

Berkshire Family Historian



*The quarterly journal of the
Berkshire Family History Society*

March 2020
Volume 43



Inside this issue:
New Website Forum
Top Tips for Researching
George Thomas Barlow's Military Life
Research Guides

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Submissions to the editorial panel

All submissions to the editorial panel will be considered to be offered for publication in the magazine and on the society's website, unless accompanied by a clear statement to the contrary. If the written piece asks for a response from readers, permission to publish contact details will be assumed.

Copy deadlines are 24 December for the March issue, 24 March for the June issue, 24 June for the September issue and 24 September for the December issue.

Front cover image

Wokingham Baptist Church, Berkshire, England (Dahliarose [public domain])

Berkshire Family Historian
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Editor's Notes

Welcome to your *Berkshire Family Historian* for March. In this issue we bring you your invitation to the Society's 45th Annual General Meeting, this time hosted by the Bracknell and Wokingham branch. Alongside this are the usual range of articles for you including information about the Society's website and how to get the most from it, readers stories, and our regular branch roundups.

The second quarters programme of events, held at The Centre for Heritage and Family History, focuses on 'The Royals' with talks on royal weddings, Windsor, and Queens Victoria and Elizabeth I. Workshops will cover topics from the New Poor Law to DNA via military and Caribbean records. Our usual reminder is repeated that the events are proving ever popular and it is advisable to book places early to avoid disappointment. The society's website is the most immediate way of checking space at events and booking your place.

Don't forget your Society's most valuable resource – you, the members. Your presence at branch events can benefit not only yourself, but others,

Chairman's Corner



In this digital age, getting in contact with individuals and organisations who can help you with your family history enquiries is far easier than it was when many of us began our research. Two of the recent investments made by the society – a digital newsletter

and the Forum, the latter replacing the long-running Discussion List, are explored in detail in this *Historian*. Elsewhere in this edition, Paul Barrett explains how the Research Wizard on the home page of the society's website can also help you. Do get the most out of these, I am sure they will all quickly become invaluable.

Berkshire Genealogy Facebook page, set up and maintained by society volunteers, continues to grow each month and has a substantial collection

through the exchange of ideas and tips. These are open to all for advice, discussion and getting together with like-minded folk. You may find you learn something you weren't aware you didn't know! A warm welcome awaits you at all our branch and Centre events, so pop along, I'm sure you will find it very worthwhile.

As always, we welcome articles from our readers, and are always grateful for the effort. Please send anything you feel would be of interest to others to us at editor@berksfhs.org.uk. Long or short articles, it doesn't matter, they all count and are welcomed.

Vicki Chesterman
editor@berksfhs.org.uk

of stories, anecdotes and requests for information about ancestors and places across all of the historic county. There is also a Berkshire and Buckinghamshire Ancestors and Genealogy site and many dedicated to the history of individual towns and villages.

Some of you may also be members of the Berks discussion list on Rootsweb which is sadly closing in early March. A new group has now been set up and details of this can be found at <https://groups.io/g/Berkshire-England-Genealogy>. Finally, if you aren't a regular user of www.genuki.org.uk do explore its rich content. The Berkshire pages are maintained by society volunteer Robert Monk and are particularly thorough.

Happy researching.

Catherine Sampson
chairman@berksfhs.org.uk

Website News

Email Newsletter is launched

The launch of the new websites in September was the start of an initiative to upgrade the Society's digital footprint. In the December edition of *Historian*, we mentioned a number of planned features, and the first of these - our electronic Newsletter - was launched on December 22nd, with a Christmas message to all our digital members.

The Newsletter was given a high priority because while the websites are constantly being updated with new events, articles and products, unless members regularly visit the sites they would not know.

The *Historian* is the society's traditional communications channel and will remain so for a long time, but with a three-month interval between editions and a two-month copy deadline there can potentially be a long gap between an event happening and it appearing in the magazine, by which time it's old news. If the event was the launch of new research material that could provide a breakthrough in one of your areas of interest, the society would like you to be made aware of it as soon as possible.

The great news is that 90% of members have given permission for email contact, so an electronic Newsletter gives the society a new platform to interact on a more timely basis. The society will only send a newsletter when it has something meaningful to communicate.

If you didn't receive the Christmas Message email, you may find that the email ended up in your SPAM folder - in which case, please could you

What can be done with your unwanted certificates?

With the launch of the new Members' Forum, as detailed elsewhere in this issue, we have the ability to facilitate the swifter passing on of your old unwanted certificates. We can create a separate category for the recycling of certificates, that way as you find yourself with a certificate which was purchased in error, or is no longer needed, members can 'post' the details on the Forum. Any other members who have an interest in the person the certificate relates to can then

add the following email address to your contacts address book: noreply@berksfhs.org.uk

Alternatively, a) you may be one of those for whom we don't have an email address and permission to use it, b) we have an out-of-date email address or c) your email provider simply dropped the email as SPAM without telling you or us. All of these can be addressed if you go to the website (berksfhs.org) and follow the menu *Help > Communication Preferences* and re-enter your email address.

The Christmas Greetings Newsletter was a prototype. Since then, the Marketing and Communications team have been looking at the best ways to use the Newsletter to support your research and interest in Family History. There's a thriving community in and around Berkshire who are able to participate in the lively Events Programme and regularly use the facilities at The Centre for Heritage and Family History, if they so wish. And we have an existing virtual community of regular users of the websites and the Discussion List. Our aim is to enable the virtual community to thrive and grow so that every member can participate, no matter where they are located on the globe. The Newsletter is a big step towards achieving that.

If you haven't given us an email address yet, please head over to the website and fill out that Communications Preferences form!

Catherine Sampson

reply to the post and arrangements can be made for the passing on of the certificate.

This can be supplemented by publishing details of certificates that have not been rehomed in your *Berkshire Family Historian*.

My thanks to Paul Barrett, the Society's Webmaster, who suggested this additional way to get certificates passed on faster.

Notice of Annual General Meeting and election of officers and trustees



Town Hall Wokingham, by Anthony Eden (CC BY-SA 2.0)

In accordance with the society's constitution, notice is given that the 45th Annual General Meeting of the Berkshire Family History Society, will be held on Thursday June 4th 2020 at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start, before the Bracknell and Wokingham Branch meeting at Wokingham Town Hall, Market Place, Wokingham RG40 1AS.

For location details, see:

<https://streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?x=481204&y=168557&z=0&sv=rg40+1as&st=2&pc=rg40+1as&mapp=map.srf&searchp=ids.srf>

There is plenty of parking available in Wokingham, all of which is free after 6.00pm. The nearest car parks to the venue are Denmark Street and Rose Street.

The main business of the meeting will be to receive a brief report from the Chairman on the

past year's activities, to receive from the Treasurer the independently examined accounts for the year ending April 30th 2020 for acceptance and approval, and to elect for the year 2020/2021 the Society's President, Vice Presidents, Officers and Trustees. There will also be some minor changes to the society's constitution to be approved by simple majority.

Officers and Trustees form the Society's Executive Committee. The committee will be seeking to fill a number of vacancies to restore trustee numbers to their permitted maximum*. Without its full complement of Trustees, the society may be unable to continue to provide all existing services.

If you would like to nominate a member to the Executive, please let the Secretary know, in writing, **by Monday May 4th 2020**. Nomination forms may be obtained from the

Research Centre, the Secretary, at Branch meetings or downloaded from the website at www.berksfhs.org. Please ensure that the person you nominate is prepared to sit on the Executive Committee and be a Trustee of the Charity – all nominations should be seconded. Information about being a Trustee of a Charity and what it entails can be found on the Charity Commission website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission>

See *The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do and Charity trustee: what's involved* (Ref CC3 and CC3a July 10th 2015).

Certain people are not able to be a trustee:

- Persons under the age of 18;
- Anyone convicted of an offence involving deception or dishonesty unless the conviction is spent;
- Anyone who is an undischarged bankrupt;
- Anyone who has been removed from the trusteeship of a charity;
- Anyone who is disqualified from being a Company Director;

- Any other person described in sections 178 to 180 of the Charities Act 2011.

* *Please contact your local branch if you wish to be considered as a branch representative to the Executive Committee. Also, there are vacancies for ordinary Trustees within the Executive Committee.*

Prior to the meeting, Wokingham Town Hall will be open from 7.00pm to allow members and visitors to enjoy looking around the Main Hall where the meeting will take place. Complimentary refreshments will be on offer prior to the meeting and again after the talk.

There will also be a guided walk around Wokingham, following the 'Blue Plaque Trail', to be led by Peter Must, Chair of the Wokingham Society. This will start at 6.00pm, booking is essential as places are limited. See 'events' on the website for booking information.

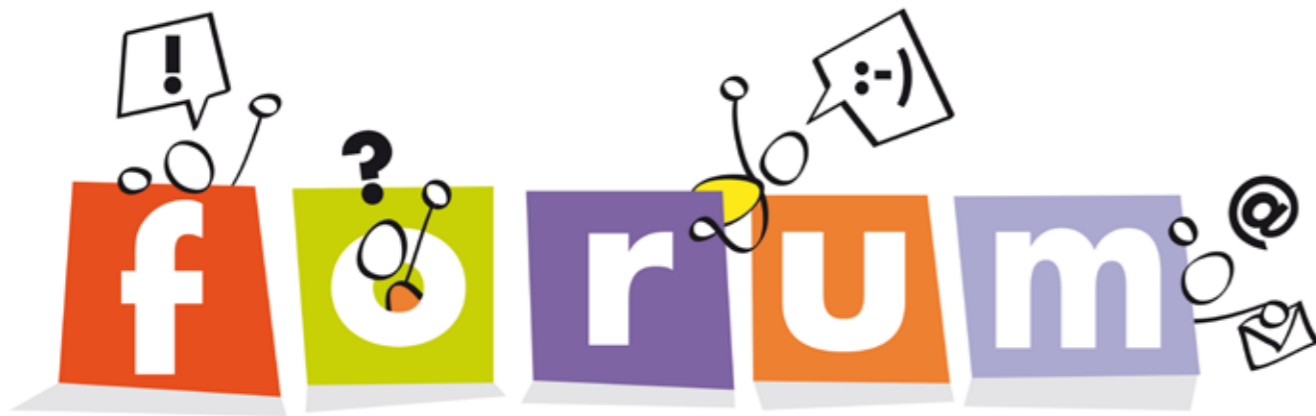
After the AGM the Bracknell and Wokingham branch is hosting a talk by Tony King entitled 'The Life and Times of the Victorians'.

