



# FAMILY HISTORY Federation

Supporting Family Historians since 1974

## REALLY USEFUL Bulletin

**No 37**

September 2023

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

*inside find...*

Lead article this month is *Harnessing the Full Potential of DNA*  
plus news from local FHS and from the Federation

## DNA TESTS

at **very special** prices  
- whilst stocks last -



Family Ancestry

**Family Finder Kit**  
(autosomal DNA)  
**only £50**

MORE INFORMATION INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Paternal Ancestry

**Y-DNA Kit**  
(Y-37)  
**only £65**

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



# Really Useful Bulletin

## Harnessing the Full Potential of DNA

by Martin McDowell

Doing a DNA test is something that every genealogist should do. It is not a replacement for family history research but a valuable resource that works alongside documentary records to prove what you already know and extend your knowledge of what lurks beyond those brick walls.

Interpreting your results correctly is something that is very important. I have met many people who think they have proved something that they haven't. I have also met the person who doesn't use their results and then complains their test didn't give them the answers they wanted. There are people obsessed with ethnicity results and who ignore their DNA matches. And there are also people who live on one website, such as *Ancestry*, and think that it is the only place one needs to be. All of these people are missing out.

One of the things that many family historians still don't realise is that there are four types of DNA that all tell you something different and they can all work together to further your knowledge of those who went before us. If you have done a test with *Ancestry DNA* then you have only done an autosomal DNA test. This is only one of the four types of DNA – should you not be harnessing the potential of the others too?



Autosomal DNA covers all of your lines back to around your 5x great-grandparents so it links you back into the 1700s in most cases through most of your family lines. This is why it is always a good test to start with.

X-DNA is the second type. The good news here is that you can get X-DNA matches for free by uploading your *Ancestry DNA* results into another database (either *Family Tree DNA* or *GEDmatch*) which provide matches for this second type of DNA. You can also upload from *23&Me* or *MyHeritage* if you tested there instead. The

benefits of doing this is that you can get a clue as to which line your DNA match is on as the inheritance of X-DNA is more limited and therefore a large X match can only have come to you through certain ancestors. Why wouldn't you do this when you have already paid a testing company such as *Ancestry* for the processing of your X chromosome? Both males and females have X matches so this applies to all your DNA testers. If you have tested other relatives you are likely to have totally different X matches. You can find simple instructions on how to do the free upload at this link: <https://www.nifhs.org/dna/uploading-your-dna/>

If you are going to give yourself the best chance of making real progress with your DNA then why wouldn't you do this? It won't cost you a penny and will only take five minutes of your time to do the upload.



Next we turn to Y-DNA. This is a specific type of DNA that only males have and which *Ancestry* doesn't test. Y-DNA is passed from father to son to grandson down through the generations and so effectively traces your 'surname' line. So how can this help? If you don't know the identity of someone on this line this could help identify an unknown father in terms of adoptees or cases of illegitimacy. In other scenarios, you may have a mystery great-great-grandfather who you are hoping to identify. In cases such as this you can harness the power of Y-DNA to take you back through your brick wall into the earlier generations. Y-DNA can connect you to someone in recent times or someone many generations back and updated timescales are now available to help you work out simply and easily when your common ancestor, with each match, lived. It can also give you information on deep ancestry but the main use for most people will be the match list.



# Really Useful Bulletin

It is also useful to remember that you can do a Y-DNA test on any family line – you just have to find a male on that specific family line to take the test for you and then you can manage the DNA account. In most cases the person you are looking for is someone related to you who bears the surname you are wanting to research. Only *Family Tree DNA* has a worldwide matching database for Y-DNA which means that this is the best place to start. You can find out more on the three levels of Y-test available here: <https://www.familytreedna.com/products/y-dna>

It is also important to note that the higher levels of Y include the lower levels of testing so if you do the most expensive test (Big Y700) then you also get results for the Y37 and Y111 levels. Alternatively if you decide to go for the Y37 (entrance level) test then you can upgrade at a later stage by paying the difference between what you have already purchased and the next level that you wish to test to - you don't have to start all over again.

