

1 messages

Keeping in touch

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Sun, Jul 11 2021 06:40:41

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in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



Exterior of The Grove, Hurst in 1950

Cropped and colourised by BerksFHS. Original image courtesy of The Museum of English Rural Life, University of Reading, Philip Osborne Collier Collection (P DX323)/ P DX323 PH1/E

The emphasis of week's edition is '**NEW**'

NEW milestone - as we reach the 50th edition of this, the member's version, of **intouch**

NEW membership benefit - as we launch video recording of meetings

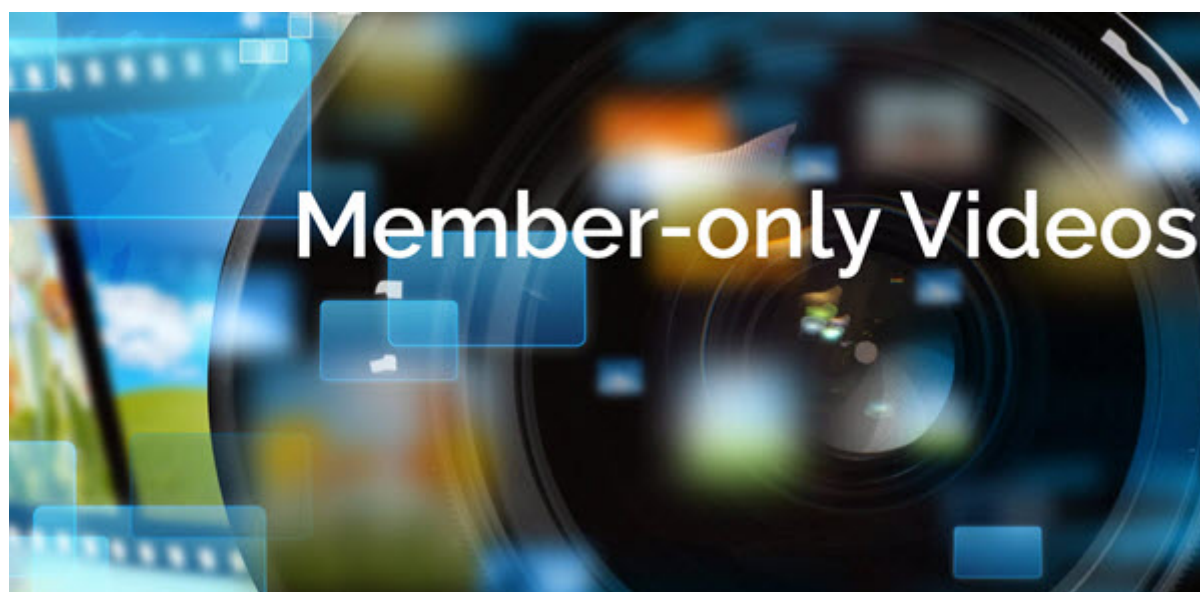
NEW product - as we launch the Newbury St Nicolas registers for the first time, bringing to an end a four-year project

NEW data downloads - as we release batch five of baptism downloads

With so many new goodies for you to enjoy it's probably best to keep this intro short and let you start ripping open the parcels like it's Christmas and you're a child again!

But I do need to add an acknowledgment to all the volunteers who worked on the Newbury St Nick's registers. This gives the first real access to much of Newbury's early baptisms, marriage and burials. A number of the registers are in poor condition and as a result are closed for public viewing, unsurprisingly perhaps those fiche are largely illegible. The team had to use some ingenuity and hard graft to achieve the final result. Thank you team!.

New membership benefit!



We're delighted to announce the introduction of selected meeting recordings, starting with the recent AGM (as well as last year's, for good measure). For the branches, Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead branch is first off the mark with their recent talk '*Breaking down those brick walls*' by Sue Paul.

More branch meetings will follow and ultimately our aim is to make our paid-for talks available* so that if a busy calendar or time-zone issues prevent you from attending the live event, you won't miss out. Our members in Australia and New Zealand will particularly benefit from this initiative.

