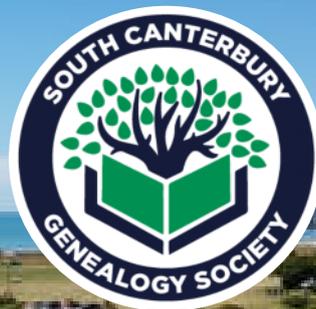


South Canterbury Genealogy

May/June 2023



From the editor

Carol Bell



Our rooms at the Arcade are up and running again. Well almost. Work is now under way to get us back into shape - desks the right way up, plaster dust removed, shelves restocked etc etc. You'll see here our lovely Fay at the weekend, cleaning cloth in hand. The ceilings have all been replaced and most of the heavy lifting done. Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers who have helped with the packing up and unpacking and who have been carrying on transcribing at home in the interim. You are our biggest asset.

I see that in her offering about winter storms for this edition, Olwyn Whitehouse has included a reference to DigitalNZ. I'm looking forward to hearing our speaker from DigitalNZ this month. I find their work crops up in most of my New Zealand history searches, and they have great photos. It'll be interesting to have someone expand on their work.



Chair's report



from Liz Shea

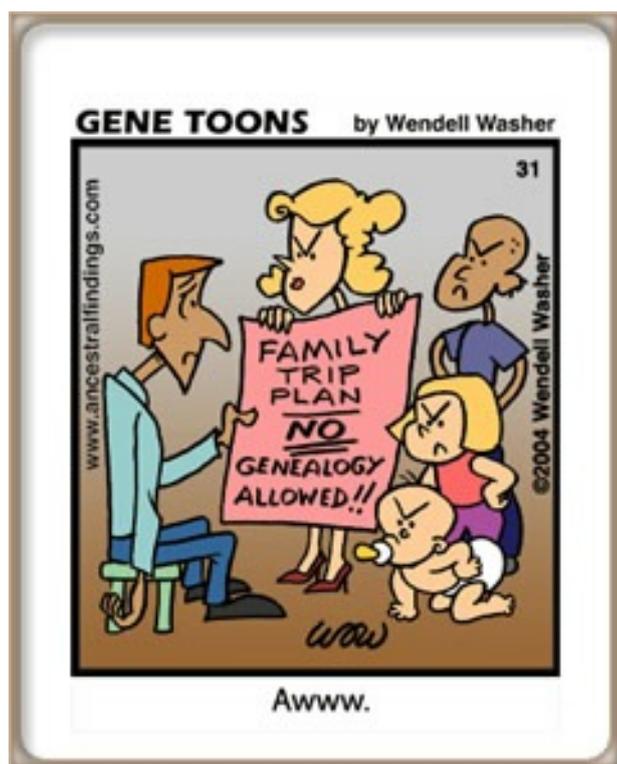


South Canterbury genealogical resources timaru.gen.nz

Hi everyone,
Winter has arrived and with shorter days and longer nights, a bit more time to hunt out family history instead of being in the garden. June 18th - 25th is Volunteer Week and it is timely to take time to thank all our volunteers in our group.

The committee put in lots of extra work to ensure our meetings run well, our guest speakers are looked after and assisted with technology for presentations and our members are comfortable. Our other volunteers are the brilliant team of transcribers, working on such items as funeral cards, passenger lists and a myriad of other documents that are transcribed into indexes that everyone can follow. Requests through our website are then easy to follow. Thanks also to the volunteer that manages our Sunday roster at the SC Museum every Sunday and the volunteers that spend time there. Their efforts to assist members of the public to discover their roots is very much appreciated.

Check out the display at the SC Library for details of other volunteer opportunities





News



ScotlandsPeople has added more than 80,000 entries from 1798-1853 from prison registers for two Edinburgh gaols and one in Largs, Ayrshire.

<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/guides/record-guides/prison-registers#What-prison-registers-available-ScotlandsPeople>

National Records of Scotland (NRS) holds prison records from the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) and its predecessor bodies (in particular the Scottish Home and Health Department Prisons Division) which had responsibility for the construction and running of Scotland's prisons. Included in this collection are registers of prisoners (NRS, HH21), images of which are made available online for the first time. Prison registers were maintained by each Scottish prison and record details of prisoners who were in custody, both tried and untried. They recorded daily admissions to prisons and are a valuable source of information for both family and social historians. For each prisoner the registers generally include name, date of admission to the prison, particulars of the trial or offence and sentence, if convicted, and the date liberated or removed from the prison. They can also contain significant personal details such as age, place of birth, nationality, occupation, height, general health and religious persuasion.