So, have you done a Y-DNA test and if not, why not?



Lastly we come to mitochondrial DNA or Mt-DNA as it is referred to. It is a test that anyone can do (male or female) and it traces your matrilineal line – this is your mother's mother's mother's line. *Ancestry* doesn't provide this test either - once again the only company with a worldwide database of matches is *Family Tree DNA*. And you aren't restricted to which line of your family you can test. Just identify the female ancestor you want to know more about and then trace down the female line, generation by generation, until you come to a potential person who can take the test for you. Once you get them to do a mouth swab you can manage their test results and get the information you are looking for.

Y-DNA testing has been a particular revelation for me in recent months. I now have Y results for eight of my sixty-four 4x great-grandparents and every one of these has been helpful in some way.

So how has this helped, I hear you ask? Well, I have managed to trace the earlier origins of some of my northern Irish ancestors back to specific areas of Scotland and I have managed to find Y-DNA matches that have pointed me back to written records that otherwise didn't appear connected to my ancestors. I have proved an early 1700s connection between two families that I didn't think were connected and I have disproved a Y connection between two families I thought would match (as they were living side-by-side). Why would you not want this type of conclusive information as a dedicated genealogist?

Sometimes people have small families or the older generations have died off but there are still things you can do. In these circumstances I would recommend doing all possible tests on yourself and see what you could find out through autosomal, X and Mt-DNA. And Y-DNA too, if you are male.

Once you have done this you should then explore the wider family and even if you have to go back quite a few generations to connect to a living person they will still be useful testers for you. Autosomal DNA may link them only as a distant relative but once you have proved the connection you can look for candidates to do Y and Mt tests that would link directly back to your own ancestors. Even if you have to get a third or fourth cousin to take a Y or Mt test for you this will still reveal your own specific line as these types of DNA mutate more slowly. So, there is always someone to be found if you think hard enough!

If you want to be serious about using DNA effectively then the first step is doing the right tests for you. There is nothing wrong with doing an *Ancestry DNA* test but I hope this article has demonstrated that it is only a first step. Fishing in more than one pool is my firm recommendation. There are many approaches to DNA research. However, one thing is clear and that is if you don't test, you'll never know.

Images courtesy of *Family Tree DNA*

## About the author:



*Martin McDowell is Education Officer of the North of Ireland Family History Society where you will find him running Zoom sessions on DNA. He has recently joined the Federation's executive – to lead on DNA. He regularly lectures and runs workshops on DNA for other groups, too.*





# Really Useful Bulletin

## DNA and the Family History Federation

by Steve Manning, Chairman

Given that the full name of deoxyribonucleic acid is an almost unpronounceable mouthful, it's hardly surprising it's now almost universally referred to as DNA. Which is quite a blessing! A second blessing is that you no longer need a doctorate in molecular biology to utilise DNA technology alongside the more traditional forms of family history research.



Do you remember the first time you saw an Ordnance Survey map? It was just a load of funny-shaped dots and squiggles on a large sheet of paper, right? But as time went by, you began to realise those random squiggles and symbols were both meaningful and helpful. At which point the document took on a whole new meaning – and importance! Thus, the small amount of effort you spent in understanding the system soon began to reap huge dividends.

So it is with DNA. If you invest a little time and effort into understanding the topic, you will quickly come to appreciate it as a powerful technology which is not scary at all. But rather, it can be of huge benefit to the 'average' family historian. Who are all people like you and me!

Of course, with great power at our fingertips, also comes great responsibility. This wonderful new tool we know as DNA will sometimes reveal the occasional ethical dilemma. Faced with such, we always counsel inquirers to be kind, often suggesting keeping quiet is the absolutely best option. Well-seasoned family historians will recognise this as being nothing new!

