

Keeping in touch

Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org>

Sun, Oct 11 2020 10:29:04

To: Paul <paul.b@rrett.me.uk>

[Not displaying correctly? View in your browser](#)

in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



Thatcham Bluecoat School (as it is still called) was built as a chapel dedicated to St Thomas in 1304, later becoming a charity school. It is now protected and managed as a hire venue by a charity.

Photo by Penny Stokes



This newsletter is longer than usual* because we have a lot to tell you about family history activities that can keep you occupied as the second wave of Covid-19 gains momentum and impacts our lives and loved ones, once again.

**Your email program may clip the message - if so look for an option to "View entire message" which you will probably find at the end of the message.*

Stay safe.

- WDYTIA is back for a mini-series.
 - We've added another 59 data downloads to the shop
 - We have details of several old-map sites
 - And to round it off, we've the usual crop of online events for you to enjoy
-



Who Do You Think You Are **series returns to BBC One**

It's back! And can you believe that we're up to series 17 now! Episode One begins at 9pm on Monday 12th October and features Doctor Who's Jodie Whittaker.

It will be followed by three more episodes starring actor and author David Walliams on 19 October, Silent Witness actor Liz Carr on 26 October, and Gavin & Stacey's Ruth Jones on 2 November. The episode themes includes the battlefields of the First World War, an attempted murder in County Armagh, Northern Ireland, and the Medical Aid Societies of South Wales.

All four episodes were filmed earlier in 2020 before the coronavirus lockdown began.

Even More Berkshire Data Downloads!



Four weeks on from the initial launch and we've added another batch of 59 data sets to the shop - in PDF format to provide choice, flexibility and instant access in how you access data for Berkshire.

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.

Title

[Abingdon St Nicholas Burials 1558-1880 \(Download\) D1004](#)

[Aston Upthorpe All Saints Burials 1863-1988 \(Download\) D1018](#)

[Beech Hill Baptist Church MI 1822-1992 \(Download\) D1404](#)

[Bracknell Independent / Congregational Burials 1822-1859 \(Download\) D1035](#)

[Bradfield St Andrew Burials 1540-1952 \(Download\) D1037](#)

[Bradfield Workhouse Burials 1835-1932 \(Download\) D1038](#)

[Bray St Michael Burials 1607-1799 \(Download\) D1269 \(Part 1 of 2\)](#)

[Bray St Michael Burials 1800-1955 \(Download\) D1270 \(Part 2 of 2\)](#)

[Brightwalton All Saints Burials 1561-1959 \(Download\) D1040](#)

[Brimpton St Peter Burials 1607-1992 \(Download\) D1042](#)

[Caversham Hemdean Road Cemetery MI 1885-1997 \(Download\) D1406](#)

[Caversham St Peter Burials 1597-1955 \(Download\) D1050](#)

[Chaddleworth St Andrew Burials 1538-2007 \(Download\) D1051](#)

[Charney Bassett St Peter Burials 1620-1979 \(Download\) D1052](#)

[Combe St Swithun Burials 1560-1871 \(Download\) D1061](#)

[Compton St Mary & St Nicholas Burials 1553-2005 \(Download\) D1063](#)

[Cookham Dean Primitive Methodist Burials 1908-1969 \(Download\) D1064](#)

[Cookham Dean St John the Baptist Burials 1845-1973 \(Download\) D1065](#)

[Denchworth St James Burials 1538-2007 \(Download\) D1071](#)

[Didcot All Saints Burials 1569-1942 \(Download\) D1073](#)

[Eddington St Saviour MI 1835-1953 \(Download\) D1407](#)

[Faringdon Union Workhouse Burials 1875-1933 \(Download\) D1089](#)

[Fawley St Mary Burials 1550-1987 \(Download\) D1091](#)

[Goosey All Saints MI 1718-2013 \(Download\) D1409](#)

[Hampstead Norreys St Mary Burials 1543-1919 \(Download\) D1102](#)

[Hanney, West St James the Great Burials 1564-1964 \(Download\) D1245](#)

[Kingston Bagpuize St John the Baptist Burials 1541-1835 \(Download\) D1113](#)

[Lyford St Mary MI 1851-2013 \(Download\) D1416](#)

[Midgham St Matthew MI 1844-2015 \(Download\) D1418](#)

[Mortimer Methodist Church MI 1871-2004 \(Download\) D1419](#)

[Newbury Congregational Church Burials 1784-1837 \(Download\) D1146](#)

[Newbury Lower Meeting House \(Independent\) Burials 1725-1977 \(Download\) D1147](#)

[Newbury St Nicolas MI 1519-2002 \(Download\) D1420](#)

