

## Keeping in touch

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Mon, Mar 8 2021 09:30:19

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in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



**The Swan Hotel, Streatley circa 1905**

Cropped and coloured by BerksFHS. Original image courtesy of

The Museum of English Rural Life, University of Reading, Dann-Lewis Collection P DX289 PH1/442B

Spring has sprung across the countryside and brings with it the hope that our current UK lockdown will finally be eased over the coming months.

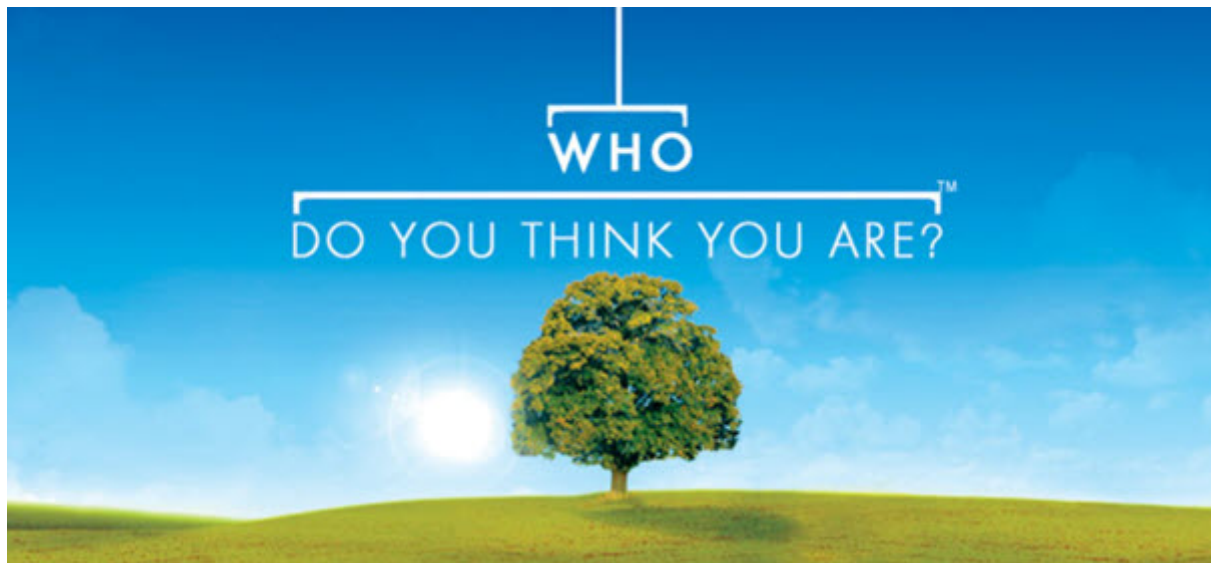
This edition's banner image is another from the MERL collection but this time we've brought some colour to it. This wasn't done using MyHeritage's online tool but with the comparable tool built into Photoshop Elements 2021. These tools are now so ubiquitous, that brightening up old photos is available to anyone and the software does all the work for you. MyHeritage have moved on

to other AI tools, and we've news of their latest effort.

We also have our fourth batch of marriage downloads for you, details of more indexes and guides and our pick of the upcoming events.

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## News



BBC iPlayer have launched the perfect treat for family historians during lockdown – series 12-17 of Who Do You Think You Are? are now available to watch for the next 11 months. The episodes take us around the world and include the journeys of Anne Reid, Anita Rani, Derek Jacobi, Olivia Colman and the classic moment when Danny Dyer discovers his royal connections.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b007t575/who-do-you-think-you-are>

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## One to watch - *DNA Journey* series 2

Hot on the heels of last week's new DNA programme on BBC2, *DNA Journey* returns to ITV on Wednesday 10th March at 9pm with a new series.

Following on from the success of Ant and Dec's journey in 2019, six new celebrities embark on a life changing road trip to discover their family history. Episode One features sporting legends Freddie Flintoff and Jamie Redknapp in a journey which takes them north and south and uncovers surprises and mysteries. Subsequent episodes bring us Amanda Holden and Alan Carr, and father and son duo, Martin and Roman Kemp.



