



NEWSLETTER

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/643137552497216>

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

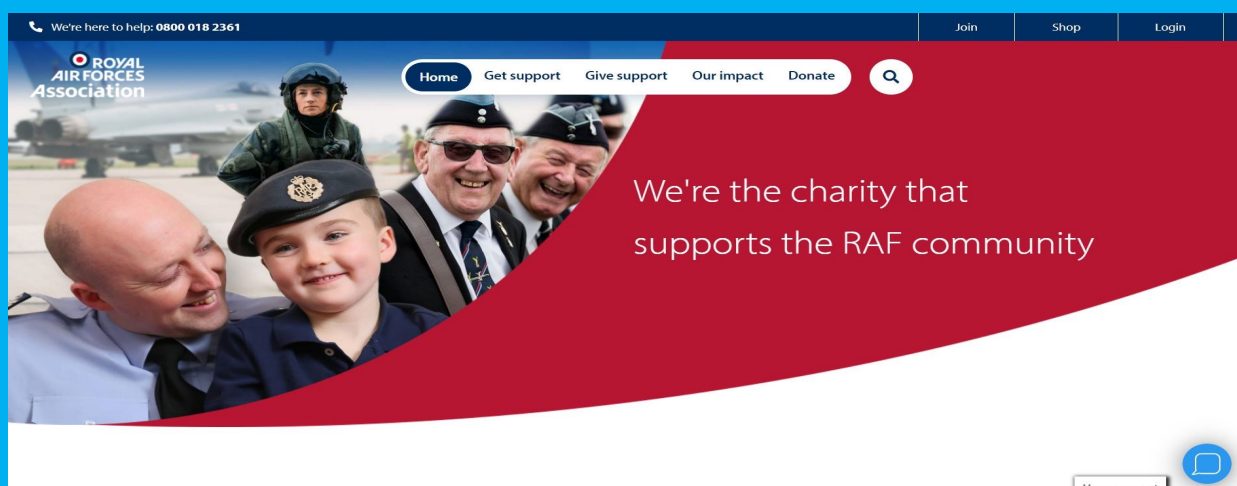
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<https://rafa.org.uk/>
Have YOU logged in yet?



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GLOBAL BRANCH AGM 2022



Saturday: 5th March 2022 @ 19.00hrs

Location: WO & Sgts Mess, RAF Valley

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS UPDATE

RAF Valley is covered by the Welsh Government's Covid-19 restrictions and guidelines. Whilst there are currently no requirements to show proof of vaccination or a negative Lateral Flow or PCR test prior to entering an establishment similar to that which we will be using, the Branch Committee feel it prudent, to request, that any member or guest attending the AGM takes a Lateral Flow Test 24 hours prior to travelling to their accommodation or AGM and that they only travel or attend the AGM if they have received a Negative test result.

I am certain you understand that restrictions may be subject to change at short notice."

Accommodation suggestions, but the choice & the booking of is down to you. Early booking is advised as prices will almost certainly rise. BUT please make sure anything you book has FREE CANCELLATION, just in case!!!

Please email chair.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com to confirm whether or not you will be attending the AGM plus whether flying solo or with guests. Please also confirm that you have booked accommodation and it's location.

Premier Inn, Parc Cybi, North Wales, LL65 2YQ

Website: <https://www.premierinn.com/>

Current Prices (28/11/2021) For 2 nights. Per Room:

£78 Advance. Pay now, fully refundable with free cancellation up to 28 days before arrival

£98 Flex. Pay now or on arrival, fully refundable with free cancellation up to 1pm on the day or arrival

Travelodge, Kingsland Road, Holyhead, Anglesey, LL65 2LB

Website: <https://www.travelodge.co.uk/>

£124.98 Flexible rate. Fully Refundable excluding WiFi. Free to amend or cancel up until noon on arrival date.