[Oare St Bartholomew MI 1826-1984 \(Download\) D1422](#)

[Radley St James the Great Burials 1599-1981 \(Download\) D1167](#)

[Reading Henley Road Cemetery \(Caversham\) Burials 1927-1942 \(Download\) D1304 \(Part 1 of 6\)](#)

[Reading Henley Road Cemetery \(Caversham\) Burials 1943-1952 \(Download\) D1305 \(Part 2 of 6\)](#)

[Reading Henley Road Cemetery \(Caversham\) Burials 1953-1961 \(Download\) D1306 \(Part 3 of 6\)](#)

[Reading Henley Road Cemetery \(Caversham\) Burials 1962-1969 \(Download\) D1307 \(Part 4 of 6\)](#)

[Reading Henley Road Cemetery \(Caversham\) Burials 1970-1980 \(Download\) D1308 \(Part 5 of 6\)](#)

[Reading Henley Road Cemetery \(Caversham\) Burials 1981-1993 \(Download\) D1309 \(Part 6 of 6\)](#)

[Reading Henley Road Crematorium \(Caversham\) Burials 1932-1952 \(Download\) D1310 \(Part 1 of 5\)](#)

[Reading Henley Road Crematorium \(Caversham\) Burials 1953-1958 \(Download\) D1311 \(Part 2 of 5\)](#)

[Reading Henley Road Crematorium \(Caversham\) Burials 1959-1962 \(Download\) D1312 \(Part 3 of 5\)](#)

[Reading Henley Road Crematorium \(Caversham\) Burials 1963-1966 \(Download\) D1313 \(Part 4 of 5\)](#)

[Reading Henley Road Crematorium \(Caversham\) Burials 1967-1969 \(Download\) D1314 \(Part 5 of 5\)](#)

[Shalbourne St Michael Burials 1587-1862 \(Download\) D1185](#)

[Shefford, West St Mary Burials 1599-2014 \(Download\) D1248](#)

[Shinfield Cemetery Burials 1928-1991 \(Download\) D1188](#)

[Stanford in the Vale St Denys Burials 1558-1946 \(Download\) D1203](#)

[Thatcham Cemetery Burials 1887-1940 \(Download\) D1220](#)

[Tilehurst St Michael Burials 1614-1899 \(Download\) D1345 \(Part 1 of 2\)](#)

[Tilehurst St Michael Burials 1900-1978 \(Download\) D1346 \(Part 2 of 2\)](#)

[Upton St Mary Burials 1588-1990 \(Download\) D1232](#)

[Windsor, Old Windsor Cemetery \(Eastern End\) Burials 1886-1941 \(Download\) D1159](#)

[Windsor, Old Windsor Cemetery \(New Burial Ground\) Burials 1922-1949 \(Download\) D1160](#)

[Wokingham Free Church Burial Ground Burials 1921-2004 \(Download\) D1256](#)

[Wokingham Union Workhouse Burials 1866-1925 \(Download\) D1260](#)

[Wytham All Saints Burials 1589-1981 \(Download\) D1265](#)

[View all downloads](#)

Can you help another member?



Socially-Distanced Berkshire Buddies - Take 2

We're repeating this appeal due to the fact that the email address we provided last time was incorrect. Mea Culpa. Apologies!

Over 90% of our members receive our email newsletters. We stepped up the frequency to fill the void caused by our inability to meet face-to-face during Covid-19 but the latest restrictions mean that live meetings are still a way off.

But about 1 in 11 - those members who aren't email enabled - are missing out. With no face-to-face meetings, their contact with the Society is reduced to the quarterly magazine. So we are appealing to you to help us help them. We'd like to offer them a chance to have a *Berkshire Buddy*.

A surprising number of our UK members live close to each other, even those outside Berkshire. So we're looking for volunteers to buddy-up with a nearby offline member (socially distanced of course.) What you do is very much up to you but perhaps you could print and deliver a copy of the newsletter to them. Maybe they could have a telephone chat about family history - whatever works for you.

If we have enough volunteers from among the online community, we'll run an article in the December Historian to see if there's interest from the offline users.

