

Welcome to the mid January 2022 enews.
The 1921 census of England and Wales is now available to search



I was disappointed that FindMyPast didn't provide any readable copy of even a blank census page for users to see what it was like in advance. (I searched the internet, National Archives and FMP and couldn't find a readable one to show you here.)

The census contains the personal particulars of each individual staying overnight in the household on **Sunday 19 June 1921**. This is not the date printed on the census schedules (which is 24 April 1921).

The census was postponed from its original April date because of industrial action. Coal miners were on strike and there was the prospect – later averted – of a national strike (involving transport workers) which led Lloyd George to call a state of emergency on 5 April 1921, which mobilised the Army Reserve and a new Defence Force from 8 April.

The Census Office did not want to delay the taking of the census beyond June. If it were to do so, it would run into holiday season, which would distort the picture of population distribution. Whole factories in towns such as Bolton and Salford might close and workers decamp to seaside resorts such as Blackpool or Prestatyn, producing misleading figures for the statisticians.

The above is taken from the FindMyPast blog which does make interesting reading about the census <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/family-records/taking-1921-census>

And this is a very interesting account of all the England and Wales censuses. <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/family-records/uk-census-records>

And from the National Archives: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20s-people/the-1921-census/whats-interesting-about-the-1921-census/>

In 1921, the country was adjusting to peacetime and the lasting impact of the First World War and influenza pandemic. The 1921 Census report that gives us an overview of the country at this time shows the devastating losses of those who died in the war and pandemic, but also the dramatic reduction in the birth rate – the number of two-, three- and four-year-olds recorded at this time is significantly lower than the number of five-, six-, seven- and eight-year-olds.

The personal information in the census returns shows the impact of the war on every family. Who were people living with? Where were they working? How were relationships affected? Were husbands and wives still together? Were mothers and children, brothers, sisters and friends living nearby or apart? Had children been orphaned?

In the aftermath of both a global conflict and the influenza pandemic, this was all key information for the government to record.

Capturing more information than previous censuses

The 1921 Census provides greater detail than any of the previous censuses, asking additional questions about marital status, employment and education.

- **Divorce:** The 1921 Census is the first census to list 'divorced' as an option for marital status; divorce rates had risen dramatically during and immediately after the First World War.
- **Occupation and employment:** Compared with previous censuses, the questions about employment in the 1921 Census were more detailed. People were asked to state their 'Profession, Trade, or Service' (the equivalent of their modern day 'job title' as before), but also to give the name of their employer and details of their place of work.

This means that for the first time a census showed who people worked with. This gives a brilliant insight into the role that employers played in their communities on both a local and national scale, as well as providing a more detailed picture of different occupation types.

- **Children:** Unlike earlier censuses, the 1921 Census asked for the exact age of children (in both years and months). And following the introduction of the 1918 Education Act, it also asked for the educational status of children aged 15 and younger for the first time.

If you are fortunate enough to live in travelling distance of the three hubs you can access the census online free of charge. The Census is free to research at The National Archives at Kew, The National Library of Wales and Manchester Central Library.

From the comfort of your own home, each transcription is £2.50 and copy records are £3.50; and there is a 10% discount for FindMyPast Pro (annual) subscribers.

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/1921-census>

Is anyone playing with this census yet? I don't subscribe to FMP, but have created a FMP account which enables me to search the census.

You can find the following info free:

First name(s) Last name Birth year Birth place Parish Registration district County

I opened a new word doc on my laptop, changed orientation to Landscape, and found it's very easy to copy the search results across. Up to 20 lines of results (one page of FMP layout) can be copied in one go.

Some people have copied the results into a spreadsheet. This would enable easier future manipulation of results, but for me a word doc, in alpha order of forename, is fine.

For my study surname GRADWICK there were only 47 results and, because it's unusual, for my search I left all other fields ie forename, date of birth and place fields blank. So, for free, I now know the location (but not actual street address) of all my 47 living GRADWICKS in 1921 (I should say, all those who have been accurately transcribed by FMP).

