

M&LFHS Newsletter

The monthly newsletter of the
Manchester & Lancashire Family
History Society



January 2022 Issue 21

SOCIETY CONTACTS

Website: - <https://www.mlfhs.uk>

Newsletter editor: - newseditor@mlfhs.org.uk

Bookshop: - bookshop@mlfhs.org.uk

MLFHS Office: - office@mlfhs.org.uk

The Manchester Genealogist: - office@mlfhs.org.uk

MLFHS mailing address: Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society,
3rd Floor, Manchester Central Library,
St. Peters Square,
Manchester, M2 5PD.

SOCIETY BRANCHES

Oldham Branch of MLFHS - <https://www.mlfhs.uk/oldham>

Bolton Branch of MLFHS - <http://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton>

Anglo-Scottish Branch of MLFHS – <http://www.mlfhs.uk/anglo-scots>

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Welcome to the first issue of the newsletter for 2022. To many 2021 was a difficult year with restrictions imposed throughout the world to help combat the spread of Covid. Let us hope that 2022 will be less stressful and we can bring some sort of normality back into our lives.

The big event of 2022, for genealogists and family historians, is probably the release of the 1921 Census of England and Wales which was taken in June 1921 and shows much more detail about family members than previous census'. As mentioned by our chairman Manchester Central Library has been chosen as a northern hub for free access to the census. The Society will be opening the Helpdesk on 6th January. Leslie Turner has provided more details, particularly the need to have a library card, elsewhere in this newsletter.

We are expecting to be very busy and so may I ask that those who are preparing to travel into Manchester come well prepared by making a list of the searches you would like to make. Preparing in this way will save you time and allow you to access more information during your visit

The census provides information on every household in England and Wales, the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands and also institutions and overseas residencies that were part of England and Wales in 1921. Also included are merchant ships in the waters of England and Wales, ships of the Royal Navy and army and Royal Air Force units stationed overseas.

An entry for a household should give:

The full address of the property, the names of persons at that address, the relationship to head of household, age in years and months and the sex of each member of the household. Also shown is their place of birth and if born outside the UK their nationality. There was also a requirement to say whether married or orphaned.

The number of children or stepchildren under the age of 16 had to be filled in by married men, widowers and widows, a total number followed by a cross in a box for each age that was applicable to a child or stepchild.

For those aged 15 and over you had to enter whether single, married, or widowed, and for the first time D was to be recorded for those whose marriage had been dissolved by divorce.

Those under 15 had to record if both parents were alive, father dead, mother dead or both dead.

Employment - If in full or part-time education.

Also new for the 1921 Census; for those employed the name and type of employer, place of work, the employer's address (except for those in private employment such as domestic service). If self employed then "employer", or "own account". Those out of work were told to give their last employer and add "out of work".

There are many sites on the internet that provide more information than I have given about this exciting census release.

Barry Henshall

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

At the time of writing, Omicron cases are on the rise and there is the distinct possibility that stricter measures will be introduced that will interfere in our planned programme for 2022. Though such precautions are understandable, we will manage any developments with the same fortitude we have shown in the last two years, to reduce the impact on our service to members and the public alike.

I hope you are all enjoying your bumper edition of The Manchester Genealogist [TMG]. It's a joy to dip into to savour the ambience it creates of life 100 years ago. I congratulate Leslie Turner and John Marsden, who conceived the idea and collaborated on its delivery. Kudos also to our Editor, Pat Etchells, and the large team of contributors who offered such a variety of topics to reflect the life of a bygone age.

This special edition, of course, ends our year-long programme of talks, articles, blogs, podcasts and other events to prepare for the release in January of the England & Wales Census of 1921. And it does this in some style for early in 2022, January 6th to be exact, FindMyPast will launch the detail on its website. The exciting news is that the MLFHS Helpdesk alongside its Archives+ partners will be front-and-centre of the release at the Northern Hub at Manchester Central Library, as a result of an arrangement between The National Archives, the owners of the data, and the library, to make access free to library members at all computers in the building. A similar arrangement will exist in Wales with the National Library of Wales serving as the Welsh Hub.

I expect the Helpdesk teams to be busy for the early weeks of release and so wish them very good luck.