## Marriage Data Downloads - Fourth Batch

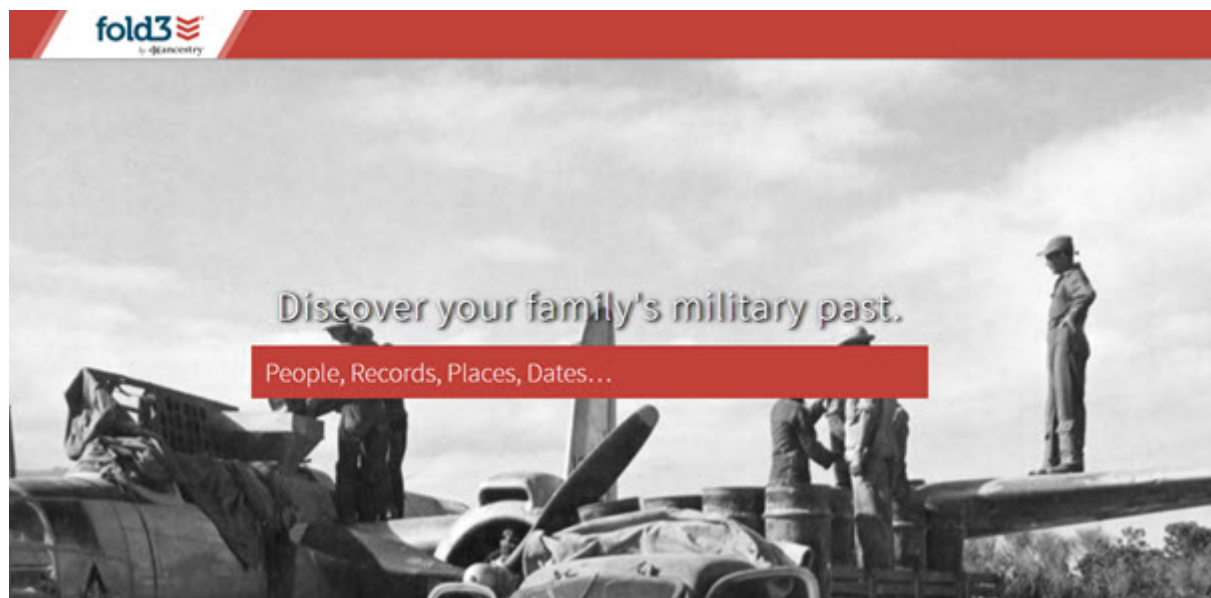
As a reminder, we have developed data downloads to provide choice and flexibility in how you access data for Berkshire. Each download is in PDF format and your purchase is automatically fulfilled as soon as you have paid. Terms and conditions apply and these downloads are for your personal use only. Prices vary but start from just £2.00. The usual member discounts apply.

Marriage entries are presented in date order, and there is also a “by person” finding aid to assist your use of the download. Berkshire’s marriages are also available in CD format. If you're interested in a number of parishes, also check out [Berkshire Marriages Edition Four CD](#), likewise, individual [Parish CDs](#) also exist. So check out what best suits your needs.

[Appleford St Peter & St Paul Marriages 1567-1935 \(Download\) D1053](#)  
[Avington St Mark & St Luke Marriages 1699-1935 \(Download\) D1143](#)  
[Binfield All Saints Marriages 1538-1935 \(Download\) D1480](#)  
[Boxford St Andrew Marriages 1559-1935 \(Download\) D1483](#)  
[Brimpton St Peter Marriages 1607-1935 \(Download\) D1490](#)  
[Burghfield St Mary Marriages 1559-1935 \(Download\) D1561](#)  
[Farnborough All Saints Marriages 1614-1935 \(Download\) D1563](#)  
[Ilsey, West All Saints Marriages 1560-1839 \(Download\) D1539](#)  
[Kintbury St Mary Marriages 1557-1935 \(Download\) D1543](#)  
[Mortimer West End St Saviour Marriages 1615-1680 \(Download\) D1558](#)  
[Radley St James the Great Marriages 1599-1825 \(Download\) D1226](#)  
[Shefford, East St Thomas Marriages 1604-1833 \(Download\) D1370](#)  
[Stratfield Mortimer St Mary Marriages 1607-1837 \(Download\) D1388](#)  
[Sunninghill St Michael & All Angels Marriages 1562-1929 \(Download\) D1393](#)  
[Swallowfield All Saints Marriages 1607-1926 \(Download\) D1396](#)  
[Theale Holy Trinity Marriages 1833-1935 \(Download\) D1434](#)  
[Tilehurst St Michael Marriages 1614-1824 \(Download\) D1438 \(Part 1 of 2\)](#)  
[Tilehurst St Michael Marriages 1825-1935 \(Download\) D1575 \(Part 2 of 2\)](#)

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## Complete WWI pensions collection now published on Fold3

A landmark project to digitise all UK First World War pension records has been completed. The records are particularly precious because most First World War service records were destroyed during the Blitz.

They include records of all servicemen who were injured in the war and subsequently received a pension, including the nature of the serviceman's injury and the percentage of disablement he was deemed to have, as well as the names and addresses of his next of kin. They also include details of pensions paid to the wives and children of those who were killed.

They were originally scheduled to be destroyed by the Ministry of Defence in 2012, but were saved by the Western Front Association who partnered with Ancestry to digitise the records on Ancestry's military-focused website Fold3.

