



CONNECT

*The newsletter of AGI and ASGRA,
the accrediting bodies for Irish and Scottish Genealogists*



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*The Newsletter of AGI and ASGRA,
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Welcome to our tenth Newsletter. It's amazing for us to think that we have produced 10 of these!!!! But our sincere thanks go out to those who commented, made suggestions to improve the publication and to those who contributed or helped in any way with this Issue.

Since our last issue in August, AGI have visited Glasgow to attend an excellent ASGRA CPD event held in the Mitchell Library in Glasgow in October. This is reported in this Issue from both a Scottish and an Irish perspective!!! Later, in November, **Jill Williams** from the Irish Genealogy Research Society (IGRS) gave an informative talk to AGI members in Dublin about their rich archives in London.

In this quarter's edition we present another interesting set of articles from both our organisations and sees the AGI group branch out and put the spotlight on a prominent regional archive in Ireland.

As usual, we hope you find the Issue useful and enjoyable. As before, we would welcome your comments and suggestions.

If you would like to contribute please get in touch with one of the *CONNECT* editors.

This Newsletter has been put together by Michael Walsh MAGI from AGI and Lorna Kinnaird PGDip from ASGRA. The production responsibilities for the Newsletter have been cheerfully assumed by John Grenham MAGI.



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AGI Council Office Bearers

President: **Máire Mac Conghail**
mairemacconghail@eircom.net

Hon. Secretary: **Georgina Scally**
info@accreditedgenealogists.ie

Hon. Treasurer: **Sandra Doble**
sandraandliam@eircom.net

ASGRA Council Office Bearers

Chairman: **Janet B Bishop**
asgra.chrm@gmail.com

Secretary: **Ian F. Marson**
secretary@asgra.co.uk

Treasurer: **John McGee**
whechmcgee@hotmail.co.uk

Any content for inclusion in **CONNECT** will be most gratefully received and can be sent to Michael Walsh (AGI) at michael9walsh@gmail.com or to Lorna Kinnaird (ASGRA) at dunedingenie@virginmedia.com

Our next edition is planned to go out in February 2019 and the deadline for submissions is 31 January 2019.

We hope that you enjoy reading the Newsletter!



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News from Scotland and Ireland...

News from Ireland

Back to Our Past – Friday 19 October – Sunday 21 October 2018

Last month the biggest event in the Irish Genealogy calendar the **Back to Our Past (BTOP)** exhibition was held at the Royal Dublin Society (RDS) in Ballsbridge, Dublin. The event was part of a huge exhibition for the over 50s which ran for 3 days from Friday 19 October to Sunday 21 October 2018 and was free to the general public. It is a unique event in Ireland which brings together professional genealogists, major website owners, book publishers, software providers, family history societies and genealogical organisations.



AGI's well-manned Stand!!!



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AGI had a large well-manned stand for the 3 day event staffed by willing members and offering books written by members, including Paul Gorry's new release which was hot off the press "*Credentials for Genealogists: Proof of the Professional*", some second-hand volumes as well as the usual array of cakes, balloons and colourful banners.



AGI Members volunteered to offer consultations to the general public to discuss their research problems and their inevitable "brick walls". For those just starting to research their own family history, this represents a great opportunity to obtain helpful advice on how to get started. AGI members used two consultation tables to offer 20 minute FREE consultations to the public over the three days. These consultations proved popular and were over-subscribed. AGI members also provided consultations on the *National Archives of Ireland* stand.

Sincere thanks are due to the BTOP sub-committee of Nicola Morris, Joan Sharkey, Anne-Marie Smith and Georgina Scally for all of their hard work before and during the event, to everyone who helped in any way to make the event a success and to all those Members and Affiliates who volunteered their time over this busy weekend.

Michael Walsh MAGI



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Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

The *Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Programme* for 2018 has been finalised by Helen Kelly MAGI and her team. Undertaking CPD is a mandatory requirement for professional genealogists in Ireland which allows them to maintain their accreditation. Attendance is monitored by AGI.

CPD Event: 6 November 2018

A varied, informative and entertaining CPD event was held at the Dublin City Library in Pearse St on Tuesday 6 November 2018.



The afternoon began with an interesting and thoughtful talk on video conferencing by **John Grenham MAGI**, the doyen of Irish Genealogy. For many, it was their first exposure to these new technologies which enables a lecturer to reach an audience online and allows interactive participation by attendees. The illustrated talk concentrated on the different technologies, the various suppliers and their differing approaches and services, as well as discussing ways in which AGI might utilise this emerging technology. For many, the topic was new and the potential and opportunities it presented were as surprising as they were challenging and exciting.

