

President's Report for December 2023

This year the Newcastle Family History Society celebrated its 40th Anniversary. In the four decades since the Society was founded so many memories have been made. We are fortunate indeed to have a wonderful collection of photographs and information which has been archived over the years to form a set of volumes which reside on the bookshelf as you enter the Monica Gibbs Library from the reception area. These books are a pleasure to browse through. Long term Society members are reminded of past events and friends from long ago. More recent members can see the types of excursions, guest speakers and events from bygone days.

Our Newsletters and Journals also hold a wealth of Society memories. Our publication entitled *Bulletins and Journals (1983 – 2017)* available in CD/USB format holds a treasure trove of history.

In more recent years it has also been possible to record our memories digitally on our website and in our closed Facebook Group as well as on annual calendars and photobooks made by professional companies. We have also recently begun to collect our memories and store them on our NFHS YouTube Channel and via our podcasting host *Podbean*. These also form part of our collection.

2023 has continued to contribute to the memories we make at the Society with a host of activities, speakers, and events such as our well attended Seniors' Open Day in February and our hugely successful Scottish Open Day to celebrate Family History Month. Outings such as our Carrington Heritage Walk and lunch with Julie Keating and our celebration of Christmas in July together with our ever-popular Trivia by John and Judy Mulhearn are always lots of fun.

Our December Journal is brim full of memories of one kind or another – some related to Society happenings, others not. As always, the eTeam has worked their special magic to put together yet another exceptional offering for us to enjoy.

I wish you all a safe and happy Festive Season – one which will, in some small way, contribute to some special memories of 2023. Relax and recharge the batteries ready for a year of family history and friendship at Newcastle FHS in 2024.

Best wishes to all,

Mel Woodford