

# MANCHESTER & LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

presents

## DISCOVERING FAMILY LIVES

Ever wanted to  
trace your  
Family History?

For complete  
beginners to those of  
you who are looking  
for more resources in  
tracing your ancestry

Societies from the  
local area will be  
on hand to offer  
practical advice  
and guidance

This is an  
opportunity to meet  
experts in the field  
of Family History

Our friendly team of staff and  
volunteers on the helpdesk will  
also be available to answer any  
queries you may have

### FREE ENTRY

For a list of societies attending, please  
visit our website: [www.mlfhs.uk](http://www.mlfhs.uk)

or scan the QR CODE below:



MANCHESTER CENTRAL LIBRARY  
SAT 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023  
10AM - 3.30PM

THE EVENT WILL BE OPENED BY THE  
LORD MAYOR OF MANCHESTER



MANCHESTER  
ANCESTORS



# M&LFHS Newsletter

The monthly newsletter of the  
Manchester & Lancashire Family  
History Society



## March 2023 Issue 35

### **SOCIETY CONTACTS**

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

Newsletter editor: - [newseditor@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:newseditor@mlfhs.org.uk)

Bookshop: - [bookshop@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:bookshop@mlfhs.org.uk)

MLFHS Office: - [office@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:office@mlfhs.org.uk)

The Manchester Genealogist: - [office@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:office@mlfhs.org.uk) or [editor@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:editor@mlfhs.org.uk)

MLFHS mailing address: Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society,  
3<sup>rd</sup> 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>

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## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

As you will have noticed upon receiving this newsletter the Society is holding an event on the 25<sup>th</sup> March in the performance suite at Manchester Central Library called 'Discovering Family Lives'. The event will be opened at 10.00 by the Mayor of Manchester and there will be upwards of 20 exhibitors present throughout the day. More details of those attending can be found on our [website](#).

The Society has just issued Roman Catholic Baptisms for St. Mary's RC Church, Eccles, for the period 1879-1923. As I have mentioned previously we are no longer issuing CDs and so this data set is only available as a download.

The Anglo Scots branch are holding their Arm this month followed by a social gathering. Both the Oldham and Bolton Branches are holding talks and more details can be found on the website.

I have moved the UKBMD updates to Appendix 1. The Family History Federation newsletter follows as Appendix 2.

If you have any suggestions as to what other items you would like to see in the newsletter please let me know.

Barry Henshall

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

From time-to-time, modern-day concerns impact adversely on our passion with the past. I was sad to learn, therefore, that there is a real risk that Trove, Australia's free online research portal, a database with 6 billion records of Australian newspapers and magazines, may need to cease operations if funding is not forthcoming after June 2023.

I learned about the threat from a post by a member to the Member Forum during the month, directing me to the Who Do You Think You Are Magazine website [see link below]. Many thanks for that! The Australian Government includes a section about the Future of Trove in its Strategy Document for 2001-2023, confirming that sufficient funds have been made available until June 2023, but that the service will need to be truncated, maybe even lost, if further funds are not forthcoming.

The National Library of Australia, has hitherto, along with its many partner archives across the country, arranged for the digitisation of Australian newspapers and magazines as well as the creation and maintenance of the database, offering free access online to masses of material. It is therefore to be regarded as a major resource for researchers, many family historians among them. I have used the site many times in past years to further my research into my own migrant families as well as pursuing other research projects. Loss of the facility will be felt keenly by many family historians.

There are efforts afoot to campaign to save the website [see below] but there is clearly a giant obstacle to be overcome in the shape of government cutbacks.

All I can suggest is that we make the most of our time between now and June, if we are to enjoy the huge archive offered by this free resource.

[https://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/news/researchers-campaign-to-save-trove-website-from-closure/?utm\\_content=&utm\\_campaign=Newsletter%2003%2F02%2F2023\\_2362550\\_Who%200o%20You%20Think%20Are%3F\\_Newsletters\\_7386559&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_source=Adestra&utm\\_campaign=Newsletter%2003%2F02%2F2023&utm\\_content=Read%20the%2020full%story&utm\\_term=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Adestra](https://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/news/researchers-campaign-to-save-trove-website-from-closure/?utm_content=&utm_campaign=Newsletter%2003%2F02%2F2023_2362550_Who%200o%20You%20Think%20Are%3F_Newsletters_7386559&utm_medium=Email&utm_source=Adestra&utm_campaign=Newsletter%2003%2F02%2F2023&utm_content=Read%20the%2020full%story&utm_term=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Adestra)

Sincerely,

David

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR GENERAL SECRETARY

The best and quickest way to contact the society is by emailing [office@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:office@mlfhs.org.uk) we will then direct you to the relevant person to help you. Our phone is very rarely used.

If possible please use the on-line option on our new website to join or renew your subscription. We use Stripe but you can pay as a guest with your card if you wish.

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. Always include your membership number. We can always find it for you should you forget.

There is so much you can learn from our website it seems a shame that members don't make the most of it. From the members area on the website you can make changes to your address and email just log in. It is so easy.

We recently held a talk on how to get the best from the website which was very well received. We are looking at ways to bring this to everyone. Most people were amazed at just what was available on the site and I'm sure went home to try it all out.

If you must pay by cheque please send to:

MLFHS  
17 Fortyacre Drive,  
Bredbury,  
SK6 2EZ

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

Best wishes  
Elsie

## EVENTS/TALKS

### Manchester Branch

At the time of going to press there were no talks planned.

Please check the website <https://mlfhs.uk/manchester/events/meetings> for more details and to register.

### **M&LFHS Family History Fair**

Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society presents  
a family history fair for everyone.  
Discovering Family Lives

March 25<sup>th</sup> 2023 at Manchester Central Library  
Open from 10.00 am until 3.30 pm - Free entry



# MANCHESTER & LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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## DISCOVERING FAMILY LIVES

Ever wanted to trace your Family History?

Societies from the local area will be on hand to offer practical advice and guidance

This is an opportunity to meet experts in the field of Family History

For complete beginners to those of you who are looking for more resources in tracing your ancestry

Our friendly team of staff and volunteers on the helpdesk will also be available to answer any queries you may have

**FREE ENTRY**

For a list of societies attending, please visit our website: [www.mlfhs.uk](http://www.mlfhs.uk)  
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### Bolton Branch

#### Using your DNA results. A Room or ZOOM meeting.

A talk about how to make DNA connections and groups. What can you do to try to identify a DNA match which has no tree to view?

#### Date and time

Wed, 1 Mar 2023, 19:30 GMT

#### Location

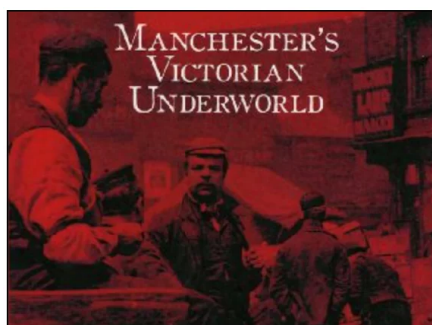
Bolton Golf Club Chorley New Road, Lostock Bolton BL6 4AJ

Booking: [Eventbrite details here](#)

Bolton Golf Club  
Chorley New Road  
Bolton BL6 4AJ

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

### Oldham Branch



#### Manchester's Victorian Underworld

An illustrated talk given by Joseph O'Neill  
Saturday, 11th March at 2pm.

Historian Joseph O'Neill recreates the sights, sounds and smells of a lost milieu in all their fascinating detail. He chronicles the era's crooks, cracksmen, pimps, prostitutes, conmen, garroters and bare knuckle fighters,

and the gin palaces, dance halls and cheap brothels that were as much a part of Manchester as giant cotton mills.

A hybrid meeting in the Performance Space at Oldham Library and on zoom.

\* Booking essential for attendance on zoom and will be free to all.

\* No booking necessary for attendance in the library; members free, non-members £3.

Booking for zoom on [Eventbrite](#)

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

## Anglo-Scots



### Our Annual Meeting.

A short meeting, essential for the smooth running of the branch.

Date: 4 March 2023

Day: Saturday, 2.00pm (UK time)

Venue: in-person at Manchester Central Library

Followed by [Our Social Meeting](#).

Our social meeting where we can discuss our research. Let us know if you have items of interest to share or if you have any heirlooms or documents that you would like to bring, to help with our planning.

Booking: [Eventbrite](#)

Cost: members - free of charge

Cost: non-members - £3.00

Image: HH

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

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## Society of Genealogists Events in March

Live online events in January - March

More information can be found [HERE](#) and for the latest news and subscribe to their newsletter [HERE](#).

