

In Touch

1 message

Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org.uk>

5 November 2023 at 08:00

in touch



Image colourised by Jim Bradshaw

Hi

Remembrance Day approaches, so in this week's edition we focus on the impact of two World Wars and numerous other conflicts on the Royal County of Berkshire, the places and the people. We have numerous books, pamphlets and CDs in our online store that cover the subject and help us understand the effect two devastating wars of the 20th century had on our families, and what may have been for so many whose lives were cut short.

We also have news of two new recorded talks and some early 19th Century censuses, but we start with hot news from Findmypast...





Berkshire Baptisms

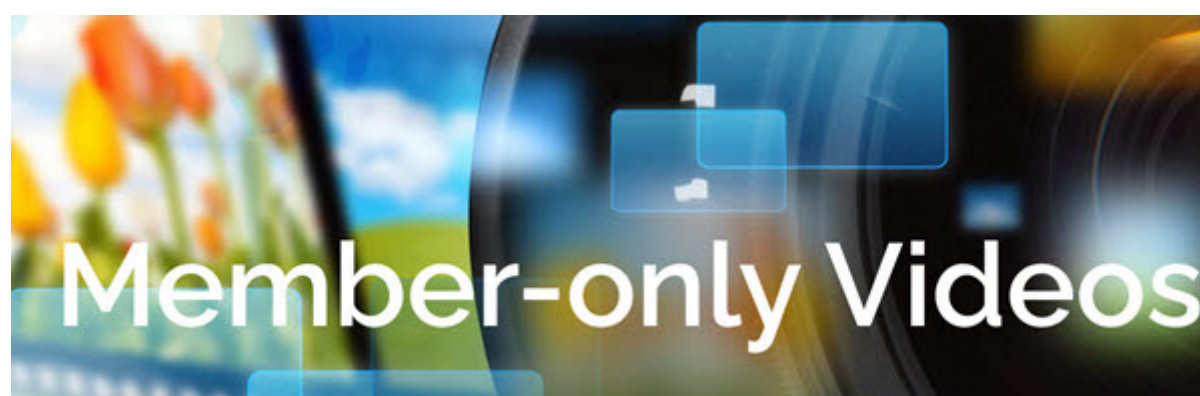
Our set of Berkshire Baptisms grew by 231,375 this Findmypast Friday. These unique records cover from 1852 to 1940.

Nearly a ¼ million Berkshire Baptisms added to FMP

Once again our dedicated and fantastic transcribers have enriched the data available to genealogists around the world with an enormous tranche of baptismal records. We shouldn't under estimate the sheer amount of effort that goes into producing these transcriptions - thank you Projects & Publications team!

Don't forget that FMP publishes only a portion of the transcriptions we make. Incidental information and marginal notes such as officiating ministers is included in our CDs and data downloads but is excluded by FMP

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/>



Two new meeting recordings for your delectation

Cross your fingers until you...
Talk by Graham Sutherland



Windsor Branch Meeting - 26 Sep

- Discover the Fascinating World of Ancestral Superstitions and Customs
- Uncover the Hidden Threads of Our Ancestral Beliefs
- Gain a deeper understanding of your ancestors' lives and the forces that shaped their decisions.
- Explore the profound and quirky customs that still

influence our culture today.

- Reconnect with your roots and appreciate the enduring power of tradition and belief.



Underused Sources for Genealogical Research

Talk by Lady Mary Teviot

Combined Branch Meeting - 18 Oct

In the United Kingdom the wealth of records available for research are so many and so varied that

sometimes some which are not on the internet are overlooked. Some are early dating back to the 1500s.

In this presentation, Lady Mary Teviot describes a number of under-used sources of historical information which have not been exploited to their potential by family historians.

Please note, this recording is only available until 5th December

[View online \(login required\)](#)



"Extraordinary Villages - Turville" by SPingram is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

New Pre-1841 Census Database

Folk at Brigham Young University are bringing together in one searchable database the 1400 surviving household or individual schedules from the 1801, 1811, 1821, and 1831 censuses. When the database is complete, it is estimated that it will include information about approximately 500,000 households.