Dates for your diary

7-18 April 2020 Friday 9.30-6.00 Saturday 9.30-5.00*	Family Tree Live Alexandra Palace, Alexandra Palace Way, London, N22 7AY www.family-tree.co.uk/information/family-tree-live
26-27 June 2020 10.00-5.00	The Genealogy Show National Exhibition Centre, North Ave, Marston Green, Birmingham B40 1NT www.thegenealogyshow.uk
20 June 2020 10.00-16.30	The Family History Show, York The Knavesmire Exhibition Centre, The Racecourse, York, YO23 1EX https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/york/
25 July 2019 10.00-4.00*	Buckinghamshire Family History Society Open Day The Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury, HP21 7NH (TBC) www.bucksfhs.org.uk

* *Berkshire FHS present with a stand – come and have a chat with us*

Website News



Welcome to the Members' Forum

Continuing the theme “Building the Digital Community” we’re delighted to announce the next part of the initiative - a Members’ Forum.

You may know we have run an email Discussion List for many years. It’s served us well and we’d like to see it reach a wider audience. That requires a technology refresh. We’re moving to a web-based forum which opens up lots of possibilities to extend and enhance user discussions and build a bigger and more active digital community.

Forum Benefits

Moving to a forum overcomes a number of limitations with the Discussion List.

Post Length

There is no limitation on the length of the text you can post, so you can explain your issue in as much detail as you need to.

Attachments / Images

You can add attachments to a post. These can include images. Now you will be able to illustrate your questions and answers.

Moderation

Your posts will be published immediately, without waiting for a moderator to approve them. In the unlikely event that posts are found to not comply with the Forum Rules, they will be deleted after the event.

Archives

Threads and posts will be stored forever in the same database as current posts, so they will be accessible from the same interface. Finding old content is easy because it’s categorised and listed in descending date order alongside current posts. You can also search the entire database from the forum homepage.

Follow a Forum

If you have a special interest or expertise in a particular area of Family History, you can subscribe to individual sub-forums and receive an email notification when a new post is made, so that you can help and advise the originator.

Follow a Thread

If you make or reply to a post, you can select whether to receive notification of any follow-up replies.

Signing Up for the Forum

You don’t have to. Your website credentials automatically grant you access, allowing any member to participate in any discussion.

Converting content

Because the technology behind the Discussion List and the Forum is so different there is no automated way to transfer the content to the Forum. We’d like to crowd-source the solution. This is where you come in. If you have been involved in a Discussion List thread that was very interesting, described the solution to a common issue or attracted your attention for some other reason, you can transfer it.

Just take the original request and copy and paste it into a new Forum thread. Then add the replies as Forum thread replies. The transferred thread will contribute to the sum of searchable knowledge in the Forum.

Content, content, content.

For now, the Forum shelves are a little bare but please don’t let that prevent you from visiting and contributing. The Forum is not just the place to ask questions - it’s for sharing experiences and knowledge. We all have a story to tell about some aspect of our Family History research - please go ahead and share it.

What do you need to do now?

1. Participate

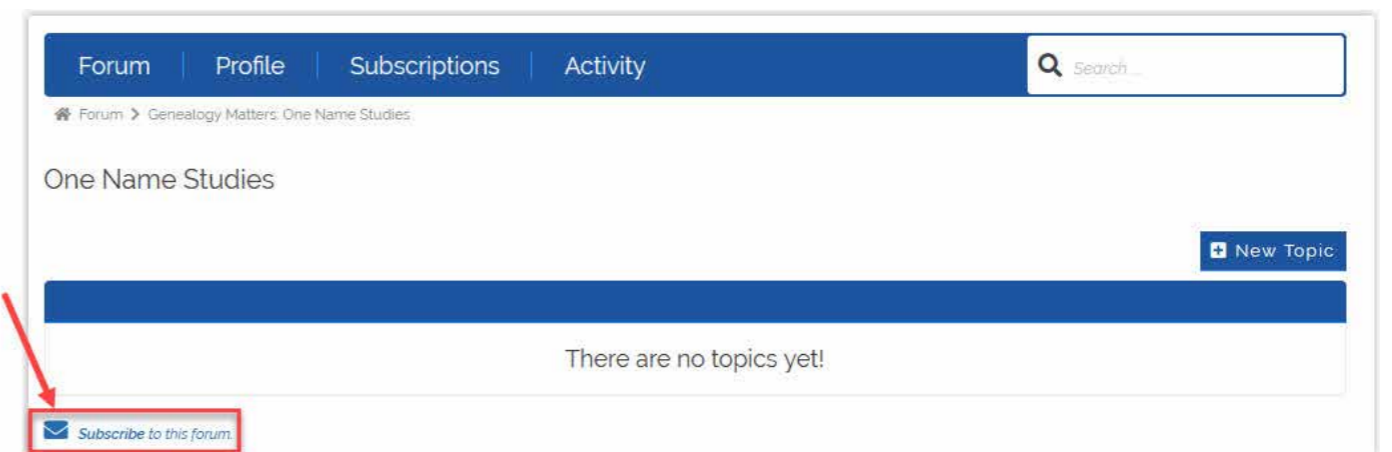
The Forum will thrive on active user participation so please contribute. Tell us your anecdotes, convert a favourite thread from the Discussion List or answer someone’s question - there are many ways to get involved and help build a thriving, global community. You will find the Forum under **Info** on the main menu (you have to be logged in).

2. Subscribe

Not in the sense of registering for access - you don’t need to do that.

In the context of a Forum, “subscribe” means to follow a Forum subject so that you are notified when a new post is made. This allows you to choose areas in which you have expertise or interest, so that you can watch or contribute.

To subscribe to a forum, click on a topic from the list and then look for the subscription option in the bottom left corner.



Conclusion

We hope you enjoy this new facility. Over time, the developing body of expertise in the easily accessed archive will help everyone who is researching their family history whether they are in the UK, Europe, The Americas, Australasia or the Bailiwick of Guernsey.

A tribute from the Chairman

I’d like to acknowledge the efforts of Joan Vinall who, for many years, has been responsible for running the Discussion List. After many years volunteering with the society, the time has come for Joan to step back a little and so Paul Barrett will be co-ordinating the forum as our webmaster. Thanks go to Joan for all her support.

Events at the Centre for Heritage and Family History

March - June 2020

Drop-in Sessions - FREE (just turn up)		
March - Tuesday 3rd (church records and general advice) - Thursday 26th (Merchant Navy records)	12.00 - 2.00pm 1.00 - 3.00pm	with Sandra Barkwith with Tony Wright
April - Tuesday 7th (Certificates and general advice) - Monday 20th (Overseas census)	12.00 - 2.00pm 12.00 - 2.00pm	with Sandra Barkwith with Tony Roberts
May - Tuesday 5th (Census and general advice) - Monday 18th (Military Records)	12.00 - 2.00pm 1.00 - 3.00pm	with Sandra Barkwith with Trevor Maidment
June - Tuesday 2nd (1939 Register and general advice)	12.00 - 2.00pm	with Sandra Barkwith

Natter Group - FREE (just turn up)	
March - Tuesday 3rd April - Tuesday 7th May - Tuesday 5th June - Tuesday 2nd Arrive 6.45pm, 7 - 9.30pm	Informal discussion group facilitated by Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens. Topics are chosen by the group on a monthly basis. Donations are welcomed towards the cost of refreshments. If you are unable to arrive before 7pm, access after this time is via the back door to the library, situated on Abbey Square, and you will need to telephone the Centre for admittance (appropriate numbers are given on the door).

Social History Talks	
TICKETS £5 (members £4) includes tea/coffee and cake Advanced booking is recommended but you can pay on the door (subject to availability). Book all five talks in the 'Royalty' series for the price of four.	
March - Saturday 7th 12.00 - 2.00pm 'Potpourri of History' 5th talk in series	Pop Pirates of the 1960s: with Tony Hadland Discover, or perhaps rediscover, the story of the offshore pirate radio stations of the 1960s, including 'Big L' and Radio Caroline. Tony explains how restrictions on broadcasting light entertainment existed in the UK from the earliest days of public broadcasting led to the development of offshore stations. Offshore ship-based broadcasting developed first in Scandinavia in the 1950s, then in Belgium and the Netherlands, before the first British stations went live in the 1960s. The talk is brought to life with numerous audio clips.
April - Thursday 9th 2.00 - 4.00pm 'Royalty' 1st talk in series	Windsor Castle 1100 - 1700: with David Lewis Windsor Castle, the oldest and largest occupied castle in the world, has been home to 39 reigning monarchs. Founded by William the Conqueror in the 11th century, it was originally built as a motte-and-bailey and gradually rebuilt over time. It survived a protracted siege in the 13th century and being used as a military headquarters for the Parliamentarians during the English Civil War, before being largely rebuilt again after the Restoration. Find out more in this fascinating talk.

Social History Talks (continued)	
April - Thursday 23rd 2.00 - 4.00pm 'Royalty' 2nd talk in series	Queen Victoria's Daughters: with Colin Parrish Queen Victoria and Prince Albert were the parents of nine children - five daughters and four sons. The collective lives of their daughters span the period from 1840 - 1944. They include the Empress Frederick, the tragic Princess Alice, Grand Duchess of Hesse-Darmstadt and the Rhine, and the talented Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll. In this talk, Colin will describe the lives of the royal sisters and their descendants.
May - Thursday 7th 2.00 - 4.00pm 'Royalty' 3rd talk in series	Royal Weddings: with Catherine Sampson A light-hearted talk which is packed with Royal history. Discover the reluctant brides and bridegrooms, the weddings which went wrong and the disastrous unions. Spanning almost a thousand years of Royal history, and mostly set in a time when marriages were critical to cementing political and economic allegiances, this talk is packed with stories of intrigue, secret ceremonies and scandal. Richly illustrated.
May - Thursday 21st 2.00 - 4.00pm 'Royalty' 4th talk in series	Reading during the reign of Elizabeth I: with Joan Dils At the commencement of Elizabeth's reign Reading was bankrupt, yet during her reign it became a thriving, growing town. However, whilst it was the largest and richest settlement in the Thames Valley, and now with its own local government, it was still beset by epidemic disease and poverty. Queen Elizabeth I paid many visits to Reading, the last of which was in 1602: she would stay at the abbey, then a royal palace, and attend services at St Laurence's Church.
June - Saturday 6th 12.00 - 2.00pm 'Royalty' 5th talk in series	Resisting the Virgin Queen: with Tony Hadland During her long reign, Queen Elizabeth I faced continued resistance from the dwindling but still significant minority of her subjects who remained loyal to Roman Catholicism. This talk describes the very different strategies adopted by three notable Catholics, with homes close to Reading: one of Mary Tudor's strongest supporters, Francis Englefield of Englefield House; the celebrated Elizabethan lawyer Edmund Plowden of Shiplake; and William Wollascott, a lawyer who lived at Tidmarsh. But who was the most successful at resisting the Virgin Queen?

