

Newsletter

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Editorial

The holiday season is over and the nights are drawing in so if you are fed up with watching the television why not seek out Rob and volunteer to help index something. We have a couple of projects on the go and you can do as much or as little as you want. If you carried out your research with a visit to Kew then please make a note of the new opening times on page two of your newsletter. For many years I have subscribed to *Ancestry.com* but this year I will have to reconsider. Ancestry have just sent me an email to tell me that my subscription for next year will be £107.40p. When I first subscribed to them it was about £40.00p If you subscribe to *Findmypast.com* it will be £119.95p but if you want access to the 1911 census it will be the grand sum of £149.90 and that is with a 20% discount. To subscribe to a new website like *The Genealogist.com* will cost you £68.95p but I don't know a lot about it. My point is that it is not cheap researching your family history these days. Petrol cost the earth to travel to different parts of the country and then to park. The best bargain is to join the BMSGH (us) for £14.50p and have free access to our archive which contains local information that is not on the internet.

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Scotland's People

Scotland People are delighted to announce that the following marriage records have been added to their website. These will interest anyone who is researching their Scottish family history.

Indexes (NOT IMAGES) to modern marriage records from 1934-2006 have now been added to the website. This now gives the range of statutory records as Indexes of Scottish births and deaths (1855-2006) marriages (1855-2006) and images of births(1855-1908), marriages (1855-1933) and deaths (1855-1958).

Your Ancestor Transported?

The State Library of Queensland has just re-released the British Convict Transportation Registers Database (over 123,000 convicts sent to Australia between 1787 and 1867). Their website is: -

www.slq.qld.gov.au/info/fh/convicts

Rolls of Honour

On Saturday 14th November at 11.00am. there will be a short Dedication Service in Bethesda Chapel, Albion Street, Hanley. The service will celebrate the re-instatement of the missing WWI and WWII Rolls of Honour. These rolls list some 300 names of men who served during both world wars listing them by name and regiment. All are welcome to the service.

1911 Census

The National Archives announced arrangements for free access to the 1911 census information at the following locations:

[Birmingham Archives & Heritage](#)

[Devon Record Office \(Exeter\)](#)

[The National Library of Wales \(Aberystwyth\)](#)

[Manchester Archives and Local Studies](#)

[Greater Manchester County Record Office](#)

[Norfolk Record Office](#)

[Nottinghamshire Archives](#)

[Tyne and Wear Archives](#)

Before planning a trip, visitors are urged to contact the relevant institution to find out when the service will be available.

Gathering the Jewels

If you have any Welsh ancestors then take a look at www.gtj.org.uk It is a website full of Welsh culture and heritage information. Not really a genealogy website but more of a site to put flesh on the bones of your Welsh ancestors.

Janice Bebbington.

Notice of changes to the services offered by the National Archives at Kew.

- 1) **From 4 January 2010 the reading rooms will be open five days a week (Tuesday to Saturday), with longer opening on the days we are open.** From 5 January 2010, our opening and document ordering times will be as shown in the table below.

	Opening times	Document ordering times
Monday	Closed	n/a
Tuesday	09:00 – 19:00	09:00 – 17:00
Wednesday	09:00 – 17:00	09:00 – 16:15
Thursday	09:00 – 19:00	09:00 – 17:00
Friday	09:00 – 17:00	09:00 – 16:15
Saturday	09:00 – 17:00	09:00 – 16:15
Sunday	Closed	n/a

We recognise that this change may inconvenience some of our visitors, but our research shows less than 0.5% of our readers use our facilities for six consecutive days a week. We are committed to and will continue to support high quality scholarly research at our facilities in Kew, including services for the academic community.

- 2) **A charge will be introduced for use of our public car park.** From April 2010, there will be a charge of £5 per day and discounted annual tickets will be available (savings will be dependent on the emissions level of the car).. In addition we will be allocating a limited number of free tickets to regular unpaid volunteers, who are making a significant contribution on key projects.
- 3) **We will move some more of our microfilm and microfiche records to storage at the end of this year, providing primary access in our reading rooms through digital means.** This is part of an ongoing programme that has been running for several years to replace film and fiche with digital images. We will continue to work with our commercial partners to ensure even higher levels of accuracy of the indexing information provided. For those who need to see the microform it will still be available, on request.
- 4) **We will also ensure our records experts are available to our visitors when they are most needed.** Following member consultation we will continue to provide expert advice in the Map and Large Document reading room for all the hours we are open. Elsewhere records expertise will be focused on busier periods of the day, when it is most needed.
- 5) **We will be introducing the new streamlined online record copying service in late 2009/early 2010.** This will help simplify the current online and telephone ordering processes.

Further information can be found at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/changes.

What the postman saw

Written on the back of a postcard I recently bought is the following message: -

Our Dora,

I think that young man you bought to our house is a wrong un. He has shifty eyes and took more notice of my nice things than anything I talked about. I know you can do better. Love Phillis

