

U3A Genealogy Newsletter April 2026

Which is the best family history website for you ?

Don't miss the '*Who do you think you are*' magazine guide to choosing the best family history website, and the pros and cons of the top four: Ancestry, Findmypast, TheGenealogist and MyHeritage...

The Internet has allowed thousands of people to discover their family history, thanks to the growing number of commercial family history websites that have digitised millions of historic records from around the world. But this now presents a challenge – if you only want to subscribe to one website, how do you decide which is the best family history website for you? and it helps to know which parts of the UK you are most likely to be researching, as Ancestry and Findmypast in particular have exclusive relationships with specific archives and local authorities. Ancestry has Birmingham records, for example, while neighbouring Staffordshire records are on Findmypast.

Now, thanks to that great family history magazine '*Who do you think you are*' their new guide published at the end of February, offers the help needed to make decisions on what's best for your research so, click on this link for more information and if you don't already, why not subscribe to this very good magazine for help researching your family ancestors:

<https://whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/getting-started/choosing-the-best-genealogy-subscription-website/>

Recent new records and updated collections available online:

FamilySearch.org <https://www.familysearch.org> – free

England, Sussex Parish Registers 1530-1910	4,610 records added to their collection
England & Wales, Death Registration Index 1837-2007	493,559 records - ditto -
England & Wales, Non-Conformist Record Index (RG4-8) 1588-1977	102,147 records - ditto -
Find A Grave Index 1500s – today	224 records - ditto -

Findmypast.com (£)

Britain, Directory of Women Teachers 1927	13,484 records in a new collection
University of London School Register 1831-1890	87,119 records - ditto -
College of Preceptors, Student Registers and Diploma Examinations 1881-1931	20,014 records - ditto -
Britain, The Medical Registers 1859-1895	393,288 records - ditto -
Britain, Register of Anaesthetics 1909-1911	2,276 records - ditto -
Surgeons' Case Books, University College London 1836-1851	16,277 records - ditto -
London (and Provincial) Medical Directory 1847-1869	511,311 records - ditto -
Newspaper Archives, ' <i>World and His Wife</i> ' 1904-1908	3,974 pages

thegenealogist.co.uk (£)

In partnership with **Malvern Family History Society**, they bring you 77,266 individual records from historic Worcestershire parish registers with newly available Baptism, Marriage and Burial Records, important details to help genealogists piece together family stories from centuries past.

Finally,

If you enjoy **family history or genealogy**, U3As '*Missing Pieces*' offers a new way to use your research skills beyond the family tree. This summer, we're inviting members to explore the stories behind **listed buildings in their local area** – discovering the people who lived, worked, and gathered in them, and sharing those findings with national heritage projects. By combining local archives, online sources, and personal memories, you can help uncover the human stories that don't always appear in official records. Whether you're tracing former residents, connecting buildings to local families, or contributing photographs and research, your knowledge can help build a richer picture of the past. Join in and use your genealogy skills to help reveal the **missing pieces of local history**. The link to the webpage is here:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/smart-website-search?q=Missing+Pieces&Search>

There will be a recording of a talk on this page from the end of April which will have more information about the project and how to take part...

Citation: Alison Allison (u3a Support Team)