

1 messages

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Berkshire FHS News**Berkshire FHS** <noreply@berksfhs.org>

Sun, May 17 2020 16:57:17

To: Paul <paul.b@rrett.me.uk>[Not displaying correctly? View in your browser](#)**in touch**

Berkshire Family History Society

**Newbury's Pelican Theatre**

Flourished from 1802 until the 1840s, but was not demolished until 1976

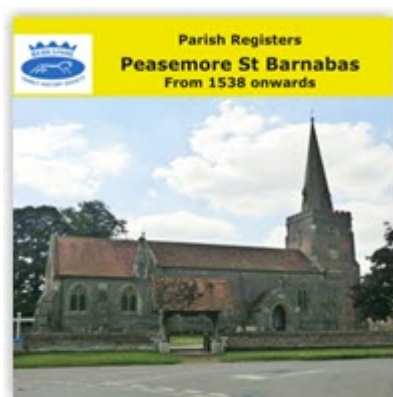
Around the world, some governments make the first tentative steps towards lifting the lockdown, while some report a renewed infection rate. Who'd've guessed we'd all have to learn a 4th R - the importance of $r < 1$?

Whatever the situation for the general population we are very aware our membership includes a higher than the average number of people who are self-isolating or shielding, and for whom the return of normal life is a way off yet. So



we shall continue to update you with events and links to help keep you occupied.

- Our volunteers remain hard at it, transcribing and publishing more Berkshire records and **we have yet another new CD** for you to enjoy this week.
- Our **online events programme** continues to not only be popular but to attract a much wider audience from around the country. We have news of upcoming events that are open to all in our virtual world.
- And finally we have a few slightly more obscure archives for you to visit.



Just out! Peasmore, St Barnabas Parish Registers CD

This fully indexed CD contains a full transcription of the parish registers and an extensive Parish History. It's available in the shop now and CD orders are being fulfilled from volunteers' homes.

The coverage is:

- Baptisms 1538-2006
- Banns 1727-1948
- Marriages 1540-2003
- Burials 1538-2007

[Click to view in Shop](#)

Events ahead and Merchant Navy Online Workshop

The society has held some great online events recently, ranging from discussion groups, natter evenings, a Beginners' Family History Course, branch meetings and a Caribbean Records Workshop. The latter brought together people with ancestral

connections to Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, Anguilla, St Vincent and other islands.

Check out the [events section](#) to find out what's coming up, including:
branch meetings (free to all society members, wherever you live)

- talks
- workshops
- discussion groups
- courses

More are being added every week.

[View Events List](#)



Merchant Navy Records with Tony Wright, 20 Jun 12:30

- Have Merchant Navy ancestors and would like to know more about their service history?
- Interested in the types of information available and where and how to find it?
- The workshop will also look at the Seaman's Certificate of Continuous Discharge, Crew Lists, Ship's Logs, Lloyds Register of Shipping, Ship's Movement cards, and some online resources for finding more information.

The workshop costs £9 for members (£10 non-members) and places are limited. Pre-booking is required, because joining instructions will be emailed in advance.

To enjoy this workshop, you will need a computer (or laptop/tablet) which has speakers and a microphone. Ideally, also a web-cam. You also need to be able to access your emails from this device. First-time users will be asked to download a small piece of software, which will be sent in advance.

[Book your place now!](#)



Reading (Town) During the Reign of Elizabeth I

21st May 14:00 start but please join early

Good Queen Bess and the Golden Age of English history are always a draw and this online talk about Reading during that era is no exception. It's our most popular online event so far and bookings are up, up, up. But that's the beauty of Webinars - we're not constrained by room capacity - the more the merrier.

The talk is given by **Joan Dils**, an experienced local historian and writer specialising in 16th and 17th century Berkshire. Her latest book, "History of Reading*", was published in October 2019. She is an Honorary Visiting Fellow in History at the University of Reading and a former part-time lecturer in local history at both Reading and Oxford Universities.

The talk costs just £4 for members, and pre-booking is required. Don't miss the opportunity to secure your place.

**Joan's book is available [in our shop](#) although we are only able to dispatch CD orders at present. If you can't wait to obtain a copy, it's also available through regular outlets such as Amazon and Waterstones online*

Book your place - now!



Lamsdorf Long March

A new website has been launched by the sons of survivors to remember the 75th anniversary of the Lamsdorf Long March – the evacuation on foot of 21,867 prisoners of war held by the Germans in Stalag VIII B (344) and its work camps in Lamsdorf, Upper Silesia.

21,867 men made the march west into central Germany, many shot by guards, or dying of starvation, exposure and disease, along the way.

This is the story of the march and 48 of the survivors, told through accounts of

their experience and through maps.

[Visit the site](#)

The Oxford Reference logo is displayed within a light beige rectangular box with a thin dark blue border. The text "Oxford Reference" is in a serif font, with "Oxford" in dark blue and "Reference" in a lighter blue.

