

Keeping in touch

Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org>

Sun, Jan 10 2021 08:35:29

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

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

in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



Exterior of Town Hall and St Laurence's Church, Friar Street, Reading

Image courtesy of

The Museum of English Rural Life, University of Reading, Dann-Lewis Collection *P DX322 PH1/DL4/16*

Well, here we are in 2021 and we kick off with a new lockdown in the UK. On a brighter note though the Pfizer and Oxford Astra-Zeneca vaccines are being rolled out so there is definitely light at the end of this long long tunnel.

Society volunteers have worked very hard during this extended period to keep services going virtually - we've had an amazing response to our online events programme. Indeed, 9 months of varying degrees of lockdown have seen the birth

of a number of Zoom-meisters. And the new digital downloads have proved extremely popular, giving buyers instant access to records. So we're well prepared to keep you occupied with family history research because, let's face it, none of us is going anywhere soon.

News



Berkshire Record Office

Sadly, the announcement before Christmas that all of Berkshire had moved into tier 4 meant that the immediate reclosure of the Berkshire Record Office to the public. As we start 2021, that position remains unchanged until further notice. A limited enquiry facility remains open - so please do use the contact form on the website if you want to get in contact with the team.

BRO contact form



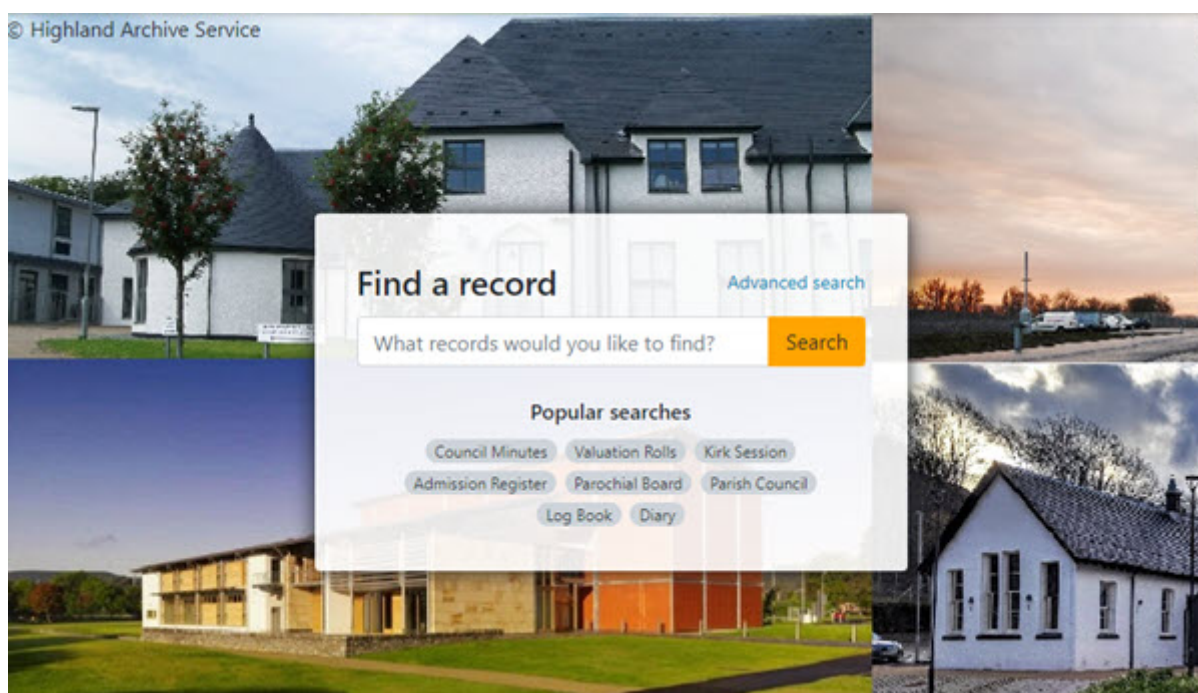
“Switching the Lens” launched by LMA

London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) has announced the publication of a new project dataset, Switching the Lens - Rediscovering Londoners of African, Caribbean, Asian and Indigenous Heritage, 1561 to 1840.

This new resource focuses on records of over 2,600 people of colour found in Anglican parish registers at LMA and is the result of long-standing and ongoing

research carried out by staff and volunteers. London has long been home to a very diverse population and this new collection offers an exciting and intriguing insight into the lives and experiences of people arriving in London from the 16th to 19th centuries. The collection is searchable within the LMA Collections Catalogue.

[View the catalogue page](#)



New Scottish Highlands Archive Catalogue goes live

The Highland Archives catalogue has gone online containing nearly 100,000 descriptions of archives held in the four Archive Centres in Inverness, Portree, Fort William and Wick. The catalogue is fully searchable and entries continue to be added.

[Go to archive page](#)



Since 2012, the Longworth & District History Society have been involved in successive projects to research and document the backgrounds of the inhabitants of the three villages that the society covers historically: Kingston Bagpuize, Longworth and Hinton Waldrist, who died during the First and Second World Wars.