Booking.com

Website: <https://www.booking.com/>

Current lowest price (28/11/2021) in a B&B is £120 with free cancellation

GLOBAL BRANCH AGM 2022



Saturday: 5th March 2022 @ 19.00hrs

Location: WO & Sgts Mess, RAF Valley

PROPOSED AGM WEEKEND ITINERARY

Friday 4th March 2022

15.00hrs +

Arrival time at accommodation

20.00hrs

Social Evening & meal at Premier Inn, Parc Cybi, North Wales, LL65 2YQ

Possibly joined by RAF Valley Stn Cdr, Execs, RAFA Anglesey Branch President & Chairman

Saturday 5th March 2022

10.00hrs – 12.00hrs approx.

Branch visit IV, XXV, 72 Sqdns plus Stn Ops

12.00hrs

WINGS APPEAL EVENT

Proposed 100 yd aircraft pull (Hawk T2) by 8-10 Branch members. Possibly a competitive pull against station or squadron personnel.

13.00approx – 14.00hrs

Possible Lunch on base

14.00—15.00hrs

Visit to RAF Valley History Room

18.00hrs

Transfer to WO & Sgts Mess for AGM

19.00hrs sharp.

Annual General Meeting

19.45hrs

Presentation by Sgt David Lawrence

Visual presentation by Sgt David "Dai" Lawrence on the subject of either "The Battle of Britain" or The Dambusters". Collection to be made after the presentation with the money raised going to **TRAED BACH TYWYN NURSERY**

20.45hrs approx.

Non-Formal meal ideally served in Bain Marie or similar.

Choice of two hot food dishes, and a vegetarian option. Cost still to be determined.

18.00hrs – 23.00hrs approx.

Use of bar.

Sunday 6th March 2022

08.00hrs – 12.00hrs

Breakfast & checkout of accommodation.

Numbers Quiz

1/ Which number links Jimi Hendrix, Brian Jones (Rolling Stones), Kurt Cobain, Amy Winehouse and Jade Goody?

2/ How many books in Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy trilogy?

3/ Which number Apollo mission was the spaceflight that landed the first two men on the Moon?

4/ How many squares on a Monopoly Board?

5/ How many Harry Potter books in the series?

6/ and, how many Harry Potter films?

7/ How long is the M25 Motorway?

8/ What year did the racehorse Shergar go missing?

9/ Wedding Anniversaries, which anniversary is traditionally Crystal?

10/ How many pennies in a pre-decimal pound?

11/ What year was the Chernobyl Disaster?

12/ From wicket to wicket, how long is a cricket pitch?

13/ Which number Pennsylvania Avenue is the formal address of the White House?

14/ According to the bible how many people were at the last supper?

15/ How many feet in a fathom?

16/ How many seats in the Royal Albert Hall?

17/ How many different football teams have won the FA Premier League?

18/ How much is in a Baker's Dozen?

19/ How many sculpted lions by Sir Edwin Landseer sit at the base of Trafalgar Square?

20/ According to Douglas Adams, what is the answer to Life, The Universe and Everything?

E-mail your answers to KEN on hertsk@hotmail.com to get your score!!!

Hobby to Profit from Graham Croft



Ever since I can remember I have had a fascination for browsing in Antique & Collectable shops, or 'Junk Shops' as we used to call them (for good reason) in my teens. Not just

browsing of course but also purchasing interesting items that I could not possibly do without.

About 10 years ago I was visiting a local shop and the owner offered me the opportunity to rent a glass display cabinet on a percentage of sales basis which seemed an excellent idea as I planned on it being a self-funding hobby with an initial investment of £200.

Well, it worked. In the past years I have had Stalls at Antique Fairs, Scoured far too many Car Boots and Charity Shops, got to know all local Auction Houses, had immense fun learning the trade, and moved to a larger Antiques & Collectables Emporium where I now have a 10' x 12' Unit containing 8 cabinets and room for my refurbished furniture such as the popular Welsh Dresser.



I am not an expert on anything but have become very knowledgeable on a great range of topics such as; Coins, Ceramics, Glassware, Silver, Militaria, Furniture Refurbishment, Fossils, Gemstones etc. (I think it is called "Master of None"). It is still an immensely

satisfying hobby which remains self-funding (just).

