



**It is with great sadness that we offer our sincere condolences  
to the Royal Family on the death of  
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.**

#### **Dear Members**

September has come around again, and this can only mean the start of a new NIFHS session and all the accompanying goodies. Have a look at the membership benefits listed in the Autumn Courses article on the next page. Do remember that your membership, whether Branch or Associate, entitles you to attend ALL branch meetings and activities. If you are interested in doing so, the branch programmes are on the NIFHS website. You can find them at -

[www.nifhs.org/branches/](http://www.nifhs.org/branches/)

There will be a warm welcome awaiting.

As well as our own events, you will find details of some others here and in future e-Newsletters. If there are some you know of, please share with the rest of us. I'm always happy to hear from you. Email me at -

[Newsletter@nifhs.org](mailto:Newsletter@nifhs.org)

With beverage of your choice in hand and a comfy chair, enjoy the read.

Best wishes,

**Evelyn**  
B2513





## COMING SOON ... THE NIFHS AUTUMN COURSES - ALL VIA ZOOM

Look for all the information on our coming courses. As a taster here are the details of what is being offered on our first course of the year. For full details and bookings please click here:

[www.nifhs.org/courses/](http://www.nifhs.org/courses/)

### First Course: **Starting out on Irish Family History**

Session 1 - Thursday 13 October 2022, 2 pm - 3 pm, or 7 - 8 pm (repeated)

Session 2 - Thursday 20 October 2022, 2 pm - 3 pm, or 7 - 8 pm (repeated)

Cost: £20 (both sessions)

Bookings can be made through the [Courses](#) page on the NIFHS Website . . .

This two-session course has been specially developed for those who would like to research their Irish family history and need help to develop the necessary skills in finding useful up-to-date resources and online websites. It is suitable for beginners and those who would like a refresher! You will be guided on how to access important Irish family records, and resources which will assist you in your family history research, including civil, church, census and land records. New burial portals have been developed locally and these will be highlighted. The course will also reveal the wealth of information and resources available to NIFHS members such as -

Monthly eNewsletter

DNA support workshops

North Irish Roots Journal (published twice pa)

New searchable pdf Guide to the Contents of the Journals (1984-2021)

Monthly Branch meetings

Finding others with the same Ancestral surnames

Extensive Resources in the NIFHS Centre as well as its remote Lookup Service

A handout of the key resources covered will be emailed to each participant after each session.

## HERITAGE FROM HOME 3 - LIBRARIES NI

Following the success of the last two *Heritage from Home* series of online talks, Libraries NI is organising a third series this autumn and winter. *Heritage from Home 3* will run from mid-September to mid-March.

The general theme this time will be migration. The following themes will be explored by speakers with different backgrounds and interests: Culture, the Environment, Family History, Literature, and historical events. All events will be delivered via Zoom and can be followed on PC, laptop, iPad and on most smartphones.

**It is essential to book**, so if you would like to attend an event, please click on the link for that particular event and you will be re-directed to the relevant registration page. The programme will be updated regularly, so keep checking this page for more events and follow our Facebook page for notifications. For more information, please email:

[heritage.talks@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:heritage.talks@librariesni.org.uk)



## FREE DNA TESTS

Who says you can't get something for nothing?

From time to time the society becomes aware of individuals who are working on their DNA results and are looking for people of specific surnames to test so they can use these results to advance their own family research.

Comparison of results can then help everyone to learn more about their shared family lines. Currently we are trying to find people who are happy to help by doing either an autosomal or Y DNA test to enable surname research to progress. These tests will be paid for by the sponsors if the tester is deemed to fit the criteria. At the moment we are looking for people with the following surnames:

McAnespy (or McAnespie)  
McMurray  
Orr

We are particularly hoping to find McAnespies in County Tyrone; McMurrays in County Londonderry and Orrs in County Down (or even on the West coast of Scotland) but if you know anyone of those surnames anywhere in Northern Ireland who would be prepared to consider taking a sponsored DNA test then please let them (and us) know.

