

1 messages

Keeping in touch

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Sun, Aug 22 2021 07:42:38

in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



If there's a theme to this week's **in touch** it has to be "Openings" - reopenings, as services start to open up across the county, and new openings. The Centre is reopening soon see below - and there's a hint of a brand new member-only service.

Yes, that's right, it's been barely a few weeks since we launched our meetings recordings and here we are with something else that's new.



"PSSSSST! Can you keep a secret? - There's a new, free, member benefit coming. George told me that it's all over the back cover of the September Historian which will be arriving in about a week"

"Why is it a secret?"

"Oh... yes... of course it's not ..."



Arrival of the September 2021 edition of our quarterly magazine **Berkshire Family Historian** is imminent and this quarter it contains news of something completely new.

We're always looking for ways to enhance your membership benefits and we have a brand new service to offer you - a chance to backup your valuable research to the web, create a digital legacy and collaborate with other members.

On the rear and inside covers you'll find a preview of the **YourTrees** home page and an overview, and on **page 27** there's an article that describes it in more detail. The service will be live just as Historian starts to drop onto your doormats in a week's time.

Increased access to Berkshire resources!

It's good news for researchers, as the restrictions introduced to try to prevent the spread of Covid are now gradually being lifted across the county, **AND THIS INCLUDES THE CENTRE! Woo Hoo!!**



Planning a visit

At Last - The Centre Reopens!

It's been a long time coming and we've come close a few times only for new restrictions to scupper our chances but finally.... FINALLY, we are back! We have to be cautious at first but we want to ramp up our opening hours as soon as we've ironed out the practicalities of running a socially distanced operation, however...

We reopen to visitors on 7 Sep 2021

All visits should be prebooked, as spaces are limited. "Walk-in" visitors will be accepted, but only if there is space available. For the comfort and wellbeing of our visitors, we have reduced the usual number of workstations to four and separated them to give at least a one metre distance between computers. Each space will be cleaned between visitors.

Bookings must be made at least two working days in advance.

We will build the service up as quickly as we can but for now the availability is:

 Day	 Time	 Max Capacity
Tuesdays	11:00 - 12:45	4
	13:00 - 15:00	4
More days/dates will be added soon		

[Learn more and book a slot...](#)



Berkshire Record Office

At the Berkshire Record Office, social distancing continues and visitors are requested to continue to wear face coverings and observe social distancing measures. However, access has now opened up to their catalogues, the library area and microfiche/film, as well as original documents.

From this month, visitors may stay onsite all day between 10 am & 4 pm - subject to availability. There is a maximum of two sessions per person, per week, but you can now book anything up to 3 hours per session either separately or as one full day. Sessions must be pre-booked – see website for full details.

<https://www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk/visit-us/planning-a-visit>



Reading Libraries

Social distancing and use of masks likewise continues in Reading's libraries, but they are now all open for browsing, without appointment, on limited hours. More hours and services will be restored over the next few weeks.

Currently, at all libraries, you are able to:

- browse shelves
- order specific items online
- collect items you have ordered

- return items
- use computers

<https://www.reading.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/libraries-reopening/>



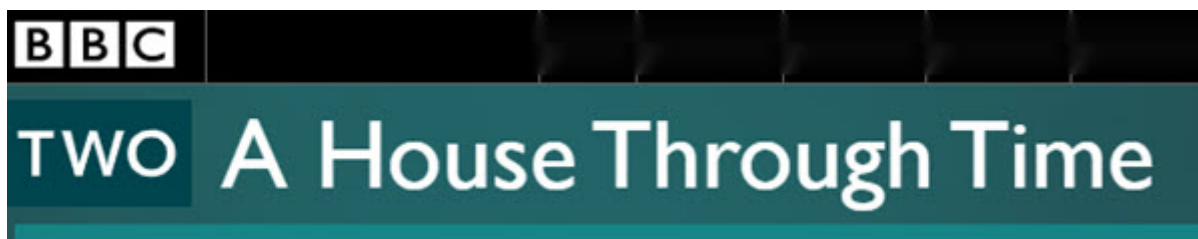
Berkshire's Marriage Registers

As access continues to open up at the Berkshire Record Office, society volunteers are busy transcribing and checking more of Berkshire's marriage registers.

