Words from the Chair

The Genealogy and Local History Section had a very successful programme at the World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) in Oslo last August, collaborating with the Geography and Map Libraries Section. Members of both Section Committees were present at the Open Sessions listening to a fine range of presentations of interest to both genealogists and geographers. We would like to thank their Section chair, David C McQuillan, and his colleagues, for their support and friendship at the conference. Especially memorable was a convivial dinner together at an Oslo Indian Restaurant.

IFLA’s Committee for Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) has acknowledged our concern about the impact of poorly drafted data privacy legislation and directives on public access to certain genealogy and local history sources in the holdings of our libraries. FAIFE has established a working group, which includes two of our standing committee members, to develop a position paper or statement for consideration by IFLA. We hope this will be of value to librarians, politicians, and administrators who must work together to resolve such issues in the best interests of the public. We welcome your input during this process via our listserv genloc@listserv.inist.fr

Our standing committee is assessing support for genealogy and local history librarianship through surveys of library associations and national libraries. We wish to identify ways that our Section can support librarians and patrons. We invite you to become active in your library association to encourage the formation of genealogy and local history Section(s) where none exist, as was recently done in the Library Association of Ireland. We will prepare and distribute (on request) an information package that will help you to do this. We hope to elevate the priority of genealogy and local history collections and services starting with national libraries. We invite you to share your ideas and suggestions via our Genloc listserv.

Our forthcoming programmes at IFLA’s annual WLICs will focus on local history, with a side trip into Korean genealogy (Seoul 2006), and on oral history and traditions (Durban 2007). We welcome your participation through the presentation of papers and attendance at these programmes.

Melvin P Thatcher, Genealogical Society of Utah.

For more information about the section and its activities, please visit our website: http://www.ifla.org/VII/s37/sgen.htm
Janice McFarlane, Treasurer of the Genealogy and Local History Section

My involvement with IFLA began in 2002, when the IFLA Conference took place in my home city of Glasgow. This was also the year that the Genealogy and Local History Discussion Group was promoted to Section status and was looking for volunteers to join its Interim Committee. The National Library of Scotland received an invitation to be represented on that Committee, and I was happy to take up that opportunity as, in my then role as Head of Reference Services, I was involved in the promotion of our resources and services to family and local historians. Over the years I have acted as Treasurer for a range of professional committees. I'm not sure why that role has always fallen to me, but I am relatively happy when dealing with accounts and balance sheets and volunteered to fill that post on the Interim Committee and later as part of the full Committee. That first Conference was enjoyable, interesting and very tiring, especially as I was also involved in staffing the National Library's stand at the Exhibition.

The National Library of Scotland is Scotland's largest library. As a legal deposit library we are a major research facility for the people of Scotland, covering all subjects, and also provide a focus for people throughout the world who are interested in Scotland and the Scots. Although we are not the main depository for Scottish vital records, that role is filled by the Registrar General for Scotland, we do hold an enormous range of material which is of use to family and local historians.

My interest in family and local history began early in my career as a librarian when I was working in the Reference Department of Glasgow University Library. The University, founded in the 15th century, retained records and publications relating to former students and academics, and we frequently received enquiries from around the world from people whose ancestors had had a connection with the university. I then lost touch with the subject for a period of 13 years when I worked in the oil industry, although, coming from a large family, I was frequently asked by relatives to do some research in this area.

I joined the National Library in 1993 and was immediately struck by the number of visits and enquiries we received from people, from around the world, who were researching their family history. As a result I have been heavily involved in publicising our resources and services in this area, including giving talks to and arranging library visits for members of family history societies. I have even managed to find some time to do some more work on my own family tree.

Apart from family history my main hobbies and interests are sports, especially skiing and keep fit, reading and the theatre.

Janice McFarlane, Section Treasurer

For more information about the section and its activities, please visit our website:

http://www.ifla.org/VII/s37/sgen.htm

IFLA: World Library and Information Congress, Seoul, Korea, August 2006

Call for Papers

The drive to preserve, promote, and publish local history has given rise to libraries, archives, and museums in many countries. After having gone their separate ways, today we see these institutions coming back together as they collectively seek to satisfy the need of communities to establish and promote their local identities and popular heritage. Papers should demonstrate the intellectual and institutional dynamics in the development of local history from its beginnings to the present and give participants a glimpse into its future direction. Emphasis on co-operation between libraries, archives, and museums in the field of local history is particularly encouraged.