So what do we need from you to see if you qualify for a free DNA test? We just need some information on who your ancestors are of that surname and where you believe they came from. We'll then look at the bigger picture and let you know if you have been selected for the free test (which is a mouth swab). As many of you are aware we are still carrying out DNA projects in the Ballycarry and Islandmagee areas. If you have an ancestor from that area then you may also qualify for a free DNA test. So let us know who that ancestor is and your line of descent and we'll check it out. For further details or to put forward your name for testing please contact Martin and Anne on -

[dna@nifhs.org](mailto:dna@nifhs.org)

## BIRTHDAY VISIT



Whilst on a mini-break in Derry/Londonderry during the summer this year celebrating a special birthday, the Chair of the North of Ireland Family History Society Mrs Alison Tait and husband Ken met up with Gerard Harvey, Chair of the local branch NIFHS Foyle and me, Nuala McGee, Secretary.

Gerard and I both felt it was important to mark Alison and Ken's visit to our beautiful city and what better way to do this than to arrange a meeting with the youngest ever First Citizen of our beautiful city, but would this be possible on his last day in office?

Mayor Alderman Graeme Warke kindly agreed and hosted a meeting in his Parlour in the historic Guildhall, right in the heart of this beautiful city.



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### LOOKUP UPDATE

#### BUCKNA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CO. ANTRIM

As part of the Jack Adams collection of photocopied registers we were given a typed copy of the baptisms from Buckna Presbyterian Church. The dates covered are 1841-1893, and these have now been entered into a spreadsheet and sorted by surname. Some entries have been checked against the microfilm at PRONI. There are 3,120 baptisms recorded, and these are now available for 'look up'.

#### 1<sup>ST</sup> DROMARA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CO. DOWN

Baptisms 1816-1922    Marriages 1817-1845    Burials 1750-1972

A couple of months ago we completed baptisms, marriages, and burials from this church. Another, later, baptism register which records the baptisms in an alphabetical book was then found and has now been transcribed. This extends the transcriptions of baptism records which were 1816-1872 and are now from 1816 to 1922, adding another 465 baptisms.



Sandra Ardis  
Projects Coordinator

### RESEARCH CENTRE UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2022

In view of the improving health situation the NIFHS Volunteers who open and man the Research Centre now plan to open the premises on Tuesday afternoon and Tuesday evening from the start of October 2022 in line with current Government advice. The Research Centre will be run as normally as possible and there will be no need to pre book. The Air Purifier will be in use in the Randal Gill Library, during opening hours, and hand sanitiser will be available. There will be no limiting restriction in place, however, we would ask that you do not attend if you are experiencing any of the symptoms of the COVID 19 virus.

In order to support the reopening plans for the Research Centre, we are launching a new 'Super Saturday' initiative to encourage greater use of the Research Centre, at the weekends, by groups from branches. This will enable branches to arrange for a group to attend for private research on a regular basis or to hold a 'Branch Look Up Live' session via Zoom. This new initiative has been suggested by Su Topping and David Simms of the Larne Branch. Thank you to Su and David. The Research Library Volunteer Group would be very grateful for further good ideas to promote and encourage the use of the Research Centre and to maximise the use of excellent resources held there. The Group would also welcome more volunteers. Please contact Kathleen Morrison if you are interested in volunteering to help in the Research Centre.

Of course, in addition to family history research, we are all looking forward to meeting up again together and having a bit of welcome good craic!!

Alison Tait  
Chair NIFHS, September 2022



## DNA SUMMER SCHOOL 2022

DNA Summer School 2022 was held over 5 days from 22nd August with two classes a day via Zoom and it was another fantastic week of all things DNA.

We were delighted that bookings exceeded those of last year, once again many people chose to attend all ten sessions. Many thanks to everyone who booked and helped to make it such a success.