Course	
TICKETS £35 (members £28) includes tea/coffee and biscuits Places limited, pre-booking required.	
April - Tuesday 14th, 21st and 28th 2.30 - 4.30pm May - Tuesday 12th 6.30 - 9.00pm with a short break	Beginners' Family History Course: with Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens This course comprises of a series of four workshops for those new to researching family history including where to start, how to progress and good research practice. Learn how to work with core records of civil registration, censuses, parish registers and modern wills. Discover the different genealogy websites, the content they offer and their strengths and limitations. Some free parking is available near to the library for attendees, please contact the booking administrator for details and to reserve a place.

Workshops	
TICKETS £10 (members £9) includes tea/coffee and biscuits Places limited, pre-booking required.	
March - Saturday 14th 2.30 - 4.30pm	Making the Most of Autosomal DNA <i>Tutor: Debbie Kennett</i> In this workshop, we will look at how to interpret your matches and how to get the most out of your results. To participate you should already have autosomal DNA results available, preferably from AncestryDNA, which will be the main focus of this workshop, but we will also be able to look at results from other companies. Participants are encouraged to bring their laptops and iPads, share results and ask questions.
March - Saturday 21st 11.00am - 1.00pm	The New Poor Law <i>Tutor: Joan Dils</i> Many family historians have ancestors whose lives were touched by poverty. The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 determined that poor relief should still be administered and paid for locally, but under a more uniform and centrally supervised system. This workshop will look at provision for the poor between 1834 and 1929 and examine the records which may survive and their usefulness to family historians.
April - Saturday 25th 11.00am - 1.00pm	Military Records <i>Tutor: Trevor Maidment</i> This workshop will cover the main services: Army, Navy, RAF, as well as some Merchant Navy. Discover the range of military records created, where they can be found online, the information found within them and their value to family historians.
May - Saturday 16th 11.00am - 1.00pm	Caribbean Records <i>Tutor: Guy Grannum</i> Enjoy learning from Guy's wealth of knowledge about tracing your Caribbean ancestors. This workshop will direct you to the sources available for researchers from the UK.
June - Saturday 20th 12.30 - 2.30pm	Merchant Navy Records <i>Tutor: Tony Wright</i> Interested in what your seaman ancestor was eating, how much he earned, who he was sending money home to or where he lived? These and many other questions will be answered in this workshop. Attendees will discover what records are available and how and where to find them. 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.

DNA Interest Group	
TICKETS £5 (members £4) includes tea/coffee and cake Special interest discussion group for those wanting to get the most out of their DNA results, facilitated by international DNA expert, Debbie Kennett. Meets quarterly. Advanced booking is recommended but you can pay on the door (subject to availability).	
April - Saturday 4th 2.30 - 4.30pm	All welcome.

Walks	
TICKETS £5 (members £4) Places limited, pre-booking required.	
April - Sunday 19th 2.00 - 3.30pm	Central Whiteknights Walk: <i>with Friends of Reading University</i> Discover the historic and interesting buildings found within the 'centre' area of Whiteknights Park, from 1798 to present day. This walk takes in a selection of buildings and landmarks including: Whiteknights Park House and the botanical gardens, Whiteknights Park, Blandford Lodge and Whiteknights (Victorian era), the Edith Morley Building, the Library and URS Building (University era).
June - Sunday 14th 2.00 - 3.30pm	Northern Whiteknights Walk: <i>with Friends of Reading University</i> Explore the 'northern' part of the Whiteknights campus, focusing on the history and occupants of Foxhill, one of six Victorian houses built in the Park, and the growth and development of the University's halls of residence. The trail also includes the site of the Marquis of Blandford's New Gardens and visits the sites of Park House, Erleigh Park (now demolished) and the ice house. The trail will finish at Whiteknights Park House.
June - Tuesday 23rd 2.00 - 3.00pm	Caversham Court Tour: <i>with Friends of Caversham Court</i> Discover this hidden gem tucked away on the banks of the Thames and its long history associated with some of Reading's most prominent families. Afterwards, you may choose to stay on and enjoy the relaxing setting whilst tasting the wonderful refreshments on offer from the tea kiosk.

How to book

Book and pay online at <https://berksfhs.org.uk>

To claim your member discount - simply select the member ticket option. Alternatively, you may download an events booking form, and complete and return it with a cheque (payable to Berkshire Family History Society), to the society at the Centre address.

Book at The Centre for Heritage and Family History

Book face to face, during normal opening times, and you may pay by cash, cheque or card. If you do not have internet access, call the society on 0118 950 9553 during Centre opening hours and ask for an events booking form to be posted to you. Please note the society is unable to accept card payments over the telephone.

Sadly, the society is no longer able to offer free parking for most events which take place on Saturdays, however there are limited places available for attendees of the DNA Discussion Group, Beginners' Family History Course and Natter Group. Please contact the Booking Administrator by emailing: booking@berksfhs.org.uk for details. The Centre will be open for an hour before all talks for anyone wishing to do some research.

Between April and June, the Centre Exhibition will focus on 'Royalty'.

George Thomas Barlow

Michael Barlow show how much detail can be found from military records

George Thomas Barlow was born on May 9th 1870, the eldest child of Charles and Louisa (nee Wyatt) Barlow. In the 1871 census the family was living at Little End, Caversham (this is the area around the top of Prospect Street). Two years later the family experienced a traumatic upheaval. After giving birth to a daughter, (who they christened Emily, Louisa and the baby both died.

In 1874 Charles married Martha Dobson and the couple went on to have 7 more children, Fanny (1875), Emily (1877), Alice (1879), Charles (1881), Edith (1884), Alfred John (1888) and Mabel Ellen (1890).

Little is known of George before he joined the Army, but he was working as a labourer for Huntley, Boorne and Stevens, the biscuit manufacturers immediately prior to enlisting.

George initially enlisted into the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Berkshire Regiment in Reading on July 18th 1888. This was a unit that administered and trained men who had joined the Militia, which was a form of part-time service. His address then was given as 50 Sidmouth St. Reading.

George re-enlisted into the Medical Staff Corps in Aldershot on October 25th 1888. He then spent the next 8 years of peacetime service in Britain.

On July 2nd 1892 George married Annie Elizabeth Henbest at South Stoneham, nr. Southampton. They had 2 children, Charles William (1892) and Bessie Edith Gertrude (1894).

After serving eight years on home soil George finally received orders to prepare for an overseas posting. From Aldershot he proceeded to Gravesend and on October 20th 1896 sailed on the P&O Ship SS Sunda bound for Hong Kong, arriving there on December 3rd 1896. It appears that once in Hong Kong, he was posted to join the staff of the HMS Mecanee which was used as a moored floating hospital.

Between 1899 and 1901 there were a series of events in China known collectively as the 'Boxer Rebellion'. On June 6th 1900 George was appointed to the nursing section of the RAMC (Royal Army Medical Corps). It appears that this was preparatory to him joining the 'North China Field Force' which was sent to Peking.

Following this campaign, he was awarded the Silver 1900 China Medal with 'Relief of Peking'

clasp. George's precise role and location during the operation against the Boxers is not entirely clear. This was a complex situation with a multi-national force. Only senior officers were mentioned in the official despatches. There is a possible clue, though, in that George finally sailed for Hong Kong on the ship 'Salamis' on October 24th 1900 arriving there on December 2nd. Newspapers reported that this ship carried the 2nd Royal Welsh Fusiliers and detachments of the Royal Engineers and RAMC that were attached to it. The despatch tells us that the RAMC detachment consisted of just one officer (Major Watson) and nine men, probably including George Barlow.

On June 10th 1901 George began a journey to Wai-Hei-Wai, a Chinese territory that had recently been leased to Britain. Although it included an anchorage used as a base for the Royal Navy's China Fleet, it was under the administration of the Colonial Office.

George appears to have moved to the ship SS Chingtu and to have been based at HMS Terrible which was at Wai-Hei-Wai at that time.

There is no information on George's movements for the next year until he is posted home arriving on June 30th 1902. He is reported going to Aldershot, but it is almost certain that in practice he was given home leave. On July 11th 1902 he was posted to Shorncliffe Barracks near Folkestone in Kent, and on September 12th he went on to Canterbury. This was the location of a cavalry depot and that of the Buffs (East Kent Regiment). He went to Dover on July 7th 1903 and remained there for some time other than a brief period (almost certainly for manoeuvres) at Bulford on Salisbury Plain in July 1904.

Another daughter, Marjorie Ethel, was born in Dover on November 17th 1903.

On November 3rd 1904 George began the journey to Ceylon (Sri Lanka), having been posted to



Third China War Medal 1900 obverse (Hsq7278 [CC BY-SA 4.0])

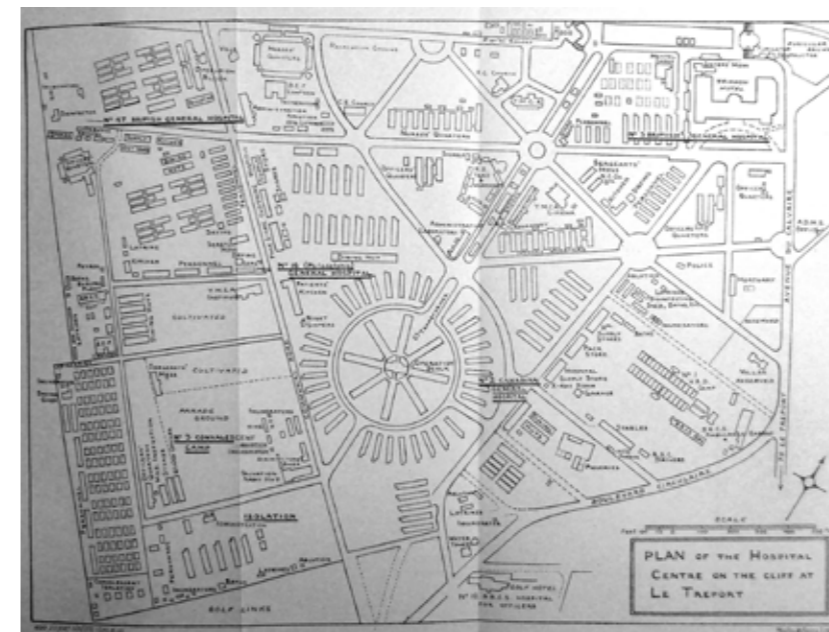
Colombo. Soon after his arrival he was notified that his wife had given birth to another daughter, Kathleen Doris (Cassie) on November 26th in Dover.

There are no details of George's time in Ceylon except that from April 18th 1905 to March 20th 1906 he served in Trincomalee before returning to Colombo. On April 2nd 1906 he was promoted to Staff Sergeant. He returned home on January 29th 1908.