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## The National Archives

Our exciting programme of online talks is for everyone and delivered by experts, specialists and special guest speakers. When you book an event, you are invited to pay what you can – this is optional and entirely at the discretion of attendees. Some of our events remain completely free.

The National Archives also hosts a range of onsite events. To browse these, please see [Events at Kew](#) page.

Priority booking to all events

Get priority booking to all events every month when you subscribe to the weekly newsletter.  
Get priority booking – sign up to the [mailing list](#) now.

## BOOKSHOP



Roman Catholic Baptisms

**St. Mary,  
Eccles: 1879-1923**

Images and transcripts of 2,847 baptisms  
plus an index to the 12,684 persons named in  
the above register entries

### **Salford, Eccles, St. Mary's RC Church, Baptisms 1879-1923 (Download)**

Code: DL1632

**£5.00**

A scanned copy of the original baptism registers 1879-1923 complete with a transcript of the 2,847 baptisms performed and an index to the 12,684 names of children, parents and godparents which appear in the register.

### **St. Mary, Eccles: 1879-1923**

In the year 1849 a school was begun in a hired cottage situated in Barton Lane. This was one of the many off-shoots from the church at Barton under Canon Kershaw.

The success of this venture encouraged the Canon to set up school premises on land given by Sir Thomas de Trafford. These were opened in 1857.

Large additions were made in 1871 on land provided by Sir Humphrey de Trafford, and from that year the school was used as a temporary chapel, served from Barton.

Father T. Sharrock was made first Rector in 1879, but died prematurely in 1893. He was succeeded by Fr. Newton, who was here for thirty years until his death in 1924. The present [1950] parish priest, Fr. J. Drescher, was appointed in that year.

More details at the [bookshop](#).

## PROJECTS UPDATE

### **Godfrey Map Index**

357 references for Stalybridge & Ashton 1892. Indexed by John Gartside

414 street and location references for the Alan Godfrey maps of Rainsough, Kersal & Hilton Park 1907, Wardley 1904 and Worsley 1904 to the Godfrey Map Index.  
Thanks to Chris Willis for these latest entries.

231 new references for two more maps have been added to the Godfrey Map Index at:  
These are for Westhoughton 1907 and Wingates & Chew Moor 1927.  
Thanks to John Gartside for these.

1,468 references: Leigh North 1892 and Leigh South 1892 Indexed by Chris Willis. Also Blackley & Lower Crumpsall 1915; Moston 1933; Trafford Park South 1937; Broughton Park & Crumpsall 1907 and Barlow Moor & West Didsbury 1905.  
Indexed by John Marsden.

<https://www.mlfhs.uk/databases/godfrey-map-index>

There are still plenty of maps still to be indexed. If you own any of these maps and are prepared to give a few hours to indexing them, please contact me.

### **Newspaper Announcements**

2,774 BMD announcements from Manchester Courier for 1844 to the Great Database.  
Transcribed by Linda Bailey

### **Manchester School for the Deaf Admissions**

Scanning and transcription of admission registers 1885-1908 and 1908-1922 completed.

### **Bolton Workhouse Creed Registers**

7,935 records relating to admissions 1908-1911 and thanks are due to Graham Holt and his team.

This addition, incidentally, brings the number of name records in the society's databases to a total of 3,305,794.

23,713 records for 1902-1911

5,112 records for 1892-1899

5,467 records for 1881-1891

---

### **HELPDESK**

If you have not been into the library post-covid please put a date in your diary and pay us a visit. I think you will find the day very rewarding. If you have any questions, please drop the Society an email: [office@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:office@mlfhs.org.uk)

MLFHS Family History Help Desk Hours: M-F 10:30 am-3:30 pm.

### **WEBSITE NEWS**

#### **Findmypast**

Release of two record sets, both online exclusively at Findmypast. With them comes nearly a million new records spanning 74 years.

Civil Service Commission Appointments, Promotions and Transfers 1871-1942  
872,439 records spanning 71 years before and during World War 2.

Second World War Civilian Casualties In Britain 1940-1945

64,339 records This collection stems from multiple sources, including the tireless efforts of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. More details [HERE](#)

### **MyHeritage**

41 Million Historical Records were added in January 2023 from 22 collections. The collections are from 12 U.S. States, the U.K, Australia, Finland, Greece, Israel, and Portugal and include birth, marriage, obituaries, death, migration, and voter registration records. More details [HERE](#)

### **Ancestry**

Family history website Ancestry has added two new major collections of records for people tracing ancestors from the London borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

The first collection consists of 135,370 parish chest records, dating from 1597 to 1950.

The other record set is 66,506 Poor Law records, dating from 1695 to 1921. They record the money that was administered to the poor of the parish, particularly prior to the introduction of the workhouse system in 1834.

### **TheGenealogist**

Over 2.4 million fully searchable RAF records have been added to its military collections. The records, from RAF Operation Record Books (ORBs), cover the day-to-day operations in the sky and on airbases from 1911 through to the 1960s. While mostly recording squadrons after the First World War, this collection also includes a few early squadron records from 1911 to 1918. More details [HERE](#)

## **ORPHAN BMDs**

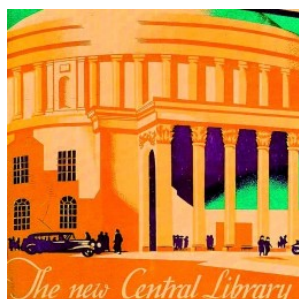
If you have any BMDs you no longer want then why not consider dropping them off at our Helpdesk or you can send them to:

M&LFHS

61 Queens Road, Urmston, M41 9HF

If you wish to keep your certificates then you can send scans, preferably as a PDF to [office@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:office@mlfhs.org.uk) and they will be passed on to me. If you have problems sending scans to this address then please contact me at [newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk) and I will suggest an alternative means of forwarding the PDF files.

## **MANCHESTER ARCHIVES+**



## **Pandemic Retrospective – Part 3 A comparison of the strategies in dealing with the pandemics**

All of the decisions about the response to the pandemic in the 1870s were taken at a local level. There was little evidence of a national strategy. There is some evidence of information sharing between different local authorities



but this seems to be more about who you knew or what you were particularly interested in. One interesting piece of collaboration of which John Leigh was a part concerns the feeding of babies. The data showed how high infant mortality was in Manchester – one of the highest in the country. By collecting data locally and from other areas, he was able to compare the Manchester data with those of other similar sized towns which had different or less industry. His conclusions were that in these other towns the majority of babies were breastfed, most up to and beyond their first birthdays. In Manchester this was not the case since a lot of women went out to work and so were not able to breastfeed. He also concluded that their diet was totally unsuitable. This piece of work shows John Leigh's interest in and use of data. It also shows that there was evidence to show that breastfeeding prevented a high death rate from infectious diseases but the scientific evidence as to why this was the case was not as yet understood. You will find the full article [HERE](#).

Why not visit the Manchester Archives+ [website](#) where you can sign up for their Blog via e-mail and also delve into a huge collection of subjects. Just click on 'categories' for a complete list.

## **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.

### **WHO WE ARE**

From historical footage and home movies to newsreels and adverts, we find, preserve and share over 50,000 items of film and video, for public, educational and professional use. We love film and how it can open a window into the past and the present in ways that can be powerful, moving and unexpected.

Part of Manchester Met, and based within Manchester Central Library's Archives+ partnership, we are a specialist resource dedicated to saving and growing our region's rich filmed history.

## WHAT WE DO

Do you need some footage for teaching, broadcasting or an artistic or community project?

Do you have film of our region's people or places that needs looking after?

Whoever you are, if you need a professional and friendly service, we're here to help.

We offer:

- research support and loan or licence of footage (including for professional broadcast)
- bespoke learning and teaching support
- opportunities to hire or watch unusual and interesting films, with a local and historical theme
- opportunities for community engagement and collaboration
- a home for the region's film and video, where moving images are professionally preserved, stored and made available, for now and for the future

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@MLFH

## Appendix 1

Lancashire BMD has been updated as follows

75 Marriages for Fylde RD comprising:

Fleetwood, St.Mary's (1971-1980)

12 Marriages for Burnley RD comprising:

Padiham, Baptist Church (Pendle St) (1966-1989)

[www.lancashirebmd.org.uk](http://www.lancashirebmd.org.uk)

Thanks are due to Tony Foster and his team.

