

Welcome

SARAH'S TOP TIP

Check family names on the online catalogues for local archives

I love The National Archives' catalogue (discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk). It's so convenient being able to do a blanket search across England and Wales. However, as our article on [page 19](#) highlights, local catalogues are gradually improving as archivists begin to add named indexes at the level of individual records. Enter your family names in the catalogues and see!



One year ago we sent our May 2020 issue to press, packed up our things and prepared to work from home. Looking back at my welcome letter for that issue I see that we had to scrap our 'What's On' page at the last minute as everything was put on hold. Now turn to [page 13](#) and you will see that it is packed with virtual talks and conferences that you can attend from any part of the globe. Things have changed, but we have adapted. On [page 19](#) we look at how archives have also adapted as they prepare to reopen.



If we can change the way that we work, perhaps we can also change the way that we look at our family history. I hope our article on [page 26](#) will give you some ideas that will spark your creativity and make you think of other ways of responding to your family's past.

We've also got our usual great collection of practical articles to help you discover more about your relations. Whether you have family members who joined the Home Guard ([page 61](#)) or you have come across a "clerk" on the census and you would like to know more about what they did ([page 55](#)), we've got it covered.

Plus there's plenty on the basics, from online newspapers ([page 47](#)) to better searching ([page 58](#)) and the 1851 census ([page 79](#)).

We may have changed the way we work, but we still aim to bring you the best in genealogy journalism every month. Happy hunting!

Sarah

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BE AN INSIDER We want to know what you think. After all, the more we know about you, the better placed we are to bring you the best magazine possible. So we would like to invite you to join our online reader panel: 'Insiders'. Interested? Log on to www.immediateinsiders.com/register to fill out the short registration survey and we'll be in touch from time to time to ask for your opinions on the magazine and other relevant issues. We look forward to hearing from you soon.



CONTRIBUTORS



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Writing our 'Around Britain' section for years has given Jonathan lots of contacts in the industry. On [page 19](#) he talks to archivists about their experiences during lockdown.



REBECCA PROBERT
Rebecca is the author of *Marriage Law for Genealogists* and has appeared on many episodes of *Who Do You Think You Are?* – read her tips on marriage bonds on [page 52](#).



JEROME DE GROOT
Jerome is a professor at the University of Manchester who has written on family history and DNA. He has also run courses on creativity and family history – see [page 26](#).