

WAGS Computer User Group
11 Sep 2010

Agenda

Meeting started at: 11am.
Mike welcomed 24 members
Safety briefing...exits, numbers

Apologies: Lesley Silvester, Evadne Spickett, Cuynthia Brock

WAGS/CIG business

- Mike can't do next meeting. Chris Loudon has kindly volunteered to host the meeting
- SIG AGM next week. A member asked that SIG meetings should not be held at the same time as each other (apparently this has happened this year). Also congratulations to go to SIG convenors.
- There is an India Special Interest Group being formed
- Mini-seminar last month compared ancestry and findmypast. Also Robyn Hukin did wills and newspapers – about 45 people attended
- Chris Paton (well-known Scottish researcher/presenter) will give talk in Perth 18 October at Perth Function Centre, Lathlain. WAGS will have the bookshop and membership drive there.

1. Items of General Interest from the computer world:

- No-one could think of anything

2. Keeping your PC healthy

- Usual discussion about spams and scams and viruses – nothing new or particularly alarming

3. Genealogy programs

- We looked at data entry later in the meeting

4. Genealogy sources:

- National Archive UK labs site worth exploring
<http://labs.nationalarchives.gov.uk/wordpress/>
- Findmypast has added Devon 363000 baptisms 1813-1839
- Scotlandspeople has had a facelift and says the searching is faster
- National Library has added the Western Mail to its digitised newspaper archives
- Familysearch pilot site records have now all migrated to the beta site
<http://beta.familysearch.org/>

Discussion – Data entry and sourcing – we used these prompts for a useful discussion

- How do we enter data into our programs? Add person, up, down, as we find them. So it grows organically
- Can everyone enter second marriages, step children, adopted children, etc? [in general, yes]
- Placenames...can you tidy up your place name list? [good discussion on location standards; there's a standardised location finder at <https://labs.familysearch.org/>]
- What about sourcing? Two purposes (1) so anyone (including you) can find it again (2) so that later you can consider the validity or accuracy of the source compared with other information you get [everyone agreed that it's important]
- How do the various programs handle sources? [discussed]
- What about entering data online. eg in ancestry where there are 'hints' to follow? Do you check them? [examples given of poor and good trees on ancestry. It really is a case of be careful what you accept as data]

Next Meeting Saturday 9 October, 11am to 1pm.