Chairman's Ramblings

Well, first of let me say to everyone, well done on making it through what has possibly been the worst 2 years of our lives. I am certain that whatever 2022 has to throw at us it cannot be as traumatic as the past two.

This, has obviously been a majorly difficult time for the RAF Association generally due to Covid-19 restrictions. Thankfully, in some ways, the Global Branch has managed to weather the challenges that the past 24 months threw at us without too much difficulty. Our physical social meetings obviously suffered but being a virtual branch put us one step in front of many others by already using the "new" medium of Zoom!! Our weekly, and then monthly quizzes, have been attended by the knowledgeable few. Few in numbers but many in laughter & fun filled moments. They will be restarting in the New Year.

Our membership in 2021 has increased by some 50%+ which is something that many branches will not be able to say this year. Another little boast that the Global branch has for 2021 is that, YOU, our members managed to maintain a healthy Wings Appeal donation, in a year when collecting money for any charity has been very difficult!!!!

Looking forward to the New Year of 2022, our plans are still moving forward to be holding our AGM at RAF Valley on the weekend of 4th – 6th March. I hope to be seeing as many of you there as possible. Covid-19 regulations permitting, of course. With a little bit of luck, and positive thinking, we will be able to organize at least one or two visits next year. Just keep looking out for details on our Facebook page in the near future.

Don't forget to get your membership renewed as soon as it comes due, your expiry date is on your RAFA membership card, because we would hate to lose you!!!

So let me take this opportunity of hoping that you all have a "relaxing" Christmas and will have a happy & safe New Year.

Urgently Required

The Branch Committee is urgently looking for a person will to take on the task of producing the newsletter. If interests you please contact chair.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com

Life in Retirement

Motorcycle Road Racer returns to racing at 62

I used to race for the RAF back in the 70's and 80's when I was younger, braver, and bounced and mended a lot easier than I do now – and I have the X-rays to prove it!



Yes at the age of 62 I returned to racing a motorcycle. I had to start from the bottom again (as a novice) as the ACU would not renew my National Racing Licence as it had lapsed by a few decades. I made my return on the very same machine I started out on in 1974, which was a 1973 Yamaha YR5F pictured here.

I returned to racing to have a bit of fun, as I had been doing some track days on a Triumph Daytona 675R and was getting bored with it. The problem is, the “fun” soon gets into your system and suddenly you find you want more power/speed/performance. All of this involves money, and before you know it you are spending a small fortune to get your “fun”.

It was halfway through my first season when someone who had been watching me suggested I should get a classic Grands Prix bike which would suit my style of riding. And guess what, he knew where there was up for sale. £7500 later I became the new owner of a 1977 Yamaha TZ350D. Over that winter I did a complete restoration and rebuild, which cost me another £7000, but it was worth it.

The following season was a steep learning curve, as the power these machines deliver is pretty hard to describe. The acceleration is like a kick in the pants and only lasts for a few seconds before you need to select another gear.

In the August of 2017 I had a really bad crash at Snetterton, this time on a track day, and I was rushed to the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital under “blues & twos” with a badly smashed left humerus.



The consultant surgeon described it as the worst possible break, with my upper arm in 4 pieces. After 3 months there was still little sign of it healing. I went to a private clinic which specialised in treating motorsport injuries and underwent some intensive therapy which stimulated the blood flow in the bones and promoted the healing process. I was off work for 6 months!

Of course, I returned to racing the next season and since then I have a couple of minor “offs” but no breakages.

2019 was a very successful year, as I had entered the Classic Racing Motorcycle Clubs over 55 Championship for GP machines. I lead the Championship right up until the last meeting where I was caught by my fellow rival, Mark Edge.



A season is costing around £10k so up until 2019 I was able to afford this as I was still working, but since then I have found it financially difficult to continue at that spending level, so I have had to cut back a bit. I could really do with a sponsor or two to help, so if anyone wants to help or knows of anyone who might, please do let me know!!!!

