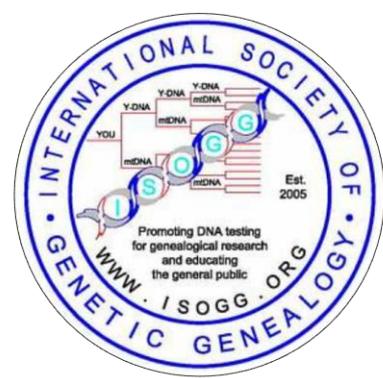




DNA INTEREST GROUP – SCOTLAND

Supported by **ISOGG (International Society of Genetic Genealogy)**
University of Strathclyde Genealogical Studies
The Scottish DNA Project



Inaugural Meeting, January 2014: Summary

The first meeting of the **DNA Interest Group for Scotland (DIG-S)** took place at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, on Sat 18th January, 2014. A well attended meeting with participants ranging from those active in DNA project administration to those just interested in finding out more heard a number of reports on current projects in Scotland, and held an open discussion about the need for this type of group; how far there may be interest across Scotland for DNA genealogical research; and what role the group could play in informing the wider public about this field and supporting research that uses it.

As well as representatives of several DNA projects, participants representing organisations such as the Scottish Genealogical Society, Ayrshire Family History Society and the Lothians Family History Society also came to the first meeting. Some participants travelled from as far afield as Aberdeen, Staffordshire and Ireland, and their support was greatly appreciated by all present. A selection of photos from the meeting is at the end of this summary.

Points raised at the meeting

The opening presentation by Alasdair Macdonald was for the benefit of people still new to genetic genealogy, explaining the main types of test available and what kinds of question they can help tackle. As well as the familiar Y-STR, Y-SNP, mtDNA and autosomal DNA tests, Ali also explained the newer **Full Y-Genome** tests just becoming available, and ran through the different companies that offer tests, with the pros and cons of each package. This was followed by an outline of three main types of project – **surname**, **geographical** and **haplogroup** – by John Cleary, who laid stress on the importance of choosing a testing company that offers its testees a results database which is constantly updated with new results, allowing further new matches to be discovered as new testers join in.

This was followed by a wide-ranging discussion on the role of the new group and wider points on what DNA can offer to family and local historians. Ken Nisbet of the SGS pointed out that it could lead to intensifying an obsession with ancestry for its own sake rather than trying to understand the social history of one's ancestors' lives and times. Taking this on board, others pointed out how DNA research can also open up new lines of social and family historical research, so that the two areas do not exclude each other. It was agreed that the group could send speakers to FHS around Scotland to help them work out how they may respond to DNA studies and genetic genealogy in future; and provide a forum for



Speakers and listeners at the inaugural DNA Interest Group (DIG) for Scotland, Strathclyde University, in January 2014

