Newcastle Family History Society Inc.

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ABN: 43 533 036 199



Newsletter

Library Hours: Thurs: 1.00pm - 3.00pm **Sat:** 10.00am - 3.00pm

Meeting Times:

First Tuesday each month (Feb to Nov) Feb, Mar, Oct, Nov at 7.30 pm Apr to Sep at 2.00 pm

Number 249

WANTED FOR YOUR JOURNAL—see page 6

The theme for our December Journal 252 is: **Heroism Part 2**

Deadline for articles: Saturday 24 October 2025

August 2025

August General Meeting

Tuesday 5 August—2.00 pm

Guest Speaker—Benita Parker

Meeting will also be held via Zoom (see link below)

Benita's presentation should prove to be extremely interesting. Her topic will be *Bush to Bar*, which is the story of Mary Johnston, one of the earliest people to settle in Westy and then later, wife of the owner of the Museum Hotel.

Benita dresses for the occasion, as well!

I look forward to seeing many members on the day.

If you would like to join by Zoom but feel you need some assistance, please contact our Secretary (email address above).

Mel Woodford (President)

Zoom link for August meeting

Topic: August Monthly Meeting

Time: Aug 5, 2025 02:00 PM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82823031323? pwd=v6QctPfoeXPqlVVM7baVxNIGB3wRpi.1

Meeting ID: 828 2303 1323

Passcode: 515816



Overview of July meeting

Despite the dreadful weather on Tuesday 1 July, we had a good number attend our July meeting. It was a fabulous fun afternoon of trivia and eating for our *Christmas in July* meeting.

Many thanks go to John and Judy Mulhearn who ran the trivia for us. The questions garnered a lot of laughs and quite a few errs, and were enjoyed with yummy chocolate prizes. Mel put together some fabulous prizes and we finished off the afternoon with a delicious spread of treats. Thanks to those who helped make the afternoon special.











Volunteer Librarian's Handbook

Computers—Shutting Down

Shutting our computers down correctly is a good habit to get into. This is most important for the catalogue computer in the Reception room. Our IT Officer has put a set of directions - with pictures - on the computer for Librarians to follow to ensure that the computer will open properly the next time it is turned on.

The steps to follow are:

- 1. Click on the icon on the desktop.
- 2. Select 'Shut Down' from the drop-down menu and then select 'Shut Down'.
- 3. Once the computer has shut down THEN the powerpoint can be turned off.

Locking Up of the Society Rooms

Recently there have been a couple of instances when the Society rooms have not been locked when people are leaving the rooms.

Please ensure that the rooms are locked according to the instructions hanging on the wall behind the Reception desk. This includes the back gate, the toilets, the back door, the internal doors being closed and/or locked, and the main door at the front of the building.

Thank you for your diligence to this very important procedure.

Volunteer Librarian's Handbook continued

Visitors and Casual Researchers

All visitors and members should sign in and out. (See also Evacuations and Fire Safety)

There are signs near the sign on book outlining fees for casual researchers using the Library. NFHS generally charges \$5 on a Thursday and \$10 on a Saturday but Library volunteers have the flexibility to charge \$5 on a Saturday depending on when the casual researcher arrives or if they only stay for a short time. Casual researchers should be reminded that the visitor's fee can be deducted from the membership if the person joins the Society within the month.

There is no fee to walk in and look at the Library and the photos. If volunteer Librarians are not busy, they should try to engage with the visitor and give them a tour of the rooms. Please give the visitor a brochure and membership form as they leave. Currently we are also giving visitors a copy of an old black and white journal as they leave. A selection of journals are stored behind the brochures near the sign-on book.

Any corrections or additions should be emailed to Jane on the nfhspublicationsofficer@gmail.com email.

