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in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



Exterior of Town Hall, Wokingham

Cropped and colourised by BerksFHS. Original image courtesy of

The Museum of English Rural Life, University of Reading, Dann-Lewis Collection P DX323 PH1/E214/53

Hi Paul

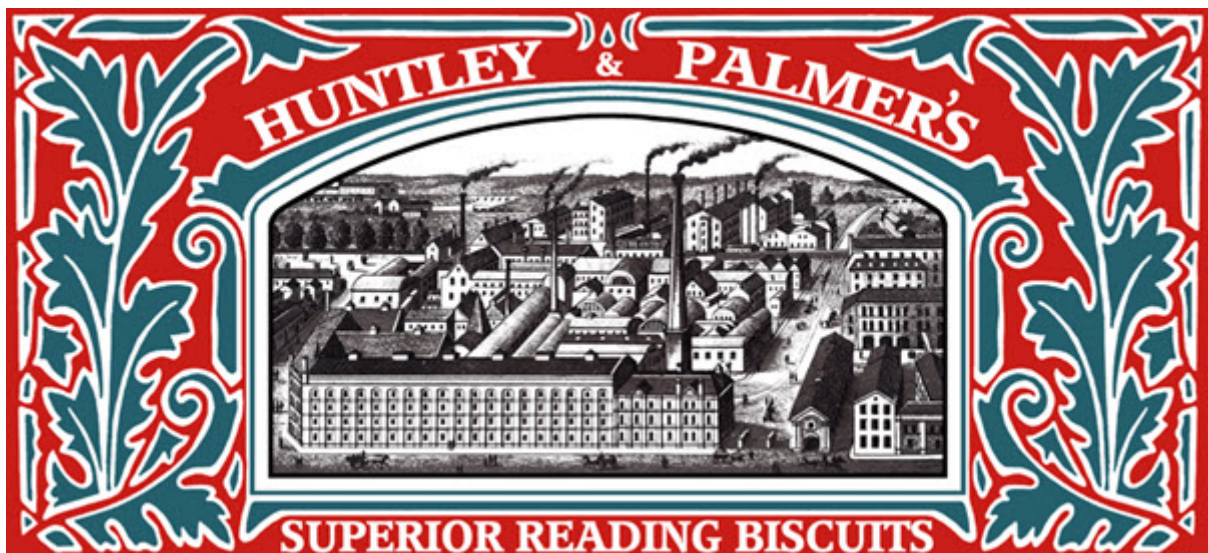
The other day, my wife and I strolled along the banks of the River Tyne as it passes through Hexham on its way to Newcastle from where coal was shipped in vast quantities, the steel mills thundered, and where the ghosts of the shipyards linger. Those businesses were at the heart of the Industrial Revolution - on which we have a course coming up (see below for details) - but are long gone, as indeed are many businesses around the country. Reading

Libraries Historians are going to document the lost businesses of Reading and need your help - see below.

The final batch of marriage downloads is available in the shop and you can jump straight in with the links below, and we have our usual pick of the upcoming events, including a reminder about the AGM.

And finally, My Heritage are allowing free access to their birth and baptism records for 7 days starting TODAY! Once again, details can be found below.

News



Plea for help from Reading Libraries Historians

Katie Amos, Lead Local Studies, at Reading Central Library, and Mike Cooper, Reading Borough Council, together with a group of other local historians are currently scoping what will probably end up being a series of two, maybe more, booklets on lost businesses of Reading. These will be published by Reading Libraries and form part of their growing collection of booklets on aspects of Reading's local history.

They are looking for more potential authors to write short articles (about 1,500-2,000 words) to contribute to the booklets.

Do you have a former Reading-based family business you have researched that you can add to the collection of those businesses remembered? It could be a large concern or a small outfit.

For more details of how you can help – please contact Catherine at projects@berksfhs.org.uk



Batch 7 - the final batch of marriage data downloads for now - is available online. As a reminder, data downloads have been developed to provide choice and flexibility in how you access data for Berkshire. Each download is in PDF format and your purchase is automatically fulfilled as soon as you have paid. Terms and conditions apply and these downloads are for your personal use only. Prices vary but start from just £2.00. The usual member discounts apply.

