

Keeping in touch

Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org>

Sun, Jun 26 2022 06:00:03

in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



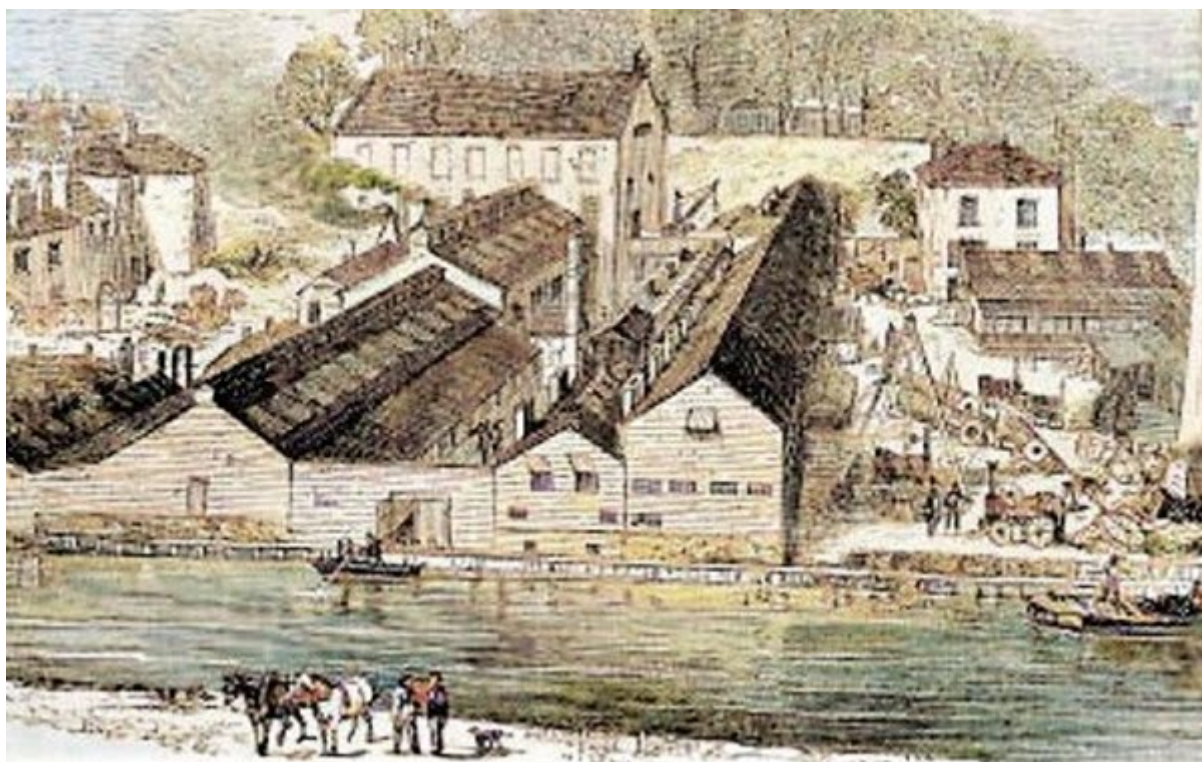
West Ilsley

Image courtesy of Jim Bradshaw

Hello

I was standing by a big pyracantha shrub this morning listening to the loud buzz of the bees in the summer sun, swarming over the blossom. I came indoors to prepare this week's newsletter and the first job was to choose the banner image. When I saw this colourized photo from Jim Bradshaw I could still hear the buzzing of the bees as the backing track to this bucolic scene.

Here's a similar camera angle today, courtesy of Google Maps Street View. I suppose the tarmac will stop the road turning to mud in winter but somehow I don't hear the sound of the bees!



Katesgrove Ironworks in Reading

Did your family members work at the Katesgrove Ironworks? It went under a number of different names as ownership of the company changed, such as: Thomas and Joseph Perry; Perry and Barrett; Perry, Barrett and Exall; Barrett, Exall and Andrewes and The Reading Ironworks Ltd.

If so, check out the latest article on Berkshire Industrial Archaeology Group's website. It is wonderfully supplemented with illustrations, maps and images of surviving street furniture made by the company.



MyHeritage adds 1.3 billion records

My Heritage continues their accelerated growth of recent years, with the announcement of the publication of 1.3 billion historical records in 37 collections from all over the world including: USA, UK, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Scotland, Spain, Switzerland, and Ukraine. The collections include birth, marriage, death, military, census, newspaper records, and more. Many of the collections include high-quality images alongside the index. With this update, the total number of historical records on MyHeritage has now reached 18.2 billion.