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Bath BMD has been updated as follows:

Marriages:

20 for Walcot Chapel, Nelson Place, London Road, registers at Bath (2005-2021)

72 for Central Methodist Church, Paulton, registers at Bath (1974-2015)

9 for Methodist Chapel, South Road, Timsbury, registers at Bath (1982-2015)

10 for Ebenezer Chapel, High Street, Keynsham, registers at Bath (1993-2014)

49 for Central United Reformed Church (Argyle), registers at Bath (1989-2016)

6 for Hay Hill Chapel, Fountain Buildings, Lansdown, registers at Bath (2010-2016)

30 for Manvers Street Baptist Chapel, registers at Bath (1997-2020)

2 for Farrington Gurney Methodist Chapel, registers at Bath (2012-2012)

12 for Widcombe Baptist Church, Pulteney Road, registers at Bath (2015-2021)

43 for Paulton Baptist Chapel, registers at Bath (1973-2015)

19 for Timsbury Tabor Chapel, registers at Bath (1990-2007)

59 for Keynsham, Victoria Methodist Chapel, High Street, registers at Bath (1992-2014)

19 for Weston, Methodist Church, Lower Weston, registers at Bath (1997-2015)

3 for Peasedown, Methodist Chapel, Bath Road, registers at Bath (2007-2017)

7 for Westfield Methodist Chapel, Radstock, registers at Bath (2006-2018)

16 for Radstock, Methodist Church, registers at Bath (1997-2020)

5 for Oldfield Park Baptist Church, The Triangle, registers at Bath (2012-2020)

43 for Shakespeare Avenue Methodist Church, Bear Flat, registers at Bath (1993-2016)

2 for Chew Stoke Methodist Church, registers at Bath (2013-2016)

15 for Midsomer Norton Methodist Church, High Street, registers at Bath (2009-2020)

Many thanks to the Register Office staff and their volunteers for these.

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The Kingston upon Thames BMD site has been updated as follows:

Births:

5,004 for Kingston, registers at Kingston (1874-1879)

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The Staffs BMD Updates are as follows

Marriages:

22 for Longton (The Strand), Methodist Church, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (2004-2019)

24 for Smallthorne, Salem Methodist Church, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (1985-2013)  
 19 for Birches Head, St George and St Martin RC Church, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (2007-2011)  
 14 for Milton, Methodist Chapel, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (2002-2019)  
 2 for Cliff Bank, Church of our Lady of Angels and St Peter, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (2018-2018)  
 2 for Meir, St Augustine's Roman Catholic Church, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (2017-2017)  
 9 for Baddely Edge, Methodist Church, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (2011-2019)  
 55 for Bucknall (Werrington Rd), Methodist Church, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (1997-2019)  
 2 for Trentham, Methodist Chapel, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (2014-2014)  
 97 for Longton (Trentham Rd), United Reformed Church, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (2000-2016)  
 1 for Basford (Victoria Street), Advent Church, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (2013-2013)  
 653 for Tunstall, Methodist Church and Centre, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (1986-2017)  
 93 for Tunstall, Christ Church, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (1996-2019)  
 7 for Bucknall (Ruxley Road), Kingdom Hall, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (2012-2020)  
 23 for Dresden, Elim Church, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (2002-2018)  
 6 for Abbey Hulton, St John, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (2011-2020)  
 23 for Ubbberley Estate, St Stephen, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (1991-2020)  
 Marriages: Updates for corrections and additions:  
 36 for Ball Green, Methodist Church, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (1952-1977)  
 105 for Meir, St Augustine's Roman Catholic Church, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (1981-2014)  
 243 for Norton (Ford Green Rd), St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (1974-2018)  
 97 for Cobridge, Christ Church, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (1984-2019)

---

Shropshire BMD has been updated to add:

Marriages:

142 for Acton Round, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (1837-2017)  
 57 for Broseley, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2012-2021)  
 8 for Chelmarsh, St Peter, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2017-2020)  
 3 for Chetton, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2016-2018)  
 28 for Claverley, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2018-2020)  
 499 for Ditton Priors, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (1837-2020)  
 20 for Easthope, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (1994-2019)  
 2 for Farlow, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2016-2019)  
 30 for Alveley, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2016-2020)  
 22 for Deuxhill/Glazeley, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (1962-2004)  
 19 for Kinlet, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2017-2021)  
 19 for Long Stanton, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (1981-2018)  
 15 for Middleton Scriven, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (1964-2018)  
 136 for Monkhopton, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (1839-2015)  
 15 for Morville, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2016-2019)  
 9 for Astley Abbots, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2011-2019)  
 3 for Morville with Aston Eyres, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2016-2017)  
 13 for Much Wenlock, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2017-2020)  
 7 for Neen Savage, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2016-2019)  
 120 for Neenton, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (1838-2018)  
 176 for North Cleobury with Burwarton, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (1838-2011)  
 45 for Oldbury, St Nicholas, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2011-2020)

25 for Quatford, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2000-2019)  
 3 for Quatt Malvern, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2017-2017)  
 8 for Shipton, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2007-2018)  
 140 for Aston Botterell, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (1837-2009)  
 13 for Sidbury, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (1963-2019)  
 5 for Stottesdon, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2018-2019)  
 43 for Tasley, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2000-2017)  
 10 for Tuck Hill, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2017-2020)  
 40 for Worfield, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2016-2020)  
 277 for Albrighton, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (1988-2019)  
 2 for Badger, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2013-2018)  
 13 for Beckbury, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2014-2021)  
 31 for Barrow, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2000-2018)  
 10 for Boningale, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2015-2020)  
 84 for Donington, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (1994-2020)  
 21 for Kemberton, St Andrews, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2003-2019)  
 50 for Sheriffhales, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (1993-2019)  
 21 for Shifnal, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2018-2021)  
 4 for Stockton, St Chad, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2016-2018)  
 5 for Sutton Maddock, St Marys, Sutton Maddock, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2018-2019)  
 13 for Tong, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2016-2020)  
 18 for Billingsley, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (1963-2014)  
 23 for Bourton, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (1998-2019)  
 9 for Bishops Castle, St John the Baptist, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (2015-2019)  
 4 for Bedstone, St Mary, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1995-2014)  
 28 for Bucknell St Mary, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (2002-2019)  
 3 for Bettws-y-Crwyn St Mary, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (2019-2020)  
 13 for Clun, St George, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (2012-2020)  
 75 for Clunbury, St Swithin, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1969-2017)  
 18 for Clungunford, St Cuthbert, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1993-2020)  
 30 for Chirbury, St Michael, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1991-2020)  
 13 for Chapel Lawn St Mary, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1992-2017)  
 6 for Clunton, St Mary, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1991-2001)  
 19 for Edgton, St Michael, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1980-2018)  
 11 for Hopton Castle, St Mary, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1985-2007)  
 10 for Hope, Holy Trinity, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (2010-2019)  
 36 for Hopesay, St Mary, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1993-2017)  
 7 for Lydbury North, St Michael and All Angels, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (2018-2020)  
 20 for Llanfair Waterdine, St Mary, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1995-2019)  
 15 for Middleton, Holy Trinity, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1989-2015)  
 8 for Marton, St Mark, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1988-2008)  
 5 for More, St Peter, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (2014-2019)  
 15 for Mainstone, St John The Baptist, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1999-2019)  
 29 for Myndtown, St John the Baptist, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1854-2010)  
 2 for Norbury, All Saints, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (2019-2019)  
 1 for Newcastle, St John the Evangelist, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (2018-2018)  
 6 for Ratlinghope, St Margaret, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (2011-2018)  
 40 for Shelve, All Saints, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1926-2017)  
 14 for Stowe, St Michael, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1988-2015)  
 5 for Wentnor, St Michael, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (2018-2020)  
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17 for Rushbury, Ludlow, registers at Shrewsbury (2009-2019)  
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 61 for Wistanstow, Ludlow, registers at Shrewsbury (1998-2019)  
 4 for Abdon, Ludlow, registers at Shrewsbury (2012-2018)  
 1 for Ashford Bowdler, Ludlow, registers at Shrewsbury (2012-2012)  
 9 for Ashford Carbonel, Ludlow, registers at Shrewsbury (2009-2018)  
 9 for St Lawrence, Church Stretton, registers at Shrewsbury (2014-2019)  
 20 for Bitterley, Ludlow, registers at Shrewsbury (2007-2021)  
 8 for Boraston, Ludlow, registers at Shrewsbury (2001-2019)  
 49 for Bromfield, Ludlow, registers at Shrewsbury (2001-2019)  
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 3 for Caynham, Ludlow, registers at Shrewsbury (2018-2018)  
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 4 for Hope Bagot, Ludlow, registers at Shrewsbury (2013-2017)  
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 7 for Stanton Lacy, Ludlow, registers at Shrewsbury (2015-2018)  
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 2 for Tugford, Ludlow, registers at Shrewsbury (2014-2015)  
 4 for Whitton, Ludlow, registers at Shrewsbury (2014-2018)  
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 14 for Cleobury Mortimer, St Mary, Ludlow, registers at Shrewsbury (2015-2019)  
 8 for Coreley Church, Ludlow, registers at Shrewsbury (2012-2018)  
 236 for Doddington Church, Ludlow, registers at Shrewsbury (1849-2015)  
 403 for Hopton Wafers, Ludlow, registers at Shrewsbury (1837-2019)  
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 27 for Westhope, registers at Shrewsbury (1910-2014)  
 10 for Eaton under Heywood, Ludlow, registers at Shrewsbury (2011-2020)  
 5 for Halford, Ludlow, registers at Shrewsbury (2014-2019)  
 5 for Hope Bowdler, Ludlow, registers at Shrewsbury (2011-2018)  
 21 for Bridgnorth Baptist, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (1998-2019)  
 5 for Broseley Methodist, Duke Street, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2010-2012)  
 7 for Kingdom Hall, Oldbury Road, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2007-2017)  
 5 for Albrighton Methodist Church, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (1974-2003)  
 10 for Shifnal Trinity Methodist Church, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2007-2016)  
 10 for Shifnal St Marys, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2014-2020)  
 19 for Albrighton St Joseph RC Church, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (1975-1986)  
 17 for Cosford Church of Christ the King, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2007-2019)  
 11 for King St Methodist Chapel, Much Wenlock, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (1975-2004)  
 1 for Melville Methodist Chapel, Farlow, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2017-2017)

