

1 messages

Keeping in touch

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in touch

Berkshire Family History Society





"A sample of hair belonging to the legendary Sitting Bull confirms that a South Dakota man is his great-grandson"
BBC News 28 Oct 2021

**DNA TESTING &
FAMILY HISTORY**

BOOK NOW / 06 NOV 2021 15:00 - 16:15
£5 (MEMBERS £4)

**Online talk by international DNA expert
Debbie Kennett
on the use of DNA in family history research**

Berkshire Family History Society, Reading Central Library, Abbey Square, Reading RG1 3BG - Registered Charity No 283010

Featured Event - click the image to book!

The big news this week that we have a date for the availability of the 1921 England & Wales Census. This is a significant event because it presages a research drought - the 1931 Census was completely destroyed by a fire at the warehouse in Hayes, Middlesex in 1942 - during the war but apparently not

attributable to enemy action. The much abbreviated 1939 register is already available, albeit with redactions and there was no Census in 1941. So we will have to wait a full thirty years, for the 1951 Census - and the publication of that Census will coincide with my centenary

It's also journal time - lots of our journal exchange partners have sent us their latest versions - more on that below



**Lancashire Family
History & Heraldry
Society**



A new Journal Exchange And a cornucopia of new and back editions

We're delighted to announce a new addition to the list of societies with which we exchange electronic journals - the **Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society**.

They have provided their latest edition (November) and seven back copies covering the last two years. We've also had new editions and some back copies from the Berkshire Record Office, Cheshire FHS, Bucks FHS, Waltham Forest FHS, the Society of Genealogists, Norfolk FHS, Herefordshire FHS and East Yorkshire FHS

[View the archive \(login required\)](#)



Library Drop-ins recommence

Before the first lockdown in March 2020, society volunteers ran free advice sessions, for members and non-members alike, in a number of libraries across Berkshire. We are in discussion with a number of library authorities about restarting

these sessions and several are now up and running.

Reading Branch volunteers are now opening The Centre for Heritage and Family History, on the second floor of Reading Central Library, on the last Thursday of the month (11am - 3pm).

And from 11th November, Bracknell Branch volunteers will be on hand to give 1-1 advice at Bracknell Library on the second Thursday of the month between 2 and 5pm.

Bring your questions, problems and 'brickwalls' and get some new ideas and advice from society volunteers.



Southern History Society
A Review of the History of Southern England



Southern History back journals now online

If you like to understand the social context of the lives of your ancestors and enjoy reading around the subject, you'll probably find something of interest in the journals of the Southern History Society, *Southern History*, which are now available to consult free online on their website. Volumes 1 – 38 have been made available, covering the years 1979 – 2016.

As you would expect, with its focus being on the history of Southern England, articles on Berkshire crop up frequently with a diverse array of subjects. Beyond

Berkshire, subjects range from the Poole clay trade to Somerset coalfields, Deal smugglers and the maritime economy of Rye.

Berkshire –specific articles include:

Chris Durston “‘Wild as colts untamed’: radicalism in the Newbury area during the early modern period” (Vol 6, 1984).

Christine Jackson “The Kendrick bequests: an experiment in municipal enterprise in the woollen industry in Reading and Newbury in the early seventeenth century” (Vol 16, 1994).

Malcolm Bee “Providence with patronage: the Royal Berkshire Friendly Society” (Vol 16, 1994)

Manfred Brod “A prophetess from the Vale of the White Horse: Joan Vokins of West Challow” (Vol 26, 2004).

Plenty to keep us occupied as the nights draw in!

[View the archive](#)

THE 1921

CENSUS

IS COMING

Release date for 1921 census of England & Wales

It's been a long wait but finally we have the news we have been hoping for. Family history website Findmypast has announced that it will release the long-awaited 1921 census for England and Wales on 6 January 2022.

In partnership with The National Archives, Findmypast has worked to digitise and transcribe more than 8.5 million household schedules recording the details of over 38 million individuals. As with the 1911 census, the 1921 census will initially be available to view on a pay per view basis using micropayments. Transcripts will cost £2.50 to view and images of the original records will cost £3.50.