The Family History Federation (FHF) is committed to helping you explore your DNA. Like many traditional

family historians, we are also 'newbies' to the technology. In consequence, we well appreciate your expectation of substantial assistance during the initial stages of your DNA journey. After all, we know we did!

Our first step when embarking upon this new endeavour was to enlist DNA enthusiast Martin McDowell to spearhead and direct our efforts. You'll only need to scan his article elsewhere in this issue of the *Bulletin* to appreciate that Martin knows his subject very well indeed

Taking his advice, we then purchased an initial batch of *Family Finder* (autosomal) and Y-DNA (y-37) *Family Tree DNA* kits. We are now able to offer these to *Bulletin* readers at a very good price and with nothing more to pay! For basic information about our kits, please read Martin's article, *Harnessing the Full Potential of DNA* and our advertisement on the front of this *Bulletin*.

For more general information about DNA, we encourage you to visit our **NEW Explore Your Genealogy website** at:

[www.exploreyourgenealogy.co.uk/dna](http://www.exploreyourgenealogy.co.uk/dna)

Interested in purchasing a *Family Finder* (autosomal) and/or Y-DNA (y-37) kit? Simply visit the **Family History Books website** at:

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

Scroll down *Categories* and click the DNA icon.

In the coming months you can also expect regular articles on DNA topics in the *Bulletin*. Plus, the offer of interactive DNA Workshops (free with kit purchases) which will assist in helping you to effectively understand, interpret and work with your DNA test results.

Altogether, we plan to offer an attractive package of support which we trust will not only inspire newcomers to DNA, but also revitalise those who have previously taken a test and then not done anything further with it.

We hope you will enjoy the ride!





# Really Useful Bulletin

## REALLY USEFUL FAMILY HISTORY SHOW WORKSHOPS—SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER



**David Cufley**

### **ERRORS, LIES AND MISINFORMATION**

A workshop discussing errors in official records and commercial search engines and how to try and spot them. Case studies will be used as part of the discussions. Do you believe what your ancestors told officials and their families? Do you believe what other researchers tell you, how good is their research? Are transcriptions accurate and do the indexes reflect the original documents?



**Ian Mooney**

### **LIVERPOOL'S 'HOME CHILDREN'**

Using examples from the Liverpool Home for Destitute Children, the workshop will discuss the records that shed light on children who were sent to Canada in the late-nineteenth century. It will trace students from birth to death and debate the effectiveness of the 'Home Children' programme. The session will look at some case studies of boys who later joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force and died in WWI.



**Dr Nicholas Dixon**

### **TRACING MERCHANT SEAMEN IN BRITAIN**

There is a wealth of information regarding mariners in pre-1835 primary sources. This workshop will draw upon research of two merchant sea captains in King's Lynn and Whitby respectively during the eighteenth century and of reconstructing their careers within Britain and overseas. I will offer practical advice about tracing maritime ancestors throughout Britain before and after 1835 using a variety of online and archival sources, and suggest ways of overcoming brick walls.



**Linda Hammond**

### **MIND MAPPING IN GENEALOGY: A PRACTICAL WORKSHOP**

This workshop will introduce you to the skill of mind mapping for genealogical research. Mind maps can be as simple or complex as you wish, however, they help organise your planning and thought processes by visually mapping information. We will explore how mind maps can be used at each stage in your research. You'll learn how to draw your own and how to use them to enhance your research skills.



**Debbie Bradley**

### **WHERE CAN BIRTH, MARRIAGE AND DEATH CERTIFICATES LEAD YOUR RESEARCH?**

Debbie provides examples of various birth, death and marriage certificates and where these certificates can lead you to find out more about your ancestors. These are records from England and Wales. These are just some examples and if you have some certificates you would like to share to help others, please bring these to the workshops.



**Simon Davies**

### **A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO CREATING A FAMILY'S ARCHIVE**

A different approach to family history sharing and preservation, acknowledging that relatives on the whole do not share our degree of fascination. I will explain how to have our family history research survive and flourish within future generations.