John Hannaford



Now a regular place in the diary for many is a visit to their local Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club. Why not checkout your local one? For about £5 you get a substantial breakfast with unlimited tea/coffee. Venues vary on price & content. The link to find YOUR local club is www.afvbc.net

Newbury Thatcham Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/412987076263828>

St Helens Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1175542099273689/?ref=share>

Wakefield Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/115048932216843/?ref=share>

Dewsbury Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/976048345748584/>



From Eddie Mansfield in Telford

I co founded the first AFVBC here in Telford at the Brewery Inn at Coalport back in 2017.

Since then the breakfast club has expanded and we now have three Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Clubs in Telford and have over 160 members from all the armed forces branches along with family members. It's a wonderful organisation where the members and their families can all get together over a good breakfast and plenty of banter is had by all. There are no membership fees and no politics involved and that is why the breakfast clubs are growing all over the country and overseas now. Quite extraordinary really how it all started from a few veterans got together at a small garage in Hull only a few years ago.

Telford Coalport Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club & Telford Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club. Via Facebook

Any serving member of HM Armed Forces and Veterans are allowed to join including family members and is also open to widows of Veterans.

Telford Coalport AFVBC meets on the 1st Saturday of each month at the Brewery Inn at Coalport near Ironbridge in Telford from 09:00

Telford AFVBC meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month at the Church Wicketts pub in Malinslee, Telford from 09:00 and on the last Saturday of each month at the Outpost Cafe in Oakengates, Telford from 09:00.

THE CENOTAPH, WHITEHALL, LONDON 14TH NOVEMBER 2021

For the first time, the Global Branch, paraded as a branch at the London Cenotaph in Whitehall. 10 members of the branch made journeys from around the country to attend.



The contingent was led, this year, by your Chairman, with the branch wreath carried by Ian T Kirk.



Next year it is hoped to double the size of our contingent.

La Tumba del Piloto Ingles (The English pilot's grave)

Will hopefully return in the next edition

Tracing Your Family Tree

A not so short info sheet prepared by Chris Mercer

1. Introduction

Tracing your family tree can be an interesting, and even addictive, process. By its very nature, a family history is unique to you and can be enlightening, rewarding, and enjoyable, but some of the information which you uncover may also be puzzling or even shocking. This leaflet will give you some pointers as to where to begin and some general advice to help you along the way. It is not intended to be a comprehensive guide to all the resources available but it does provide basic information about the most common records used in family research.

Increasing interest in family history means that many sources of information are now available to help you trace your family tree. Most Counties have a Records Office and have a wide range of loan and reference books and magazines to help you, and there are many useful websites.

2. How to Start

The golden rule with family research is to start with what you know - even if your knowledge only extends to your parents' or grandparents' names. Begin, if you can, by speaking to relatives, in order to build an accurate picture of your present day family and to gather information about more recent ancestors. How you go about this will depend on the individuals you approach – bear in mind that some may be reluctant to talk about some aspects of the past.

Collect copies or information from photographs, certificates, medals, family bibles and other family papers in order to piece together more details. Try not to neglect more modern items. You may know everybody in your wedding album, for example, but your children and grandchildren probably do not. This will not only help you to create an accurate family tree today, but will help future generations to identify their ancestors.

While much of the data you gather in this way will be reliable, try to verify it with information from other sources. For example, check entries in family bibles against birth, marriage and death certificates or church baptism, marriage and burial registers. People often misremember dates, while some of the dates you find recorded may be misleading. It was not uncommon, for instance, for men to lie about their ages to go to war or for a couple to declare a marriage date earlier than the actual wedding in order to conceal an illegitimate birth.

Once you have put together as much information as you can, begin tracing your family back through time, generation by generation, using the General Register Office indexes of births, marriages and deaths, census records, 1841-1911, parish registers and other sources.

Write down everything you find, where you found it and how you found it. Also make a note of anything you looked for but could not find. The principle of organization is a very important one and it will save you much anguish later. Electronic family history packages are also an excellent way of recording and organizing the information you discover, but it is best to keep an additional electronic or hard copy as a back-up in case your original becomes inaccessible.

