

1 messages

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## Keeping in touch

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

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**in touch**

Berkshire Family History Society



**Sulham Lodge in the Snow**

Image courtesy of Jean Harland

Welcome to the Christmas edition of our newsletter. As we enter 2021 we see a light at the end of the tunnel with the COVID 19 vaccine and most of us will be able to have it by late spring with some return to normality by the summer.

We will share developments both here and on our website.

I hope, like me you have found these newsletters both helpful and informative and we intend to keep them going. I want to thank the team who pull them together each week.

So I hope you will enjoy this festive edition, staying safe and looking forward to the new year.



## News



### New Articles on the Website

A year after their appearance in the print version of *The Historian* we publish some of the feature articles online, in the public area of the website, to increase the amount of educational material in the public domain and, we hope, to tempt people to join.

We've just published September and December 2019's articles.

Topics include:

- [My Father's War](#): *Jane Barrett* sheds light on a little known part of military service in WW2
- [Lambourn Family and "Dear Ma" Postcards](#): *Vincent Tickner* shows how postcards can lead to a wealth of information
- [Women's Suffrage: the cause in Reading](#): *Dr Margaret Simons* gives us an overview of events surrounding the fight for women's suffrage in Reading
- [Black and Asian merchant seamen in the First World War](#): *Dr Jesse Ransley*, anthropologist and archaeologist, working at the Marine Archaeology Trust, explored the stories of black and Asian merchant seamen during the First World War.
- [Do you have an interest in Jewish Genealogy?](#) Leigh Dworkin, Chairman, JGSGB, and Berks FHS Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead branch Chairman, explains how the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain (JGSGB) may be able to help

[View all articles](#)



## Another Journal Exchange Partner

East Yorkshire FHS is the latest organisation with which we've entered into an eJournal Exchange agreement, the 10th in recent months. Theirs is rather intriguingly called "The Banyan Tree."

[Go to Journal Exchange page](#)



## New Berkshire content on *Findmypast*

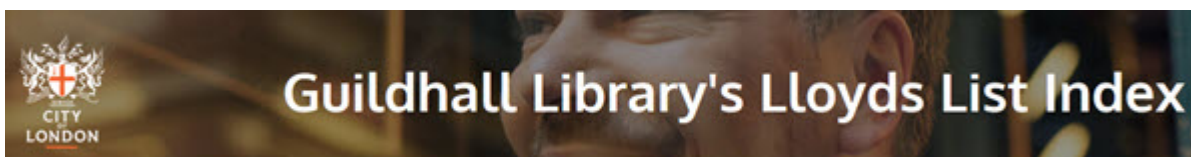
Findmypast has recently announced that the index to the 39,000 probate records of the Archdeaconry of Berkshire, 1480 – 1857, submitted by Berkshire Family History Society, is now live on their website.

If you don't have an account with Findmypast, you can access it for free via the Members' Area of the society's website. The content is identical to that on the society's Probate CD, which remains available to purchase for those who prefer to access data offline. Happy hunting.

[Got to FMP](#)

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## Maritime Ancestors?



If you have Maritime Ancestors you probably already know about the wonderful Guildhall Library's Lloyd's List Index of Maritime News which covers the years 1740-1837 (with some gaps). If you haven't come across it, Lloyd's List is a newspaper devoted to shipping news. In particular it records the movements of ocean going vessels and marine news of casualties, 'speakings' and other events involving individual vessels.

This database has been compiled from copies of Lloyd's List deposited at

Guildhall Library by Lloyd's of London as part of the Lloyd's Marine Collection.

<https://registers.cityoflondon.gov.uk/applications/lloydslist/>

## Lloyd's Register Foundation **Heritage & Education Centre**



Now the fruits of an ambitious project to catalogue, conserve and digitise the historic Ship Plan and Survey Report Collection, underway since 2016 is growing momentum.

Covering the 1830s - 1970s, the Collection, which holds over 1.25 million documents which detail the design, construction and maintenance of ships classed by Lloyd's Register, is now gradually becoming available online through the Lloyd's Register Foundation, Heritage and Education Centre.

