

1 messages

Keeping in touch

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in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



All Saints, Woolstone, nestles at the foot of White Horse Hill. Built in 1195 by the priory of St. Swithun
Image by Catherine Samspon

There's so much to tell you this week that here's barely any room for an intro. This week is all about Heritage, be it establishing your family heritage using our new **YourTrees** service, visiting the **Centre for Heritage and Family History** or enjoying the **Heritage Open Days in Berkshire**.

Right, let's crack on!



TA DA!

It's here. A brand new member service to allow you to create your digital legacy, create a secure backup of your life's work and place it in the public domain.

- **A new free benefit** for members
- **Unlimited data uploads** while you're a member
- **Unlimited tree size** (although we'll always advocate quality over quantity)
- **Data preserved** if your membership ceases for you and your family
- **Collaborate** with other members
- **Your data is YOURS.** We won't ever claim any kind of right to your assets, unlike some services

This is *Members' Interests* and *Birth Briefs* on steroids. With lightning fast searching you can find out what other members are working on but with vastly more information than either of those services could provide, in a fraction of the time. And submitting your data is so simple because all you have to do is extract a GEDCOM file from your desktop genealogy program and upload it to our server. One of our volunteers will then create or update your tree.

You can read more on the website and in the September edition of the *Berkshire Family Historian*. (pp 27-29)

GEDCOM files are already arriving in our inbox. Why not add yours today?

[Read more ...](#)



Want to visit? Book your place!

In case you missed it - The Centre is open again! 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
Last Thursday	11:00 - 12:45	4
	13:00 - 15:00	4
More days/dates will be added soon		

Learn more and book a slot...



Heritage Open Days: 10-19 Sept. 2021 - what will you discover?!

Heritage Open Days in Berkshire

The annual Heritage Open Days provide a wonderful opportunity to explore the rich heritage of Berkshire for free and often give the opportunity to explore buildings and places not usually open to the public. This year, once again, we have a mixture of physical and online events making the county's heritage more accessible wherever you live. The festival runs from the 10th to the 19th of September and is themed "Edible England."

Our Society's Heritage Open Day event for 2021 is a talk on Edible History arranged by Woodley Branch – see the society's events at the bottom of this newsletter. The talk is free, online and open to all – so do come along, if you can.

Some events require pre-booking so please check the [HOD website](#) and plan ahead. Here's a small selection of some of this year's events.

[Abingdon – take the Workhouse Trail](#)

Saturday 18 Sep: All day

Sunday 19 Sep: All day

No booking required

Abingdon's Union Workhouse was the first built in England following the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act and it remained in operation until 1931. Find out where it was and what life was like for those who lived there.

The Workhouse occupied an 11 acre site just north of the town. Retrace the outline of the massive building and its grounds; find out about the inhabitants – inmates and staff – how they lived and what happened to some of them afterwards.

[Ascot Heath – visit All Saints' Church](#)

Saturday 11 Sep: 10:00 – 16:30

No booking required

This beautiful church was designed by T H Rushforth and built in 1864 of red brick and Portland stone. It is a fine example of neo-gothic architecture with a stunning ceiling and wall paintings in the nave and chancel (Heaton, Bayne and Butler). On the day there will be tours of the church.

Parking, refreshments and toilet facilities will be available.

[Boveney – discover the bargees' church of St Mary Magdalene](#)

Friday 10 Sep: daily to Sunday 19 Sep: 09:00 - 17:00

No booking required

The building is listed Grade I despite its low-key exterior. What tips it into that highest of all listing categories is the remarkable vernacular interior with 18th and 19th century fittings, its romantic location adjacent to the Thames and its very early origins in the 12th century.

The church was built to serve the bargemen or bargees as they were called who plied their trade on the river, although the quay immediately adjacent is long lost. Outside you will notice the little slivers of flint pressed into the mortar coursing lines – this is a partly decorative, partly functional technique known as galletting.

[Coleshill - explore Coleshill Estate](#)

Sunday 12 Sep: 11:00 – 16:00

No booking required

Wander around the Sheep Yard & Cart Horse Stables. Watch demos of heritage crafts that are still used on the estate. Join a tour of the original Model Farm site, and visit the Old Mill and WW2 replica Operational Bunker and original Guard House.

Coleshill was the headquarters of the Auxiliars, a secret network of spies and saboteurs during World War Two and you'll be able to find out a little more about their work.

[Easthampstead – visit the Parish and Pilgrimage Church of St Michael & St Mary Magdalene](#)

Friday 10 Sep: 11:00 - 16:00

Saturday 11 Sep: 10:00 - 16:00

Sunday 12 Sep: 11:00 - 13:00, 14:30 - 16:00

No booking required

This prominent site has been associated with worship since at least 1159 and the present church was built in 1867. There are many beautiful features including windows by most of the significant Victorian stained glass designers including five important windows by Sir Edward Burne-Jones and made by William Morris and memorial poems by Ruskin and Pope.

Church trails and ad hoc tours of the church and churchyard will be provided throughout each day. The churchyard is a registered Living Churchyard and maintained for its biodiversity. This year there will be self-guided or ad-hoc led tours looking for what is edible in the churchyard.

