

Keeping connected**Berkshire FHS** <noreply@berksfhs.org>

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To: Paul <paul.b@rrett.me.uk>[Not displaying correctly? View in your browser](#)**in touch**

Berkshire Family History Society

**The Battle of Britain**

by Paul Nash (1889-1946)

An attempt to give the sense of an aerial battle in operation over a wide area

Source: [Wikimedia Commons](#)

80 years ago the skies about southern England resonated with the sounds of aerial combat as 'the few' fought a decisive victory in the fight for air superiority in what was a major turning point in WWII. Germany suffered its first defeat of the war and plans for the invasion of Britain had to be abandoned.

Appropriately, therefore, our newsletter this week begins with details of Battle of Britain related sites.



Battle of Britain

This isn't the most attractive looking website but the data more than makes up for that. Dedicated to the "pilots, crew, fitters, ferry pilots, cooks, and all concerned with Fighter Command", it contains short biographies of many who took part, including in some cases photographs. There is also a diary of events, squadron histories, aircraft histories and a useful links section.

[View the site](#)

Battle of Britain Historical Society

This is a hugely comprehensive site, again not the most attractive, but with impressive contents and an extensive and detailed day-by-day diary of events and activities. There is a list of all those who took part and a considerable number of survivor testimonies, all of which help to provide a very personal account of operations during the Battle of Britain.

[View the site](#)

This edition of in touch contains information about a new section on the website.

Just a reminder that the new membership year began on 1st July. If

you haven't renewed yet you'll find that the member-only content is not accessible. Renew online and access will be restored automatically



Hungerford National School

Hungerford National School was built in 1814 in the High Street, just three years after the founding of The National Society. These schools provided elementary education, in accordance with the teaching of the Church of England, to the children of the poor. The school would eventually close in 1910.

Exclusive to members, [Info > Berkshire Data](#) is a transcript of the admissions register for Hungerford

National School from 1816 to 1859. You will need to be logged in, and will need a password to open the document - given on the website.

These records have the name, age and residence of every child admitted, with the date of admission and the number in the register. In addition, the names and details of their parents or other adult(s) sponsoring them are given. The transcript is presented in alphabetical order and was made from the original admission register, now held in the Berkshire Record Office.

Check it out if you have Hungerford connections or if you haven't seen an early school admissions register before.

[View the web page \(login required\)](#)



Berkshire Record Office

The Berkshire Record Office are inching closer to reopening which is great news. At the moment the archive remains closed to the public, however, they are now able to provide a full remote enquiry service, including copies and research. A fee is

charged for these services. Contact the BRO direct for specific requests:

<https://www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk/contact-us>



July's edition of the Berkshire Echo, published by the BRO, is now live. Discover how Berkshire's communities celebrated the end of the Second World War and the documents now catalogued for Windsor Borough which shed new light on the area.

[View the Berkshire Echo](#)



Events

Coming up in August and September – five fascinating online talks about the Second World War in the 75th anniversary year of its conclusion. Book tickets for individual talks or an “all series” ticket which includes all five talks for the price of four.

[Book all 5 for the price of 4](#)

Reading in the Second World War

6th August 14.00 – 15.00 Online Talk by Stuart Hylton

Based upon his book *Reading at War*, Stuart will explore how the war affected



Reading and its citizens. From the victims of war, both military and civilian, the privations and shortages; examples of heroism and self-sacrifice; to in contrast, the black market and war-related crime. Hear about the relationship between the townspeople and the 25,000 or so evacuees visited on them in September 1939. And see how wartime advertising expounded 'make do and mend', to combat the lack of things to buy.

£4 members £5 non-members

[Book now](#)



Reading's Home Guard

13th August 14.00 – 15.00 Online Talk by Mike Cooper

Formed in 1940, the Home Guard was one of a number of voluntary and part-time formations raised for local defence. Despite the bumbling image created by the BBC classic "Dad's Army", the force

emerged as a well-trained, well equipped and highly motivated part of Britain's defences. Find out about Reading's Home Guard in this fascinating talk.

£4 members £5 non-members

[Book now](#)

The Battle of Britain

22nd August 12 noon – 13.00 Online Talk by Richard Marks

In 1940, Britain stood alone following the fall of France. With the German army



poised across the channel, only the RAF could prevent the Luftwaffe from gaining the air supremacy needed to successfully mount the expected invasion. Historian Richard Marks, will look at how the RAF's systems and equipment allowed them to retain air supremacy over southern England and prevent the invasion.

£4 members £5 non-members

[Book now](#)

Women in World War Two

3rd September 14.00 – 15.00 Online Talk by Bill King

Discover how the talents of women were integrated into the British war effort on the Home Front, in industry and in the Armed Services at every level during World War Two. Bill is a popular speaker and his talks are meticulously researched.

£4 members £5 non-members

[Book now](#)

The Changing Army: The British Army 1939-45

24th September 14.00 – 15.00 Online Talk by Mike Cooper

The Second World War mobilised British society in a way no other had, and this was reflected in the changing composition of the Army. The Army also adapted to different conditions, environments and

technology. Discover how the Army was structured, recruited and supported and how this changed during the War. What “being in the Army” meant could vary enormously from being a pay clerk in Manchester, to a tank crewman in Rangoon. A must for anyone with ancestors who fought in the war.

£4 members £5 non-members

[Book now](#)

[View Complete Events List](#)



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

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