

SUSSEX DISCOVERY – SEARCH TIPS



GENERAL TIPS

- You must use either Surname or Location in your search.
- Any combination of Surname, Forename & Location may be used EXCEPT Forename alone.
- Surname & Forename require at least 3 letters.
- If you enter 2 names they will be searched for separately
- Reset will clear ALL fields

- Choose Location from the drop-down list. Type the first letter of a location to jump down the list.
- To clear a location, choose the 'dashes' at the top of the list.

- When you enter a Year, you can adjust it using the arrows to the right.

- Don't forget to choose how you would like to Match the surname/forename.
Similarity - Matches names with similar components eg Brown and Browne
Exact - Matches names precisely with what you have entered
Regular Expression - Picks up patterns in names

The search interface includes fields for Surname, Forename, and Location. Below these are Year Range (Optional) and Match Type (applies to Surname only). There are also Reset and Search buttons.

The Location dropdown menu shows a search bar with a dash and a list of options including ALBOURNE and ALCISTON.

The Year Range (Optional) field is a text input with up and down arrows for adjustment.

The Match Type dropdown menu shows options: Similar Matches, Exact Matches, and Regular Expression.

WILDCARDS

Wildcards increase the chance of results where the exact spelling or length of a name is not known.

- Both name fields accept wildcards.
- Wildcards are symbols that replace single or multiple unknown letters

Choose Match Type **EXACT MATCHES** for Wildcards to work



eg. Franc?s = Francis or Frances

eg. Fran* = Francis, Frances, Frank, Francesca

Use combinations for multiple differences eg W*lv?n = Wolvin, Wollvin, Woolvin, Woolven, Woollven etc.

PATTERN-BASED SEARCH

This is a sequence of characters that specifies a match pattern in text. Choose Match Type **REGULAR EXPRESSION**



eg. ^Will = names starting with "Will" ie Williams, Willis, Willett, Willard, Willmar, Willson

eg. son\$ = Hanson, Johnson, Parson, Robertson, Thompson

eg. Sm[iy]th = Smith or Smyth

Data Set	Min. Year	Max. Year	Total Records
Baptism 1*	1509	1920	1,576,077
Baptisms**	1525	1912	1,195,030
Marriage Licence	1601	1739	2,668
Marriage Records	1530	1968	679,222
Marriage Records Strays	1539	1850	15,463
Burials	1506	2001	959,514

Birth Certificates	1822	1996	6,857
Wills Index	1408	1974	19,692
Inscriptions	1557	2024	4,692

War Graves in Sussex	1914	1947	4,854
War Memorials	1914	1945	1,080

Other	1031	2001	212,821
-------	------	------	---------

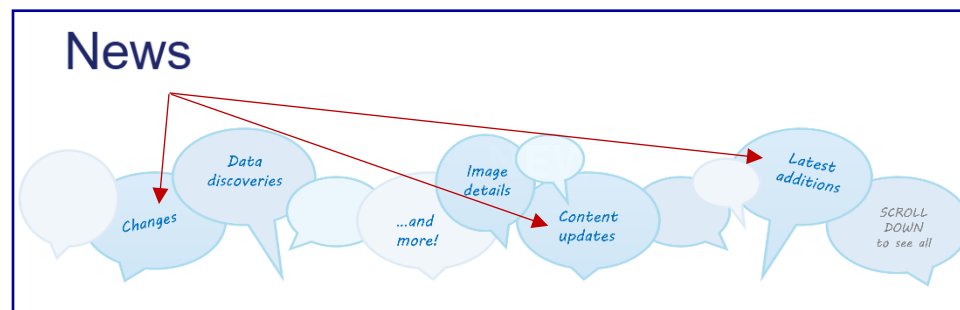
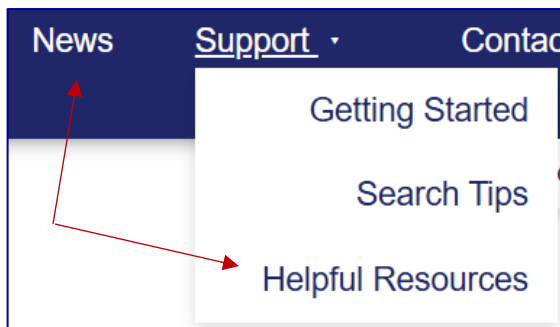
Data Set	Total Records
1811 Census	1,178
1821 Census	1,602
1831 Census	1,648
1841 Census	101,173
1851 Census	228,191
1861 Census	61,129
1871 Census	73,118
1881 Census	71,963
1891 Census	83,381
1901 Census	2,245
Census Church	86
Census Other	2,412

Family Histories	1,334
MyTree Names	485,957

Data Set	Min. Year	Max. Year	Total Records
Apprentices	1564	1837	8,498
Asylums	1903	1918	1,343
Directory			691
Directory Deaths	1880	1890	2,874
Employees	1672	1939	1,706
Hastings & Rother WW1 burials	1914	1921	271
Hearth Tax	1662	1666	25,873
Newspaper Births	1900	1950	3,350
Newspaper Deaths	1899	1954	5,263
Newspapers	1628	2007	4,229
Officials			43
Pauper	1800	1826	782
Pedlar Certificates	1913	1931	189
Property	1845	1845	1,131
Publication	1174	1992	8,330
Sheriffs			773
Tax Records	1664	1873	60,838

* Baptisms searchable by child, father & mother. ** Baptisms searchable by child only

These Datasets are updated and added to regularly.
You can follow these changes via the [NEWS](#) and [SUPPORT/Helpful Resources](#) Pages.



Helpful Resources

Sussex Parish Map

Credit: Based on 'the Map of Sussex Parishes as at 1800' by Brian Short and Susan Rowland

[Parish Map Download](#)



Data Content Catalogue

[SSX Discovery April 2026 Catalogue.pdf](#)