

# Local Population Studies Society

*Dedicated to the study of local, social and population history*

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

[www.twitter.com/localpopstudies](https://www.twitter.com/localpopstudies)

Newsletter 69: September 2021

## Contents

<b>The social and demographic importance of Methodism</b> <i>Andrew Hinde</i>	2
<b>Advertisement: ‘Communities of Dissent’: a Chapel Society conference</b>	3
<b>A nurse child</b> <i>Sue Jones</i>	4
<b>LPSS on social media</b>	5
<b>Membership and benefits of LPSS</b>	6
<b>Using FreeREG for research</b> <i>Eric J Dickens</i>	7
<b>2021 LPSS Spring Conference reports</b> <i>Karen Rothery, Eilidh Garrett and Paul Tomblin</i>	13
<b>LPSS Autumn Conference - ONLINE</b>	16
<b>Local Population Studies Society Prize</b>	20
<b>Committee members</b>	20



*Shelf Wesleyan Cricket Club, 1923/4, see p. 2.*

*Welcome to the Autumn 2021 LPSS Newsletter. Many thanks, as always, to our contributors without whom this Newsletter would be impossible to produce.*

*We'd be very glad to hear from you with contributions, feedback, comments, suggestions, letters for publication, research queries, etc.*

**Sue Jones, Newsletter Editor:** [newsletter@localpopulationstudies.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@localpopulationstudies.org.uk)

## Autumn Conference

### The British Diaspora

Online – via Zoom: Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**Programme and booking form – see pp. 16-19**

## The social and demographic importance of Methodism

*Andrew Hinde*

This photograph is of the Shelf Wesleyan Cricket Club, who won the Halifax and District Nonconformist Cricket League in the seasons 1923 and 1924. I discovered it earlier this year, when clearing out the house of my late mother.



The picture raises some issues of potential interest for local population historians. Shelf was (and is) a large village lying some three miles north-east of Halifax in the West Riding of Yorkshire. It had a Wesleyan Methodist chapel which opened in 1785 and eventually closed in 1981 (for more information see the website of the South Bradford Local History Alliance (<http://www.sblha.com/witchfield.html> [accessed 4 August 2021]) and an independent Methodist chapel, called Bethel Chapel, opened in the 1850s and is still active. Records show that close to 5,000 people have been buried in the graveyard at Bethel Chapel. There was also a Primitive Methodist Chapel, Wade House, in the burial register of which are recorded 1,025 burials between 1820 and 1979

([https://www.freereg.org.uk/freereg\\_contents/5409cf59eca9ebd28e10ad57/show\\_church?locale=en](https://www.freereg.org.uk/freereg_contents/5409cf59eca9ebd28e10ad57/show_church?locale=en) [accessed 4 August 2021]). By contrast with these three Methodist places of worship, Shelf shared an Anglican church with the neighbouring village of Buttershaw.

To give a further indication of the relative prominence of Methodism and Anglicanism in Shelf, we can do a quick calculation. The population of Shelf in the early twentieth century was about 2,500 ([http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/unit/10042460/cube/TOT\\_POP](http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/unit/10042460/cube/TOT_POP) [accessed 4 August 2021]). Assuming this roughly represents the average population over the period 1850-1979, and assuming an average crude death rate of 16 per 1,000 over this period would generate  $(2,500 \times 16/1,000) = 40$  deaths per year, or a total of 5,200 deaths between 1850 and 1979. Given this, it is clear from the burial totals above that the vast majority of those who died in Shelf during this period were buried in

Methodist graveyards. Religious activity in nineteenth and early-twentieth century Shelf, as in many parts of the West Riding of Yorkshire, was dominated by the Methodist Church.

However, the photograph provides evidence that nonconformism, and Methodism in particular, was about much more than religious belief. Social activity in Shelf and neighbouring areas of Yorkshire was also organised through the Methodist Church. Local population historians, perhaps because of the prominence of Anglican parish registers for the analysis of demographic change, sometimes fail to appreciate the pervasiveness of nonconformity in many areas of England between around 1800 and the mid-twentieth century, and the influence it had over cultural and social life. Educational institutions, local clubs and societies, and (as we see from the picture) sporting activities, were organised by and through networks of nonconformist churches. These would engage with many persons whose attachment to the religious beliefs of the churches was tenuous, to say the least.

There is also evidence that this culture had a direct influence on demographic behaviour. Recent work at the University of Southampton by Stephanie Thiehoff has shown that areas which, in 1851, had a high concentration of New Dissent (which, in practice, largely means Methodism) experienced a larger decline in fertility within marriage between 1851 and 1881 than did other areas.

Finally, the reason the photograph was in my late mother's house is that the gentleman seated fourth from the right in the middle row, holding a bat, is her father (my grandfather), Harold Murgatroyd, who was born in 1901 in Buttershaw in the West Riding of Yorkshire so would have been aged about 23 years in the photograph.

---

---

## Communities of Dissent 1850-1914

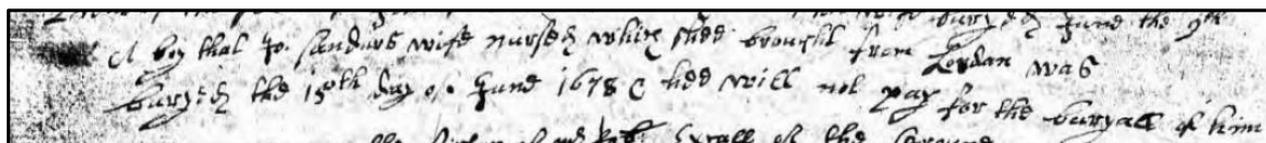
### A Chapel Society conference in association with Harris Manchester College, Oxford Saturday 30 October 2021

Under the leadership of Kate Tiller, a group of researchers from the Family and Community History Research Society (FACHRS), in association with the Chapels Society, ran a project between 2017 and 2020 to investigate experiences of chapel culture for their local areas of England and Wales. The conference will draw on some of these studies and on recent doctoral work at Kellogg College, Oxford (which focus on communities in north-west Wales and Cornwall). The material will be gathered into a themed issue of the *Journal of the Chapels Society* to be published in 2022.

