

**ALWAYS BOOK IN ADVANCE, IF YOU CAN, TO BE SURE OF YOUR PLACE**  
**TALKS** Book all five 'Institutions' talks for **£20** (£16 Members) for a **20 per cent saving**. NOTE: the third talk is on a Saturday. If places remain available, you can pay on the day. Details at [www.berksfhs.org.uk](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk)

**BOOK ONLINE** – see 'EVENTS' (home page menu).

- book and pay online, (you need your membership number and current coupon code to secure your member's saving) or
- download a booking form (PDF), complete and return it, with a cheque (payable to Berkshire Family History Society for the sum due), to 'EVENTS' at the address at the foot of the page.

**BOOK IN PERSON** at **The Centre for Heritage and Family History**

You can book for any event whenever The Centre is open. Pay by cash, or use a credit or debit card. If you are a member, show your current membership card to secure your place at the Members' price.

**BOOK BY PHONE** – **0118 950 9553** when The Centre is open

Ring during opening hours, to request your booking form. Note: The society cannot accept card payments over the phone.

**The Centre's Research Zone** is usually open for an hour before (or after) most events for personal research.

**WHEREVER YOUR ANCESTORS CAME FROM**, The Centre offers you the best facility for family history research in the area. It hosts lively and informative sessions for family and local historians, including regular lunchtime drop-in sessions, a monthly evening discussion group, a quarterly DNA interest group, and tours for individuals and groups.

**LEARN MORE** at **The Centre in the heart of Reading**

A two-minute walk from the town's main shopping area, The Centre is very easy to get to, whether you use a Park & Ride service, or take the train or bus into Reading. For evening and weekend events, free and secure car parking is available, next to the library.

**DISCOVER MORE** about **Berkshire Family History Society**

Pick up the leaflets detailing products, services and activities provided by the charity, go to [www.berksfhs.org.uk](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk) or email [events@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:events@berksfhs.org.uk)



**The Centre for Heritage and Family History**

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Reading Central Library, Abbey Square, Reading,  
Berkshire RG1 3BQ

0118 950 9553

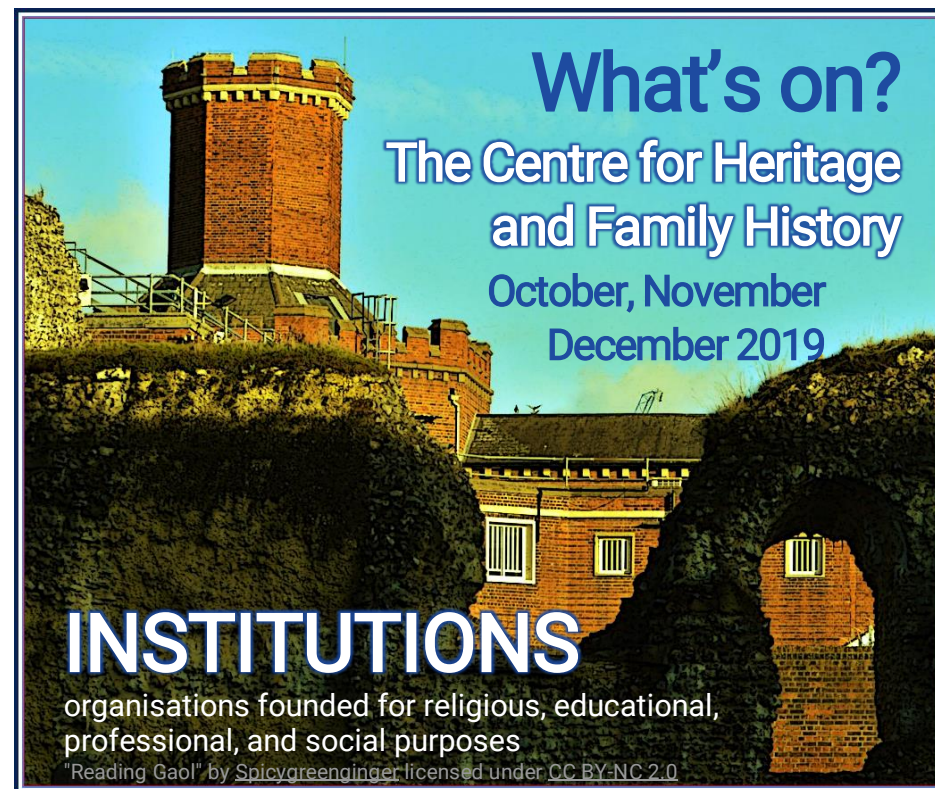
[www.berksfhs.org.uk](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk)

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Events: October-December 2019

v1 August 2019



In this quarter, the focus of society events moves to institutions. Discover the impact of the Abbey on the town of Reading. Meet some of the men and women incarcerated in Reading prison and learn of the prison's links with Irish history. Hear the stories of the Foundling Hospital and the Royal Berkshire Hospital. And how did education develop in Reading in the 19<sup>th</sup> century?