Among the UK additions:

- 1,320,572 records added to the 1939 Register collection – taking this collection to 11,018,970 records in total
- An index of mental health records from the National Archives of Scotland in Edinburgh - 117,883 records

You can search by collection or generally.

Check it out at:

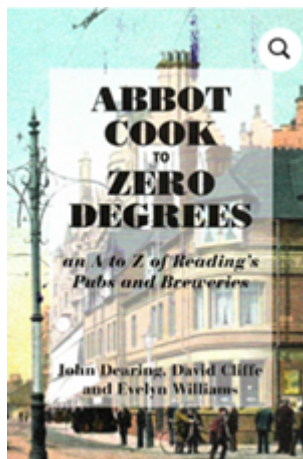
<https://www.myheritage.com/>

Prime products for family and local historians – with member savings on society products



Six new titles in the bookshop

When it comes to physical books, our bookshop focuses on the less obvious, not so easily obtained titles that are of specialist interest to the family historian. Lockdown stemmed the flow of new titles because authors couldn't complete their research but now normal service is resumed and we have details of no less than seven new additions to the shop.



Abbot Cook to Zero Degrees: an A to Z of Reading's Pubs and Breweries.

A comprehensive listing with individual histories of the establishments. Includes location maps. £12

Buy it [here](#)

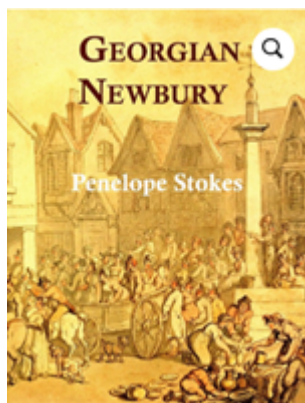
Warning: The maps may become increasingly blurred as you move from establishment to establishment!



Emmbrook – So Much More Unfinished History

The seventh book in Peter Shilham's history of the village provides a mix of people, places and events in its history. £5

Buy it [here](#)

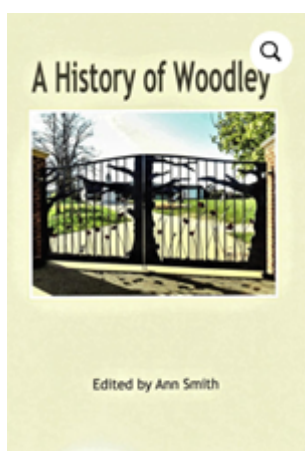


Georgian Newbury

By our very own Penny Stokes

Brings to life Georgian Newbury and Georgian society generally. Covering all aspects of town life from education, trade, health, transport to leisure, crime and religion. £15

[Buy it here](#)



A History of Woodley

This history of Woodley has been compiled by local U3A groups and describes the development over the centuries to what is now a suburb of Reading. £10

Buy it [here](#)



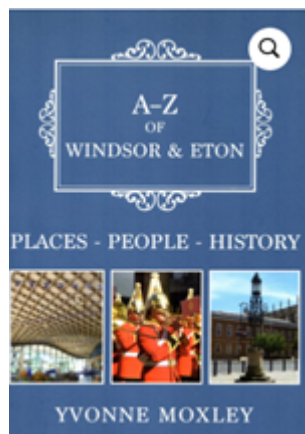
Memorial Tablet: Marlborough House School and the First World War

Follows the stories of former pupils and staff who served in the Great War, particularly but not exclusively of those named on the memorial tablet. £12.50

Buy it [here](#)

A-Z of Windsor & Eton: places – people – history

This well illustrated A-Z journey through Windsor, Eton and surrounding areas



throws interesting, sometimes intriguing, light on the significant heritage of the towns and district. £14.99

Buy it [here](#)



Tracing your Ancestors using the UK Historical Timeline

A timeline guide to genealogical resources for the family historian to understand what records are

available and from when, and allows to put our ancestors into a historical and socio-cultural context. £12.99

Buy it [here](#)



The Guild of One-Name Studies - Seminar 'The Invisible Roots' finding the women in your family history

Saturday 30th July at Swindon Village Community Hall, Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire GL51 9QP

This seminar, consisting of 5 presentations during the day, will explore legal changes, the impact of raising children, and women's work inside and outside the home. It will discuss how women are recorded in a one name study, and hear some members' stories of a significant and maybe unconventional woman in their family.