Between 1850 and 1914 Nonconformity reached a peak of presence and status in communities throughout England and Wales. It influenced the public and private lives of people and places. It was a major source of identity, activity and organisation, from the spiritual, social, educational and political to the cultural and sporting. The conference will present examples of recent research in the context of debates on the significance of chapels and chapel life during this Victorian and Edwardian heyday. The surviving buildings, material culture, written records and personal memories of communities of dissent offer powerful but threatened testimony to the historical importance of 'chapel'. Details of the conference and booking form are available from the website of the Chapels Society, <https://www.chapelssociety.org.uk/>

## A nurse child<sup>1</sup>

Sue Jones



*Egham parish burial register, 1678*

From time to time the parish registers of early modern England record the burials of nurse children. Nurse children were children sent away from the parental home to be reared by another family. Their presence in the counties surrounding London is explored by Clark in *Local Population Studies* 39 (pp. 8-23).<sup>2</sup>

In many cases the parish records contain no further information about the buried child other than that it was a nurse child and sometimes who had looked after it. But sometimes they tell us a little more about the circumstances of the arrangement.

Some children were placed with the nurse by a relative. There could have been a variety of reasons for the placement, including the death of the mother. Such placements often seem to have made use of existing family contacts (see Clark (1985)). In Woking, Surrey, the parish register in 1682 recorded the burial of *Thomas Hyett (a Nurse Child from London) the sonne of Richard Hyett buried October the 15<sup>th</sup> day*. Research shows that he was one of twins born a few months' previously. His mother died soon after giving birth as did his twin brother. The parents lived in St Botolph in London, where the baptisms of other children were recorded but their marriage had been in Woking, which presumably provided them with the connections there to find a nurse.

Other nurse children were foundlings, placed by the parish in which they had been found. On occasion the burial record gives a few details of the foundling, such as in Pirbright, Surrey, in 1577: *Emmanuel, a child found in the street in St Clements Parish in London, & by the same parishoners was sent to be nursed. Was buried the same year*.

Some records of the placement of foundlings are recorded in the books of Christ's Hospital (founded 1552) and more in those of the Foundling Hospital (founded 1739), both in London, and in some provincial institutions. But many left few, if any, records and it is all but impossible to identify much about the practical arrangements involved in a woman taking in a nurse child.

Occasionally a burial record does provide a little insight. In Egham, Surrey, in 1678 the burial record reproduced above reads: *A boy that John Sanders wife nursed which she brought from London. He will not pay for his burial*. This gives us a tiny glimpse into the practical arrangements involved. The child is unnamed and no parentage is given so he was likely to have been a foundling sent to be cared for by the parish in which he was found. The record tells us that the nurse travelled to London to

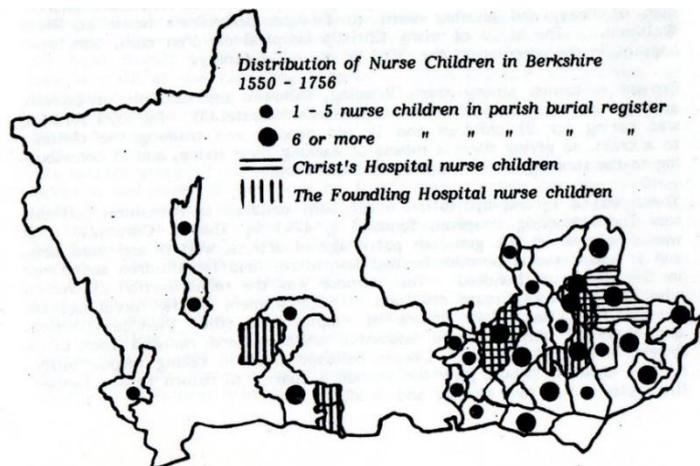
<sup>1</sup> My thanks to Alys Levene, Andrew Hinde and Eilidh Garrett for their assistance in the writing of this piece.

<sup>2</sup> See also Clark, G. 'Nurse children in Berkshire', *Berkshire Old and New*, 2 (1985), pp. 25-33. Other studies have more often focussed on the period after the opening of the Foundling Hospital in 1739, including Clark, G. (ed.), *Correspondence of the Foundling Hospital inspectors in Berkshire, 1759-1768* (Reading, 1997); Levene, A., *Childcare, health and mortality at the London Foundling Hospital* (Manchester, 2007).

collect the child and one interpretation of the record is that, when the child died, she and her husband were out of pocket because they had had to pay the cost of travel to London and were therefore unwilling to pay for the child's burial. Presumably he had died before they had earned enough to recoup their costs. Perhaps they felt it should be the parish the child came from who should pay for the burial. An alternative explanation is that John Sanders did not like the arrangement which his wife had made and consequently refused to have anything to do with the burial costs.

Many nurse children in the Home Counties were from London. The relevance of the distance they had to travel is underlined by the locations of those mentioned in Berkshire's parish burial registers 1550-1756 (see Clark (1985)) where such children were recorded mainly in the eastern section of Berkshire, concentrated in the area of Windsor Forest and along the Great West Road.

Egham, where the Sanders lived, is in north-west Surrey, on the Thames. The Thames provided a better than average route for Surrey travellers, as did the London to Portsmouth road. Elsewhere in Surrey, travel was often difficult as many roads were of poor quality; Defoe, for example, wrote in the early eighteenth century that the roads near the fashionable resort town of Epsom in mid-Surrey were 'impassable' in winter, as a result of which the town, unlike other fashionable resorts in Surrey, was empty of visitors over the winter.<sup>3</sup> As a result of the poor quality of its roads, and even though



Surrey is adjacent to London, most of the nurse children recorded in the burial registers of Surrey's parishes were in the northern part of the county, close to the capital. Few seem to have come from Surrey's more distant parishes even though they were nearer to London than the eastern Berkshire parishes identified by Clark.

*Distribution of nurse children in parish burial records in Berkshire 1550-1756<sup>4</sup>*

### LPSS is on Twitter and on Facebook

Did you know you can follow the Society and interact with other LPSS members on social media?

- Our twitter feed @LocalPopStudies (<https://twitter.com/LocalPopStudies>) shares lots of interesting and cutting-edge research in demography and local and family history.
- We also have a private Facebook group where you can discuss upcoming events and any research questions you have with other members (just search 'Local Population Studies Society' in Facebook, or go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/209496865918821/?ref=share>).

<sup>3</sup> D. Defoe, *A Tour Through the Whole Island of Great Britain*, ed. Pat Rogers (Harmondsworth, 1971), p. 171.

<sup>4</sup> Reproduced from Clark (1985).

## Membership of Local Population Studies Society

The Local Population Studies Society (LPSS) is a charity devoted to promoting local history, social history, and historical demography in a local context. We publish the journal *Local Population Studies*, and other books and edited collections from time to time. We also hold two conferences a year, usually on a particular theme related to populations in the past, and welcome contributions from speakers at all stages of their research.

