

005 29th Mar 20

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Berkshire Family History Society



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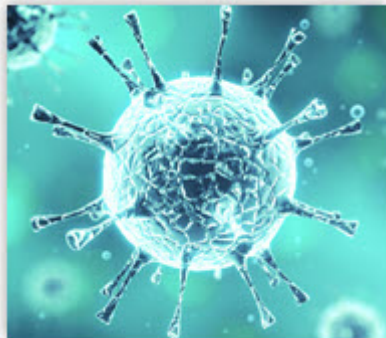
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Forward



We are living in unprecedented times. Here, in Britain, as in many other countries, we're in lockdown, unable to go out except for essentials and cut off from physical contact with friends and family. Our demographic will include a lot of the more vulnerable. Our thoughts are with you. Stay safe.

Finding things to keep your mind busy when your physical activity is limited is essential. In this edition of **in touch** we offer some family-history oriented ideas that we hope will help.

Business as Unusual

In the background, Berkshire Family History Society volunteers continue to work hard on your behalf even though the Centre is currently closed and face-to-face Branch Meetings and Events suspended. Internal meetings have switched seamlessly to the safety of our homes using Zoom web meetings and the Centre's answerphone is being answered remotely.

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In the short period we had between the Centre being closed to the public and the building being locked down by our landlords, Reading Borough Council, a small team of volunteers removed as much Bookshop stock as possible and also CD duplication material. See below for what that means for our Bookshop.

Project volunteers who usually work from the Berkshire Record Office are now transcribing and checking transcripts from home. We have also been busy engaging with all of our planned speakers and tutors and now, for the very first time in the society's history, have an online programme of events which you can enjoy wherever you live in the world. There is still much activity in hand and more to do and resolve – but a heartfelt thank you to all of our volunteers who have helped us put these contingency steps into place in such a short period of time.

Full details of our online events programme are given below. **We are adding new online events all the time - you can keep up-to-date by checking the website**

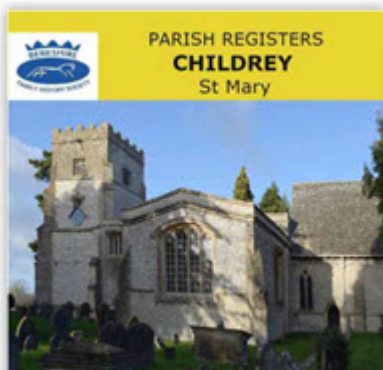


Change to Shop Working

For the time being we will be processing and dispatching CD orders only. There could be a long wait for books so we suggest you hold off on placing book orders for now.

On the plus side, our range of CDs continues to grow and this enforced downtime is a great time to check out what we have to offer.

[Hop to the Shop!](#)



STOP PRESS BRAND NEW CD

No sooner had we removed the CD duplication equipment from the Centre than it was whirring away in a volunteer's home, producing a **new Parish Registers CD for CHILDREY St Mary**.

 It's available **NOW** for online ordering[Buy the Childrey St Mary CD](#)

Online Events

The first of our webinars will be the **DNA Special Interest Group** on **4th April** and we'll be following that up with the **Beginners' Family History** course.

A bonus is that the sessions will be open to everyone wherever they are located. Most take place in our afternoons, some in the evenings, which means members in the Americas and as far as the West Coast will be able to join us - and we're working on some ideas for our Australasian members.

Book a place on:

[4th Apr: DNA Special Interest Group \(places are going fast!\)](#)

[14th Apr: Beginners' Family History Course](#)

More events are being added all the time. Check the website for the latest updates!

[View the complete Events List](#)



Image Colorisation

As you think of your family, perhaps you'll look out that treasured album, or that old shoebox of family photos and look back on the days when the world was recorded in black and white.

Recent advances in AI (Artificial Intelligence) and deep learning algorithms have produced a flurry of software programs that will, in seconds, colorise an old photo with a surprising level of authenticity. The example above comes from <https://www.myheritage.com/incolor> although there are others, and there are desktop applications such as **Adobe Photoshop Elements 2020** that include this capability in their toolkit.

Other online tools include:

[\[.\] DeepAI](#)

[ALGORITHMIA](#)

My Heritage have just announced a special offer:

"Here at MyHeritage, we want to do our part to help the genealogy community keep busy and even have some fun during these challenging times. That's why we're giving all users **free and unlimited access to [MyHeritage In Color™](#)**, our new feature that automatically colorizes black and white photos, for an entire month. Ordinarily only 10 photos can be colorized by users who do not have a Complete plan, but now, you can colorize as many photos as you'd like for free "

If you're quick, you should be able to make inroads into your collection and bring some colour to great grandma's cheeks!





Digital.Bodleian

The Bodleian Library's digitized collections are open to users from around the world for learning, teaching, personal enjoyment and research. Check out their website to explore the 914,000 plus freely available digital objects on offer, including Corbett's Parliamentary History, maps (including many showing lands owned by the Oxford colleges across the country, political cartoons and campaign posters, ancient manuscripts, and much more.

The Bodleian Library is the main research library of the University of Oxford, one of the oldest libraries in Europe, and the second-largest library in Britain after the British Library.

[Visit Digital.Bodleian](#)

Stay safe - stay home - stay connected



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

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