

in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



THE 1921 CENSUS IS HERE



...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

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

OR

Non-members £3 - Members free - Prebooking required

To book - click image

Happy New Year

We took a break over Christmas so this is something of a bumper edition. Enjoy!

Well, it's finally here. The eagerly awaited 1921 census of England & Wales was released at one minute past midnight on 6th January. Have you taken the plunge yet?

To encourage you into these pastures new, don't forget our upcoming talks

which have proved so popular we've arranged extra seating capacity. There will be over 100 people at each event! If you haven't already booked, click the image above.

To whet your appetite, BBC News have a special news item detailing some of the events unearthed in the new Census with its expanded questions, some of which did **not** meet with the approval of all householders.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. Please read the Instructions and Examples shown

NAME and SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Household	AGE	SEX	MARRIAGE or ORPHANHOOD	BIRTHPLACE and NATIONALITY	Personal Description
Henry J. Forrest						
1 Henry J. Forrest	Head	42	M	S	Lancashire	Teacher
2 Nellie						School
3 Alice	Sister	34	F	N	Salford	
4 Annie	Sister	32	F	S	Lancashire	
5 Ursula	Sister	30	F	S	Salford	
6 Robert						I believe that Divorce is a CURSE to the country.
7						
8						
9						
10						

Source: Crown Copyright Images, National Archives

BBC

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-59879470>

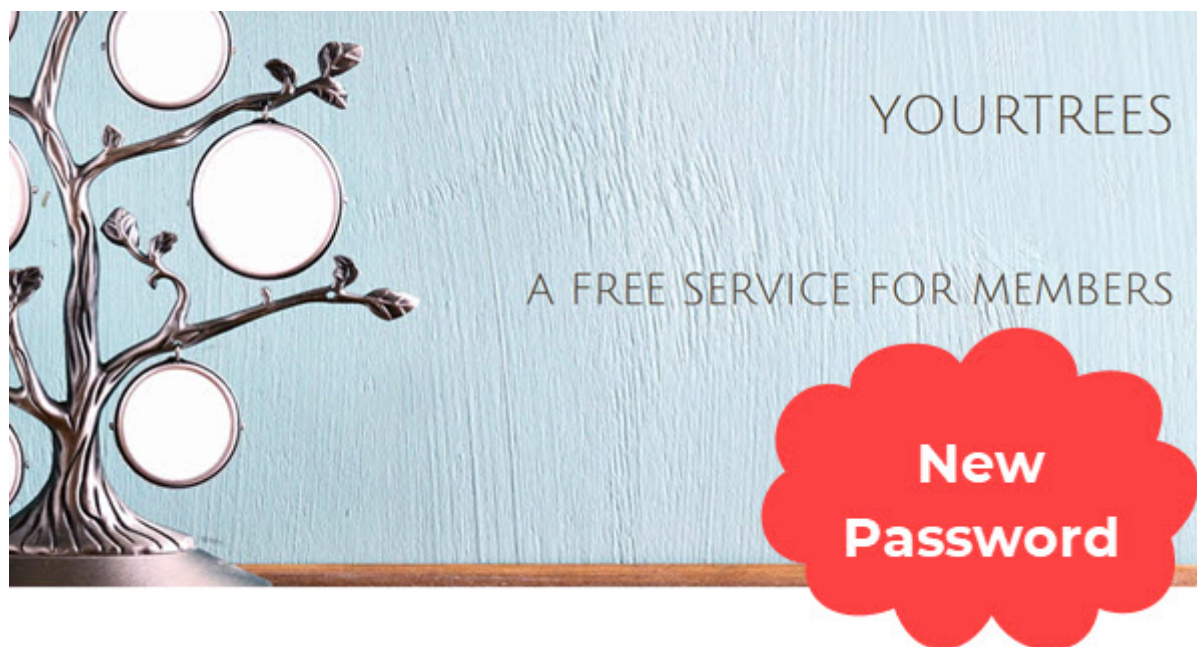


New Year - New Journal Exchange

We kick off the New Year with yet another new partner in our journal exchange programme - the Highland Family History Society.