Members of LPSS receive two copies of the journal *Local Population Studies* and two Newsletters each year. They receive advance notice of LPSS conferences, for which they receive a discounted rate. They are also eligible to apply for support from the Roger Schofield Fund and the May Pickles Bursaries (for more details of these, see below).

Membership of the LPSS is by annual subscription. Our annual subscription rates, which are due on 1 May annually, and include either online-only or online and print access to *Local Population Studies* and the LPSS Newsletter, are:

	UK	Overseas
Individual Online Journal	£20.00	£20.00
Individual Print Journal	£35.00	£50.00
Student Online Journal	£12.00	£12.00
Student Print Journal	£25.00	£35.00
Institution Online Journal	£40.00	£40.00
Institution Print Journal	£50.00	£70.00

To join: see the LPSS website <http://www.localpopulationstudies.org.uk/> or contact the Secretary, Rowena Burgess on [secretary@localpopulationstudies.org.uk](mailto:secretary@localpopulationstudies.org.uk)

## LPSS funding support available

**Roger Schofield Fund:** This provides grants to individual researchers whose work furthers the aims of the Local Population Studies Society. Further details are available on the website.

**May Pickles Travel Bursaries:** May Pickles was a long-standing and very active member of LPSS. She died (aged 91) in October 2013, and in her will very kindly made a bequest to LPSS. We use this bequest to provide travel bursaries to enable those who would not otherwise be able to attend LPSS events to do so. For further information, please see website or contact the LPSS Secretary Rowena Burgess [secretary@localpopulationstudies.org.uk](mailto:secretary@localpopulationstudies.org.uk).

# Using FreeREG for Research

*Eric J Dickens (Member of FreeREG Executive)*

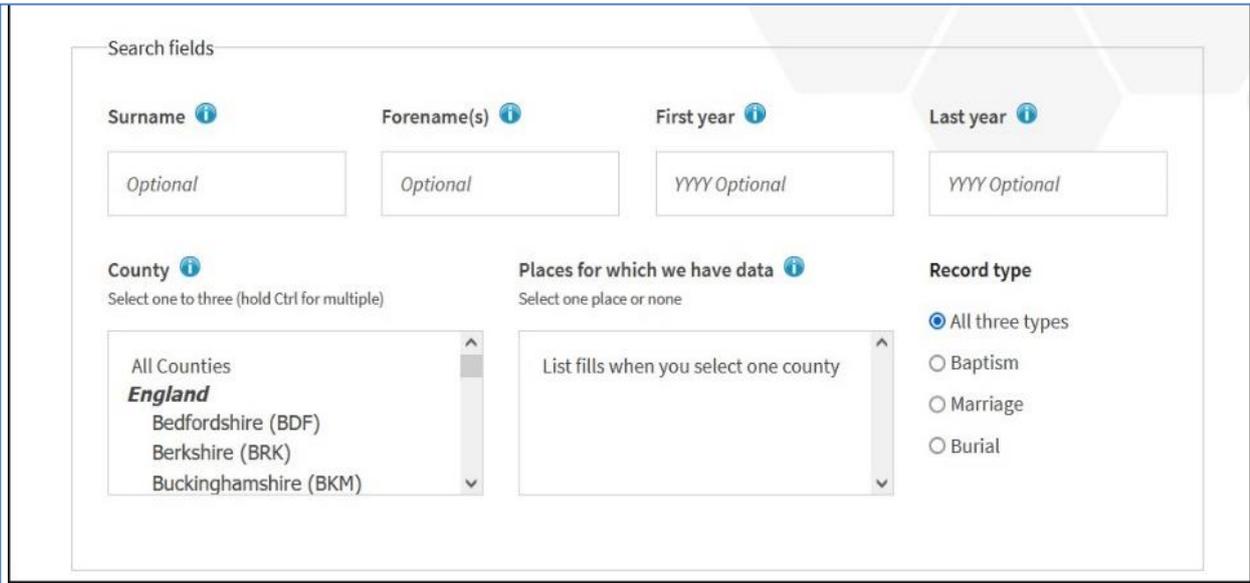
## FreeREG overview

FreeREG is a part of Free UK Genealogy CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation), and stands for Free Registers. The other two websites in the group are FreeCEN (Free Census) and FreeBMD (Civil Registrations of Births, Marriages and Deaths in England and Wales from the General Records Office indexes).

Our mission is to make family history data available to everyone for free, forever, and we are committed to becoming an Open Data, Open Source organisation. All the entries that we have will have been obtained with the permission of the access controller and copyright owner (if in copyright).

We transcribe any type of register (including civic registers) from anywhere in the United Kingdom. We started with the Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials but now range much more widely, even including burials at sea. We have entries for England and Wales, some for Scotland (but permission is difficult here) but none from Ireland at present. Our volunteers “Type What They See”, so our transcriptions include everything in the entry, including notes. This means that witnesses at marriages can be included in the search, which is very useful for family history researchers! Fig. 1. shows a FreeREG search page and Fig. 2 an example of a results page.

*Fig 1: Search parameters on the FreeREG home page*



The screenshot shows the search interface on the FreeREG website. It is titled "Search fields" and contains several input fields and dropdown menus. The fields are: Surname (Optional), Forename(s) (Optional), First year (YYYY Optional), and Last year (YYYY Optional). Below these are three sections: "County" (Select one to three (hold Ctrl for multiple)) with a dropdown menu showing "All Counties", "England", "Bedfordshire (BDF)", "Berkshire (BRK)", and "Buckinghamshire (BKM)"; "Places for which we have data" (Select one place or none) with a dropdown menu showing "List fills when you select one county"; and "Record type" with radio buttons for "All three types" (selected), "Baptism", "Marriage", and "Burial".

We're very grateful to those who have given permission or have donated their transcriptions. To acknowledge this we have built in information about the “Place” and “Church” from which we can link to the donor’s website. We’re always interested to hear from archivists who can grant permission for us to transcribe their holdings; documents are only valuable if the information in them is accessible. There are lots of websites and sources of registers that are specific to a county, place or church but it’s impractical for a researcher to obtain (and purchase) so many pieces of information, especially as they may not contain what they’re looking for. FreeREG covers the whole country and the search can be nationwide. Once an entry is found, we recommend that the researcher follows this up by going into more detail in the individual websites.