The admission registers of Perth Prison, Largs Jail and Edinburgh's Bridewell and Calton Prisons are accessible on ScotlandsPeople. At present, the following registers are available:

Edinburgh Bridewell, 1798-1840

Edinburgh (Calton) Prison, 1841-1851

Largs Prison, 1843-1853

Perth convict journals (male), 1867 to 1879

Perth Prison registers (male), 1888 to 1897, 1902 to 1909, 1913 to 1921

Perth Prison registers (female), 1901 to 1916

Plans for the year

- June:** Ting Sun from Digital NZ
- July:** Royal Show at the museum
- August:** Alexander Turnbull library
- September:** A Memory Tree
- October:** Rootstech
- November:** WW1 battle plaques at the Bay



MEMORIES OF A STAFFORD ST RETAILER

The '30s and '40s were the days of centralised retailing. The only suburban stores were groceries and butcher's shops, and Stafford Street had a monopoly on all other retailing concerns. Grocer shops were plentiful in Stafford Street too, with as many as six in the central area.

The open or island display that shoppers expect today was almost unknown until the mid 1930s, and in a lot of cases the window display was the only showpiece the shop offered. Stock was generally kept in boxes stacked on shelves and was displayed only on demand.

The bane of the shop assistant's life were A & P shows, held at weekends or holidays. Staff were at the shop at the crack of dawn, loading stock onto trucks. Nearly half the shop's stock was taken to country towns where staff pitched tents and quite often froze all day as they sold goods to show patrons. At the end of the day they would break camp, reload the trucks and drive back to town to replace the remaining stock on the shelves ready for the next day's work. All this earned the staff no extra money. They were paid their normal week's wages and that was it. Overtime was an unheard-of commodity in those days. Shopping Weeks were another pre-war institution. These were a device by which retailers advertised their area and attracted people to the town. They were most often held in the winter months when business was slow. They were sometimes preceded by Home Week, which was designed to bring former residents back to the town for a visit.

Shops and streets were made as attractive as possible with abundant displays of flags and bunting, and arrangements were made with the railway authorities to bring excursion trains from Ashburton and Oamaru, and beyond. A street parade was held with decorated floats and balloons, all laboriously blown up by shop assistants, were given to the children.

In those days the system of getting goods on approval was much more comprehensive than it is now. Customers would telephone and tell staff what they were interested in. A selection would then be delivered to their home for perusal. A few days later they would advise the shop that it could collect its merchandise. Customers were billed for what they kept, but quite often they would not keep anything at all. However, the customer was always right and patronage was valued in those lean Depression years. Retailing was often a chancy business in those years. It was not safe to allow credit unless payment was assured. Many farmers had to have an order on their mercantile firm before they could buy even the smallest item. During the leanest years it became necessary, if a customer paid by cheque, to keep him talking while another staff member dashed to the bank to check on his credit rating.



MEMBERS OUT AND ABOUT



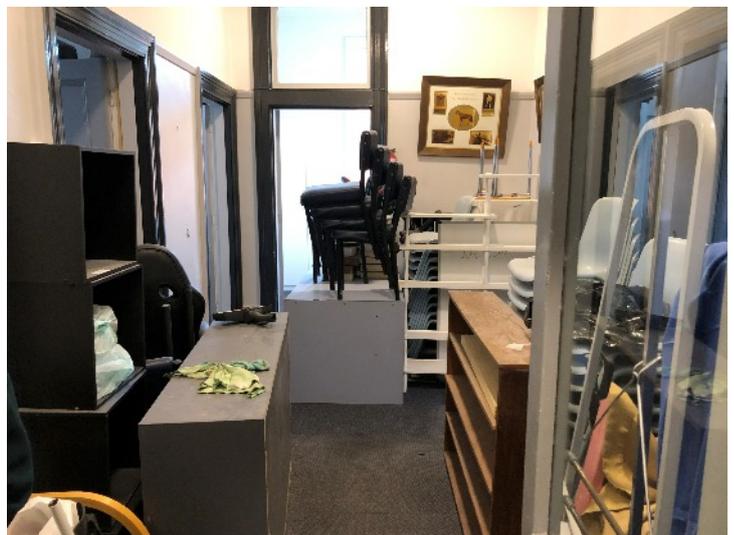
Chairman Liz was asked to plant the tree to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III



Above: the group had a stand at the Positively Ageing expo at the Bay. Carolyn and Teresa also took a turn at the desk, but managed to avoid the photographer.