Try to take some time to learn about how to research and record your family history before diving into indexes and records. This will help you to put together a plan of action to follow and will give you a grounding in the most common records used for family history, including why they were produced, how they were produced, and how they can be best used to further your research.

3. Civil Registration Records (births, marriages and deaths)

Civil registration will probably be your first port of call as you begin your research. This is because the records should enable you to trace your family back all the way from yourself to ancestors who appear on the 1911 census.

The General Register Office (GRO) indexes are the national indexes to births, marriages and deaths (BMDs) in England and Wales. The system came into effect on 1 July 1837. In theory, from this date every birth, marriage and death should have been recorded, but until 1875 there were no penalties for failing to register a birth, marriage or death. Local registrars kept records for their local areas (registration districts), copies of which were sent to the Registrar General for inclusion on a national register.

SURNAME of Parent	NAME (if any) or SEX of CHILD	SUP. REGISTRARS DISTRICT	Vol.	Page
		161		
Usher	Sarah Ann	Birmingham	XVI	381
Usher	Thomas	Newcastle	XXV	349
Usher	Thomas Morris	Boston	XIV	249
Usher	William Swan	Scutcliffe	XXII	548
Usher	Wile	Biggleswade	VI	76
Usher	Louisa (Lynnes)	Clifton	XIII	221
Usher	Henry Longbottom (Lynnes)	Birmingham	VI	363
Usher	Alfred	St. Pancras	XXIII	298
Usher	Andrew	Birmingham	XXII	450
Usher	Caroline	Toddington	XIII	193
Usher	George	Canterbury	VII	39
Usher	Jane	Sheffield	XXII	599
Usher	Lucy	Birmingham	XXII	440
Usher	Mary Ann	London	II	167
Usher	William	Cambridge	XIV	11
Usher	Male	Chesham	XIV	48
Usher	Charles	Nottingham	XIII	231
Usher	Charles Henry	St. Lawrence	IV	470
Usher	Elizabeth	Walsingham	XII	326
Usher	Ellen Louisa	St. Pauls	XIII	111
Usher	George	Stratford-upon-Avon	XIII	165
Usher	Rebecca	Portsmouth	XIII	127
Usher	Female	Walsingham	XIII	466
Usher	Abraham	Nottingham	XXII	292
Usher	Arthur	Nottingham	XXII	209
Usher	Benjamin	Nottingham	XXII	256
Usher	Cornelius	Nottingham	XXII	751
Usher	Grace	Nottingham	XXII	748
Usher	John	Nottingham	XXII	737
Usher	John	Nottingham	XXII	747
Usher	Sarah	Nottingham	XXII	292
Usher	John	Nottingham	XXII	340
Usher	George	Nottingham	XXII	149
Usher	George	Nottingham	XXII	213

Entries on the index are arranged by quarter (for example, the three months, January, February and March make up the March quarter) and then by surname. You can search for BMDs on several websites, including www.ancestrylibrary.com, which is available to search free of charge at many Record Offices and libraries across the county.

If you wish to search the indexes at home, there is an online searchable index at www.freebmd.org.uk. This is not complete, but has good coverage up to about 1950. Alternatively, you can take out a personal subscription to www.ancestry.co.uk or to other sites, such as www.findmypast.co.uk, www.genes-reunited.co.uk and www.thegenealogist.co.uk.

The indexes supply limited information, but provide the details necessary to order a birth, marriage or death certificate, including the quarter and year, the volume and page number, and the district in which the event was registered.

Each registration district covered many parishes. For example, between 1837 and 1939, the Erpingham district covered not just the village of Erpingham but another 50 or so parishes.

Birth indexes include the child's mother's maiden name from September quarter, 1911. Marriage registers include the spouse's surname from March quarter, 1912. Before this date, you can usually narrow down possible spouses by clicking through to other names with the same district, volume and page reference. Death indexes include the age of the deceased from March quarter, 1866 and the date of birth from June quarter, 1969.