You'll find their journal on our dedicated page along with the January 2022 edition of Herefordiensis from another partner - Herefordshire FHS

[Go to journal exchange page](#)



New Year - New Password

We've changed the password that protects member access to YourTrees. You'll find the new one on our dedicated page - link below

[Get the new password](#)

YourTrees Tools to help validate your data

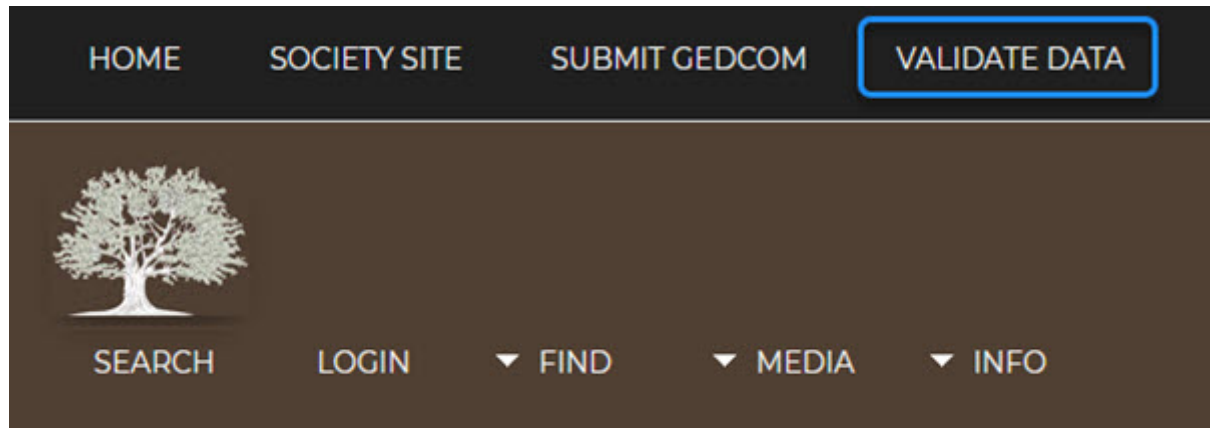
With the YourTrees database growing fast (121,000 people, 37,000 families) we've developed some tools to help you check your data for inconsistencies such as missing names, invalid dates, missing gender and inconsistent events such as a death date occurring before the birth date.

Currently there are twenty three reports and you can run filter the results for your tree and download the list to use as a checklist as you find and correct the issues. When you're done you can submit a revised GEDCOM file to update

YourTrees.

We'll be refining and complementing the reports as more data is added to YourTrees.

To run the new reports, just log in to YourTrees and select **Validate Data** from the top bar menu or click the image below (don't forget the new password!)



Launching in March - YourTrees Workshops

How many of us wish that our grand and great grandparents had kept a family history. How many of our grand and great grandchildren might feel the same about us?

We've developed a new workshop in which we'll show you how to create a comprehensive enduring family tree that's relevant to the digital generations.

Keep an eye on our events programme for March - and we'll tell you about it here too.



Centre for Heritage & Family History Now reopened

It has been so lovely to see everyone who is back using the society's heritage centre on the second floor of Reading Central Library. After a break for Christmas and the New Year we reopened on 4th January.

We have updated the Centre's policies in line with the Covid-19 regulations introduced in December, and now request that you wear a mask (if you are able to) throughout your visit. Masks are also required, currently, for all attendees of face to face events in the Centre and across the county. Find out more at: <https://berksfhs.org/planning-a-visit/>

In addition, we are delighted to let you know that from Thursday 20th January we will be also opening on the 3rd Thursday of each month. There's no need to book a space, just turn up.

Opening hours from 4th January:

Mondays 11am - 3pm

Tuesdays 11am - 3pm

Thursdays (3rd & last Thursday of the month) 11am - 3pm

Saturdays (1st Saturday of the month) 11am - 2.30pm

Our opening hours will be reviewed again shortly.

We look forward to seeing more of you over the coming months.



Oxfordshire History Centre - temporary closure

Oxfordshire History Centre will be closed in January, to allow redeployment of staff during the current surge in Covid-19 cases. The Centre hopes to reopen some time in February.

