



e-Scotia

Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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Welcome: There was no Branch meeting this month for several reasons. Our usual meeting day coincided with Easter week-end and so it was thought prudent not to hold a meeting. Also the previous week-end was the *Who Do You Think You Are* exhibition in Birmingham (for our American readers that is Birmingham England, not Birmingham Alabama!!) and we were part of the MLFHS show at the Exhibition. Then the week-end after Easter was the SAFAS Conference in Fife. (We hope to report on this in the May newsletter.) Altogether too many things going on for "normality" to prevail. Nevertheless we are putting together a number of news items that we hope that you will find useful, amongst them the results of the elections at the MLFHS AGM. Enjoy. Editor.

MLFHS 53rd AGM—19th April 2017



On the occasion of the AGM we said farewell and thankyou to our Chairman, John Marsden as he completed three years in the role. John joined the Society in 1994 and his many skills in organisation and computing led to his rapidly playing important roles within the Society. In 1997 he was elected a trustee and in 1999 became general secretary. The role of treasurer followed in 2002 which continued until 2008 when he tried to escape but never successfully! By 2010 he was back elected as a trustee with the task of liaising with the establishment of "Archives-Plus" in Manchester Central Library. He was elected chairman of the Society in 2014 and oversaw the transfer of the Society into Central Library and the establishment of the Society within the structure of the Central Library.

The Society expressed its gratitude to John for his many years of service with a presentation. However whilst the thanks was fulsome, the farewell is limited as John will continue to oversee some current projects and to remain the Society web-master. So, still no escape! John clearly needs to work on his strategy!

The AGM also saw the election of our new Chairman, David Muil. David is also a long-standing member of the Society and has, amongst other roles, been the vice chairman and a trustee. Amongst the many hats that he has worn has been the co-ordinator of the various projects in which the Society is involved. Furthermore, his meticulous attention to detail has been a great asset used by the Society in its dealings with bodies such as the Charities Commission and Safeguarding Procedures, now crucial for any organisation. Voted through wholeheartedly by the AGM, David has used his election as an opportunity to divest himself of some of his other hats. How many he is actually able to get rid of we shall have to wait and see. Congratulation David.



Scottish Marriage Index: [\(click here\)](#) always worth a look to see if you have anyone listed. We continually get contributions which we add to the site from readers in Australia, the USA, New Zealand and Canada. Perhaps some of your ancestors are amongst them. If you have any ancestors from Scotland who married elsewhere, then why not let us have details of them and we can add them to the site?

Trip to Gorton Monastery:

Monday 8th May, 12.00 noon

The Society has organised a trip around Gorton Monastery for all and any who would like to avail themselves of the opportunity. You may recall the television programme detailing the work of local people to save the Church and monastery from collapsing into total ruination. Now there is the chance to see the work that has been carried out and to hear the story of the saving of the building and the development of the community around it. The format of the organised trip is as follows;

- There will be a talk entitled "The Monastery Story" which tells the history of Gorton Monastery from the arrival of the first Friars in 1861 to the present day. Presented by one of the Monastery's experienced Trust team. It will explore some of the secrets of the building and its amazing story of survival, against the odds.
- There will be a talk from the Monastery's Archivist, Janet Wallwork, who will share the story about the saints and tell us all about her work.
- There will be an opportunity to look around the former church and friary and enjoy the gardens.
- Refreshments are also available to buy in the Friar's Pantry.

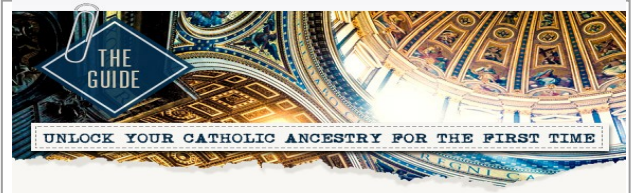
We are informed that booking in advance is essential if you want to take part in this trip.

The cost is £8.50p.

