
in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



**Avington SS Mark & Luke Church, is one of Berkshire's finest examples of an unspoilt two cell
Norman church**

Image courtesy of Catherine Sampson

Hi

I thought I'd start this week's newsletter with a reflection on our featured photo. We often hear the word "Norman" used to describe an architectural style. We've all seen many a 19th century church window described as "Norman." Here, in relation to this photo, Norman refers both to an architectural style and the age of the building - the original and substantial parts being 1,000 years old. This an almost impossible period of time to imagine, although after a year of lockdown some of you may beg to differ! Isn't it wonderful that these gems are dotted

around the countryside?

So, what else do we have for you this week? Well, we have all the usual suspects but the big news item of the week is the arrival of the stork. Let's jump right in...

News



Baptism Downloads now launched

Following the successful launch of burial, monumental inscriptions and marriage downloads over the last nine months, the society is delighted to follow that with baptisms this quarter.

We have developed data downloads 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. If you're interested in a number of parishes, also check out [Berkshire Baptisms Edition Three CD](#), likewise, [individual Parish CDs](#) also exist. So check out what best suits your needs.

[Abingdon Independent Lower Meeting House Baptisms 1758-1837 \(Download\) D1752](#)

[Barkham St James Baptisms 1539-1920 \(Download\) D1588](#)

[Childrey St Mary Baptisms 1558-1920 \(Download\) D1614](#)

[Earley St Peter Baptisms 1854-1909 \(Download\) D1626](#)

[Faringdon All Saints Baptisms 1700-1780 \(Download\) D1635](#)

[Grazeley Holy Trinity Baptisms 1850-1920 \(Download\) D1639](#)
[Harwell St Matthew Baptisms 1558-1812 \(Download\) D1643](#)
[Kintbury St Mary Baptisms 1558-1799 \(Download\) D1648 \(Part 1 of 2\)](#)
[Kintbury St Mary Baptisms 1800-1920 \(Download\) D1736 \(Part 2 of 2\)](#)
[Lambourn Woodlands St Mary Baptisms 1837-1913 \(Download\) D1650](#)
[Peasemore St Barnabas Baptisms 1538-1920 \(Download\) D1667](#)
[Reading All Saints Downshire Square Baptisms 1904-1920 \(Download\) D1670](#)
[Remenham St Nicholas Baptisms 1605-1920 \(Download\) D1685](#)
[Shippon St Mary Magdalene Baptisms 1856-1920 \(Download\) D1686](#)
[Thatcham Independent Chapel Baptisms 1807-1836 \(Download\) D1702](#)
[Wallingford Baptist Church Baptisms 1833-1838 \(Download\) D1708](#)



National Library of Scotland
Leabharlann Nàiseanta na h-Alba

Map Images

See Berkshire as it used to be

The National Library of Scotland has recently made the One-inch to the mile (7th Series) 1952-1970 maps available online. These sheets cover the whole of Great Britain and are in black and white (although containing all the detail of their coloured counterparts).

Maps are free to view online - try this local taster of the [Oxford and Newbury Sheet 158](#) first published in 1967. (Other locations are also available!)

Click [here](#) to go to the National Library of Scotland's Map Images website



Brookwood Cemetery now on Deceased Online

Historic records from Brookwood Cemetery in Surrey, the largest cemetery in the UK and a Grade I listed site in the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens, are now available to view on Deceased Online. The records comprise burial register scans for all records and details of other grave occupants. Many records also have maps showing the approximate location of the grave.

Brookwood Cemetery, also known as the London Necropolis, was opened in 1854 and was originally accessible by way of a dedicated railway track, known as the London Necropolis Railway, which carried coffins and mourners from the South Western Main Line. Unlike other large cemeteries of the time, which utilised mass graves for the poor, paupers were buried with dignity in individual graves at Brookwood Cemetery.

In 1914 the London Necropolis Company donated an acre of land to the War Office and this eventually became Brookwood's Military Cemetery. Now at 37 acres, Brookwood Military Cemetery is the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in the UK and contains over 5,000 Commonwealth burials from World Wars I and II. Nearby is the 4.5 acre American Cemetery and Memorial, which commemorates American military dead from World War I.