We're able to offer this new service thanks to an external volunteer, Andy Primrose, who responded to our local advertising for the role of video editor. Andy tidies up each session, adds start and end titles and renders the recording in a web-friendly format. It sounds easy when put like that, but it's a time consuming task when a talk is anything from one to two hours long and every frame has to be viewed.

**on payment of a modest fee and subject to the speaker's agreement*

[View the recordings page](#)

It's still renewal season



For those who joined BEFORE 01 Aug 2020*

If you have already renewed, **thank you!** You can ignore the rest of this message

By now about two thirds of you have been sent your first renewal reminder and the last third will go out over the next week. Remember, they're phased, based on a random renewal date from 2nd to 30th July (see earlier Historians). If you want to know your new date, log in to the website, click on the Profile menu item, then the Subscriptions tab. **If you don't want to wait, you can renew now** - there's nothing to lose - your membership will be extended a full year from the current expiry date.

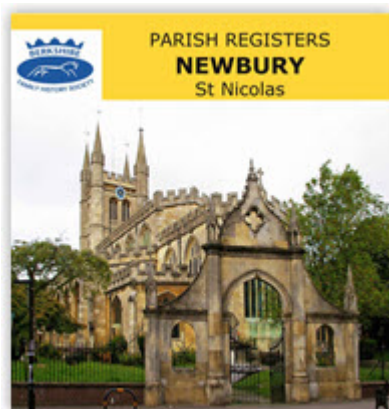
You need to renew promptly to retain your valuable member benefits including access to the members' area, this email newsletter and the Historian, because there's no grace period.

Renew Now

** If you joined since 01 Aug 2020, this renewal cycle doesn't apply to you because we now operate a rolling membership year. You will receive a reminder 2 weeks before your due date.*

Interested in Newbury?

New CD!

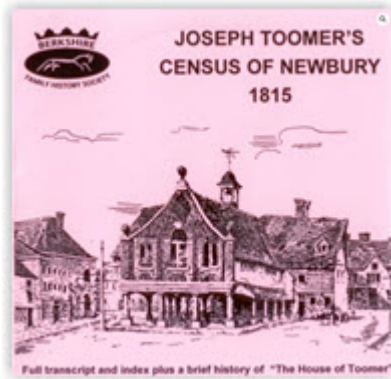


Great news - Newbury St Nicolas Registers are now available

We are delighted to announce that transcribing and checking of Newbury St Nicolas' Parish Registers is complete and the resulting CD is now complete and ready to purchase in the Society's online shop. This has been over four years in the making, and includes transcripts of some extremely fragile registers readable only under ultraviolet light, and previously unavailable. It fills a significant gap in the society's transcript coverage. A huge thank you to all of our volunteers who have worked on these registers.

The CD, which retails at £12 (members £10.80), contains a full transcription of the parish registers, main and draft, and is fully indexed. It also contains a useful history of Newbury. The coverage is: Baptisms 1538-1910, Banns 1754-1904, Marriages 1538-1917 and Burials 1538-1965.

[Buy Now](#)



Have you checked out the invaluable Toomer Census of 1815?

Between 20 May and 9 June 1815, Joseph Toomer, mayor of Newbury, carried out a census of Newbury's population. It is a rare surviving early census and includes the street name, person's name, age to nearest year, occupation, and gender, in property groups.

If Newbury is one of your parishes of interest - and you haven't yet consulted the census - you can ...

[... purchase a copy](#)

Check out the society's range of Newbury related sources and research material

[All things Newbury](#)

[In other news ...](#)



Baptism Downloads - Batch 5

Once again, we have more new data downloads for you this week.

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. 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.