This research has resulted in exhibitions, contributions to the Imperial War Museum Memorial Project and Oxford University's national commemoration Project, and ultimately a new war memorial. Now the society has published their extensive research on their website - which is well worth a look, especially if your ancestors came from this part of our historic county.

[About Villages at War. \(longworth-history.org.uk\)](http://longworth-history.org.uk)

Home of the Infantry Regiments of Berkshire and Wiltshire



Ancestors who fought with the Berkshire Yeomanry or Royal Berkshire Regiment?

Whilst the Rifles, Berkshire and Wiltshire Museum (The Wardrobe) in Salisbury is

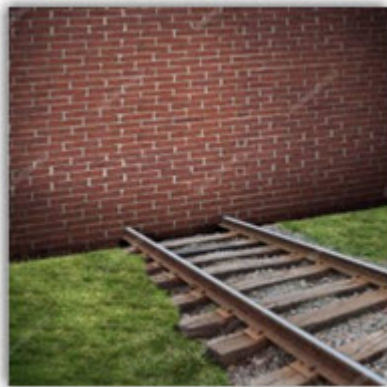
now once again closed to the public due to the lockdown, its website is well worth a look if you have ancestors who fought with any of these regiments.

You can search for individual soldiers in Collections and check out their wartime service history in the online war diaries. The information presented here is that of the actual diaries and totals almost 16,500 records covering 15 battalions during World War 1 and the 8 battalions during World War 2. Usefully, you can use text search to find, for example, all records where another unit is mentioned, a particular place or even a person, although sadly other ranks rarely get mentioned by name in World War 1 diaries.

Check it out at:

<https://www.thewardrobe.org.uk/>

New Year - New Online Events



Overcoming “brick-walls” in family history research - Online

Newbury Branch Meeting with Speaker: Chris Broom

13 Jan 19:30 - 20:30

Was one of your New Year's Resolutions to have another go at breaking down those brick walls we all have? Chris Broom provides some creative ideas for surmounting those often frustrating barriers encountered during family history research. Chris is a course tutor at the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies, Canterbury.

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

[Book now](#)

Healthcare in a Georgian Town - Online

Speaker: Penny Stokes

14 Jan 14:00 - 15:15



Join us for a fascinating insight into the lives of our ancestors as we consider healthcare in Georgian England. Historian Penny Stokes will look at medical practitioners, mortality and causes of death, and the remedies which the Georgians trusted for cures. Specific examples will be from Newbury.

The eighteenth century was a dicey time to become ill. The physicians and surgeons of Georgian times were technically regulated, however standards of training and practice were unenforceable. The majority of country practitioners were wholly uneducated and often plied surgery alongside other random trades such as ironmongery or shoemaking. Treatments varied enormously, quackery was common.

Fortunately for us, later nineteenth and twentieth century medical advancements have ended or considerably reduced many of the killers our ancestors would have feared such as: smallpox, measles, TB, syphilis and cholera.

£4 members - £5 non-members. Pre-booking required.

[Book now](#)

Monumental Inscriptions - Online

Bracknell Branch Meeting with Speaker: Brian Wilcock

15 Jan 19:15 for 19:30

The talk will look at the value of inscriptions to family historians, the pressures to record the information and how we currently work in the Society. We will look at



recording in the field and its challenges and the 'back-office' activity to publish on CD or via downloads, with a final brief summary of current projects.

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

Book now

DNA Special Interest Group - Online

Facilitator: Debbie Kennett

16 Jan 14:30 - 16:30

Enjoy this online DNA special interest group from the comfort and safety of your own home, and wherever you live in the world, whilst still being able to contribute fully to the discussion.

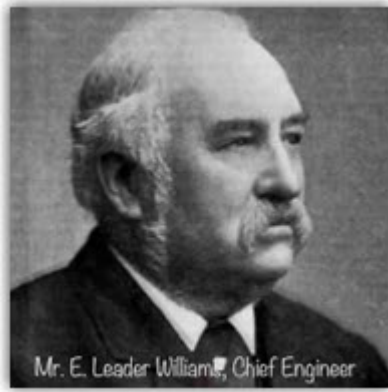


This special interest discussion group is aimed at those wanting to get the most out of their DNA results. It is facilitated by international DNA expert, Debbie Kennett. Sessions are held quarterly, but there is no obligation to attend on a regular basis and first time attendees are always welcomed.

£4 members - £5 non-members. Pre-booking required.

Book now

Sir Edward Leader Williams 19th Century Engineer - Online



Abingdon Branch Meeting with Speaker: Simon Burbidge 18 Jan 19:15 for 19:30

This talk will tell us the details of the life of Sir Edward Leader Williams known as 'the engineer of the greatest work of the 19th century', who as Chief Engineer, oversaw the building of the Manchester Ship Canal. His commanding presence, abounding energy, resourcefulness and genial manner enabled him to succeed in "the engineering of men as well as of matter".

Free to members - £3 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

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](#).

