

In Touch

1 message

Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org.uk>

7 May 2023 at 08:22

in touch



Newbury Coronation Parade for King George V
Colourised image courtesy of Jim Bradshaw

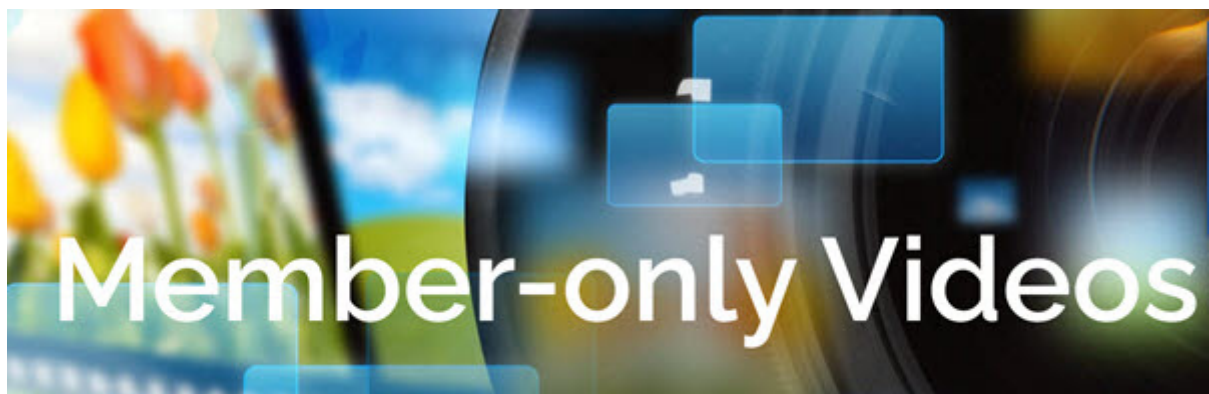
Hi

This week we're bringing you a topical image from the Coronation Parade - for George V - that passed along Northbrook Street in Newbury - presumably on Thursday 22 June 1911.

Once again the location was easy to find on [the modern map](#), largely due to that distinctive roofline on the building just left of centre, six from the left in the banner image. Depressingly, my birth date places me forty years closer to *that* Coronation date than to yesterday's celebration. But if I'm going down, I'm taking you with me, because I suspect that's also true for many of *you*!

Is *that* why I find the 1911 image so much more appealing than the modern one, I wonder?

[Discuss on the Forum](#)



Researching at The National Archives - Jessamy Carlson

The latest in our series of FREE member-only video talks is available to stream now.

Jessamy is an archivist, and a historian with over 25 years of research experience. She is currently leading a volunteer project to re-catalogue the service records of military nurses who served in the First World War. She particularly enjoys solving family history brick walls.

In this talk, which was given as the latest in our series of Online Combined Branch Meetings, Jessamy introduced us to some of the resources available at The National Archives, including Discovery, the catalogue, research guides and some of the records held. She also talked about some of the resources available from the collection through commercial partners, and answered questions about the collections.

This content is only available until 31 Jul 2023

[Go to members video library](#)

Second World War POW records in TNA

In perfect timing to accompany the latest recording in the society's video hub - good news from The National Archives (TNA) about newly catalogued records.

Volunteers at Kew have now finished cataloguing records of more than 200,000 POWs within War Office File Series WO 416. This primarily contains the records of British and Allied POWs and civilian internees captured by German forces. Although the collection also includes details of several thousand airmen whose bodies were found in German occupied territory.

All records relating to individuals born over 100 years ago are now open.

The information found in the cards varies, some contain few details, others contain images, fingerprints and in some cases even x-rays. The records have been organised into numbered and alphabetically ordered envelopes and indexed on Discovery, TNA's online catalogue. Once you have found an entry you are interested in, if you wish to see the actual card you can book an appointment to visit in person or request an image of the document.

To give you an idea of the type of information which may now be available in Discovery. A quick search for any Berkshire-born POWS quickly revealed Terance Bunyan, born in Windsor.

WO 416/46/185 [1939-1945]

Name: Terance John Bunyan.

Date of Birth: 3 August 1920.

Place of Birth: Windsor.

Service: Royal Marines.

Rank: Marine.

Regiment/Unit/Squadron: [unspecified].

Service Number: C/LX23974.

Date of Capture: 15 June 1942.

Theatre of Capture: [unspecified].

Camp Name/Number: Stalag VIIIB Lamsdorf.