## PUBLIC PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

**SIX AFTERNOON TALKS** – terrific topics, tea, cake and expert speakers

**BEGINNERS' FAMILY HISTORY COURSE**

**WORKSHOPS** – writing up your family history and a workshop dedicated to Votes for Women and the suffragette movement

**Bringing together family history and heritage**

## What's on at The Centre: October, November and December

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<b>FRIDAY</b> <b>4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER</b> <b>TALK</b> 2.00-4.00 pm <b>ADDED FAMILY HISTORY TALK</b>	<b>The Foundling Hospital with Simon Burbidge</b> Incorporated by Royal Charter in 1739, the hospital's governors and guardians included many prominent figures of the day. Discover the stories of the hospital and of the young foundlings for whom it provided care. <b>TICKETS £5</b> (Members £4) incl TEA/COFFEE AND CAKE
<b>SATURDAY</b> <b>5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER</b> 2.30-4.30 pm <b>THIRD MEETING</b>	<b>DNA and family history: Special interest group</b> <b>Facilitator: Debbie Kennett</b> For those wanting to get the most from DNA test results. Open to all. Sessions led by an international DNA expert. <b>TICKETS £3</b> incl TEA/COFFEE AND CAKE Pay on the day
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER</b> <b>BEGINNERS' COURSE</b> 1.00-3.00 pm <b>SESSION ONE OF FOUR</b> <b>MUST BOOK</b>	<b>Beginners' Family History Course</b> <b>Tutors: Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens</b> Where to start, how to progress and good research practices. Covers use of civil registration records, censuses, parish registers and modern wills. Plus the content, strengths and limitations of key genealogy websites. <b>TICKETS £30</b> (Members £24) Further sessions: 16 <sup>th</sup> October, 13 <sup>th</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup> November
<b>THURSDAY</b> <b>10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER</b> <b>'INSTITUTIONS'</b> 2.00-4.00 pm <b>TALK ONE</b> <b>IN SERIES OF FIVE</b>	<b>Reading Abbey with John Painter</b> How did one of Europe's largest royal monasteries impact on the town? Learn of its dissolution after 400 years, its use as a royal palace, and its destruction in the English Civil War. Plus the Abbey Quarter redevelopment and preservation of the Abbey Ruins. <b>TICKETS £5</b> (Members £4) incl TEA/COFFEE AND CAKE
<b>SATURDAY</b> <b>19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER</b> <b>WORKSHOP</b> 11.00-1.00 pm <b>MUST BOOK</b>	<b>Writing up your family history Tutor: Dr Barry Jerome</b> So you have started your research. How do you start to set down and describe a family tree? The workshop gets you started on putting it in writing, suggests a structure, and equips you to write-while continuing your research. <b>TICKETS £10</b> (Members £9) Places limited. Free parking
<b>THURSDAY</b> <b>24<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER</b> <b>'INSTITUTIONS'</b> 2.00-4.00 pm <b>TALK TWO</b> <b>IN SERIES OF FIVE</b>	<b>The History of Reading Gaol with Mark Stevens</b> Berkshire's County Archivist explores the history of the prison from the Georgian period to 1920 and its initial closure. Learn of Victorian 'hard labour, hard board and hard fare', Oscar Wilde, executions at the prison, and Reading's little-known role in 20 <sup>th</sup> century Irish history. <b>TICKETS £5</b> (Members £4) incl TEA/COFFEE AND CAKE

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<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER</b> <b>WALK</b> 2.00-3.30 pm <b>MUST BOOK</b>	<b>Tour of Reading University's London Road campus with the Friends of Reading University</b> Explore the campus and the early university history. Visit pre-existing buildings (East Thorpe, Acacias and Green Bank), Learn of the links with the Palmer and Sutton families and the development of the University (Great Hall, Library, War Memorial and gymnasium). Also includes a visit to the Museum of English Rural Life. <b>TICKETS £5</b> (Members £4) incl TEA/COFFEE AND CAKE
<b>SATURDAY</b> <b>9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b> <b>'INSTITUTIONS'</b> 12.00-2.00 pm <b>TALK THREE</b> <b>IN SERIES OF FIVE</b>	<b>Murder at Reading Gaol with Angela Buckley</b> Stories of some of Victorian Reading's prison inmates, including the heinous acts of baby farmer, Amelia Dyer, and the story of Charles Wooldridge whose death by hanging in 1896 inspired Oscar Wilde, himself an inmate at that time, to write <i>'The Ballad of Reading Gaol'</i> . <b>TICKETS £5</b> (Members £4) incl TEA/COFFEE AND CAKE
<b>SATURDAY</b> <b>16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b> <b>WORKSHOP</b> 11.00-1.00 pm <b>MUST BOOK</b>	<b>Suffragettes Tutor: Dr Margaret Simons</b> Fascinated by the struggle for female suffrage? Maybe you have a suffragist connection? The National Archives' records, newspapers, oral histories, diaries, personal papers, photographs and film footage provide a wealth of resources that add to your understanding of a cause that attracted support and opposition from men and women. <b>TICKETS £10</b> (Members £9) Places limited. Free parking
<b>THURSDAY</b> <b>21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER</b> <b>'INSTITUTIONS'</b> 2.00 – 4.00 pm <b>TALK FOUR</b> <b>IN SERIES OF FIVE</b>	<b>The history of Reading's Hospitals with Lionel Williams</b> Discover the story of Reading Hospitals from 1837 to the present day in a fascinating talk. The focus is the Royal Berkshire Hospital, which opened in 1839 on London Road, but information will also be included about Battle and Prospect Park Hospitals. <b>TICKETS £5</b> (Members £4) incl TEA/COFFEE AND CAKE
<b>THURSDAY</b> <b>5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b> <b>'INSTITUTIONS'</b> 2.00 – 4.00 pm <b>TALK FIVE</b> <b>IN SERIES OF FIVE</b>	<b>Reading's 19<sup>th</sup> century schools with Joan Dils</b> For much of the 1800s, the churches and wealthy individuals were the main benefactors instrumental in setting up local schools. Then from 1871, the local authority in Reading also became involved, providing education through the Reading School Board. <b>TICKETS £5</b> (Members £4) incl TEA/COFFEE AND CAKE