



Speenhamland - The Broadway - 1921

Image colourised by Jim Bradshaw

Hi friend

This view of [The Broadway, Speenhamland](#) was another easy find for our 'Then & Now' series. The Broadway and the layout of the surrounding streets are largely unchanged 104 years later as you can see from the side-by-side views on the excellent map service from the [National Library of Scotland](#). This may be due in no small part to the fact that the old London Road (A4) that passed right in front of the building in the centre, was bypassed by the building of the M4 motorway. that project was conceived in the 1930's but the section to the north of Newbury wasn't opened until 1971. The section to the east, towards London was constructed much earlier. Newbury Town Council has a [page devoted to this area](#) because the Clock House visible in the modern view was constructed in 1929.

In the early 1960's I was at secondary school in West Drayton, a town just north of London Heathrow Airport. Every week we were bussed to the swimming baths at Ealing for swimming lessons and our route was parallel to the M4 construction sites. For some reason the clay and subsoils let off the most appalling stench, despite the fact they had an array of disinfectant sprayer masts in constant operation. It was

awful just driving past - I can't imagine what it must have been like for nearby residents!



Exchange Journals

We have a few more exchange journals this week:

- Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire FHS
- Newfoundland and Labrador FHS
- Queensland FHS

[View on website](#)



London Picture Archive

Many of us have ancestors who lived in London at some stage in their lives. For those who like to see what their ancestor's streets, houses and places of work and leisure looked like - the London Picture Archive may well have some helpful images.

The London Picture Archive contains over 250,000 images of London from the collections at The London Archives and The Guildhall Art Gallery.

You can search the archive [here](#)



East Berkshire Maps Website

Every so often we chance upon something we haven't seen before and this website certainly caught my eye. If the eastern part of Berkshire is of interest to your family research and you aren't already using it, then the SL6.org.uk website will certainly be of interest.

The introduction to the site explains that historical maps of Maidenhead have been assembled from several national and local sources. The map collections of RBWM Museums & Libraries and Maidenhead Heritage Centre were scanned in 2017 aided by a grant from South East Museums and organised by volunteers from SL6.org.uk. However the map coverage of the website goes far beyond just Maidenhead, and covers Cookham, Bray, Datchet well and Windsor and surrounding area to a lesser extent.

There are almost 500 local maps available. Most have been geo-located which means that, with the surrounding map borders removed, they can be viewed alongside contemporary maps in the side-by-side tool. Thematic maps are also available. Alternatively, every map can be viewed individually with the map borders still in place. All the maps published are out of copyright and can be downloaded as .jpegs.

Definitely one to [check out](#)



Time for a Spring clean

Is your mailbox full? The previous edition of **in touch** could not be delivered to a few of you because you had used up your mailbox quota. And if we can't deliver *our* emails nor can your family, friends, utility companies etc. If you order anything from our bookshop or book an event, we won't be able to send your order, booking information, or Zoom link. If you email us, we won't be able to reply. If you complete a contact form on the website, we won't be able to reply. And the peak renewal season with its attendant email notices is coming soon for our longer term members.*

We can only hope that the members affected two weeks ago have realised how quiet it has become and have taken steps, but it's also a timely reminder to the rest of us of the need to do some spring cleaning. Very few providers allow unlimited storage so, sooner or later, this issue will catch up with most of us.

* Of course, one way to ensure that you never miss our renewal reminders is to make them unnecessary. How? It's easy - sign up for our new auto-renewal membership. UK-based members can do this by card or direct debit and overseas users by card. We introduced it in January this year and it has proved even more popular than we expected, with nearly 60% of new and renewing members opting in. It's no more difficult than 'normal' renewal *and* you only have to do it once. You don't need to wait because we'll refund any unexpired portion of your current annual membership when you convert. You can do it [here](#) - login required.

EVENTS



Drop In Advice Session

Tue 29 Apr 14:00 - 16:30

Hosted by Bracknell Branch

Wokingham Library

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

For ALL family historians wherever your ancestors came from.

Free for everyone. No need to book

[Find out more](#)



Using Facebook for Genealogy and Historical Research

Tue 29 Apr 19:30 - 21:30

Windsor Branch Meeting with speaker:

Claire Wilson

Online

When you think of resources for Genealogy & Historical Research, social media might not be the first thing that comes to mind. Social Media and in particular Facebook can be a powerful addition to your Research Toolkit.

Discover the benefits of using Facebook for research, including how to set up an account, navigate functions, find groups & pages, attend events and much more.



May Natter Group

Tue 06 May 19:00 - end time varies

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.

First topic = Coming home from war (1945 onwards) e.g. service personnel, prisoners of war, displaced people, ribbon around the tree, etc

Second topic = Anything you would like to ask, share, discuss.

Free to attend, but pre-booking is required so that the meeting link can be emailed to you.



VE Day Anniversary Lunch and Talk

Thu 08 May 13:00 - 15:30

Talk by:

Dr Richard Marks and Mike Cooper

The Centre for Heritage and Family History

Our VE Day 80th anniversary event begins with a fish and chips lunch. This is followed by a talk by Mike Cooper and Richard Marks on the collapse of Germany in 1945.

The Collapse of Germany in 1945

8th May 1945 marked the formal end of World War Two in Europe, when the allied nations accepted the final unconditional surrender of Germany's armed forces. Why

did Germany's armed forces, the same army and air force which stormed through Europe in 1939 and 1940, collapse? What was different in 1945 from 1940 when Germany controlled most of Europe, other than the neutral nations such as Sweden, Spain and Switzerland? Military and Industrial Historians Mike Cooper and Richard Marks will examine the situation in 1945 and reveal why Germany was defeated. The war in the Far East would continue to rage for another three months, but that is another story...

Tickets £11 (non-members £12). Booking essential.

Image: Germany surrenders 'Published by Photographic Arts, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

Book



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Find out more

That was just a small selection from our extensive
events programme



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

[View email in browser](#)

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Berkshire Family History Society CIO, The Centre for Heritage & Family History
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