Right: the work's finished at the Arcade, they said. Looks like it's just about to start!



Clare Palliser has shared this history of her family with permission from the author. It is reproduced here as a piece of local interest and also to show what can be achieved in our own family history when we put pen to paper. It will be serialised for this format and printed over the next few months.

CISSY

1888-1967

by Libby Clark

*The continued story of Siceley Clark
and the Palliser family: From Yorkshire
to Timaru to Napier*



In 1903, the wedding party of the eldest daughter, Elizabeth, was photographed outside the front entrance of Saltburn House. It appears to have been a double wedding. Frank and his mother Elizabeth are in the centre. Note the name of the house. Cissy is second from right.

One of Frank's most significant contributions to Timaru was his introduction of what came to be known as Palliser blocks. These were hollow concrete blocks made using a distinctive mould that made them appear to have been hand cut. He imported a 'Palmer's machine', to form these pre-cast concrete blocks, and the council modified their building by-law to permit their use in building construction. Six years later, Timaru was promoting itself as exporting "sunny tempered people and hollow concrete building blocks, but retains large numbers of both for its own use." A number of buildings were constructed using these blocks.

Perhaps the best place to see them now is in Caroline Bay, where there is a drinking fountain made by Frank and gifted to the town in 1905. He suggested that a suitable place for it would be in the middle of the path from the band rotunda to the steps up the terrace. It was duly erected there and moved twice to different locations. It originally had four water jets, each with a chained drinking cup, one of which is in the local museum. The cups were removed at some stage, having been deemed to be unhygienic. The flow of water to the fountain was cut off during one of its moves, but restored in 2001.





The fountain in its original location



A Palliser family picnic at Caroline Bay about 1910. Cissy is on the left with her cup of tea, and Clara is in front with the two young girls.

The Timaru Herald carries a useful record of Frank's activities over the years. For some years he was a member of the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows, along with his father. He was one of a band of enthusiasts responsible for the formation of the South Canterbury Caledonian Society. He is noted as director of this organisation. In 1895, we see a report on the society's annual sports gathering at Patiti Point, which included running, cycling, walking, wrestling, obstacle races, bagpipes and dancing. No Pallisers appear to have been placed on this occasion, but Frank's involvement is evidence of an interest in outdoor events and Scottish customs.

Frank was an avid fisherman and hunter. According to his obituary he won his first fishing competition as a lad of 14 in Yorkshire. A March 1897 edition of the local newspaper reports on a meeting of the South Canterbury Acclimatisation Society, at which Frank was present. He submitted a report on the MacKenzie lakes, an account that is described as "of an exhaustive and interesting character". He covered the natural features of the lakes, and referred to some "netting experiments". The lakes, he concluded, were full of fish – presumably trout – and feed appeared to be plentiful. Later in the meeting, Frank stated that the North Canterbury Society were anxious to obtain a supply of fresh fish for the Selwyn River, and proposed supplying them from the Temuka River. Amongst other suggestions made was one for the introduction of catfish, geese and white swans to lakes, and chamois to the ranges. Frank thought that bream would do well in several streams "and would furnish good sport". Another member gained approval for releasing perch in the Totara Valley. A few years later (February 1902), the society reported that opossums had been liberated in their reserve, and white swans at Alexandrina. At this meeting "Mr Palliser was requested to arrange for liberation of wallaby". And again, in 1904, Frank reported to the society on the consignment of tahr that he had taken for release at Mount Cook.

Discovering that my great-grandfather enthusiastically supported, promoted and actively implemented the release of all these introduced species that would threaten our ecological balance and kill our native and endemic fauna and flora, has been somewhat distressing to this descendant. (What I need to do is remind myself that this was over 120 years ago, and people thought very differently about the environment and conservation then. For Frank and his mates, it was indeed all about 'good sport'.)