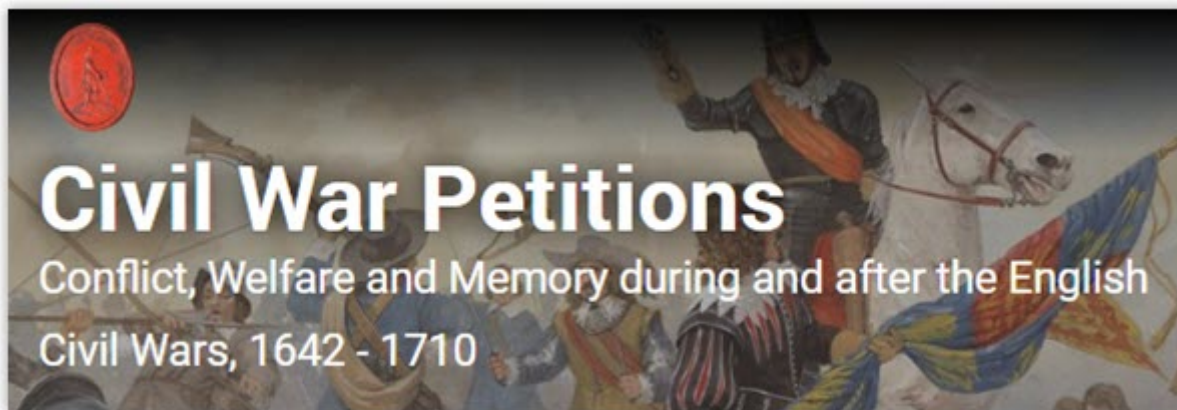
The Oxford Dictionary of Family Surnames in Britain and Ireland

We only just heard about this one but, for a very brief period only their surnames dictionary is available free. **You need to act quickly because free access ends 21st May**

This huge dictionary is the ultimate reference work on family names of the UK, covering English, Scottish, Welsh, Irish, Cornish, and immigrant surnames. It includes every surname that currently has more than 100 bearers, and those that had more than 20 bearers in the 1881 census.

Each entry contains lists of variant spellings of the name, an explanation of its origins (including the etymology), lists of early bearers showing evidence for formation and continuity from the date of formation down to the 19th century, geographical distribution, and, where relevant, genealogical and bibliographical notes, making this a fully comprehensive work on family names.

[Visit the site](#)



For those whose ancestral journey has taken them back into the 17th century, here is a lesser-known website which may illuminate how the English Civil Wars impacted upon your family.

Civil War Petitions contains petitions to the state from veterans and their families for welfare payments as a result of injuries and bereavement sustained during the English Civil Wars. It aims to share information on the human costs of this devastating conflict, which continued to affect communities long after the fighting was over.

[Visit the site](#)



Protestation Returns

And don't forget that the 1642 Protestation Returns are online at the Parliamentary Archive. Not all parish returns for Berkshire have survived, but for those that have, this is the closest you will get to a census in the period leading up to the English Civil Wars. Compton's return, for example, lists 71 males who took the oath of allegiance to Charles I.

You need to know which county and parish your ancestors were living in to trace them in the returns. But the reward for finding them is sight of the original return and usually also naming the minister, churchwardens and village constable, so a snapshot of formal parish life. The downside - males only and no hint of family

relationships, other than shared surnames.

[Visit the site](#)

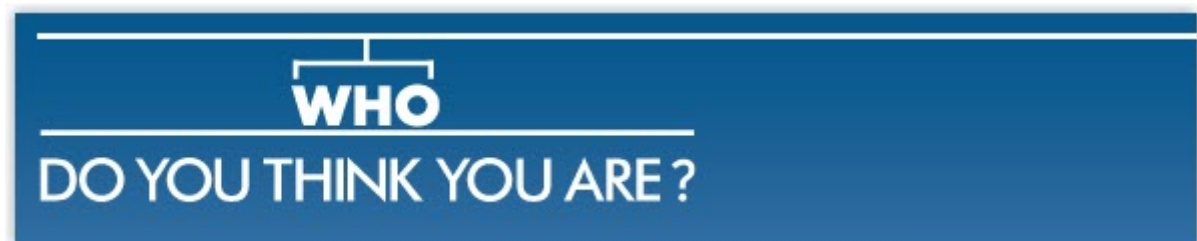
Faces of the Fallen 1939-1945

Explore this unique collection of fallen service personnel from World War 2.

It includes over 1,000 photographs of those who lost their lives during the conflict.

Along with poignant photos, these records can reveal:

- Places of residence
- Soldier numbers and ranks
- Regiments
- Dates and places of death

[Visit the site](#)

WDYTYA magazine have announced closure of their forum on 1st June while they upgrade their platform - so there's all the more reason to visit and support the society's members' forum

[Visit the Berkshire FHS Member's Forum](#)



Berkshire Family History Society

for family history research - in Berkshire and beyond

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