

Membership and subscription rates

We offer two types of membership. Each type is available as joint membership at no extra cost, where two members live at the same address.

- **Online membership:** all correspondence is sent by email, and our journal is downloaded in PDF form from our members only Yahoo! group. This enables the society to keep its costs down, and the fee is just **£5** per year, for UK and overseas members alike.
- **Postal membership:** to receive printed copies of *Italian Roots* and all correspondence sent by mail, the fee is **£10** per year, with an additional charge of £3 per year for members based overseas.

Membership of the Society runs annually from 1 April to 31 March. Members joining late in the year will receive all the back issues of *Italian Roots* for that year.

Please return your completed application form to:

Membership Secretary
Anglo-Italian Family History Society
31 West Avenue
Worthing
Sussex BN11 5LT

For further details about the society please contact membership@anglo-italianfhs.org.uk.

Helping with your research

We cannot do the research for you. What we can do is point you in the right direction to research UK and Italian records, suggest books, websites, and archives that can help, provide shortcuts and sometimes even put you in touch with someone who is researching the same family. Whether you're a complete newcomer to family history or have been battling with a 'brick wall' for twenty years, the support and advice of our members and our growing resources can help you.

Website

www.anglo-italianfhs.org.uk

Our first project was to collect together vital information for anyone seeking their Italian ancestry and to make it freely available via the Society website. Here you'll find reading lists, links to useful websites, research guides to finding ancestors both in the UK and in Italy, surname interests, details of society events, and a number of indexes and collections of names compiled from various sources and submitted by members.

Mailing list

The Anglo-Italian mailing list (which is independent of the Society) is a great place to post your research interests, get your questions answered, and to share information. Just send an email to ANGLO-ITALIAN-L-request@rootsweb.com with the single word subscribe in the message subject and body. To join ANGLO-ITALIAN-D, which sends the emails to you in batches, rather than one-by one, send the same request to ANGLO-ITALIAN-D-request@rootsweb.com.



Helping you to
find your Italian
roots

Italians in Britain

The story of Italians in Britain goes back to Roman times, but modern immigration began with the trickle of merchants, financiers, churchmen, academics, artists and aristocrats who were the main visitors from the 13th century onwards. This became a tide of economic migrants in the 19th century, the majority coming from the mountain villages of the North, often as seasonal workers walking overland to French ports. Gradually more stayed and either saved enough to bring their families with them from home, or married local women and started families here. They encouraged other family members and friends from their villages to join them in a classic pattern of chain migration. The 20th century saw another wave of immigration, predominantly from the South of Italy and Sicily. Though many passed through London and the 'Little Italy' colony of Clerkenwell, a significant number branched out to establish communities in Manchester, Scotland, South Wales, Bedfordshire and many other places.

Researching Italian ancestry is not always easy, and until the foundation of the Anglo-Italian Family History Society there was no centralised resource in the UK to help family historians with their search. We aim to make the study of our Italian roots both easier and more enjoyable.

About the society

The Society was founded in 2002 to provide help to anyone trying to trace their Italian ancestry anywhere in the United Kingdom and back to Italy; membership is open to anyone who supports the aims of the society, wherever they may live. On this mutual-help basis we collectively undertake research, indexing and transcription projects, give advice, and help members to contact others who share their research interests. Through our events we aim to enrich our understanding of our heritage, foster discussion among members, and to introduce members to new archives and sources for their research. The Society is run by an executive committee, elected annually. Any member may stand for the committee and become involved in the organisation of the Society.

Membership benefits

Society meetings

The Society arranges a wide variety of meetings and events, including talks, visits to archives and places of interest, mostly in central London. Our AGM is held to coincide with the Society of Genealogists Fair in early May or end

April. Members can also visit our stand at various family history fairs and the Italian Procession in July. We occasionally hold regional meetings as where there are sufficient concentrations of active members.

Italian Roots

Members receive four copies of *Italian Roots* per year, with articles, advice and news of events.

Bookshop

Members receive discounts on all Society publications and others relevant books and CDs. These can be viewed and bought at our meetings, and at our stands at family history fairs. Titles are also available by mail order.

Library

The Society has a growing collection of books, articles, CD-ROMS, databases, photographs, and family history journals available for free loan to members. Items can either be collected or returned at meetings, or sent by post.

Journals

Society membership of the Federation of Family History Societies entitles us to exchange journals with other member societies. Our stocks of journals from societies with overlapping interests, such as the Catholic FHS, are available at meetings or by post for loan, and other FHS journals may be obtained on request.

Family Group Records

Members are encouraged to submit details of their ancestors for entry in our main indexes of Anglo-Italians. Our transcription coordinator then actively looks for further information about these families and others with the same name. These are catalogued as Family Group Records, and may be consulted by members, and copies obtained.

Surname interests

Members are invited to submit details of the surnames, places (in Italy and Britain) and occupations in which they are interested. These are added to our index of surname interests, published in our journal, posted on our website, and circulated in printed form to members, so that you can make contact with others looking for the same surnames or researching the same topics.

Census searches and indexes

Volunteers from the Society are extracting details of Italians from all the 19th century censuses. Our first publication on CD-ROM covers over 20,000 Italian-born people listed in the 1901 census. Members receive substantial discounts on CDs and searches.

The Anglo-Italian Index

Our master index records details of people with Italian names culled from a wide variety of sources, including trade directories, memorial inscriptions, coroners' reports, book indexes, historical membership lists, and newspapers.

Births, Deaths, Marriages and Burials

Our database is growing and paid searches are available. The index has been published on CD-ROM and is updated regularly.

Look-ups

Volunteers provide free look-ups for members from a wide variety of books, directories and data CDs.

Your Family Tree

Members may lodge a copy of their family tree with the library, where it will be kept for posterity and may be consulted by other members.