During 1908 there were substantial and significant changes to the British Army, known as the Haldane Reforms, named after the Secretary of State for War who initiated them. The most important aspect was the creation of the Territorial Force (TF). On August 22nd 1908 George qualified as an 'instructor to the auxiliary forces' indicating an imminent role with the TF. On November 18th 1908 a son, Richard George, was born in Aldershot.

On November 27th 1908 George began service as an instructor at the West Lancashire Territorial School of Instruction. He was promoted to Sergeant Major, although as yet only on an Acting basis, for this purpose. George was now given permission to serve beyond the normal maximum of 21 years and on July 1st 1909 he was awarded the Army's Long Service & Good Conduct Medal, for which it was necessary to have served for 18 years.

The 1911 census showed the whole family to be living in the West Derby area of Liverpool. Two more sons, Frank Ernest Guildler (1910) and Arthur Dudley (1911) were born during this period.



Le Treport Hospital during WW1

The TF was organised and administered by a number of 'County Associations', one of which was West Lancashire. It raised many units of all arms and services of the army, based at a number of depots and drill halls. The school mentioned in George's record will have been that for the men of the RAMC units within the County Association area. The exact location of the school is unknown, though it was certainly in Liverpool.

Another son Phillip Edward was born on October 3rd 1912. On December 2nd 1912 George was posted to join a unit of the TF known as the 3rd Welsh Field Ambulance. This unit was based in Swansea, and George was part of a small full-time cadre of officers and non-commissioned officers who administered and trained the part-time troops during peace time.

The units of the TF were 'embodied' on August 4th 1914 when war was declared, meaning they went on to full-time service. George's Field Ambulance was part of the Welsh Division, which left its normal bases and moved firstly to Northampton then in December 1914 to Cambridge. They eventually went on to see service in the Gallipoli campaign. All of this meant he missed the birth of another son, Stewart Henry, in October 1914.

George, however, left the Welsh Division in February 1915 and re-joined the RAMC. He was promoted to Quartermaster Sergeant on February 12th 1915 and eight days later sailed on the 'Queen Empress' from Southampton to Le Havre to join the British Expeditionary Force in France.

It appears that George had been posted to join the staff of 16 General Hospital which had been raised as a unit in Aldershot and began to establish itself at Le Treport on February 22nd 1915. On July 4th 1916 the war diary mentions that George was formally discharged from the ranks, having served 27 years and 253 days. His final official character rating was 'Exemplary', the best of 5 grades used for the purpose.

On July 5th 1916 George was commissioned as a temporary Quartermaster and Honorary Lieutenant. He was also given a posting to join 13 Field Ambulance, part of the 5th Division, arriving there on July 8th.

It becomes evident that at some point he was posted to 30 General Hospital at Calais, but no date is recorded.

George was obviously quite ill towards the end of the war and a Medical Board held in Calais on April 15th 1918 rated him in Medical category Bii, fit only for base duties. George returned to England on February 12th 1919.

It would seem that George had some home leave in 1917 as another son, George Kenneth was born in April 1918.

George remained unwell and was suffering from bronchitis, resulting in admission to the Prince of Wales's Hospital in Marylebone, where he remained until March 22nd 1919. A final Medical Board assessment recommended that he be given home leave following a period of convalescence at the Mont Dore Military Hospital in Bournemouth, where the family had settled in anticipation of his retirement. George was pronounced as



The Landmark Hotel, formerly the Grand Central Hotel, but used as the Prince of Wales Hospital in WW1 (Danny Robinson [CC BY-SA 2.0])

permanently unfit in categories A and B and it would be another 3 months before he was Ci. Still at home he wrote to request an extension of his leave for the purpose of seeing friends as it was his first opportunity to do so since before the war. This request was refused.

On the April 15th 1919 George was ordered to proceed for duty to Spike Island Special Military Hospital in Cork Harbour in Ireland amid the IRA uprising.

A medical examination on September 5th rated him in category Ci and unfit for service overseas.

At this point George seems to have lost all enthusiasm for the job and was subject to a rather adverse report by his Commanding Officer concerning his behaviour and capabilities. George was called upon to resign his commission and he did so on November 1st 1919; a rather sad and muted end to a lengthy and otherwise unblemished military career. In January 1920 the War Office agreed that his services should be regarded as satisfactory for pension purposes.

The family latterly moved to Ringwood in the New Forest where he worked as a market gardener. He died on April 2nd 1946 and is buried, along with his wife, in Hightown Road Cemetery in Ringwood.

George Barlow was my grandfather who died when I was only a year old. I have become fascinated by his story having researched his Army records. If anyone has any information or other comments to add to this story, I would be pleased to hear from them. I may be contacted via editor@berksfhs.org.uk.

Calling All Family Historians



Would you be prepared to share your expertise and knowledge with others?

Could you spare some time to help other members and visitors with their family history?

Then why not volunteer in the new Centre for Heritage and Family History?

You'll find it very rewarding and we can guarantee you'll learn more too.

For more information email: researchcentre@berksfhs.org.uk

Genealogy Top Tips

Some hints before it's too late! As shared by Christine Bennett



1. **Always record your sources** (as you may need to check back and however confident you are that you'll remember where you found something, I bet you won't!)
2. **Always back up** your work frequently and to different places (in case something crashes or is lost). Never rely entirely on an online copy of your tree. Trying to recover hours, days, weeks, months, years or decades of lost work is heartbreaking.
3. It's likely to be helpful to record **SURNAMES** in upper case to distinguish them from given names. "David Morley" is fine: even if it's recorded "Morley, David" you're unlikely to make a mistake as to which is which; but what about "David Francis" and "Francis, David" (which might lose its punctuation)? Bear in mind that some surnames are closely based on given names and, also, that some family surnames have been preserved by using them as given names.
4. Because **dates** are recorded so many ways, I have found "DD MM YYYY" to be safest: some UK/USA dates can be mixed up:
 - a) Is "1/4/89" the 1st April or January 4th? and
 - b) Is that "/89" meant to be 1989, 1889, 1789, ...?

And don't forget that the British switched calendars in September 1752: 11 days were 'omitted' from the calendar - i.e. the day after 2 September 1752 was 14 September 1752. In addition, in 1752, the year ceased to start on Lady Day (the feast of the Annunciation, 25 March), and began on 1 January, so making 1751 into a short year, running only from 25 March to 31 December. Remember though that different countries changed their calendars at different times.
5. **Pick the brains** of family and old family friends while you can ... and then don't presume that everything they say is true, even if they believe it themselves - but allow that

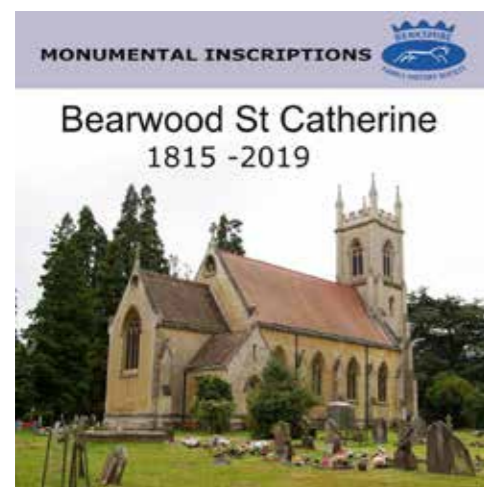
there may be truth within the info that you're given. If you can persuade them to give you permission to record them reminiscing, you'll also have captured their voice ... which might matter, one day.

6. Treat **other people's research** as a **useful guide** to where you might look. Rely only on info that is properly backed up with as many sources as possible ... and then still allow that it may have been based on a lie! Finding that you relied on something you thought you knew, only to find it's led to generations of a tree that isn't yours, is another heartbreaker! Lots of different online trees may not really be lots of separate sources if they've all copied from each other.
7. **Support your information** with as many original sources as possible: parish registers, BMD (birth, marriage, death) certificates, newspapers, service records, school records, trade (or phone) directories, employment records, electoral rolls, ... Don't buy certificates via agents unless specifically recommended by the government authorities (e.g. Australian State archives may recommend transcribers), unless you like paying over the odds! GRO certificates can be bought online and is the cheapest (currently £11.00*) - but isn't the closest to the original record ... that's the local district which may or may not be willing to supply family history certificates (probably for more than £11); local offices can be extraordinarily helpful. Wills might be the key to unlock a puzzle, with names and relationships for legatees.

*Unless it's birth certificates (1837-1917) or death certificates (1837-1957, & 1984-date), for which you can purchase uncertified PDFs for only £7.

8. Remember that a **transcription is only as good as the expertise (and prejudices) of the transcriber**. It may be further contaminated by information being recorded mixed up or transposed between different people. Transcribers for websites are supposed to record what they see, not what they think it ought to be.
9. Remember that the **information** on a certificate (or in a census) is **only as reliable as the person** supplying or recording it. Questions to ask could be:
- Did they understand the question?
 - Did they really know the answer?
 - Was there any incentive (e.g. social pressure) to give false information?
 - How much did people care about accuracy? (Was there actually an “accurate” answer???)
 - Did the questioner understand correctly the answer that they received?
 - Had they worded the question properly in the first place?
10. There are all sorts of reasons why a **name may not be recorded in the way you expect**:
- People write what they hear;
 - People hear what they expect;
 - People weren't always much worried about how names were spelt; or
- Had prejudices about how a name should be spelt;
 - People decided to use a different name or different version of their name (adding or taking away names, and switching them around, as well as opting for different spellings!).
- This is true, also, for ages.
- Following a **“side” line may lead back** to info on the direct line:
 - A sibling or cousin may be staying with the grandparents you hadn't found;
 - Your family's in-laws/cousins may help to differentiate one similarly named household from another;
 - Those names may appear as witnesses on marriage certs or as notifiers of births or (more likely) deaths.
 - Common sense**: does the arithmetic work for dates of birth/marriage/children's births/deaths?
 - Join relevant** forums, societies & groups where you'll find willing helpers, and more tips about resources coming on stream, and special offers.
 - Have you considered writing down **your own history**? Your own account of growing up in a different era could be gold dust to a future researcher of your tree.

New in the Bookshop



Bearwood St Catherine Monumental Inscriptions (CD)

This CD contains transcriptions of the extant monuments and memorials in the churchyard which date from 1815 to 2019. There is a plan of the cemetery and a comprehensive index.

Shop: £8.00 / Members: £7.20

See centre pages for postal rates.

