

in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



THE 1921 CENSUS IS COMING



...and you're invited to hear about it directly from Findmypast, in one of two online talks hosted by Berkshire FHS

Woodley Branch
19 Jan
19:15 for 19:30
Speaker: Mary McKee

OR

Windsor Branch
25 Jan
19:15 for 19:30
Speaker: Jen Baldwin

Non-members £3 - Members free - Prebooking required

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

Featured Event - click the image for more information

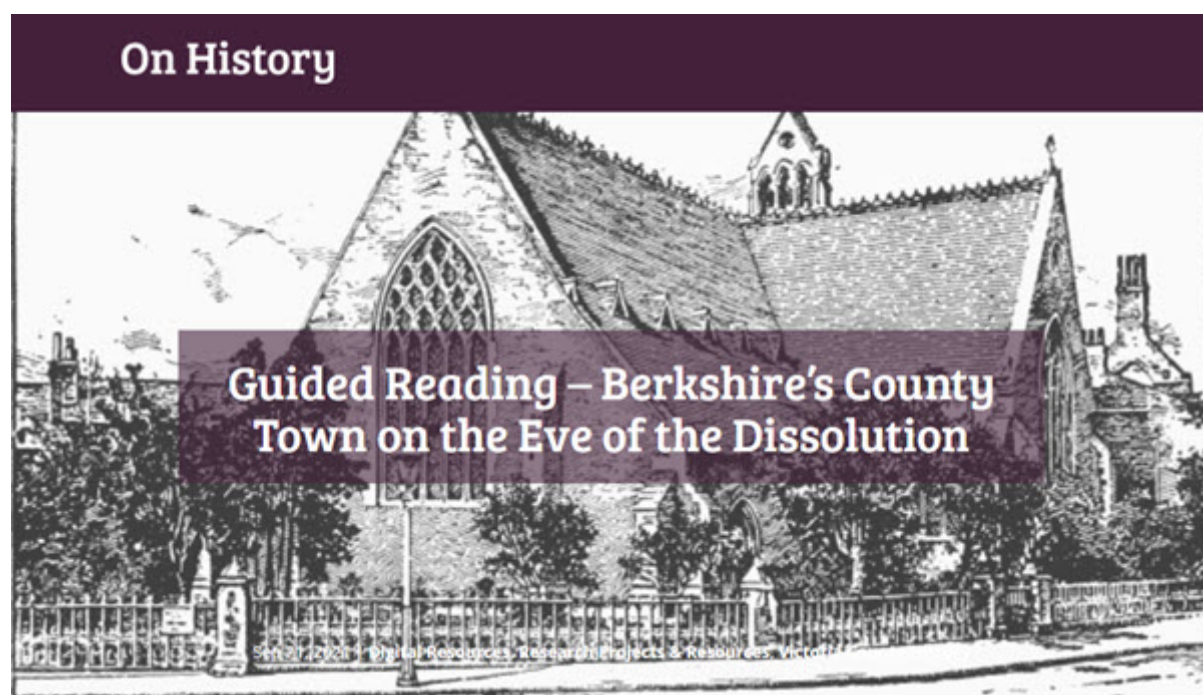
1921 census of England & Wales - don't miss these talks

Following on from the confirmation of the release date of the long awaited 1921 census in the last newsletter, we now bring you more news. We're delighted to

announce dates for two online talks the society will be hosting in January on the 1921 Census. Our speakers are both census experts at Findmypast, so this is a rare opportunity to hear about this important new release from those who have worked closely with its launch and to ask questions.

We have secured two dates - see above - to give as many people as possible the opportunity to attend.

For more details about these talks, and to book your place, see the separate event entries below. These are free to members and non-members are also very welcome, for a small charge, so please do tell your friends and family.