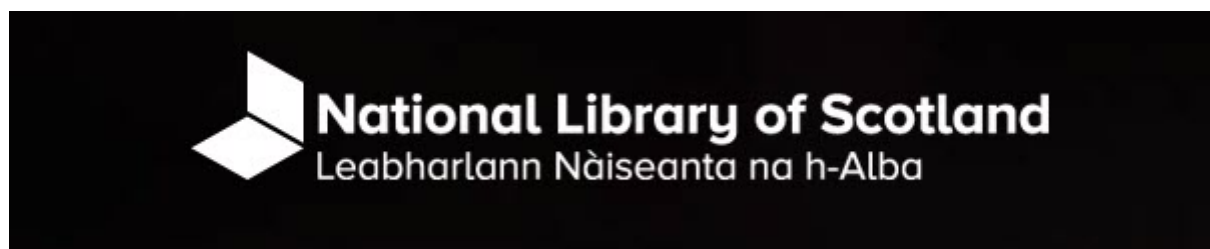
We know there are possible offline/online buddy pairs in the following postcode areas:

BN16 BN3 BS36 BS48 CF62 EX31 GL1 GL6 GU16 GU4 HP14
HP22 KT16 MK16 MK3 NN13 NP15 OX1 OX10 OX11 PO12 RG14
RG18 RG19 RG2 RG20 RG27 RG30 RG31 RG4 RG40 RG41 RG5
RG6 RG7 RG8 RG9 SL3 SL4 SL6 SN3 SO45 WD4

If you're prepared to be a Berkshire Buddy to someone in one of those areas, please let us know which postcode area you can cover, by emailing webmaster@berksfhs.org.uk (If you've already volunteered, there's no need to repeat the exercise)

Maps for family historians

There are many great websites for finding old maps to help with family and local history research. We have featured Berkshire's tithe and enclosure maps in previous newsletters, and have more to share, but here are a few more which may be of interest.



The [GB 1900 Historical Gazetteer](#) is available via the National Library of Scotland's wonderful maps portal. It was created by volunteers who extracted the textual information from the 1900 six-inch OS maps. It holds about 2.6 million place names from not only towns and villages, but farms, fields, woods, wells, footpaths and windmills.

Meanwhile the wider NLS site has all kinds of maps covering not just the UK but across the world, including town plans, county maps, coastal charts, military maps and estate maps. A boundaries viewer helps you check parishes. You can browse the collection by map-maker or place, or view them overlaid on modern maps.

<https://www.nls.uk/digital-resources>



This features an easy-to-use search engine and interactive map that draws on historic digitised maps from collections from all over the world. The free Old Maps Online app lets you search for an area and view the different maps available.

<https://www.oldmapsonline.org/>

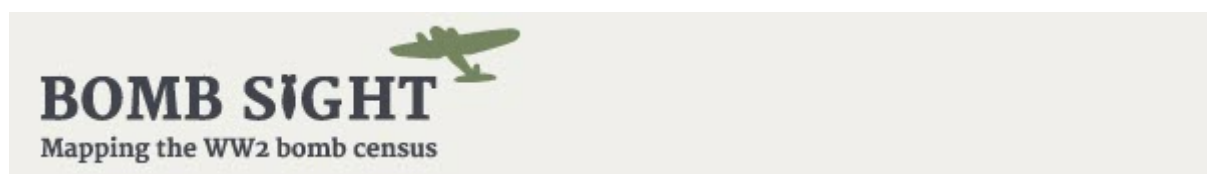


David Rumsey/Google Maps

David Rumsey's site has maps and charts covering the UK as well as North America. The main website details the collection's coverage, lists recent additions and links to the various websites and apps through which you can explore the material.

There are many useful features on the site including a slider which reveals the modern landscape underneath.

<https://www.davidrumsey.com/view/google-maps>



Bomb Sight – mapping the WW2 bomb census

This website has been around for several years now, but is worthy of a revisit if you've explored it previously.

You can explore the data in a number of ways, although perhaps the most

sobering experience is simply to zoom out and watch as thousands of little red dots, each one representing a detonation, gradually fill the screen. Zoom in to the areas you are interested in and click on a dot and more information appears about the explosive device, the estimated date and it's present day location. As an added bonus, you can explore contemporary images of the area, if they exist, and read wartime memories that are drawn from the BBC's oral history project People's War.

<http://bombsight.org/#15/51.5050/-0.090>

Virtual Events to entertain and educate
Available to **all** members regardless of where you
live



The Mayors of Newbury **a talk by Antony Pick, Newbury** **Branch Online Meeting** **14 October 19:30 - 21:30**

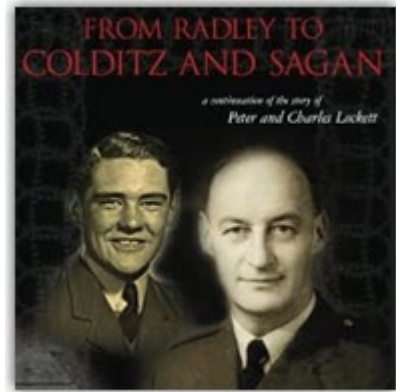
Newbury's mayors enjoyed significant power before the reform of local government in the 1830s. They headed the corporation of 24 burgesses and also acted as the town's chief magistrate. In this webinar meeting, Anthony Pick will highlight some of the more interesting and unusual characters who have held this post.