Book Reviews

Radley Manor and Village, a thousand year story

Richard Dudding et al (Radley History Club, 2019) 192pp, A4 perfect bound

Radley is a village about 2 miles northeast of Abingdon formerly in Berkshire, but since 1974 in Oxfordshire. This book tells the story of Radley's manor and village from the mid-11th century to the present time. During this long timespan there were a number of major changes in the manor and its functioning – changes in the contemporary national context, in the relationship between the lord and the people of the manor, and indeed the significance of the manor and in its place in the overall structure of society.

The book is set out in chronological order commencing with a chapter on the medieval period, followed by a chapter on the early Tudors and the Reformation, and then three chapters covering the late Tudor period to the end of the 18th century. Each of the latter three covering different aspects of the manor's history, in its family, buildings and grounds, and its people. The history of the manor in the 19th century and up to the outbreak of war in 1914, and from 1914 to the present day is the theme of the last two chapters. Three annexes deal with the two Radley parks, probate inventories of tenants 1540 -1700 and the genealogy of the Stonhouse and Bowyer families. The book is rounded off with a glossary of terms, a bibliography and a detailed index.

The manor of Radley was originally part of the larger manor of Barton held by the Benedictine House of Abingdon Abbey. Shortly before the dissolution of the abbey moves were already afoot to create a specific manor of Radley, which were then completed post-dissolution by the Court of Augmentation as it saw the new manor as a desirable property for sale to aspiring gentry. From 1560 to 1795 it was held by six generations of the Stonhouse family, and then for more than a century by the Bowyer family (who were connected by marriage to the Stonhouse line). Latterly the manor was held by the Docker-Drysdale family, and then by Radley College.

However, the book isn't simply a history of the lords of the manor. It gives a comprehensive and in-depth study of the people, buildings, lands, landlords and tenants, employers and workers all of which is well illustrated with photographs and maps (many in colour), plans, figures and themed boxes. The book is well-researched, the layout and

style are good, and the contents are very clear and accessible. As such it is a good example of how to present a location based history and a must for anyone with interests in Radley or indeed in manorial history generally.

The book is available from *the Radley History Club (www.radleyhistoryclub.org.uk)* priced at £15 plus post & packing.

Tony Roberts

Early Independents of the Bracknell, Crowthorne & Wokingham Area

Paul Lacey (Self-published, 2020) 112pp, A4 perfect bound

The author is a well-known researcher, writer and speaker on bus and coach transport in the Thames Valley. This book covers the central and eastern parts of Berkshire and the operators in that area, large and small from the earliest motors to the latter half of the 20th century.

The book is laid out in alphabetical order of operators and the length of articles reflect the relative size, availability of material and lifespan of the business e.g. Brimblecombe Bros 25 pages, Gough's 8 pages while Hinham gets only 1 page. The text is liberally illustrated with 126 monochrome photographs and 7 monochrome maps.

Although much of the text deals with details of the vehicles, operating routes and services there is also a wealth of backstory to the families that went into the business, their activities, and those of their employees during those years of providing transport services. The history of the families and their employees is fascinating, but the real joy for the transport enthusiast is in the changes and development of the fleet vehicles. At the end of the book there is a four-page section that details the fleet vehicles of the largest.

The book mentions a great many individual and family names – not simply of owners and their families but also of drivers, and other employees. However, there is no name index to the book but anyone with family connections to the passenger road transport system of central and east Berkshire may well find some useful information for their family history research.

The book is available from *the author at £15. See www.paullaceytransportbooks.co.uk*

Tony Roberts

Abingdon Branch

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At our October meeting we welcomed Chris and Judy Rouse back again to give us another of their railway based talks. This time it was “Riots, randies and women not their wives”, which was about the men who built the railways.

With the decline in canal building, the Navigators or Navvies found employment in the burgeoning railway development. Contrary to folklore they weren’t all Irish although there were many who had fled the famines. Analysis across the censuses suggest 2/3 English to 1/3 Irish and on the High Peak Lines between 1851 and 1871 the figures were 92% English, 4% Irish, 3% Scots and 1% Welsh (the latter ex-miners building tunnels).

Typical wages were 6s/day, which was high in comparison with other trades but they earned it doing 12 hours shifts. Initially the men had to sleep in the open air, only after 1830 did they have tents and later, sod huts. Sometimes there were bunkhouses where they slept 120 to a room, often in verminous beds. Food was also an issue and given their often isolated locations the navvies often pinched food from adjacent fields or poached. Many contractors made more money out of selling substandard food, known as “Tommy Rot”, to their navvies than they did from the actual construction contract. Drink figured heavily.

Tracing navy ancestors can be a real challenge, aside from the peripatetic nature of their living. The 1861 census at Alfreton recorded a number of men sleeping in a wood and in mud huts. They were simply recorded by their first names, giving descendants an even bigger problem tracing them. Many used nicknames such as One Eyed Conro, Sumphole Nobby and Cats Meat. Worse, six men were buried with no names after an explosion on Woodland Moor.

We welcomed back Liz Woolley for our November talk. Liz has given us a number of talks and guided walks on different aspects of Oxford’s history and this time her topic was “Oxfordshire and the Spanish Civil War”. The war started in July 1936 with a failed Army coup against the Left Wing government and lasted three years. Britain, France, Germany, Italy and

later the Soviet Union agreed not to intervene although Nazi Germany, Italy, and the Soviet Union consistently broke the agreement. Britain remained faithful to it, which caused a lot of unease amongst the general public. It led to some 35,000 men volunteering to assist the Nationalist Government fight the Republican forces led by General Franco. Of these, 2,500 came from the UK and Ireland. Others in the UK undertook fundraising to supply aid or hosted Basque refugee children.

The response in Oxfordshire was unusual because it came from a wide variety of backgrounds. It brought Town and Gown together in a unique way. By 1939, £2m had been raised in aid for Spain. Marchers in Oxford included Denis Healey, later Chancellor of the Exchequer and Deputy Leader of the Labour Party and also Olive Gibbs, later Mayor of Oxford.

Liz gave details of several of the 31 people from Oxfordshire who went to fight or to work in hospitals, of whom six were killed. Others who didn’t volunteer to fight included Wogan Philipps, who was a student at Magdalen College at the time and later became Lord Milford. He bought a lorry and medical supplies and drove it to Spain where he drove ambulances.

A lot of Basque refugees came to the UK after the bombing of Guernica, including 4,000 children with accompanying teachers and priests. They were accommodated in colonies of which there were four in Oxfordshire at Buscot Park (the



Members of Abingdon Branch enjoying their Christmas get together

largest), Thame, Shipton-under-Wychwood, and Westfield House at Aston.

On the 9th December, a group of us spent a very convivial evening at the Brewery Tap in Abingdon for our last meeting of 2019. The food was good and the conversation even better.

Simon Burbidge

Bracknell & Wokingham Branch

bracknell@berksfhs.org.uk

Our October talk, given by Tony King, was entitled ‘The Edwardians’. Edward VII’s reign was sometimes referred to as the Golden Era due to the significant changes which occurred. The Suffragette movement was formed. The Welfare State was founded and the first flight by Bleriot was in 1909.

The Edwardians’ pastimes included the music hall and theatre. In 1896, cinema came to the Regent Street Theatre in London. Films became part of the music hall repertoire with “animated pictures” and they spread to town and village halls across the country. At the Royal Albert Hall, Elgar evoked the spirit of England with music such as ‘Pomp and Circumstance’.

The concept of holidays away developed. The shopping revolution was also underway, with Selfridges opening on Oxford Street in 1909 whilst Waite, Rose & Taylor opened a small grocery shop in Acton in 1904, merging with the John Lewis Partnership in 1937.

Tony’s talk provided a framework to this period, from early Victorian times to 1918, with a wealth of images, film and sound that gave us a glimpse into the Edwardian Era and much more.

In November, we heard a very interesting talk given by Joy Pibworth on ‘The Heroes of Woodley Airfield’, recounting the development of the aerodrome in the 1920’s and 1930’s before describing some of the characters of the early aviation era. Today, over 40 roads in Woodley are named in honour of aviators and aircraft, some connected with Woodley others not. Joy chose to talk about a selection of them, starting with F.G. Miles and his wife Blossom who founded Miles Aircraft there in 1930. The talk summarized the lives of famous and less famous characters from

Douglas Bader and Amy Johnson to Thomas Harris and Henry Farman.

If you need help with your family history, we hold drop-in sessions at Bracknell Library (second Tuesday of the month) and at Wokingham Library (last Tuesday of the month).

Christopher Singleton, Joy Pibworth and Sandra Barkwith

Newbury Branch

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Our October meeting explored the life and times of Robert Tebbot, a humble builder of Windsor, who rose to fame and fortune under George IV. Dr David Lewis informed us that, prior to this, Windsor was dirty, disease-ridden and dilapidated, with a ruinous castle. Modern Windsorians are no doubt grateful for the transformation brought about by Tebbot.

November’s talk covered the same period, and the preceding century, looking at disease, life expectancy and the remedies available, with particular emphasis on Georgian Newbury. The overall picture was not one to tempt time-travellers, high-birth being no guarantor of health; in many cases, poorer patients were better off, being unable to afford the dubious attentions of the physician or surgeon.

Those of you who cannot get to Newbury meetings can read detailed summaries of these talks by going to <https://berksfhs.org/branches>; choose Newbury, and scroll down.

Our December meeting, as always, was the branch Christmas party with Secret Santa, seasonal refreshments and Nick’s quiz, much enjoyed by all. The Branch Christmas dinner this year, was at Bella Italia and much enjoyed by all who attended.

Penny Stokes

Reading Branch

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In October, Reading branch welcomed Tony Keep from Thames Valley Police (TVP) Museum who spoke about “Policing Reading in World War One”. Tony started his research to commemorate what was thought to be 47 Policemen lost during

the war, but actually turned out to be 49. In 1914, eight forces existed covering the area now known as Thames Valley force. In his research he used Examination Registers, which were kept manually, records from Berks and Bucks Records Offices, Chief Constables Reports, Standing Joint Committee Reports, Watch Committee minutes and books or newspaper accounts. Additional material was gathered from the Thames Valley Museum, The National Archives and the internet.

Tony concluded his fact-packed talk by naming those serving Force members killed in action and referred interested parties to the TVP Museum web site for a fuller description.

In November, Antony Marr spoke to us about Birth and Death Certificates. Speaking from a background of an ex Deputy Registrar he gave an interesting insight of what can be found on these certificates.

December's meeting was our usual short talks by members followed by a Berkshire dialect quiz and the traditional non-alcoholic mulled wine and mince pie courtesy of Rosemary and Angie.

Angie Catt spoke about her Great Grandfather John Gibbons (West), born in Bath, who enlisted in the 12th Prince of Wales Lancers in 1849 in Reading. Whilst Peter Caton spoke of a reunion with an old college friend, Ian Rodwell Dixon, who had researched the Luddites.