A study in concentration!

This was followed by an informative and comprehensive talk by **Jill Williams** from the Irish Genealogy Research Society (IGRS) whose main archives are in London.

This was a broad sweep through the resources that the IGRS has accumulated since its inauguration in 1936. For many the sheer scale and the range and depth of the IGRS archives came as a surprise. These rich archives contain huge online resources, conventional sets of indexes, books, journals, biographies, gravestone inscriptions, manuscripts, family histories, local censuses, parish registers, transcripts of chancery and exchequer bills, wills, pleadings and pedigrees, trade directories and catalogues as well as a collection of old newspapers.

In addition, there are a number of resources unique to the IGRS including the well-known Townlands Index and the relatively unknown archives of early Irish births, early Irish marriages and early Irish deaths that are available online. In addition, there are also other notable contents including Dublin Directories and Church of Ireland and Presbyterian resources. This, added to a number of large personal collections of indexes, private libraries and family histories built up over



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many years and bequeathed for preservation and broadcast by former leaders and officers of GRS, make up a huge genealogical resource for Irish genealogists.



Jill Williams of IGRS (Front-centre) with Officers from AGI

Back L-R: Georgina Scally and Sandra Doble,

Front: Joan Sharkey (L) and Máire Mac Conghail (R)

Besides these impressive online resources, IGRS has a formidable collection of books and extensive collections of family manuscripts which are available for personal research at its offices in London. The IGRS currently has a welcome temporary home with the *Society of Genealogists (SOG)* at their premises at Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London. EC1M 7BA. However, if you are planning a visit to the Library, advance contact is recommended so that the files you require can be made available.

Michael Walsh MAGI



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Finally we present an Irishman's account of an ASGRA CPD event in Glasgow

It Wisnae Half Bad

The CPD event in Glasgow was a resounding success. It had two aspects (as do all CPD events), educational and collegial. On both fronts, our hosts ASGRA made a superb job of organising things.

The hotels they recommended were all carefully selected to be within easy walking distance of each other and of the city centre. This made both liquid collegiality and access to the *Mitchell Library* very simple.

On the first evening ASGRA arranged a meal that typified Glasgow, in 'Mr Singh's India', all Sikh turbans and kilts and haggis pakora. A great night was had by all, with the tab very generously picked up by ASGRA. Next year in Dublin ... without the haggis pakora.



The following morning kicked off with a superb talk on Glasgow Poor Law records in the *Mitchell Library* given by Irene O'Brien, Glasgow City Senior Archivist. The first and most important point she made was that, despite the name, there was almost no similarity with the Irish



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or English Poor Law. What Glasgow had from 1845 was more akin to an all-encompassing welfare state than the begrudged misery doled out in Irish workhouses. A vast bureaucracy collected huge quantities of information on the families of applicants, who could be widows, unemployed, sick, orphans ... And that information is all in the *Mitchell*.

Glasgow's gigantic industries drew in tens of thousands of immigrants from rural Ireland, Ulster especially. So these Poor Law Applications hold information on Irish families from well before the start of Irish civil registration or church registers. And not just names, also locations, in-laws, work histories, even little character sketches: "an awful boozer".

Irene then gave us a tour of the *Mitchell*, which is the one-stop shop for Scottish genealogy in Glasgow, an equivalent of the *National Records Centre* in Edinburgh. We lapped it up and gleefully played with the Poor Law records. Stephen and Joan even managed to find details of their own ancestors.



That evening we collegialised to our hearts content at the Villa Toscana on Argyle St.



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The following morning, a wee bit bleary, we had an extraordinary two-part talk by Graham Holton, Principal Tutor on the MSc in Genealogical, Palaeographic and Heraldic Studies at Strathclyde University. Graham took us from the basics of genetic genealogy right through to the current state of play, with plenty of examples and hands-on quizzes. This was followed by a more playful talk by John McGee titled "The Pride of Lions", detailing the family histories of the Glasgow Celtic team who won the European Cup in 1967. There was a little cultural cross-purpose when John was surprised to learn that his audience of middle-aged, middle-class Irish were not all passionate Celtic supporters, but the humour of the talk and the light it shed on the ancestral diversity of Glasgow were second to none.

