



The North of England Special Interest Group (NoESIG) interests cover half the counties of England - from Northumberland and Cumbria in the far north, to the northern counties of the Midlands - and all who have ancestral connections to those counties are welcome.

We have been going strong for more than 10 years. The inaugural meeting of the new group was held on 18 March 2001. John Parker agreed to be the first Convenor, Joan Malpass became the Minutes Secretary and Sheila Van De Poll became the first Treasurer. Christine Ross initiated the Bygone Times newsletter. We started our second decade with our own logo. In red, white and blue (for England) it is the Tudor rose (a combination of the red rose of Lancaster and the white rose of York) inside a cog, symbol of the industrial revolution that began in the north of England in the second half of the 18th century.

Our meetings are held on the 2nd Sundays of March, June, September and December, starting at 10.00am. We follow a program designed to improve our knowledge about this vast area and its people, and give all members the opportunity to contribute.

After a short meeting to discuss any matters of business, members are invited to participate in the activities planned for the meeting. This may be training in the use of WAGS facilities or searching in the library for information about your northern ancestors. At some meetings one or more members give short presentations on an aspect of the north such as its people, places or activities. At most meetings time is given for members to provide a brief overview of their recent research, whether they've found some stepping stones or are stymied by a dry stone wall or two.

Our quarterly newsletter - the *BYGONE TIMES* - contains information about many aspects of the northern counties of England. It is circulated by email and back copies are gradually being published in the Members Only section on this website. Contributions from members of the group are very welcome.

Even if you are not from the north yourself, but have ancestors who lived or worked in the northern counties, we would be delighted if you joined us. Please email us with any enquiries.