PoW number: 30106.

Date of Death: [unspecified].

Number of Photographs: 1.

Number of Fingerprints: 1.

Number of X-rays: 0.

Number of Cards: 2.

You can search the records here:

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/browse/r/h/C14541141>



Researching at the Berkshire Record Office

And the timings get even better! The Berkshire Record Office, has also produced a short video showing how to use the paper catalogues in the search room to ascertain the fiche (or film) you require to look at the filmed parish records. You can check their parish register holdings before you visit at:

<https://www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk/parochial-register/>

And see the video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-KTFOBGhbl>



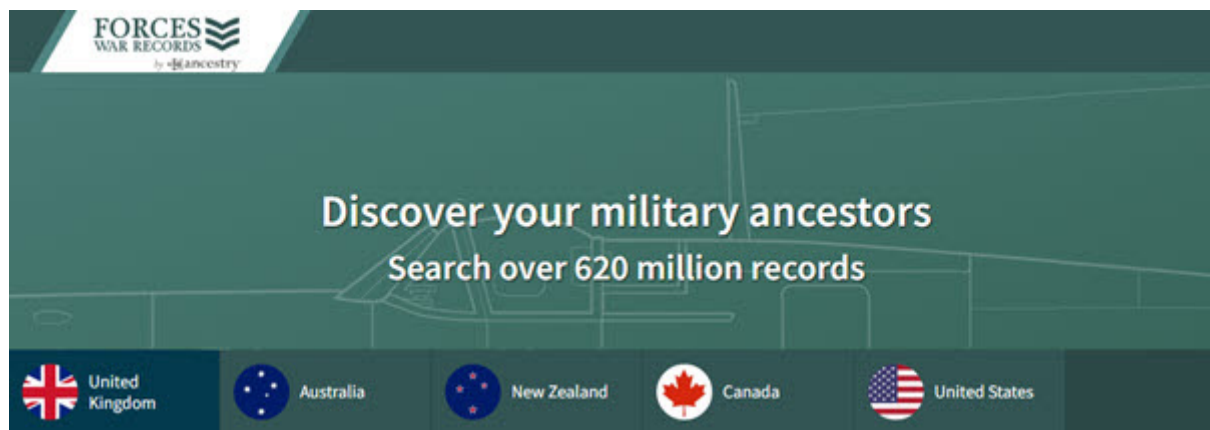
New Families in British India Society (FIBIS) Collection now available

Continuing the theme of new military records - FIBIS has added an exciting new collection for those whose ancestors served in Afghanistan in the Second-Anglo-Afghan War. Nearly 40,000 names of British soldiers who served in the war have been added to the FIBIS database thanks to Dr. William B. Trousdale, emeritus curator of anthropology at the Smithsonian Institution and a specialist on 19th century Afghanistan.

Over the past several decades, Dr Trousdale has compiled a volume listing all of the British soldiers who served in the Second Anglo-Afghan War, 1878-1881, their units, dates, and other information and he has very kindly allowed FIBIS to publish this material.

You can find out more and search the database here:

<https://www.fibis.org/trousdales-second-anglo-afghan-war-database/>



Relaunch of Forces War Records

Forces War Records has recently been relaunched with a brand-new look as well as product experience. The relaunch includes additional new records, including more image records, to help users dive deeper into their military family research.

Since Ancestry acquired the Forces War Records service and brand in 2021, it has been working hard behind the scenes to improve the website and to bring additional value to Forces War Records customers. To complete this work and to bring Forces War Records into the Ancestry family, the site will now be owned and operated by Ancestry.

Explore the website here:

<https://uk.forceswarrecords.com/>

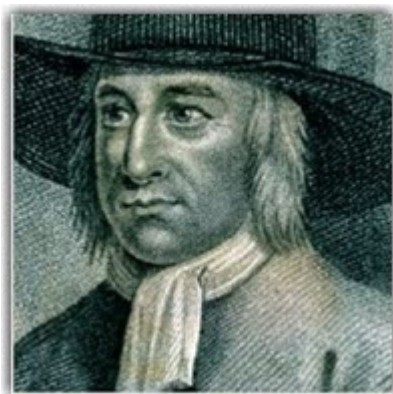
Events

Our programme is a mixture of online and face-to-face events

Quaker Family History

Wed 10 May 14:00 - 16:00

Newbury Branch Annual Meeting and talk with speaker: Simon Burbidge



West Berkshire Museum, Newbury

Simon Burbidge has been using Quaker records in his own research back to the seventeenth century. They are more informative than parish registers of the established church. He also describes the administrative structure of Quakerism.