5 for United Reformed & Methodist, Cartway, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2011-2016)  
 42 for St Johns Roman Catholic, Bridgnorth, registers at Shrewsbury (2011-2020)  
 14 for Snailbeach Methodist, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1990-2011)  
 20 for Clun Methodist Church, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1966-1999)  
 14 for Bishops Castle Methodist Church, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1991-2015)  
 6 for Broad St Methodist Church, Ludlow, registers at Shrewsbury (2013-2019)  
 5 for Hopton Bank Methodist Church, Ludlow, registers at Shrewsbury (1992-2019)  
 1 for St Elizabeths Roman Catholice Church, Cleobury Mortimer, Ludlow, registers at Shrewsbury (1999-1999)  
 18 for Methodist Chapel, Church Stretton, Ludlow, registers at Shrewsbury (1993-2017)  
 8 for United Reformed, Church Stretton, Ludlow, registers at Shrewsbury (1997-2015)  
 16 for Methodist Church, Craven Arms, Ludlow, registers at Shrewsbury (1988-2018)  
 12 for Kingdom Hall, Craven Arms, Ludlow, registers at Shrewsbury (1992-2020)  
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 13 for Grinshill, North Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (2013-2019)  
 16 for Hadnall, North Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (2015-2019)  
 13 for Hinstock, North Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (2010-2019)  
 19 for Hodnet, North Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (2016-2020)  
 71 for Ightfield, North Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (1973-2019)  
 13 for Lee Brockhurst, North Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (2005-2018)  
 66 for Little Drayton, North Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (2010-2020)  
 13 for Loppington, North Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (2014-2019)  
 2 for Moreton Corbet, North Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (2018-2018)  
 22 for Ash, North Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (1929-2019)  
 9 for Moreton Say, North Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (2009-2019)  
 24 for Newtown, North Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (2004-2019)  
 17 for Norton In Hales, North Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (2014-2019)  
 2 for Peplow, North Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (2016-2018)  
 10 for Prees, North Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (2018-2021)  
 13 for Shawbury, North Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (2014-2020)  
 19 for Stanton upon Hine Heath, North Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (2008-2017)  
 3 for Stoke upon Tern, North Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (2018-2019)  
 9 for Tilstock, North Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (2009-2017)  
 46 for Wem, North Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (2009-2020)  
 19 for Broughton, North Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (1988-2015)  
 7 for Weston under Redcastle, North Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (2016-2018)  
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 81 for Whixall, North Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (1971-2020)  
 6 for Woore, North Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (2009-2017)  
 5 for Tern Hill, North Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (1982-2012)  
 17 for Myddle, North Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (2014-2019)  
 15 for Calverhall, North Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (1997-2018)  
 16 for Cheswardine, North Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (2018-2020)  
 8 for Child's Ercall, North Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (2017-2020)  
 21 for Clive, North Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (2017-2019)  
 352 for Drayton In Hales, North Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (1985-2020)  
 29 for Edstaston, North Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (1995-2020)  
 5 for Baschurch, Oswestry, registers at Shrewsbury (2018-2019)  
 4 for Llanyblodwel, Oswestry, registers at Shrewsbury (2018-2019)  
 9 for Llanymynech, Oswestry, registers at Shrewsbury (2016-2019)  
 16 for Llyneal cum Colemere, Oswestry, registers at Shrewsbury (2013-2018)

1 for Maesbrook St. John, Oswestry, registers at Shrewsbury (2018-2018)  
4 for Maesbury, Oswestry, registers at Shrewsbury (2017-2018)  
5 for Melferley, Oswestry, registers at Shrewsbury (2017-2019)  
3 for Morton, Oswestry, registers at Shrewsbury (2018-2019)  
151 for Oswestry, Holy Trinity, Oswestry, registers at Shrewsbury (1977-2019)  
108 for Oswestry, St Oswalds, Oswestry, registers at Shrewsbury (2010-2020)  
17 for Cockshutt, Oswestry, registers at Shrewsbury (1998-2013)  
4 for Petton, Oswestry, registers at Shrewsbury (2012-2021)  
38 for Pradoc, Oswestry, registers at Shrewsbury (1976-2019)  
63 for Ryton-XI-Towns, Oswestry, registers at Shrewsbury (1992-2019)  
270 for St Martins, Oswestry, registers at Shrewsbury (1966-2017)  
5 for Selattyn, Oswestry, registers at Shrewsbury (2018-2019)  
44 for Trefonnen, Oswestry, registers at Shrewsbury (1998-2019)  
12 for Welshampton, Oswestry, registers at Shrewsbury (2012-2018)  
2 for Welsh Frankton, Oswestry, registers at Shrewsbury (2018-2019)  
16 for West Felton, Oswestry, registers at Shrewsbury (2007-2019)  
3 for Weston Lullingfields, Oswestry, registers at Shrewsbury (2018-2018)  
7 for Criffins, Oswestry, registers at Shrewsbury (2012-2020)  
48 for Weston Rhyn, Oswestry, registers at Shrewsbury (1993-2019)  
12 for Whittington, Oswestry, registers at Shrewsbury (2017-2019)  
5 for Haughton, Oswestry, registers at Shrewsbury (2002-2020)  
14 for Dudleston, Oswestry, registers at Shrewsbury (2015-2019)  
132 for Ellesmere, Oswestry, registers at Shrewsbury (1997-2019)  
73 for Gobowen, Oswestry, registers at Shrewsbury (1996-2020)  
11 for Hordley, Oswestry, registers at Shrewsbury (1996-2016)  
64 for Kinnerley, Oswestry, registers at Shrewsbury (1985-2020)  
19 for Knockin, Oswestry, registers at Shrewsbury (2003-2018)  
14 for Acton Burnell, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2009-2020)  
17 for Buildwas, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2003-2016)  
20 for Cardeston, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2007-2020)  
2 for Cardington, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2017-2019)  
2 for Church Preen, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2010-2010)  
8 for Church Pulverbatch, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2011-2018)  
24 for Conover, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2015-2020)  
9 for Cound, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2015-2020)  
5 for Cressage, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2008-2018)  
245 for Dorrington, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (1845-2020)  
1 for Eaton Constantine, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2019-2019)  
6 for Alberbury, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2018-2019)  
2 for Fitz, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2019-2019)  
5 for Ford, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2016-2017)  
17 for Frodesley, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (1986-2020)  
52 for Great Hanwood, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (1993-2019)  
7 for Great Wollaston, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (1999-2020)  
8 for Great Ness, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2016-2019)  
119 for Habberley, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (1839-2017)  
94 for Holy Spirit (HRL), Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (1999-2020)  
7 for Harley, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2013-2020)  
9 for Hughley, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (1981-2017)  
20 for Albrighton, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2005-2017)  
7 for Kenley, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2011-2015)  
7 for Leaton, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2017-2020)  
7 for Leebotwood, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2009-2019)  
6 for Leighton, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2017-2018)  
7 for Little Ness, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2009-2017)