Certificates can be ordered from <https://www.gov.uk/browse/births-deaths-marriages/register-offices>, from the relevant local registry office, or by post (forms are available at the NHC). At present (2021), the cost of obtaining a certificate is £11.50.

Birth certificates usually show:

Date and place of birth Name and sex

Names of parents (including mother's maiden name) Father's occupation

Name, description and address of informant

Date of registration.

Marriage certificates usually show:

Date and place of marriage

Forenames and surnames of bride and groom

Ages of bride and groom ('full age' means 21 or over) Abode of bride and groom

Father's name and occupation for both bride and groom Names of witnesses.

Marriage certificates usually give ages of the bride and groom and the names of their fathers. This evidence often enables you to find a birth record for each individual. The resulting birth certificate will give an individual's parents' names, which can lead you to another marriage, and so on, back to 1837.

Death certificates usually show:

Date and place of death Full name

Age at death Occupation

Cause of death

Name, description and address of informant Date of registration.

4. The Census

The census is an exceptionally useful family history resource. A census has been taken every ten years since 1801, but until 1841 the records provided little more than statistical information. Because the census is kept confidential for 100 years, the most recent one currently available for viewing is the one made in 1911. The 1931 census was destroyed by fire during the wartime bombings, and the Census for 1941 was not taken due to the 2nd World War for obvious reasons, but there was a census taken in 1939 which is viewable.

Pre-1841 censuses survive for a few individual parishes, mainly amongst the records of parish churches, but often do not provide genealogical information. Most of those which survive for Norfolk for example have been transcribed and are available at www.origins.org.uk/genuki/NFK/norfolk/census/.

To find your family on the census, it usually makes sense to start with the most recent available and work backwards. The 1911 census is available on www.ancestrylibrary.com (which you can access free of charge at most Record Offices and libraries). At the time of writing (March 2013), it appears that name indexing of the 1911 census is more or less complete. This means that you should be able to search for an ancestor's name and go straight to the right page. The census is fully indexed on the subscription sites www.1911census.co.uk and www.findmypast.co.uk as well as www.thegenealogist.co.uk. **Coming soon: 1921 Census.**

The 1911 census records are the original schedules, often completed in your ancestors' handwriting. However, the 1841-1901 censuses we can view today have been scanned from the enumerators' books. The enumerator was the person who collected completed forms from households and copied the entries into a volume.

Over time, the census evolved. In 1841, relationships to the head of the household were not given and you will need to check inferred relationships with parish registers or other sources. Birthplaces were not given beyond stating whether an individual was born 'in County' or 'in Scotland, Ireland or Foreign Parts'. Additionally, ages were usually rounded down to the nearest five years for all those over 15.

From 1851 to 1901, the census provides places of birth, relationships to the head of household and sometimes more details about an individual's address and occupation. By 1911, it also includes the years each couple have been married, how many children each woman has given birth to, and how many children are still living. In 1911, householders were also asked how many rooms were in their household. This was a development from the 1901 census, which only required this information from households with fewer than five occupied rooms.

The 1841-1901 censuses are indexed on all of the major subscription sites and are available to search at www.ancestrylibrary.com, which you can access free of charge at most libraries. Indexes to the 1851 and 1881 censuses are also available on microfiche at both the Local record Offices, where you can also see microfilm copies of the local censuses, 1841-1901.

While the census is very useful, bear in mind that it was intended as a snapshot of every household on one night and does not necessarily show those who usually lived there. Therefore, some family members may be missing from their usual abode. Ages may be inaccurate and places of birth are sometimes wrong or may have been misheard or misspelled by the enumerator.

It is also worth remembering that since many enumerators were individuals of standing in the community, your ancestor may have had a reason to mislead the enumerator. For example, if the enumerator happened also to be an overseer of the poor, paupers may have lied about their place of birth, so that they did not lose their parish relief. As with all family history resources, treat each piece of information with caution and gather more evidence where possible.

