

# Weavers Cottages

## Using a census return as primary source material

There are many ways that you can begin to research someone's life. Using a copy of a **census return** alongside a birth certificate, marriage and death certificate if you have them can be a great starting point. These documents can provide a great deal of useful information that can take you off in other research directions. As part of the research for the Weavers Cottages project, our volunteer have been looking at census returns to find out more about the people that lived there.

### What is a census?

A census in the UK is a count of all people and households. The latest census in the UK was held on 27 March 2011.

Every ten years since **1801** the nation has set aside one day for the census - a count of all people and households. It is the most complete source of information about the population that we have.

Every effort is made to include everyone, and that is why the census is so important. It is the only survey which provides a detailed picture of the **entire population**, and is unique because it covers everyone at the same time and asks the same questions everywhere. This makes it easy to compare different parts of the country.

The information the census provides allows central and local government, health authorities and many other organisations to target their resources more effectively and to plan housing, education, health and transport services for years to come.

In England and Wales, the census is planned and carried out by the **Office for National Statistics**. Elsewhere in the UK, responsibility lies with the National Records of Scotland and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

**Look at one of the census returns from the Weavers Cottages. What can the information in the return tell you about the people and families that lived there?**

<b>Date of census</b>	
<b>Age at time of census</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Occupation</b>	
<b>Place of birth</b>	
<b>Married Y/N</b>	
<b>Number of children</b>	

**Any other information:**

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