16 for Longnor, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2007-2016)  
16 for Longden, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (1997-2018)  
51 for Meole Brace, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2017-2020)  
53 for Schools Chapel, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (1985-2020)  
49 for Minsterley, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (1998-2018)  
11 for Annscoft, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2012-2019)  
22 for Montford, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (1988-2019)  
16 for Oxon & Shelton, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2017-2020)  
22 for Pitchford, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (1984-2019)  
27 for Pontesbury, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2016-2020)  
17 for Sheinton, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (1990-2018)  
11 for Shrawardine, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2003-2016)  
9 for All Saints, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2013-2018)  
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1 for St Alkmunds, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2017-2017)  
9 for St Chad, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2018-2021)  
4 for Astley, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2011-2016)  
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6 for St Peters (MNKMR), Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2012-2018)  
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15 for Uppington, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (1995-2020)  
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17 for Westbury, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2010-2020)  
8 for Atcham, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2019-2020)  
20 for Withington, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (1995-2020)  
20 for Woolstaston, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (1956-2017)  
11 for Emmanuel, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2001-2018)  
12 for Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2005-2020)  
3 for Berrington, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2017-2019)  
9 for Bicton, Shrewsbury, registers at Shrewsbury (2015-2021)

Many thanks to the Register Office and their volunteers for these.

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/>



**FAMILY  
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**REALLY  
USEFUL  
Bulletin**

**No 30**

February 2023

Welcome to the February edition of the *Really Useful Bulletin*

*inside find...*

Lead article this month is the fascinating *What Can a Postcard Tell Us?*

plus news from local FHS and from the Federation



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# Really Useful Bulletin

## What Can a Postcard Tell Us?

Helen Baggott

Almost twenty years ago, I began researching postcards that were sent more than a hundred years ago. For me, the easiest way to reveal the stories behind the cards was to use the same resources you will be familiar with as a family historian and to create family trees.

I begin by confirming the person who received the card at the address in an official record – census return, probate record, marriage register, etc. That's not always as straightforward as you might assume. So much happens to us between the years of these official milestones and it was the same for our ancestors. Sometimes, I will find the person in a directory and can use that as my starting point.

The messages on the cards are often interesting – telling of a train's arrival later that same day, a visit to an exhibition in London, the health of a relative, etc. But sometimes they include clues – the names of other family members, perhaps their spouses. Each card is really a giant jigsaw puzzle.

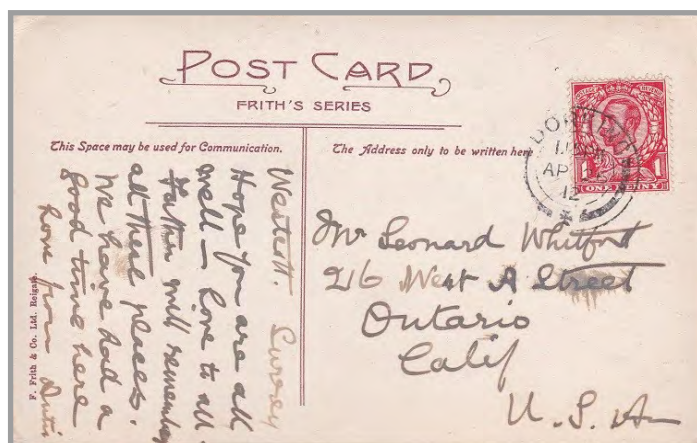
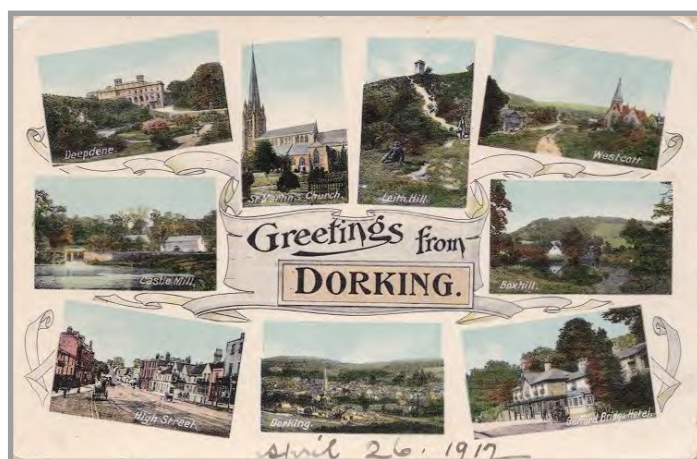
When possible, I like to trace the sender. Some cards are sent by friends and that means creating another tree. I have managed to trace senders by matching their handwriting to the 1911 census (the message will often suggest they live near to the recipient). All of the trees I create are snapshots – not the detailed tree that you might have for your own family. I don't need to stray too far from the immediate family, although I do go back several generations.

One card I have (I actually have hundreds!) was sent to a spinster music teacher in London from someone in Australia who signed the card with their initials. I later discovered the teacher married a man with the same initials and the sender's distinctive writing was a perfect match to the marriage register. Edgar Nodes, the groom, was an undertaker and his family were involved in the bringing home of the Unknown Warrior – a story we're familiar with, but perhaps the Nodes family's connection adds a new dimension. These new aspects are one of the reasons

exploring the cards is so addictive (yes, I admit I am addicted!).



A card sent to a family in California, revealed they had emigrated to America from England towards the end of the nineteenth century.



The Whitford family were from the London area and Samuel Whitford, whose son and his family moved to America, was the first secretary of Great Ormond Street's Hospital for Sick Children. Whitford was there for more than thirty years and during that time he helped raise money and awareness about the needs for sick children. Later, the hospital benefited from the generosity of JM Barrie's legacy of *Peter Pan's* royalties. But in the 1850s, the hospital was desperately in need of support and Whitford was an important member of the team that helped establish perhaps the most famous children's hospital in the world. Yet, he's hardly mentioned in books about those early years – so, revealing and sharing his story is extremely satisfying.

When I was researching this particular card, I was able to draw on the help of the hospital's archivist. Never be reticent in contacting an institution. A clearly worded email will undoubtedly be received favourably. After all, archivists are dedicated to their role and helping others must be as satisfying to them as it is for us to receive that information.





Other cards are found at car boot sales, second-hand bookshops and the like. One favourite card was one of three bought for £1 – it's tatty and almost in pieces. I discovered it was sent by a ship's cook to his young sister. That sailor was aboard HMS *Hampshire* when it hit a mine in the First World War. Most of those aboard lost their life, as did the sailor and Lord Kitchener who was heading a diplomatic mission to Russia. You can see how the cards almost open the door to events that affected the world, not just the sender and recipient.

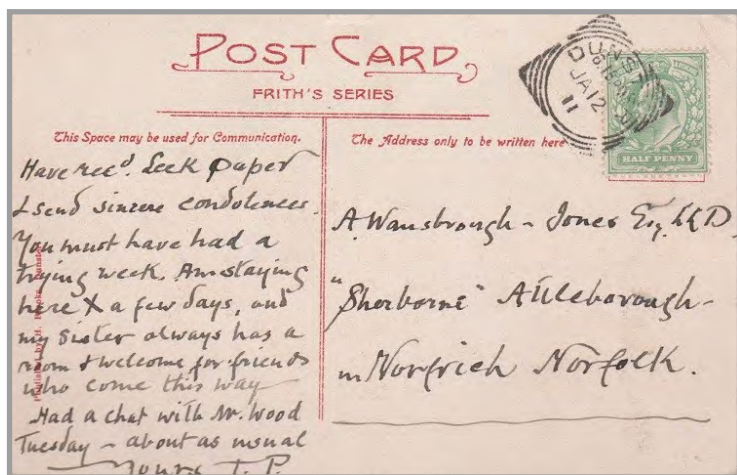


I'm often asked where I source the cards. Well, most come from eBay and this is useful for your own family history research. Perhaps you want cards that depict where your ancestors lived. Or maybe you're looking for cards that are actually connected to your family. Creating searches – filtering out the irrelevant information – means you will receive an email every time there's a match. It might take months, but wouldn't it be wonderful to see a card your ancestors handled? You would do this by creating searches





# Really Useful Bulletin



The thrilling part for me is that I never know where the research will take me. A card sent in 1911 to Norfolk, led me to a family who lived in Bristol's Guinea Street and a branch that had emigrated to America's remote Washington State.