The Census release is only the beginning. Our programme for 2022 will include a Family History Fair to be held in Central Library in March; the Scottish Census is expected to be released by National Records of Scotland later in the year; and both Bolton and the Anglo-Scottish branches will be celebrating 40 years since their foundation. These will be special occasions throughout the year, but our regular activities will continue to fill the diary, with Zoom talks, project work, bookshop orders, newsletters and four more editions of TMG.

We should not forget that we have two further branches, and I am pleased to say that Oldham branch continues to set standards with its website articles and online talks, and I notice an upsurge in interest in Irish Ancestry with a number of Zoom talks satisfying that interest in the latter half of the year. I wonder if there is sufficient interest for a Zoom get-together to consolidate that interest into a revived branch?

So, challenging times, but plenty to occupy the family historian. Best wishes to all our members for a happy and fruitful year of family history research,

Best wishes,

David

A MESSAGE FROM OUR GENERAL SECRETARY

Please feel free to contact the office office@mlfhs.org.uk for enquiries about your membership.

If contacting us please give your membership number and the surname of the member.

From the members area on the website you can make changes to your address and email. We have found it is easier to work from home and are able to provide a quicker service. If possible please use the on-line option on our new website to renew your subscription.

We now use Stripe so you can use Stripe or pay as a guest with your card.

Have you considered taking out a Bank Standing Order? It means you don't have to think about renewing and you can stop it at any time.

If you must pay by cheque please send to:

MLFHS
17 Fortacre Drive,
Bredbury,
SK6 2EZ

DO NOT send it to the office, we no longer take cash at the helpdesk. The Click and Collect is now available from our shop.

Best wishes
Elsie

EVENTS/TALKS

All our meetings and events are ticketed through Eventbrite. Please ensure you use the links in this newsletter, or our website, to book a place.

Manchester Branch.



Irish Unmarried Mothers in Britain Speaker: Dr Lorraine Grimes

Wed, 19 January 2022

19:30 – 22:30 GMT

Being a single mother can be extremely challenging. Being a single mother in Ireland from the 1920s to 1980s was arguably even more so.

In the early years of the Irish Free State, social stigma towards unmarried motherhood left limited State assistance or public support for single mothers and their children. An unmarried mothers allowance was not introduced in Ireland until 1973. While some single mothers may have been supported by their families, those who were not faced inequities on many fronts.

The ill acceptance of single motherhood in Irish society meant women were faced with few options. Entering a mother and baby home run by a religious congregation was one of the only forms of assistance available to single mothers in early independent Ireland, which rendered them secluded from the rest of society, and living under restrictive regimes.

Adoption was not legal until 1952, but informal adoptions still took place within mother and baby homes organised by the religious congregations. Issues around the mother's consent of these adoptions have come to light in recent years, thrust forward by the stories of women such as Philomena Lee recounted in the media, and in books and film.

Without the support of a relative or friend, it was almost impossible for a single mother and her child to remain together. Some women worked and paid for the boarding out or fostering of their child. Through this arrangement, the child had the chance to experience life within a family home, but they were away from their mother and some may have been mistreated.

So what other options did unmarried Irish women have if they became pregnant? Migrating to Britain may appear to be a pragmatic choice in hindsight, but we know very little about how the women who chose to do so fared after leaving. As a single mother and an immigrant in Britain, did they face further stigmatisation? Did they keep and raise their child there? Did they face the same limited options and challenges as they did back home? Or was society more accepting?

Booking through [Eventbrite](#).



1921
the
Census

The 1921 Census : What can we discover?

Sat, 29 January 2022

14:00 – 15:30 GMT

This event is fully booked

Bolton Branch.



Bolton FHS Meeting - The Hidden Secrets of Marriage Registration

Wed, 5 January 2022
19:30 – 21:00 GMT

Antony Marr's "The Hidden Secrets of Marriage Registration" is a follow up to last August's very popular talk, Birth and Death Registration

What Makes a Marriage? – Rules & Records

An entertaining look at the laws and rules of modern and historical marriage, explaining the legal processes, registration and delving into the history of this special event. The talk covers the finding and interpretation of marriage records, how to track down divorces and perhaps identify a bigamist in the family.

Booking through [Eventbrite](#).

Full details of Bolton Branch meetings <https://mlfhs.uk/bolton/events/meetings>.

