

# 002 - 12 Feb 2020

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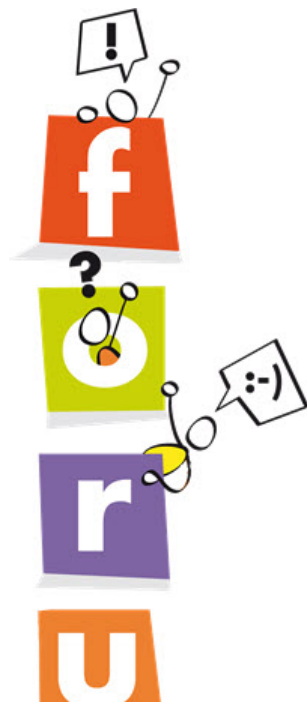
Berkshire Family History Society



Snowdrops at Welford Park by [bobba\\_dwj](#) is licensed under [CC BY-SA 2.0](#)

It may only be February but Spring is trying to assert itself - so a stunning view of the snowdrops at Welford Park seems a very appropriate image.

The New Year is off to a busy start with lots happening around the Royal County.



**First, we're delighted to announce that we have launched the Berkshire FHS Members' Forum.**

The Forum replaces the email Discussion List and provides an area where members can reach out to all other members to receive or offer help and advice.

It is an integral feature of the new website - all you need to do to gain access is log in and follow the menu option **Info > Forum**.

You won't receive notifications about new posts unless you elect to, by subscribing to forums or individual messages. This is all under your control so you can receive as much or



This is all under your control so you can receive as much or as little email as you want about the topics that interest you. If you have a question for one of our Branches, there's a separate forum for each of them.

You'll find more information on the website.

[Read More ...](#)



## News from The Centre

Over recent months, increasing numbers of visitors to The Centre for Heritage and Family History have been attempting to trace their Irish roots. To better support this, the society has upgraded its findmypast membership to Worldwide level. This means that, in addition to Ancestry Worldwide datasets, almost 200 million additional Irish records will now be available to consult at The Centre, as well as substantial additional collections of North American and Australian records. Findmypast is available on all terminals. Happy hunting!



## Free Drop-in Advice Sessions

Since the December Historian was issued, two additional free advice sessions have been arranged in The Centre for Heritage and Family History for this first quarter of the year. Trevor Maidment will be available for advice on Military Records on 17th February between 1 and 3pm. Tony Wright will be available for advice on Merchant Navy Records on 26th March, between 1 and 3pm. No need to book - just drop in.

Each month society volunteers are also based in six libraries across Berkshire to give free advice. For details of sessions and their timings at Abingdon, Bracknell, Chippenham, Newbury, Thatcham and Wokingham Libraries - see the events section in the website. Please note pre-booking is required for some sessions.



## The Historian

Member's Articles are popular content in the Historian. All those wonderful stories and insights are a unique contribution to our collective heritage. We've decided to keep them alive by publishing them on the website



so that their content will show up in any site searches and help researchers everywhere.

You'll find them on the website under the menu option [Info > Articles](#)

Recent additions include:

### [The 'Ghost' of Reading Cemetery by Adele Harbor](#)

*SHOCKING SUICIDE – A man named Robert Ghost, lodging at a cottage in Brook-street, committed suicide on Tuesday afternoon by cutting his throat.*

### [Queen Victoria's Visit to Bracknell, and The Relief of Mafeking May 1900 by Wendy Wright](#)

*There was a great deal of interest in two images dated 19 May 1900. A faint caption said "Queen Victoria passed through ... Celebration of Relief of Mafeking, S. Africa".*

### [What did You do in the Great War? by Jane Barrett](#)

*This phrase was often used to shame men who didn't fight in the Great War, but what of the women and children in those times?*

### [Henry Marriage Wallis - a Reading Benefactor by Vicki Chesterman](#)

*Henry Marriage Wallis – although a name likely to be unknown to many – had several prominent roles during his time in Reading.*

### [Ancestors in Debt by Penny Stokes](#)

*Debt has at least as long a history as the concept of money: every community has had a few individuals who lent out money to their friends, family and associates.*



If you haven't claimed your Berkshire FHS member's discount on your Findmypast subscription, now's the time to do so because the 2020 discount code is available.

All you need to do is login to the website and choose menu option **Info > Findmypast - Member Discount**

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This is new ground for us and we'd like to hear your views.

What did you like? What did you not like? Too much content? Too little? How could we improve it?

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**Berkshire Family History Society**  
*for family history research - in Berkshire and beyond*

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