

### III: Further use of Access: Bunhill Fields and using images in databases

Jeremy Boulton (Newcastle University). Email: [Jeremy.Boulton@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:Jeremy.Boulton@ncl.ac.uk)

#### Database Course for the ESRC Newcastle-Durham DTC

This manual, related databases and other material are available to download at:

<http://www.staff.ncl.ac.uk/j.p.boulton/esrcdtdatabasetraining.htm>

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#### **Introduction: Bunhill Fields**

You have been given/can download a third database. This is a database of the 889 people dying at Bunhill Fields in London between 1747 and 1825 whose addresses showed that they were sent from the parish of St Martin-in-the-Fields, Westminster. This can be downloaded from here:

[\*\*ESRC DTC Bunhill Field Burial Ground Burial Registers.\*\*](#)

[Bunhill Fields](#) was unconsecrated ground provided, since 1665, for the interment of protestant dissenters. It can still be [visited today](#). Today's site is an important conservation area, maintained by the City of London. According to the council:

‘by the time it closed for burials in 1854 around 123,000 people had been buried here. There are over 2,500 memorials providing a history of memorial design’.

[A map of the site is also available](#). In the eighteenth century London's daily newspapers frequently carried reports of the interment of prominent dissenters at the site, sometimes with details of those attending such ceremonies.



### **Tomb of John Bunyan (1628 –1688), Bunhill Fields**

The original Bunhill registers are in [TNA](#) under the archive listing RG4, where many dissenters' records are kept. Those for St Martin's were entered by a Research Assistant for the [Pauper Lives Project](#). This was necessary in order to find out the extent to which burial registration was affected by the level of dissent. In the event, by linking the Bunhill register to the parish burial books, only a small proportion (about 5%) of those buried at Bunhill from St Martin's appear to have been recorded. Those that *are* recorded are simply listed as purchasing 'certificates' that they were interred out of the parish. Parish clerks in London were supposed to issue these certificates to any person buried outside the parish. The clerk receiving the bodies would return the name and cause of death of the deceased to the Parish Clerks' Company for inclusion in the [London Bills of Mortality](#). Since Bunhill burials were *not* returned to the London Bills, few certificates were issued for local dissenters. The *parish* records give no clue as to where those buried by certificate were actually interred.

The Bunhill registers show that relatively few parishioners of St Martin in the Fields were buried at the ground: around one in a hundred. Clearly protestant dissent was not a strong feature of those living in this West End parish.

**The Bunhill database** contains a unique id field (UID) for each entry. It gives the archive, an archive reference number, an archive microfilm number and the page number of each entry. The titles, forenames, surnames, gender, age (in years, months, weeks, days), date of burial, local address are given for each person interred. Furthermore each entry includes some detail about each burial (notably - in the later period – the geographical location of the site) and finally the fees charged in £, S, D. Missing age data is given as 9999 in the 'year' field.

The idea of the first exercise is to use what you might have learned (or already knew) from the first two sessions to construct queries based on this data.

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## Exercise 1: Creating queries and counts on the Bunhill data

A. Using Access construct queries to construct a distribution of the cost of burial. You should get a result that looks like this:

Burial fee in shillings	CountOfBurial fee in shillings
400	1
260	1
32.5	1
30	3
27.5	8
25.6666666666667	1
25	30
22.5	32
20	22
19	21
18.5	1
18	31
17	15
16	13
15	33
14	12
13.75	2
13.5	511
13	1
12.5	17
11.5	1
11.25	11
10	10
9.5	4
9	13
8.5	4
8	11
7.5	79

This will involve creating a query to calculate the cost of each burial in shillings, rather than in £s, S, D. There were 20s to a pound, 12d to a shilling.

1. This will involve using the **Build function** in the Field row of your query. You will need the following formula:

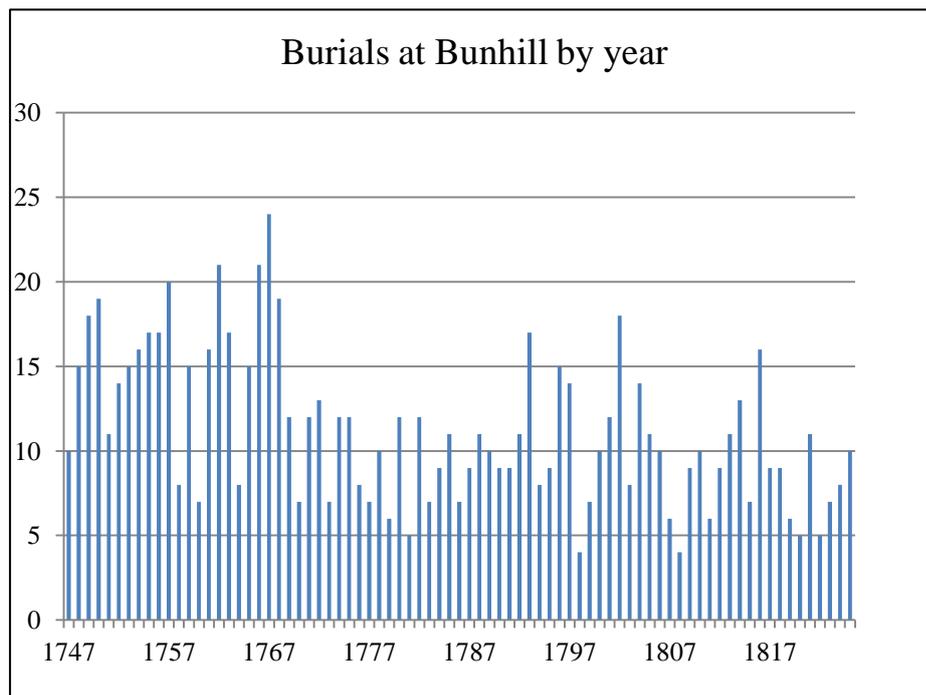
Burial fee in shillings:

```
[Burial Entries St Martin in the Fields]![Burial Fee £]*20+[Burial Entries St Martin in the Fields]![Burial Fee S]+[Burial Entries St Martin in the Fields]![Burial Fee D]/12
```

