

1 message



in touch

your bi-weekly members' newsletter



Pangbourne in the late 1800s

Image colourised by Jim Bradshaw

Hi friend

We've had a bit of a design revamp this week - we hope you like it.

This week's image is easily identifiable on the [modern map](#) because of that very distinctive building in the background. Most of the buildings are still in place but modernisation has taken its toll and the sense of rural idyll is long gone.

Aside from our design revamp, we have our ever popular list of News sites and Events for you to enjoy



Exchange Journals

Eight more for you this week:

- Botany Bay FHS
- Calderdale FHS
- Doncaster & District FHS
- East of London FHS
- Family History ACT

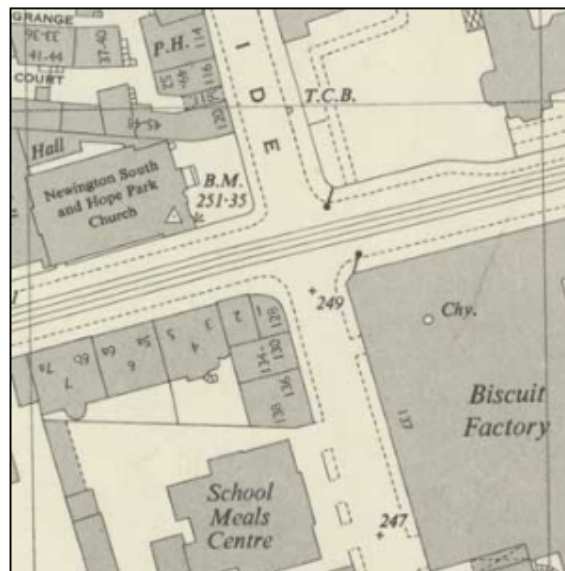
- Herefordshire FHS
- Ormskirk and District FHS
- Society of Australian Genealogists

[View on website \(login required\)](#)



Map images

Ordnance Survey National Grid maps, 1944-1973



New maps available online

A major new collection of almost 140,000 Ordnance Survey maps of England and Wales dating from the 1940s to the 1970s has gone online on the National Library of Scotland maps website.

The maps are the most detailed maps published by Ordnance Survey of England and Wales after the Second World War and they provide an unrivalled insight into towns and settlements in the mid-20th century.

The maps are the earliest Ordnance Survey maps to comprehensively show house numbers, which is great for Family Historians and those trying to trace the history of their house.

Search the National Library of Scotland maps website



Suffolk Archives temporary closure

Many of us have family history interests that spread much further than Berkshire - so for those with East Anglian ancestors, an update on the latest news from Suffolk Archives. The planned centralisation of all of the Suffolk archives into The Hold at Ipswich has been in the news for a while now. It has now been confirmed that the two archive offices facing closure, Bury St Edmunds Record Office and Lowestoft Record Office, will close at the end of August.

Unfortunately, the concentration of the records at Ipswich also requires the closure of The Hold for three months from the beginning of October. During this period there will be no access to original documents or microfilmed records either.

The good news is that volunteers from Suffolk Family History Society have transcribed many of the parish register entries and many of these can be found on Findmypast. There are many more which are available on CD ROM (or as digital downloads) from the [Suffolk FHS](#).