**Shauna Hicks**

### **RESEARCHING IN AUSTRALIA**

The session will look at online sources most useful for researching family history. Sites included will be national and state archives and libraries. Participants will determine what locations will be looked at. For example, did UK relatives come out to Australia in the 1950s or was it 100 years earlier with the gold rushes in Victoria and New South Wales?



**Janice Smith**

### **USING RESOURCES AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND**

In this workshop we will look at some of the useful and accessible online resources available at the National Library of Scotland. This should enhance your skills and knowledge to further your Scottish family history research and enhance your ancestors' stories.



**Eva Kujawa**

### **EASTERN EUROPEAN RESEARCH**

In my workshop we will cover border changes as well as the religious divisions of Eastern Europe briefly, before going more in depth with regards to civil registration and church records, how to locate places within the various countries that make up Eastern Europe. We will cover how to decipher and read the many languages and alphabets. We will also be covering various sources.

**Workshops are only available LIVE—they will not be accessible after the show.**

**Booking for workshops will open soon**

**[www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/workshops](http://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/workshops)**



# Really Useful Bulletin

## REALLY USEFUL FAMILY HISTORY SHOW WORKSHOPS *continued*

FHF REALLY USEFUL  
Family History Show

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Family History Show



### **Jude Rhodes** **THE USE OF FAMILY HISTORY IN DEMENTIA**

Using family history to have a meaningful conversation for those with dementia. People suffering with dementia and memory loss talk about their parents and siblings more than about their own children; they talk about the more distant past. Older memories which have been recalled or spoken about more often are more established than newer memories. Exploring the family history of the person who has dementia, in relation to the people they knew when they were younger, assists in provoking those memories and creates meaningful discussions and conversations bringing purpose and comfort to the interaction.



### **Kelly Cornwell** **TRACING YOUR TRANSPORTED CONVICT ANCESTORS IN TASMANIA**

This interactive workshop will help people discover the record collections available online that can tell us more about English convicts (concentrating on females specifically) who were transported to Tasmania. The range of websites and collections can reveal what happened to the convicts when they first arrived in Tasmania, where they were placed during their sentence, and generally build a bigger picture of their lives after leaving their home in England.



### **Emma Jolly** **FOOD AND FAMILY HISTORY**

Popular culture often perpetuates false beliefs as to what our ancestors ate in the past. This workshop will explore British ancestors and their eating habits, encompassing regional differences, institutional menus, and changes over time. Emma will also talk briefly about the influences of the Empire and migration, including British and Anglo-Indian diets in India, and some immigrant diets in Britain (such as Ashkenazi Jewish).



### **Barbara Coakley** **RESEARCH THE LOCATION FIRST**

Before you start researching your ancestors you need to understand the location and time period where they lived. Learn about sources for information about records, historic events, and more to create a location guide.



### **Stephen Poulter** **FLESHING OUT THE CENSUS**

This workshop uses a case study of a Victorian farmer's wife to demonstrate how the bare bones of data provided by the decennial censuses can be interpreted and contextualised. It will show how that information is used to provide clues for further documents to hunt down, enabling you to plan a research strategy to build up extraordinarily detailed life stories of your ancestors. Participants will be asked to download a number of handouts to study in advance of attending the workshop.



### **Paul Gaskell** **PUBLISHED RESOURCES FOR FAMILY AND LOCAL HISTORY**

This workshop will look at the publications of bodies such as the British Record Society, county publishing societies such as the Oxfordshire Record Society and parish register publishing societies such as the Lancashire Parish Register Society. It will be an interactive session looking at the publications that exist, how to access them and how to use them to further one's research.



### **Daniel Horowitz** **A DEEPSTORY**

This is a video biography where the narrative is told by a speaking portrait of your ancestor or relative, based on details from your family tree and manually entered text. The video is enriched by photographs that illustrate various life events. This *MyHeritage* groundbreaking feature allows you to create animated videos of your ancestors telling their life story, using just a still photo and some text to give you a whole new way to document, preserve and share your most treasured family stories.



