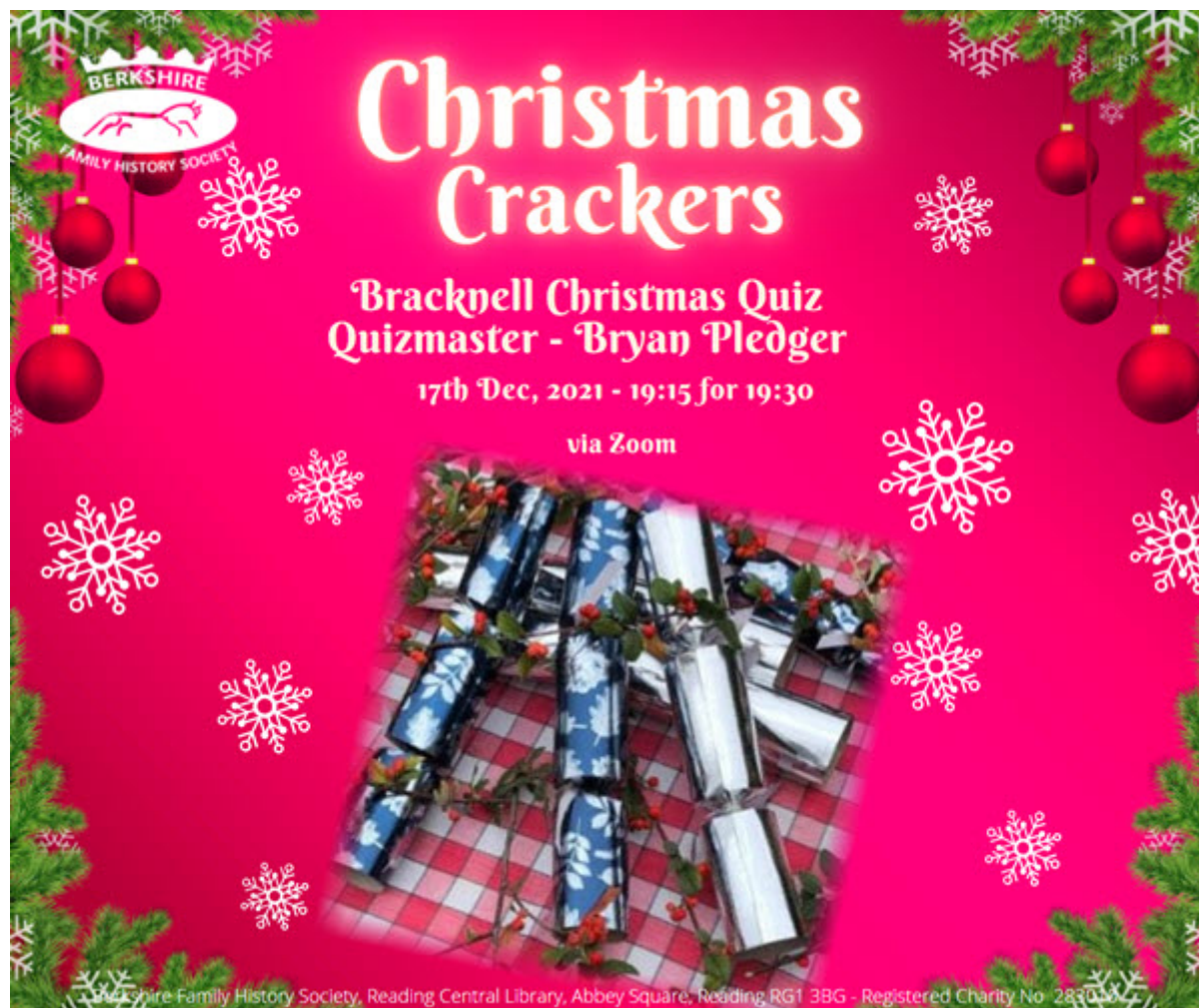

in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



To book - click image

This week we've announcements about Christmas opening hours for ourselves and the Berkshire Record Office and then, bar a couple of events in December we're all about 2022. If you've missed our previous announcements about the 1921 Census then, where have you been? But we have some additional 1921 Census information, about free access for some lucky people!