At the moment I'm working on my third book. This one is slightly different but I still follow the same research practices as before. All the postcards are connected with sea travel – daytrips, cruises, emigration, etc. The images and messages have to fit that criteria and inevitably there are stories of heartbreak. One thing the research reveals is how often our ancestors crossed the Atlantic on return trips. Remember, these are mainly working-class people and even today such journeys require careful financial planning. Although buying postcards associated with *Titanic* would be well beyond my budget, I have two cards telling different stories of the ship. And I have postcards sent or received by people connected with the tragedy – I didn't know this when I chose the cards, that's come out in my research.

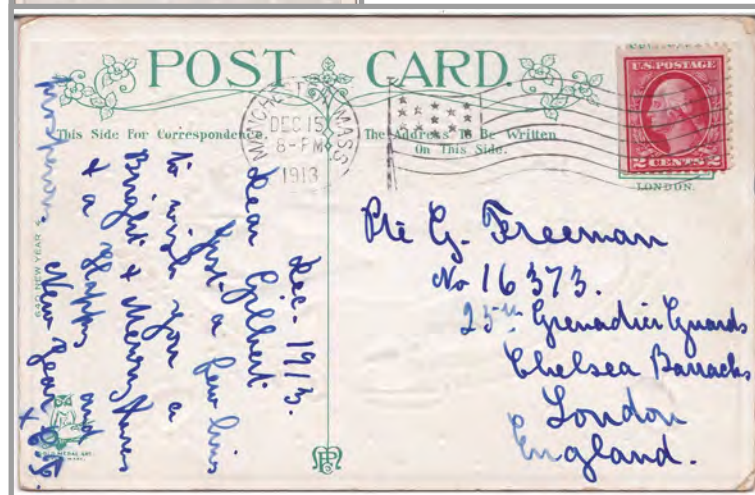
A card sent between cousins that I included in my first book, revealed that Edith Stainer, who sent the card, was one of hundreds lost when RMS *Empress of Ireland* sank in 1914. Although the total lost was far greater on *Titanic*, more passengers were lost on the *Empress*. Overshadowed by the statistics – and the imminent outbreak of the First World War – the story of the *Empress* is almost forgotten. It's remembered in Canada, where it occurred, and by the

Salvation Army who lost a great number that were returning to England for an event at the Royal Albert Hall. Despite the number of passengers and crew that were from the United Kingdom, there is no memorial – not even in Liverpool from where the ship sailed. Sharing that story was important to me and I'm due to give a Zoom talk in 2023 about it to a group in Canada. And that's something that's paramount to me – raising awareness and the remembrance of these people.

The first card I ever researched was sent to a soldier in the Chelsea Barracks. Gilbert Freeman was killed in the Battle of the Somme and has no known grave. Over the years that followed my father buying that card, I dipped in and out of



Gilbert's story and eventually connected with his brothers' families in America, where they had lived. Sharing Gilbert's story is an act of remembrance. He may not belong within my family but he was fighting for king and country, his friends and family, and for future generations – strangers like us.



All the trees I create are on Ancestry and set to 'private'. This is so I can explain the motivation behind my research – and why I haven't necessarily researched all the branches connected to the card. Also, some of the research reveals harrowing events and dealing with them sensitively is crucial. One brother that I researched died at his place of work – a factory. I found this in his probate records and wondered if it would be an opportunity to explore health and safety. His death certificate revealed in graphic detail that he had committed suicide. This wasn't my ancestor but when I opened the envelope and read those details I was greatly affected. If it had been my ancestor, I would have



# Really Useful Bulletin

had the opportunity to decide how and with whom I shared the news. That information doesn't belong in a book about postcards. Although the man never married, he lived in a small community and the descendants of his siblings would possibly be identifiable.

I have been contacted by people who have realised they are reading or hearing about their own ancestors. They have all been pleased with my research and I have been able to fill some gaps in their own trees. This isn't because my research is more thorough, it's because I've tackled it from a different starting point.

You might read about someone who shares the surname of your neighbour and you might know they came from the same part of the country. But unless you know your neighbour's parents, grandparents, etc. you would not know they were from the same family. If they choose to confirm the details, that's up to them – as it should be. This is why none of my research is brought up to date. Gilbert Freeman's family contacted me – I didn't seek them out (even though I knew exactly who and where they were). They found an online article that I had written – by pure chance it had been uploaded the day before they searched.

I think this philosophy of respect is essential to everyone who undertakes research. What might appear sensational is actually a tragedy and should be regarded as such.

I know from my talks and emails I've received from readers of my books, that many people have their own collections of cards – that either illustrate family locations or were sent to their ancestors. I also know that once people start looking at their postcards in a new light, they're hooked!



*Helen Baggott is an editor, writer and speaker from Dorset. She has written for local magazines and those that cover genealogy and postcards. Her work has been recognised in regional and national newspapers.*

Helen's website: [www.helenbaggott.co.uk/stourcastle.html](http://www.helenbaggott.co.uk/stourcastle.html)

Helen is available as a speaker—live or Zoom. See [www.familyhistoryfederation.com/speakers-az](http://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/speakers-az)

## Audrey Collins—R.I.P.



Audrey Collins, born in 1954, and for many years family history specialist at the National Archives at Kew, passed away on 4th February 2023 following a short illness.

Audrey was an absolute giant of the UK genealogy world, thanks to her role at The National Archives, and was key in explaining many of the record sets being released online from Kew, including the censuses and the 1939 National Identity Register. Most recently she helped contribute a surviving schedule from the 1921 Scottish census to the National Records of Scotland's coverage for its own launch. Although schedules in Scotland have not survived, Audrey had located one at TNA, taken south by a holidaymaker from Scotland (see below). A read of Audrey's

blog, *The Family Recorder*, will keep you enthralled and enlightened for hours. Also, she co-authored *Birth, Marriage and Death Records—A Guide for Family Historians* with Dave Annal, a superb account of the systems of church records and civil registration records kept in Britain, Ireland, Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.

Audrey was originally from Glasgow's Govan area and moved down south many years ago. I had the pleasure to meet her at conferences and events, as well as at TNA. She was always so good natured, humorous, and an absolute encyclopaedia of knowledge. One of her recordings made many years ago and which we often talked about, was a lecture she gave for *FamilySearch* trying to explain exactly what the UK, the British Isles, Great Britain, etc., meant as terms. We shared a common exasperation at how often folk overseas use them to mean the same thing, that is England!

Although she lost her native Govan brogue, Audrey was very proud of her Scottish roots, constantly citing her flame-red hair as proof of her Scottish credentials! Our thoughts are with her family.

*Picture: Audrey at RootsTech in 2017*

*Tribute by Chris Paton: <http://scottishgenes.blogspot.com/>*

Scottish census chance survival: <https://blog.nrscotland.gov.uk/2022/12/11/a-chance-survival/>

*The Family Recorder* blog: <http://thefamilyrecorder.blogspot.com>

Book: *Birth, Marriage and Death Records—A guide for family historians*: available at [Family History Books](#)

FamilySearch lecture: <https://www.familysearch.org/en/help/helpcenter/lessons/what-is-britain>





# Family History Societies

Ormskirk and  
District  
Family History  
Society

## Ormskirk and District Family History Society

Ormskirk and District Family History Society recently published their thirteenth virtual talk, inspired by records relating to an early nineteenth century charity, first found in 2017 at the Lancashire Archives in Preston, by one of the Society's committee members.

Based on transcriptions of the Burscough Township Books and fourteen lists of names from a collection described as "Poor Housekeepers of Burscough who had Beef", the thirty-five minute talk "Christmas Beef in Burscough" explores how a village on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal provided food parcels to residents in need every December between 1800 and 1825. The video makes use of pre-1841 census statistics, extracts from ODFHS publications, local scenes, graphs based on data from the lists of people who benefitted from the charity, and uses local parish registers to create a family tree chart for a family group on the beef lists who are only identified as "John Orril's daughters".

The virtual talk can be viewed at the following link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QnOo6IMJqIQ>

The Burscough Beef Awards (1800-1825) are available as a download from the ODFHS shop on Parish Chest, priced at £5:  
[www.parishchest.com/burscough-beef-awards-cd-3466.php](http://www.parishchest.com/burscough-beef-awards-cd-3466.php)

A bundle containing the Burscough Beef Awards (1800-1825) and Burscough Township Books (1770-1850) is also available, priced at £10. Both publications include photos of the original documents:  
[www.parishchest.com/burscough-township-books-and-also-burscough-beef-awards-zip-download-11639.php](http://www.parishchest.com/burscough-township-books-and-also-burscough-beef-awards-zip-download-11639.php)

ODFHS website: <http://www.odfhs.website/>



## Dorset Family History Society

Dorset Family History Society is once again hosting a Family History Day following last year's successful event.



