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in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



**International Stores in Pangbourne
image courtesy Catherine Sampson**

Hello

A lot of our newsletter content focuses on bringing you news from the wider world of genealogy - outside the society - to help you further your research. We also bring you news of our upcoming and vibrant events programme.

I was reminded of the extent of that programme when I drafted this newsletter because I always start by cloning the edition from two weeks ago and deleting the events that have passed. As I was doing that, the sheer number of past events I had to delete made me appreciate just how hard our events team and branches work to keep that momentum going.

Which brings me to our main theme this week which is to focus mainly on what the society does internally to keep you informed, and the resources we have and need to accomplish that. Which is a good segue to our first two items in particular ...



Are you creative and enjoy making videos, and are able to spare a little time now and then to help?

The Education and Events Team are seeking someone who could help to record places of historic interest around the county so that we may offer video tours to those not able to visit in person. We hope to do around 3 or 4 of these each year. You will work with one of the events team and an expert guide to record a tour and unless you would prefer to edit it yourself, the digital editing and preparation for publication would then be completed by another volunteer.

If you may be able to help - please could you contact Catherine on catherine.sampson@berksfhs.org.uk



Calling all advanced users of family history programs

If you are an advanced user of any of the family history programs such as Family Tree Maker, we could use your help, please.

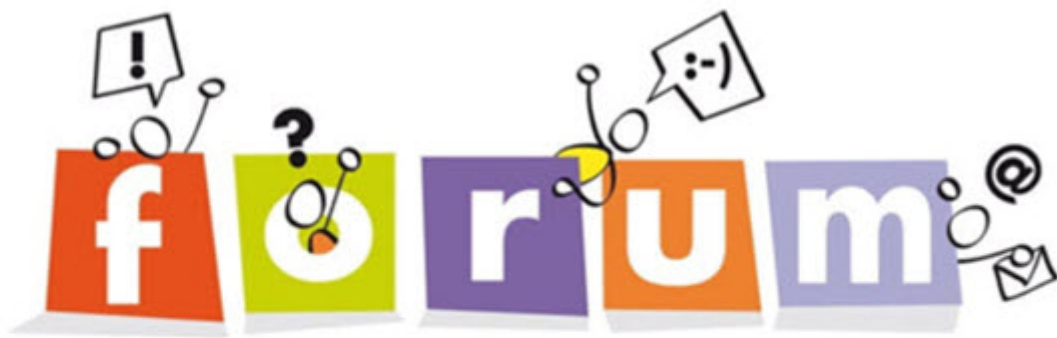
Our recently launched YourTrees service has spawned a series of spin-off workshops on the topic of how best to record data so your research endures. Our workshop on 12th March was sold out and the second one on 25th May is heading that way, so it's obviously a hot topic. There are already other sessions in the calendar - check out the **What's On** listing on the website.

Here's where you come in. During the workshops we can advise how dates, names, places and citations should be recorded but we can't necessarily tell members how to achieve that in their favourite program because there are simply too many and we don't have access to all of them.

So we're looking for some advanced users who can answer questions on how to achieve high data quality standards. It's as simple as responding to questions in the Forum so that we can build a resource users can turn to.

If you can help, please email yourtreesadmin@berksfhs.org.uk

Which brings me neatly to the next item - how to get the best from the Forum ...



For your brick walls, queries and a chance to connect with others ... and to give back and help others. Enjoy

⚙ Set your forum notification preferences so you can follow the conversations

Collaboration, it's the name of the game

As well as getting answers to YourTrees related questions (see previous item), new members tell us that collaborating with other members is one of the main attractions of joining. So how can members new and old achieve that? The Facebook group provides a way to have quick conversations, while the forum is more structured, permanent and searchable, and may be a better place for the more complex questions.

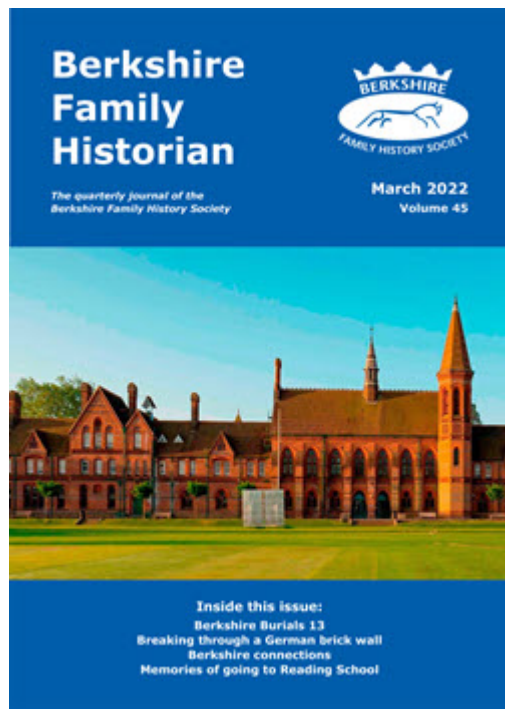
To make the best of it, you need to know when a conversation is started or a reply is posted, by subscribing to the forum topics. Once you've done that an email notice will appear in your inbox every time there's a new post. Perfect!

GDPR doesn't allow us to subscribe you - it has to be your choice - but it only takes a few clicks so why not do it now? We've created a short guide to help you and it can be found at the top of the Forum page. Why not head over there and set up your subscriptions now?

[Go to Forum](#)

Historian - now and one year ago

By now your slightly delayed March Historian should have arrived. If not it will be there soon. If you can't wait, click the image to see the online version, in full colour.



