

in touch

Berkshire Family History Society

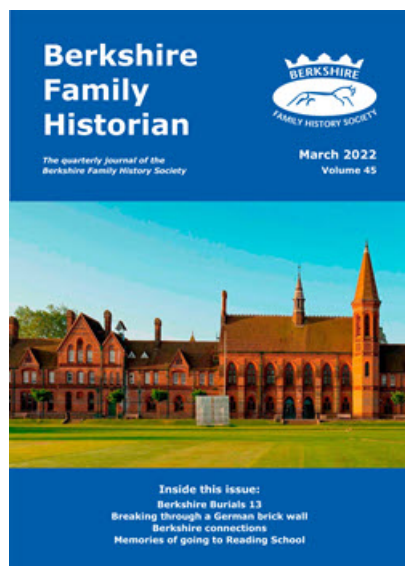


The Swan at Newtown, Newbury when Walter New was landlord and also licensed tobacco dealer. Image courtesy of Jim Bradshaw

Hello

It's hard to know what to write this week. Two years of concern over the pandemic seem to pale into insignificance when compared to the tragic events now unfolding in Ukraine. It seems almost flippant to talk about anything else. But 'family' is at the heart of what we do - so much so that it's in our title - and our hearts go out to all those families whose lives are being torn apart by this conflict.

Let's take a moment to think of them...



March Historian

March's Historian will be on its way soon, but will be a little later than usual due to unexpected sickness at our printers.

We send our best wishes to the printing team and apologise for the slight delay.



Could you help by becoming our Monumental Inscriptions Coordinator?

The society's Monumental Inscriptions Coordinator, Brian Wilcock, has had to step back for personal reasons and we are seeking someone new to take over the sterling work that Brian has made enormous progress with during the last decade plus. Our thanks go to Brian for all that he has done and all that he continues to do.

The role is particularly important, and we hope therefore particularly rewarding, as it is very much about rescuing information which is so important to family historians by ensuring the county's memorials are properly recorded,

photographed and published before they deteriorate and become unreadable. We are seeking someone(s) who can:

- Look around the county for MI opportunities.
- Encourage branches and members to undertake surveys.
- Engage with site visits as appropriate.
- Coordinate survey activities , techniques and methods.
- Prepare completed surveys for publication.
- Work with the wider Projects and Publications team and with individual volunteers.

If this sounds of interest and you would like to know more, please contact Catherine at projects@berksfhs.org.uk



New Morland Brewery Exhibition

Abingdon County Hall Museum has a new exhibition on the Morland family and their brewery, which runs until the 27th March.

The Morland family were involved in many aspects of Abingdon Town life. As prominent solicitors, brewery owners employing many Abingdonians, landlords of a great deal of property and involved in many aspects of civic life, they contributed to the character and development of Britain's oldest town.

The exhibition explores individual members of the family and the history of their brewing empire.

A word of warning - the exhibition is situated on the first floor of the museum and unfortunately there is no lift access (37 steps).

Find out more at:

<https://www.abingdon.gov.uk/event/exhibition-morland-a-family-business>

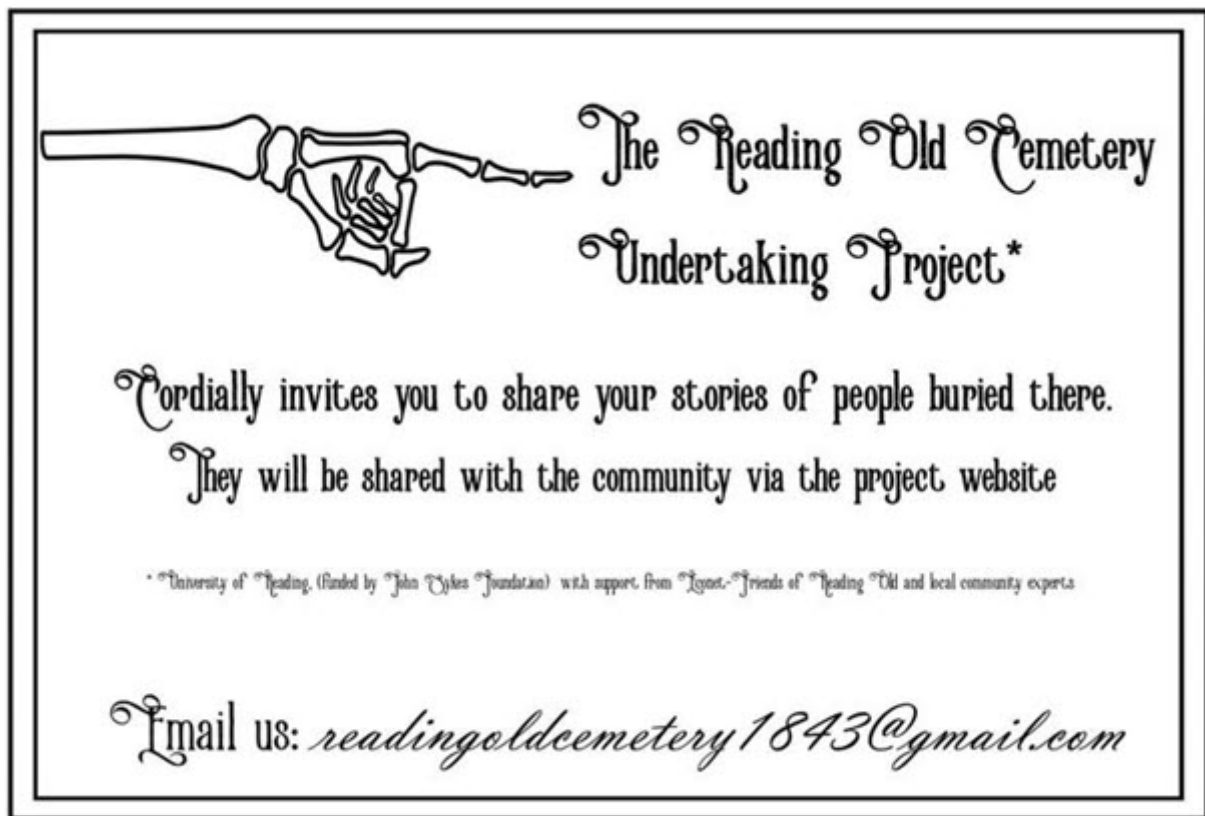


Lockinge Estate Annual Exhibition Returns on 19 March

The Loyd Lindsay Rooms in Ardington once again hosts the annual Lockinge Estate exhibition this March, after a gap due to Covid. This, their 27th exhibition, is called "Melons, Maps and Monarchs", and is open 2-5pm on the 19th and 20th March.

Admission is free and refreshments are available.

For further enquiries contact thearchivekeepers@gmail.com



Ancestors Buried in London Road Cemetery, Reading?

Do you have a life story about anyone buried at Reading old cemetery at the Junction?

Volunteers at The Reading Old Cemetery Undertaking Project are collecting stories to publish on a new website and inviting anyone able to help to get in contact with them.

They plan to launch the project website soon with the information they have collated so far.

You can contact them via email: readingoldcemetery1843@gmail.com



Events

Our events programme is mostly online

Join us - wherever you are



Beginners' Family History Course

Tutors: Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens

Six sessions: 14.30 - 16.30

**Mar 8, 15, 22, 29 and Apr 5, 12.
Online**

This course comprises of a series of six workshops for those new to researching family history including where to start, how to progress and good research practice. Learn how to work with core records of civil registration, censuses, parish registers and modern wills. Discover the different genealogy websites, the content they offer and their strengths and limitations.

This is also a good refresher for those who want to make sure they have covered all bases.

This course comprises of six sessions: Tuesdays – 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th March and 5th & 12th April.

All sessions run from 2.30 – 4.30pm.

Tickets cost £35 (members £28)

Book now

Conserving your family archive

Newbury Branch Meeting with talk by Sue Gibbons

09 Mar 19:30 - 20:30



Online

Have you ever wondered how you should be looking after your family papers, photographs, and other heirlooms? Perhaps you have inherited ceramics, toys or even furniture. Or are you just wondering about the best way to preserve your digital media?