Please check <http://oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshirehistory> for updates

In Case You Missed It



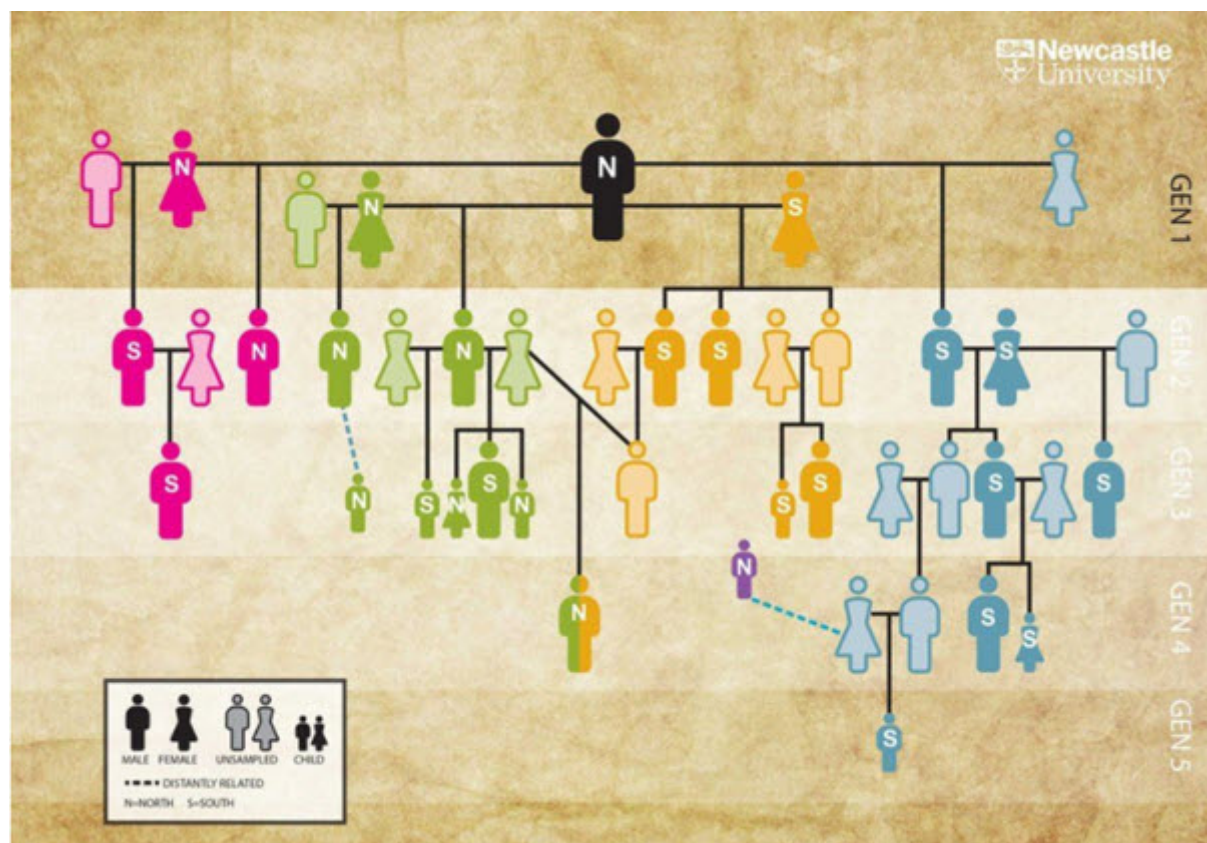
The migrants brought new ritual practices into Britain such as hoarding bronze objects in the ground. The picture shows a selection from the 453 artefacts found as part of the Havering Hoard in 2018

Ancient mass migration transformed Britons' DNA

Scientists have uncovered evidence for a large-scale, prehistoric migration into Britain that may be linked to the spread of Celtic languages. The mass-movement of people originated in continental Europe and occurred between 1,400 BC and 870 BC.

The discovery helps to explain the genetic make-up of many present-day people in Britain.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-59741723>



The family tree for burials in Hazleton North cairn

World's oldest family tree created using DNA

Scientists have compiled the world's oldest family tree from human bones interred at a 5,700-year-old tomb in the Cotswolds, UK.