Graham Vockins

Windsor, Slough & Maidenhead Branch

windsor@berksfhs.org.uk

The final third of 2019 saw a number of fascinating talks plus a Christmas Dinner to entertain our regular members of the Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead branch.

In September we heard "The History of The Foundling Hospital" by Jane King, which told of the struggle of Thomas Coram to establish the Foundling Hospital in 1739, London's first home for abandoned children, and how the babies left there were brought up.

In October, in "Conserving your Family Archives" by Sue Gibbons, attendees learnt how to conserve family treasures. Sue covered a wide range, including: paper, such as original documents,

maps, books, photographs, etchings and paintings, textiles, such as samplers, christening robes and uniforms.

She advised about storage, and being aware of what could damage our heirlooms, such as insect larvae in teddy bears. She showed us her father's document file as an example of what damage can occur if stored in plastic. She also talked about different types of treasures we may have, for example, clothing, furniture, carpets, oil paintings, home produced discs (CDs/DVDs) and wooden items which may have non-wooden parts.

November brought "Tracing Living Relatives - moving your research forward" by Antony Marr. Antony has worked as a Deputy Registrar, dealing with all aspects of the registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages. He has specialised in the civil registration system, tracing living or missing relatives in more recent records.

The sources used included newspapers, electoral registers, directories and wills. The Ancestry website is also a good source for 20th Century information such as Divorce and Emigration records. Tactics for success with living relatives include making contact by writing, rather than phoning or emailing, and offering information rather than demanding it.

Finally in late December, 16 members and four partners enjoyed a Christmas meal at The Toby Carvery, Old Windsor.

Leigh Dworkin



The Foundling Hospital in 1753

Website Clinic

Paul Barrett, the Society Webmaster, gives us some hints on User Security

By the time you read this edition of Historian, the new websites will have been live for nearly six months. Reactions have been very positive but one recurring issue is members who have problems logging on because of the enhanced security measures compared to the old site.

Why has security been enhanced?

We hold personal information about you, and we are required by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) to keep that secure. That requires a strong password.

Remembering Strong Passwords

Unless you're blessed with a photographic memory, remembering a strong password is impossible. The solution is to use a password-management application.

Password Managers

Password managers store your usernames and passwords (credentials) securely and will auto complete the login fields for you when you visit a site for which you have registered. Most modern browsers include a fairly sophisticated password manager, but free third-party cloud-based password managers are slicker and more portable.

If you are struggling with password management on our or any site, there's an article on the website that describes how to use LastPass to solve the problem. You can view the article at: <https://berksfhs.org/lastpass>

Are you still using Windows 7?

If you are still using Windows 7, you are at risk. Microsoft withdrew support for this product on 14 Jan 2020. It will still work but if any bugs or security issues are discovered after that date, Microsoft will not issue any updates to fix them.

Do you need to worry about this?

If your PC is **permanently** disconnected from the internet and you don't share data using disks or USB sticks, probably not - otherwise, yes.

What are the risks?

It's impossible to say because vulnerabilities can't be predicted. However, hackers will be seeking out computers with obsolete operating systems. Windows 7 PCs will now be on their radar, along with XP, Vista, Windows ME and Windows 2000.

Won't my Anti-Virus and Internet Security block these attacks?

Not reliably. They can only offer a flimsy defence. Relying on your anti-virus to plug holes in the operating system is just papering over the cracks.

Can I upgrade my PC to Windows 10?

Yes, if the spec is sufficient (see below) but the free upgrade window closed 2 years ago so it will cost you about £120 for Windows 10 Home.

You will need a PC with a spec that is equivalent to or better than a Core i3 2 GHz processor with 4GB RAM. To find out what you have, click the start button, type "System information" and select the app that appears.

But if your PC is old then, given the retail price of Win 10, it might be time to replace your hardware because the PC supplier will bundle Win 10 for a fraction of the price you would pay for a retail copy.

Doing nothing is a risky strategy.

The Centre for Heritage and Family History

2nd Floor, Reading Central Library, Abbey Square, Reading RG1 3BQ

<https://berksfhs.org.uk> 0118 950 9553 researchcentre@berksfhs.org.uk

Update: New to the Centre – Findmypast's worldwide edition is now available on all the PCs giving access to extensive new Irish, North American and Australian datasets.



Gain a new perspective on your research from the Centre

Main features of the new research zone:

- **FREE admission** for everyone.
- **FREE of charge access to burgeoning online datasets** of Findmypast worldwide (NEW), The 1939 Register, The British Newspaper Archive, Ancestry worldwide edition and The Genealogist.
- **Research assistants** – society volunteers provide expert advice and support where needed.
- **Printing and photocopying** available for a nominal charge A3 and A4, B&W and colour.
- **Dedicated PC preloaded with Berkshire data** (including baptisms, marriages, burials, probate records and trade directories) Data from many other English counties too, including the National Burial Index, 3rd edition.
- **Reference library** containing an extensive collection of primary and secondary source material such as Berkshire trade directories. You can also copy material, subject to provisions of UK copyright law.
- **Microfiche data** available on most English counties.
- **Complementary resources** – Reading's top-class local studies library adjoins the Centre.
- **Quarterly exhibitions** to inspire your research.
- **The Bookshop** with society publications, and a range of products in electronic and print formats. These include transcriptions, indexes, general and local guides for family historians, maps and a selection of local history books for Berkshire and adjoining counties. Browse and purchase at the Centre (credit and debit card payments accepted).
- **Refreshments** - tea and coffee, at just £1.00 a cup.
- **Lockers** to ensure that your personal possessions and valuables stay secure at all times.

Assisting family historians at a distance

The society recognises that not everyone can take up the research benefits of the Centre straight away. Keep in mind that the website, discussion list, and social media like Twitter and Facebook still offer you the means to benefit from the collective expertise and experience of fellow researchers.

In addition the society offers an established postal/online search service of Berkshire names based on:

- Berkshire baptisms
- Berkshire marriages
- Berkshire burials
- Berkshire probate index

Simply nominate a surname (or several surnames) to access information. The detail supplied for each entry will vary depending on the particular database, and the content of any individual record within it. You can request searches online or by post. Current charges are:

- **Individual database search: £3 per surname per database.** You will receive full details, to a maximum of 25 entries. Where

there are more than 25 entries (likely for more commonly encountered Berkshire surnames), the society will let you know what the extra cost would be of supplying them all.

- **Search of all available databases: £6 per specified surname.** You will receive full details, to a maximum of 25 entries per database. Again, the society will advise the extra cost if there are more entries than this.

To obtain an estimate of likely costs for any searches that you are considering, or to resolve any other query, contact berksnamesearch@berksfhs.org.uk

For postal requests, you need to enclose a large A4 self-addressed envelope and stamps to cover return cost. (UK Large Letter size, First Class £1.01, Second Class 83p; Overseas postage costs will be between £2.80 and £3.60 according to country. Prices correct at March 2019.) Send postal search requests to Berkshire Name Search at the Centre for Heritage and Family History.

Or supply an email address and results will be emailed to you. In case of any queries, it is helpful to provide a UK phone number too.



Opening hours (correct at time of going to press)

Mondays	11.00 to 16.00	Saturdays	10.30 to 14.30
Tuesdays	10.30 to 16.00 and 18.45 to 21.00	Last Thursday in the month	10.30 to 16.00

Research zone in the Centre

Website News

Research Guides - Navigating our rich seam of content

Introduction

One of the surprises from the new website launch was the greater than ten-fold increase in the number of contact forms compared to the old site, submitted from all over the world, some from members but many from non-members too.

One of the most interesting was from a tutor who was running a beginners' genealogy course, who contacted us to say that they had found our research guides section to be so helpful that they had used it in their classes.

A pattern emerged

A significant proportion (about 80%) of the contact forms were from people looking for help with their research. In many cases, the information that was being requested already existed on the site. If that's the case, why weren't people finding it? Why did they resort to a contact form? We needed to understand this issue and find a solution because although it's extremely gratifying to see this surge in requests, finding the volunteer time to respond is a challenge. It can take several hours to research and reply to a single request and at times we can get two a day - a significant resource demand. We were a victim of our own success - the new website had clearly drawn the attention of a new audience.

Analysis

When we developed the new site, we introduced a number of new pages to bring useful content together. One was Berklopedia (see *Berkshire Family Historian Dec 2019 - page 6*) and another was the Research Guides the tutor found so helpful (see below).

Research Guides webpage

The content of the Research Guides was carried over from the old site, re-organised, reformatted, supplemented with some new material and presented in a new way. Why was this not helpful to some people when it had clearly been very helpful to the tutor?

We decided that, as the tutor's example demonstrates, you may need some expertise in family history to make the best of the resource. Some people didn't know where to start. Perhaps the answer was to provide a step-by-step guide? Thus, was the Research Wizard born.

STEP 1

Search the Site

Surname	Number of surnames on CD	Number of surnames on CD	Number of surnames on CD	Number of surnames on CD
ARCHBOLD	7	10	5	
ARCHLL		1	1	
ARCHS		4	1	
ARCHTZEL		3		
ARCHR		2	1	
ARCHT		1		
ARCHUS	3	5	1	
ARCHY	24	15	15	3

STEP 2

View our Surname Index

STEP 3
Browse the data we hold

Step 3: Browse the data we hold

We have a number of other databases, covering a variety of topics

If you're looking for something else, you can skip to Step 4

Intro Select a tab that describes what you're looking for and we'll point you in the right direction.

We also have a couple of general resources that you can explore

Berklopedia

Berklopedia is our online encyclopedia that contains a large body of useful information, most of which is also mentioned in the other tabs:

- Places
- Unions
- Churches, cemeteries & more
- Surnames
- Dictionary

[Go to Berklopedia](#)

Research Guides

This is an assembly of various resources that might interest you, including links to public archives, newspapers and military records

[Go to Research Guides](#)

[Need more help? Go to step 4](#)

STEP 4
Options



STEP 5
Send us a message

Step 5: Send us a message

If you've tried all the suggestions and still need help, use the **Get in touch** button below to tell us what you are looking for and we'll try to help you.

[Feedback / Get in touch](#)

Now enquirers are taken down a guided path through our data sets, starting with the most popular until, if all else fails, they are pointed to our Contact Us page. And just in case anyone misses the Research Wizard and jumps straight into the Contact Us page there's a little hint there too.

Contact Us

Looking For Help With Your Family History Research?

Please try the Research Wizard *before* you contact us with a research enquiry

Over 90% of enquiries can be answered quicker if you use the DIY wizard.

If that's unsuccessful or your enquiry is not research-related, please feel free to contact us using one of the options below

[Launch Wizard](#)

Contact!

We love to hear from our visitors and members.