**Dorset Family History Society  
Family History Day  
Saturday 22nd April 2022  
10am till 3pm  
St George's Church Hall,  
Darbys Lane, Oakdale,  
Poole, BH15 3EU  
Free admission and parking**

The Society will be welcoming other family history societies and commercial companies from around the country.

Dorset Family History Society will have its own stall and research advice will be offered especially now the 1921 census is available at their Treetops Research Centre.

Hot drinks and refreshments will be on sale and there will be a raffle.

Please check the website [www.dorsetfhs.org.uk/](http://www.dorsetfhs.org.uk/) for up-to-date information.

This event is for all those interested in their family history, whether your ancestry is in Dorset, elsewhere in the UK or worldwide. It is for beginners or those who have been researching for years.

Dorset Family History Society is completely run by volunteers and looks forward to welcoming everyone at St George's on St George's weekend!





# Family History Societies



## Burntwood Family History Group

BFHG was founded in 1986 by a group of local enthusiasts, many of whom remain involved. We draw much of our current membership from in and around southern Staffordshire. This includes the Burntwood area itself, the three-spined cathedral city of Lichfield, the villages of Cannock Chase, and the northern parts of the Black Country (most of which was originally part of Staffordshire!). However, the Group's membership is very broad, with members dotted all across the UK; we even have members in the Netherlands, Canada and Australia. Our membership is open to anyone with an interest in local and family history. Details of how to join can be found on the "How to Join" page on our website.

The famous Staffordshire Hoard was discovered in a field less than three miles from our meeting place. Evidence of the area's mining past abounds in the memorials to the miners and in the names of public houses. The controversial M6 Toll Road now provides a fast route through the area, a modern alternative to the Roman Watling Street (A5). A canal restoration project is well underway linking past and present. The population of the area has expanded significantly in the last few decades and the family history interests of BFHG members reflect the changes in that population. We may be locals, we may be incomers, but we are all keen to discover, research and share the rich history of this area and the families that have lived here!

**Monthly Meetings** In common with many groups, BFHG was forced to adapt to the restrictions imposed by the Covid pandemic. Through meetings held on Zoom, we uncovered a hidden benefit as distant members were able to join in for the first time. We now hold hybrid meetings, with the physical proceedings being streamed live to members who cannot attend in person. A major website upgrade in 2018 has allowed edited versions of many of our Zoom talks to be posted on our website, normally for a limited time period, and we are grateful to our speakers for their generosity in allowing us to make their talks available to as wide an audience of our members as possible.

Our meetings are held 7pm to 9pm at Chase Terrace Academy, Bridge Cross Road, Burntwood WS7 2DB. The second Monday in the month sees a formal meeting, usually with a guest speaker. We also hold a drop-in surgery/research evening on the fourth Monday of the month, where members and non-members alike can obtain help and support with their research. They can also use the computer facilities at our venue and this allows access to the Group's subscriptions to Ancestry and Find My Past. Occasionally meeting dates are amended where there is a clash with a Bank Holiday.

Maps showing how to reach our meetings are on the website page "Where and When We Meet" which also lists our upcoming speakers and the talks they will be giving. A

warm welcome awaits any visitor to BFHG and, should you live further afield, please do contact us through our website: <https://www.bfhg.org.uk/>. There is an enormous amount of material freely available on our website. This includes information and a large number of photographs of Burntwood and the towns and villages of the surrounding area, their landmarks and their war memorials.

**Burntwood Memorial Project** The twenty-fifth anniversary of the Group's formation saw the launch of the Burntwood Memorial Project, the Group's way of marking the centenary of the First World War. Members researched surnames that appear on local war memorials, or in local newspapers and documents of the time. Commemorative biographies were written about the soldiers who served and – in most cases – gave their lives for their country. These biographies can be found on the "Servicemen" page of our website. The project, which was supported by a generous grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, also includes some biographies for servicemen who served in subsequent conflicts.

**BFHG Journal** is published quarterly and is available free of charge to group members. The editor is always pleased to receive items. If you have articles or photographs, stories or artwork that you would like us to include in the Journal, please contact the group using the link on the "Contact Us" page on our website and we will arrange for the item(s) to be forwarded to our Journal Editor.

**Help and Support** If you are researching your ancestors from the towns and villages in our area, you are welcome to contact us for help and advice. We are only too glad to get you started and to provide our local knowledge. We are generally able to offer a limited amount of voluntary research. To contact us, please use the proforma on the "Contact Us" page on our website.

**Transcriptions** The Group has transcribed many of the local Parish Records and Non-Conformist Registers from the surrounding area. Originally released on CD, these are now being made available to members and non-members on USB memory sticks. Once again, specific details can be found on our website. Thanks to the help, support and encouragement of the Family History Federation – Data Manager Kevin Todman in particular – these records are also available now through Find My Past and the National Burial Index. The income derived from making these transcriptions more widely available has brought in valuable income that is helping our Group to navigate its way through financially challenging times. We have been part of the fabric of Burntwood and the surrounding area for more than 36 years now; long may that continue.

For more information please see <https://www.bfhg.org.uk>  
Or to contact us please go to <https://www.bfhg.org.uk/contact-us>



# Family History Societies



**Chesterfield and District Family History Society**

Presents  
our very own

## Who Do You Think You Are

\*\*\*\*\*

### Family History Showcase Event

**Saturday 20th May 2023—10am till 4pm**

**The St. Thomas's Centre, Brampton,  
Chesterfield S40 3AW**

**The theme is *Old and Curious Occupations***

#### Displays

**Two free talks 11.30am and 1.45pm**

|                         |                                 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Ask the expert</b>   | <b>Genealogy helpdesks</b>      |
| <b>Family history</b>   | <b>Local history</b>            |
| <b>History displays</b> | <b>Heritage</b>                 |
| <b>Social studies</b>   | <b>Derbyshire Record Office</b> |

**Books and much more**

**On site refreshments available**

**Plenty of on site and street parking available**

**Easy access routes by road, bus and rail**

**Entrance £2.00 Children under 16 are free**

**Website: [www.cadfhs.org/](http://www.cadfhs.org/)**



**Suffolk Family History Society**

Suffolk FHS has just released a composite index of all Anglican baptisms transcribed from Suffolk parish registers 1813-1900. It is available as a CD or as a download from the Suffolk FHS shop for £25 (plus postage for CDs). The online shop is at <https://suffolkfhs.co.uk/shop/index.php/>

We have also released a composite index to transcriptions of burials in Suffolk, in this case, from 1538-1900 so all the recorded Anglican burials for all of Suffolk! Also available as CD or download for the amazingly bargain price of £15.32 (plus postage). Other indexes to Suffolk parish register transcriptions are available, please check our shop.

We have a regular monthly (usually) Zoom presentation, open to all, not just members. The ones for March, April and May are as below. Please check our website news page closer to the dates for the Zoom details, <https://suffolkfhs.co.uk/index.php/news>

**March 13th, 2023, Rachel King** of the British Museum got in touch for our help identifying a family linked with a signet ring found by a metal detectorist. I asked for members' help, and got a great response. Rachel will present on ***the British Museum and early modern objects*** including the signet ring. Suffolk is and has been a place of significant archaeological finds, much predates our family history interests or capability, but there are more recent finds which will be linked with families being researched by members.

**Monday April 24<sup>th</sup>**, Valmay Young will talk about *how to use Facebook for family history*.

**Tuesday May 23<sup>rd</sup>**, Richard Marks will talk about *Munitions Workers in World War II for Family Historians*, with a Suffolk view on the subject

We welcome new (and returning) members. We publish a quarterly journal and this is available by post or electronically, downloaded from our website members pages. Membership fees reflect whether you are in the UK or not, and whether happy to download an electronic copy of our journal or want a physical copy though the post. Members get a variety of benefits, not just the high quality journal, but also for example, a 20% discount on publications such as CDs or downloads. For more details on membership check this page <https://suffolkfhs.co.uk/index.php/pages/view/membership> or just write to our membership secretary ([membership@suffolkfhs.org.uk](mailto:membership@suffolkfhs.org.uk)).

We have five groups in the county who put on regular meetings and events - parish walks in summer, and quizzes and presentations and starter sessions the rest of the year and a West of London group who meet three or four times a year in Hillingdon.