Discover how you can prepare for the launch at:

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/family-records/1921-census-tips>



New French records at MyHeritage

MyHeritage have announced the publication of a massive 463 million historical records from France in 5 collections: birth, marriage, death, and two censuses - 1872 and 1906.

The collections provide the most comprehensive coverage available for vital

records from France in the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries. Until now they have been available exclusively through Filae, a leading French genealogy company recently acquired by MyHeritage.

The collections cover nearly every department in France and include a high-quality index of the transcribed records and digital images of the original documents. Millions of these records are exclusive to MyHeritage and Filae and cannot be found on other commercial sites.

Happy hunting if your research takes you into France.

<https://www.myheritage.com/>



Events

Our events programme is mostly online

Join us - wherever you are



November Natter Group

**Discussion Group facilitated by:
Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens
02 Nov 18:45 for 19:00**

Venue: Online

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
Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



Wilts and Berks Canal

**Talk with speaker: Martin
Buckland**

04 Nov 14:00 - 15:15

Venue: Online

The Wilts & Berks Canal opened in 1810 and links the Kennet and Avon Canal at Semington near Melksham, to the River Thames at Abingdon. It had a chequered career until its legal closure in 1914, its demise hastened by the collapse of Stanley Aqueduct in 1901. In 1977, restoration of the canal began in a few places but in 2004 full restoration of the entire 62 miles was decided upon.

This talk looks at the historical, restoration progress and future proposals for this major East to West canal link.

Non-members £5, members £4
Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)

DNA Testing and Family History

Talk by Debbie Kennett
06 Nov 14:45 for 15:00

Venue: Online



DNA testing can advance your genealogical research

DNA testing is now all the rage but what can you really learn from a DNA test? This online talk by international DNA expert, Debbie Kennett, provides an introduction to the use of DNA testing as a tool for family history research, for those interested in DNA and how testing works, but, who haven't necessarily tested yet.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4)

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



Women in Georgian Newbury

Newbury Branch Meeting and talk by Penny Stokes

10 Nov 13:45 for 14:00

Venue: West Berkshire Museum

What were the experiences and opportunities for women in Newbury between 1714 and 1837? Could they go to school? How did they earn a living? What part did they play in public life? What difference did marriage make to their status? Penny Stokes has been researching Georgian Newbury for five years, with a particular interest in the role of women in local society.

Free to members. Non-members £3

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



Drop In Advice Session

**with Bracknell Branch
11 Nov 14:00 - 17:00**

Venue: Bracknell Central Library

Bring your questions, problems and 'brickwalls' and get some new ideas and advice from members of the Berkshire Family History Society.

For ALL family historians wherever your ancestors came from.

Free to members and non-members

[**Find out more**](#)



1-1 Family History Advice Session – November

15 Nov 14:00 - 16:00

Venue: Online

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, and these ones are 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 that 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 (sold out)

Slot 2: 14.30 – 14.55 (sold out)

Slot 3: 15.05 – 15.30

Slot 4: 15.35 – 16.00

For members and non-members of Berkshire Family History Society

Free

Pre-booking required

Book now



The Whitings: A Quaker Family

**Abingdon Branch Meeting and
talk by Simon Burbidge
15 Nov 19:15 for 19:30**

Venue: Long Furlong Community Centre

Sometimes a brick wall where ancestors are missing from parish records can turn out to be a blessing in disguise if one discovers they were Quakers.

If so, then the comprehensive Quaker records can not only demolish the brick wall and facilitate further research, but may also provide a wealth of information on ancestors' lives and circumstances.

In this talk Simon Burbidge gives an overview of Quaker records and uses his Whiting ancestors to show the sort of information that these records can provide.

Free to members. Non-members £3.

Pre-booking required

Book now



Christmas meeting of genealogical knowledge

**Woodley branch meeting and
team quiz**

17 Nov 19:15 for 19:30

Venue: Online

An early Christmas meeting with our traditional historical quiz to be tackled by teams of approximately six people via Zoom using 'breakout' rooms. There will be several quiz rounds to amuse, entertain and perhaps, educate you. Your team will be in the contest – not you.

Again this year, alas, you will have to provide mince pies and mulled wine, as due to technical limitations we are not able to provide these virtually.

Free to members. Non-members £3.

Pre-booking required

Book now

That was just a selection 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

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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