For example, someone whose death registration I cannot find, I now know was still alive as at census date 1921.

I did the same with GRATWICK, 182 results, and copied all that data to my own laptop.

Also, hover your mouse over the file image at the end of the line, and it gives you the first names of up to three other household members at the same address, which, given you don't have the street address (without paying) does give you a bit more data to piece info together.

Some generations of my COLES family were living at two different addresses in Sevenoaks and one in Bromley. By doing separate Coles searches, inserting each location in turn, but no forenames, and hovering over the file symbol, I have been able to trace who was living (or staying) with whom as at census date (but as previously said not the actual address - but I know the addresses anyway).

So don't be put off playing around with the census because you don't want to pay £3.50 per record to see the actual census copy record or £2.50 for the FMP transcription. It's possible to find out good, useful info for no payment.

Myko Clelland of FindMyPast is giving us a Zoom talk about the 1921 census on 27 January - details further down and on our website.

Out of curiosity, I wondered how many England and Wales citizens would be able to find themselves in the 1921 census. More women than men for sure as the ratio is 4.6 females over 100 to every 1 man, according to the Office for National Statistics. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/ageing/bulletins/estimatesoftheveryoldincludincentenarians/2002to2020>

The figures were last collated as at mid 2020 but there were then 15,120 people, who if they were in England Wales at census date, should be able to find themselves on a census return..

Happy hunting!



Good news - the library at Joyden's Wood has re-opened for members to do their research on Wednesdays. At present it is open and staffed by library volunteers from midday to 4pm.

Our Society Librarian, Janet, asks those who want to come to book a time slot to prevent overcrowding. Janet's phone number is 01322 384836. Janet has told me that most people come about midday and stay til 3.30pm or so. At the moment there is plenty of space for everyone who has booked.

There are three PCs for research; or you can use your own device but if using your own device you need to join Kent Libraries to be able to log in to the library edition of Ancestry, FindmyPast and other resources.

Library at: 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Kent DA5 2EE

Parking in nearby roads.

Society Membership Renewal due 1 January and still only £10

Members, unless you pay by standing order, please remember your membership renewal which was due 1 January.

2021 was an unusual year, but we hope you still felt your £10 subs was a bargain given our programme of talks and workshops, whether in person or Zoom, and our four quarterly journals.

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/about/membership/our-membership>

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/shop/nwkhfs-shop/membership>

(this enews is free to members and non members alike).

Talks are now either in person at our Dartford and Sevenoaks venues or by *Zoom*. The combined details of *Zoom* and in person talks are in one chronological list below.

The description for each event states clearly whether it is via *Zoom* or an in person talk.

Currently all Workshops remain *Zoom*.

ZOOM Talks

Zoom Talks are free and open to all. They cannot be pre booked - please just log on via the link in good time.

All times given are UK time.

NWKFHS members who missed a talk, perhaps because you are not in our timezone, note that **some** speakers have allowed their talks to be recorded and recorded talks are saved here - <https://nwkhfs.org.uk/resources/all-other/zoom-talk-videos> note this link only works for paid up members logged into the website. Sometimes speakers have given permission for their talks only to be recorded for a specified amount of time, so members please do check the link.

Zoom Talk Thursday 20 January log in from 7pm for 7:30 start

Speaker Sue Gibbons will talk about: "Conserving your family archive"

This Zoom talk will be hosted by: Pam Goddard.

Sue Gibbons will cover:- General principles for keeping things safe and in good condition. Detailed advice on caring for and storing

documents, photographs and many other items.

Suggestions for preserving your heritage as a book or a website and making plans as to what will happen to it all after your death plus some trustworthy sources for further help and advice.

The meeting will be recorded and may be available for members to view on the website for one month. Please check website for updates.

The Zoom host will admit participants up to 30 minutes before the start so they may chat among themselves until the start time.

Zoom etiquette means that once the talk commences and until questions at the end, you should mute and un-video yourself to ensure all participants are able to concentrate on the speaker.