Jane Ison

Events and Outings

Future dates

5 August—2.00 pm—Monthly meeting—Benita Parker—History of West Wallsend

2 September—2.00 pm—Monthly meeting

12 to 14 September—State Conference—Wollongong (see page 4)

29 September—Mayfield Heritage Walk (see below)

7 October—7.30 pm—Monthly meeting

11 October—Library Orientation (Print)

17 October—Publications Meeting

18 October—Sandgate Cemetery Tour

25 October—Library Orientation (Digital)

4 November—7.30 pm—Monthly meeting

5 December—Christmas luncheon

18 December—Last day for Library for 2025

11 January—Spring cleaning at the rooms

15 January—Library re-opens for 2026

Every Monday (except public holidays) from 10.30 am—Coffee and Chat, Wests, Hobart Road, New Lambton. Anyone is welcome to attend. This is a great opportunity to have an informal catch-up with other members. Some great discussions occur about any number of family history topics.

Mayfield Heritage Walk

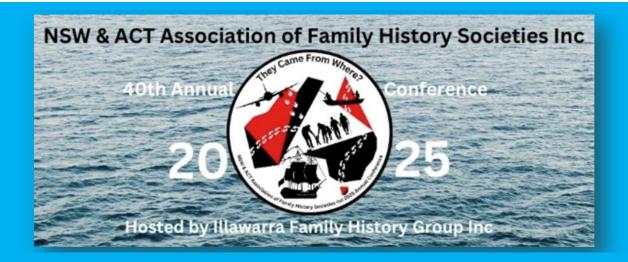
Monday 29 September 2025—10.00am (approx 1.5 hours duration)

Heritage Walk—The Toorak of Newcastle

Julie Keating will be leading us on a wonderful walk commencing from St Andrew's Church of England, Church Street, Mayfield. This walk will showcase some of the houses remaining from the large estates which were a feature of this suburb. Mayfield was known as the Toorak of Newcastle due to its idyllic location and large estates belonging to the commercial elite of Newcastle. Families such as the Winn Brothers, William Arnott, and John Scholey who subdivided some land and named it after his daughter May. Hence the name Mayfield was applied to the area after 1888.

Numbers will be limited to 22 so get your name down quickly by emailing Mel on nftspresident@gmail.com An enjoyable lunch will be held following the walk at Wests Mayfield, Industrial Drive. Book now with Mel. The walk is on fairly flat ground with a short hill at the end to return to the starting point.

State Conference 2025



Would you be interested in attending the

State Conference 2025

via Zoom at the NFHS rooms on

Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 September?

This year our conference is being held in Wollongong. Some NFHS members will be attending in person, but others may find Zoom more convenient.

There are some fabulous speakers.

NFHS is once again offering to hold a mini-Conference in our rooms for \$20 per person if enough people are interested.

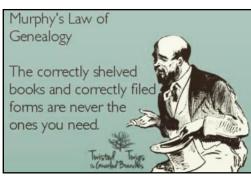
Details to attend in person or individually via Zoom can be found here.

Please email Mel on nfhspresident@gmail.com if you are interested in attending in the NFHS rooms.

Have a laugh!







Library News

Date	Librarian 1 (get key)	Librarian 2					
Saturday Library Roster							
Morning 9	Morning 9.45 am to 12.30 pm						
Afternoon	12.30 pm	to 3.00 pm					
2 Aug am	Marie H	Lea H					
2 Aug pm	Marie H	Sandra J					
9 Aug am	Sharyn B	Nouvelle T					
9 Aug pm	Sharyn B	Nouvelle T					
16 Aug am	Bert G	Paul K					
16 Aug pm	Bert G	Paul K					
23 Aug am	Marie H	Noelene L					
23 Aug pm	Marie H	Jude C					
30 Aug am	Volunteer	Volunteer					
30 Aug pm	Volunteer	Volunteer					
Thursday	Library R	oster					
1.00 to 3.00 pm							
7 Aug	Alison M	Clelia P					
14 Aug	Jane I Rosalie F						
21 Aug	Marilyn M Jane I						
28 Aug	Karen S Rosalie B						



New Librarians

Following the sad passing of Jim MacDougall, we have been without a Librarian.

We have great news that **Liza Moss** and **Paul Cooke**, both qualified Librarians, have agreed to jointly take on the role in an acting capacity until our 2026 AGM. And hopefully they will love it so much, they will officially continue after the AGM.

Thanks so much to Liza and Paul. We know you have big shoes to fill but are confident you will do an exceptional job.