That said, we're not done with 2021 yet. We'll be back next week with another

newsletter and, as that will be our last before Christmas we will make it a full members' edition.



Centre for Heritage & Family History Christmas opening times

The Centre for Heritage & Family History will close for the Christmas and New Year period at 3pm on Tuesday 14th December and will reopen at 11am on Tuesday 4th January.

Thank you to all of our Research Assistants who have helped visitors with their research since we reopened in September. And to all the visitors who have come - we have enjoyed meeting with you and providing help to those who have requested it.

We look forward to seeing our regulars and new visitors in the New Year.



Berkshire Record Office Christmas opening times

The Berkshire Record Office will be closed from 24th December 2021 to 3rd January 2022 inclusive.

Bookings for 4th to 14th January 2022, can be made from 13th December 2021. If you plan to visit the week of 4th to 7th January 2022, you need to [make your booking](#) by 23rd December 2021.



RootsTech 2022

Registration for RootsTech 2022 is now open, and the theme this year is "*Choose Connection.*"

RootsTech will be held online again this year on 3-5 March 2022. And it's FREE!

Sign up for RootsTech so you can enjoy:

- Inspiring keynote speakers
- Unlimited access to over 1,500 sessions
- Expo Hall with companies from around the world
- Playlists, chat, and much more

<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/next/>



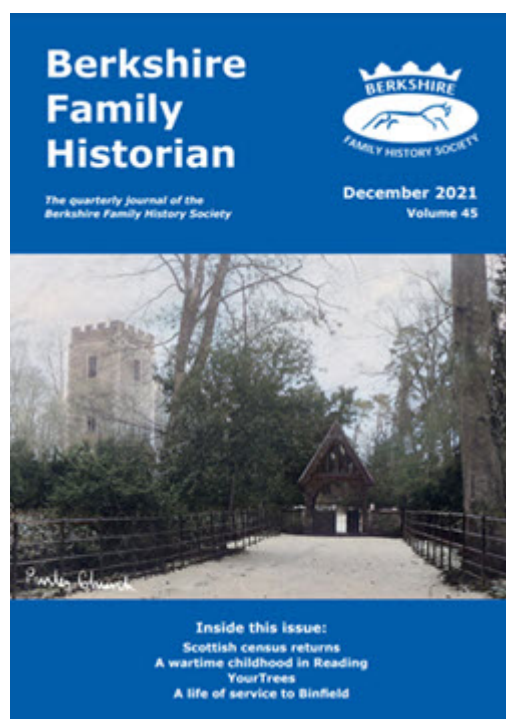
Free access hubs announced for 1921 census

More news on the imminent release

The National Archives (TNA) has announced that the 1921 census for England and Wales will be free to view at two public libraries after its release next year. The records will be free to access on Findmypast at Manchester Central Library and the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth, as well as at the TNA building in London.

Hopefully, good news for some.

And don't forget to [book your free place](#) on one of the society's 1921 census talks in January. Places are going fast!



The Historian in Colour

By now the paper copy of the Dec 21 Historian should have reached you.

If not then members have access to an online copy [here](#)

Not only is it just a click away, it's also in full colour so you can enjoy the photos the way the authors intended.

So why not head over to [the archive](#) now where you'll find other back copies too?



Events

Our events programme is mostly online

Join us - wherever you are



Free family history advice

Newbury Branch at Newbury Library

17 Dec 10:30 - 12:30

Did you make a start on your family tree during the lockdowns? Have you always wanted to research your family but are not sure how to start?

Whether you are just beginning, or you have become stuck on your family tree, you can get free, one-to-one help from a member of Berkshire Family History Society's Newbury branch.

Book yourself an hour's slot by calling in to Newbury Library (the first floor desk) or by telephoning them on 01635 519900.



Christmas Crackers 2021

Bracknell Branch Meeting

17 Dec 19:15 for 19:30

Quiz Master: Bryan Pledger

Venue: Online

Join us for our Christmas Quiz Evening from the comfort of your home with your

own mince pies and a warm drink.

The quiz categories are:

- 2021 Anniversaries
- General Knowledge
- Oddities and Christmas questions

To help you enjoy the evening most questions are multiple choice or have clues.

Free to members. Non-members £3.