This year we recorded each class and made the video available for 28 days to anyone who had booked that class. This allowed people from otherwise conflicting time zones to book, and it also allowed everyone the chance to watch the classes again if they needed a refresher of the topics covered. We were unsure how this would affect the number of people joining us "live", but plenty of people attended from many different parts of the world and participated with excellent questions and comments, helping once again to make this a sociable and welcoming event.

Having the videos available also allowed us to keep bookings open until the very end of Summer School as people could catch up in their own time. In those five days we gained another 6 bookings for all ten classes plus a further 21 individual bookings - it was definitely worthwhile.

Another addition this year was spot prizes at some of the classes. We gave away DNA tests, subscriptions, and tee shirts, donated from FTDNA, DNA Painter, Gedmatch, Genetic Affairs and Mags Gaulden. Thank you to our sponsors and congratulations to our lucky winners!

As usual our guest speakers were very popular, with Maurice Gleeson, Mags Gaulden and EJ Bloom all sharing their specialist knowledge. We had excellent feedback from many of the attendees not only about these guest speakers, but also about our very own DNA experts Martin McDowell and Anne Johnston who always manage to impart their vast knowledge in such an easy and friendly way.

Here are just a few of the comments we received during Summer School 2022:

*I've already learnt so much just after two sessions!*

*Thank you, Anne, for another thought-provoking talk.*

*I am totally loving all of it. I actually could listen to Martin over and over. His enthusiasm is so contagious. You are all wonderful though.*

*What a wonderful week it was. I am so inspired...*

Well done to Martin, Anne and the team for another successful DNA Summer School - from planning to delivery it was a wonderful achievement!

Linda Kilby  
DNA Project





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### NEW ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY - August 2022

- 035--070 Donegal Annual No 74 2022 Celebrating 75 years: 1947-2022  
Donegal Historical Society
- 150--095 Co. Antrim, 2nd Ahoghill Pres. Church, Trinity, Bap. 1835-1901, Mar. 1836-1845  
NIFHS Project Group
- 150--096 Co. Antrim, Brookside Pres., (3rd Ahoghill), Bap. 1859-1901 NIFHS Project Group
- 150--097 Co. Antrim, Cushendall & Cushendun Pres., Bap. 1854-1921, Glenarm Pres. 1836-1903,  
March 1840 NIFHS Project Group
- 175--007 Co. Antrim, Glenavy & Killead R.C. Parish, Bap. 1848-1891 NIFHS Project Group
- 555--201 Agnews of the Braid and Glens: Shawbridge, Douglas
- 555--202 "Proud to be Irish", Journey of Henry McIllree from Ireland to Horse Breeder in Colonial Victoria,  
Australia: Morrison, Jane
- 675--175 Co. Antrim, Portmore Cemetery, Lurgan Union, Burials 1894-1929 NIFHS Project Group
- 750--194 Co. Londonderry, Magherafelt Union Workhouse, Indoor Relief Register, 1847: Bodkin,  
James Alistair
- 875--018 Belfast Reflections: Campbell, Aidan
- 900--409 Co. Donegal, Drumhome, Annals of, Documenting 1,500 years of History:  
Drumhome Heritage Society
- 900--410 Mid & East Antrim: 1921 -2021: Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
- 950--079 Co. Londonderry, Blackhill School, Draperstown & other Local National Schools: Bodkin,  
James Alister

### AND FINALLY...

- **Membership Renewal** -  
Branch Members, if you haven't already done so, it's time to renew and continue to benefit from all that your membership offers you. Find out the various methods to renew at -

[www.nifhs.org/membership/](http://www.nifhs.org/membership/)

- **PRONI Course** -  
Another of PRONI's very popular Getting Started Workshops - **Using Online Resources**, is scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> October. Register at -

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/public-record-office-of-northern-ireland-17939211570](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/public-record-office-of-northern-ireland-17939211570)

These workshops book up very quickly so, if you are interested, waste no time.

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