Oldham Branch



Margaret Ashton (1856-1937), Manchester's first woman councillor

Sat, 8 January 2022
14:00 – 15:30 GMT

A short introduction to the life and times of Margaret Ashton. The talk will look at Ashton's extraordinary life, her political career, her involvement in the suffrage movement and, during WW1, her work in the anti-war and pacifist movement. It will look at the story of her lost portrait, rediscovered in 2006, and rehung in the Town Hall - hence the title of this talk ... 'Hanging the Pacifist.'

Please Note:

A meeting reminder email will be sent out 3 or 4 days before the talk; a zoom meeting link on Thursday morning 6th of January. Registration closes at 11am on the 8th. A final reminder and link will be sent at 11:30am, on the meeting day. Login will be from 1:45, for an informal 'meet and greet' of old friends and a welcome to new visitors to our meetings. All are welcome and we hope you will enjoy the meeting and join us again in the future.

Full details of Oldham Branch meetings <https://www.mlfhs.uk/oldham/events/meetings>

Anglo-Scots



New Year social and Quiz
15 JANUARY 2022 - ONLINE VIA ZOOM
Online via Zoom.

Meeting online, we can start off the New Year with some fun, bring our own coffee and mince pies, and enjoy quizzes hosted by our well-practiced quiz-persons (political correctness bedevils copywriters) who will have spent many hours preparing their question sheets. Will you answer all the questions and win the prize (a round of applause!)?

The Zoom invitation will be sent to those who have booked at 6.00 am on Friday 14th January. If you do not receive your invitation at that time please contact angloscots@mlfhs.org.uk.

Please go [here](#) for more details.

2022 - the year that we start afresh with a varied offering of in-person meetings at Manchester Central Library and online meetings where we meet people from all over the world. We look forward to meeting you all.

Happy New Year!

Full details of Anglo-Scots Branch meetings at <https://mlfhs.uk/anglo-scots/events/meetings>

A reminder that you can register for your favourite Branch(es) by going to our website 'Manchester Ancestors', choosing your chosen Branch(es) and clicking on the 'newsletter' option. This will take you to the newsletter sign-up page. If you have logged on as a member then the form will be automatically filled for you. Just hit the sign up button. If you are not a Society member then you will have to fill in the form manually, identify yourself as not a robot and then sign in.

* **Family History Federation**

Keep up-to-date at <https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/podcast>

The National Archives

Please note that places are limited for these meetings and so early booking is essential

What's Online for January - March 2022

General sale starts 09:00 Monday 20 December.

Pauper Patients and the New Poor Law, 1834-1900

Friday 14 January 14:00

Join Paul Carter as he delves into Victorian welfares services, more specifically the health service of the time, and provides a fascinating insight into the medical care available to the poor.

[Book tickets](#)

The Tudor Socialite

Friday 18 February 14:00

A world of love affairs, tragedy, marriage and death – the Tudor period continues to enchant and mesmerise the world. Join author, Jan-Marie Knights, in conversation about her latest book, The Tudor Socialite.

[Book tickets](#)

Top Level Tips: Using Discovery

Tuesday 22 February 14:00

Join us online to learn our top tips for using [Discovery](#), our online catalogue which allows you to download 100 free records a month. You will come away with all of the tools needed to make the most of the catalogue for your research, whether you are a new user or an experienced researcher.

[Book tickets](#)

National Treasures: Saving the Nation's Art

Wednesday 2 March 19:30

Dr Caroline Shenton explores the gripping, and sometimes hilarious, story of how a band of heroic curators and eccentric custodians saved Britain's national heritage during the Second World War.

[Book tickets](#)

What is History, Now? In conversation with Helen Carr and Suzannah Lipscomb

Friday 4 March 14:00

Join Helen Carr and Suzannah Lipscomb in conversation about their latest book, What is History, Now?, a ground breaking collection of essays addressing the burning issue of how we interpret history today.

[Book tickets](#)

Researching your family history: Military sources

Tuesday 15 March 14:00

Join our experts as they draw on our collections to explore how to using these sources can enrich genealogical research and help develop your understanding of an ancestor's time in military service.

[Book tickets](#)

All events are viewable for 48 hours after the published date and time, which means that attendees who registered but were unable view the live event can catch up at their leisure.

You can also replay most of our talks on the [Archives Media Player](#), where our curated playlists will help you find talks of similar interest.

Please be aware that it can take up to three months for past events to appear on our media player.

In the future why not monitor the [National Archives site](#).