If anyone wants to contact Liza and Paul, you can continue to do so by emailing them on the Librarian's email address.

nfhslibrarian@gmail.com

Library Volunteers—Thanks

Our August roster has a few gaps where volunteers are needed. Can you help? If so, please click on the link below.

Thanks so much to our volunteers. Without volunteers, we are unable to keep the rooms open for our members and visitors to continue with their family history research.

For future reference, when there are gaps, if you could spare three hours to assist to fill these gaps, please complete the volunteer form at this link.

Once again, thanks to our wonderful volunteers.

Mel Woodford (President)

Library Accessions

The latest group of new books added to the Society Library have all been donated by Kathy Brown. We thank Kathy and all our other donors for their major contribution to our wonderful library collection.

Creator	Title	Call No
Zervas, Nicolaos	Between two shores: my Greek Australian Journey [2024]	A4/ZER/01
Warner, Russell Mackenzie	Over-halling the colony: George Hall - pioneer [1990]	A4/HAL/04
Ryan, R J	Land grants 1788-1809 [1974]	A5/35/02
Wearn, J T	Bingara 1827-1937 [1985]	AN8.404/01/01
Brett, Julie Lyn and Gardner, Thelma Barbara	Manilla cemetery records	AN5/15/242
Best, Nancy M	From Omagh to Glen Innes: a family history	A4/ROD/01
Warner, Russell Mackenzie	The colony over-halled: A family tree of the descendants of pioneers George and Mary Smith Hall [1995]	A4/HAL/05
Archer, Brian F	Moy families in Australia [1994]	A4/MOY/01
Green, Jim	Pioneers of Australia: the family history of Benjamin Cusley, a first fleet soldier - Vol- ume 2 the Connollys	A4/CUS/02.
Green, H J	A family history: the 'Green' family 1788-2010	A4/CUS/03

NFHS Donations

The Library Group wants to let members know that we cannot accept donations of general reading materials, i.e. items that are not related to local history or family history.

We have a problem with storage and with volunteer hours to process them and dispose of them.

Thank you for your understanding. We certainly appreciate all the donations we receive that do become part of our collection.

We are asking all Library volunteers to explain this to members or visitors who bring these items to the Library when they are on duty.

Library Group

Journal and Newsletter

December Journal (252)

As stated in the last newsletter, we were unsure whether we would be publishing a second Journal with the theme of **Heroism**. Well we have been very fortunate to have received many articles. Therefore the December Journal will be **Heroism Part 2**. We would still love you to send in articles on this theme. Please have them to the editor by **Saturday 25 October 2025**.

March Journal (253)

The theme of this Journal will be **Writer's Choice**. Always popular, this theme gives you the chance to share your writing on any topic related to family history – your research, family stories, houses – the list is endless. Please start thinking about what you might write – articles would need to be submitted by **Saturday 24 January 2026**.

Submission of Articles and Feedback

For all issues, and for any feedback to us, you can send your typed item to nfhseditor@gmail.com or deliver it to the Society library addressed to the Editor. We can also accept handwritten items if that's your preference.

Journal and Newsletter Deadlines

	Newsletter	Journal
September	16 August	26 July
October	13 September	
November	11 October	
December	15 November	25 October
January	No newsletter	
February	10 January	
March	14 February	24 January
April	14 March	
May	11 April	
June	16 May	25 April

Margaret Ashford (Editor, eTeam)

Publications

Publications Group meets twice a year—dates advised as they are decided

We have two face-to-face meetings each year - one in March and one in October. Our next meeting will be held on Friday 17 October. Until then we will 'meet' using email.

The volunteers working on Minmi are now successfully using the file sharing on our computers.

For those who are interested in volunteering to work on a Publication for our Society but who use an Apple product, there are ways to access or deliver files to the shared folder on the NFHS computers. If we are not busy, I can help you work these things out on the 2nd, 3rd or 5th Thursday of the month during Library duty. By using your personal gmail account and accessing the 15GB of storage with the Google Drive connected to your personal gmail, you can share files without using a USB. Follow these directions and links and you will have more information than you need.