2. Then you will need to construct a query that queries your first query. It should look something like this:

Field:	Burial fee in shillings	Burial fee in shillings
Table:	Returns UID and burial cost in shillings	Returns UID and burial cost in shillings
Total:	Count	Group By
Sort:		Descending
Show:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Criteria:		
or:		

B. Create an Excel chart of the number of burials at Bunhill by year. It should look exactly like this:



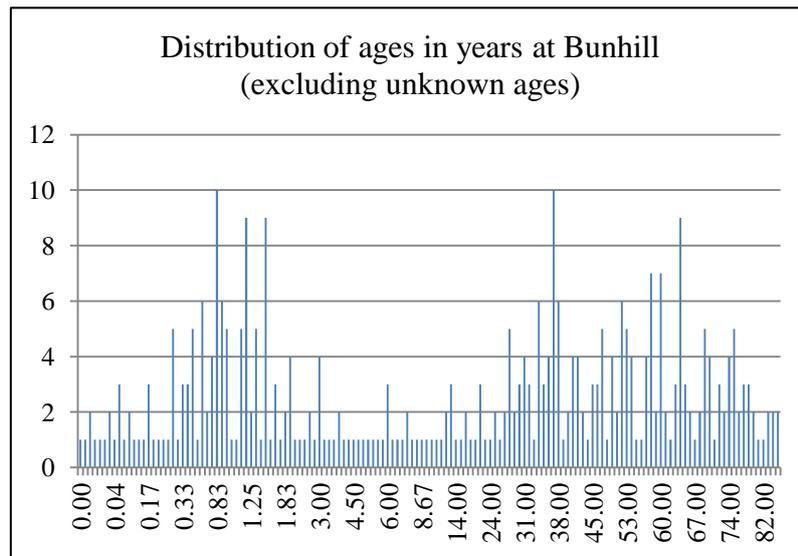
You will first need to create a query that generates a year from a date field. Then count that query grouped by year. This repeats an exercise done in a previous lesson. Once you have the output from the query, it should be straightforward to copy and paste the output into an Excel spreadsheet and generate the above graph.

*Remember to delete the contents of the top left hand cell in Excel. If there is a blank cell above the year column, Excel treats it by default as the x-axis. Otherwise you get a mess.*

C. A table showing a breakdown by gender

Gender	CountOfGer
f	397
m	378
u	114

D. An Excel chart showing the distribution of ages at burial at Bunhill, omitting those of unknown ages. The final chart should look exactly like this:



You will need to create a query to turn all age fields into ‘ages in years’ by UID. Save this query and then use another query to count it to get the data used to make the chart above.

Paste into Excel as above. You will need to format the ages in Excel to two decimal places, to avoid long decimal numbers on the x-axis.

## Exercise 2: Inserting images into your database.

As many of you will know, you can paste image files into an Access database. *These are not displayed in Access tables [you just get ‘picture’], but are visible in Forms and Reports.*

Warning: images take up a lot of space. Inserting lots of images will quickly increase the size of your database. Even with today’s powerful computers, this might slow down the speed at which your database operates. Nonetheless, inserting images might well be extremely useful. For those interested in material culture (housing, artefacts) or visual culture (paintings, prints, photographs) it might often be vitally important to have an original image. Note that some image files (gif, jpg) are much smaller than others of higher resolution (bmp, tiff).

Another reason for inserting images might also be to preserve an original document. Thus, for example, a transcription could be displayed next to its original source. With web-based transcriptions this is often extremely useful, particularly where the original transcribers might have made errors. Transcriptions can thus be checked. [The London Lives](#) and [Old Bailey online](#) websites adopt this approach.