That afternoon we made our separate ways home, tired but wiser. All in all, it **wisnae half bad**.



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News from Scotland

ASGRA/AGI CPD EVENT 30 September - 2 October 2018

The ASGRA and AGI partnership held a Continuing Professional Development event between Sunday 30 September and Tuesday 2 October 2018, in Glasgow, and everyone agreed that it was a resounding success.

The event began with a social evening in Mr Singh's Indian Restaurant in Anderston, where the members attending were treated to an enjoyable meal and attentive service by the owner and staff. The Scottish/Indian cuisine was especially well-received by our Irish members – you cannot get haggis pakoras in Dublin!

On the Monday morning, the members were given an interesting talk in the Moir Dyer Room of the Mitchell Library on 'Finding your Irish Ancestors', by Dr Irene O'Brien, Glasgow City Archivist, and she discussed immigration from Ireland to the West of Scotland. Irene placed particular emphasis on the extensive Glasgow Poor Law records, which are particularly useful in tracing the origins of Irish immigrants, whilst also providing deep social and historical knowledge of the poor in Victorian and Edwardian Glasgow. Irene then gave the group a tour of the ScotlandsPeople facility, within the Registration Department, the City Archives, and a small exhibition on Charles Rennie Mackintosh's family history, presented by Fermanagh-born Michael Gallagher. It turned out that Mackintosh's father had been born in County Cavan, although of Scots parentage - distillers working in Cavan. During the afternoon, one or two AGI members had a go at researching the Glasgow Poor Law database, with a measure of success in tracing some Irish ancestors who had come to Glasgow.

On the Tuesday morning, the members were regaled with a talk in the Blythswood Room of the Mitchell Library, on 'Genetic Genealogy', by Graham Holton from the Genealogical Studies department of the University of Strathclyde, and he discussed the advances in DNA technologies, which nowadays aids the genetic genealogist in tracing matching ancestors. Graham went into detail on the advances in autosomal, mitochondrial and Y-DNA testing and matching techniques, and the group came away with a greater understanding of technical terms such as haplogroups, terminal SNP and the exotically named centiMorgans. The final light-hearted talk was given to the group by John McGee, ASGRA treasurer, on his book *Pride of the Lions*, the family history of the Lisbon Lions, particularly concentrating on the Irish contribution through immigration to the formation of the Celtic team that won the European Cup in 1967.

Thanks were given by Ian Marson, Secretary, on behalf of ASGRA, and Joan Sharkey, Vice-President, on behalf of AGI, for a well-attended and well-received CPD event.

John McGee, Treasurer



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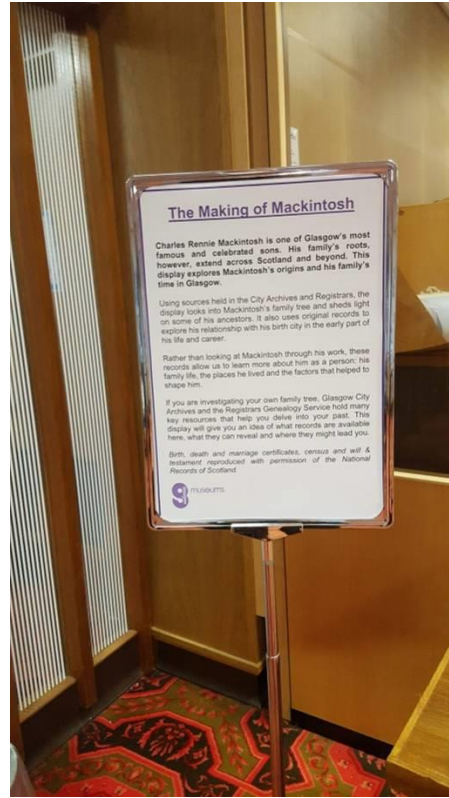
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Looking at the Charles Rennie MacIntosh collection.



**Image: The AGI and ASGRA group at the Mitchell Library
Archivist Irene O'Brien**



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Image: Talk by John McGee



Talk by Graham Holton on DNA



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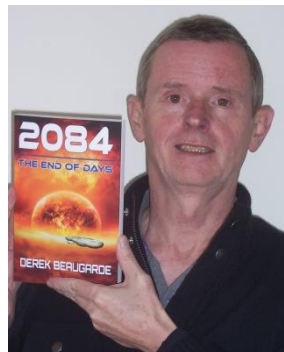
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Getting to know each other...