RootsTech Connect 2022

FamilySearch has announced that [RootsTech Connect 2022](#) will take place on March 3–5, 2022, as a fully virtual family history event. RootsTech Connect 2021 attracted more than 1 million visitors from over 240 countries, making this year's gathering the largest in RootsTech history. Further details can be found [HERE](#).

Family history enthusiasts can [access](#) over 1,500 free, on-demand sessions from RootsTech 2021.

Celebrate the 1921 Census with MLFHS

The MLFHS website has a dedicated 1921 Census project page which can be found at <https://mlfhs.uk/blog>. This contains a growing variety of 1921 related information.

A radio style play titled One Family's Life in 1921 by Jenny Roche can also be found at <https://mlfhs.uk/1921-census-event>.

We also have our whole world 1921 Timeline here: <https://mlfhs.uk/1921-timeline>

This has some great events and people mentioned with clickable links! Do you perhaps know of anything else we could add?

We hope that you have been checking the 1921 Project webpages regularly and have enjoyed the 1921 edition of the Manchester Genealogist which rounded off our 1921 themed year. I'm sure those of you who have been following the project will agree that 1921 was a fascinating year. We can't wait to finally see the actual 1921 census material.

WEBSITES

Findmypast

[West Glamorgan Electoral Registers 1839-1925](#)

Dive into this expansive collection, which details over 1.6 million electoral records and spans 86 years in Swansea, Wales.

[Index to Death Duty Registers 1796-1903](#)

Gaps in your record searching? We've added over 5,000 brand-new entries to this Death Duty Register, unique to Findmypast.

[Leeward Islands Census Substitutes 1678-1753](#)

With a population of 130,000 and a land area of 500 square miles, incredible amounts of history lie in these small post-colonial settlements.

[Warwickshire, Coventry Workhouse Deaths 1845-1943](#)

Our first exclusive collection this week documents the tragic workhouse deaths that occurred in the Coventry Union Workhouse over 98 years.

[Warwickshire Baptisms](#)

Also unique to Findmypast, these Warwickshire Baptism additions detail births in the same Coventry workhouse, noting the legitimacy of the child and stillbirths.

[United States, California Immigration Office Special Inquiry Records](#)

Not all migrants were allowed access to the US upon arrival, and were detained for various reasons. Find out if your ancestor carried a disease, or worse – a stowaway.

[GENEVA --- GENealogical EVents and Activities](#)

Run on behalf of GENUKI and the Family History Federation

The Anglo-Scots and The Manchester Genealogist - A call for articles!

Boxing Day blues?
For you I've got news!
And here's what I want you to do...
Remember the birth
of that aunt in Perth
Whose ancestry you never knew?
You tracked down her dad
When he was a lad
From records you dug out at Kew,
You followed his life -
With more than one wife -
Many a girl did he woo.
You jotted it down,
Through village and town
And vowed you would write it up soon.
And now I need you
Some writing to do,
To look at that story anew,
The moment to seize,
To write it up, please,
(Give credit where credit is due),
And send it online
To give us some time
To read all the work that you do.
An image is great
But please don't be late
For our quarterly journal is due!

I'm sure you all have stories or research that you could tell! I am particularly looking for contributions for the Anglo-Scots pages but I know that all articles are always gratefully received and appreciated. Articles can be long or short - there is always a need for interesting copy of 500-750 words that will fill a page here and there, so please send in what you can.

Please send any Anglo-Scots articles to me at this email address, other articles can be sent to the Editor or I can pass them on (especially if some articles could happily fit into the Anglo-Scots or the Society sections, that is always up to Pat). It would be lovely to build up a store of articles for the coming year.

Thanks!

Hilary

Anglo-Scots Journal Co-ordinator

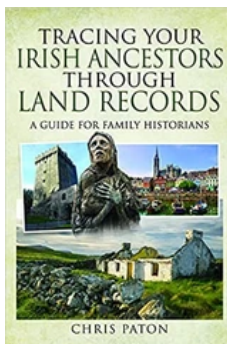
THE BOOKSHOP



Churchill's Flawed Decisions: Errors in Office of The Greatest Briton **£12.99** ~~£19.99~~

Winston Churchill is undoubtedly one of the most respected and best-loved characters the nation has ever known. However, much of how people view him is based on his leadership during the bleak and dire times of the Second World War. If it wasn't for him, Britain would almost definitely have lost the war: there were those in government who encouraged Churchill to strike a deal with Hitler at the time of the Dunkirk evacuations, which took place just three weeks after he had been made Prime Minister, but he stuck resolutely to his guns and said, no'.