Full details of the programme and booking information are available at



Events

Our events programme is a mixture of online and face-to-face (F2F)



Researching Displaced People

**Windsor Branch Meeting with talk
by Julie Goucher
28 June 19:15 for 19:30**

Venue: Online

A broad overview, beginning with the definition of displacement and other similar terminology. We then look at some key examples, using four case studies which provide examples of the breadth and depth of the topic and cover the 19th Century and right up to the modern age. The session is accompanied by a handout which provides some guidance on how to research further.

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

Book now

Help me break down my brick wall



Reading Branch Meeting

30 June 19:45 - 21:00

Venue: The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints

Do you have a brick wall that's preventing you from progressing your research?

Why not join us for an evening of problem solving that, hopefully, will help you break through that brick wall. Our branch members will be offer their insights and potential solutions to your issue. To aid us in finding a solution to your problem, please drop us a line outlining your problem, and we will do our best to give helpful information and guidance on the night.

Free to members

We request a donation of £3 from non-members

Pre-booking is preferred but not essential.

Book now



DNA Special Interest Group – July

Facilitator: Debbie Kennett
02 July 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. This is a great opportunity to ask questions and pick up ideas for how you can use your DNA results to resolve queries and break down brick walls.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4)

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



July Natter Group

**Discussion Group facilitated by:
Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens
05 July 18:45 for 19:00**

Venue: Online

Join in this online discussion from your own home, wherever where you live.
Open only to members of Berkshire Family History Society.

Informal discussion group, facilitated by Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens. Topics are chosen by the group on a monthly basis. End time varies

Free to members

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



Reading's Courts and Alleys Workshop

**Tutor: Dr Margaret Simons
09 July 11:00 - 13:00**

Venue: The Centre for Heritage & Family History, Reading

Starling, Hawk and Sparrow: courts and alleys of mid-nineteenth century Reading Workshop

From the end of the 18th century, the labouring population migrated to the towns and cities from the countryside. They were attracted by the increasing job opportunities provided by the growth in manufacturing. Demand for housing created whole swathes of new, but basic accommodation. Much of this early housing was unlegislated, unplanned and appeared in close and oppressive courts and alleys.

This workshop will concentrate on the experience of Reading and will use a variety of sources. We will establish where these courts were and who lived in them. We will consider what life would have been like for those who lived there and also make comparisons with other urban centres.

The sources referenced during our session will enable you to apply your knowledge to other areas and explore the history of court housing elsewhere.

Tickets cost £10 (members £9)

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



Industries Social History Talks Series

14 July	14:00 - 15:30
11 August	as above
08 September	as above

Venue: The Centre for Heritage & Family History, Reading

This all series ticket covers all three talks in the "Industries Social History" talks series, for the discounted price of £12.50 (members £10.00). You may also book each talk individually – see each separate event page. All three talks are on Thursdays at 2pm in The Centre for Heritage and Family History, Reading. They last about an hour with time for questions and discussion afterwards.

Chalk, Caverns and Commandos

Retired geophysicist Rob Wallace's talk will cover 100 million years of Reading's underground history. It will take us from the creation of chalk in the area, to the opening of Emmer Green chalk mines in the 18th century, essential to the local brick-making industry. Plus, the later uses of these underground chambers – including during World War II for storage of archives and as a base for some of Reading's resistance units.

[Thursday 14 July "Chalk, Caverns and Commandos" with Rob Wallace](#)

The history of Reading's print industry

Commencing in 1722, Reading became the second largest 'printing town' per head of population, in Great Britain. This is its fascinating and often overlooked story, in a richly illustrated talk.

Paul's talks are always very popular – so early booking is highly recommended.

[Thursday 11 August "The history of Reading's print industry" with Paul Joyce](#)

Suttons Seeds

Suttons Seeds was an iconic institution in Reading for decades. This talk will look at how it all began and what it was like to work for the company. It will examine how the company built its global reputation for reliable seeds and plants which were guaranteed across the world. The talk will also look at how Suttons developed over the years from humble beginnings in Reading to its move to Devon in the 1970s.

[Thursday 8 September "Suttons Seeds" with Richard Marks](#)

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

Tickets cost £12.50 (members £10)

Pre-booking required but you can pay on the door, if there are any spaces available.

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

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