Fig. 2: Example of a search result

Place (Links to more information)	<a href="#">Abbots Bromley</a>
Church name (Links to more information)	<a href="#">St Nicholas</a>
Register type (Links to more information)	<a href="#">Parish Register</a>
Register entry number	2
Marriage date	20 Jun 1754
Groom forename	Robert
Groom surname	ROWEL
Bride forename	Dorothy
Bride surname	BALL
Witness1	Thomas EMERY
Witness2	John KNOWLES
Notes	Groom and witnesses sign. Bride signs (X).
Transcribed by	Steffy Hale
File line number	1

### Transcribing for FreeREG

All our transcribers are volunteers, many of whom have an interest in the area that they are transcribing. It is easy to sign up via the “Volunteer” button on the home page. Fig. 3 illustrates how images waiting to be transcribed are shown on the website. No prior experience is required and it does not matter where in the world you live. Everyone is trained and has a Syndicate Coordinator for support. There is also a very active mail group which serves as a help forum, as well as extensive Help pages on the website.

Transcribers can choose what they want to transcribe as it could be relevant to them; this is great motivation. They also transcribe the same register until they wish to change, and in this way they get to know the handwriting and the family names in the area.

The FreeREG transcription tool allows transcribers to sight check their work. Some difficult to read names get repeated further

on in the register and the transcriber can go back, sometimes generations, and then identify the correct name.

Fig. 3: Example of groups of images that FreeREG have waiting to be transcribed

Place	Churches	Registers	Sources	Image Groups	Number of Images	Request Allocation
Adbaston	St Michael and All Angels	Other Transcript	Image Server	<a href="#">Adbaston_St Michael and All Angels-JM-Privately Owned OT/STS-Adbaston-GR-1600-1727-2</a>	14	<a href="#">Email SC</a>
				<a href="#">Adbaston_St Michael and All Angels-JM-Privately Owned OT/STS-Adbaston-GR-1727-1839-1</a>	56	<a href="#">Email SC</a>
				<a href="#">Adbaston_St Michael and All Angels-JM-Privately Owned OT/STS-Adbaston-GR-1727-1839-2</a>	52	<a href="#">Email SC</a>
Airewas	All Saints	Parish Register	Image Server	<a href="#">Airewas-Converted-Privately Owned PR/STS-Airewas-BA-1841-1882-D783-1-1-5-1</a>	57	<a href="#">Email SC</a>

Our volunteers become very familiar with the areas they transcribe, and this familiarity means that the error rate is low. There are many more "errors" in the original document resulting from alternate spellings being acceptable in the past, different spelling conventions, and poor literacy skills in those giving the names or making the record. "Double keying" (as is used for quality assurance in FreeBMD) is not deemed a good use of FreeREG transcribers' time, but the website does allow for transcriptions to be checked for some errors when transcriptions are uploaded.

Another good source of corrections is the "Report Correction" button (see Fig. 4). Researchers can easily send in corrections which are checked by a County Coordinator and accepted or, if there is doubt, then a new alternative entry is created so that researchers will find both the original and the suggested alternative.

Fig. 4: Where researchers can request a correction to an entry

**Marriage entry**

While we have made all efforts to correctly record the information in the original document there may be different interpretations of the written words. **If you have access to the original document** and believe we have made a mistake you are encouraged to report this to us. [Report an Error in this Data](#)

Field (only fields with a value are shown)	Value
County	Staffordshire
Place (Links to more information)	<a href="#">Abbots Bromley</a>
Church name (Links to more information)	<a href="#">St Nicholas</a>
Register type (Links to more information)	<a href="#">Parish Register</a>
Register entry number	2
Marriage date	20 Jun 1754
Groom forename	Robert
Groom surname	ROWEL
Bride forename	Dorothy

We transcribe previous transcriptions as well as originals, for example Bishops Transcripts. It is surprising how many variations there are between what should be the same entry across sources. Often, the differences are down to spelling as there was a lot of illiteracy in the past, not to mention vicars changing names into Latin. It is useful to compare documents and we leave it to the researcher to decide which entry is correct.

We hold a relatively large amount of pre-1837 records, as these registers are the only source of baptisms/births, marriages and burials/deaths from this time period. From 1837, official registration started, but was not complete in the early years. The freely available county/central registers are also just a name index; we transcribe everything to provide more information to the researcher.

### The Search Interface

The FreeREG website has a button called "Records" which gives the coverage by county (see Figs. 5, 6 and 7). This is very useful if a result is not found which was to be expected. We also note missing registers and gaps where documents have been damaged or lost.