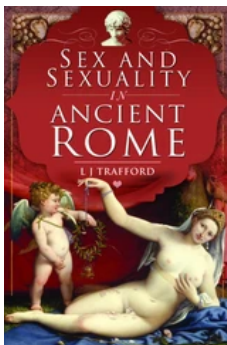
Visit our shop to for more details and to [order](#)



Tracing Your Irish Ancestors Through Land Records: **£14.99**

The history of Ireland is one that was long dominated by the question of land ownership, with complex and often distressing tales over the centuries of dispossession and colonisation, religious tensions, absentee landlordism, subsistence farming, and considerably more to sadden the heart.

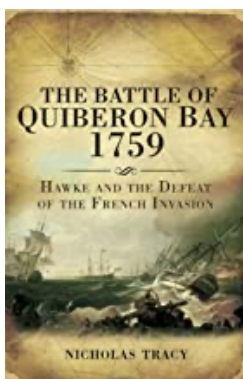
Visit our shop to for more details and to [order](#)



Sex and Sexuality in Ancient Rome **£11.99** ~~£15.99~~

From Emperors and empresses, poets and prostitutes, slaves and plebs, Ancient Rome was a wealth of different experiences and expectations. None more so than around the subject of sex and sexuality.

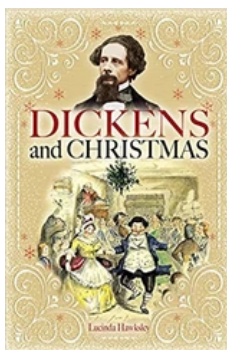
Visit our shop to for more details and to [order](#)



The Battle of Quiberon Bay, 1759: **£19.00**

This authoritative history chronicles the Royal Navy's decisive yet little-known victory over the French during the Seven Years' War. In the mid-18th century, with virtually no regular troops at home, Britain was especially vulnerable to the immanent threat of French invasion.

Visit our shop to for more details and to [order](#)



[Dickens and Christmas](#)

£10.00 £19.99

Dickens and Christmas is an exploration of the 19th-century phenomenon that became the Christmas we know and love today and of the writer who changed, forever, the ways in which it is celebrated. Charles Dickens was born in an age of great social change. He survived childhood poverty to become the most adored and influential man of his time. Throughout his life, he campaigned tirelessly for better social conditions, including by his most famous work, A Christmas Carol. He wrote this novella specifically to strike a sledgehammer blow on behalf of the poor man's child, and it began the Victorians' obsession with Christmas.

Visit our shop to for more details and to [order](#)

UKBMD Updates

No updates were posted during December 2021

For access to all the UK's major BMD and Census sites visit <https://www.UKBMD.org.uk/>

For access to all the UK's major Family History sites visit <https://www.UKGD.L.org.uk/>

For access to all the UK's major Military Family History sites visit

<https://www.UKMFH.org.uk/>

THE HELP DESK

MLFHS Family History Help Desk

The Help Desk is now closed until Thursday 6th January 2022 (unless Governmental guidelines advise us otherwise). Our VHD (Virtual Help Desk) is now also closed to enquiries until after the holidays.

You may remember that after a lengthy closure the Help Desk reopened in mid-September 2021 with reduced and restricted hours. This allowed our visitors and our Help Desk team get to grips with the new guidelines that were put in place by the library and adjust to life in our 'brave new world'. Although we have not received the footfall we did pre-covid the teams were able to support a number of MLFHS members and library visitors with their family history questions.

In November, we were excited to learn that Manchester Central Library was to become the Northern Hub for The National Archives, the owners of the 1921 census data, and that free access was to be made available within Manchester Central Library. This means that we expect the MLFHS Family History Help Desk team to be very busy when we re-open the desk after the Christmas break. We will be returning to our pre-covid hours of M-F 10:30-3:30.

We have put together an information leaflet should you be visiting us, and we hope this will help to explain how access to a computer will work in the first instance. We have been told that should this system not work; the library will look at altering computer access or whatever is necessary. (Leaflet appended to this newsletter).

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members for their continuing support over 2021 and look forward to seeing you sometime in 2022.