Pre-booking Required

Book Now



Transport Social History Talks Series

13 Jan, 10 Feb, 10 Mar

Venue: The Centre for Heritage & Family History, Reading

This all series ticket covers all three in the “Transport Social History” talks series. All three talks are on Thursdays at 2pm and last about an hour. Afterwards there will be time for questions and discussion afterwards.

After the talk, tea/coffee and either biscuits or cake will be available (included in the price). Advance booking is preferred, but you can pay on the door, if there are spaces available.

Thursday 13 January “The Dunkirk Evacuation: Reading Railway’s pivotal role” 2 – 3.30pm with Paul Joyce

The Dunkirk evacuation, code-named Operation Dynamo, is one of the most well-known operations in World War Two. During it, over 338,000 Allied soldiers were evacuated from the beaches and harbour of Dunkirk in May and June 1940. The involvement of the little ships, as they came to be known, is well known. Yet in contrast relatively little mention is made of the vast logistical effort needed to transport these men once they had landed on British soil. In this talk,

Paul will explain the pivotal role which Reading Railways played in the evacuation. And also the enormous effort which went into this little known operation.

Thursday 10 February “Smiths Coaches of Reading” 2 – 3.30pm with Paul Lacey

Smith’s Coaches of Reading, with their distinctively coloured blue and orange vehicles, were an integral part of the local scene for six decades, as well as being seen all over the county on excursions, tours and seasonal coastal expresses. This is the story of how the enterprise developed from a single charabanc to become the largest privately-owned coaching firm in Southern England. Our speaker, Paul Lacey, is the author of the comprehensively researched “Smith’s Coaches of Reading 1922-1979”. We are in safe hands.

Thursday 10 March “Reading’s Second Railway – the early days” 2 – 3.30pm with Paul Joyce

This is the story of Reading’s second railway in the 19th century. It began as the South Eastern Railway but would later become part of the Southern Railway, when that was formed. Its terminus in central Reading, the Southern Railway Station, stood near to its Great Western Railway counterpart, both confusingly named “Reading” Station for most of their dual existence. The Southern station closed in 1970 when demolition began, but part of its 1989-built concourse survives.

The all series ticket cost £12.50 (members £10)

Pre-booking required

Book now



The Dunkirk Evacuation: Reading Railway’s pivotal role

**Talk by Paul Joyce
13 Jan 13:45 for 14:00**

Venue: The Centre for Heritage & Family History, Reading

The Dunkirk evacuation, code-named Operation Dynamo, is one of the most well-known operations in World War Two. During it, over 338,000 Allied soldiers were evacuated from the beaches and harbour of Dunkirk in May and June 1940. The involvement of the little ships, as they came to be known, is well known. Yet in contrast relatively little mention is made of the vast logistical effort needed to transport these men once they had landed on British soil. In this talk, Paul will explain the pivotal role which Reading Railways played in the evacuation. And also the enormous effort which went into this little known operation.

This is the first of three talks in the Transport Social History Talks series. The other talks take place on 10th February and 10th March. You may book tickets for individual events or for all three talks in the series for a reduced price.

After the talk, tea/coffee and either biscuits or cake will be available (included in the price). Advance booking is preferred, but you can pay on the door, if there are spaces available..

Tickets cost £5 (members £4)

Pre-booking required

Book now



DNA Special Interest Group – January

Facilitator: Debbie Kennett
15 Jan 14:15 for 14:30

Venue: Online

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](#)



World War Two RAF Records

**Workshop (Face-to-face) led by
Richard Marks**

12 Feb 11:00 - 13:00

Venue: The Centre for Heritage & Family History, Reading

In this workshop, we will decipher some of the terminology used by the RAF which commonly crops up in both official and personal documents. We will look at how the RAF recruited and trained its men and women during the war. Also, what roles people undertook. We will look at how the air force was structured and how this can help the family historian identify what their relative did while enlisted. Also, the aircraft they may have encountered and prisoners of war. We will finally discuss what sort of records are available and where they might be found, as well as how to interpret them.

Please note this is a face to face workshop held in The Centre for Heritage and Family History, Reading. An online version using Zoom will take place later in the year.

Tickets cost £10 (members £9)

Pre-booking required because places are limited

[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

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