

Anglo Scottish Branch Report for 2023

I started my 2022 report stating that we were looking forward to a return to normal after Covid, but that normal was rather different from the normal we had left behind. Speakers preferred Zoom presentations and members seemed reluctant to travel to Central library for meetings.

The situation has not altered, the same preferences and reluctance remains, but there have been some changes.

Our programme secretary has done a wonderful job and the 2023 programme proved as interesting as ever. Because of the way the day fell, we did not have a meeting in January. Our Zoom meetings covered subjects ranging from Kate Keter and her presentation 'Mother dead, father in prison', showing how Kate used multiple databases to trace a family through much adversity and across the world, Scottish Prisons and their Records by Emma Maxwell, Scottish sources at the Society of Genealogists Library in London by Sue Gibbons, maps at the National Library of Scotland by Laragh Quinney and Transportation and Banishment by Ken Kisbet. Several of these subjects interested both Society members and non-members across the country.

Our visit this year was a visit to Manchester Art Gallery where we were promised a viewing of works by Scottish artists held there. It proved not to be quite as promised but a very enjoyable visit by those members who attended.

Our meetings in Central Library included our Annual meeting followed by a discussion of member's brickwalls and suggestions to knock through them. Another was a short presentation on tracing Scottish miners in Canada and another on the need to validate and double check the accuracy of your research findings. Our year ended with our usual get together and a rather different quiz arranged by Hilary. It was a 'guess who/where this is' quiz when we were shown images of members at a very young age or of landmarks from a slightly different angle. And of course, there was the opportunity for members to chat.

When meeting at Central Library we organised a helpdesk in the morning. However these sessions have not had the attendance we would have liked and we have reluctantly decided to discontinue the practice in 2024.

Our Scottish Marriage Index continues to receive contributions, and requests for more details of entries, but with less frequency than previous years.

Hilary Hartigan continues to work maintaining our section of the new Society website. We are all extremely grateful to have such a computer savvy person as a member of our committee.

For all these activities I am indebted to the contribution given by the Branch committee members, who were unanimously re-elected at our Annual Meeting. Yvonne Gill-Martin, who does a wonderful job organised all our speakers, Hilary Hartigan for the items in the Journal, Mark Campbell for writing and distribution of our newsletter, Ina Penneyston as our representative at SAFHS, Linda McInness for keeping a record of our committee meetings and

with support from David Muil and John de la Cruz. However, we are always looking for new committee members so we can share these responsibilities, so essential for the running of this Branch