Simon has been a committee member of the Abingdon Branch of the society for several years and is a volunteer one day a week at Oxford History Centre, working with the conservation manager.

This talk is free to members of Berkshire Family History Society, and we request a donation of £5 from non-members.

[Find out more](#)



Drop In Advice Session

Thu 11 May 14:00 - 17:00
Staffed by Bracknell Branch

Bracknell Central Library

Bring your questions, problems and 'brickwalls' ... and get some new ideas and advice from members of the Berkshire Family History Society.

For ALL family historians wherever your ancestors came from.

No booking is required

[Find out more](#)

Britain's Railways in World War Two



Thu 11 May 14:00 - 15:30
Talk with speaker: Richard Marks

The Centre for Heritage & Family History

Find out the important role that Britain's four railway companies had in achieving victory in World War Two. Discover the war work that was undertaken in the railway company works across the country and the impact of Luftwaffe operations over Britain's railway network during the war. This talk will also look at how the legacy left by the Victorian railway builders benefited Britain in World War Two.

After the talk, tea/coffee and cake will be available (included in the price). Pre-booking is preferred, but you can pay on the door, if there are spaces available.

£4 members

£5 non-members

Image: Severn Valley 1940s weekend – cropped – CC-BY-2.0

[Book now](#)



Merchant Navy Records

Thu 11 May 19:00 - 21:00
Workshop with tutor: Tony Wright

Online

Interested in what your seaman ancestor was eating, how much he earned, who he was sending money home to or where he lived? These and many other questions will be answered in this workshop. Attendees will discover what records are available and how and where to find them. The workshop will also look at the Seaman's Certificate of Continuous Discharge, Crew Lists, Ship's Logs, Lloyds Register of Shipping, Ship's Movement cards, and some online resources for finding more information.

Pre-booking is required because full joining instructions will be emailed in advance.
Bookings close one day before the event.

£9 members

£10 non-members

[Book now](#)



Getting the Most out of the Maps Website

Sat 13 May 11:00 - 13:00

Workshop with tutor: Craig Statham

Online

If you like to better understand the lives of your ancestors and enjoy old maps – you will almost certainly enjoy this workshop! The workshop will explore the country's foremost online map collection. The National Library of Scotland, who host the maps website, holds over two million cartographic items, making it the largest collection of maps in Scotland and one of the largest in the world. There are several separate collections of maps within the library's holdings, namely the Bartholomew Archive and the Graham Brown Collection. At the library, there are maps relating to many different kinds of landscapes, such as estates, counties, railways, maps which show the trenches of World War I, and alpine areas.

The collections include:

- Over 1.5 million sheet maps
- 15,000 atlases
- 100,000 maps on microfilm
- Over 200,000 digital maps
- Gazetteers, cartographic reference books and periodicals
- Map ephemera

Our tutor, Craig Statham, will take us on a tour of the maps, show how they can help us understand the environment our ancestors lived in, and explain how to get the most information from them.

Pre-booking is required because full joining instructions will be emailed in advance. Bookings close one day before the event.

£4 members

£5 non-members

Image: (cropped) copyright of the Berkshire Record Office, reproduced with their kind permission.

[Book now](#)



A Grandmother's Legacy: My Great Aunt Constance

Mon 15 May 19:30 - 21:45

Abingdon Branch Annual Meeting followed by talk with speaker: Jenny Mallin

Long Furlong Community Centre, Abingdon

Our speaker delivers a fascinating insight into her family who lived during the days of the British Raj in India.

In this talk we hear about Constance; a woman of high social status, wife of a British official, born in 1898. This talk is an account of her life in Burma and the story of a civilian trek in 1942 involving thousands of people who had to face for the first time in their lives, an arduous hike across some of the world's most treacherous terrain, dealing with monsoon climatic rivers, jungles and steep mountain ranges and dangerous wildlife. We learn how Rangoon was at that time the world's busiest immigration port with millions arriving into this rich, stylish and exciting destination and how Burma was recognised as the most beautiful country in South East Asia. We discover how living in Rangoon throughout its heyday of the 1930s meant a charmed life, one that was filled with opulence, bon viveur and style. We then learn how life can change overnight and the juxtapose of a situation where there was no possibility of turning back but only moving forward.