Four papers will be selected for presentation.

Please send the title and a brief abstract of your paper to:

Mel Thatcher
Genealogical Society of Utah
50 East North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah
USA 84150

Tel: 1-801-240-3048
Fax: 1-801-240-1448
email: thatchermp@gensocietyofutah.org

Deadlines:
Proposals must be received by 31 January, 2006. Notification of acceptance will be sent by 15 February, 2006. Full and final versions of accepted papers must be received by 1 May, 2006. Papers may be in one of the official languages of IFLA, namely English, French, German, Russian, or Spanish.

Please note that all fees, including registration for the conference, travel, accommodation, etc. are the responsibility of the authors of accepted papers.

We sincerely hope that you will consider submitting a proposal for presenting a paper at our programme in Seoul.

IFLA 2005 Conference, Oslo

The Study Tour

The study tour was organized by Ruth Hedegaard, the Section Secretary. In the morning seventeen participants assembled at Oslo harbour, close to the impressive Town Hall. We could see the early morning boats selling shrimps to passers-by. We took the ferry to Bygdøy to visit the archives of the Norwegian Museum of Cultural History.

From there we went by bus to the City Archives with 12 attendees. Some joined us for the whole day, some only in the morning and others only in the afternoon. At both places we were very well received and they gave us very interesting tours, so people were satisfied with the study tour. As it is a privately organized visit the amount of attendees was very convenient. With a larger group, it would be difficult to keep people together.

After the visit in the afternoon, we went to the university to attend a fascinating workshop on Geographical Information Systems (GIS), organised by the Geography and Map Libraries Section. Despite the difficulties of the background IT, well known to many of us in our own countries, this was an excellent and exciting introduction, illustrating data using maps. Previously this material could be obtained using multiple map overlays, but the modern GIS system assembles geographic information within the software and is able to use computer technology for speed. The software tool combines layers of data and information about any area – we looked at Oslo - in a way which allows the viewer to examine the urban or country landscape in great detail.
Minutes of the Standing Committee Meeting 13 August, 2005

Participants:
Melvin Thatcher, Genealogical Society of Utah
Ruth Hedegaard, Vendsyssel Historical Museum, Denmark
Janice McFarlane, National Library of Scotland
Richard E. Huws, National Library of Wales
Elizabeth Melrose, North Yorkshire County Council Libraries
Colette O’Flaherty, National Library of Ireland
Juergen Warmbrunn, Herder Institute Library, Marburg
Raymond S. Wright, Family History Library, Utah
David C McQuillan, Geography and Map Libraries Section
Anita K Oser, Geography and Map Libraries Section
Cho, Myung-Joon IFLA Korea 2006 organising committee

1. Introductions were made and we welcomed our colleagues from the Geography and Map Libraries Section and Mr Cho of the IFLA Korea 2006 organising committee.

2. Future conferences: Seoul 2006
We discussed our plans for Seoul. We are already in contact with Lee Guiwon from the National Library in Seoul about arranging a workshop at the library.
Hopefully we can arrange an interesting study tour with help from our Korean counterparts.

3. IFLA HQ and Division business
Mel and Ruth reported from the Co-ordinating Board meeting on the previous day.

4. Financial report
Janice gave the financial report. The committee was uneasy about the change in the financial arrangements.
It was agreed that Mel, as Chair, should send a letter to thank the National Library of Scotland for printing and mailing the newsletter.

5. Open Session status report
Mel reported on the Oslo Open Session, arranged in co-operation with our colleagues in the Geography and Map Libraries Section.
There will be eight speakers over two sessions.

5. Study Tour status report
Ruth reported on her appointments with the Archives of the Norwegian Museum of Cultural History and with the City Archives.