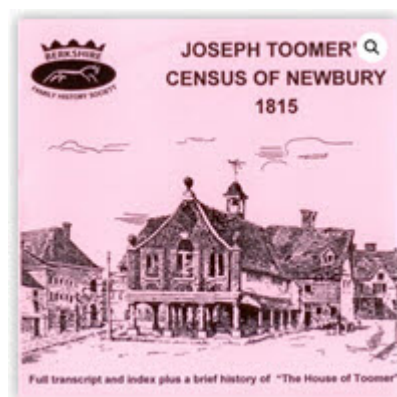
There are currently eight Berkshire parishes included in the database: Blewbury, Brightwalton, Brimpton, Coleshill, Hampton Marshall, Milton, Pangbourne and Sonning.

Search the database here:

<http://ebc.byu.edu/Home>

Discover which pre-1841 censuses survive, at:

https://www1.essex.ac.uk/history/documents/research/RT2_wall_2012.pdf



Buy Toomer's 1815 census of Newbury here:

<https://shop.berksfhs.org/product/newbury1815-census-of-newbury-by-joseph-toomer-cd-bfhs/>

Buy Binfield's 1801 census here:

<https://shop.berksfhs.org/product/binfield-1801-census/>

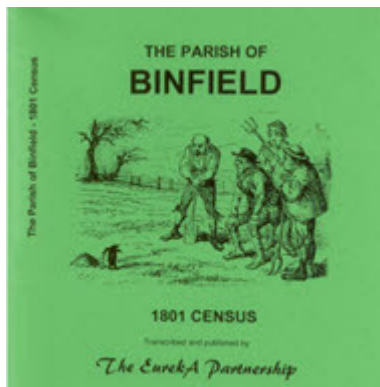


Image by [Tim Hill](#) from [Pixabay](#).

Remembering Past Wars and Conflicts

As we come together to remember past conflicts on November 11th, a reminder of some of the extensive range of products to help your research in the Society's Bookshop.



Berkshire and the War, Second Edition (CD) £20.00

This CD contains images from the 39 parts of Berkshire and the War published by the Reading Standard in 1923. It has been extensively indexed. It contains nearly 12,000 names, over 700 civilian organisations together with many of the Army regiments, etc.

Find out more here:

<https://shop.berksfhs.org/product/berkshire-and-the-war-second-edition-cd-bfhs/>



Abingdon & Districts Volunteers 1915 Roll of Honour (CD) £5.00

Published list of volunteers in 1915.

<https://shop.berksfhs.org/product/abingdon-districts-volunteers-1915-roll-of-honour/>

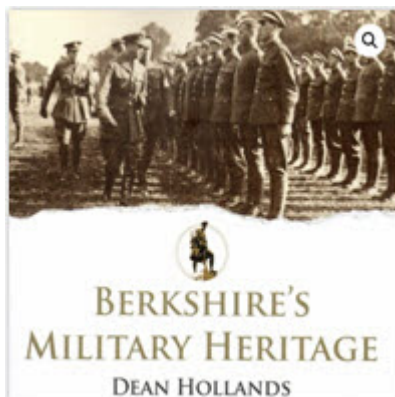


Berkshire War Memorials 2nd edition (CD) £20.00

Volunteers have transcribed the inscriptions on almost 900 war memorials in pre-1974 Berkshire. Just over 30,000 people are named on this CD and about 56% of the memorials have colour photographs.

They are fully searchable by name and place.

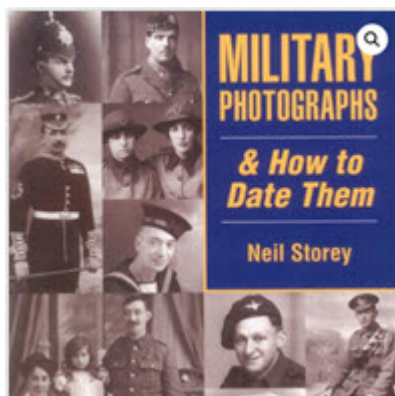
<https://shop.berksfhs.org/product/berkshire-war-memorials-2nd-edition-cd/>



Berkshire's Military Heritage (Book) £15.99

This book traces the story of Berkshire's military forces and actions from Roman to modern times, and includes sections on Sandhurst and other Colleges and also on Memorials.