Fig. 5: Where to find out what FreeREG have on the database

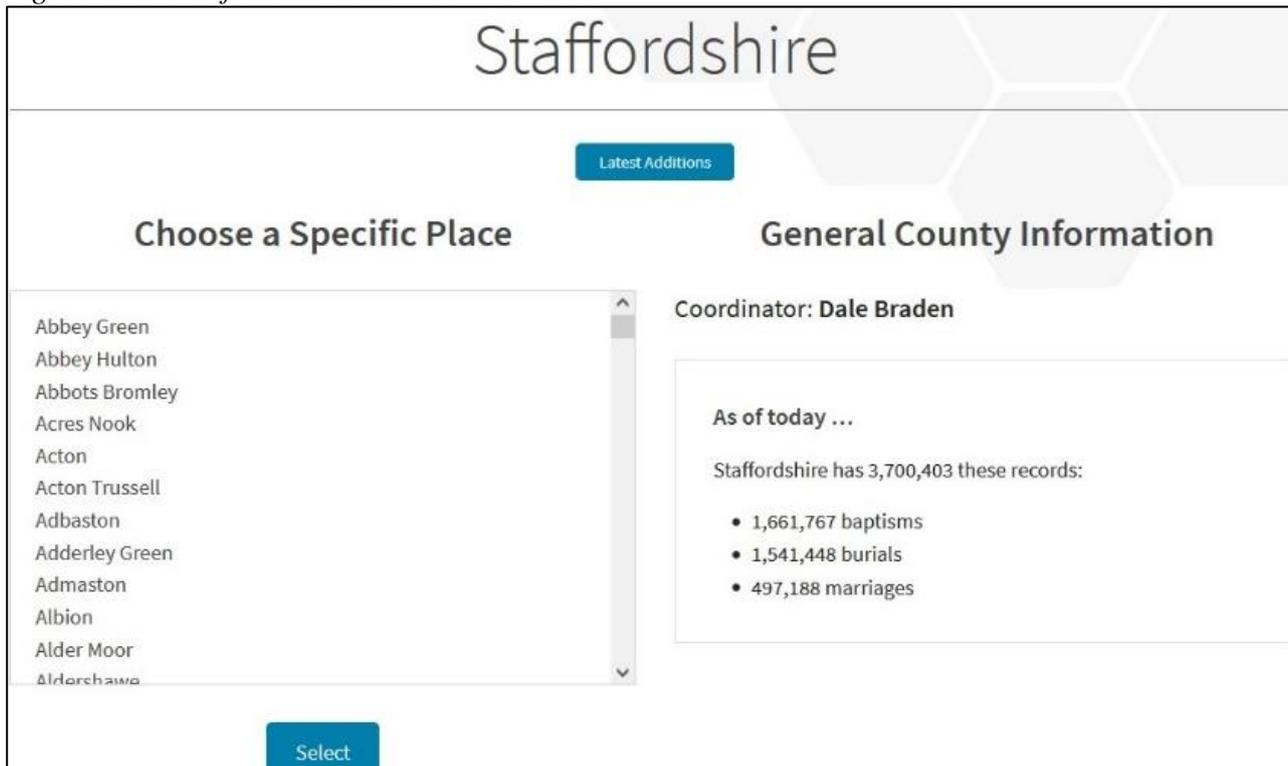


Fig. 6: Summary of the different registers that FreeREG have for a place

The screenshot shows the Staffordshire FreeREG website interface with a table summarizing registers for a place. The table has columns for Place, Churches, Registers, Changed, Records, First, and Last. The text above the table reads: "Click on the Place, Church or Register name for more details at that level. (On a smart-phone, try 'landscape' view for Place details page.)"

Place ↑	Churches ↑	Registers ↑	Changed ↑	Records ↑	First ↑	Last
<a href="#">Abbey Hulton</a>	<a href="#">Carmountside Wesleyan Methodist</a>	<a href="#">Parish Register</a>	08 Apr 2017	635	1938	1978
<a href="#">Abbey Hulton</a>	<a href="#">St John</a>					
<a href="#">Abbey Hulton</a>	<a href="#">Whitehouse Road Primitive Methodist</a>	<a href="#">Parish Register</a>	27 Aug 2015	654	1872	1953

A search of the FreeREG records (see Figs. 8, 9 and 4, which shows the details of an entry found) can be by names, date range, place, and event type, depending on what is known. Searches may be broadened by using Soundex; by looking at neighbouring parishes (this feature crosses county boundaries); and by the presence of another person in a family member's record such as the mother of a baby, the father of a bride, the spouse, parent or child of the person being buried, or any witnesses. Wildcard searching of names is supported so it is possible to undertake some good detective work with our many search features.

We have plans to enhance the searching capabilities so that researchers can save information from their searches and can leave a request to be notified if more data is added for a particular place.

Fig. 7: Detail of what FreeREG records from a register

Information about the Parish Register from Carmountside Wesleyan Methodist of Abbey Hulton in Staffordshire						
Details about the register		Number of records by decade				
FIELD	VALUE	PERIOD ⓘ	BAPTISMS	MARRIAGES	BURIALS	TOTAL
Register Type :	Parish Register	Transcribed by	Raymond Joynson	Raymond Joynson		Raymond Joynson
Quality :		1530-1929				
Source :		1930-1939	7			7
Copyright :		1940-1949	215			215
Special acknowledgement to :		1950-1959	188			188
Status of the transcriptions :		1960-1969	136	4		140
Latest date a transcription changed:	08 Apr 2017	1970-1979	77	8		85
Number of entries	635	1980-2029				
First actual year of entries	1938					
Last actual year of entries	1978					

Fig. 8: Entering parameters for a search

Search fields

Surname ⓘ      Forename(s) ⓘ      First year ⓘ      Last year ⓘ

Ball      Dorothy      1754      1755

County ⓘ      Places for which we have data ⓘ      Record type

Select one to three (hold Ctrl for multiple)      Select one place or none

Shropshire (SAL)     
  Abbey Hulton (Staffordshire)

Somerset (SOM)     
  Abbots Bromley (Staffordshire)

Staffordshire (STS)     
  Acton Trussell (Staffordshire)

Suffolk (SFK)     
  Aldridge (Staffordshire)

Surrey (SRY)     
  Alrewas (Staffordshire)

All three types  
 Baptism  
 Marriage  
 Burial

Search options

Family members ⓘ     
  Witnesses ⓘ     
  Name Soundex ⓘ

Nearby places ⓘ

Fig. 9: Summary of the results of a search

Revise Search   New Search   About This Query   Printable Format

**When you searched for:**

First Name	Last Name	Exact Match?	Start Year	End Year	Record Type
DOROTHY	BALL	Yes	1754	1755	All
County	Place				
Staffordshire	Abbots Bromley				

**We found 1 Result**  
Listed by birth date. Select a heading to sort by that column; select again to reverse the order. See individual details by selecting the View button.

Advertisement

Details	Person or persons	Record type	Event date	County	Place : Church : Register type
<a href="#">View 1</a>	Dorothy BALL Robert ROWEL	Marriage	20 Jun 1754	Staffordshire	Abbots Bromley : St Nicholas : Parish Register

## Using the database as open data

We realise that there is a lot of genealogical information held in our database that could be of great use for many wider applications beyond family history, including local histories, population mobility studies and much more. Everyone is free to use individual records - we even have a handy citation tool which will help researchers to allow others to check their work.

Transcribers have to give their permission for any entries which they transcribe to be shared as Open Data and we store this information in the database. Transcribers' work is their own and we acknowledge their contributions on the website if they so wish: presence or absence of a named transcriber is not an indication of the Open Data status of the transcription.

For research that involves a large number of records, for example a study of the age of death, over time, for a particular occupation (where given in a burial record), we may be able to enter into an agreement to make the data available as a bulk transfer (please contact [info@freeukgenealogy.org.uk](mailto:info@freeukgenealogy.org.uk) if you are interested in this service. A charge will be levied depending on the time the task will take us, and the purpose of the research). Please note, onward sharing / publishing of the dataset may not be permitted.

Everyone is very welcome (and encouraged!) to share records on social media. Please use the URL and add a screenshot if you wish. We are @freeukgen on Twitter and Facebook: please do tag us.

## Summary

FreeREG still has a long way to go before it covers all the existing registers.<sup>5</sup> But some parts of the country are very well represented.

<sup>5</sup> While the registration *system* started in 1538, not all of the existing registers run from this date. Additionally, many new registers will have been opened as new churches were built.