If you are desperately waiting for us to transcribe a marriage register for your ancestral parishes – please let us know – and we will try and prioritise it for you. Obviously, we can't promise anything, but we will try to focus on the parishes which are mentioned the most.

Email us now with your requests at:

projects@berksfhs.org.uk



New Series!

A House Through Time is back for a fourth time in September – great news for those that enjoyed the previous series. The popular house history programme started in 2018 based on a deceptively simple idea – historian David Olusoga traces the history of a single house, uncovering the lives of the people who lived there throughout centuries of British history.

The previous series revealed the fascinating histories of houses in Liverpool, Newcastle and Bristol. The new series of ***A House Through Time*** will look at the history of a house in Leeds, with the teaser promising *“love triangles, larceny, childhood abandonment and reversals of fortune”*.

No dates have been revealed yet – so keep an eye on the TV schedules.



Events

Our events programme is mostly online

join us - wherever you are

Reading Volunteers in the Spanish Civil War, 1936-39

Talk by Mike Cooper
26 Aug 13:45 for 14:00



Venue: Online

Reading has one of the country's best regarded memorials to volunteers who served in the International Brigades, fighting in the Spanish Civil War, 1936-39.

In this talk, Mike Cooper, co-author of "We Cannot Park on Both Sides" a history of Reading volunteers in Spain, will look at the background to the memorial, the war, and what are now believed to be over 15 men and women with a Reading connection who served in Spain.

Image: Poster of the Spanish Civil War, Por las Armas-La Patria, el Pan y la Justicia (cropped), Creative Commons CC PD-UK-unknown.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4)

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



September Natter Group

**Facilitated by Gillian Stevens and
Chad Hanna**

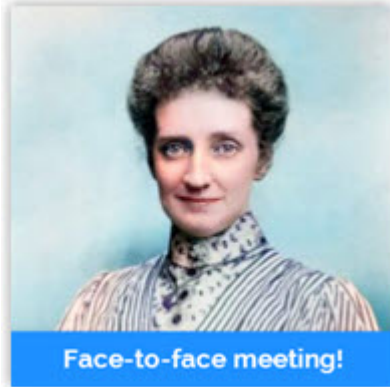
07 Sep 18:45 for 19:00

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 attend, but pre-booking required.

[Book now](#)



Lost, Stolen Away or Strayed?

Newbury Branch Meeting with Speaker Sue Ellis

08 Sep 13:45 for 14:00

Venue: West Berkshire Museum

Missing Ancestors and how to find them

Newbury Branch is delighted to welcome speaker, Sue Ellis, well known among local history circles in West Berkshire, as speaker to this our first face to face meeting since March 2020. Now retired from West Berkshire Libraries, Sue is currently secretary of Thatcham Historical Society and of the West Berkshire Heritage Forum. She will be talking about how she overcame obstacles in researching her own family history.

Please note a change from our normal venue and time. The talk will be held in the Long Room at West Berkshire Museum and will start promptly at 2pm. It will last about 45 minutes, followed by Q&A

Free to members

Non-members £3

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)

Berkshire and the Industrial Revolution

Speaker: Richard Marks

09 Sep 13:45 for 14:00



The Industrial Revolution, with images of cotton mills and smoke belching factories in the Midlands and the north of England, is familiar to everyone, but how was Berkshire impacted by the industrialisation of Britain in the 18th and 19th Centuries?

In this talk, we will look at how a rural county was impacted by industrialisation both elsewhere and within Berkshire itself. We will examine how traditional Berkshire industries were affected, how new ones sprang up and developed over the period and what impact the railways had on Berkshire industry.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4)

Pre-booking required

Book now



Parish Registers Workshop

Tutor: Catherine Sampson
18 Sep 13:45 for 14:00

Increase your chances of success with family historians' core resource. Better understand what registers can provide for you and how and why they differ in content over time. Find out where to find them and how Church of England and non-conformist registers differ. Discover the codes and hidden clues which can be found in some entries and how to interpret them. Also, indexes and transcripts, their benefits and pitfalls.

Image: copyright Berkshire Record Office, reproduced with their kind permission.

Tickets cost £10 (members £9)

Pre-booking required

Book now

This is just a selecton from our extensive events
programme ...

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

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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