Find out more and search the records at:

www.deceasedonline.com



Findmypast on track with 1921 census despite covid impact

Findmypast have announced that the 1921 census is still due to be released in early 2022 despite a three-month shutdown.

"The British brand, along with their partners at The National Archives and the Office for National Statistics, are still hopeful for a January launch although progress has

been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic."

The census was conducted on 19 June 1921, having been put back from 24 April because of the disruption caused by a coal miners' strike.

I for one can't wait!



Events

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

But for locals, there's a face-to-face meeting
planned as lockdown eases

Victim, Villain, Crime & Punishment Talk and Abingdon BAM

17 May 19:15 for 19:30

Our meeting this month is a chance to chat about
our ancestor's and their connection with crime.

Where they the victims of crime or were they the villains. Were any of your
ancestors transported? Come along and share your research stories.



But, perhaps you just want to seek some general research advice from fellow
members or share a eureka moment. We are happy to go with the flow.

Before lock-down hit last year, our 'Show & Tell' Branch Meetings were steadily

growing in popularity. These meetings are designed to be an informal opportunity to share.

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

Book now



Marriage Laws and Customs Woodley Branch Meeting Speaker: Chad Hanna

19 May 19:15 - 21:30

Around the world and throughout time.

Can you marry your first cousin? How do you get married in the USA? What about all those people who go overseas to marry? What happens to your Will when you get married? Why do some Spanish brides wear black when they marry? When are wedding photographs taken in Hong Kong? Why was "Hardwicke's" Marriage Act enacted in 1753.

All these questions and others will be answered in this talk.

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

Book now

The Abbey & the Castle Reading in the Middle Ages

**Speaker: Mike Cooper
20 May 14:00 - 15:15**

A lot has been said and written about Reading Abbey, but what can looking at the Abbey tell us about Reading during the 400 years it was active? In the second of our 900th anniversary talks, Mike Cooper will look at the relationship between the Abbey and the town, and will also explore the evidence for a castle at Reading.



Non-members £5 (members £4)

Pre-booking required

Book now



Adoption in England & Wales Talk and Bracknell BAM

**Speaker: Eric D Probert
21 May 19:15 for 19:30**

The talk will initially consider the clues for and reasons leading to adoptions and their extent before examining the nature and location of available records and the organisations, including Children's Homes, that created them.

We then explore the location of adoption files and current adoption agencies before explaining how to try to find birth parents and adopted children including the process of adoption certificate application. Examples will be shown and sources of further information highlighted.

Free to members. Non-members £3

Pre-booking required

Book now

Dating Old Photographs

Talk and Windsor BAM

Speaker: Stephen Gill
25 May 19:15 - 19:30



Many of us have inherited gorgeous family photographs, but do we always know exactly who is in them or when the pictures were taken?

Imagine being able to flesh out your family history by adding contextual photographs from the precise time period you are researching.

We are delighted to welcome professional photographer and photography teacher, Stephen Gill, to teach us how you can tell a story about an old photograph and help date it.

Steve will be presenting some guidance about how to get the most out of your old family photographs as well as how to date them. At the end of the talk we hope you will look at your photos in a different way and be able to enjoy them more.

Just before the talk we will hold the Branch Annual Meeting of the Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead branch, and we promise to keep it short and to the point.

Free to members. Non-members £3

Pre-booking required

Book now

Live sessions return!

(subject to prevailing Covid restrictions)

Reading Abbey Quarter Walk



Led by Abbey Guide: John Painter

24 Jun 14:30 - 16:00

Meeting Point: Advised nearer the time

In medieval times, Reading was the site of a great royal abbey. The religious community was centred round a magnificent church and one of the largest monasteries in Europe. It was formed in 1121 by Henry I, who was later buried near the High Altar.

Because of its royal patronage, the abbey soon became one of the important pilgrimage centres of medieval England and also one of the richest and most important. It contained a number of religious relics, including the reputed hand of St James. Visited by successive kings, it was the venue for several important weddings and a meeting of Parliament in 1453. The abbey was closed in 1539, as part of Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries.

In this its 900th anniversary year, our walk will explore the rich history of the Abbey Quarter with abbey guide and expert John Painter. As we stop along the way, John will talk about the history of this site from its days as a royal abbey to the current day.

Non-members £5.00 (members £4.00)

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

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](#).