In each Issue we interview principal members of each organisation so that members can get to know other key players better.

Introducing John McGee of ASGRA



Ref.	Questions
Q1	Name: John McGee
Q2	Email: wheechmcgee@hotmail.co.uk
Q3	Occupation: Retired management accountant with Network Rail and currently a professional genealogist and member of ASGRA.
Q4	Location: Glasgow and the West of Scotland



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Q5	Areas of research and specialisms: I specialise in family history research particularly in Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Ayrshire, Renfrewshire, Dunbartonshire and Argyllshire. I also like to specialise in military research.
Q6	What brought you into genealogy? Like most people doing my own family history engendered a love of doing this type of research. This was followed by doing my wife's family history and soon I was asked by friends, family and colleagues to pursue their family histories. Taking early retirement from the rail industry allowed me the time to gain the knowledge and experience to become a full member of ASGRA.
Q7	What has been your most interesting client commission? (no mention of client name please) I think my most interesting client commission to date was not actually a family history, but a company history of the oldest extant printing firm in Scotland. This led to me collaborating with the production of a book celebrating the history of the company.
Q8	What is your favourite archive and why? The Glasgow City Archive is my personal favourite and I particularly enjoy researching the fascinating Glasgow Poor Law archive.
Q9	Have you researched your own family history? As stated previously, researching my own family history is what set me on the path to professional genealogy. I always believed my McGee line would lead me back to Ireland, however, I stretched my McGee genealogy back to an Archibald McGie born about 1680 and he lived in Ochiltree in Ayrshire.
Q10	What tips can you offer a beginner?



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	<p>Always stick to the facts as you find them in the records and never make bold assumptions. Never try and bend the facts to suit a particular family legend that a client may offer up.</p>
Q11	<p>How do you relax or what other interests do you have?</p> <p>My main area of relaxation is in writing and I am now working on my fourth book. I also like cartooning, but have found less time for that in the past few years.</p>
Q12	<p>Any other comments or information to add?</p> <p>I have just become a grandfather for the first time to grandson Cailean, so family history never stops, does it?</p>



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Alan J L MacLeod, FSGRA

Alan MacLeod is an ASGRA Member of 35 years. This year on 30 November, Alan celebrated his 90th Birthday, and in advance of this, on 2 November, at a small informal lunch, Council and some long-established members helped him celebrate. We were pleased to also welcome Alan's daughter, Morag, at The Guildford Arms.

Alan joined ASGRA after a career in seeds with Scottish Agricultural Industries. During the past 35 years, Alan has given loyal service to ASGRA, both as a member, and as a member of council, holding offices, including that of Chairman, and attending functions attended by ASGRA, such as WDYTYA? Live and the Annual SAFHS Conference. His late wife Gwen was also an early member and past Chairman of the Association. In 2015, Alan was elected President, a role he has filled with commitment and enthusiasm. He has now decided to cut back a bit on his research, and I'm sure we all agree he is entitled to do that!



*Thanks to Morag Harvey for the photo:
Back, l to r: Hazel Weir; Diane Baptie; Bruce Bishop; Ian Marson; Alan MacLeod; Janet Bishop; Lorna Kinnaird
Front, l to r: John McGee; Val Wilson*

To mark his special day, Council thought it timeous to recognise Alan's tireless commitment and loyalty to ASGRA, and were pleased to award him with a Fellowship. He was delighted to accept this honour. Congratulations, Alan, and Happy Birthday!



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Focus on

In each Issue we will focus on a Scottish or an Irish archive.

The purpose of these guides is to give some “top tips” for practical use of the archives based on the experience of users. So, you will hopefully find out some different details to those advertised on the archive’s website!!

We hope that this will help new users feel more comfortable using these archives for the first time. The authors of these articles are also happy to hear from new users of these archives if they have any further questions about them.

Spotlight on...

In this Issue on an Irish archive, but instead of the capital city we are taking you to the country’s second city of Cork and to the [Archives for Cork City and County](#)

The Archives in Cork

The Archive for Cork City and County is situated on the outskirts of the City. It is funded jointly by Cork City Council, Cork County Council and University College Cork. It was originally established in 1971 and the collection was held in the 18th century Holy Trinity (Christchurch) now The Triskel Art Centre. The current location is in Blackpool on the Northside of the City. It is in the first standalone purpose-built Archives in Ireland, named after the sculptor Seamus Murphy who was born nearby. It is in the care of Brian McGee the Chief Archivist. The Research Room has twelve places with full sized worktables and wifi access.