**The Really Useful Bulletin welcomes contributions from all Federation member organisations.**

**It is opportunity to promote *your* society to the extensive Bulletin readership.**



# Family History Societies



## Hampshire Genealogical Society

### LATEST NEWS

#### Exhibition at Hampshire Record Office

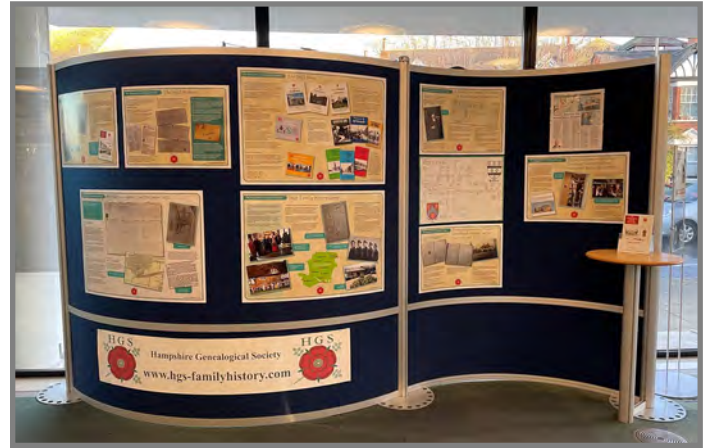
Hampshire Genealogical Society (HGS) works in partnership with Hampshire Record Office in Winchester where our research centre has been based for the last eighteen months. We run a helpdesk in the search room on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 10am - 4pm.

Currently we have an exhibition on display in the foyer of the Record Office until 23<sup>rd</sup> February, which highlights the work of HGS volunteers over the years, ranging from transcribing parish records and documenting memorial inscriptions to volunteering on our helpdesk. It also introduces our current project – the digitisation of about 90,000 handwritten cards comprising an index of Britons dying overseas. This is one of the biggest projects ever undertaken by HGS which will take until 2024 to complete.



Work on our exhibition began in May 2022 when HGS members Phil Brown, Jane Painter and Tony Sinclair met together to plan what themes should be covered in the display boards. They also started research into original documents and old books belonging to the society and used them to demonstrate how such items can be invaluable resources for family historians. Phil documented the origins and development of HGS, including the changing style of the *Hampshire Family Historian* over the years. Tony presented the story of how an old book kept in the family for generations helped his daughter trace the link through her maternal line to the Dorset poet William Barnes. Jane presented a case study detailing how a family meal in a local pub sparked her interest in family history! Using HGS resources she was able to trace her 3x great grandfather John Frederick TEES to Titchfield. His son-in-law had been the landlord of the Queen's Head, Titchfield, the same pub Jane had visited.

Our exhibition also documents how the partnership between Hampshire Genealogical Society and Hampshire Record Office came into being and how it has benefitted both partners.



The plan is to keep these display boards for future use so if you can't get to Winchester there will be other opportunities to see the exhibition later. For further details visit [www.hgs-familyhistory.com](http://www.hgs-familyhistory.com)

#### National and international groups

Created specifically for our out-of-county and overseas members, these groups have been established so that members who cannot get to see us at our base in Winchester Record Office or cannot attend our local meetings still benefit from a feeling of inclusion with their membership.

Meetings are held on Zoom with programmes designed to help these members with their Hampshire research from afar. Those who regularly attend these meetings now have a sense of "belonging" and a friendly atmosphere has arisen amongst them all. Some have even found new relations through it!

HGS National Group <https://www.hgs-familyhistory.com/groups/national-group/>

HGS International Group <https://www.hgs-familyhistory.com/groups/international-group/>

#### FACEBOOK

HGS has run a Facebook page for a number of years. It is a public page which helps to raise awareness of our existence and encourages our audience to engage with us.

We are proud of the fact that a post is published every day of the year; sometimes, there may be more than one! The posts include helpful research tips, notices of forthcoming HGS meetings or Zoom sessions, questions to spark discussion, genealogical jokes and the like.

With over 1,700 people who 'follow' our page, we feel we must be getting something right!

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





# Really Useful Bulletin

## News from the Federation

### OUT AND ABOUT

The FHF team enjoyed meeting many family historians at Sandown Park's craft event last month when many were introduced to their local family history societies! A frequent phrase is "We didn't know there was a local group" so we do our best to put them right!

FHF will again be at **SEC, Glasgow** for the Creative Craft Show from **2nd to 4th March**. Please note this show is not running on Sunday. FHF will also be at the Creative Craft Show at **NEC, Birmingham 16th to 19th March**.



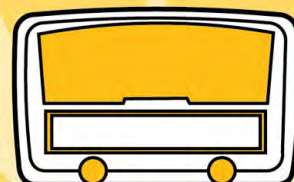
The **Bottle Top Family Tree workshop** with FHF Chairman Steve Manning is available to book at both events: [www.creativecraftshow.co.uk/workshops/](http://www.creativecraftshow.co.uk/workshops/) See you there!

There is a ticket offer for Glasgow: for a 40% reduction quote code **SPRING40**.

[www.creativecraftshow.co.uk/glasgow-march-2023/](http://www.creativecraftshow.co.uk/glasgow-march-2023/)

### REALLY USEFUL PODCAST

Latest series now available!



• REALLY USEFUL •  
• PODCAST •

[www.familyhistoryfederation.com/podcast](http://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/podcast)

### Podcasts already online in Series 2:

Beginning Your Family History  
Online Resources  
Talking to Relatives  
Historians Collaborate

Plus, all six episodes from Series 1.  
And it is all **FREE!**

## Useful Stuff!



The **Belgian State Archives** has launched a new website dedicated to genealogy. It holds some 38.6 million official documents. You can search in English, German, Dutch or French. The search link is: <https://genealogie.arch.be/search/>



The **Museum of Freemasonry** is open for visits. There is a guide for family history research online, too. <https://museumfreemasonry.org.uk/freemasonry-and-family-history>  
Details of the museum: <https://museumfreemasonry.org.uk/>



Are you searching for information about owners of ships? Historic editions of *Lloyds Register of Ships* are available online. Details about access: <https://hec.lrfoundation.org.uk/archive-library/lloyds-register-of-ships-online>



My Methodist History has statistical returns for all church buildings 1940. Listed by circuit. [www.mymethodisthistory.org.uk/research-resources-2/1940-statistical-returns-of-methodist-buildings](http://www.mymethodisthistory.org.uk/research-resources-2/1940-statistical-returns-of-methodist-buildings)



**Women's Land Army & Timber Corps**

Cherish Watton's website includes an article on interpreting Women's Land Army Record Cards: [www.womenslandarmy.co.uk/contact/interpreting-wla-record-cards/](http://www.womenslandarmy.co.uk/contact/interpreting-wla-record-cards/)



# Really Useful Back Page

## Family History Research Aids from the Experts



Parish Chest, a service from the Family History Federation, has over sixty family history societies and some twenty-plus traders, at a one-stop online shop, offering a wide range of family history materials in some sixteen categories including:

- *Parish register transcriptions and more from local FHS*
- *Memorial inscriptions information from gravestones across the country, compiled by local FHS*
- *Nonconformists: Baptists, Wesleyans, Independents, Quakers and many more nonconformist lists*
- *Wills and Probate Indexes of wills and administrations*
- *Folders, printing facilities, giftware*
- *..and more!*

**Societies and suppliers regularly add new lines, so visit to see what is there to help you add to your family tree.**

[www.parishchest.com](http://www.parishchest.com)

**Societies and others interested in joining Parish Chest should initially contact:**

[admin@familyhistoryfederation.com](mailto:admin@familyhistoryfederation.com)



# FAMILY HISTORY BOOKS

[www.familyhistorybooksonline.com](http://www.familyhistorybooksonline.com)

Family History Books is a shop for books from many publishers on all aspects of family history research. Family History Books is also a publisher of relevant titles relating to research. Family History Books is owned by the Family History Federation in order to provide a service to the genealogical community.

Family History Books has an online shop. In addition, the bookshop can be found at major live family history events around the country enabling you to view the latest titles—the stall is always very popular!



The latest title is *Dating by Design—Volume 2: Twentieth Century*. This is a follow-on volume continuing dating photographs.

You can search the online bookshop by author, or by title. Remember to check the list of offerings when you enter *legacy* in the search box! Some of these older booklets contain lists of what is held in local archives and this can be invaluable when trying to find what is where. Visit the website regularly as some legacy titles are being digitised and will be available as downloads.

**Please explore the range, and place your orders, at**

[www.familyhistorybooksonline.com](http://www.familyhistorybooksonline.com)



## The REALLY USEFUL Family History Show

### 17-18 November 2023

Please view [www.fhf-reallyuseful.com](http://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com) for details



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