Analysis of DNA from the tomb's occupants revealed the people buried there were from five continuous generations of one extended family.

Most of those found in the tomb were descended from four women who all had children with the same man.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-59774315>



Events

Our events programme is mostly online

Join us - wherever you are



Where there's a will there's usually an argument

**Newbury branch meeting and talk
(face-to-face)**

Speaker: Sue Ellis

12 Jan 13:40 for 14:00

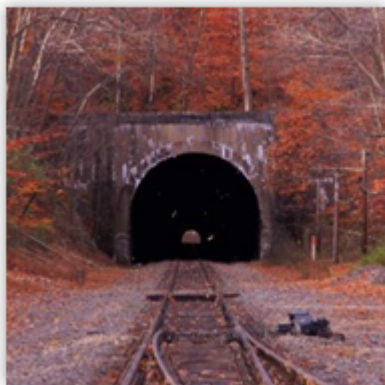
Venue: West Berkshire Museum

Local and family historian Sue Ellis will be giving us an insight into how to interpret wills. She explains where you can find them, what the stock phrases are, how you interpret the contents and what the mysterious word "admons" means. She also looks at how the inventories of people's possessions give us an invaluable insight into our ancestors' lives and show how different they were from our own.

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 all three



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



Free family history advice sessions from members of Berkshire Family History Society

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.

for more info:

[14 Jan - Newbury](#)

[21 Jan - Newbury](#)

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](#)



The new 1921 Census

**Woodley Branch Meeting
with talk by Mary McKee
19 Jan 19:15 for 19:30**

or

**Windsor Branch Meeting
with talk by Jen Baldwin
25 Jan 19:15 for 19:30**

Venue: Online

The imaging and transcription of the 1921 Census schedules for England and Wales held by the National Archives has been performed by Findmypast who also tackled the 1911 Census and the 1939 National Register.

Our speakers are Mary McKee and Jen Baldwin from Findmypast who are in a good position to explain more about the 1921 Census.

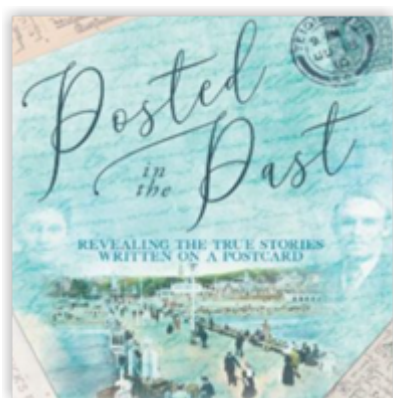
The 1921 Census will be particularly important because of the dislocation caused by the First World War. It will vastly expand our knowledge of this period compared to the very limited view we have had from electoral registers.

We will have a long time to wait for the next census to become available, as the 1931 Census schedules were destroyed during the Second World War and the 1941 Census never took place. By the way, the Scottish 1921 Census will follow in the latter half of 2022 and the next Irish Census will be that for 1926.

Free to members. Non-members £3.

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

Book now



Posted in the Past

**Reading Branch Meeting with talk
by Helen Baggott**

27 Jan 19:15 for 19:45

Venue: Online

Following on from her book of the same name, Helen uses genealogical skills to reveal the true stories behind post cards sent in the early years of the 20th century, and shares these tales with an illustrated talk. A 10 year old servant living in Bath, a soldier who died in the First World War, and even a man who helped prepare Lord Kitchener's last meal are all connected through postcards.

Helen is a freelance writer and editor from Sturminster Newton, and gives talks to many Societies and Clubs. She has also written articles for many magazines including Dorset Life.

Free to members. Non-members £3.

Book now

Beginning your Family History

Talk by Margaret Crook

05 Feb 10:45 for 11:00



Venue: Online

Are you looking to start researching your family history and don't know where to begin? This talk covers the basic information you will need to get started, including what you need to know before you begin and where to look for information. It will also include basic pitfalls to avoid and some of the problems you may encounter along the way.

This is a great opening taster session for those who also want to join our six week Beginners' Family History Course which starts on Tuesday 8th March.

For members and non-members of Berkshire Family History Society

Free

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
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