6. Election of officers of the Section
Chair: Mel Thatcher
Secretary: Ruth Hedegaard
Treasurer: Janice McFarlane
Information Co-ordinator: Colette O’Flaherty
Newsletter editor: Elizabeth Melrose assisted by Richard Huws

Committee members 2003-2007:
Mel Thatcher
Ruth Hedegaard
Janice McFarlane

Committee members 2005-2009:
Richard Huws
Elizabeth Melrose
Paul Smart
Juergen Warmbrunn

7. Review of sections
IFLA HQ has sent out a questionnaire, acting as a review of all individual IFLA sections. This has to be completed by 15 November 2005.
Ruth will take care of the factual data, but asked the committee to assist with other input.
Some suggestions for inclusion in the review were:
- The 2005 Section speakers are to be asked to inform the Committee if their presentations result in future activities. A similar request will be sent to speakers from previous years and an article may be produced about this in a future Newsletter
Mel gave a presentation at a conference in Beijing, China. Ruth was to be a speaker at conferences in Prague and Vienna and Elizabeth would give a poster presentation in Prague.

- Conference successes such as the collaboration with the Geography and Map Libraries Section, the study tours, the translation of the Section leaflet into 7 languages, including Norwegian.
- Conference concerns such as the difficulties of speakers’ registration; anxiety over funding and the extra work placed on the Section treasurer; the necessity for more plans and documents to be uploaded onto IFLAnet; and the need for the IFLA membership list to be updated.
- Suggestions for future collaboration with the IFLA Reference Section.
- The first membership drive conducted by the Section.
- Formation of a new Genloc Section within the Library Association of Ireland.
- Genloc and Genloc 2: these are the list-servs for our Section and interested colleagues are invited to join these email groups. The section would like IFLA to consider the possibilities of archiving Genloc.
- The Section holds e-committee meetings which have proved very satisfactory.

As this consideration of the Review took much time, the rest of the agenda was postponed to the second committee meeting after the main IFLA Conference.

**Minutes of the Standing Committee Meeting 2, 19 August, 2006**

Participants:

Melvin Thatcher, Genealogical Society of Utah  
Ruth Hedegaard, Vendsyssel Historical Museum, Denmark  
Janice McFarlane, National Library of Scotland  
Richard E. Huws, National Library of Wales  
Elizabeth Melrose, North Yorkshire County Council Libraries  
Colette O’Flaherty, National Library of Ireland  
Paul Smart, Family History Library  
Juergen Warmbrunn, Herder Institute Library, Marburg  
John Christensen, Harold B Lee Library, Brigham Young University, Idaho, US  
Monica Cullinan, University College, Dublin  
Lee Guiwon, National Library of Korea  
Laverne Page, Library of Congress, US  
Janet Tomkins, Vancouver Public Library, Canada  
Wang Shan, Branch Library of the National Library of Korea  
Raymond S. Wright, Family History Library, Utah, US  
Cho, Myung-Joon, IFLA Korea 2006 organising committee

**1. Review of the Open Session at Oslo IFLA**

The open session was organised in collaboration with Genealogy and Map Libraries Section and divided into two periods of 2 hours each. Over one hundred people attended each session. A list was circulated at each session so that attendees could supply their contact details, since it was hoped this might be useful for the promotion of each Section. Elizabeth agreed to write to all the attendees, asking for their comments and for contributions to the Newsletter.

*Speakers at the Oslo Conference Open Sessions*

Janet Tomkins’ paper on *Navigating the world of ancestors: resources for Chinese-Canadian genealogical research* was selected as the Section choice for possible publication in the IFLA Journal. All the papers have been published on IFLAnet – for the links see: [http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla71/Programme.htm](http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla71/Programme.htm) and scroll down to 107 Genealogy and Local History with Geography and Map Libraries – including the paper on the Irish travellers by Michael O’Haolda, who was unfortunately unable to attend due to lack of funding. Four have been translated into French.

**3. Section activities for Seoul 2006**

The focus for the Open Session should be...
universal, local history from anywhere. The Asian local historical tradition is very different from the western tradition. Suggestions for topics were:

- Dynamics of local history
- Local history as a dynamic tradition

Mel will be responsible for the Open Session assisted by Ruth. Lee Guiwon will arrange an interesting workshop on Korean genealogy on the Thursday morning.

