
in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



Greenham Church in the early 1900s
Colourised image courtesy of John Bradshaw

Hello

This week's theme is records - with an update on how to report mistranscribed 1921 census records; a massive 2.1 million Berkshire records being released by Findmypast; increased opening hours for the records held by the Berkshire Record Office and the Oxford History Centre; and finally our promised workshops on how to keep proper digital records.

And, of course, we have our usual pick of upcoming events, a few of which, we're delighted to say, are in-person.

Enjoy!



1921 Census Transcription Errors - Oops!

In our last [in touch](#), we reported on the new process for reporting transcription errors for the 1921 census.

The observant amongst you, will have noticed that we inadvertently mixed the two processes up. Oops - it must be catching!

For clarity, if you have purchased a transcript you can report errors by selecting the "Report an error" button.

If you have paid for the image, rather than a transcript you can instead report issues to their Customer Support team by emailing:

transcriptsupport@findmypast.com

Please include a link to the record and a brief description of the error ... Please use 1921 Census transcription update as the email subject line, this will allow Findmypast to correct errors quicker and more efficiently.

Our apologies for any confusion.



Fridays

Berkshire breaks through to the forefront in this week's release

Findmypast have added a significant number of new baptism, banns, marriage and burial records to their Berkshire collections taking their total Berkshire content to over 2.1 million items. The overall Berkshire-related content contains not just transcripts from parish registers, but also probate records, newspapers, scanned archive books and some college registers.

Much of this content has been provided by Berkshire Family History Society, the result of years of hard work by our dedicated volunteers.

A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to this massive achievement - you have made a huge difference to so many family historians.

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/new/berkshire-releases>



Update to Centre Covid Guidelines

Following the latest change to regulations about face-coverings, we have now relaxed our guidelines to visitors to the society's Centre for Heritage and Family History in Reading - whether for research or to attend events. Face-coverings are no longer required to be worn at all times within the Centre.

Please wear a face-covering, if you are able to, when entering, leaving and moving around in the Centre. However, whilst seated, please feel free to remove your face-covering if you would prefer to.

For more information please see:

<https://berksfhs.org/planning-a-visit/>



News from our local Record Offices

Great news just in from the **Berkshire Record Office** which is extending its opening hours. **From 15th February**, the research room will be open from 9.30am to 4.30pm, an extra hour each day.

Pre-booking is still required and there is still a limit on the number of visits per person each week. Find out more at:

<https://www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk/visit-us>

And across the border, **Oxfordshire History Centre** has confirmed it reopens on 8th February. Seats need to be booked in advance.

Find out more at:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/leisure-and-culture/history/oxfordshire-history-centre/visiting-oxfordshire-history-centre/book-seat>



Your Trees Workshops - now available to book

Ever wished that your grand or great grandparents had kept a family history? How many of our grand and great grandchildren might feel the same about us in the future? How durable and easily interpreted is your current family archive? Will it stand the test of time, or ultimately end up in a cardboard box in the attic?

In January, we told you about the new workshop designed to help you create a comprehensive enduring family tree that's relevant to the digital generations. It is aimed at those who have already saved versions of their tree(s) on YourTrees and those that are thinking of doing so, or wondering whether they should.

These are member-exclusive Zoom workshops and **FREE**.

We have two dates available:
Saturday 12 Mar 14.30-16.30
Wednesday 25 May 19:00-21:00

Book Sat 12 Mar 14:30 - 16:30

Book Wed 25 May 19:00 - 21:00



Events

Our events programme is mostly online

Join us - wherever you are



West Berkshire War Memorials

**Newbury Branch Meeting with
talk by Phil Wood
09 Feb 13:45 for 14:00
West Berkshire Museum**

Phil Wood is the acknowledged local expert on our war memorials, having been researching them for many years. The War Memorials Trust interested him in the the state of repair of local memorials. That then developed into a website containing photographs and transcriptions from the vast majority of West Berkshire's war memorials. As an added bonus Phil has found detailed information on many of the names inscribed on the memorials. He will update us on his research.

Free for members. Non-members £3

Pre-booking is appreciated

[Book now](#)



Smith's Coaches of Reading

Talk by Paul Lacey

10 Feb 13:45 for 14:00

Centre for Heritage & Family History

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.

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](#)

Drop In Advice Session

Bracknell Branch

10 Feb 14:00 - 17:00



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.

