

010 8th May

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in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



Wash Common, Newbury - Two of five Burial Mounds, by Penny Stokes ©

Revered by the Victorians as containing casualties from the 1st Battle of Newbury in 1643, they are now known to be Bronze Age tombs alongside an ancient trackway

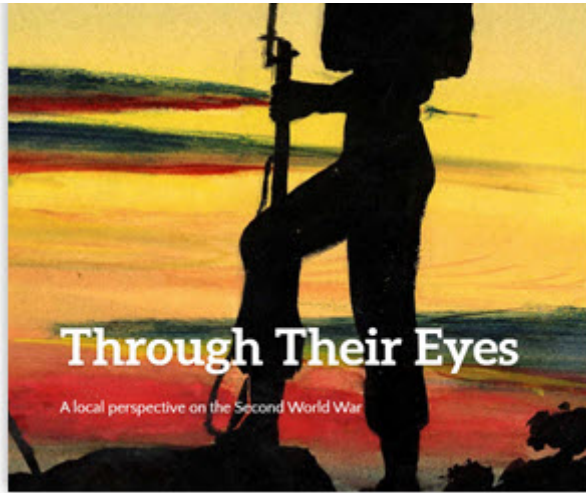


75 years ago, Europe came together to institute a lasting peace on the continent. After such hardship, our forebears came together to say, "never again".

Even as we must stay apart from our friends and our families, this is day to remember we are never alone.



To mark the 75th anniversary of VE day, the Berkshire Record Office has launched a new virtual exhibition which aims to show something of



Berkshire life during the Second World War, and also, how the county marked the War's end.

It's an excellent exhibition and includes a wide range of Berkshire documents, memorabilia and images from across the county – do check it out if you have the time.

[Visit the site](#)

The Berkshire Record Office and Ancestry have teamed up to give **free access to Berkshire's electoral registers, up to 1965**, online FREE of charge, whilst the BRO is closed to the public. Follow the link below to the BRO's website, where you will find a link to access the registers.

[Visit the site](#)

Oxfordshire Record Office's tithe maps are now available online for the first time, including Steventon and North Moreton in the pre-1974 county of Berkshire. The maps cover approximately 44% of historic Oxfordshire and range

in date from 1838 to 1884, with the majority dating from the 1830s to 1850s.

[Visit the site](#)

New Landscapes

Enclosure in Berkshire

Don't forget Berkshire Record Office's enclosure maps have been online for some time.

Between 1700 and 1900 the landscape of Berkshire was transformed. The open fields (particularly predominant in the north), common lands and manorial wastes were swept away, to be replaced by small fields surrounded by hedgerows. During these two centuries over half of the county was thus affected.

The process which brought about this change is known as enclosure.

[Visit the site](#)

The Great Exhibition began on 1st May 169 years ago. It's an event many of our ancestors may have attended. In 2020, using the archive of plans, images and maps, the building which became known as the "Crystal Palace" has been regenerated digitally.

You can take a virtual tour on The Royal Parks website:

[Visit the site](#)

Radley History Club

**World War Two
Memories**

Local history society in Oxfordshire

Oral history

Returning to WWII, **Radley History Club** member and past chairman, Christine Wootton, is preparing a series of short accounts of Radley

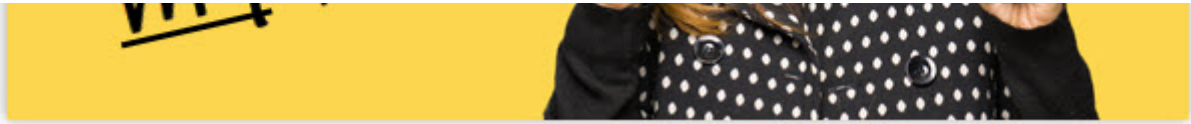
experiences in the Second World War. While she's making use of recordings from the Club's oral history collection, this is a wider project using material Christine has acquired during research on other topics. Some of her accounts are about the war experiences of individual Radley residents (often in ways unrelated to Radley) and some about life on the home front in the village.

The project is a work in progress but the first accounts were published on the [Club website](#) in April 2020 to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day on 8/9 May 2020. They include:

Bill Small, a private in the 4th Battalion Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (a Territorial unit), who served in France as part of the British Expeditionary Force. He was captured by the Germans in May 1940 during the retreat to Dunkirk and spent the rest of the war as a POW.

Charles Lockett, who joined the RAF in 1931, becoming a squadron leader in 1938. In September 1939, he led No. 226 (Bomber) Squadron to France. Charles was shot down and captured in May 1940 during a raid on Reims. He was a prisoner at several camps, ending the war at Colditz.

[Visit the site](#)



We said we would, and we have.

Our request for members' photos has already borne fruit and this edition uses the first. Please keep them coming and if you can supply an informative caption too that'd be really helpful, please.

All you need to do is email them to:

webmaster@berksfhs.org.uk

*The images must be ones where you own the copyright.
Landscape images with a blue or broken sky are best, please.
We may crop images to suit the page layout.*



Berkshire Family History Society
for family history research - in Berkshire and beyond

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