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The Collection

The contents of the CCCA are measured by their length – currently at 4 kilometres! It holds a wide range of material from 17th century with some medieval land records.

An eclectic mix of Church, Military, Business, Social and Personal sources for research is available to the Historian and Genealogist. The CCCA is very happy to hear about and accept donated materials.

Some of the highlights include:

- Board of Guardian collections for most of the City and County Workhouses
- A recent donation of the 20th Century Photograph Collection from photographer Anthony Barry who was also the creator of Barry's Tea
- The Richard Dowden Papers which give a fascinating insight into the life of the 19th Century Mayor of Cork, his social life and friendships
- A comprehensive collection of donated material for The War of Independence including papers belonging to Tom Barry and Terence McSwiney
- 18th and 19th Land and Estate Papers includes Midleton Estate in East Cork. Cork Archives is active in the Landed Estates Digitisation Project, more information about the participation may be found on askaboutireland.ie



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The Archive for Cork City and County

Migrant Sources

It may be thought that the collection here in Cork may be of limited interest to researchers outside the County. However, Cork as a busy City and Port, holds many migrant and business communities who bring their culture and connections with them.

The Archives holds collections from Dissenter communities including The Society of Friends in Cork, the Jewish community, the Methodist community and of particular interest to the Northern and Scottish researcher, the collections of the Presbyterian Church which was known locally as 'The Scots Church' and are amongst the oldest religious records in Ireland.

The Princes Street Chapel Minister's records begin in 1717 to 1858 and the Presbyterian Meeting House Collection dates from 1758 to 1822. There were a number of small non-conformist communities meeting within the City and a schism occurred in the early 1850s which is thoroughly documented in the Princes Street Chapel's Ministers papers, giving a list of subscribers and their voting choices amongst many other documents, and includes the subsequent decision to become a non-subscribing Presbyterian Community. The Archives also holds the records of the Scots Church in Queenstown, (now Cobh) from 1841 to 1953.

Online Resources

For those unable to physically access the Archive building, the Archives website has comprehensive coverage of the collections and offers excellent opportunities for online research. In particular the Digital Archive gives not only a flavour of the whole collection but also digitised



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documents for research. A particular strength is the ongoing digitisation of the City's cemetery records in the care of the Archives. <http://www.corkarchives.ie/collections/onlinedigitalarchive/>

The Website is searchable by *Google* as well as having an internal search engine. The online catalogue database of holdings <http://catalogue.corkarchives.ie> holds a wealth of information for analysis. The 'Index to listed collections' gives a flavour of life in Cork and possibilities for research. <http://www.corkarchives.ie/collections/indexesoflistedcollections/>

Regular exhibitions both online and at the Seamus Murphy Building are of general interest. The current exhibition demonstrates the collection of the life of Young Irelander and Corkman, Denny Lane. <http://www.corkarchives.ie/exhibitionsandresources/onlineexhibitions/>

Visiting Cork Archives

Planning a visit must be made well in advance, it is necessary to formally register with the Archivist to view a collection before confirming appointments. No Reader's Ticket is issued. Arrangements for any document copying are arranged through the Archives Copyright Policy. Full details are on the website homepage. <http://www.corkarchives.ie/access/>

The Archives is situated about 15 minutes' walk from the centre of the City (Via Leitrim St) and the 203 bus service will bring you close to the building. There is limited street parking by meter. A better option may be to park in the free carpark at the Blackpool Shopping Centre which also has several restaurants and a branch of the library and is only a few minutes' walk away.

Note that the building closes for lunch between 1pm and 2pm daily. A good option for the researcher may be to visit the North Cathedral Visitors Centre, two blocks away, which houses the Local History Society, The Folklore Project and Community Vintage Tearooms. <http://www.corkarchives.ie/access/locationmapandroutess/>

Contact

Cork City and County Archives

Address. Seamus Murphy Building, Great William O'Brien Street, Blackpool, Cork, Ireland.

Research Hours Tuesday to Friday 10am to 1pm, 2pm to 5pm by appointment only

Phone number. + 353 (0)21 4505 886 or 4505 876

Email archivist@corkcity.ie

Website www.corkarchives.ie

Ann Marie Coghlan Affiliate AGI

End of Newsletter