Marriage entries are presented in date order, and there is also a “by-person” finding aid to assist your use of the download. Berkshire’s marriages are also available in CD format. If you're interested in a number of parishes, please be aware that Berkshire Marriages Edition Four CD may be better value. Individual Parish CDs also exist, so please check what product best meets your needs.

[Abingdon St Nicholas Marriages 1538-1862 \(Download\) D1003](#)
[Besselsleigh St Lawrence Marriages 1689-1935 \(Download\) D1479](#)
[Bradfield St Andrew Marriages 1559-1935 \(Download\) D1484](#)
[Bray St Michael Marriages 1607-1837 \(Download\) D1486](#)
[Caversham St Peter Marriages 1597-1935 \(Download\) D1492](#)
[Cholsey St Mary Marriages 1547-1917 \(Download\) D1501](#)
[Compton St Mary & St Nicholas Marriages 1553-1935 \(Download\) D1506](#)
[Easthampstead St Michael & St Mary Magdalene Marriages 1558-1835 \(Download\) D1516](#)
[Lockinge, East All Saints Marriages 1547-1866 \(Download\) D1549](#)
[Peasemore St Barnabas Marriages 1540-1935 \(Download\) D1194](#)

[Reading St Giles Marriages 1564-1779 \(Download\) D1357 \(Part 1 of 3\)](#)
[Reading St Giles Marriages 1780-1869 \(Download\) D1569 \(Part 2 of 3\)](#)
[Reading St Giles Marriages 1870-1935 \(Download\) D1570 \(Part 3 of 3\)](#)
[Shefford, West St Mary Marriages 1599-1837 \(Download\) D1373](#)
[Stanford Dingley St Denys Marriages 1540-1834 \(Download\) D1385](#)
[Sulhamstead Abbots St Mary Marriages 1602-1837 \(Download\) D1391](#)
[Thatcham Independent Chapel Marriages 1859-1880 \(Download\) D1397](#)
[Ufton Nervet St Peter Marriages 1607-1836 \(Download\) D1444](#)
[Wasing St Nicholas Marriages 1612-1832 \(Download\) D1453](#)
[White Waltham St Mary Marriages 1556-1836 \(Download\) D1457](#)

News of more Archive reopenings

As lockdown slowly comes to an end in Britain, we bring you news of more Archives that have reopened.



[Motacilla](#), [CC BY-SA 4.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

Oxfordshire History Centre

This reopened on April 13th and visitors will need to book in advance to visit. You may hold two live bookings at any one time.

For full details see:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/leisure-and-culture/history/oxfordshire-history-centre/visiting-oxfordshire-history-centre/visitor-information>



Visit us

Our reading rooms will re-open on 27 April.

The National Archives have confirmed that they will be reopening from 27th April. Services will include:

- Over 100 reading room places per day, five days a week (Tuesday to Saturday, 10:00-14:50)
- 12 documents per day limit, plus three reserve documents in case of unavailability
- Two-day places available for visitors wishing to research bulk document orders (between 20 and 40 documents from the same catalogue series)
- Supplementary research resources, including finding aids, microfilm/fiche and library materials, available to pre-order
- Staffed enquiry desks and access to computers for visitors using the reading rooms

Find out more at:

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/news/coronavirus-update/>

Wiltshire & Swindon HISTORY CENTRE



Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre, the repository for Berkshire's Bishops Transcripts, opened to visitors on 13 April, Tuesdays to Fridays, 9.30am to 5pm.

All visits must be pre booked.

Find out more at:

<https://wshc.org.uk/visiting-the-centre.html>



Free access to birth records 18th – 24th April

Following hard on the heels of Ancestry's free access offer at Easter, MyHeritage has announced free access to its birth records between 18th and 24th April.