To ensure your enquiry is sent directly to the volunteer(s) most able to answer, please choose the best match

Logging In

If you are having any problems logging in to the new site

[Click here](#)

Events / Bookings

For anything related to our Events or your Bookings

[Click here](#)

Membership

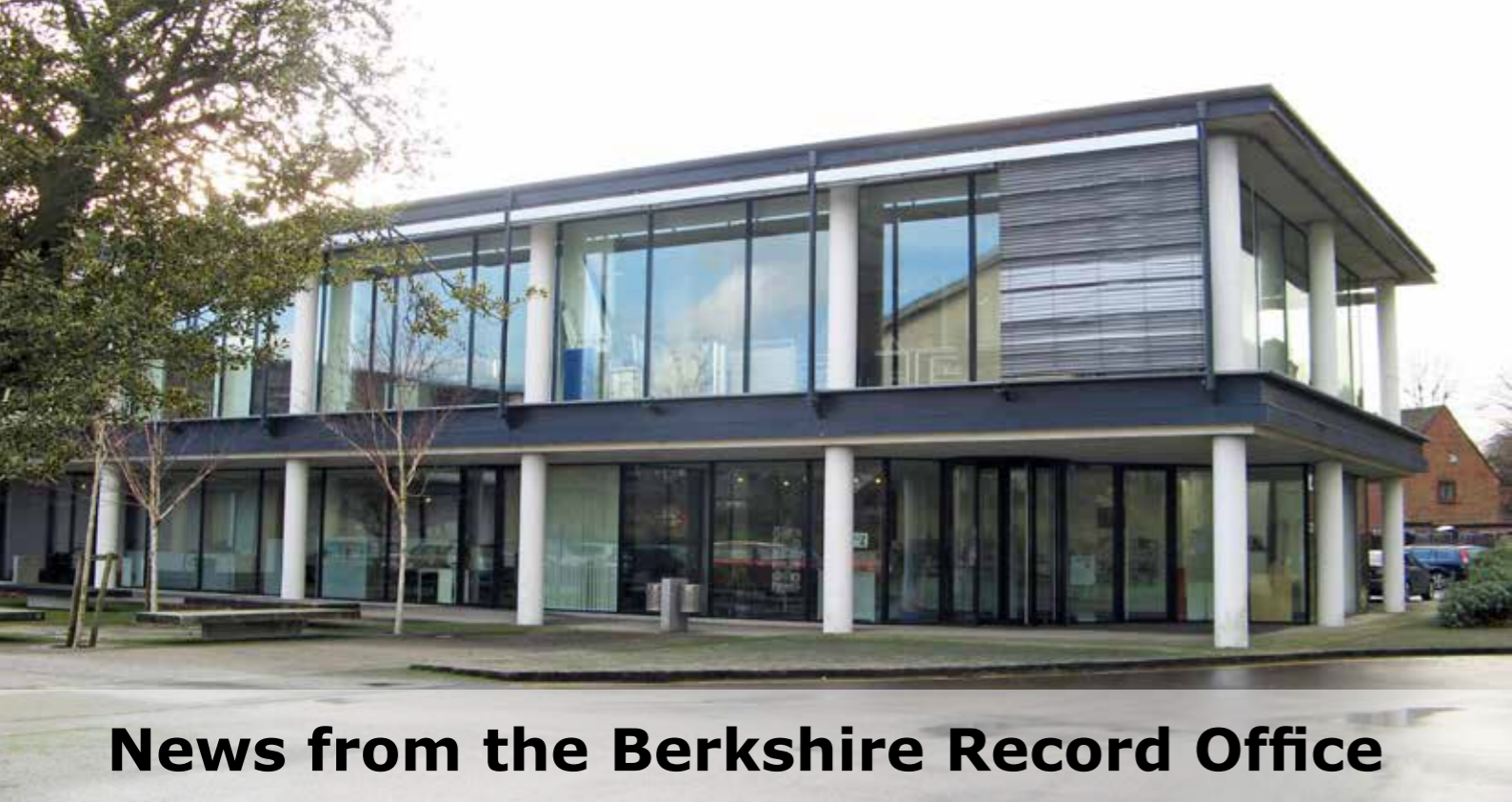
If your query is related to Membership - change of address, email, name...

[Click here](#)

Contact Us webpage

At the time of writing (just before Christmas) it was early days, but we have high hopes. The number of contact forms has already started to decline.

Paul Barrett
Webmaster



News from the Berkshire Record Office

Ivone Turnbull, Senior Archivist at the Berkshire Record Office

What new archives are now available at the BRO?

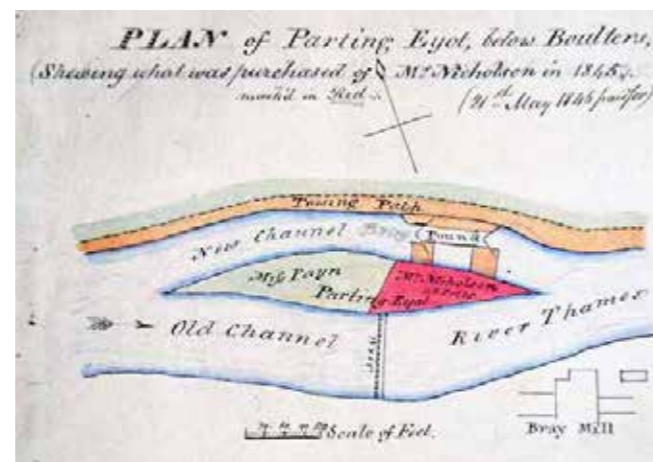
Recently catalogued items which may be of interest are the records for three cemeteries in Reading covering Reading Cemetery (London Road/Cemetery Junction), 1843-2007 (R/UC1), Hemdean Road Cemetery, 1885-2007 (R/UC2), and Henley Road and Reading Crematorium (R/UC3 and DC/R/UC3). We also have parish registers for Buscot (banns), 1813-1830 (D/P30); Little Coxwell burials, 1839-2017 (D/P53B); Didcot St Frideswide baptisms, 1940-1973 and marriages, 1944-1973 (D/P47C); Didcot St Peter marriages, 1916-1992, burials, 1916-1992 and banns, 1993-2018 (D/P47B); Fernham banns, 1861-1944 (D/P112B); Littleworth marriages, 1849-2016 (D/P27B); Longcot marriages, 1992-2008 and banns, 1864-1985 (D/P112B); Lower Sandhurst baptisms, 1909-1982 (D/P102); Old Windsor baptisms, 1948-1974, marriages, 1884-1970 and banns, 1819-2010 (D/P150); Twyford Wesleyan Methodist Church baptisms, 1893-1915 (D/MS116) and Arborfield Garrison Church, marriages, 1986-2014 (D/RG1/1).

Other records include records relating to the appointment of Sheriffs of Berkshire, 1994-2018, (SH/); deeds of a house and land called Edwards Lands near Bearwood in Wokingham, 1652-1743 (D/EZ199); deeds for property in Caversham,

1899-1978 (D/EX2711); admission registers for Ranikhet School, Tilehurst, 1970-2004 (SCH47) and the papers of Anthony Cooper which includes a photograph of boys from Battle School, Reading, at a potato picking camp in the late 1940s (D/EX2506).

Other news

We're excited that our latest project to catalogue the Thames Conservancy collection has begun. The collection forms a unique and unbroken record over 200 years, covering the river's management from its source to its tidal reach at Teddington. It will be of interest to those looking into the Thames as well aspects such as water purity and flood management.



Thames Project D-TC 28

We hope to plan public engagement events for 2021, when the 250th anniversary of the conservancy will be celebrated. The 'Liquid Assets' project is funded by a grant from the National Archives' 'Archives Revealed' scheme and you can read more about it on the TNA's website: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives-sector/finding-funding/archives-revealed/cataloguing-grants/current-projects/

Did you know that you can now search our wills index online? It has over 38,000 entries and you can search it to see what Archdeaconry of Berkshire wills, administrations and inventories

we have for someone during the period of 1480 to 1857. Why not take a look? <https://berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk/wills-index>

Our website also has lots of information about family and local history in general as well as our opening hours and online catalogue; you can even read our latest newsletter and see what events we have on – why not take a look: If you are interested in seeing something, please do visit, but if you're not able to come in person we can still assist you remotely; just use our online contact form on the website and get in touch.

What's going on at the BRO?

We will be having a World War Two exhibition from late April 2020. Full details will be available on our website in due course www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk/events.

How to Read Old Handwriting Workshop

15th June 2020

Time 10:15 to 14:45

Always wanted to know how to read old handwriting, but don't know how? Then come along to our workshop! It will be held at the Berkshire Record Office where we will look at samples from 16th to 18th century documents held here. Cost is £20 per person. There are 10 places available and booking is essential. Please email: arch@reading.gov.uk or call 0118 937 5132.

Behind the Scenes at the BRO

22nd June 2020

Time 10:30 to 11:30

Ever wanted to know what goes on behind the scenes at the BRO? Then come along and find out! You will be shown some historical documents, where we store them and given an insight into how our conservator repairs them. It's FREE and there are 12 spaces available. Booking is essential. Please email: arch@reading.gov.uk or call 0118 937 5132.



