only are you able to designate a UK country that you are interested in but also to select a particular city, town, and district. The resource is a good way to have a look at more recent history. When I submitted my home town of “Dundee”, sadly I was able to recall and remember all of the topics offered - a sure sign that I am rapidly becoming part of this history!!!



Please Remember!!! That there is no Branch meeting in August and there will be no newsletter in August either. How will we survive I hear you call. Yes, I know, but it has something to do with holidays and organisers having a break.

However, we will be back to full production in September with a Branch meeting and a newsletter. Our September workshop concludes our tripartite consideration of the Kirk Session Records that we began in November 2021 and how to get the most out of them..



Our September Branch Meeting is on **Saturday, 3rd September at Manchester Central Library.**

The event is a **Palaeography Workshop** with Alison Diamond. Consideration was given to having this as a Zoom session (which has not been completely discounted as yet) it was realised that, given the topic, a “hands-on” experience would be much more fruitful. Alison will therefore lead a workshop on “Secretary Hand”, the old style of writing that was used in the earlier Kirk Session Records. We will learn about the different scripts, identify the different characters and some of the essential words that are common throughout the texts of the period.

We appreciate that some of our members are still reluctant to make the journey to Central Library. However our meeting takes place in a large airy room with appropriate social distancing. For those who want to/are able to attend it is important to reserve a place via **Eventbrite**. Information on the process will be sent to all in the coming weeks.