- 1. Make a new folder on Google Drive: https://support.google.com/drive/answer/2375091?hl=en&co=GENIE.Platform%3DDesktop
- 2. Call the folder whatever you like and put all the files you want to put in the Society's folders into that folder.
- 3. Come to the Society with your gmail log in details and log in to a computer by clicking on the Google icon and going to 'Sign in' in the top right-hand corner.
- 4. Once you are signed in, click on the gdrive icon and copy the files from the gdrive into the appropriate folder in the Publications volunteers' folder.
- 5. You can also copy anything from the Society computer to your personal gdrive rather than using a USB.
- 6. Log out of Google when you are finished.

Please consider getting involved in these valuable projects as Publications benefit the Society financially and the community with the information we publish.

Jane Ison (Publications Coordinator)

Courses and Learning

Special Interest Groups

Members of the Society are welcome to join one or more groups and share their knowledge as well as learn something new. All the groups meet in the NFHS rooms, 68 Elder Street, Lambton, monthly at 10.00 am unless otherwise stated. Groups and contact details are below. Please email the facilitator to join a group.

Group	Meeting date	Facilitator	Contact email
Family History Finder	1 st Tuesday	Laraine Cross	nfhsresearch78@gmail.com
Scottish Family Research	2 nd Tuesday – 1.00 pm—February to November	Mel Woodford	nfhspresident@gmail.com
English Ancestors	3 rd Tuesday	Karen Smith	abc26715@bigpond.net.au
DNA	3 rd Tuesday – 1.00 pm	Sandra Jones	sjones11@bigpond.net.au
Irish Ancestors	4 th Tuesday	Pat Healion	pat.healion1@gmail.com
Cemetery Research	1 st Thursday	Pat Healion	pat.healion1@gmail.com
Ancestry Users	2 nd Thursday—February to November—no meeting in September	Mel Woodford	nfhspresident@gmail.com
Scrapbooking	4 th Thursday	Karen Smith	abc26715@bigpond.net.au

Change to SIG Group Convicts in Australia to Family History Finder

What is the Family History Finder SIG? (previously known as Convict SIG)

Special Interest Groups or SIGs. are an opportunity for members with similar interests to meet in a group setting to share knowledge and assist each other in researching and building their family history.

The Family History Finder SIG will focus on both Australian and Overseas Research queries (including Convicts) and

- meets on the first Tuesday of the month
- meets at least ten times a year
- does not meet in December or January
- meetings start at 10am.in the back room (however we can access the computers in the Blue Room if need dictates)
- visitors are always welcome

Our group meetings will feature group input on how to address general or specific genealogical problems and any matters of interest raised by attendees. Everyone will be offered opportunities to raise their research questions or their road block experiences.

If you, or someone you know, might enjoy the **Family History Finder** SIG meetings, you would be very welcome. The group aim would be to assist with the general or the specific ie:

- Clearly defining the specific point where progress stops. Is it a missing birth record, an unclear marriage date, or an ancestor who disappears from records?
- Looking for records beyond the obvious, such as passenger lists, directories, parish registers, and military records.
- Focusing on one ancestor and one specific record at a time to avoid getting overwhelmed.
- Considering records from neighbouring towns or regions, as ancestors may have moved or changed their names.
 - Searching for alternative spellings of names, including nicknames, maiden names, and anglicized versions.
 - Being aware that name variations can be a major reason for facing a Road Block.
 - Thoroughly examining records for any possible variations that could lead to new information.
 - Maintaining a detailed research log to track your progress, findings, and strategies.
 - Organising your records in a way that is easy to navigate and understand.
 - Noting down any assumptions, hypotheses, or conclusions drawn during your research.
 - Remembering that every piece of information, no matter how small, can contribute to solving the puzzle

Scottish newsletter

The next issue will be emailed on 28 August 2025, being the Scottish quarter day of Lamas.

NFHS members are always welcome to send us an article to be included in the *Caledonian* by emailing it to the newsletter email below.

Reminder that if you would like to be included on the email list for this newsletter, please send an email to Lea on nfhsnewsletter@gmail.com.



Scottish SIG group

YouTube

Don't forget our guest speakers at our monthly meetings are recorded and the presentations can be viewed on the Society's YouTube channel. This is a fabulous way for those who are either distance members or just can't make it to the meeting, to be able to still enjoy our speakers. Or even if you were at the meeting, you may wish to listen to the presentation again.