### **Janet Few** **MARGINALISED WOMEN: TRACING 'MISFORTUNATE' FEMALE ANCESTORS**

This workshop outlines the sources that we can use to trace the stories of these unlucky women. The circumstances in which these women found themselves were often exacerbated by society's intolerance. The session will investigate those whose lives were touched by poverty, illegitimacy, criminality, mental illness and prostitution and who were stigmatised by society as a result. The ethics surrounding the telling of stories that these women may have preferred to have kept hidden will also be discussed.

*Information for workshops as available at copy date: 8 September.  
See show website for updates.*





# Really Useful Bulletin

## REALLY USEFUL FAMILY HISTORY SHOW WORKSHOPS *continued*



**Dr Robert Schofield**

### **THE FORGOTTEN RETURNS: THE 1851 RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL CENSUSES**

The 1851 census enumerators also gathered returns on all churches, chapels and meeting houses, and also all the day schools, Sunday schools, evening classes and institutes in their areas. Most of the educational returns were destroyed after summarisation except for those of the Keighley and Todmorden Unions. It is believed there may be some other educational census returns in the London area. This workshop will follow worked examples for chapels and for schools, linking data from the 1851 census, among the scattered coal-mining communities close to Haworth.



**Claire Bradley**  
**IRISH ANCESTRY**

It's estimated that a quarter of all British people have Irish ancestry. This workshop shows people how to begin to research their Irish ancestors. It's a common myth that Irish records were all destroyed in a fire – this session dispels that notion and explains how to use the many free websites available. Topics covered: some basic history for context, the census, civil records and religious records.



**Gabrielle McMaster**  
**THE FORGOTTEN HOLOCAUST - the persecution of the Soviet people under Nazism from 1941-1945**

This workshop will focus on the lesser-known holocaust of the Soviet population. It will demonstrate how *Operation Barbarossa* became the turning point in the *Final Solution*. Participants will discover previously unheard of ghettos and camps which were found in items in an archive for Soviet history. This workshop will be presented in an interactive format which participants can follow along on an interactive map and handouts during the workshop.



**Phil Coward**  
**PERSONAL DIGITAL ARCHIVING**

As family historians we collect things. We collect certificates, photographs, documents, diaries, video recordings, artefacts, and even memories. We use these things to create our histories, our stories which we may then also produce as charts, documents or books. How do we record all of this stuff? What do we do with it and how do we make it available to others and how do we pass it on in a useful way?

*Information for workshops as available at copy date: 8 September.  
See show website for updates.*



**Tony Sargeant and Yetunde Abiola**  
**WERE THEY BORN ABROAD?**

Researching strangers in parishes. During the course of your routine family history research, you may have come across records which may not be relevant to your search but may be of interest to another researcher. This could be the burial record of an African man in Buckinghamshire in the 1700s, for example. What would you do with the information? Do you just scroll or move onto the next page? Or forget about it?

**Sarah Thompson-Fitch**  
**USING THE CENSUS AND OTHER POPULATION LISTS IN FAMILY RESEARCH**

This workshop will use practical examples of how to search for them, what information they contain and discussing their reliability, etc.

**Anthony Trice**  
**HOW DO I START RESEARCHING MY FAMILY TREE?**

The workshop will make reference to how easy it appears if you watch the programme *Who Do You Think You Are?* It will describe how you start from what you know using what I was told by my father. Demonstrate how to use FreeBMD to prove dates of birth and death. There will be an exercise from my book using FreeBMD. Then demonstrate *FamilySearch* to find someone in a census to prove their place of birth and parents' names.

**Kerry Jones**  
**COMING TO AUSTRALIA**

This workshop will look at the various ways that Australia was populated with an emphasis on free settlers. Prior to Federation on 1 January 1901, each of the Australian colonies had their own immigration schemes. Large numbers arrived as Assisted Emigrants where their passages were paid for by the colony recruiting them. There are considerable records available for these arrivals. Non-assisted migration will also be covered. The workshop will also look at newspaper records for arrivals.

