



First Click Campaign



Using computers every day is a way of life for many people but there are still a great number of us who haven't quite come to grips or even started using the Internet.

The BBC First Click Campaign, offers simple, easy to understand guidance on how to use computers and how to access the Internet and email. So if you need some help or know someone who does, check out:

http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/connect/BBC_First_Click_Beginners_Guide.pdf

National Digital Conference 2011

John G Milburn - Annfield Plain Family History Society

I have been a volunteer on the BBC First Click Campaign since it first began and was pleased to receive an invitation from BBC Newcastle to attend the National Digital Conference in London. The conference was expected to be, "*the largest gathering and online participation to date of partners across the UK who want to work together to inspire, encourage and support millions of people online*" (GoON:ND11).

The event was held at the Old Billingsgate Fish Market, on the banks for the river Thames and chaired by Gloria Hunniford. The speakers included Martha Lane Fox, Digital Champion; Nick Hurd MP, Minister for Civil Society; and Mark Thompson, Director General of BBC. Paula Vennells, MD of the Post Office, gave a very interesting talk about amazing technological advances that will revolutionise the way we use the Post Office.



Groups and organisations held exhibitions of their wares and products including Age UK, BT, Post Office, Digital Unite, Ability, and 3. I took part in one of the workshops organised by the BBC and Engine where ideas of how best to introduce ICT in the hour that we gain when the clocks go back in the autumn were discussed. A special guest at this workshop was Linda Robson of 'Birds of a Feather' fame. The day ended with a game of Rock and Roll Bingo and a musical performance from Stacey Solomon from the 'X-Factor' and 'I'm a Celebrity Get Me out of Here'.

(Rail transport and overnight stay in the Hilton Hotel Olympia, in Kensington was provided by the BBC.)

FAMILY HISTORY ...the next step

Amanda Stobbs - Shincliffe Local History Society



I've always been interested in family history, and aware of various documents we had at home. However, having been brought up and working elsewhere, I had never done much to further my knowledge. Returning to Durham a few years ago, I was browsing through the old family Bible and suddenly realised that (my brothers never having been particularly interested) my mother and I were the only two people left alive that knew, without having to do any research, that the second daughter listed on the last entry in the Bible was my mother's maternal grandmother!

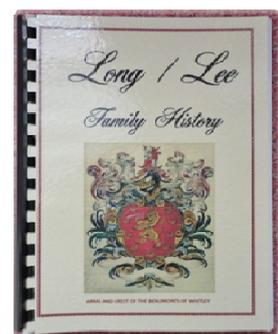
I immediately set about recording some of the information we had. Going through old family tales, I soon learnt not to discount something just because I had proved it wrong – some “incorrect” tales contained a grain of truth which could help with later research; others had got muddled over time, and simply referred to an earlier generation (one such was a note which said, “My grandmother was born a Carrick.” I already knew she was born a Sayers – but several years later discovered that her mother – i.e. the writer's great-grandmother – had been born a Carrick.

I've also been tickled to find that, though we complain about photos being “air-brushed” today to make people look slimmer etc, this is nothing new! Altering the contrast on a Victorian photo has on more than one occasion revealed that the negative had been “doctored” – one lady's waist had been reduced by a considerable amount to give her the typical “hour-glass” look desirable at the time!

One thing led to another, and I began to use the internet for basic research. Becoming involved with the “Durham In Time” project was a great help, not just with learning more about how to do the research, but also being able to chat to like-minded people – exchanging ideas, getting help, and being generally more motivated.

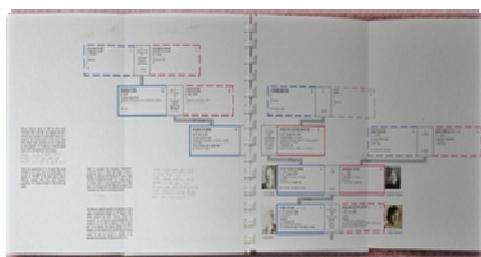
Before long, I had a huge amount of information. Like most people, I printed things out from my computer and kept the sheets in a ring-binder, along with pockets to hold documents, pictures, etc. Gradually, I began to scan in the pictures and documents (keeping the originals safe elsewhere).

As my parents' 80th birthdays approached, I wanted to give them copies; but A4 binders were rather unwieldy for them, and too large for their book-shelves. So I set up “Word” to print on A5 paper, which I could bind into books using plastic comb-binders – still reasonably easy to take apart if I want to add / alter / remove pages, but a much more comfortable size for browsing. Laminating the light-weight card covers keeps them looking good, while for the books themselves,



120gsm paper is thick enough to enable me to print pictures on both sides without them "showing through."

To keep a certain unity (having reached 7 volumes by this time), I chose cream covers for all the books; beige paper for title pages to individual sections, and green paper to list the family (parents and all their children) at each generation, followed by white pages recording information, documents, pictures, photos of any actual objects passed down the generations, maps, and tales passed down by word of mouth, for each family; black type for direct ancestors, blue type for siblings, cousins, etc. The colours make it easier to "navigate" through the books.



When A5 was too small – for example for some maps, or for the family tree at the end of each book – I used an A4 sheet, folded to fit (and one edge trimmed so that it didn't get caught in the binder); two such pages side by side allow a large amount of information to be seen at one time.

An extra volume contains a very basic family tree, to show how all the others fit together, and with spaces left for each person yet to be "discovered" which I can fill in as new information surfaces. This book also includes research information – useful addresses, web-sites, etc; information on opening times of the library and the County Record Office; and any other information I want to refer to frequently.

Having discovered a note-book of my Grandfather's childhood memoirs, they became a separate volume in their own right, with illustrations from his photograph albums and my great aunt's water-colours and sketches. Taking on a life of their own, they were shown to a local historian who gave me many more illustrations from his collection, and recommended the book to his publisher, who accepted it; it has now reached the "proof" stage, and should be published later this year. All very exciting, and entirely due to this fascinating hobby I've discovered!



A Rose by any other name...

We have purchased a new server and with it our own domain name. The new domain is www.durhamintime.org.uk.

Could you please ensure that all links from your own sites to Durham in Time are changed accordingly as the old address will soon be obsolete - also remember to change the address if you have it saved in Favourites.

Please take the time to check out the website as there has been a substantial amount of photographs added to the archive as well as video and oral history on the CREATE Services pages. There is also the latest edition of "A Spotlight on..." which this month features the Blackhalls Local History Group.

A Big Thank You—We've Done It!

We are pleased to announce that Durham in Time has not only achieved all its targets it has exceeded them. There are now a fantastic total of 32 websites for you to check out - with more than 3000 digital images on our community archive there will be plenty for you to look at!

Sam and I, and everyone who has worked on the Durham in Time Team would like to thank you all for making this possible.



Sheila and Sam will continue to work on Durham in Time for the next six months. They will also be developing a new project pending a grant decision in November

...watch this space...

For more information on any of the topics covered in this newsletter please contact Sheila or Sam on 0191 3708811 or Email: sheila.forster@durham.gov.uk or sam.smith@durham.gov.uk

