

Notes for using the EAST FHS GRO indexes.

The Births, Marriages and Deaths are in the three worksheets of the Excel file. Use the tabs at the bottom left to move between them. I recommend keeping a backup copy just in case of mishaps.

When sorting an Excel file make sure the **whole page** is selected otherwise the results may mess the data around! Excel has its own strange ways of sorting dates, often putting 1900s before earlier dates.

We recommend you check the reference number before sending for a certificate in case of transcription errors. In more modern times the references may be absent.

Births list

The **'Birth ID' and 'Death ID' columns** are our best guess at cross-referencing people. The evidence is gathered by comparing the births with the deaths. In many cases it is clear which person matches each event. In others we cannot be certain without actually having the certificates. The ID columns are intended as a useful suggestion and not guaranteed to be correct.

The **Forename** column lists the name as it appears in the GRO index unless we have additional information (for example from census, wills or death index) in which case the **Index Name** column is used to show the name as it appears in the GRO index.

The **mothers' names** are gathered from a variety of sources such as certificates and census entries. They are intended as a guide to family groups, not absolute proof of the name. The appearance of the mother's name against a birth does not necessarily mean that we have these people on the EFHS trees.

The **county** is added to help sort areas. Counties have changed over time and we have tried to keep to the counties as they were for much of the 19C and early 20C. London is a particular problem to which there is no easy answer.

If we hold a certificate it is noted 'yes' in the **certificate column**. We have a lot of certificates but they are not necessarily from families we have in the EFHS trees because members also have contributed certificates they have obtained in error.

Re-registration of Births has always taken place. In more modern times it has become increasingly common. Do not assume twins or triplets without checking in earlier years for the same name.

Marriage list

'Index entry' column – see Births

Spouse names have been added where we have some evidence of it, from certificates, censuses, FreeBMD, wills etc. They are added as a guide and not all guaranteed.

County – see Births

Certificates – see Births

Deaths list

Birth and Death ID columns – see Births

Index Entry column – see Births

County column – see Births

Age column. Before 1866, when no age is shown in the index, we have added the age as found in the Parish Burial records where they appear to match the index.

Born column. From 1969 the birth date was added to the death index. Before this we have calculated the approximate year of birth from the age at death. This is a useful sorting aid but not guaranteed correct.