**Susan Atkins**  
**1939 REGISTER AND NHS NUMBERS**

My talk covers the background of 1939 Register plus what I have found in my own research/for my own family and finally the NHS Number connection.

**Workshops are only available LIVE—they will not be accessible after the show.**

**Booking for workshops will open soon**  
**[www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/workshops](http://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/workshops)**



**17 and 18 November 2023**

**online**

**It is almost here!**

**Have you got your ticket? Did you miss the earlier offer in the *Bulletin*? If you are a member of a local FHS that belongs to the Federation, ask for access to the members' discount code for buying your ticket!**

**Then, as soon as bookings open for the workshops, you can reserve your seat.**

**The workshops will not be recorded this year due to privacy issues.**

**If all interactive places are taken, you can book to observe the workshop.**

**Don't delay, book your ticket today!**

**[www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/full-ticket-for-november-2023-show-373](http://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/full-ticket-for-november-2023-show-373)**

***Don't miss out! Book now!***



**Norfolk**

**Family History Society**

Tuesday, 3 October 2023

***Using YDNA and mtDNA for Family History*** by Martin McDowell. Have you ever considered doing a Y or mitochondrial DNA test for family history? These reveal the recent – and more distant - ancestry of specific family lines and can uncover links you couldn't find just through genealogy alone. Zoom will open to members five minutes prior to the talk commencement time of 19.00hrs. This talk will be recorded and placed on our events page for two weeks.

Thursday, 19 October 2023

***Henry Smith: A Most Notorious, Naughty, False, Lying Fellow: A Global Black Sheep or Maligned Character?*** by Sue Paul. A light-hearted case study demonstrating how to reconstruct a seventeenth-century life that cannot be found in traditional genealogical records to enhance your ancestral history. Zoom will open to members five minutes prior to the talk commencement time of 19.00hrs. This talk will be recorded and placed on our events page for two weeks.

Due to popular demand our library is now open four days a week: 10.00-16.00hrs Tuesday-Thursday, and Saturday mornings from 10.00-13.00hrs. You will be able to research our records, family trees, wills, manors, and lots more. The library also has websites to view: *Ancestry*, *FindMyPast* and *TheGenealogist*.

Outside of this in person, to research from home using our records online, you can become a member and register online or at our library for just £17 a year. Worldwide E-membership starts from £12 a year. You will also receive the *Norfolk Ancestor*, a quarterly magazine. Zoom talks for our members are shown once a month.

Full details are on our website at [www.norfolkfhs.org.uk](http://www.norfolkfhs.org.uk)







# Family History Societies



## Bristol and Avon Family History Society

Reg. Charity No. 295799

### BAFHS Fair Saturday, 23 September at BAWA in Filton

The last twelve months have shown how technology has taken over more of our Society's activities. We are now able to successfully hold hybrid meetings from both Bath and Bristol, having ironed out various communication issues at each location. We also now have a committee member living in Yorkshire who joins in meetings by Zoom. We have a new and excellent website, a simplified membership system, the storage of searchable data and greater ability for the public to purchase goods at any time that suits them. Members can also enjoy our talks without leaving home and also log on to virtual 'shows' held by the Federation, to name but a few of the innovations.

On the negative side, technology can cause a few headaches when misused by those trying to cause nuisance. Last November our online membership system was targeted with the creation of 580 new memberships within a 24-hour period, all consisting of a long string of random letters and numbers. Auto-purchase attempts to test stolen credit card numbers were to blame and luckily our website was robust enough to recognise trouble when it came calling. No harm was done but our membership secretary had a huge task of manually deleting all the rogue entries.