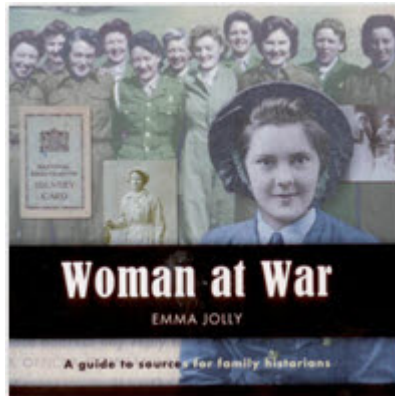
<https://shop.berksfhs.org/product/berkshires-military-heritage/>



Military Photographs & How to Date Them (Book) £8.50

NEW LOWER PRICE: Military photographs stand out as different and distinctive. The book is profusely illustrated and covers our nation's military history from the 1870's to the 1940's with chapters on soldiers of the Queen, WW1 and WW2.

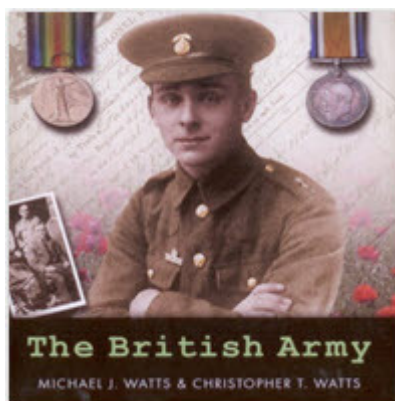
<https://shop.berksfhs.org/product/military-photographs-how-to-date-them/>



My Ancestor was a Woman at War (Book) £9.99

Researching female ancestors at war requires a different approach from that of standard military history research. This book explores women's military roles in the past, and discusses the wide range of occupations that women could undertake during a war.

<https://shop.berksfhs.org/product/my-ancestor-was-a-woman-at-war/>



My Ancestor was in the British Army (Book) £9.99

A comprehensive guide to British Army sources for Family Historians. Covers the years from 1660 to 1945. Includes Appendices giving references to Regimental Records and Army (War Office) records at The National Archives.

<https://shop.berksfhs.org/product/my-ancestor-was-in-the-british-army/>



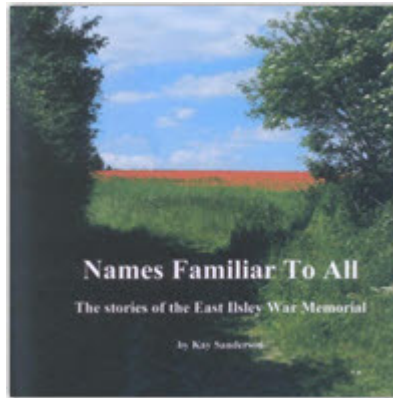
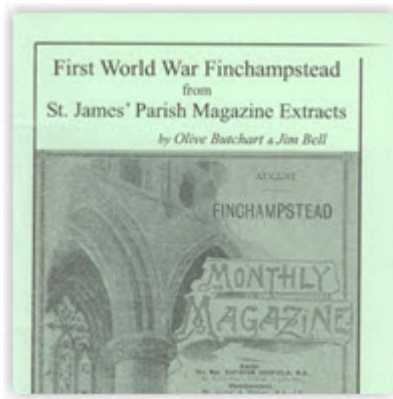
Reading in the Great War 1914-1916 (Book) and 1917-1919 (Book) £12.99 each

<https://shop.berksfhs.org/product/reading-in-the-great-war-1914-1916/>

<https://shop.berksfhs.org/product/reading-in-the-great-war-1917-1919/>

Finchampstead, St James – First World War Parish Magazine Extracts (Booklet) £3.50

<https://shop.berksfhs.org/product/finchampstead-st-james-first-world-war-parish-magazine-extracts/>



**East Ilsley,
“Names
Familiar to all”
(The Stories of
the East Ilsley
War Memorial)
Book £4.00**

Biographies of the

dead of WW1 and WW2 as listed on the East Ilsley War Memorials.

<https://shop.berksfhs.org/product/east-ilsley-names-familiar-to-all-the-stories-of-the-east-ilsley-war-memorial/>

This is a small selection from the society's bookshop. For more titles see:

<https://shop.berksfhs.org/>

Events

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



November Natter Group

Tue 07 Nov 18:45 for 19:00

**Discussion Group facilitated by Chad
Hanna and Gillian Stevens**

Online

Join in this online discussion from your own home, wherever you live. Open only to members of Berkshire Family History Society.