To view these, either go to our Society webpage and click on the YouTube tab on the Home page, or type 'YouTube Newcastle Family History Society' into your search engine, or simply click here.

Mel Woodford (President)

Podcasts

General

Some more podcasts have been recorded since our last newsletter. I'm sure you will find them very interesting so click on the links below and enjoy listening.

It's interesting to note the number of people who listen to our podcasts. I would like to thank Benita Parker, Narelle Austen and Dr Pam Harrison for all the time and effort they have given to the Society in preparing and recording their podcasts. As of 11 July 2025, Benita's series *In the Shadow of Mount Sugarloaf* has had 326 listeners; Narelle's series *Birds of a Feather* has had 366 listeners; and Dr Pam Harrison's series *How it was: Advances in Medicine in my Lifetime* and one on *The Creation of the Calvary Mater Newcastle Palliative Care Service* have had 175 listeners. I would also like to thank all others who have prepared and recorded podcasts for us.

In the Shadow of Mount Sugarloaf by Benita Parker, West Wallsend District Heritage Group

This is Part 2 of *The First Coalmines 1870-1895*. In this episode, Benita guides us through West Wallsend's transformation—from a forested hillside to a vibrant coal mining town, complete with its own railway and a thriving community. To listen, click <u>here</u>.

Felonious Females by Member Mel Woodford

In this episode, I take us back to 1829 London, where two teenage girls, Rebecca Markham and Maria Beavis, were convicted for stealing 20 yards of cotton. To listen, click here.

Mel Woodford (President)

Miscellaneous

Email Addresses

President	nfhspresident@gmail.com
Vice-President	nfhsvicepresident@gmail.com
Secretary	nfhsinc@gmail.com
Treasurer	nfhstreasurer@gmail.com
Courses	nfhscourses@gmail.com
Events	nfhsevents@gmail.com
Journal	nfhseditor@gmail.com
Librarian	nfhslibrarian@gmail.com
Membership	nfhsmembership@gmail.com
Newsletter	nfhsnewsletter@gmail.com
Orientation sessions	nfhsorientation@gmail.com
Publications	nfhspublicationsof- ficer@gmail.com
Research	nfhsresearcher@gmail.com
Sandgate group	nfhssandgategroup@gmail.com
Used book sales	nfhslibrarian@gmail.com
Webmaster	nfhswebmaster@gmail.com

Snippers Group

Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm

Password for member area of website

The password for the Member area of our website:

Ancestors - Note: Ancestors has a capital A

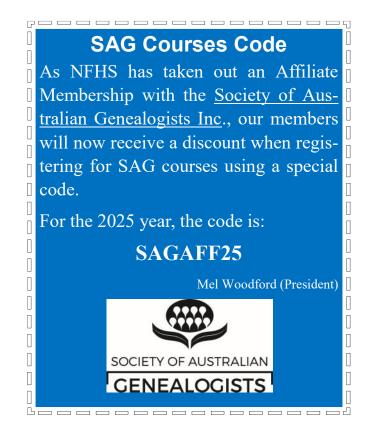
Disclaimer

Although all reasonable care is taken, the Newcastle Family History Society Inc. accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of information, which is printed in good faith from other sources, or for any opinions expressed in this newsletter.

NFHS Banner

Our banner has been out of commission for some months but has now been repaired so it can be used again. You will need to use the narrower piece of dowel to put into the hole outside the Society rooms. Once that is safely in the metal hole, the banner can be slid over the dowel.

Many thanks to Bert for following up this problem.