In February 1914, Frank and Margaret were farewelled by the Kia Toa Bowling Club, as they were about to depart on a visit to "the Old Land" (sic). The speaker talked about the keen interest Mr Palliser had always taken in the club, and mentioned that he had given a large amount of time and labour in the interests of the club. Special mention was made of his having constructed the "ornamental flight of steps". Others spoke in "eulogistic terms of Mr Palliser as a sportsman, and as a citizen, who had always been in the forefront in assisting almost every movement for the benefit of Timaru, and its various institutions".

Meeting reports



with Lesley Tennent



April 2023

The meeting was held following the AGM at which all officers were returned.

Present: 21 members. Apologies: Teresa Scott, Esme Jones, Robyn Davidson, Dave Jack, Pat Smolenski, Heather Fifield, Margaret Cosgrove, Sandra Sullivan.

Guest speakers were Julie James and Marie Rapley from the Timaru District Library outlining the Aoraki Heritage Collection. It was established 2014 and covers South Canterbury, including Timaru, Waimate Mackenzie. The Timaru Herald is available from 1864.

There are many and numerous items held in the collection, old items to modern day. Books featuring South Canterbury would be welcomed. Much that is held is not yet catalogued. If looking for something in particular and it is not shown on the site, please make contact. Many things are one copy only and can not be removed from the library so on-line is the best option. There is no reading room for supervised work. Paperspast has digitised the Timaru Herald to 1945. Scanning of newspaper clippings, 1950s to early 2000s, is now happening.

Sections for research are: Sports histories and jubilees, South Canterbury promotions, Aoraki Heritage, church histories and jubilees, school histories and jubilees, local photo magazines, cook book collections, school yearbooks.

Readers can download or create their own collection. Julie and Marie welcome contact from clients.

May 2023

Present: 17 members, one guest - visitor Fred Knewstubb.

Apologies: Kathy de Joux, Jill Welford, Adrienne Bruce, Carol Boulton, Annette Batchelor, Christine Stewart. Liz Shea was invited to unveil the plaque at the park that commemorates Charles III coronation. Liz brought along some items from previous coronations.

John Sutherland has had success recently – can go back to Scottish Royalty in the 1100s.

Tony Rippin from the museum briefed us on the happenings with the new heritage hub/museum.

It is an exciting time for the museum with much in the planning stage, the aim being to open in 2025.

There will be permanent gallery spaces – staff are working with specialists and iwi representatives to make displays bilingual. The exhibitions will be chronological with more Maori content.

There will not be a cafe but there is a hope that one will be opened in the near vicinity. Good car parking will be available at the rear of the complex.

Tony showed us the concept plans of the set-up.

Exhibitions will be stretching out from now on as museum staff concentrate on plans and prepare material. The present museum will be used for storage and archive functions. An archive area is planned at the front. Tony suggested they are expecting to consult with us as the project develops. The building still being assessed for earthquake proofing.

It was also suggested that hours might reduce, or there could be an increased focus on appointments. It was noted the Sundays were the busiest days, possibly due in part to our genealogy support. Mention was made about the Museum Development Trust. The aim is to raise funds to help with the project.



<https://sites.rootsweb.com/~nzlscant/>

Olwyn's South Canterbury website

Winter is on its way with beautiful sunrises. Maybe once a decade we have a good fall of snow. Growing up on Sherwood Downs in the 1960s and 70s we were used to snow. All the farmers were independent, they had tractors with snow ploughs, and shelter belts of pine plantations. The women of the house had a coal range converted to diesel oil for cooking and a wetback running behind heating hot water and storing it in a nearby hot water cylinder. Clothes were dried in the hot water cylinder cupboard or on the clothes horse near the range. The children all wore woollen hand knitted jumpers and woollen rugby socks in their gumboots. There were always temporary feed breaks to move so the hoggets could get fresh swedes and hay to feed out to the cattle. You can expect snow any time from April to November on the foothills and the view from Timaru or Fairlie was looking towards the snow-capped Two Thumb Range and Fox's Peak - nostalgic for many. Bad winter years 1939, 1945 (Timaru's biggest snowfall) and 1992. July 1 1943 on the road from Tekapo to Braemar the snow lay to a depth of 10 feet, the same date as the 1918 snow storm. Sheep returns are not always an accurate guide but they can give an indication of how severe the losses were the previous year.