[View details](#)



Free family history advice

Newbury Branch
18 Feb 10:30 - 12:30

Newbury Library

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

World War Two RAF Records Workshop

Tutor: Richard Marks
12 Feb 10:45 for 11:00

Centre for Heritage & Family History



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.

Tickets cost £10 (members £9)

Pre-booking required

Book now



Tour of Holy Trinity Church, Reading

**Walk with Ron Cutting
15 Feb 14:15 for 14:30**

Holy Trinity Church, Oxford Road

Holy Trinity Church stands on the Oxford Road in Reading, about 500 metres west of the town centre. It was built in 1826 as a proprietary chapel, to the designs of local architect Edward Garbett. It appears in one of the earliest photographs ever taken by Henry Fox Talbot, in 1840.

The church is grade II listed, mainly because of its chancel rood screen designed by Augustus Pugin. However, the church is packed with other fine furnishings. The high altar was designed by Martin Travers and the very tall Queen Anne pulpit, from which both Wesley brothers have preached, was rescued from Oxford. Below, lies its crypt with burial vaults dating back to the earliest years of the building's use.

Churchwarden Ron Cutting will lead this tour. He will explain the history of the church and some of its more prominent parishioners. The tour will include a visit to the very fine crypt, which, for some, will be the highlight of this special visit.

This is a rare opportunity to see this historic treasure. Places are limited and so early booking is recommended.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4)

Pre-booking required

Book now



Charles Booth's Poverty Maps of London

**Woodley Branch meeting with talk
by Gillian Stevens
16 Feb 19:15 for 19:30
Online**

Between 1886 and 1903, Charles Booth surveyed the poorest inhabitants of London. As part of this he created colour-coded maps (that are available online) showing the lifestyle in every street of London. More detail is available in the notebooks of the numerous researchers, who were often accompanied by the police.

Gillian Stevens will introduce you to the online searchable database managed by the London School of Economics and show you how you can find out how your London ancestors and relatives might have lived.

Free for members. Non-members £3

Pre-booking is required

Book now

Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Bracknell branch meeting with talk by Lt Cdr John Scivier 18 Feb 19:15 for 19:45 Online

'An Archive of International Importance' – This talk will begin by introducing why the

Commonwealth War Graves Commission was founded with particular focus on the contents of our archives during the conception of this organization during the First World War.

We will then explore the contents of our archives today and how they are accessible to anyone wishing to research the casualties we care for before rounding things off by showing some of the incredibly special items stored in our archives, that provide a fascinating insight into the task of ensuring casualties of both world wars are never forgotten.

Free for members. Non-members £3

Pre-booking is required

Book now



Researching German Ancestry Workshop

**Tutor: James Thornber
19 Feb 13:45 for 14:00**

Online

James has been researching his partner's German family tree for about five years. In this practical workshop he will be sharing his hints and tips to help you discover your own German heritage. The workshop will cover topics such as: a brief history of Germany, some useful German websites and how to tackle some of the trickier aspects of uncovering more recent German family members. James will also share examples of brick walls that he has overcome.

Tickets cost £10 (members £9)

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



DNA – A Practical Guide

**Abingdon branch meeting with
talk by James Thornber
21 Feb 19:15 for 19:30**

Long Furlong Community Centre

Have you been thinking of taking a DNA test, but unsure how it can help with your research or who to test with? Have you taken a DNA test and are not sure how to work with the results?

In this presentation James will be looking at the different types of genealogical DNA tests that are available and how they can help you in a totally practical way. He will be using his own family tree as an example.

This talk will steer clear of the science behind DNA testing and explore which companies do which tests, how to get the best value for money and where you can turn to for help online with interpreting your results.

This is a F2F talk

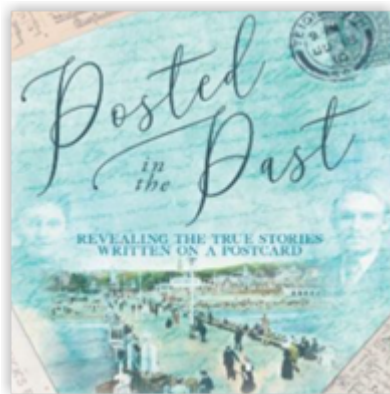
Free for members. Non-members £3

Pre-booking is not essential, but it does help us with spacing the seating within the hall.

[Book now](#)



These recordings are a member only service



Posted in the past with Helen Baggott

**The true stories behind post cards
sent in the early years of the 20th
century**

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.

[Click here to view the video \(must log in\)](#)

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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