The records collection has now been completed with the release of 2,917,148 records of pension cards for ordinary soldiers who were injured. In total, there are 7,522,448 records in the collection covering the Army, Royal Navy, Merchant Navy and Royal Flying Corps.

This most recent set is extremely useful for identifying individual servicemen. For example, if your great great uncle was John Smith and you know he was in the artillery, you're really not going to be able to find a lot more about him because it's such a common name, but these cards enable you to hunt around with the John Smiths and actually find the John Smith you're looking for.

Indexes of the pension records are available for subscribers to Ancestry, while

the records are free to view for members of the WFA.

<https://www.fold3.com/>

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## **New MyHeritage feature makes old photographs move!**

We like to shake things up from time to time in this newsletter, and this latest announcement from MyHeritage feels like one of those “marmite moments” - you’ll either love it or hate it. The consensus from the small team which puts In Touch together was that seeing moving photographs of our long deceased ancestors was a little disturbing. But there will be many others who welcome this new development and applaud the advances in AI which have allowed it to come about. We’ll let you decide where you sit on the subject.

MyHeritage has now revealed the latest offering in their photograph enhancement tools. The MyHeritage Deep Nostalgia™ programme is now able to animate the faces in old family photographs using AI, and by utilising several different pre-recorded driver videos of real human gestures to direct how the photographs move.



To take advantage of the feature, simply upload your photographs to MyHeritage. You will need to either register for a free MyHeritage account or log in using Facebook or Google. Uploading a photograph typically takes around 10 to 20 seconds.

Try it out here.

<https://www.myheritage.com/deep-nostalgia>

**Find  
my past**



## National Burial Index For England & Wales

Explore more than 12 million burial records from across England and Wales. Discover your ancestor's burial place, year of death and religious denomination.

# New on Findmypast

The Family History Federation has just added 3.4 million burial entries from the National Burial Index for England and Wales to Findmypast. Many of these entries you won't find anywhere else. Don't forget the society's account with Findmypast Worldwide is available to all members, via the Members' only area of the website.

Search the NBI records at:

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/national-burial-index-for-england-and-wales>

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## Events

Our events programme is exclusively online -  
so join us - wherever you are

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### **The West Berkshire Museum Collections**

**Newbury Branch Meeting with**

**Speaker: Janine Fox**

**10 Mar 19:15 for 19:30**

Have you ever wondered how museums manage their collections? How do they conserve the objects in their care? Why do they sometimes turn donations away? Why aren't those items on display which you donated years ago?

Janine Fox, the Curator of West Berkshire Museum, will reveal Newbury's own Secrets of the Museum. She will focus on some highlights in the museum, with emphasis on items relevant to family history.

Free to members - £3 non-members. Pre-booking required.



[Book now](#)

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## **Sex, Violence & Alcohol: after-effects of WW1**

**Abingdon Branch Meeting with  
speaker: Frances Hurd  
15 Mar 19:15 for 19:30**



Modern charities working with ex-service personnel have demonstrated that the stress of war can change men forever, and also that it can take years for those concerned to admit they have a problem, while their families have to cope with their challenging or even abusive behaviour.

This was also true for some men after the First World War. This talk will discuss three case studies in detail, but also explore the wartime experiences which could lead to long-term difficulties for men – and their families.

Free to members - £3 non-members. Pre-booking required.

[Book now](#)

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## **Beginners' Family History Course**

**Tutors: Gillian Stevens and Chad  
Hanna**

**16 Mar 14:00 - 15:30**

This course comprises of six sessions: Tuesdays – 16th, 23rd & 30th March and 6th, 13th & 20th April.

All sessions run from 2pm – 3.30pm.

The course is aimed at those new to researching family history and includes where to start, how to progress and good research practice. Learn how to work with core records of civil registration, censuses, parish registers and modern wills. Discover the different genealogy websites, the content they offer and their strengths and limitations.

This is also a good refresher for those who want to make sure they have covered all bases.

£28 members - £35 non-members. Pre-booking required.

**Book now**

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## **Criminal Ancestors?**

### **Woodley (Computer) Branch Meeting**

#### **with Speaker: Chad Hanna**

**17 Mar 19:15 for 19:30**

Members share case-studies of criminals related to their family. Were they sent to Australia? How did the courts handle their cases. Poisonings and hangings included!



Free to members - £3 non-members. Pre-booking required.

**Book now**

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## **Making the most of a Will**

### **Bracknell Branch Meeting with Speaker: John Titterton**

**19 Mar 19:15 for 19:30**



This talk considers the testators, the bequests, other associated documents. What can they tell you about the deceased, their family relationships and how combining information from more than one will can produce surprising results.

Free to members - £3 non-members. Pre-booking required.

**Book now**

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These are just a few examples from our extensive events programme....

**[... click here for the full programme](#)**

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

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

The Centre for Heritage and Family History  
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