4. Communications

**The Newsletter:** Elizabeth will continue to edit this with the help of Richard Huws. The first step is to send a call for articles to Genloc. Raymond Wright suggested focusing on country reports and national initiatives so that the newsletter could include effective information for reference librarians among others. Other suggestions for inclusion could be introductory articles on other genealogy and local history (or local studies) organisations, special projects such as the Brigham Young University Immigrant Ancestor dataset, and Newsplan UK and IKON (USA) newspaper projects.

**Genloc:** The listserv has now 183 subscribers. It would be useful to know about the success or otherwise of other listservs, such as Genealib, a successful listserv for genealogy librarians (contact: Drew Smith of the University of South Florida). Colette will make enquiries.

5. Strategic Plan and Action Plan Review

Mel will insert the proposed changes into the Strategic Plan.

**Recruiting new section members:**
Richard and Janice will work on this and send reports, minutes, annual reports and newsletter to existing members. Janice has already sent the latest newsletters to 57 organisations that are not Section members. Ruth will send a list of members to the Committee.

Elizabeth, Colette and Paul will devise an information package for national associations.

Janet Tomkins agreed to consider the idea of a poster competition promoting genealogy and local history. She also suggested promoting the Section in genealogical journals.

**Best practice guidelines**
The Committee will seek out and send to

Colette published guidelines on local history collections.

**Data privacy issues**
Mel has been asked to take part in the activities of FAIFE.

6. IFLA Durban 2007

It had been suggested that the theme should deal with oral history. Mel participated in the African Section committee meeting, and Ruth in the Asian Section committee meeting. They spoke about our suggestions and requested possibilities of collaboration. At both meetings they showed interest in the subject. Ruth made several approaches to participants during the newcomers’ session to tell about our topic, and she got some contacts

**Reporter:** Ruth Hedegaard, Section Secretary

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**If any member of the Section would care to comment on any item reported in the Minutes, the Section Committee will be pleased to hear from them. Please email the Secretary of the Section, Ruth Hedegaard at rthe@stofanet.dk**

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**The Municipal and Industrial Museum of Moss, Norway and its exhibition telling the stories of 17 immigrants to the town**

Moss is a port on the Oslofjord, about an hour's drive from Oslo. The Convention of Moss establishing the union of Norway and Sweden was signed here in 1814. This union lasted until Norway gained its independence in 1905.

**The Old Mill, Moss, Norway**

Moss by- og industri museum is housed in an impressive, newly restored, brick building, once part of the old mill. It is reached by a bridge spanning the lower reaches of the river that
tumbles down the slopes and was the source of energy turning the mill wheel. The local people and the museum’s staff have recently been fascinated by the brave struggle of a mother duck to keep her family intact despite their manic desire to dare the slopes and risk a certain death in the depths. This also provided publicity in the local newspaper Moss Avis.

The huge glass doors reveal the reception desk where a smiling member of staff (part time) stands ready to greet and direct the visitor. The material is all displayed carefully in the spacious high-ceilinged rooms and explanations are in Norwegian and English and are printed on coloured sheets which may be taken away.

The displays are all about this small industrial town, illustrating the past glories and importance of the Mill, the Glassworks, Aquavit production and the Paper factory. There are also occasional displays of material from Moss Shipyard and Moss Iron Foundry.

The museum is keen to stress its interest in the life of the citizens of the town and in the town’s historical significance. The focus is on the nineteenth century.

Children are actively encouraged to come and to enjoy themselves. A beautiful, highly polished curving slide from the upper floor to the ground level is for sacks of flour. Nowadays, children hurtle down in the sacks, squealing with delight; an old game, reminiscent of Noughts and Crosses is painted on the floor and the players use small bags of grain as their counters; a complicated system of transparent tubes, also connecting the upper floors, and used for transport is now filled with coloured plastic balls introduced by the children and then ejected, after a spiralling journey, into a basket where the children collect them for new turns.

 Grinding corn can be achieved by dint of some energetic cycling or by turning the handles of small millstones set out in the spacious room devoted to school activities. Plastic bags are provided so that children can take their flour home.

Videos and computers are placed appropriately and illustrate in more detail various processes and also historical background.

The special exhibition this year is entitled Drømmen om et bedre liv (A Dream of a Better Life). It tells the stories of 17 immigrants to Moss between the years 1905 and 2005. (This year marks the 100\textsuperscript{th} anniversary of the peaceful dissolution of the union with Sweden). The immigrants, two of them represented by their grandchildren, come from Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Italy, Turkey, Hungary, Poland, Bosnia, Russia, Iran, Vietnam, Pakistan and Chile.