This talk follows our short Annual Meeting.

Free to members

Non Members £5

Prebooking is not required

Large Free Car Park adjacent to hall.

[Find out more](#)



Tilehurst Walk

Tue 16 May 10:00 - 12:30

Heritage walk with guide: Terry Dixon

Start point: will be advised nearer the time

Join Terry Dixon for his new two mile walk of Tilehurst, mainly on the flat and featuring important buildings, places, roads, history, culture and people. Illustrated with many stories and old photos and so much more with an optional cafe stop at the end. Some free parking is available nearby near St. Michael's Church.

Refreshments in the cafe are not included within the price.

The meeting place will be notified in the week running up to the walk. Please note the end of this walk is 20 minutes walk away from the start.

Numbers are limited, so pre-booking is required.

£4 members

£5 non-members

Image: St Michael's Church, Tilehurst, Creative Commons Attribution-Sharealike 2.0 - full.

[Book now](#)

Crime spree 1: Victims and Criminals



Wed 17 May 19:30 - 21:30
Computer Branch Meeting and talk with speakers: Gillian Stevens and Chad Hanna

Online

A series of talks about finding victims of crimes and the criminals who committed them. This will look at reports in newspapers and the court records, records of prisons and transportation to the colonies.

Members: Free

Non-members £5

Prebooking required

[Book now](#)



Face-to-Face Family History Advice Clinic

Thu 18 May - timed slots - see below
Advice session with our experts

The Centre for Heritage and Family History

Just beginning your family history research and need some advice? Baffled by so many competing research websites? Banging your head against a brick wall? Or struggling with some other issues? In this one-to-one session, one of our seasoned advisors will help you make some progress.

Slot 1: 11:00 - 11:30

Slot 2: 11:45 - 12:30

Slot 3: 13:45 - 14:30

To make the most of your session our advisors will carry out some preliminary research beforehand, and for that we need you provide us with some information on a form that will appear after you've booked. You could do it later but it's much better to prepare that material now and complete the form while you're at the keyboard and

the topic is fresh in your mind.

Prebooking is required and **bookings close 7 days before the session** to give us time to research your submission. But every extra day helps, as we're manned solely by part-time volunteers so the earlier you book, the better.

These sessions are face-to-face.

[Book now](#)



Britain's Air Forces and Your Family History

Fri 18 May 14:15 - 17:00

Bracknell Branch Annual Meeting followed by talk with speaker: Richard Marks

The New Priestwood Community Centre

The Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force were key parts of British history, but how do they impact your family history? Find out more in this talk. We will look at the two forces and how they also included the navy. Explore what your ancestors did in the British air forces and where to look to find out more.

This talk will follow our short Branch Annual Meeting (BAM).

Branch library available to members to borrow books. Refreshments available. Car park outside the hall.

Prebooking not required

Members free

£5 Non-members

[Find out more](#)

Create an enduring family tree in YourTrees

Sat 20 May 09:30 - 11:30 BST

***16:30 - 18:30 Perth time**



***19:00 - 21:00 Adelaide time**

***19:30 - 21:30 Melbourne/Sidney time**

***21:30 - 23:30 Auckland time**

Online Workshop with tutor: Paul Barrett

**Please check these guide times - we believe they are correct*

The timing of this session has been set so that our Australian and New Zealand members may attend. UK early birds are welcome too!

Ever wished that your grand or great grandparents had kept a family history? How many of our grand and great grandchildren might feel the same about us in the future? How durable and easily interpreted is your current family archive? Will it stand the test of time, or ultimately end up in a cardboard box in the attic?

YourTrees was launched by the society in 2021 as a free member-only service to:

- Provide a facility for members to preserve their research and pass it on to a family member
- Allow members to easily share their research discoveries – now and in the future
- Allow members to tackle research challenges together
- Grow a bespoke collective resource for people, names, places and more

This workshop has been developed to help you create a comprehensive enduring family tree, that is relevant to the digital generations, so that you can store a copy on YourTrees. It is aimed at those who have already saved versions of their tree(s) on YourTrees, those that are thinking of doing so, or wondering whether they should.

The sessions are very interactive, and with a lot of content to cover we will have Q&A sessions at the end of each section.

It is a member exclusive Zoom workshop and FREE.

Prebooking is required

[Find out more](#)

That was just a small selection from our extensive events programme

[Click here for the full programme](#)

Our events routinely sell out -
book early to secure your place



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