Informal discussion group, facilitated by Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens. Topics are chosen by the group on a monthly basis. End time varies.

Free to members.
Pre-booking required.

[Book now](#)



Motoring History in West Berkshire

Wed 08 Nov 14:00 - 16:00

Newbury Branch Meeting with talk by Tim Green

West Berkshire Museum, Newbury

This talk describes some of the motoring history of the Kennet Valley, from the birth of the motor car to the modern era.

Join Tim Green as he also discusses some of the businesses and characters from the motor trade between Theale in the east through Thatcham and Newbury to Marlborough in the west.

Free to members.
We request a donation of £5 from non-members.

[Find out more](#)



Drop In Advice Session

Thu 09 Nov 14:00 - 17:00

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.

[Find out more](#)



Horse Dealing in Reading

Thu 09 Nov 14:00 - 15:30

Talk by Caroline Piller

**The Centre for Heritage & Family History,
Reading**

Horse dealing was an extremely important trade in town and country.

Discover how the well-known horse dealers of Reading in the 19th and early 20th centuries carried out their business, which could be quite lucrative. The last dealers in Reading were Oliver Dixon Ltd, of Crescent Road Repository at Mockbeggar Farm. They were rewarded with royal patronage and worldwide fame but were forced to give up their premises in 1941. Oliver Dixon was well known in Reading, mixing socially with Sol Joel, the Palmers, Arthur Hill, Vincent and Dick Francis of Emmbrook.

Find out more in this fascinating talk.

After the talk, tea/coffee and cake will be available (included in the price).

Tickets cost £5 (members £4).

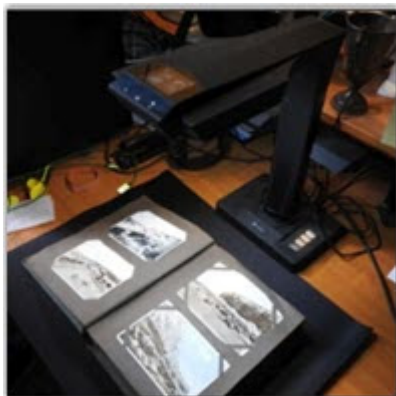
Pre-booking is preferred, but you can pay on the door, if there are spaces available.

[Book now](#)

Digitising your Family Memorabilia

Computer Branch Meeting with talk by Chad Hanna

Wed 15 Nov 19:30 - 21:30



Online

How to deal with photos, documents, objects and so on. Advice for getting these onto your computer. First of a series on digital media.

Pre-booking is required, because the meeting link will be emailed in advance. Booking ends one day before

event.

Free to members

£5 donation requested from non-members

[**Book now**](#)

The cup that cheers : tea before Victoria

Bracknell Branch Meeting with talk by Joy Pibworth

Fri 17 Nov 14:45 - 16:30

The New Priestwood Community Centre

We are all familiar with the concept of afternoon tea, developed during the reign of Queen Victoria. This talk describes the social and legal changes that had to take place in the 17th and 18th centuries before tea achieved its role as Britain's national drink.

Free to members

£5 donation requested from non-members

[**Find out more**](#)

World War One Army Records Workshop



Sat 18 Nov 11:00 - 13:00
Tutors: Barbara Taylor and Trevor Hancock

Online

Did your ancestor serve in the army in World War I?, then this workshop will help.

The majority of records for the men and women who served in the Great War 1914-1918 are now online (though not everything) but what are they and where can you find them? Have you got stuck with your research into a serviceman and need advice? We will discuss what sort of records are available from medal rolls to operational records and where they are to be found, as well as how to interpret them.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their own research questions to the session and also to share electronic copies of documents and images they would like to discuss.

Tickets cost £10 (members £9).

Pre-booking is required because places are limited.

[Book now](#)



Abingdon Branch Meeting

Mon 20 Nov 19:30 - 21:30

Long Furlong Community Centre

A chance for attendees to talk informally and seek advice about their family history research, break down a brick wall and/or share a eureka moment.

An enjoyable evening where even the most experienced family historian can learn something new.

This meeting is ideal for those new to family history.

Free to members

£5 donation requested from non-members

[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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Berkshire Family History Society
The Centre for Heritage & Family History
2nd Floor, Reading Central Library
Abbey Square, Reading
Berkshire, RG1 3BQ, UK

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