Their stories are told on great banners hung from the ceiling, one for each, all with a little map. Photos are displayed as a collage filling a wall and in albums. Objects of some value are placed in glass cases and show how different the lives of these people have been from those of the citizens of Moss. Now, of course, all the immigrants and their families are Norwegian citizens and they have been welcomed to the Museum at two Receptions and thanked warmly for their participation. Further contact and cultural evenings are planned.

The museum is run by the curator, her assistant and a small group of part time staff. It is obvious that funds have been available from the whole appearance and smooth functioning of the museum but, as with so many of those in this sector, they too fight for their existence and can never just rest on their laurels. Statistics show that they have many and regular visitors. They are important to the town and deserve a good and long life.

Susan Winge. Translator, Moss, Norway

John Thomas, Grandad and Korea

Wales has many connections with Korea, but one of the most interesting for me is that of the Rev John Thomas (1868-1940), who was born in the parish of Llanllawddog in Carmarthenshire, Wales. John Thomas served as a missionary in Korea from 1910 to 1939, and was the founder of a number of Congregational Churches which still carry his name, the John Thomas Churches, and which thrive to this day.
He was a member of a notable family, which produced no less than five ministers of religion. They attended the small Welsh nonconformist chapel of Bwlch-y-corn where my late maternal grandfather, David John Evans (1875-1959) was a deacon and chapel treasurer. My grandfather was a contemporary of John Thomas, and a neighbouring smallholding farmer, and often spoke of the five talented Gors Farm boys.

The story of John Thomas’ remarkable life has been told in a book entitled *Faith as a grain of mustard*, written by his youngest daughter, Gweneth Thomas Zarfoss (1914-1989), and published in 1995. [ISBN: 09252680300]. Gweneth herself was also a fascinating personality. She was born at Seoul, but spent most of her adult life in the United States where she was active in charitable circles. When she was selected ‘Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania in 1987’ this modest lady simply responded by suggesting that ‘there must have been some mistake’!

Richard E. Huws, Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru / The National Library of Wales  reh@llgc.org.uk

FAIFE Discussion Circle: Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression

Francis Kirkwood, Reference Librarian of the Library of Parliament, Ottawa, Canada, has been asked by Paul Sturges, chair of the IFLA committee on Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression, to convene a FAIFE discussion circle on the issues surrounding access to historical census data.

This topic was raised at the FAIFE committee meetings in Buenos Aires in August 2004 and again briefly in Oslo in August 2005. A short initial list of professionals - Pernille Drost, Barbara Jones, Frank Kirkwood, Elizabeth Melrose, Mel Thatcher, with Frode Bakken as the liaison with the IFLA Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters – intend to take part in the debate. Other informed participants from different countries, especially non-anglophone countries, where there are problems of access by genealogists and historians to this type of information are welcome to join in. Eventually the discussions may lead to recommendations and further action by the full FAIFE committee.

The discussion circle will try to identify the issues relating to public access to many different kinds of records in individual countries, using its experience of those states and others with whose policies the members are familiar. It will also try to identify the issues posed for genealogists, historians and other users by specific types of future access restrictions, both with regard to past and to present-day censuses and other source documentation.

Should any reader of this Newsletter have any concerns or views on this subject, please email the Chair of the Section, Mel Thatcher, at thatchermp@gensocietyofutah.org and he will direct all the comments to the discussion circle. Members of Genloc are invited to use the genloc listserv to air their opinions.

The Immigrant Ancestors Project

This project, sponsored by the Center for Family History at Brigham Young University, Utah, US, uses emigration records in emigrant home countries to locate those birthplaces of immigrants which are missing on many port records and naturalisation documents in arrival countries. At present the project focuses on emigrants from Germany, Spain, Italy, Ireland, England and France, but plans are to add other countries.

see: http://immigrants.byu.edu/SelectLanguage.aspx

Researchers at the University are creating a database of millions of immigrants based on these emigration registers.
News from Elsewhere

Welsh Emigrants to OHIO Project
The National Library of Wales has appointed Dr Menna Morgan of the University of Wales, Bangor, as Project Officer for the OHIO Project. The acronym is appropriate as it stands for O'r Henwlad i Ohio, From Oldcountry to Ohio. The project, generously funded by Evan and Bet Davies of Oak Hill, Ohio, will digitise a selection of Welsh Americana from the Library’s collections relating to the state of Ohio.