****If you are planning a visit to Manchester Central Library please continue to check the MLFHS website, MLFHS Facebook page or Manchester Central Library website page for any last minute Covid restrictions placed on us by the Government.**

Leslie Turner
Help Desk Co-ordinator

ORPHAN BMDs

Over the years members have been sending birth, marriage and death certificates to the Society that have either been ordered in error or are no longer needed. This has proved to be a valuable asset and has no doubt been useful for many. The scanning was carried out at Manchester Central Library but we are now in a position to scan and transcribe when working from home. Therefore, if you have any BMDs you no longer want then why not consider sending them to the Society. You can send them to:

M&LFHS
61 Queens Road
Urmston
M41 9HF

Thank you to the members that have sent me certificates.

It may take a little time for the information to be entered into our database as I tend to enter them in batches and not singly

NORTH WEST SOUND HERITAGE

Unlocking our Sound Heritage

Thousands of cassettes, open reels, CDs and MiniDiscs are sitting in archives, museums, libraries and in people's homes all over the UK. All kinds of unique live music, radio and conversation are recorded on these tapes and discs. We've already lost many of the people captured on them. And the British Library estimates that we have fifteen years to preserve the sounds themselves.

That's why the British Library has received funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to establish Unlocking Our Sound Heritage, an exciting new national project to save thousands sounds which are at risk of being lost forever.

Archives+ is the hub partner for the North West region, which covers Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside. We'll be digitising around 15,000 recordings on 5,000 cassettes, reels and optical discs held all over the region here at Manchester Central Library.

This is a fascinating site providing a flavour of times gone by. If you are a sword swallower then discover what not to eat and drink before a performance!

Find more information [here](#).

NORTH WEST FILM ARCHIVE

Welcome to the North West Film Archive, the professionally recognised public home for the moving image heritage of the North West of England.

We're continuing to offer a good range of services, including some footage sales, so tell us what you want and we will do what we can.

This is a site well worth visiting The NWFA was set up in 1977 and preserves moving images made in or about Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Cheshire, Merseyside and Cumbria and offers a variety of access services to users in the public, academic and commercial sectors.



<https://www.facebook.com/MandLFamilyHistory>

and Twitter



M&L Family History@MLFHS



**Free Online Access to the
1921 Census of England and Wales
at Manchester Central Library
from 6 January 2022**

Manchester Central Library has been chosen as one of two regional hubs to offer free online access to the 1921 Census of England and Wales. Visitors to Manchester Central Library will be able to access the 1921 Census of England and Wales via the Findmypast website for free following its publication on the 6th January 2022. Access at Manchester Central Library will be supported by the Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society Helpdesk and the Archives+ Team.

HOW TO ACCESS A LIBRARY COMPUTER AND THE 1921 CENSUS

Do you hold a library card from a Greater Manchester library?

1. If you have a library card from Bolton, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside or Trafford please take it to a staff customer information desk and ask to become a consortium member. Staff will amend the card details and you will be now able to access the library computers.
2. Find an available computer. You are not limited to the Local Studies area.
3. At your computer station log in using the full number on your library card and your chosen password.
4. You can gain access to the Findmypast website from the library welcome page. On the right-hand side of this page look for the column labelled 'Virtual Library'. Under this column find and click the item labelled 'Family History & Local Studies'. This column will then drop down further to reveal the Findmypast button.

Are you a visitor to Manchester Central Library?

1. You can become a member of the library and obtain a library card by showing staff one form of ID that includes your address. You will then be issued with a library card and can access a computer yourself. Then please follow steps 2 -4 above.
2. The Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society Help Desk can also offer support in their area. The MLFHS Family History Help Desk is open M-F 10:30-3:30.
3. There is no geographical restriction on library membership.
4. Everyone is encouraged to join the library in order to get free Internet access

General notes:

MCL (Manchester Central Library) will allow visitors use any of the computers in the Archives+ area (i.e. the computers near the Manchester & Lancashire Family History Help Desk) for up to 2 hours. Visitors can continue to use the computers for longer than that, if there are enough available. Charges for computer use are currently:

- Free for library members
- £2 per hour for non-library members.

MCL are not pre booking computers in the family history area to ensure there are enough for people who need support from the Helpdesk. However, computers are bookable elsewhere in the library for an initial one hour by phoning 0161 234 1983.