

Keeping connected

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in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



Shalbourne St Michael

Image courtesy of Penny Stokes



There's a lot to talk about in this edition.

Our Virtual AGM on Friday 4th Sep was a success and in light of the new 'Rule of Six' the virtual meeting format is likely to remain the norm for a while yet. But that's OK because we have lots of virtual events lined up for your enjoyment. There's a roundup of the AGM too.

We also have news of changes to our shop site to introduce data downloads. As an alternative to purchasing a CD, you can now instead choose a PDF dataset, available immediately after your order is paid. As a result, over the next few weeks, hundreds of products will be added to our shop.

Finally, we have links to some new Research Resources too.

Berkshire Data Downloads are launched!



We're delighted to announce the launch of data downloads.

Not all computers take CDs nowadays and many researchers have interests in specific parishes only. Data downloads have been developed to provide choice, flexibility and instant access in how you access data for Berkshire.

The downloads are in PDF format and your purchase is automatically fulfilled as soon as you have paid. Ts & Cs apply and these downloads are for your personal use only.

Prices vary but start from just £2.00. The usual member discounts apply.

Burial entries are presented in alphabetical and date order, monumental inscriptions are fully indexed and include a plan to help you locate graves. Berkshire's burials and monumental inscriptions are also available in CD format. If you're interested in a number of parishes, the Berkshire Burials 12th Edition CD may be better value.

The first 19 downloads are now available (click the links below) and more will be released shortly. Keep an eye on the website and the newsletters.

[Aldworth St Mary Monumental Inscriptions 1669-1984 £3.00](#)

[Ashampstead St Clements Monumental Inscriptions 1715-1984 £2.00](#)

[Basildon \(Lower\) St Bartholomew's Monumental Inscriptions 1497-1983 £2.00](#)

[Buckland St Mary the Virgin Burials 1605-1974 £4.50](#)

[Hagbourne St Andrew Burials 1612-1993 £4.50](#)
[North Hinksey St Lawrence Burials 1607-1984 £3.50](#)
[Hurley St Mary the Virgin 1563-1917 £4.25](#)
[Inkpen St Michael and All Angels 1607-1986 £4.25](#)
[Midgham Park Private Burial Ground Monumental Inscriptions 1712-1895 £2.50](#)
[Reading St Laurence Burials 1603-1699 \(part 1 of 3\) £4.00](#)
[Reading St Laurence Burials 1700-1779 \(part 2 of 3\) £4.00](#)
[Reading St Laurence Burials 1780-1901 \(part 3 of 3\) £4.00](#)
[Reading St Laurence Monumental Inscriptions 1672-1948 £2.50](#)
[Remenham St Nicholas Monumental Inscriptions 1654-2001 £3.50](#)
[Ruscombe St James the Great Burials 1569-1940 £4.25](#)
[Sandhurst St Michael Burials 1580-1959 £4.25](#)
[Shippon St Mary Monumental Inscriptions 1852-2012 £3.50](#)
[Speenhamland St Mary Burials 1831-1971 £3.50](#)
[Woolhampton St Peter Monumental Inscriptions 1684-1986 £3.00](#)

[**View all downloads**](#)

Virtual Events to entertain and educate



Grave News of Reading - Sessions 3 & 4

15 Sep 18:45 for 19:00

19 Sep 13:45 for 14:00

This is an online illustrated talk, using Zoom, prepared for the Heritage Open Days event 11th–20th September.

We will be highlighting some of the outstanding, interesting, historical, and sometimes funny memorials found in Reading and the surrounding area.

Free to attend, but pre-booking required.

Book Session 3

Book Session 4

Finding Living Relatives

16 Sep 19.15 for 19:30 start - Woodley (Computer) Branch Meeting followed by talk

A series of short talks by members of the committee, each detailing how resources can be used to find living relatives. Including Electoral Rolls, Lost Cousins, Facebook, and DNA tracing.



This talk is free to members of Berkshire Family History Society but we request a donation of £3 from non-members. Pre-booking is required.

Book now



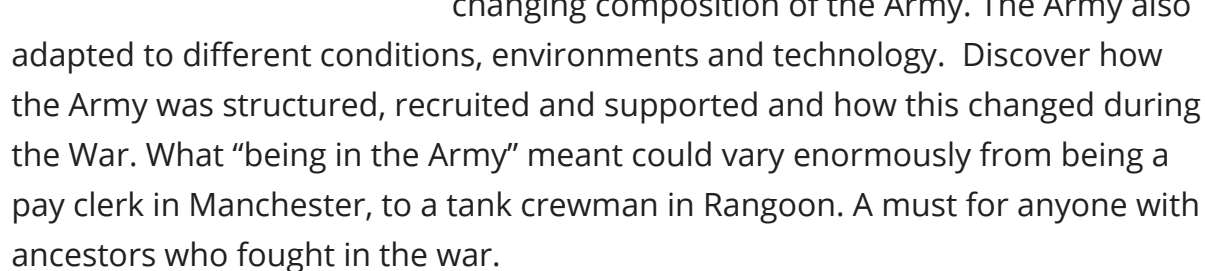
Family History Discoveries During Lockdown

19:15 for 19:45 start. Bracknell & Wokingham Branch Meeting followed by talk

they took.