[Arborfield Independent Chapel Baptisms 1759-1897 \(Download\) D1581](#)

[Bisham All Saints Baptisms 1813-1920 \(Download\) D1596](#)

[Combe St Swithun Baptisms 1560-1871 \(Download\) D1619](#)

[Ilsey, West All Saints Baptisms 1558-1870 \(Download\) D1720](#)

[Reading St Giles Baptisms 1563-1667 \(Download\) D1676 \(Part 1 of 7\)](#)

[Reading St Giles Baptisms 1668-1734 \(Download\) D1744 \(Part 2 of 7\)](#)

[Reading St Giles Baptisms 1735-1801 \(Download\) D1745 \(Part 3 of 7\)](#)

[Reading St Giles Baptisms 1802-1846 \(Download\) D1746 \(Part 4 of 7\)](#)

[Reading St Giles Baptisms 1847-1880 \(Download\) D1747 \(Part 5 of 7\)](#)

[Reading St Giles Baptisms 1881-1898 \(Download\) D1748 \(Part 6 of 7\)](#)

[Reading St Giles Baptisms 1899-1920 \(Download\) D1749 \(Part 7 of 7\)](#)

[Sulhamstead Bannister St Michael Baptisms 1813-1920 \(Download\) D1697](#)

[Twyford Congregational Church Baptisms 1898-1920 \(Download\) D1706](#)

[Upton Nervet St Peter Baptisms 1607-1837 \(Download\) D1707](#)

[Wokingham All Saints Baptisms 1589-1749 \(Download\) D1726 \(Part 1 of 2\)](#)

[Wokingham All Saints Baptisms 1750-1831 \(Download\) D1738 \(Part 2 of 2\)](#)



Events

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



Sculls, skiffs and steamers: the history of Salter's Steamers

**Talk by Dr Simon Wenham
15 Jul 19:15 for 19:30**

Pleasure boating became very popular along the river Thames during the nineteenth century. Salter's Steamers (founded in Oxford in 1858 and known for much of its existence as Salter Bros Ltd) did more to popularise it on the non-tidal river than any other Thames business.

This talk traces the development of the firm and how it grew from a leading racing-boat constructor in Wandsworth to become one of the largest inland boat-builders and passenger boat operators in the country. It also describes many of the famous names associated with the business, including Lewis Carroll, William Morris and T. E. Lawrence.

Image: A boat belonging to Salters Steamers, by Folly Bridge in Oxford (cropped from original) – Andrew Gray

Tickets cost £5 (members £4)

Pre-booking required

Book now



A changing school experience 1914-1960 Workshop

Tutor: Joan Dils
17 Jul 10:45 for 11:00

Discover the schooling of your parents and grandparents in this two hour online workshop with local history tutor Joan Dils.

English education was transformed between 1914 and 1960. Schools and schooling changed profoundly in the first decades of the 20th century. Almost all children attended school for longer periods, especially if classes for teenagers were provided. The curriculum expanded well beyond the 3 Rs, especially into more practical subjects. Child health improved as medical services and school meals appeared. War provided challenges for many schools. Finally, the great reform of 1944 made secondary education available for all based on age, aptitude and ability. By 1960, comprehensive schools were in the offing.

Tickets cost £10 (members £9)

Pre-booking required

Book now



DNA Special Interest Group – July

Facilitator: Debbie Kennett
17 Jul 14:15 for 14:30

Enjoy this online DNA special interest group from 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.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4)

Pre-booking required

Book now



Georgian Sources for Historians

**Ten week course led by:
Dr Margaret Simons**

All sessions 14.00 – 16.00

**Fridays 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th Oct, 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th
Nov, 3rd Dec**

Course Overview

The 18th century has been referred to as one of the most transformative periods in British history. During it, the term revolution has been used to describe both changes in agriculture and the birth of industrialisation. The population expanded and cities grew, colonialism and slavery powered the expansion in trade, which in turn fuelled the growth in consumerism.

Along with the politics of the day, the royal dynasty that gave rise to the era known as the Georgians and the cultural and social changes of the period, there is an abundance of written evidence. From official manuscripts and documentation, to private papers. All can inform us at every level about life during the period.

Using a themed approach, we will consider the sources available to uncover how our forebears may have lived their lives in the long 18th century.

To help us apply what we are learning you will undertake a small project, which we will share in the final week.