It's free to members and non members alike and there is no pre booking.

The Zoom link will be put on the website www.nwkhfs.org.uk nearer the date.

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Zoom Talk Thursday 27 January log in from 7pm for 7:30 start

Speaker Myko Clelland will introduce the 1921 Census of England and Wales.

Join Findmypast for an unmissable exploration of the biggest new arrival in family history. After years spent digitising and transcribing this unique snapshot of our recent history, discover the stories and secrets contained within.

Along with the historical context, tips for effective searching and using it to trace elusive relatives, we'll learn how the 1921 Census will help you understand your ancestors' lives better. And your own.

Myko Clelland, Regional Licensing and Outreach Manager, talks about the 1921 England and Wales census, published by Find My Past www.findmypast.co.uk on 6 January 2022. This census was taken between two world wars, during a period of economic turmoil and at a time when women had just won the right to vote, so the 1921 Census should provide some fascinating insights about society and how it has evolved over the past 100 years.

A recording of the meeting will be made available on the website for members only at a later date.

The Zoom link will be published on the website www.nwkhfs.org.uk nearer the date.

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Saturday 5 February Doors Open 9.45am meeting starts at 10.30am at Dartford Branch.

Location: Dartford Science and Technology College, Heath Lane, Dartford Kent DA1 2LY

Guest speaker DR Helen Allinson of the *William Barrow's Borden Trust* will talk about a story of death-bed repentance, corruption and help for the poor; 300 years of Kentish history.

<https://www.thewilliambarrowscharity.org.uk/about-us> and scroll down to read how William Barrow turned from a 'Rachman' landlord to a philanthropist.

The meeting will be led by Janet Rose.

Free to NWKFHS members; non members are asked to make a donation towards costs of hall hire and speaker.

There is a large, free car park but it is shared with other users and can be busy at times.

No booking, just turn up.

Please wear a face covering inside the building unless you are exempt.

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Thursday 10 February Doors Open 7.15pm Meeting starts 8.00pm talk at Sevenoaks Branch.

Location: Otford Village Memorial Hall, High Street, Otford TN14 5PQ (adjacent car park is free in the evening).

Guest Speaker Russell Bowes will give us a very informative talk entitled "*The Capable Mr Brown*" about Lancelot 'Capability' Brown the renowned landscape designer.

From humble beginnings Lancelot Brown, (c1715 - 1783) son of a land agent and a chambermaid, rose to rub shoulders with aristocracy and royalty - because of his great reputation as a hands on landscape gardener. He was such in demand he had to turn commissions down. Consequently he became a very rich man yet remained approachable and affable. Unfortunately he died a very sudden death when he collapsed and died of a heart attack on his daughter's doorstep.

Buried humbly in Fenstanton churchyard near Cambridge his landscapes are his lasting legacy.

Free to NWKFHS members; non members are asked to make a donation towards costs of hall hire and speaker.

No booking, just turn up.

Free parking in the evenings at the adjacent large car park.

Please wear a face covering inside the building unless you are exempt.

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Zoom Talk Saturday 19 February log in from 10am for a 10.30 start

Guest Speaker Dr. Penny Walters "Searching for ancestors when adopted"

People have gaps in their personal history and want to find out about their biological family. This talk will discuss the practical realities, excitement and pain of researching a "new" family, also looking at information revealed through DNA testing. Penny will also reflect on her own adoption story.

Zoom host: Pat Gooding

The Zoom link will be published on the website www.nwkhfs.org.uk nearer the date.

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ZOOM Workshops, Special Interest and Discussion groups

Zoom Workshops (including Discussion Groups and Writing Groups) have a maximum number to allow all attendees to participate, and are restricted to paid up North West Kent FHS members only. Workshops last for 2 hours.

If any Society members missed a workshop which they would have liked to attend, or it filled up, see here for videos of some past workshops: <https://nwkhfs.org.uk/events/workshops/past-zoom-workshop-videos>

Please note that booking is essential.

Note the above link will only work for Society members logged into the website.