Over the last year FHF has been running virtual online meetings for specific roles within societies such as treasurer or chairperson. The aim of the meetings is to gather together those who carry out that role from within the huge number of societies belonging to the FHF to discuss both good practice and problems, and to explore new solutions to benefit the future of family history. We have found these to have been of great interest and help.

Sadly, we have lost four long-serving, very active, members of the society during the last year, people whose contributions over the years have greatly enhanced the quality and performance of the society across the full range of services we provide to both members and the public.

As the world gradually emerges from the constraints of the pandemic, we have seen the number of visitors to our research room continue to increase and more volunteers have joined the team to help. Our transcription projects have proceeded very well, particularly with more members helping via online access.

On the face-to-face front, our attendance at live events is picking up again and we have been represented at fairs held by the Dorset, Wiltshire and Weston-super-Mare societies in recent months while individual members have held 'help sessions' at local venues. To follow this we shall be holding our own **Fair**, details of which can be found on our website <https://bafhs.org.uk/>.



## West Surrey Family History Society

### West Surrey FHS is hosting a Free Zoom talk and a Family History Fair!

**Wednesday, 25 October:** Peter Carver will be talking about **How Lost Cousins can help you knock down brick walls**. Please register for this via the Zoom Meetings' page of our website: [www.wsfhs.co.uk/pages/zoom.php](http://www.wsfhs.co.uk/pages/zoom.php)

(Note: Our Zoom meeting limit is 100, and once this number have joined the live meeting, further attendees will be held in a waiting list until an existing attendee leaves.)

**Saturday, 4 November:** The **West Surrey Family History Fair** is taking place at Woking Leisure Centre, Woking, Surrey. The event is FREE, and there will be family history society and exhibitor stalls, and a selection of 'Ask the Expert' stands. Full details may be found on our website: [www.wsfhs.co.uk/pages/openday.php](http://www.wsfhs.co.uk/pages/openday.php)

West Surrey FHS, which will be celebrating its fiftieth anniversary next year, provides its members with a quarterly journal, *Root and Branch*, and an interesting programme of talks via regular Zoom and in-person meetings at three centres – Woking, Camberley and Walton. Our centre talks are open to all, and we welcome visitors. Full details of the talks and centre locations are in the **Meetings** area of our website.

We cover the ancient county of Surrey, both rural and metropolitan (and this includes some areas that are now part of Greater London). Our website provides a Surrey parish map, a Surrey *Index of Names*, and a list of unwanted certificates.

Further resources available to members include a Surrey *Monumental Inscriptions Index*, a reference library, a summary and index of proceedings of the Surrey assizes, 1680-1800, and members interests and total descent charts (the latter are currently being digitised for easier access).

Society members have transcribed a large variety records, many of which have been made available through FindMyPast. Others are available to purchase, either as downloads or CDs (listed in the **publications** area of our website).

Website: <https://wsfhs.co.uk/pages/index.php>



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

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



# Really Useful Bulletin

## News from the Federation

# Find my past

HOME OF THE 1921 CENSUS ONLINE

in association with  
THE  
NATIONAL  
ARCHIVES

**NEW**  
**three-month**  
**option!**

Something for the winter months! Explore the stories and secrets of your not-so-distant ancestors to your heart's content with this **NEW three-month Premium subscription** providing unlimited access to Findmypast's rich tree network and billions of records, including the 1921 census.

Continue your journey and save with fifteen per cent off all twelve-month Premium subscriptions.

The 1921 census has already unlocked family mysteries for thousands of people, and now it's more accessible than ever with Findmypast's new three-month Premium subscription.