We are always looking for coders who are familiar with Ruby on Rails, CSS, and HTML5, transcribers and donated transcriptions, including cemetery surveys. We know that many transcriptions and surveys are (rightly!) a part of a local history or parish website: we encourage those who manage these transcriptions to share them on FreeREG so that family historians and other researchers who have no idea where someone lived, or the existence of a transcription, can find their records. We know that there are a lot of such small transcriptions as more and more people become interested in the history of a place or institution. Just contact us through our website; we would love to hear from you.

---

## **Spring 2021 Conference Report: Wider still and wider... Local population studies in England and continental Europe.**

*Karen Rothery, Eilidh Garrett and Paul Tomblin*

At four o'clock on 17 April 2021 almost 50 delegates from around the UK and Europe came together on *Zoom* to hear a range of papers presented by post-graduate researchers. This was our second online conference and as our host Andy Hinde, editor of *Local Population Studies*, informed us, the Society had used the difficult circumstances visited on us by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic to showcase the work of a number of students who might otherwise have been unable to attend a Local Population Studies Society conference in person.

In the first session we heard three papers which offered new interpretations of data from the late nineteenth and the early twentieth century.

The first paper *From ICD-10 to a new nosological classification of causes of death in Transylvania (1850–1920)*, by Elena Crinela Holom and Nicoleta Hegedűs from the Centre for Population Studies, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania and the Centre for Population Studies/George Barițiu Institute of History, Babeş-Bolyai University/Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca, Romania respectively, examined causes of death recorded in parish registers included in the Historical Population Database of Transylvania when set against a new nosological classification system of cause-of-death. Scholars currently use the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10) as the global standard for the classification of health data, clinical documentation, and statistical aggregation.<sup>6</sup> This system has 21 main categories to describe cause of death. However this comprehensive system often runs into difficulties when examining historical causes of death recorded in contemporaneous records. This is especially true when the cause of death may not be explicitly stated and Holom gave examples of stated cause of death which require interpretation by researchers including: 'She died in the morning in her mother's arms' or 'Ripe fruits fall from the trees'.

Working with local registers recording over 37,000 deaths in 25 localities and ranged across various religious denominations, four languages and three alphabets, Holom and Hegedűs have devised a new 'Historical Causes of Death' recording system which has just eight categories: 1. infectious diseases, 2. chronic and acute non-infectious diseases, 3. diseases originating in the perinatal period, 4.

---

<sup>6</sup> A new standard ICD-11 will come into effect on 1 Jan 2022.

conditions related to pregnancy, childbirth and the childbed period, 5. old-age-related diseases, 6. violent deaths, 7. symptoms, signs and abnormal findings and 8. ill-defined and unknown causes of mortality.

Holom and Hegedűs suggest that this new Historical Causes of Death system could aid in the interpretation of historical data to provide information of interest to historical demographers and historians examining health and social conditions of the past.

The second paper of the first session *Comparing three sources to address institutional distortions on London's infant mortality rates, 1896-1911*, was presented by Sarah L. Rafferty, a PhD student from the University of Cambridge. Rafferty's paper appears in LPS 106 and examines the extent to which the distortions in the data of the Registrar General's Returns before 1911 can be corrected using other sources to provide a more accurate picture of infant mortality. Rafferty's alternative sources included the 1911 Census (the so called 'fertility census' because of the inclusion of the question on the number of children born to a married couple) and the annual Medical Officer of Health Reports. Her key takeaway from her research was that it is essential to check and control for institutions when researching infant mortality in England and Wales before 1911.

The final presentation of the first session *The Impact of Migrational Flows on the Population Structure of Northern Swedish Inland 1900-1950*, was given by Samuel Sundvall and featured some preliminary findings in research by himself, Glenn Sandström and Johan Junkka at Umeå University, Sweden. The research is focused on the county of Västerbotten and has used local parish registers to examine the migrations of over 300,000 individuals across parish boundaries. Previous research in this area has focused on migration in the 1960s and 1990s, but this research has identified the importance of historical migration at a time when Sweden was changing from an agrarian to an industrialising nation in the first half of the twentieth century. The research has not concluded but some preliminary findings suggest that immigration to urban areas, particularly among women had begun in the first half of the century; migration to urban areas contributed to both population increase and a shift in the age structure towards younger working adults and that there was a marked net deficit in migration from rural and semi-industrial areas which was compensated for in two areas by relatively high fertility in those specific areas.

The second session of the afternoon saw two more young researchers presenting their work. Ivan Ivić, a PhD student in the Department of Geography, University of Zagreb, Croatia, considered *Births out of wedlock (OOW) in Eastern Croatia, 1995-2015*. Ivan was able to show, with the aid of series of maps that, despite its low levels of fertility, Croatia had very diverse levels of OOW births over his 20 year study period, with rates ranging from around 5 to over 50 percent of births outside marriage. He argued that while there were 'complex and multi-layered' reasons for the variation in rates, there were strong ethnic, cultural, and religious dimensions to the patterns. Areas where a considerable proportion of the residents were of Serbian origin tended to have higher rates of OOW births. Ivan suggested that the Serbian population was less likely to undergo an 'official' marriage ceremony, although they may have undergone ceremonies rooted in their own culture and felt themselves to be married. This raised some interesting questions on the nature of marriage, and how different views on what constitutes a marriage may affect the measurement of OOW fertility between countries, regions and communities and across a variety of time periods.

The second presentation in the session, *Height's association with fertility outcomes: the case of the Dutch, birth years 1850-1900*, was given by Kristina Thompson from Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam in the Netherlands. Her topic was the association between height and fertility outcomes, and she considered this in the context of around 3,400 Dutch men born between 1850 and 1900 who had survived to the age of conscription, so that their heights were known. The men studied were drawn from the Historical Sample of the Netherlands (HSN), so details about each man's life- and family-building-history were also available. Kristina began her presentation with the somewhat surprising observation that in the early nineteenth century Dutchmen were, on average, the same height as Frenchmen, but over the next 100 years the Dutch grew to be the tallest nation in the world. She explained that she wished to investigate whether men's height was associated with the likelihood that they would become fathers, the age at which they did so and the successful survival of their children. Kristina guided the audience through the range of statistical techniques she had used to consider these questions. She was able to demonstrate that short men were less likely to marry, height being a preferred characteristic on the marriage market. Overall, therefore, short men were less likely to become fathers, and those who did marry tended to do so rather later than taller men. There was, however, no relationship between a man's height and the number of his children, nor their chances of survival. Unfortunately, one factor that was not available for analysis from the HSN was the height of the woman each man married. It was thus not possible to demonstrate whether tall men were more likely to marry tall women nor whether the wives' heights had an effect on the couples' fertility and the survival of their children, although previous studies had shown that maternal height did have a positive relationship on fertility and child health.