January 19 DNA Discussion Group Laura Lincoln 10.30am-12.30pm

January 26 Breaking Down Brickwalls David Cufley 7.30pm-9.30

Anyone wishing to attend, please email your, 'brickwall' by the 12th January to allow sufficient time for queries to be looked at. Please provide a name/topic and some background information.

February 2 Medieval Records Part 1 David Cufley 7.30pm - 9.30

Some online Medieval records and records after 1485

A look at some online sites with medieval records and information. Followed by the use of Manorial records to overlap the start of parish registers post 1538, a case study of methodology.

Capacity: 15

February 9 Discussion Group Carolyn Barclay 10.00am-11.45

The Good, The Bad and the Ugly. Should we forget our troublesome ancestors?

Capacity: 12

February 16 Writing Group Leader Pauline Heathcote 10.30am-midday

February 16 Powerpoint presentations David Cufley 7.30pm-9.30

How to do a Family History Presentation using Power Point.

A workshop to explain how to use Microsoft's Power Point presentation software, part of the Office suite of programmes.

You can use Power Point to show your family history diagrams and pictures to the family either face to face on your laptop or via zoom, also if you want to talk to other family historians or lead a workshop. This software will give you the tools to explain the research you have done.

You can even animate your slides or add crashes, bangs, whistles or music to create interest!

Capacity: 15

February 23 DNA Discussion Group Laura Lincoln 10.30am-midday

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Many, many thanks to workshop coordinator Carolyn Sekulowicz-Barclay (taking over from Pam Goddard) for arranging our exciting programme of workshops, and to the workshop leaders.

Society members please email Carolyn for the link / code to enable you to attend any of the above Workshops and Discussion Groups. workshop.booking@nwkhfs.org.uk

Carolyn would like to hear from you if you have topic requests for workshops or want to suggest different dates or times.

If you participate in a workshop, please consider making a donation to the Society through our eshop <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/shop/nwkhfs-shop/services> and scroll down for 'Society Donation'.

See <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings> for topics and dates / times of Workshops and Talks further ahead.

Easyfundraising

Click here to raise donations for North West Kent Family History Society whenever you shop online. Turn your everyday online shopping into FREE donations.

So far the Society has 40 *easyfundraising* supporters who have raised over £750. One member recently reported on Facebook that he car insurance has raised £15.

And not forgetting other, free, sources,

I notice that births and deaths on https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp now go up to 2020.

Over at freebmd.org.uk the Database currently contains 286,836,234 distinct records (376,528,609 total records).

I often use <https://www.freereg.org.uk> too, mainly for baptisms. It's a much smaller database at the moment, its current Record Count is: 53,863,275 Records of which 26,387,510 Baptisms; 8,172,490 Marriages ; and 19,303,275 Burials.

I (Stella Eames) welcome photos of people or places (specially historical or family history) in the North West Kent area with a story about them as I like to start each newsletter with a photo and story. Please email me at enews@nwkhfs.org.uk with your contributions. Any photos must be your own copyright.

Click on our other links <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/blog> [Facebook](#) [Flickr](#)

I am a volunteer creating this e-news in my 'spare time' but, if you do notice any errors, please tell me, so that they are not carried forward to the next edition.

I often get asked to publicise family history fairs, new books on genealogy and small genealogy businesses. I use my discretion in including ones which are local to our area or which I think may interest readers. It does not mean that I or NWKFHS has any personal knowledge, or makes any recommendation, about the event or business.

If there is anything else I should be aware of, to give you maximum benefit from this enews service, please let me know. I do receive many suggestions and requests for external events to be included, but there is only room for so much and I am conscious that the longer this email is, the less likely it is to be read. Some external events I publish on our Facebook page instead. But I'd welcome your opinions on the length and content and whether there is anything additional you'd like included.

Please mention it to others and encourage them to sign up so that we can keep society members and anyone interested in family history informed of NWKFHS activities.

Stella Eames, Editor
enews@nwkhfs.org.uk

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