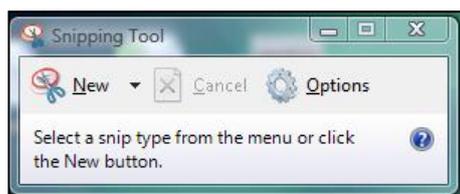
To insert images you need to add a suitable field to the Bunhill database. Call it the Gravestone field and select datatype OLE (*Object Linking and Embedding*) Object

Field Name	Data Type
UID	AutoNumber
Archive	Text
Archive Reference Number	Text
Archive Microfilm Number	Text
Page Number	Number
Burial Title/Status	Text
Burial Forename	Text
Burial Surname	Text
Gender	Text
Age Years	Number
Age Months	Number
Age Weeks	Number
Age Days	Number
Burial Date	Date/Time
Brought From	Text
Standardised Address	Text
Burial Details	Text
Burial Fee £	Number
Burial Fee S	Number
Burial Fee D	Number
Gravestone	OLE Object

**What images to insert?** Actually, virtually anything can be inserted into an OLE Object field. This could include media files, movie files as well as image files. Note that you could link to the object rather than inserting it. This would save a lot of space, but it would mean that you would have to preserve the file structure so that the location of the image on your computer remained the same. Typically it would be best to store such linked images in the same folder as your database.

**Inserting images.** For this exercise one could imagine photographs of individual gravestones, paintings of particular individuals if they are known to have existed or selected snapshots of documents in pdf format. One could, for example, insert newspaper accounts of the funerals of these individuals at Bunhill from an online database such as ECCO (Eighteenth Century Collections Online, including the Burney collection of newspapers). An alternative might be to insert original epitaphs. Collections of epitaphs from Bunhill were actually published in the eighteenth century. See, for example, *The inscriptions upon the tombs, Grave-Stones, &c. in the Dissenters Burial Place near Bunhill-Fields*. London, 1717.

**Using the snipping tool.**



It is worth using the snipping tool (An Accessory of Windows Vista/7) to copy parts of images, rather than inserting the entire image. This is much quicker than using a graphic package such as Paintshop Pro or similar.

Since this is an exercise, try snipping a few random gravestones from Bunhill, and copying and pasting into your copy of the Bunhill database in the gravestone field. Search for Bunhill gravestones, images in Google. This should look like this:

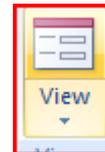
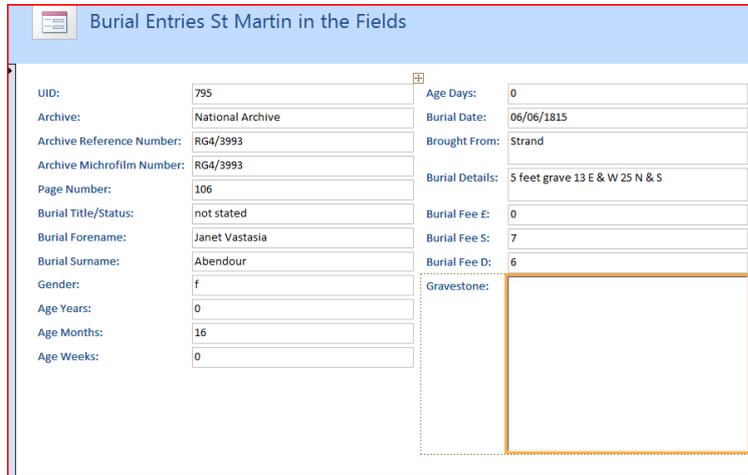
Burial Details	Buri:	Burial	Bur	Gravestone
12 feet grave 38 E & W 2:3 N & S	1	5	8	Picture
10 feet grave 38 E & W 3 N & S	1	0	0	Picture
in a grave	0	13	6	Picture
5 feet grave 99 E & W 30 N & S	0	15	0	Picture

Note down the UIDs of the records with inserted images.

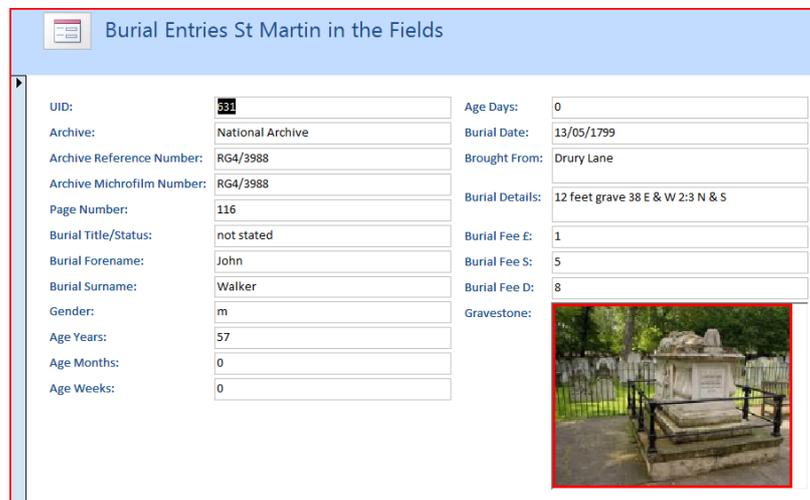
Now create a form from the table. With the Table open select Create, Form:



This creates a form in Design View:



Drag the edges of the Gravestone field to enlarge it, and then click on View Form:



Then navigate to the records with images embedded in the Gravestone field and you should see the images pasted in displayed.

*Hint:* you can display all the image records by filtering the form. Click in the Gravestone field, right click and select *Is Not Blank*.

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