Currently over 276,000 documents relating to over 45,000 ships are available to view and download for free on the Centre's website. And every month approximately 30,000 new documents are added. Great news for maritime historians, economists, linguists, ship model enthusiasts and of course family historians.

<https://hec.lrfoundation.org.uk/>

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## **Get the most out of family “history” conversations this Christmas**

This Christmas is likely to be very different for many families. Perhaps you will have the chance to meet with family face to face, perhaps your conversations will be on the telephone or via video conferencing? Often Christmas is the chance to catch up with more distant relatives who we have little opportunity to engage with during our busy lives. If you're looking for inspiration to hold some really effective story gathering sessions this year, without it sounding as if you trained at the Gestapo School of Interrogation Techniques, why not dip into some of the ideas available online. Here's a few different articles that caught our eye - but there are plenty out there.

Seven Tips for Effective Family History Interviews in a Group by Family Tree Magazine's online site has some interesting advice.

<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/reunions/family-history-group-interviews/>

Sunny Jane Morton, the author of the above article has also written one on how to record an interview on your smartphone.

<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/resources/apps/how-to-record-family-history-interview-smartphone/>

If this year's family get-togethers are likely to be online or over the telephone, then you may want to check out this piece on how to interview family members

whilst social distancing.

<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/storytelling/interview-family-remotely/>

For a wide range of potential topics and questions, see:

<https://www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com/family-history-interview-questions.html>

And for some more unusual questions, take a browse through these suggestions:

<https://blog.myheritage.com/2016/06/25-family-history-questions-youll-really-want-to-ask/>

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More online events - some with a decidedly  
Christmas feeling

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## **Windsor Christmas Genealogical Quiz**

**Windsor Branch Online Meeting  
29 Dec 19:15 for 19:30**

Ken Houghton – our very own Bamber Gascoigne –  
will be reading the questions.



Bonus points for bringing your own leftover sprouts, but it is all for fun!

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

**Book now**

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## **January Natter Group - Online**

**Facilitated by Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens**

**05 Jan 18:45 for 19:00**

Join in this online Informal discussion from your own home, wherever where you live. Open only to members of Berkshire Family History Society.

Topics are chosen by the group on a monthly basis. End time varies.

Free to members. Pre-booking required.

**Book now**

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## **The Old Poor Law Workshop - Online**

**Tutor: Joan Dils**

**23 Jan 11:00 - 13:00**

Many family historians have ancestors whose lives were touched at some point by poverty. The Old Poor Law (1597-1834) was a system of poor relief devised by Tudor politicians. It was still in use until the eve of Queen Victoria's reign. Administered by unpaid parish officials and financed by parish ratepayers, it was tough but not without some compassion. Dealing with tens of thousands of young, aged, poor and sick people, as well as incorrigible rogues, it generated innumerable records of individual lives and misfortunes. As a result, it left an invaluable legacy for social and family historians to explore.



This online workshop will explain how the system worked and evolved over the

centuries. It will discuss the records such as settlement examinations and bastardy bonds which it created and their usefulness for researchers.

£9 members - £10 non-members. Pre-booking required.

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**Book now**

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## **Railways Records for Family Historians Workshop - Online**

**Tutor: Richard Marks**

**06 Feb 11:00 - 13:00**

Did your Ancestors work on the railways? Britain's railway history is complex and can be difficult to decipher. In this online workshop, firstly, we will unravel the history of the railway companies, from British Railways in the 1980s back to the first railway companies in the Victorian period.

We will then work through some sample railway documents to decipher what the railway language used within them means, and how they can be used by family historians to build their family histories. The workshop will conclude by looking at where railway archives can be found and how they can be accessed.

£9 members - £10 non-members. Pre-booking required.

**Book now**

These are just a few examples from our extensive

events programme - for more....

[... click here for the full programme](#)

Our events routinely sell out so book early to  
secure your place



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

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