Project OHIO will eventually lead to the creation of an innovative website which will chronicle the experiences of the Welsh who settled in Ohio in the United States. Dr Morgan started work in her new post on 3 January 2006.

Notes from our readers

The editor of Y Ddolen, the journal of the Welsh Branch of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (UK CILIP), was so interested in the research article, Remembering Alun and Anders, written by Richard Huws for the June 2005 Genealogy and Local History Section Newsletter that she asked if it could be re-printed in their journal to remind Welsh librarians of the personal and professional links between Anders Andreasson of the Statens Bibliotektilsyn of Norway and Alun R Edwards, County Librarian of Dyfed, Wales in the 1970s – appropriate in a year when several Welsh delegates attended IFLA in Oslo and a compliment to the author of the original article.

Harriet Kasow, former Newsletter editor, emails: I found the article on Bibliographic initiatives in Iasi, Romania interesting as my great-grandmother is from there. I will be referring to the article in the journal of our Israel Genealogy Society Sharsheret Hadorot (Generations), as I do the ‘Notes from the Library’ column.

Review


This unique guide covers family histories published in and relevant to Australia, and is arranged into two sections – a Titles listing of published Australian family histories and Family Names section.


- The Family Names section lists all indexed family names in alphabetical order and shows, for each one, the identity number/s of the title/s in which that family name is mentioned.

Each entry is preceded by a 4-figure identity number, for ease of referencing.

Australian Family Histories: a bibliography and index has established itself as an indispensable guide for all Australian family history researchers. This new compilation (5,637 titles

Useful Genealogy Websites

The attached web site was passed on to me. http://www.newbrightononline.org.uk/history_trace.asp

There are hundreds of helpful web sites for family history students.
Jackie Carlton, Filey UK

Helpers (Higher Education Libraries in your PERSonality reSearch)
helpers.shl.lon.ac.uk/begin.html

Beginners’ guide to local and family history intended to be a resource for family or local historians who have already done a fair amount of research in libraries and by using the census

The Danish National Survey and Cadastre (Kort & Matrikelstyrel) in Danish and English http://www.kms.dk/

The registration of real estate property began in Denmark at the beginning of the nineteenth century. This led to the creation and preservation of maps and records of great importance to genealogists. This site includes a section Find a place in Denmark, Greenland and the Faroe Islands using the national placenames.
with 133,638 family name index references) is a significant expansion of the first edition (3,400+ titles with 59,000+ family name index references) and really is a must-see: all the hard work in trying to find what has been published about a particular family has been already done here.

Due to its size, a CD-Rom version (as a pdf file, which requires Acrobat Reader software) will be the only version available at this time.

Reporter: Ralph Reid, Kiama, Australia, compiler.

Standing Committee Members

Melvin P Thatcher, Chair, Genealogical Society of Utah, USA  
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Jurgen Warmbruun, member,  
email: warmbrun@staff.uni-marburg.de

Gu Yan, corresponding member, Shanghai Library, China  
email: gyu@libnet.sh.cn

Genealogical Conferences

10-11 March 2006  
The Brigham Young University US  
Computerized Genealogy Conference

With Cyndi Howell of Cyndi’s List  
see: http://ce.byu.edu/cw/cwgeneal/

1-4 August 2006  
The Brigham Young University US  
Genealogy and Family History Conference

Beginning family history, Family History Center support, computers, Europe/Nordic research, British research, US Research, methodology, and publishing family histories.  
see: http://ce.byu.edu/cw/cwgeneal/

Federation of Family History Societies UK Conferences, seminars and fairs  
see: http://www.ffhs.org.uk/General/Events/

GENEVA UK: an online calendar of genealogical events and activities  
see: http://geneva.weald.org.uk/

Section members at the Oslo conference

On Oslo Fjord, taking the ferry to Bygday

Ideas for Newsletter articles are always welcome and should be sent to: eam@freeuk.com