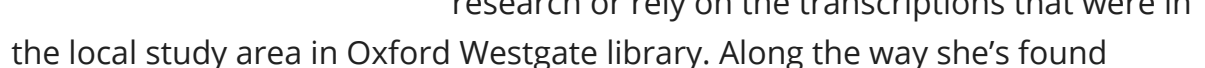
A chance for members and visitors to share their family history discoveries and describe the route

Please contact Sandra Barkwith (sandra.barkwith@berksfhs.org.uk), Branch Chair, to add your name to the list of speakers.



**24th September 14.00 – 15.00 Online
Talk by Mike Cooper**

ns, environments and technology. Discover how recruited and supported and how this changed during Army" meant could vary enormously from being a tank crewman in Rangoon. A must for anyone with war.



Margaret started researching her husband's family a long time ago, BC [before computers!] and had to go into the record office up at Shire Hall to do her research or rely on the transcriptions that were in the Westgate library. Along the way she's found

d Westgate library. Along the way she's found

relatives in Australia, a story of transportation and hardship and success and had great fun and enjoyment.

Now with so many more records online she's finding new sources of information and is beginning to fill in some of the gaps from the 17th and 18th century.

In this talk Margaret hopes to be able to show you how she started, what she found and how she's still discovering new records and information.

Free to Members, £3 for non-members. Prebooking is required

Book now

Victorian Sources for Historians - Online Course

Ten-week Online Course Begins 2 Oct
Tutor: Dr Margaret Simons



The nineteenth century is a treasure trove of documents relating to the lives of our Victorian forebears. A selection of these sources will be used to provide context and a sense of period, whilst developing our knowledge of what is available from museums, archives, libraries and record offices.

During the course we will consider the type of sources available, and then, using a themed approach, we will uncover what life was like in the 19th century, a period that witnessed profound change and development.

£115 to members, £125 non-members. Pre-booking required.

Book now



Save the Date and register now!

The world's leading genealogy event, RootsTech, is set to go virtual next year. Family Search has announced that the genealogy conference will run as **RootsTech Connect** from 25-27 February 2021 and it's going to be Free.

As with previous years, there will be keynote speakers as well as a virtual marketplace where visitors will be able to discover a variety of family history tools. Although all classes and webinars will be free to watch, participants will still need to reserve a place at the conference via RootsTech.org. Registrations are now open.

Throughout the three-day online event, attendees will have the ability to interact with presenters, exhibitors, and other attendees through live chat and question and answer sessions. For those who cannot attend livestream talks because of time zone differences, sessions will be available to view on-demand afterwards.

Find out more and reserve your place

Research Resources



Dynamic Forces: People who made their mark on milling

The Mills Archive collects stories about milling and places them within the broader context of social, cultural and economic history. New to their website is a Dynamic Forces section, which focuses on people who made a significant impact in the milling world and contains their biographies and images. The Trust plans to increase the number of biographies to include inventors and scientists, millwrights and engineers, milling pioneers and philanthropists, and people who recorded mills whose collections they hold in the Archive.

[Discover more](#)



**Find your family.
Discover yourself.**

Bring to life your family's history by exploring the lives of those that came before you.



New Catholic records on FamilySearch

FamilySearch has added over one million new Catholic Church records from

England, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Spain, Mexico, Brazil, Peru, Puerto Rico, Canada, Micronesia and South Africa.

Check them out

And finally - the AGM



The Society's 45th AGM

Friday 4th Sept was a milestone for the society, when we held our postponed AGM online using Zoom. While it's sad that we could not meet face to face and a few regular faces were missing, it was encouraging to see members from outside the county attend for the first time. In all, 65 members attended, our highest AGM attendance in 3 years. It was great to have the opportunity to debate many of the issues facing the society - thank you to everyone who contributed to the discussion.

A full report on the AGM will appear in December's Historian and a recording of the session can be viewed [here](#)

In the meantime, here're a few of the decisions made on the night ...

Rolling Membership

We have operated a fixed membership year since the society was founded, but this meant that new members who joined part way through the year were disadvantaged by paying a full year's subs for only partial year membership. A motion to amend the constitution was passed at the AGM to adopt rolling annual membership so that all new members' renewal dates will be one year from the date of joining.

If you have joined since July 1st 2020, we will adjust your renewal date so that you retrospectively benefit from this new arrangement.

Existing members' renewal dates will be based on July 1st although to smooth the flow of transactions through the system we will randomly assign you a new date in July. This will make no practical difference to your membership entitlements.

Our new membership system will handle this automatically, issuing email renewal notifications in the run up to your personal renewal date and prompting you to renew online.

We will launch this new membership model as soon as we can - watch out for further news.

Hybrid Future AGMs

Another change to the constitution agreed was to commit to supporting both physical and virtual attendance at future AGMs, where possible.

Some changes to your Exec

Chairman - Catherine Sampson and Secretary - Vicki Chesterman have stepped down having served the maximum permitted terms. Their roles have been taken on by Nick Prince and Vanessa Chappell respectively, and these appointments were confirmed at the AGM along with a few changes to the Trustees.



Berkshire Family History Society

for family history research - in Berkshire and beyond

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