



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Radlett & District Computer Group



Using genealogy
software
and online sites

What do you want a tree for?

- To record information you already have
- To extend your tree by searching records
- To add photos and stories to family members
- To record and plan your genealogy research
- To put the tree on the web for others to share
- To build an archive for the family
- Because you enjoy doing family tree research

Downloadable software or web based programme?

- Family Historian 4
- Reunion 9
- Roots Magic 4
- Who do you think you are?
- Legacy 7
- Personal Ancestral File
- MacFamily Tree 5
- Genes Reunited
- Ancestry
- Find My Past
- Family Search
- My Heritage
- Family Relatives
- The Genealogist

What to look for in packages

- Can you upload/download GEDCOMs?
- Does it have links to online searches?
- Can you record source documents?
- Can you add photos and stories?
- Does it give research guidance?
- Is there a to do list?
- What printing options are there?

What to look for online

- Birth, marriage and death certificates
- Census returns
- Can you access original documents
- Which countries are covered?
- Military service records
- Immigration/emigration/passenger records
- Is there a free trial period?
- Can you pay per view?

Family Historian 4

- Which? Says Cost £36; Getting started and help: 5* Building your tree: 5* Presenting and sharing: 5* Versatility: 4*
- Now Family Historian 5
- Easy to build tree
- Can upload/download GEDCOMs
- Easy to add photos
- Not good for searching. Doesn't use all info
- Reasonable for recording research and publishing

Reunion 9

- This is for Apple/Mac users and includes apps for iPhones and iPads.
- Which? Says Cost £85; Getting started and help: 5* Building your tree: 5* Presenting and sharing: 5* Versatility: 2*
- I haven't tried it

Roots Magic 4

- Which? Says Cost £50; Getting started and help: 4* Building your tree: 5* Presenting and sharing: 4* Versatility: 4*
- Now Roots Magic 6
- Available for Windows or Apple/Mac
- My computer didn't trust the free version
- The reviews are good for ease of use, portability and publishing

Who Do You Think You Are?

- Which? Says Cost £25; Getting started and help: 5* Building your tree: 4* Presenting and sharing: 4* Versatility: 4*
- Appears not to be download from the web, need to buy a box with discs etc
- Has mixed reviews

Legacy 7

- Which? Says Cost £36; Getting started and help: 5* Building your tree: 5* Presenting and sharing: 5* Versatility: 4*
- Now Legacy 7.5
- Easy to build tree and add photos
- Can upload/download GEDCOMs
- Easy to add photos
- Not good for searching. Too USA orientated
- Excellent for recording research and publishing

Personal Ancestral File

- This used to offer Windows and Apple/Mac
- But FamilySearch will no longer offer PAF downloads or support after JULY 15, 2013.
- Because of Advances in technology, strong alternatives from third parties
- They are suggesting Legacy Family Tree, Ancestral Quest or Roots Magic

MacFamily Tree 5

- Which? Says Cost £25; Getting started and help: 5* Building your tree: 4* Presenting and sharing: 4* Versatility: 4*
- Now MacFamily Tree 6
- Haven't tried this
- Good reviews

Genes Reunited

- A popular but not very user friendly site
- Searching opens different windows
- Results aren't automatically added to tree
- Tree not easy to extend from results
- Sharing is not easy
- Photos not easy to download and view
- No publishing options
- Can import and export GEDCOMs

Ancestry

- A very popular and easy to use site
- Search results easily added to tree
- Tree can be extended with census family
- Photos and stories easily added and visible
- Printing options and publishing good
- Sources added and easily visible
- Sharing is easy
- Can only import GEDCOMS

Find My Past

- Very good site for searches on census
- Can search addresses, not just names
- Family tree cumbersome
- Slow to build tree
- Photos don't load easily
- No publishing options
- Can import and export GEDCOMs

Family Search

- A Mormon site
- Slow to build family tree
- Does not upload or download GEDCOMs
- Fairly good for searching
- Opens other windows
- Sometimes difficult to upload photos
- Not good for printing or publishing

My Heritage

- My computer wasn't happy with the sites security, so I didn't download this one.

Family Relatives

- This site seems to be just starting up
- So far it seems not to be able to search UK census or build a tree

The Genealogist

- Fairly easy to use site
- Searches fairly good downloaded to research log
- Easy to add photos
- Uploads and downloads GEDCOMs
- No publishing facility
- No sharing

Starting to build a family tree

- Gather all your photos and write names and dates on back
- Talk to family about the photos and write down everything
- Draw a rough family tree with names and basic dates
- Download a free programme that uses GEDCOMs
- Enter all the information that you have with sources
- Create a GEDCOM
- Upload the GEDCOM to an online site with good searches
- Use <http://www.ukbmd.org.uk/genuki/REG/> for districts
- Start searching and adding to the tree
- Don't get carried away. Enter main people on original tree