We have also published online the member articles from the March 2021 Edition. A few of the article writers might be surprised too, because we've colourised a few old black and white photos in the process.

[John Septimus Roe \(1797 – 1878\)](#)

Penny Stokes recounts the story of John Septimus Roe (1797 – 1878)

[Lieutenant Frederick F. Kislingbury, 1846-1884](#)

Eric Saxton tells the story of a Soldier, Pioneer, and Arctic Explorer from East Ilsley

[Reginald Edward Hamblin](#)

Barry Hamblin tells us of a serendipitous event

[Polish Ancestral Tourism – Wolf Hunting in Womja \(Lomza\) – Part 1](#)

Leigh Dworkin takes us on a trip in search of his ancestors

[Who was Henry Stacey?](#)

Richard Croker looks into a mysterious appearance and disappearance within a family

[Cheers from England to Australia.](#)

Jennifer Bolton details her convict heritage

[The Stoter family name – history and meaning.](#)

Stuart Stoter delves into the origins of his surname

Journal Exchanges

And finally on the topic of journals, Buckinghamshire, Richmond-Tweed Australia, and Lancashire FHS's have shared their latest editions with us

[**Go to Journal Exchange**](#)

**BRO**The Berkshire Record Office
The Archives of the Royal County

Reading Board of Health Maps

New online maps reveal history of Reading's streets

NEW online maps, dating back to the 1850s, have been published this month that could prove to be a rich source of information for those with Reading ancestors - both of the houses in which they lived and of the places they worked.

The maps were drawn up by architect and surveyor John Clacy in 1853 to survey the state of sanitary provision in the town. There are 29 in total and they cover the area from the Oxford Road to the west, Reading railway station to the north, London Road to the east, Southampton Street and Whitley Street to the south. Some of the outer areas of modern Reading – such as Caversham and Tilehurst – are not shown since the borough's boundaries were smaller in the 1850s. The maps are virtually the best surviving record of Reading from that time period and are so precise, you can see where the water intake and output pipes are located in each property.

Access the maps here: <https://maps.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk>



Events

Our events programme is mostly online

Join us - wherever you are



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**](#)

150 years of Reading Football Club

Talk by David Downs

24 Mar 13:45 for 14:00



Venue: Online

Established in 1871, Reading Football Club is one of the oldest teams in England, celebrating its 150th birthday in 2021. Nicknamed “The Royals”, due to the Royal County of Berkshire, they were previously known as “The Biscuitmen”, because of Reading’s association with Huntley and Palmers.

We are delighted to welcome David Downs as our speaker for this talk, official historian to Reading Football Club. David will talk about the history of the club and many of those associated with it. Football lover or not – this will be a hugely entertaining talk.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4)

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



1921 Census: Breakthroughs and Brick Walls

**Windsor Branch Meeting
facilitated by Leigh Dworkin
29 Mar 19:15 for 19:30**

Venue: Online

The 1921 Census is here! You have probably heard all about it at a BerksFHS talk in January. You almost certainly have used FindMyPast to search for your relatives on the census for free and then purchased census transcriptions for £2.50 and images for £3.50. Alternatively, you may have visited the National Archives in Kew to download images and transcriptions to your heart’s content for free.

Tell us about your experience!

- What is your greatest discovery so far?
- What is your most annoying mis-transcription suffered?
- What is your funniest mis-transcription enjoyed?
- What are your most helpful search tips that found that elusive ancestor?

We invite attendees to feedback your thoughts and feelings about the 1921 census experience so far.

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

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



Merchant Navy Advice Session

with adviser Tony Wright

31 Mar 13:00 - 15:00

Venue: The Centre for Heritage & Family History

Do you have Merchant Navy ancestors? Need some advice in how to trace or interpret their records?

Our specialist family history advice sessions are always popular. These sessions are 1-1, free of cost and available to members and non-members alike.

These Merchant Navy sessions are face to face in The Centre for Heritage & Family History, 2nd floor Reading Central Library, and informal. No booking is required, just turn up.

The Research Zone is open from 11am to 3pm on this date – so why not combine your visit with some additional research.

Please note that as this is a face to face talk, prevailing Coronavirus precautions will be in place. Please see: <https://berksfhs.org/face-to-face-events-covid-security/>

Find out more



Trade and occupation sources with Speaker David Cufley

31 Mar 19:15 for 19:45

Venue: Online

Join us online for an evening learning about methods to research trades. David Cufley will be using examples for brickmakers, ratcatchers and calico printers to show how to find the records, and what you can get from them.

Tickets cost £3 (free to members)

Pre-booking required

Book now



World War One Army Records Workshop

**Tutors: Barbara Taylor, Nigel
Parker and Trevor Hancock
02 Apr 11:00 - 13:00**

Venue: The Centre for Heritage & Family History, Reading

Did your ancestor serve in World War I?, then this workshop will help. The majority of records for the men and women who served in the Great War 1914-1918 are now online (though not everything) but what are they and where can you find them? Have you got stuck with your research into a serviceman and need advice? We will discuss what sort of records are available from medal rolls to operational records and where they are to be found, as well as how to interpret them.

Attendees are invited to bring with them their own research and any relevant items they would like to ask questions about ie medals, diaries, letters. Copies are recommended rather than the originals, where practical.

Tickets cost £10 (members £9)

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



DNA Special Interest Group – April

Facilitator: Debbie Kennett

02 Apr 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](#)

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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