MyHeritage's collection of birth (and baptism) records includes 115 collections containing a total of over 1.1 billion individual records from all over the world. Some of the collections contain indexes which help you find out where the birth record is located, while others contain the actual image of the record. Collections include the UK, specific English counties such as Leicestershire, a large number of European countries and of course the USA, Australia etc. Their latest addition are Lithuanian-Jewish Records from LitvakSIG, 1795-1940.

Check it out at:

<https://www.myheritage.com/research/category-2010/birth-records>

Events



Our events programme is exclusively online -
join us - wherever you are



Prospect Park Mansion House, Reading

Talk by: Katie Amos
22 Apr 14:00 - 15:15

This online talk will explore the history of one of Tilehurst's most iconic landmarks and the families associated with it. These include many of Reading's more important families such as the Childs, Kendricks and Liebenroods. Katie Amos shares the extensive research, stories and rich history which resulted in her book *The Mansion House*:

Its history and its Occupants.

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

[Book now](#)

May Natter Group

Discussion Group facilitated by: Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens
04 May 18:45 for 19:00



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

Informal discussion group, facilitated by Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens. Topics are chosen by the group on a monthly basis. End time varies

Free to members.

Prebooking Required

[Book now](#)



Education 1860-1914 - Workshop

Tutor: Joan Dils
8 May 11:00 - 13:00

In this workshop, discover how English education was transformed between about 1860 and the start of the First World War.

After 1870, schools run by local elected boards (Board Schools) supplemented those founded by religious bodies. In turn, in 1902 schools became council schools administered by local education authorities. Throughout the period, teacher training was improved, the school syllabus developed and pupil numbers increased until, in the 1890s, compulsory free schooling was provided for most children.

The result enabled many of our ancestors to seek new and more varied employment opportunities that their forefathers could only have dreamed of.

Tickets cost £10 (members £9)

Pre-booking required

Book now

Jane Austen's School Days in Reading

Talk by: Joy Pibworth

08 May 15:00 - 16:15

This is the first of two talks, in celebration of the 900th anniversary of the founding of Reading Abbey by Henry I, focusing on aspects of the Abbey.



The first features the Abbey Gateway, home to the Ladies Boarding School which Jane Austen attended from 1785-6. With the help of contemporary sources we shall look at the buildings, daily routines, the teachers and the local environment Jane would have become familiar with (and possibly even muse on the echoes in her writing).

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

Book now



Introduction to the Industrial Revolution in Britain - Course

Tutor: Richard Marks

Session 1: 18 Jun 14:00 - 15:45

Course sessions are: Fridays June 18th & 25th, July 2nd, 9th & 16th

All sessions run: 2 – 3.45pm.

This online course comprises of five consecutive sessions and is designed especially for family historians.

The Industrial Revolution in Britain changed the world forever, but why did it occur in Britain first? In this course, we examine why the Industrial Revolution happened in Britain, and whether it really was a “Revolution”. We will look at some of the individuals and inventions who made the Industrial Revolution. We examine how life was experienced by the factory workers and the impact upon their health. Session four looks at how the Trades Unions began and how the first welfare systems started (and how to find evidence of them). Alongside this, we will consider the experiences of women in the workplace and how this changed over time. Finally, in week five, we explore how the Industrial Revolution can be researched by family historians. And how we can trace and better understand how our ancestors lived and worked during this period of great change.

Tickets cost £50 (members £45)

Pre-booking required

Book course

Annual General Meeting

18 Jun 19:00 for 19:30

Berkshire Family History Society's Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 18th June at 7.30pm, via Zoom. There will be no speaker booked for the event, as we will only be conducting society business.



Places must be booked in advance. If there are two members within your household, please book two places. Booking will close 2 days before the AGM.

This is a great opportunity for those of you who haven't previously been able to attend an AGM, to join this important part of the governance of the society. Meet other members of the society, hear about the society during 2020/2021 and find out the plans ahead. Questions and debate is encouraged. We welcome all members, wherever you may live.

Free to members

Pre-booking required

Book now



Writing up your Family History

Workshop with Tutor: Dr Barry Jerome

21 Aug 11:00 - 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. Pre-booking required.

Book now

These are just a few examples from our extensive events programme....

... [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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