[www.findmypast.co.uk/subscribe](http://www.findmypast.co.uk/subscribe)

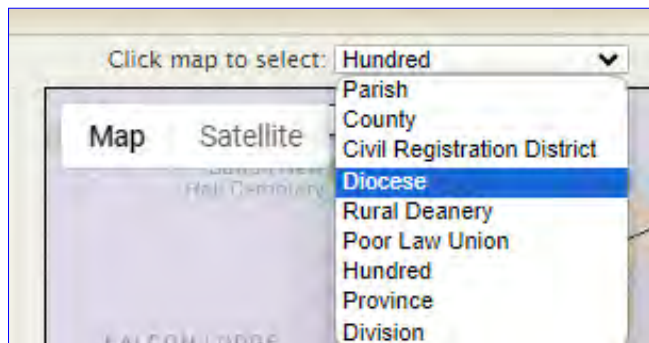
### **HOT TIP!**

In family history research we often find ourselves in a place new to us but where the forebears had lived. We need to know about that place to know where to search for more information, and visualise it with its neighbours. The vast—and free—**FamilySearch** website has just the tool to help.

[www.familysearch.org/mapp/](http://www.familysearch.org/mapp/)

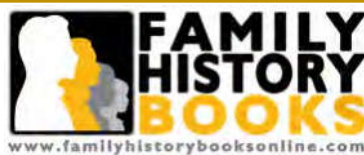
Enter place name in the box at top left, search. If several places have same name you will be invited to select the one you require.

When the map appears, at the very top is a box, click on the small down arrow and you are offered a series of options. Each provides the information for your selected place.



You can view each showing the name of the relevant jurisdiction, for example hundred, or diocese as highlighted.

The tool also allows you to view satellite imagery showing the ground as it is in the twenty-first century. *Enjoy!*



### The "Touring" Bookshop

The Federation's **Family History Books**, run by volunteers, attends as many specialist regional family history shows as feasible.

Taking the bookshop to events requires a degree of fitness: books are heavy! They have to be loaded, unloaded, displayed...repeat at end of a long day!

However, at times we are thwarted. We were very sorry to miss meeting friends and supporters at *The Family History Show London* earlier this month.

Availability of our volunteers, or at least lack of, was the cause of our absence. Hopefully various bodies will be repaired and the team fully functioning very soon! But we were so sorry to miss meeting everyone at Kempton Park.

**Don't forget, the bookshop is always open online.**

### Creative Craft Show: Exeter - Autumn 2023

*If you read this in time...*

The Federation will be attending this event where we meet many family historians wanting to know more about local societies and how joining groups can help them. We will have the latest books available, too!

Come along for a chat with our volunteers!

**The show is open**

**Thursday 21—Saturday 23 September  
at Westpoint, Exeter.**

*Click the logo for more information.*

### REALLY USEFUL Family History Show 2023

This year's show has a new format.

**Friday** will be all about the **exhibitors, the local family history societies**, where visitors can talk via "chat" or, on some booths, by a live Zoom link, with knowledgeable family historians whose expertise on their home area is immeasurable.

Visit and chat with them!

10am—10pm (with rest breaks!).

Friday 17 November—**ONLINE only**.

**Saturday's practical workshops are detailed in this Bulletin**





# 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:**

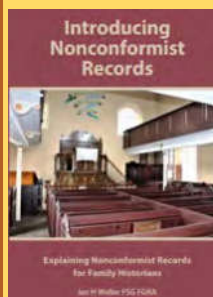
[admin@familyhistoryfederation.com](mailto:admin@familyhistoryfederation.com)



# FAMILY HISTORY BOOKS

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

Family History Books (FHB) is an online bookshop and publisher; it is owned by the Family History Federation and the aim is to provide a service to the genealogical community. Family History Books offers a range of relevant titles relating to family history research.



The latest title, launched this month, is [\*Introducing Nonconformist Records\*](#) by Ian Waller. Nearly 300 pages dealing with many of the nonconformist groups, their records, and where to find what. Excellent value at £14.95 + p&p.

Did you take advantage of the offer on four "help" type books in the August *Bulletin*? It offered you a great chance to get helpful gifts for your friends who are "into family history". The books are, of course, available at usual rates through the shop now.

In addition to its [online shop](#) FHB can also be found at major live family history events around the country. Come and visit us and see all the latest titles available. The stall is always very popular!

Happy browsing!

**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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