November 16 1967 an unseasonal heavy snowstorm plastered the Fairlie area. The problem with this snowstorm, it was in summer and the ewes had lambs and many had finished shearing. Milk fever in cows (a magnesium deficiency) was a problem and Hereford cattle with sunburnt teats. The snow melted fast and the approach to the North River bridge went out between Ashwick Flat and Sherwood Downs. There was the August 5 1973 that dropped 3 to 4ft of snow on Sherwood Downs. The 1992 snow storm killed over one million stock in Canterbury. 7-18 June 2002 a severe snowstorm caused much disruption in Otago and Canterbury. June 11 2006 coastal snow caused so much damage to telephone and power poles.

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers> North Otago Times, 27 August 1895, Page 3 BAD WINTERS IN THE PAST.

In 1860 there was a general fall of snow all over Canterbury, seven inches or more in Christchurch. Mr Purnell, of Sherwood Downs, was lost in the snow. The frosts killed a very large number of cabbage trees on the plains, especially those west of Ashburton. The Hakateramea river was frozen over, and a bullock dray and team were taken across on the ice. In 1862 there was a heavy fall in the country in the back of Timaru, and Opawa westward; but as the hill country was then very lightly stocked, there was no great loss of stock. In 1867 a great snowstorm covered most of the hill country with from three to four feet of snow. Mr Matson, of Mount Nessing, and the writer started to get round via Burkes and Hakateramea Passes to visit the back of his run. They got through Burke's Pass easily, but on reaching the foot of the Hakateramea Pass, found it covered with deep snow (this was two months after the storm). They got to the top of the pass, but on looking down, saw nothing but one smooth slope of hard snow. They, however, determined to try it, and found that it carried the horses the whole way down, in many places across gullies with fully 20ft of snow underneath, while the print of the horses' shoes were barely visible on the frozen surface. The winter of 1868 was also a bad one at Fairlie, some eight inches of snow falling late in June. The sunny sides of the hills, however, cleared quickly, and there was no great loss of stock. After this we had a lot of fine winters until, I think, 1876, when the Mackenzie Plain and back hills experienced a very heavy fall of snow. At one station, Gray's Hills, the hard frost broke all the bedroom jugs, and a vinegar jug at the same place was broken by the frost, leaving the vinegar standing in a mass. In 1878 there was a very severe fall of snow. Messrs Smith and Morrison being lost in a snow slide on the Rollesby Range. Since 1878 we have had fairly good winters until the present one, which is far and away the worst we have had since the country has been stocked. Regarding the probable loss of sheep this year, I think very few people realise the state of the Mackenzie Country and the back hills all over Canterbury and Otago. I anticipate the loss in the Mackenzie Country will not be less than 75 per cent, and on many runs the stock will be virtually wiped out.

<https://digitalnz.org/> keywords Fairlie snow



Above, hoggets on Sherwood Downs and below, a snowplough made by Gibson Bros, Fairlie.





Members' Interests



from John Sutherland

john-m-s@xtra.co.nz

BROOKES	NEW ZEALAND	Otago	Milton	1800s
BROSNAHAN	IRELAND	Co Kerry	Scartaglin	1770+
BROSNAHAN	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury	Kerrytown	1865-
BROSNAHAN	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury	Kerrytown	1870+
BROSNAHAN	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury		1873+
BROSNAHAN	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury	Timaru	1870+
BROSNAN	IRELAND	Kerry	Castleisland	1800-1875
BROSNAN	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury		1873+
BROWN	ENGLAND	Cumberland	Milloy	1800s
BROWNLIE	NEW ZEALAND	Otago	Kaihiku	1860+
BROWNLIE	SCOTLAND	Lanarkshire		1820+
BRUCE	ENGLAND	Leicestershire	Evington	1850s
BRUCE	ENGLAND	Leicestershire	Kirkby Muxloe	1800
BRUCE	ENGLAND	Leicestershire	Thrussington	1850s
BRUCE	NEW ZEALAND	Canterbury	Christchurch	1851+
BRUCE	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury	Kakahu	1900+
BUDD	ENGLAND	Staffordshire		1800+
BUDD	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury		1860+
BURBURY	ENGLAND	Worcestershire	Bewdley	1800s
BURGE	ENGLAND	Somerset	Ansford	pre1900
BURGESS	IRELAND	Tipperary	Kyleomadaun	abt 1830
BURT	SCOTLAND	Fife	Dysart	1700-1900
BURTT	SCOTLAND	Fife	Dysart	1700-1900
CAIRNS	IRELAND	Armagh		pre1877
CAIRNS	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury	Timaru	
CAMERON	SCOTLAND	Banff	Rothiemay	abt 1773
CAMERON	SCOTLAND	Berwickshire	Forgandenny, Perth	1780-1822
CAMERON	SCOTLAND	Kilmalie		1830s
CAMPBELL	AUSTRALIA	Tasmania	Port Esperance	pre1910
CAMPBELL	NEW ZEALAND	Otago	Dunedin	pre1948
CAMPBELL	SCOTLAND	Invernesshire		pre1866
CARBIS	ENGLAND	Cornwall		1800s
CARNE	ENGLAND	Devon	Topsham	1650-1730
CARTER	ENGLAND	Essex		1910
CARTER	NEW ZEALAND	Nelson		1910+