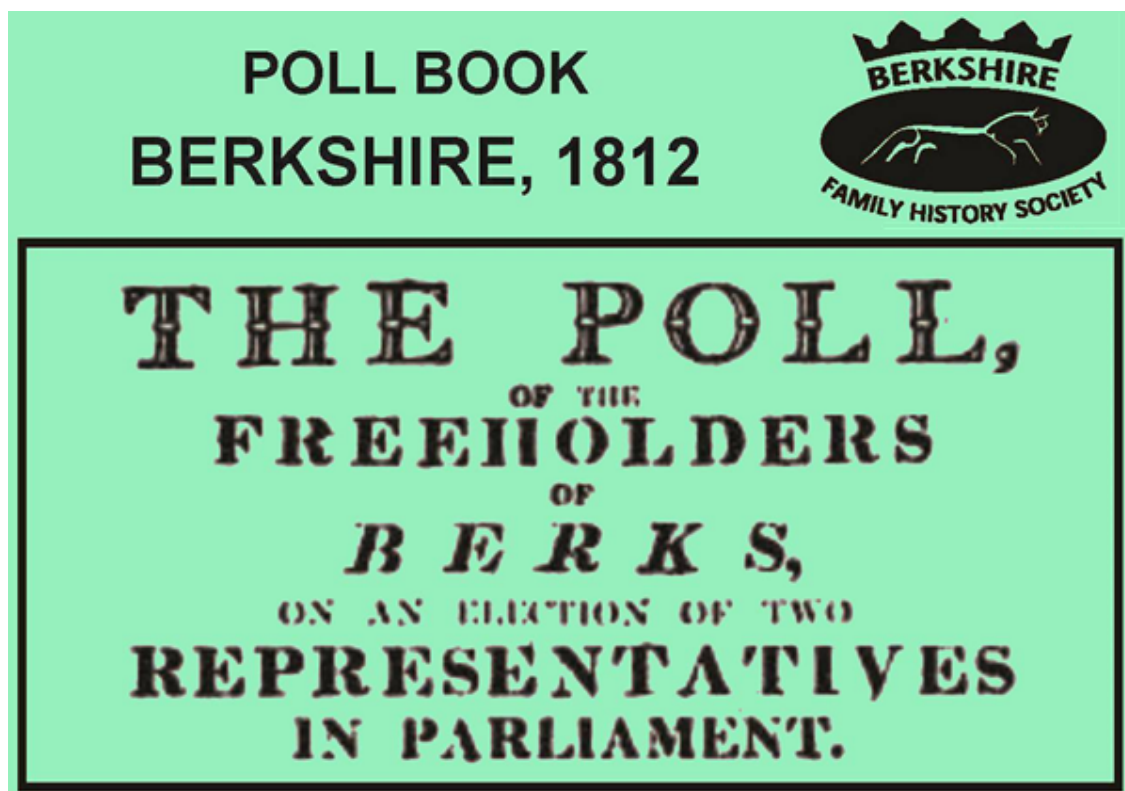
[Find out more](#)



**United Kingdom, Military Roll of Honour, 1945-
2022**

New at ancestry.co.uk - the UK Roll of Honour, 1945-1922. These records were created by [GOV.UK](https://gov.uk) for the purpose of providing a searchable index for the Armed Forces Memorial Roll of Honour. You can also find these on the [GOV.UK](https://gov.uk) website.

Find out more and search the database



Berkshire Poll Books & Electoral Registers

Have you explored Berkshire's Poll Books yet?

Before the Great Reform Act of 1832 the franchise (those that were entitled to vote) was very limited (essentially just freeholders) and varied between the two County constituencies and the Borough constituencies (Windsor, Reading, Wallingford and Abingdon). After the 1832 Reform Act about three times as many people could vote but there were many who couldn't. Later 'Reform' acts and Representation of the People Acts extended the franchise. For example, the 1918 act, famously extended the franchise to women.

Society volunteers have transcribed the polls books for 1727, 1768, 1796, 1812, 1818 and the electoral register for 1832. These are available to view for free on the Society's website under "Resources."

Search the poll books here (login required)



Industry & Archaeology Talks Series

Thu 11 Jul 14:00 - 15:30

Thu 08 Aug as above

Thu 12 Sep as above

The Centre for Heritage & Family History

The all series ticket includes all three 'Industry & Archaeology' talks.

Industrial Archaeology in Berkshire

Thu 11 Jul 14:00 - 15:30 with Jo Alexander Jones

A light-hearted talk where Jo explains how Industrial Archaeology developed across the globe and then onto the projects undertaken in Berkshire, such as;

Greys Court horse wheel

Hedges foundry in Bucklebury

Roadside pumps on the A4

[Read more...](#)

The Watlington Hoard

Thu 08 Aug 14:00 - 15:30 with James Mather

Metal detecting uncovers some interesting local finds. In this talk James focuses on his discovery of the Watlington Viking Hoard. A hugely significant find which has been described authoritatively as one that has changed history.

[Read more...](#)

More than Biscuits, Beer and Bulbs – Reading's Other Industries

Thu 12 Sep 14:00 - 15:30 with Jo Alexander Jones

Reading had many lesser-known industries that brought with them prosperity and just as importantly jobs, for the wider population. Most companies were privately owned. Jo's talk explores:

- Printing, ironworking and brick making
- Cox and Wyman
- Katesgrove Foundry
- Poulton's Waterloo Kiln Brickworks

[Read more...](#)

The all series ticket cost £12.50 (members £10).

Pre-booking is preferred but you can pay on the door for this series ticket at the first talk, if there are spaces available.

Tea, coffee and cake after the talk are included in the price.

[Read more and book](#)



Drop In Advice Session

Thu 11 Jul 14:00 - 17:00

Bracknell Library

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

Free for ALL family historians wherever your ancestors came from.