Learn how to read this type of document at the 'How to Read Old Handwriting Workshop'

The Berkshire Record Office
9 Coley Avenue
Reading
RG1 6AF

arch@reading.gov.uk

0118 937 5132

www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk



Members' Surname Interests

Compiled by Bob Plumridge memsec@berksfhs.org.uk

Members submitting their interests:

4911	SIMS	Mrs S.		<i>simsbk@hotmail.co.uk</i>
7802	SURMAN	Mr	R. 17 Penfold Place, Henderson, Auckland 0610, NEW ZEALAND	<i>robinsurman@gmail.com</i>
8011	CAPON	Mrs A.	7 Glebe Gardens, Sonning, Reading, RG4 6XN	<i>ahallows@aol.com</i>
8258	ROBERTSON	Mr D.	2 Kirkstall Court, Calcot, Reading, RG31 7DL	
8259	SLICE	Mrs P.	17 McGann Mountain Road, Jordan, Arkansas 72519-9734 USA	<i>muzzypatmn@gmail.com</i>
8265	DORN	Mr A.	Stinchcombe, 3 Rosewood Way, Loughborough, LE11 2BA	<i>alan_dorn@hotmail.com</i>
8266	SMITH	Dr A.	845 South 400 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84111, USA	<i>amoeba84103@gmail.com</i>
8268	BROWN	Ms C.	Flat 3 Willow Lodge, 173 Barnett Wood Lane, Ashtead, KT21 2LP	<i>the_palmist@yahoo.com</i>
8269	MAUL	Dr W.		<i>wendy.maull@gmail.com</i>
8271	LINDE	Mrs S.		<i>lindesu1@aol.com</i>
8272	WATTS	Mrs E.	109 Barlows Lane, Andover, SP10 2HB	<i>evelynwatts@live.co.uk</i>
8279	READ	Mr P.	11 Crane Park Road, Twickenham, TW2 6DF	<i>paul.read96@gmail.com</i>
8282	COWLEY-GWILLIAMS	Ms E.	33 Scrumpy Way, Banham, Norwich, NR16 2SU	<i>ecg1@sky.com</i>
8284	HUGHES	Mr D.		<i>dhba10566@blueyonder.co.uk</i>
8285	REED-JENNINGS	Miss S.	41 The Close, Woodcote, Reading, RG8 0SR	
8287	BINKS	Miss		<i>J.jane_binks@hotmail.co.uk</i>

4911	BELSON	Bracknell	BRK	1700-2020
8258	BINGHAM	Any	WAR	1850-1950
8258	BINGHAM	London	LND	1750-1850
8285	BRODIE	Henley on Thames	OXF	1945-1955
4911	CASE	Bracknell	BRK	1700-2020
8282	CHAPLIN	Reading	BRK	1750-1840
4911	COX	Beech Hill	BRK	1700-2020
4911	CROOK	Bucklebury	BRK	1700-2020
8258	DAVISON	Any	DUR	1750-1900
8258	DAVISON	Any	WAR	1900-1950
4911	DEANE	Bracknell	BRK	1700-2020
8272	DIXON	Wantage	OXF	All
8265	DORN	Abingdon	OXF	1600-1950
8285	DUDLEY	London	LND	1920
8285	EGERTON	London	LND	1940
8269	FLUDDIER	Hagbourne	OXF	1500-1800
8269	FLUDGER	Wallingford	OXF	All
8011	FREEMAN	Reading	BRK	All

8284	GARRATT	Beenham	BRK	All
8258	GATES	Any	YKS	1750-1950
8258	GATES	Any	DUR	1750-1950
8258	GILBERT	Any	WAR	1750-1900
8258	GILBERT	Any	NTH	1900-1950
8266	GRUBB	Newbury	BRK	1777-1842
8259	GULEY	Any	BRK	1900-1960
8259	GULEY	Any	WIL	1900-1960
8282	HERMAN	Wantage	OXF	1700-1800
8258	HOLMES	Any	WAR	1700-1950
8258	LANE	Any	WAR	1750-1950
8258	LENTON	Any	WAR	1750-1900
8258	LIGGINS	Any	WAR	1750-1950
8258	LIGGINS	Any	NTH	1850-1950
8285	MANSFIELD	Eastbourne	SSX	1940
8285	MARSH	Epsom	SRY	1920
8271	MONTAGUE	Boughton	NTH	1375-1550
8268	MONTAGUE	Winkfield	BRK	1578
8258	OLIVER	Any	DUR	1750-1900
8258	PAGE	Any	WAR	1750-1900
8279	READ	Any	BRK	pre 1800
8279	READE	Any	BRK	pre 1800
8279	REED	Any	BRK	pre 1800
8259	ROBERTSON	Any	BRK	1900-1941
8258	ROBERTSON	Any	WAR	1850-1950
8258	ROBERTSON	Perthshire	SCO	1700-1850
8258	ROBINSON	Any	WAR	1850-1950
8258	ROBINSON	Any	YKS	1750-1900
8258	ROBINSON	Any	DUR	1750-1900
8258	ROBINSON	London	LND	1750-1850
7802	S*RM*N	Any	BRK	1500-1600
8258	SHARP	Any	WAR	1850-1950
8258	SHARP	London	LND	1750-1850
8266	SMITH	Newbury	BRK	1809-1860
8266	STILLMAN	Newbury	BRK	1774-1843
7802	SURMAN	Buckland	BRK	1500-1600
7802	SURMAN	Fyfield	BRK	1500-1600
7802	SURMAN	Marcham	BRK	1500-1700
8271	TERRELL	Any	ESS	1550-1650
8271	TERRELL	Any	LND	1550-1650
8271	TERRELL	Reading	BRK	1550-1650
8282	TUFF	Any	Any	1750-1840
8271	TYRELL	Thornton	BKM	1430-1570
8258	WEST	Any	WAR	1750-1850
8258	WEST	Any	NTH	1850-1900
8268	WHEATLEY	Winkfield	BRK	1550-1700
8287	WILLIAMS	Reading	BRK	1919
8287	WINDEBANK	Upper Basildon	BRK	1940s
8285	WINSBURY-WHITE	Pangbourne	BRK	1920-1962

Your membership fees for 2020/21

Every 12 months, society trustees look carefully at fees to apply for the coming year. As your society's largest single source of income, those fees must reflect the genuine costs of preparing and providing products, membership services, meetings and events, and their associated benefits. They must also meet forecast financial demands of any new initiatives and developments, where returns to the society may not be immediately seen.

No one welcomes price rises. And they are never made lightly. But you know that they are a fact of modern life — and the world of family history receives no special privileges or exemptions from rising costs. Whether it is postage rates, insurance, speaker charges, or telephone calls, all of them will be more expensive for the society in 2020 than they were last year — to give you just a few illustrations.

After due discussion, the trustees have restricted increases in fees to £1 for all categories of membership for this coming year — less than 2p per week more.

Membership Category	Current Annual Membership Fee	Membership Fee for the Year Starting 1st July 2020
Single	£18	£19
Family	£22	£23
Overseas	£21	£22
Young Person	£14	£15
Institutional	£22	£23

At the same time, your society is actively seeking to widen the range of benefits that members can enjoy. Savings on product purchases and event bookings continue to prove popular. The recently launched website — complete with new features and member-only content — means that opportunities now exist to bring extra benefits for all members, not just those closest to Berkshire. And the society has already secured access to more online resources for users of the Research Zone at The Centre for Heritage and Family History too.

April — sees the first renewals (as well as the first cuckoo)

Bob Plumridge, your society's membership secretary, notes that April marks the start of the 'renewal season'. He receives the first in a steady flow of prompt renewals from that point onwards. Whether you renew on paper or online (the new website makes this process easier than ever — and avoids any postage involved too) your prompt renewal makes Bob's job as a volunteer so much easier. Do remember the importance of completing your Gift Aid declaration if you are a UK taxpayer. At no cost to you, Gift Aid enhances the value to the society of your annual membership payment and any donation that you decide to add on top of it.

Standing disorder

Standing orders are a great idea — just as long as they are kept up to date. Fortunately, most people keep them updated when fees change, but, regrettably, Bob advises that a small number of members who pay their annual fees by standing order fail to tell their bank to pay the correct sum due. It means that he must contact those same members every year to recover the shortfalls. Even then, some appear to overlook and to fail to respond to Bob's emails and letters. If you are one of those who pay by standing order, please remember in good time to update payment instructions for your bank.

Thank you for your continuing support — whichever way you choose to renew

The trustees would like to thank you all for your ongoing backing of the society's work. They very much appreciate and value it. The continued support from every single member is vital if the society is to maintain the many products, services and facilities that it offers. That support is also essential for the successful introduction of new initiatives, fresh resources and added benefits for you and for fellow members. Bob Plumridge looks forward to hearing from you all very soon!

Branch Meetings

March - June 2020

Venues and other details can sometimes change, so it is always advisable to check the 'What's on Section' on <https://berksfhs.org.uk>

Abingdon Branch

abingdon@berksfhs.org.uk

Meeting address: Long Furlong Community Centre, (at end of) Boulter Drive, off Dunmore Road, Abingdon OX14 1XP

Meeting time: 19.15 for 19.30

16 March **"It all started with a letter from Colditz"**
by Christine Wootton

20 April **"Open evening"**

18 May **Branch Annual Meeting followed by "Bagels and Bacon"**
by Jeff Rozelaar

15 June **Walk - "The railways coming to Oxford"**
by Liz Woolley

Bracknell & Wokingham Branch

bracknell@berksfhs.org.uk

Meeting address: The New Priestwood Community Centre, Priestwood Court Road, Bracknell RG42 1TU

Meeting time: 19.15 for 19.45

20 March **"Heraldry"**
by Christopher Singleton

17 April **Branch Annual Meeting followed by "Thomas Lawrence and the Warfield Brickworks"**
by Paul Lacey

15 May **VE Day Remembered – Members stories and reminiscences**

4 June* **"45th AGM of Berkshire FHS followed by "The Life and Times of the Victorians"**
by Tony King

* This meeting will be held at Wokingham Town Hall and start at the slightly earlier time of 7.30pm. See full article in this Historian or website for further details.

Computer Branch at Woodley

woodley@berksfhs.org.uk

Meeting address: Oakwood Community Centre, Woodley, Reading RG5 4JZ

Meeting time: 19.15 for 19.45

18 March **"Finding living relatives: do your own Heir Hunting"**

15 April **"Wills and Probate after 1858"**
by Gillian Stevens and Chad Hanna

20 May **Branch Annual Meeting followed by "Where are the bodies buried?"**

17 June **"Do you Glaze over with Windows? Family History Programs, Applications and More"**

Branch Meetings (continued)

Newbury Branch

newbury@berksfhs.org.uk

Meeting address: St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Shaw, Newbury RG14 2DS

Meeting time: 19.10 for 19.30

- 11 March **"Newbury in old photographs"**
by Dr Nick Young
- 8 April **"Unusual occupations" - Open evening: members and guests welcome to contribute**
by Dr Nick Young
- 13 May **Branch Annual Meeting followed by "Churches of Berkshire and South Oxfordshire"**
by Catherine Sampson
- 10 June **"The working women of Newbury in Tudor & Stuart times"**
by Joan Dils

Reading Branch

reading@berksfhs.org.uk

Meeting address: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,
280 The Meadway, Tilehurst, Reading RG30 4PE

Meeting time: 19.15 for 19.45

- 26 March **"Breakthrough moments" - Members' evening**
- 30 April **Branch Annual Meeting followed by "History of Reading's Hospitals"**
by Lionel Williams
- 28 May **"Jane Austen and the Thames Valley Connection"**
by Joy Pibworth
- 25 June **"The Colin Spickett Experiment"**
by Mark Bowman

Windsor, Slough & Maidenhead Branch

windsor@berksfhs.org.uk

Meeting address: Christ Church United Reformed Church, William Street,
Windsor SL4 1BA

Meeting time: 19.15 for 19.45

- 31 March **"Bringing Local History to life"**
by John Smith
- 28 April **"London street names and numbering"**
by Alan Rushton
- 26 May **Branch Annual Meeting followed by "Annie Besant and the Match Girls Strike"**
by Jef Page
- 30 June **"170 year old recipe book"**
by Jenny Mallin