Are your genealogical interests reflected in this list? If not, contact John Sutherland to be included. Take the opportunity to make contact with family members.



Library report

from Teresa Scott

admin@timaru.gen.nz

Recent accessions include:

Newsletters 2023:

Ashburton District Family History Group– April
Balclutha – March/April
Cambridge – May; June
Canterbury Genealogy Society – May
Dunedin – May-June
Feilding – May
Hawera – April-May
Hawke's Bay – April
Hibiscus Coast – May; June
Hutt Valley – May; June
Kapiti – April; May
Kilbirnie – May; June

Matamata – April
Mosgiel – May/June
New Plymouth Genealogy – May; June
Oamaru – May
Otaki Family History Society – April; May
Palmerston North – May
Papakura – June 2023
Porirua – June
South Canterbury Genealogy Society – March-
April 2023
South Waikato – May; June
Southland – April/May
Wairarapa –April; May
Wellington – May
Please send request for forwarding to Teresa.

Waimate Primary and District High School Centenary 1867-1967 [DH184] [donated]
Waimate Main School 1867 – 1992 [DH185] [donated]
Waimate Main School 150th Jubilee (2017) [DH186] [donated]
Origin of Names in Waimate District -Waimate Genealogical Group (1990) [DH187] [donated]

I SUFFER FROM ADGD
(Attention Deficit Genealogy Disorder)

It's when you start researching one ancestor, but get distracted by another ancestor, which causes you to bounce around to different ancestors only to end up doing a lot of work with very little to show for it!



Local contacts

SC Genealogy - Office bearers

Convener: Liz Shea 03 684 7790 Branch Contact sheafamily@farmside.co.nz

Minute secretary: Lesley Tennent 03 612 6759

Treasurer: Carolyn Johnston 03 684 5709

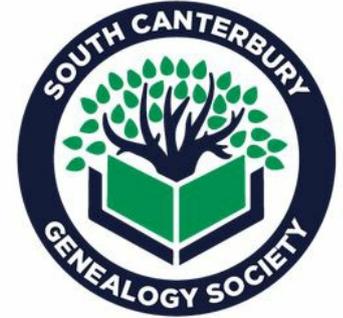
Committee: Teresa Scott 03 688 9034 Library

Lois Shears 03 688 1655 School Rolls

Clare Palliser 03 688 0896

Hilary Coles 03 615 7195

Carol Bell 03 684 7733 Newsletter - carolbel49@gmail.com



Group email: admin@timaru.gen.nz

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at the museum.

Research help is also available at our rooms 19 Royal Arcade Thursday 10am - 1pm and at the museum every Sunday 1.30pm - 4pm.

The group library is available at the museum whenever the research room is open - Tuesday to Friday and Sunday 1.30pm to 4.30pm. Books can be borrowed on Sundays but must be signed out by the librarian or a Sunday volunteer.

A working group meets on Thursday mornings at the Arcade and Friday mornings at the museum to transcribe various historical documents. Can you help? Contact Lois on 688-1655

The "Writing up your Family History" group meets Wednesday 1-3pm. If you would like help getting your research to the final stage contact Carol at carolbel49@gmail.com or 027 3399447.