Both speakers gave engaging, well-illustrated presentations and their enthusiasm for their subjects shone through their talks and during the questions which followed. The subject matter of both talks was very much of interest to LPSS members, and to hear it being discussed in less familiar contexts was both refreshing and stimulating.

The first of the two papers in the third session, *'The female labour force participation in the textile company towns of Catalonia in the early twentieth century'* was presented by Lisard Palau Elcacho of the University of Barcelona.

This paper was a re-evaluation, using alternative sources to the National Census of Population, of the participation of women in the workforce in these company towns. These had appeared in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and became an important factor in the rise of industry in Catalonia. This new data and research is leading to a revision of the traditional view of the contribution of women to both family economies and economic growth in these company towns. Tax advantages, the availability of free water energy and a workforce that was not unionised were the main drivers for the establishment of these Catalan cotton mill towns in four distinct zones of production. Across all zones, men and women adopted different working strategies. Men tended to remain in work all their working life and work in sectors other than textiles. 60% of the textile workforce was between 14-30 years old of which approximately two thirds were women. However, women's working strategy differed in that, although many women continued to work once married, the numbers working declined relative to their age and their family's size. There is still not a comprehensive study about the role of women in Catalan industrialisation and this research is a contribution to that project.

The second paper, *'The return of the King: political conflict and female labour force participation'* was presented by Xanthi Tsoukli of the University of Southern Denmark. War has the effect that women enter the workforce as they replace men who have left to fight. Economists are also interested in the effects that political / ideological conflict has on the status of women in society. The example chosen was Greece after the Second World War and its three-year civil war which was a struggle between the right-wing supporters of the monarchy and the Communists. Prior to the war, Greece had a conservative monarchy which had tried to remain neutral. After Italian aggression in 1940, resistance was led by the Communists and their exclusion from government at the war's end was a cause of the Civil War. In 1946 a referendum was held regarding the restoration of the monarchy. The results when analysed, showed that in areas opposed to the restoration, being less conservative, labour participation of women increased after the Civil War. An alternative explanation might also be that in these areas there was less church attendance as churches were seen as conservative institutions. Conservative areas tended to see the role of women as being confined to the household, whilst left-wing areas saw more opportunities, including on the front-line, for women. After the Civil War, liberal areas became more liberal and conservative areas became more conservative; data on the construction of new churches in the latter areas are consistent with this hypothesis. These effects were persistent, as reflected by female labour force participation data until 1981, and attitudes revealed in the European Value Survey of 1999.

---

## **Autumn 2021 Conference: The British Diaspora - Abstracts of papers**

*"Of Cabbages and Kings: The Interplay of Local and Imperial Values in Global News Dissemination, 1840-1860"*. Melodee Beals, Senior Lecturer in Digital History, Loughborough University.

Studies of Anglophone newspapers have long struggled with competing notions of local, national, and global voices within an ambiguously defined "press" — whether the wider sprawling, decentralised information network can itself be considered *the* public sphere or whether regions such as London so heavily dominated the media perspective that they act as synecdoche for whole. While cohesive case studies and illustrative examples abound, these sampling and soundings cannot provide full insight into the imperial public sphere as something other than the sum (or local gravity) of its parts. This presentation will approach historical newspaper discourse using methodologies developed to understand similar, modern social media networks. Like Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, nineteenth-century newspapers were largely decentralised and relied upon participatory journalism and viral dissemination of unprovenanced news content. By exploring the overlapping discourse of two geographically disconnected but linguistically integrated sub-systems, Scotland and New Zealand, which were undergoing opposing commercial media trends (consolidation and expansion) in distinct regional contexts (industrialisation and settlement), this paper represents a new attempt to understand the imperial public sphere as one of many distinct mediascapes that imperial subjects engaged with, contributing to the formation of overlapping identities and shared normative values, which more closely adhere to the idea of "imagined communities" than the exportation of English or British identity throughout the empire.

***“Leavers...and the Left-Behind”*** Andrew Green, Senior Visiting Research Fellow, University of Hertfordshire.

This presentation will discuss the methodology, execution and outcomes of a major 2014/15 project on UK migrants to Western Australia. With the involvement as partner of the University of Western Australia, this ‘Full-Circle’ exercise distinctively aimed to gather memories not just from migrants, but from their relatives who remained in the UK.

***“You take the high road and I’ll take the low road. Cross border migration in Great Britain, 1851-1901”*** Eilidh Garret and K. Schürer, Cambridge Group for the History of Population.

Whilst migration within the component countries of Great Britain during the nineteenth-century has been discussed on numerous occasions at both the local and county levels on numerous occasions, from pioneering work of Ravenstein to the present, cross-border migrations, especially between England and Scotland has rarely been studied. Using the complete-count I-CeM census data collection, this presentation will explore basic questions concerning cross-national migration patterns *within* Great Britain during the nineteenth century. How frequent was cross-national migration compared to internal migrations? Who were these cross border migrants, where did they come from and where did they go? Did, and if so, how, cross-national migrations differ from other internal migrations? Is it possible to determine changes over time?

***“A surname-based lens into the British diaspora”*** Paul Howes, Guild of One-Name Studies.

One-Name Studies can provide a window into the wider world of social studies. The Guild of One-Name Studies requires that each study be global and that the study owner collect all occurrences of the name around the world. Many studies are far from complete, however, and most are for relatively uncommon surnames, introducing biases from geography and the choice-making of individuals. Larger studies, however, particularly those engaging in family reconstruction can be more useful, because of the impact of the “law of large numbers”. The Howes/House/Howse One-Name Study has been in operation for 13 years. A database of over 185,000 people in reconstructed family groups has been created. This presentation will mine that database for learnings about why people moved, when they went and where, and whether there have been differences over time. Even with a large study, geography cannot be eliminated. The origin of the Howes name in particular is primarily centred in Norfolk. Paul will look at Norfolk births over time to estimate just how much dispersion there has been. The One-Name Study has a DNA component too with some 160 males having taken a yDNA test. The presentation will discuss how useful it has been in determining origins and how useful it *could be*.

***“A helping hand in good and bad times? UK immigrant networks in the US during the Age of Mass Migration”***. Katherine Eriksson, University of California, Davis.