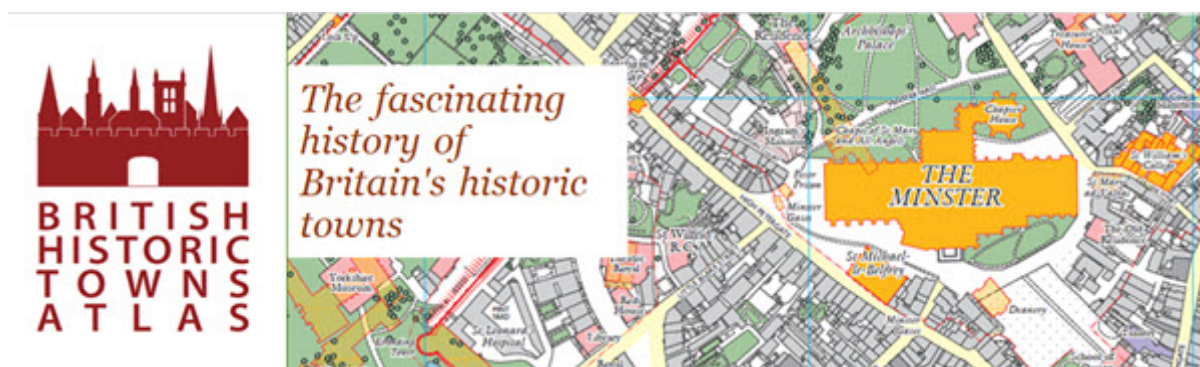


Most of us sadly can't trace our family history to pre-reformation England, but it doesn't hinder enjoyment of Dr Joe Chick's latest blog on Reading. Armed with 'A History of English Places', the App for mobile devices developed by the Victoria County History with Aimer Media, Dr Chick invites us to explore with him the monastic influences still visible in our Berkshire county town.

This is an enjoyable and quick read and a good introduction to VCH's free app, if you haven't yet come across it. With staycations and UK-based holidays the norm for many of us this year - it certainly seems a useful addition to the phone.

[Check out the blog](#)

Some mapping treats for those with ancestors
from Reading ...



Historic Maps of Reading

If Reading features in the history of your family, it's also worth checking out the British Historic Towns Atlas. The website includes annotated maps covering 13 England and Welsh towns, including Reading, with plans for more to follow.

The Reading webpage contains a history of Reading by the late Professor Slade of Reading University and a series of maps showing the location of Reading and its street plan in the medieval period through to circa 1800. Particularly interesting is the 1800 map showing the main streets, the location of the churches, workhouses and almshouses, the areas of concentrations of shops and their speciality, and the areas of industrial and commercial activity. It's a potential goldmine for those who want to know more about the locations where their ancestors lived and worked.

Check it out



ONLINE GALLERY

Insurance Plan of Reading: Key Plan

Goad's Insurance Maps of Reading and elsewhere

The intense growth of industrialised towns and cities in late Victorian Britain created a new demand for mapping urban structures and land use. The tightly-packed housing and dangerous industrial activities in these centres increased the likelihood of fire and presented a high risk to commercial interests.

Chas E Goad Co wasn't the first to produce maps to aid insurance companies in assessing the risk, but he was the largest and most prolific company in Britain. His large-scale plans of urban areas ranged in size from eight sheets for Dover to over 500 for London.

The British Library owns the most comprehensive collection of Goad mapping, and an online exhibition on their website, now gives easy access to these wonderful resources, previously largely only available by consulting the original maps. The exhibition includes the first editions of most towns, including: Chelmsford, Colchester, Dover, Brighton, Southampton, Newcastle on Tyne, London and Reading.

Legends to interpret the many signs and symbols on the maps can be found on the 'key plan' to each volume. These can be found by searching for 'key plan' and [town or city name] in the Online Gallery search box.

The detailed 1895 plan of Reading, in the online exhibition, is one of a series of thirteen sheets produced by Goad. They show building footprints, their use (commercial, residential, educational, etc.), the number of floors and the height of the building, as well as construction materials. Usefully for family historians, the names of individual businesses, property lines, and addresses were also often recorded, making them a rich source for anyone with ancestors living here at that time.

The key index for Reading can be found here:

<http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/firemaps/england/london/se/mapsu145ubu12u6uf001r.html>

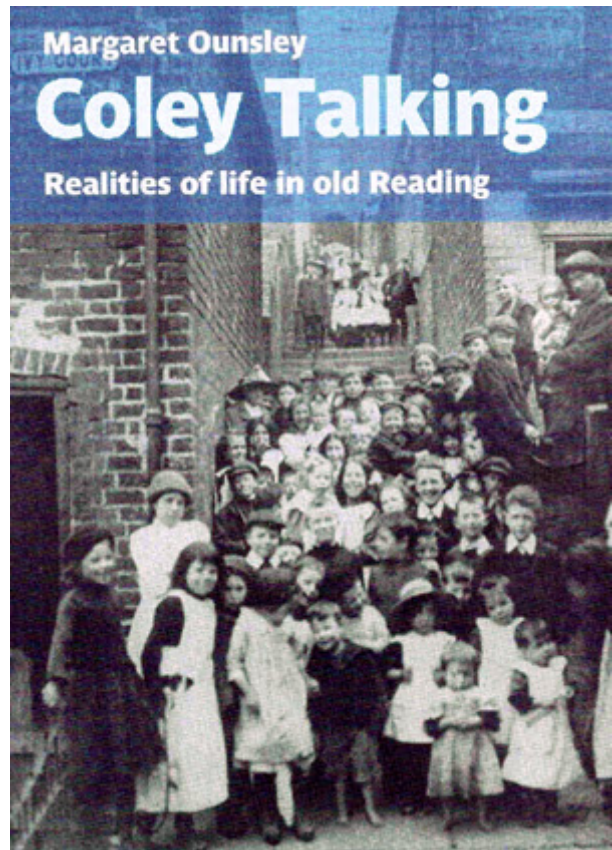
And the index giving access to Reading's thirteen individual sheets here:

<http://gallery.bl.uk/viewall/default.aspx?e=Fire%20insurance%20maps%20and%20plans%20London%20and%20SE&n=97&r=10>

New in the society's bookshop

Coley Talking – realities of life in old Reading by **Margaret Ounsley £12.99**

For those with ancestors from the Coley part of Reading – the much awaited “Coley Talking” is now in stock. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, Reading prospered from the canal, the railway and the “three Bs” – beer, biscuits and bulbs, but the explosion of the population in the early years of the nineteenth century had darker consequences.



These recollections of the Coley area of Reading provide an understanding of the area's social, economic and political history – an area now much changed through clearance of poor housing and demolition to accommodate new roads construction. The story of the area is given through its people, its community activities and the day to day struggles of life.

Buy now

Temporary Access to Society's Subscription Website

We warned in the last newsletter, that access to the society's temporary subscription websites would end by February 2022, at the very latest.

Sadly, we have now been advised that online access to the society's *Findmypast* account will end on 18 November. This has been a great asset to have been able to offer for the past 18 months, and whilst it's a shame that it's coming to an end, our thanks go to *Findmypast* for enabling us to do so for so long. Online access to the society's subscription account *The Genealogist* will continue for the time being.



Events

Our events programme is mostly online

Join us - wherever you are



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



The Duke of Wellington: A life of service

**Talk by Brigadier Michael Aris CBE DL
and Richard Bennett DL**

18 Nov 13:45 for 14:00

Venue: Online

Stratfield Saye House may sit just over the border in Hampshire, but its importance is felt across Berkshire.

We are delighted to welcome two of Berkshire's Deputy Lieutenants as our speakers for this talk, both are volunteer guides at Stratfield Saye House. Their talk captures the life of Stratfield Saye's most famous resident, the Duke of Wellington, from his birth in 1769 to his state funeral in 1852. Inevitably, the story includes conflict in India, the Peninsula War and of course Waterloo. We will follow his political life, his varied appointments and his fondness for women. Finally, we will hear Queen Victoria's reflections on the Great Duke in her diary.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4)

Pre-booking required

Book now



The 1939 Register Explained

**Bracknell branch meeting and talk
by: John Hanson**

19 Nov 19:15 for 19:45

Venue: Online

John Hanson is a family history teacher and lecturer. His talk will look at the history behind the 1939 Register, its release, and the problems that exist because of its difference from anything else. It will also try to show how to get the best from the Register and find those elusive people.

Free to members. Non-members £3.

Pre-booking required

[**Book now**](#)



A Mountain Heritage: settlers of the Appalachian and the Bolling family

**Reading branch meeting and talk
by: Dr Joan Sellwood**

25 Nov 19:15 for 19:45 - 21:00

Venue: Online

Dr Jane Sellwood's talk reveals that many mountain communities share characteristics of isolation, large families, family feuds, strong religion, love of music. The families of the Appalachian Mountains reflect this over a short timescale and huge distances. The settlement of Virginia, USA and the movement westward will be illustrated by one family's story.

Free to members. Non-members £3.

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



Twentieth Century Family History

**Windsor branch meeting and talk
by: Janet Few**

**30 Nov 19:15 for 19:30
Venue: Online**

We often neglect the twentieth century as being 'not really history' but there is plenty to be discovered about individuals and the communities in which they lived between 1901 and 1952. Twentieth century research brings with it the difficulties of larger and more mobile populations as well as records that are closed to view. Janet Few, history interpreter, writer, speaker and researcher, describes some sources that can help you to bring those more recent ancestors to life.

Free to members. Non-members £3.

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



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19 Jan		25 Jan
19:15 for 19:30	OR	19:15 for 19:30
Speaker: Mary McKee		Speaker: Jen Baldwin

Mary McKee and Jen Baldwin have both been involved with scanning of the census for Findmypast, and will explain and answer questions on its background and how we can gain access to the 38 million lives who are recorded within. This will be the last census release for at least 30 years, as the 1931 census was destroyed by fire, and the 1941 census was cancelled because of the Second World War.

Both sessions are free to members. Non-members £3.

Pre-booking essential as demand will be high. One session per person please.

Book Woodley 19 Jan session

OR

Book Windsor 25 Jan session

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
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Reading, Berkshire, RG1 3BQ, United Kingdom
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