Free to members - £3 non-members. Pre-booking required.

Book Now

It all started with a letter from Colditz
an online talk by Christine Wooton, jointly hosted by Vale
and Bracknell Branches
16 Oct 19:15 for 19:30

This talk starts with a letter, given to Radley History Club, that was written by Squadron Leader Charles Lockett to his wife who was living in Radley. It was sent in 1942 while he was a prisoner of war in Colditz Castle. For Christine it was the start of several years of very interesting research leading to the publication of two books with many coincidences on the way. In the course of her research she was able to also find out about the story of his brother Peter who was a prisoner of war in Stalag Luft III, Zagan, of the 'Great Escape' fame.



Free to members, £3 non-members. Pre-booking required.

Book now



Writing up your family history

an online workshop led by Dr Barry Jerome

17 October 11.00 to 13:00

Have you been researching your family tree and would like to write it up as a story but don't know

how to start?

In this online workshop, Barry will help you get started and show you how you can structure it, so that you can write-up your family history while still continuing your research. Barry will show you the system he developed and also suggest alternative approaches and opportunities.

The workshop will help if you have not started yet. Or, if you have already been writing up your family history and would like additional advice, or inspiration.

£9 members, £10 non-members

[Book now](#)

Heir hunting – a case study

Woodley Branch Online Meeting led by Gillian Stevens

21 October 19:15 for 19:30 start

Gillian will reveal a real-life story that shows how skills in finding living relatives, both on and offline, helped solve an Heir Hunting puzzle with a monetary reward at the end.



Free to members, £3 non-members. Pre-booking required.

[Book now](#)



A Potpourri of social history talk series

First Session 22 Oct 14.00 – 15:00

Enjoy all three talks in the autumn Potpourri series for the price of two, with a talk series ticket.

Thursday 22nd October, 2-3pm, “Reading Abbey” with John Painter

Thursday 5th November, 2-3pm, “Living through the English Civil War” with Catherine Sampson

Thursday 19th November, 2-3pm, “Fair Mile Hospital” with Mark Stevens

Further details of each talk can be found in the individual event listings that follow.

Tickets cost £10 (members £9). Pre-booking is required.

[Book now](#)

Reading Abbey

online talk by John Painter

22 October 14:00 - 15:00

Next year is the 900th anniversary of the founding of Reading Abbey. In the run up to this significant event, we are delighted to offer this fascinating talk by Abbey expert John Painter.



Discover the impact of Reading Abbey on the town of Reading, both in its heyday as a royal Abbey and as one of the ten leading monasteries in the country. Hear about the impact of the dissolution and its subsequent use as a royal palace, the destruction of the Civil War, and the subsequent re-development of the Abbey Quarter and preservation of the Abbey Ruins up to the present day.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4). Pre-booking is required.

[Book now](#)



Living Through the English Civil War

online talk by Catherine Sampson

5 Nov 14.00 – 15:00

The countryside in and around Reading was horribly affected by the Civil War. This talk tells the story of what happened to the ordinary folk when the soldiers arrived.

Discover how villages, particularly those along the Bath Road, were caught up in the skirmishes. Practically all were looted. Many individuals died because of the diseases the soldiers brought with them. Others attempted to stave off financial disaster. The cloth trade suffered disastrously.

Among the masses however, we can still identify the individual. The husband who hid his valuables. The Reading Pest House occupant who feared the worst. And the Woolhampton sheep farmer who attempted to stop the plundering. Discover their stories in this fascinating talk.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4). Pre-booking is required.

[Book now](#)

The Fair Mile Hospital

online talk by Mark Stevens - County Archivist

19 November 14:00 - 15:00



One hundred and seventy five years ago, public mental health care was invented. Acts of Parliament from 1845 resulted in 'lunatic asylums' being built in every county in England and Wales. Berkshire's own asylum opened in 1870. It would become known as Fair Mile Hospital. Situated near the River Thames, and close to Cholsey, this institution dispensed care to generations of local people. Discover its history and experience 19th century mental healthcare, in this fascinating talk.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4). Pre-booking is required.

[Book now](#)



Berkshire Family History Society

for family history research - in Berkshire and beyond

The Centre for Heritage and Family History
2nd Floor, Reading Central Library, Abbey Square
Reading, Berkshire, RG1 3BQ, United Kingdom
Registered Charity Number 283010

[Update your mailing list preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