You must book through the [Eventbrite](#) site on the MLFHS web site. ([click here](#))



FINDMYPAST: have announced their intention to digitise **Roman Catholic records** from throughout the country and elsewhere. (See advert opposite) ([Click here](#)) to access their full advert and information as to what records they do have. It is clear that this is an ongoing programme and no doubt records will be added as they are produced. I haven't explored the site too closely so don't know what, and how much, is new. However it is certainly worth a look. You may of course consider that you do not have any family members who were members of the Roman Catholic Church. However if you are struggling to find someone, a look into Roman Catholic records might not be fruitless. I do some transcribing of Roman Catholic baptism records for Churches in Manchester and I am intrigued by the number of baptisms of adult converts. If nothing else it might tell you a bit more of the journey made by one of your ancestors that you had not previously considered. We remind you too of the Roman Catholic records available on the MLFHS web site and also the CD's available from the Society bookshop detailing baptisms at Manchester Roman Catholic



The Roman Catholic Church is the largest Christian denomination in the world, and keeps some of the richest genealogical records that can be found anywhere. Historically, it has been difficult, impossible even, to gain access to these records, but not anymore. We're working to digitise the records of the Catholic Church, bringing millions of records from Ireland, Scotland, England, the USA, and Canada online for the first time and opening up research possibilities that simply didn't exist before.

1st Anniversary of e-Scotia:

Yes, we have been going for a year and the statistics make quite interesting reading.

At the outset we sent the newsletter out to 280 members, most of whom were in the UK but 5 also in the USA and one each in Canada, Australia and Germany. A year later in March 2017 we sent the newsletter out to 261 members. The reduction is a result of some members deciding that they no longer wanted the newsletter and clicking the "unsubscribe" button. Again, most are in the UK but now we have readers in the USA, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Germany, Portugal, Spain and France. In January we had a reader in Chile and in February a reader in Thailand. I suspect this might be the same reader on a cruise!! Nevertheless, whilst our membership and readership remains small—not to say exclusive!! - it all demonstrates the wide area that our readership covers. This geographical breadth is also reflected in the enquiries of and contributions to the Scottish Marriage Index. Great to have you all along and please let us know if there is anything that you would like covered in [e-Scotia](#).



The Border Reivers: the topic of our May branch meeting.

To quote from the **"Historic UK"** website on the same topic:

*"If your surname is Armstrong, Maxwell, Johnston, Graham, Bell, Scott, Nixon, Kerr, Crozier or Robson then your family history, just like the astronaut Neil Armstrong's, may very well be intertwined with the Border Reivers. And if you do share one of these surnames you may be advised **not** to read on."* The site then gives a useful history of the Reivers.



Our speaker for this event is **Andrew Lowes**. Andrew is an engineer based in Newcastle upon Tyne, but with a very keen interest in local history and Northumberland. By way of introduction to his talk Andrew writes the following:

"Reiver (n). The old English word for robber or thief. This is a term which would have probably disappeared from our language if it wasn't for one thing, it has become the generic name for the powerful families who inhabited and terrorised the Anglo-Scottish border region in the Middle Ages. The term rightly implies lawlessness and for their own advantage they engaged in all forms of criminality including livestock rustling, kidnapping for ransom, violent reprisal, extortion and protection

racketeering. They gave us the terms "blackmail" and "bereaved". They subverted the Governments and national policy on both sides. Quarrelling families often perpetuated their differences in murderous feuds.

But skulduggery, theft and killing wasn't the whole story, they were considered men of honour (albeit to their own code of morality) and good to their word. They protected their kin from not only their rivals but also rampaging English and Scottish armies and raiding forces. They were the writers of some fabulously atmospheric and moving poetry in what is collectively known as the Border Ballads.

The Reivers were a fascinating, highly political, multifaceted group of people struggling to survive under the most difficult circumstances imaginable in the medieval period. So, how had this all come about, why were they allowed to carry on for as long as they did and what was their story?"