[Reading - Castle Hill & Coley Heritage Walkabout](#)

Sunday 12 Sep: 09:50

Wednesday 15 Sep: 09:50

Pre-booking required

This guided walk lasts approximately 2 hours, with a few short inclines & descents. We will illustrate when we stop & talk, using a photo album with photos from the past, covering Castle Hill, plus Old & New Coley over 150 years.

[Reading – explore Food from the archives - online](#)

Available anytime

No booking required

A culinary taste of Berkshire's past brought to you online by Berkshire Record Office.

Take a look at a recipe from Berkshire's past and have a go at making it. Discover how easy it is to follow a historical recipe using and whether it tastes any good!

[Reading - explore Reading Old Cemetery and Cemetery Arch](#)

Sunday 19 Sep: 10:00 – 17:00

No booking required

Visitors can view an exhibition that will feature works by local artists, participate in tours of Reading Old Cemetery and sample some locally sourced food.

The ground floors of the Arch will be opened on both the north and south side and visitors will be able to experience an exhibition of work by local artists, featuring the Arch, the Cemetery and the local area. Visitors will also be able to learn about JAHA's plans for the building.

There will be guided tours of both the natural and human made heritage of the cemetery.

[Reading - Local Library Treasures - Reading's A, B, C, \(with a foodie theme\) – video tour](#)

Available anytime

No booking required

See some of the items in Reading Central Library that have a food and drink connection. Given that the town is known for the 3 B's - beer, biscuits and bulbs – we were spoilt for choice, but will hopefully include one or two surprises!

[Reading town centre's brewing heritage – video tour](#)

Available anytime

No booking required

This video is a companion to the in person walks around Reading town centre's brewing heritage taking place on 16 and 17 September.

On this virtual walk we will discover the remains of Reading town centre's brewing heritage. There are some old brewery buildings which have now taken on new uses and redeveloped sites where they are now just a dim and distant memory.

Shaw – Reminsistory at St Mary's Church

Saturday 18 Sep: 2:30 pm

Pre-booking preferred

Join a two hour interactive programme as Local Reministorians reflect on edible Shaw and Donnington in the 1940s and 1950s and, with English Heritage, compare with edibles in the siege of Donnington Castle in the 1640s.

Tilehurst – Heritage Day at St Michael's Church

Saturday 18 Sep: 10:00 – 16:00

No booking required

St Michael's is a beautiful and historic building, parts of which date back to the twelfth century. It was extensively remodelled in the mid-Victorian era and amongst other features boasts a fine Arts and Crafts stained glass window by William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones and the stunning Jacobean tomb of the merchant and royal jeweller Peter Vanlore.

The church is opening its doors for an exhibition of local history, with photos and artefacts illustrating various aspects of the community of Tilehurst across the ages - the potteries and brick kilns, schools, transport, churches, key local people and more. There will be talks throughout the day, self-guided tours of the church and an opportunity to explore the churchyard. Refreshments available.

White Waltham – visit St Mary's Church

Saturday 11 Sep: 13:00 - 16:30

No booking required

This ancient church, which has parts of its fabric dating back to the 12th century, is set in a country churchyard which is home to a 1600 year old yew tree. Self-guided tour leaflets will be provided (including a children's version) to help you find the highlights of the building.

Between 14:30 - 17:00 you can also visit 'The Tree House' – a sensitively designed new building in the churchyard - where you can enjoy a cup of tea and a delicious homemade scone or slice of cake (there will be a charge for this).

Woodley – join a History Walk

Saturday 11 Sep: 10:00 - 12:00

Sunday 12 Sep: 14:00 - 16:00

Saturday 18 Sep: 10:00 - 12:00

Sunday 19 Sep: 14:00 - 16:00

Pre-booking required

We will venture on two different walks. On the Saturday walks, we will look at the old forge, historic shops and houses in Crockhamwell Road, and Woodley Green Farm. Our Sunday walks will look at St John's Church, Cobblers City and its old cottages.

For full details of all of these events and to see all the events available across the historic county of Berkshire and beyond, see:

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



Events

Our events programme is mostly online

join us - wherever you are



September Natter Group

**Facilitated by Gillian Stevens and
Chad Hanna**

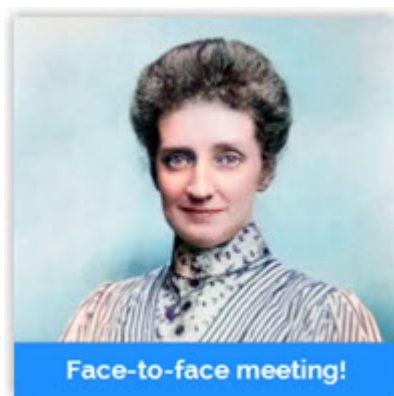
07 Sep 18:45 for 19:00

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



Edible History

Woodley Branch Meeting and Talk
15 Sep 19:15 for 19:30
Venue: Online

How did our ancestors get their food, what did they like to eat and what utensils did they use?

Family stories involving recipes, utensils and memorabilia related to food shared

by society members. history.

Free to members. Non-members £3

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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