Attachments to the newsletter

The following attachments are in the newsletter email

- SAG—benefits of the SAG Affiliate Program
- SAG—instructions to register for SAG events
- Butler Society Southern Cross Region—Butler gathering—17 to 20 October 2025

2025

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
Red—SIG Groups Blue—Volunteer Groups Green—Courses Purple—Meetings Black—Library Open Brown—Events						10am-3pm— Library open
3	4 10.30am—Coffee	5	40	7	9.30-12.00—	40
	and Chat, Wests	10am—Family History Finder 12.30-1.55pm— Library open 2pm—General Meeting	10am-2pm— Snippers	10am—Cemetery SIG 1-3pm—Library open	Editing meeting— Journal 251	10am-3pm— Library open
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	9.30-11.30am— Library Group 10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	1pm—Scottish SIG		10am—Ancestry Users 1-3pm—Library open	9.30am-3.30pm— Publications print- ing Cover printing— Journal 251	10am-3pm— Library open Submissions due for September newsletter
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	10am—English Ancestors 1pm—DNA	10am-2pm— Snippers	10am— Management Com- mittee 1-3pm—Library open	9.30-12.00— Journal printing— Journal 251	10am-3pm— Library open
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	9.30-11.30am— Library Group 10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	10am—Irish Ancestors		10am— Scrapbooking 1-3pm—Library open Caledonian news- letter to be emailed		10am-3pm— Library open
31						

September

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Red—SIG Groups Blue—Volunteer Groups Green—Courses Purple—Meetings Black—Library Open Brown—Events	10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	10am—Family History Finder 12.30-1.55pm— Library open 2pm—General Meeting	10am-2pm— Snippers	10am—Cemetery SIG 1-3pm—Library open	9.30-12.00— Feedback/Planning meeting—Journals 251/252	10am-3pm— Library open
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	9.30-11.30am— Library Group 10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	1pm—Scottish SIG		1-3pm—Library open		10am-3pm— Library open Submissions due for October news- letter State Conference via Zoom
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
State Conference via Zoom	10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	10am—English Ancestors 1pm—DNA	10am-2pm— Snippers	10am— Management Com- mittee 1-3pm—Library open	9.30am-3.30pm— Publications print- ing	10am-3pm— Library open
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	9.30-11.30am— Library Group 10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	10am—Irish Ancestors		10am— Scrapbooking 1-3pm—Library open		10am-3pm— Library open
28	29	30				
	Mayfield Heritage Walk					
			10			

October

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
Red—SIG Groups Blue—Volunteer Groups Green—Courses Purple—Meetings Black—Library Open Brown—Events			10am-2pm— Snippers	10am—Cemetery SIG 1-3pm—Library open		Library closed Labour Day long weekend
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Labour Day long weekend	10am—Family History Finder 6-7.25pm—Library open 7.30pm—General Meeting		10am—Ancestry Users 1-3pm—Library open		10am-3pm— Library open Submissions due for November newsletter
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	9.30-11.30am— Library Group 10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	1pm—Scottish SIG	10am-2pm— Snippers	10am— Management Com- mittee 1-3pm—Library open	10am-12pm— Publications meeting 12-3pm— Publications printing	10am-3pm— Library open
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	10am—English Ancestors 1pm—DNA		10am— Scrapbooking 1-3pm—Library open		10am-3pm— Library open Articles due for Journal 252
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	9.30-11.30am— Library Group 10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	10am—Irish Ancestors		1-3pm—Library open		

November

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
,			,			1
Red—SIG Groups Blue—Volunteer Groups Green—Courses Purple—Meetings Black—Library Open Brown—Events						10am-3pm— Library open
2	3	4 10am Family	5 10am 2nm	6	9.30-12.00—	10am 2nm
	10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	10am—Family History Finder 6-7.25pm—Library open 7.30pm—General Meeting	10am-2pm— Snippers	10am—Cemetery SIG 1-3pm—Library open	9.30-12.00— Editing meeting— Journal 252	10am-3pm— Library open
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	9.30-11.30am— Library Group 10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	1pm—Scottish SIG		10am—Ancestry Users 1-3pm—Library open	9.30-3.30pm— Publications printing Cover printing— Journal 252	10am-3pm— Library open Submissions due for December newsletter
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	10am—English Ancestors 1pm—DNA	10am-2pm— Snippers	10am— Management Committee 1-3pm—Library open	9.30-12.00— Journal printing— Journal 252	10am-3pm— Library open
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	9.30-11.30am— Library Group 10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	10am—Irish Ancestors		10am— Scrapbooking 1-3pm—Library open		10am-3pm— Library open
30						
			11			