Timetable

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Week 1 | Introduction - overview of course and the variety of sources that are available, their reliability and how to use them. |
| Week 2 | Industrialisation - often referred to as a revolution, how did it come about and what can sources tell us about those involved. |
| Week 3 | The Making of Modern Cities and the rise of London - a consequence of industrialisation was urbanisation; here we will use a variety of sources to inform us about the perceptions of town life and the realities that awaited those who sought a better life! |
| Week 4 | At Home in Georgian England - from palace to hovel we will use various sources to explore the reality of 'Georgian Elegance'. |
| Week 5 | Health and Hygiene - with medical knowledge still at a basic level, industrialisation created even greater challenges for the professionals of the time. Here we look at sources to examine how society coped with the ever present threat of death and disease. |
| Week 6 | Poverty and Crime - the two were often bedfellows and here we will use sources to explore cause and consequence. |
| Week 7 | Popular Culture - in many ways the Georgians were more accepting and less rigid than the Victorians regarding the social mores and this week we will use sources to find out about their interests and pastimes. |
| Week 8 | Empire - the question of slavery has been much in the news recently and this week we will use sources to help us explore those involved in the rise of colonial power. |
| Week 9 | Politics and Military Matter - in our penultimate week we look at sources to assess how the government responded |

to military threats and how those who had little in the way of political right expressed themselves.

Week 10 **Conclusion** - students will present their projects and we will have an overview of the themes and sources.

Tickets £125 (members £115)

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



Mixing DNA with a Paper Trail

**Windsor Branch Meeting and Talk
by Dr Penny Walters**

27 Jul 19:15 for 19:30

Dr Penny Walters, author of 'Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy' and 'The Psychology of Searching' (Amazon) in this session, will take people past receiving their DNA results, and just looking at their ethnicity estimates. How to merge DNA results with an established paper trail will be explained, and how these two methods can interact with each other, to devise a better-informed tree will be explored. Useful information for adopted people will be given.

We will look at the advantages and disadvantages of different tests, a variety of helpful methods, putting DNA on different sites, including GEDmatch. Collaborating with matches and successfully merging DNA results with an evidence-based tree can lead to a more informed family history narrative, although some ethical dilemmas may arise.

Free to members. Non-members £3

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



A Disappearing Landscape: the heathlands of the Berkshire borders

Talk by Dr Alan Crosby
29 Jul 13:45 for 14:00

Back in the early 1720s, Daniel Defoe found Bagshot Heath terrifying. There were then over 100,000 acres of barren sandy waste, sprawling across three counties and touching the edges of Egham and Wokingham, Farnham and Woking. It was largely unpopulated, virtually treeless, and with only the most rudimentary agriculture. Places like Sunningdale and Crowthorne were among the poorest parts of England.

Today, of that bleak and hauntingly beautiful landscape, only fragments remain. Whole towns have grown up where a few cottages were three centuries ago – Bracknell, Bagshot, Camberley, Aldershot, Farnborough. And forests have covered tracts of the wastes. The military have requisitioned great swathes of commons and heaths. Monumental institutions for the undesirables of Victorian society – the insane, the mentally ill, the criminal, the public schoolboys – gobbled up much more.

Chopped up by railways and motorways, bombarded with artillery, seized for leafy estates, the heathlands fell victim to their reputation as worthless land with a lot of development potential. Discover their story – and the story of the people who lived there with one of the UK's leading local historians, Dr Alan Crosby.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4)

Pre-booking required

Book now

1-1 Family History Advice Session – August



Organiser: The Centre - Berkshire FHS
16 Aug 14:00 - 16:00

Are you just getting started in family history and wanting guidance as to how to proceed? Or are you stuck at a particular brick wall and need some help?

Our popular family history advice sessions have returned but for the moment online using Zoom technology. These sessions are 1-1, free of cost and are available to members and non-members alike.

Book a 25 minute slot with our advisers and you'll receive help from our experienced research assistants. We will provide whatever help and suggestions we can within the time frame and will book a follow-on session with you, if needed.

Four 1-1 slots are available in this session:

Slot 1: 14.00 – 14.25

Slot 2: 14.30 – 14.55

Slot 3: 15.05 – 15.30

Slot 4: 15.35 – 16.00 (sold out)

Free for members and non-members of Berkshire Family History Society
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

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