Sue Gibbons, librarian at the Society of Genealogists for nearly 20 years, is an author of books on family history and a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists. She will be speaking on the general principles of preserving your personal family archives.

Tickets cost £3 (free to members)

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



Reading's Second Railway – the early days

Talk by Paul Joyce

10 Mar 13:45 for 14:00

Venue: The Centre for Heritage & Family History, Reading

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.

Paul is a very popular speaker for the society, so early booking is recommended.

After the talk, tea/coffee and either biscuits or cake will be available (included in the price).

Tickets cost £5 (£4 to members)

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



Drop In Advice Session

Bracknell Branch
10 Mar 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.

[Find out more](#)



Wartime Memories & Stories from the 1900s

Woodley Branch Meeting with talks from the members
16 Mar 19:15 for 19:30

Venue: Online

Several short stories from the first half of the 20th Century contributed by members from the family history of their ancestors and relatives.

We look forward to hearing about their activities, the food they ate (or didn't), what they did during the wars, where they travelled and so on.

We request a donation of £3 from non-members, (free to members)
Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



Life Below Stairs

**Bracknell branch meeting with
speaker: Daphne Atkinson**

18 Mar 19:15 for 19:45

Venue: Online

The speaker Daphne Atkinson's late mother, Muriel Joan Tillett, spent her teenage years working as a Housemaid at the stately home Ickworth Mansion, near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, which was home to the Marquis & Marchioness of Bristol in the early 1930s.

You will hear all about life below stairs. A typical day starting at 5am when housemaids had to rise in order to carry out 3 hours of cleaning before breakfast, some on their hands and knees as no vacuum cleaners were available. After a hearty breakfast all staff had to go to a room for prayers and Bible readings. All read by Lady Bristol.

Lots more interesting information all written by Daphne's late mother including an overview of the history of this stately home.

Tickets cost £3 (free to members)
Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



1-1 Family History Advice Session – March

**The Centre - Berkshire FHS
21 Mar 14:00 to 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 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

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

Organising your work, your computer, your



desk and yourself

Abingdon branch meeting with speaker: Les Mitchinson

21 Mar 19:15 for 19:30 Online

A presentation on how you could organise your research and ensure you can find things when you

need them!

It will not take long before your study, or dining-room table is awash with material.

How many of us have started a search only to find ourselves distracted when something interesting crops up?

Getting Organised organises your research, your documents and yourself. Our speaker will offer advice on how to avoid such distractions so that YOU are in charge of your research and not your ancestors.

Tickets cost £3 (free to members)

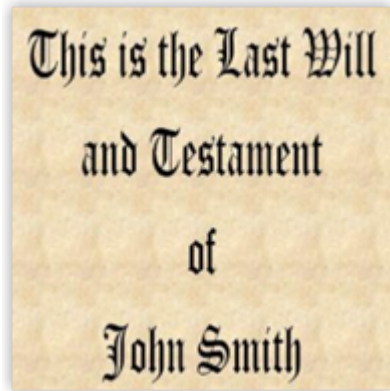
Pre-booking required

[**Book now**](#)



Events Catchup Service

These recordings are a member only service



Wills for Family History

with Jackie Depelle

From ancient to modern, local to house, rich and poor, Wills are an all embracing resource not restricted just to Family History.

A detailed probate record can be full of names, personal details and interests, as well as who did or didn't get what. They can provide many clues and signposts to additional source material to build up a family tree and extend any research project. True; not everyone did make a Will and if they did you'll need some reading handwriting skills, but why not check available indexes just in case - you might be surprised at what you find.

Perhaps the third most useful source after certificates and census, wills are a personal insight into relationships and possessions. Find indexes and associated records, order copies and read the documents.

[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
2nd Floor, Reading Central Library, Abbey Square
Reading, Berkshire, RG1 3BQ, United Kingdom
Registered Charity Number 283010

[Unsubscribe from this list](#)

[Unsubscribed by mistake?](#)