5. Parish Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials

Parish registers are particularly useful before the advent of civil registration in 1837. It is still advisable, however, to complement post-1837 research with details from baptism, marriage and burial registers, as they often provide extra evidence and information for your family tree. Church registers have been kept since 1538, but not all churches have surviving records which stretch back this far. Others have gaps in their records, particularly during the Civil War and Commonwealth period, 1640-60.

Registers before 1754 usually combine baptisms, marriages and burials in one volume. Early entries are sometimes in Latin. The amount of information given and the way it is arranged in the register varies according to the parish and the person making the entries. From 1754 (for marriages) and 1813 (for baptisms and burials), churches used registers with a pro forma requiring the inclusion of particular information. Most registers after these dates do not give more information than that required, but occasionally you will find dates of birth, mothers' maiden names, names of reputed fathers of illegitimate children, causes of death, grave location references or other comments listed alongside the entries. For further details of the information found in parish registers, see your local Records Office

Most parishes have deposited their registers with their Local Record Office. To help preserve the registers for the future, many of them have been microfilmed. You can see the microfilms and fiche at the LRO and most of them are also available at County Archives. If a register has been microfilmed, it is not usually possible to see the original document unless the microfilm or fiche is illegible. If you do have a problem reading a film or fiche, please ask a member of staff for help.

Some registers are still held by the churches themselves, so it is always worth checking before you visit that records are available for the parish and year in which you are interested. For a list of parish registers held by the LRO, organized by parish and indicating which registers have been filmed, please see A Summary of Church of England Parish Registers and Transcripts, available on their website. The summary also shows if the LRO has printed or typed transcripts of parish registers, which are generally quicker to search than the original registers, especially if they are indexed (though we advise you to double check transcripts against the original register). For registers still held at the church, the diocesan directories can be found on your local Diocesan should give contact details of the parish priest or churchwardens.

Digital images of many parish registers, 1538-c. 1900, are available online at www.familysearch.org, although the image quality is variable.

If you know where your family lived, you can look through the registers for that parish. If you are unsure, some of the best places to search are: www.freereg.org.uk A database containing many transcriptions completed by volunteers, which you can search free of charge.

www.familysearch.org This is the internet home of the International Genealogical Index (IGI), which contains transcriptions of registers from all over the world. Coverage of the United Kingdom is patchy, but you may find something of interest.

Family History Societies are all around the country so a 'Google' search will prove beneficial.

More and more transcriptions and index entries appear online every week.

Keep in mind, however, that not everything has yet been made available on any one particular website or index. Remember that if you cannot find someone, he or she may be recorded in the registers of a parish which has not yet been transcribed. If you find an entry that could relate to your family, you should always double check the original to ensure that the information is correct and to see if any additional information is given.

6. Wills and other Probate Records

Wills can supply valuable information about the person who made the will and his or her links with family and friends. If the deceased did not leave a valid will, an administration may have been granted. Although less informative than wills, administrations name the person appointed to administer the estate (often the next-of-kin), whilst the date of the document indicates an approximate date of death.

Before 1858, wills were proved (made legally valid) by church courts. The LRO holds wills (mainly registered copies) that have been proved. Some digital images of wills are available in some areas.

Some pre-1858 wills (particularly those of wealthy people) were proved by the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) These wills, together with administrations granted by this court, are held by The National Archives and can be seen on microfilm there. You can download PCC wills, 14th century-1858, and search indexes to them at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline. Checking the indexes is free, but a fee is charged to view digital images of the wills.

From 1858 onwards, wills were proved by civil courts. The LRO has registered copies of Probate Registry wills for your area, some are available on microfilm.

7. Other sources

The records mentioned above are only the beginning. As you gain confidence in research you may want to move on to some of the following sources:

Many baptism/birth, marriage and burial registers for some nonconformist churches (for a list of those available contact your Local Library.

Local directories, Electoral registers and poll books, Army, navy and militia records, Marriage licence bonds, Records of the poor, such as settlement papers, bastardy records and work-house records. Quarter sessions and petty sessions records, Apprenticeship records, Registers of freemen for your county. School records

Medical Officer of Health birth and death returns, and vaccination registers

Tithe maps and apportionments, showing where people lived, owned and rented land and property in rural areas, c. 1840

Manorial records

Immigration and emigration lists.