During the Age of Mass Migration to the United States, immigrant enclaves often formed as immigrants sent information and money home. The presentation will document this pattern for UK immigrants in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It will then ask whether these networks grow faster or slower during economic booms and busts in the receiving and sending regions. Do immigrants send more money home when the local economy is booming? Do more people emigrate to places with more previous immigrants when the local county in the UK receives a bad harvest? Finally, the presentation will explore whether these networks are more or less helpful for immigrant outcomes in good versus bad times.



# Local Population Studies Society

Autumn Conference 2021

## The British Diaspora

**Saturday 9th October 2021**

To be hosted online via Zoom by the Local Population Studies Society

*Zoom meeting codes will be pre-circulated to those registering for the conference.*

**10:30 – 11:30** *“Of Cabbages and Kings: The Interplay of Local and Imperial Values in Global News Dissemination, 1840-1860”.*

Melodee Beals, Senior Lecturer in Digital History, Loughborough University.

**11:30 – 12:30** *“Leavers...and the Left-Behind”*

Andrew Green, Senior Visiting Research Fellow, University of Hertfordshire.

**12:30 – 13:30** *“You take the high road and I’ll take the low road. Cross border migration in Great Britain, 1851-1901”*

Eilidh Garret and K. Schürer, Cambridge Group for the History of Population.

**13:30 – 14:15 Lunch Break**

**14:15 – 15:15** *“A surname-based lens into the British diaspora”*

Paul Howes, Guild of One-Name Studies

**15:15 – 16:15** *“A helping hand in good and bad times? UK immigrant networks in the US during the Age of Mass Migration”.*

Katherine Eriksson, University of California, Davis

**16:15 Concluding remarks**

*This conference is free, but please register in advance by completing the attached form and emailing it to*

[conferences@localpopulationstudies.org.uk](mailto:conferences@localpopulationstudies.org.uk)

*Please register by 2 October 2021 to ensure you receive your zoom access codes.*

# The British Diaspora

## REGISTRATION FORM

=====

This conference is **free** to attend but you must register in advance.

You will be sent the zoom access code and password for this conference by email approximately one week before.

Name	
Address	
Post Code	
Email Address	
Contact Telephone No.	

I am a member of the Local Population Studies Society.

If you are not a member of the society and you would like to join us please go to <http://www.localpopulationstudies.org.uk/the-society/join/> for more information

I consent to the secure storage of my personal data for the purposes of the conference administration. My details will not be passed to any other organisation.

I would like to receive details of any future LPSS events and conferences.

[You may withdraw your consent at any time by advising the LPSS membership secretary: [Rowena.burgess@uea.ac.uk](mailto:Rowena.burgess@uea.ac.uk)]

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please email your completed form to [conferences@localpopulationstudies.org.uk](mailto:conferences@localpopulationstudies.org.uk)**

**or post to**

**[Karen Rothery, LPSS, 13 Sherrards Park Road, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, AL8 7JW](mailto:conferences@localpopulationstudies.org.uk)**

**Closing date for registration is 2 October 2021**

For further information or general enquiries about the conference, please e-mail:

[conferences@localpopulationstudies.org.uk](mailto:conferences@localpopulationstudies.org.uk)

## Local Population Studies Society Prize

Entries are invited for the Local Population Studies Society Prize. The prize will be offered each year for the best original essay or paper published in *Local Population Studies* by an author who is

- EITHER a student (at any stage of study)  
OR an early-career researcher based at a university or college  
(within five years of completing a PhD)  
OR a non-university-based researcher.

The winner will receive free membership of the Local Population Studies Society (LPSS) for three years, to include registration fees for conferences organised by the Society during those three years (this would normally be a total of six conferences).

The prize will be offered in 2022 for articles published in *Local Population Studies* 108 (spring 2022) or 109 (autumn 2022). It will include free membership of LPSS for the calendar years 2023-2025.

Please submit entries to the Editor, Dr Andrew Hinde at [editor@localpopulationstudies.org.uk](mailto:editor@localpopulationstudies.org.uk) OR [PRAHinde@aol.com](mailto:PRAHinde@aol.com).

Any enquiries as to eligibility should also be addressed to Dr Hinde.

## Local Population Studies Society – Committee Members 2021-22

### *Executive Officers*

#### Chair

Eilidh Garrett.

Email: [chair@localpopulationstudies.org.uk](mailto:chair@localpopulationstudies.org.uk)

#### Vice Chair

Kevin Schurer

Email: [ks291@le.ac.uk](mailto:ks291@le.ac.uk)

#### Secretary

Rowena Burgess

Email: [secretary@localpopulationstudies.org.uk](mailto:secretary@localpopulationstudies.org.uk)

#### Treasurer

Mike Kipling

Email: [mike@kipling.me.uk](mailto:mike@kipling.me.uk)

### *Ordinary Officers*

#### Editor of Local Population Studies (ex officio)

Andrew Hinde

Email: [editor@localpopulationstudies.org.uk](mailto:editor@localpopulationstudies.org.uk)

#### Newsletter Editor

Sue Jones

Email: [newsletter@localpopulationstudies.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@localpopulationstudies.org.uk)

#### Web / Social Media

Andy Burn

Email: [web@localpopulationstudies.org.uk](mailto:web@localpopulationstudies.org.uk)

#### Conference coordinator

Karen Rothery

Email:

[conferences@localpopulationstudies.org.uk](mailto:conferences@localpopulationstudies.org.uk)

Peter Franklin

Email: [peter.franklin1066@gmail.com](mailto:peter.franklin1066@gmail.com)

Chris Galley

Email: [chrisgalley77@gmail.com](mailto:chrisgalley77@gmail.com)

Paul Tomblin

Email: [paultomblin@hotmail.com](mailto:paultomblin@hotmail.com)

---

Cover images: Jacobus Rueff, *Ein Schon Lustig Trostbochie von den Empfengknussen und Geburten der Menschen* (Zurich 1554) [detail]; Alton Workhouse by Andrew Hinde [detail]; Elmbridge Museum: Blackboys Bridge Addlestone, 1920s [Ref:553.964/6] [detail]; Rhiwfran, Lanfihangel Nant Bran, Powys by Susan Jones; Guildford Town Mills, 1822 [detail] from *Guildford: a short history* by Matthew Alexander (1992); 'The Old Bailey, Known Also as the Central Criminal Court', from Vol. 2 of *The Microcosm of London: or, London in Miniature (1809)* [detail].