Well, to find out why not come along and hear Andrew's talk. To remind you that the talk is part of the Branch meeting on **Saturday, 20th May at 2.00 p.m.** We anticipate that the talk will be popular so to ensure that you have a place, please book your ticket via [Eventbrite](#) ([Click here](#)) or via the Society web page.

Manchester activity on the arrival of Bonnie Prince Charlie:

(Extracts from the Constable's Accounts of the Manor of Manchester 1743-1776)

December 2nd: to John Shaw for going to Leeds, Bradford &c with an Express to inform Gen. Wade of the time the Rebels left this place, their Number &c. £1. 11s. 6d.

December 12th: Paid James Ashton for going with sundry Expresses to inform his Royal highness the Duke of Cumberland of the Rebels retreat. £1. 3s. 6d.

December 12th: Paid sundry Watchmen set on Salford Bridge and all other ends of the Town for 36 hours to prevent any intelligence following the Rebels of his Royal Highness's army being in close pursuit.. £3. 17s. 8d.



Who Do You Think You Are Exhibition:

held at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham 6th-9th April.

The MLFHS had a stand at the Exhibition and the Anglo Scots Branch was incorporated into this. However an opportunity was taken by some to visit the well-represented Scottish presence in the form of ScotlandsPeople, The Scottish Council on Archives and The National Records of Scotland. Reporting on his visit to the Exhibition, David Muil writes;



"Among the regular exhibitors at WDYTYA was an organisation that promotes the use of archives throughout Scotland. The Scottish Council on Archives is just as likely to guide you to the Highland Archive Centre as to Glasgow City Archives. It was a representative of the former who greeted me at their stall in the NEC Birmingham. Based in Inverness but with archive centres in Portree, Wick and Fort William – thus covering the entire Highland Region – the centres hold the official records of the Highland Council and its predecessors. The records contained there relate to education, property, poor relief, Council minutes and police archives. In addition, you will find many hundreds of collections from individuals, societies and businesses, including Highland Health Board archives, estate and family papers as well as Church records. Particularly helpful is the offer to conduct archive or family history research on your behalf should you be unable to visit one of the centres. This service attracts an hourly charge. Anyone wishing to take advantage of this Remote Research facility is advised to contact the centre in advance."



The Scottish Council on Archives itself is based in General Register House, 2 Princes Street, Edinburgh EH1 3YY. Their email address is http://www.contact@scottisharchives.org.uk and telephone is +44(0)131 535 1362. Further details of the council's coverage of can be obtained from their website at www.scottisharchives.org.uk.



(scran.ac.uk)

Dave Hartley e-mailed us about this site and wrote:

"This is a new site I came across at the recent WDYTYA show in Birmingham. The site provides searchable access to digital images and movies which have been sourced from museums, Galleries and Archives and is one of the largest educational online services in the U.K. It is a pay site, with a £10 charge for 6 months access, but.....you can view thumbnail size images for free, the charge is for downloads. I already have a lot of images of a small mining village in Ayrshire, but this site showed some wonderful images I'd never seen before. Take a look at the website and see what you can find. "

Seems to be worth a look. The web site can be accessed through the button above.

FamilySearch: receiving their most recent newsletter prompted me to have another look at their web site for Scottish sources. We have mentioned this to you before but again I was impressed by the amount of information is there. To access it simply Google "Family Search". Once in the site, click the "Search" button then click onto "Wiki". In the search box on the top right enter "Scotland". (or to avoid all of this just [click here](#)) You will then have access to all the resources that they have pertaining to Scotland including maps and a breakdown into Counties. There is also advice on how to make best use of the web site. A great and underused resource.



On **Saturday, 20th May**, we have our **Branch meeting** at Manchester Central Library. We have the **help-desk** available from 10.30 am on the 3rd floor with "expert" assistance available, followed by the Branch meeting at 2.00 p.m. when the guest speaker will be Andrew Lowes telling us about the Reivers. For any who cannot make it to the Branch meeting, if you would like us to do some research for you or advise on your research, then please get in touch via the e-mail address. We would be glad to help.