Most, but not all, of these are available locally in your local County Archive.

An Introduction to the CWGC by Brian Fare

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) first came about during the First World War (FWW) when Sir Fabian Ware realised the scale of the work in recording and burying the dead. The task was so vast that he believed it required an independent organisation that would seek permanent commemoration for the war dead and reflect the contribution and sacrifice from all those across both Great Britain and her Empire.

Supported by the Prince of Wales, Ware submitted a memorandum to the Imperial War Conference in 1917 suggesting that an independent organisation would be required to carry on the work of marking and caring for the graves of the fallen once the war was over. The suggestion was unanimously approved by the Conference and the predecessor of what we know today as the CWGC, the Imperial War Graves Commission was founded by Royal Charter on 21st May 1917.

The formal planning, design and construction of the Commonwealth military cemeteries actually started whilst the FWW was still raging. The Commission held its first meeting in November 1917 and one action from it was to invite Sir Frederic Kenyon who was the Director of the British Museum to act as the Commissions architectural advisor.

After visiting France and Belgium during the winter of 1917, he proposed that the design of the cemeteries be entrusted to young architects who had served during the war, but that architects of note be appointed to supervise and approve their work.

This proposal was agreed and accepted with the work in France and Belgium being entrusted to four principal architects: Sir Edwin Lutyens, Reginald (later Sir) Blomfield, Herbert (Later Sir) Baker and Charles Holden.

Sir Robert Lorimer was appointed as the architect responsible for the cemeteries in Egypt, Italy, Greece, Germany and the United Kingdom whilst Sir John Burnet was given those in the Gallipoli Peninsula, Palestine and Syria with Major Edward Warren looking after those in Iraq.

The Commissions primary responsibility was to ensure that the graves of fallen Commonwealth service men & women (including certain auxiliary and civilian organisations) were permanently marked and maintained in perpetuity. Additionally, the names of those whose graves are unknown or cannot be maintained, or whose remains were lost or buried at sea or cremated had to be commemorated on memorials.

By the time of the Second World War (SWW), the Commission had become quite adept at this task, and consequently, it was not as daunting as that of the FWW even though new cemeteries and memorials had to be constructed for the dead of the SWW.



Today the work of the CWGC continues with over 1.7million Commonwealth servicemen & women commemorated from both world wars. The Commission maintains 1.1 million headstones across 23,000 locations in 150 countries worldwide.

CWGC is informed of around 80 new discoveries of human remains worldwide each year. #OurWorkContinues



What EVERY member needs

CHAIRMAN'S CHALLENGE FOR 2022 NOW IS THE TIME TO GET YOUR RAFA HOME COLLECTION BOX!!!!



It's so simple folks, just get one of these home collection boxes and just pop your odd change into it. Come Battle of Britain Week 2022, count it up and bank it for the Global Branch's Wing Appeal.

Remember it doesn't matter where you live in the world, money is money & it all adds up no matter what the currency!!!!

Contact the Chairman now to ask for one of the boxes and get collecting the easy way. Don't wait for it to come in post, have a look in your pocket today and see how much shrapnel you have in there now!!!

In 2020 & 2021 we raised over £1,000 despite all the problems we have had with Covid 19, so I am hoping that in 2022 we can improve on that with more people having boxes!!!

Reference renewals of your membership of RAFA.

Many memberships will be coming up for renewal over the next month or so. Please take a few minutes to check out that YOUR details are correctly held with RAFA HQ so that hopefully you will receive your membership card etc when you renew. If you currently receive the Air Mail magazine then you can assume your address is correct. You can easily check this out, and the date your renewal is due, by logging on the portal at <https://rafa.org.uk/> and then going to My Details & My Membership. If they are incorrect you can change them online.

If you are unable to log on due to not having a password. Use the Contact form at <https://rafa.org.uk/contact/> to request one.



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