Booking not required

[View detail](#)



DNA Special Interest Group

Sat 13 Jul 14:30 - 16:30

Facilitator: Debbie Kennett

Online

This special interest discussion group is aimed at those wanting to get the most out of their DNA results. It is facilitated by international DNA expert, Debbie Kennett. Sessions are held quarterly, but there is no obligation to attend on a regular basis.

First time attendees are always welcome. This is a great opportunity to ask questions and to gain and share ideas for how you can use your results to solve questions and break down brick walls.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4).

Pre-booking required.

Book



Online Family History Advice Clinic

Mon 15 Jul 14:00 - 16:00

Online

Are you just getting started in family history and wanting guidance as to how to proceed? Or are you stuck at a particular “brick wall” and need some help?

These popular family history advice sessions are online, using Zoom* – so you can book a session wherever you live in the world. Sessions are 1:1, free of cost and are available to members and non-members alike.

You’ll receive help from our experienced research assistants. We’ll provide whatever help and suggestions that we can within the time frame and book a follow-on session with you if needed. Four, 25-minute, 1:1 slots are provided, starting at 14.00, 14.30, 15.05, and 15.35.

Free to all

Pre-booking required.

Check availability and book



Tour of Historical Wokingham

Tue 16 Jul 10:30 - 12:00

Tour Leader: Peter Must

Meeting Point will be notified within booking process

Join Peter Must, Chairman of the Wokingham Society, on this tour of the market town of Wokingham. Find out about the history of the town and see some of its older buildings.

Wokingham has a long and interesting history. From the 14th to the 16th centuries, it was well known for its bell foundry which supplied many churches across the South of England. Some of those bells survive today. During the Tudor period, Wokingham was well known as a producer of silk. Some of the houses involved in these cottage industries are still to be seen in Rose Street.

The walk will take 1½ hours and will be on made-up pathways.

Image: Wokingham-town-hall – user wx8, public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4).

Pre-booking is required because places are limited.

Book



Summer Outing to Buscot Park

Thu 18 Jul 13:00 - 17:00

Abingdon Branch meeting and visit

Meeting Point will be notified within booking process

Join us on a visit to Buscot Park near Faringdon. This late 18th Century house is the family home of Lord Faringdon, who continues to care for the property as well as the family art collection, the Faringdon Collection, which is displayed in the house.

Despite the grandeur of their scale, both the house and grounds remain intimate and idiosyncratic. After touring the house there are the extensive pleasure gardens to wander through including the Four Seasons Garden, the Peto Water Garden and woodland avenues, before heading to the Tea Room for a welcome cup of tea and slice of cake.

We will meet at 1pm in the car park and weather permitting enjoy a picnic before the house and grounds open at 2pm.

Entry to Buscot Park is £10 (over 65's).

Pre-booking is required.

Book



Create an enduring family tree in YourTrees

Thu 18 Jul 19:00 - 21:30

Tutor: Paul Barrett

Online

What is YourTrees?

YourTrees is a free member-only service to preserve your family history research, and to share and collaborate with other members. It's also replacement service for Members' Interests - but on an industrial level with nearly half a million names.

About the workshop

The workshop demonstrates how to create high quality digital records - how to properly record names, dates and places - and the importance of citations. Audience participation is welcomed, with plenty of opportunity to ask questions at the end of each section.

It is a member exclusive Zoom workshop and FREE.

Pre-booking required.

Book



Finding Great Grandad:

A practical introduction to tracing WW1 soldiers

Fri 19 Jul 14:45 - 16:30

Bracknell branch meeting with Speaker: Mike Cooper

The New Priestwood Community Centre

The talk is aimed at those researching ancestors or local figures involved in the First World War. This is an introduction to understanding and using the main sources of information readily available.

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

Pre-booking is **not** required

Photograph IWM

[View details](#)



World War Two RAF Records for Family Historians Workshop

Sat 20 Jul 11:00 - 13:00

Workshop with tutor Richard Marks

Online

In this workshop, we will decipher some of the terminology used by the RAF which commonly crops up in both official and personal documents. We will look at how the RAF recruited and trained its men and women during the war and what roles people undertook.

We will look at how the air force was structured and how this can help the family historian identify what their relative did while enlisted. We will also look at the aircraft they may have encountered and prisoners of war. Finally, we will discuss what sort of records are available and where they might be found, as well as how to interpret them.

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

Tickets cost £10 (members £9).

Pre-booking required

Book

That was just a small selection from our extensive events programme



Our events often sell out so please book early to avoid disappointment

