

1 messages

Keeping in touch

Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org>

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in touch

Berkshire Family History Society

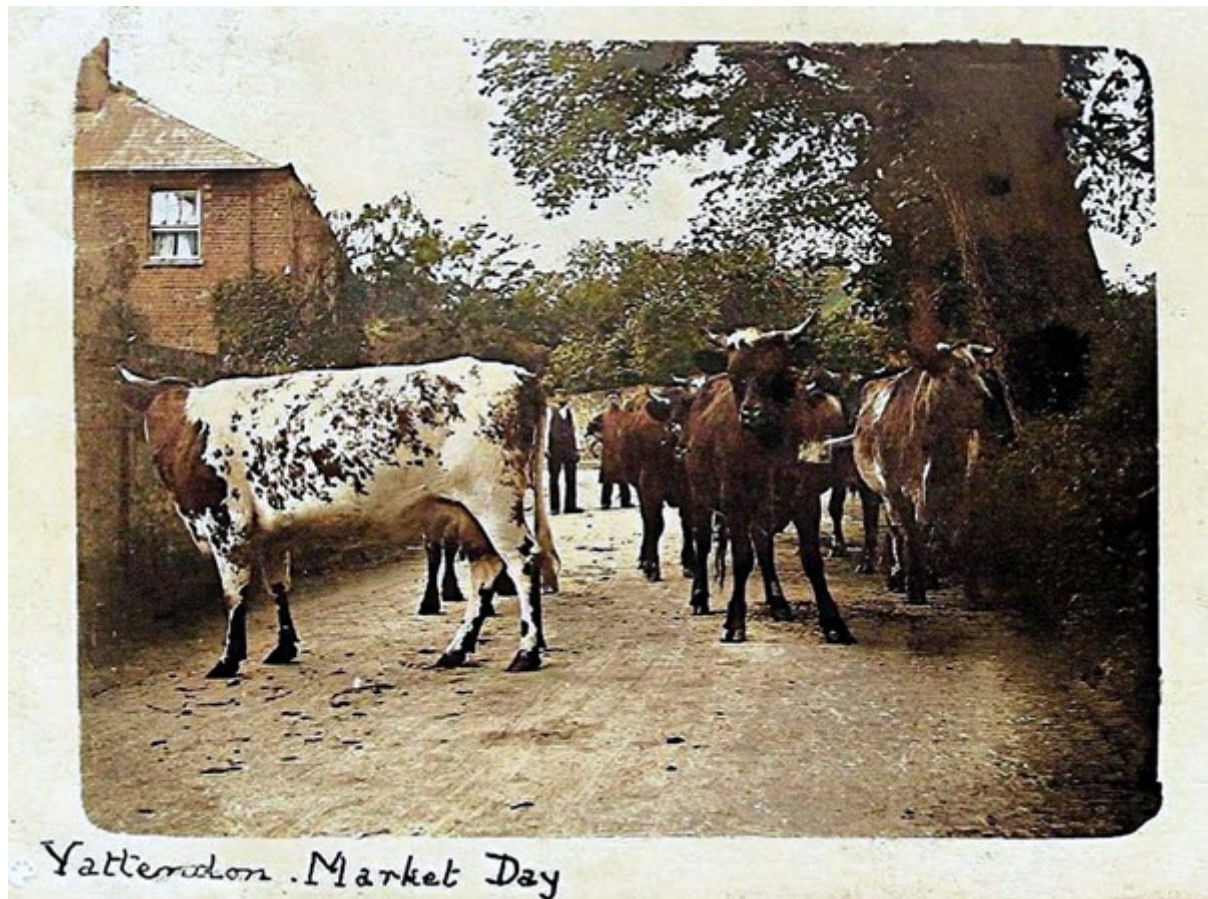


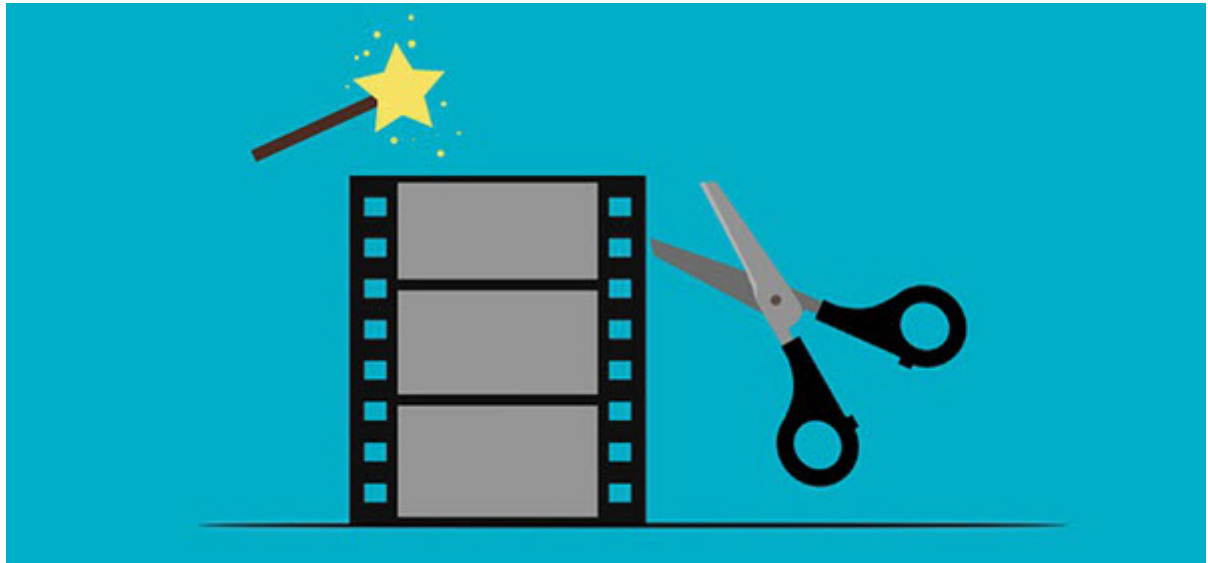
Image courtesy of Jim Bradshaw

Hello

This edition has taken longer than usual to put together as I've been rather distracted by the high drama from Westminster. The most gripping TV I've seen for a while. But, to business...

We have a couple of appeals for help, an update on renewals and another new feature for YourTrees - a certificate of digital legacy that you can give to your family so they know where your research is lodged.

We also have news from The National Archive along with our usual round up of upcoming events - a mix of online and face-to-face as we balance the needs of our local and remote audiences.



Can you help?

Video editor

For some time now we have been making recordings available of some of our Zoom branch talks for members to enjoy on our catch-up service. These videos need a little editing before they can be published. The job is not onerous - we're not talking about Hollywood blockbusters - and we do have one editor already but we'd like to beef up our resources.

If you have any experience of editing home video we'd love to hear from you please. You can do this from anywhere.

Please click here to contact webmaster@berksfhs.org.uk



Photo by [Mari Helin](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Would you like to own a piece of content?

Ours is one of the most comprehensive family history society websites - which is a real testament to the people who have supplied us with content over the years.

That content needs to be reviewed and kept fresh and up-to-date. We'd love some help with this task. Don't worry, no-one is going to be asked to be responsible for the entire site! But if you'd like to volunteer to look after a page or a section, we'd really appreciate it. You won't be asked to update the site directly - all we need you to do is provide the webmasters with the edits that are needed and they will make the changes. It's as big a task as you want to make it. Every little helps! You can do this from anywhere.

If you can spare a little time to help please contact webmaster@berksfhs.org.uk



By now, all of you who are on our old June/July renewal cycle should have received an email inviting you to renew*, or have been sent a paper renewal form. If you've renewed already - thank you. If not, we look forward to receiving your renewal so you can continue to enjoy all the traditional services we offer as well as the new ones we've been adding, such as YourTrees.

If you haven't received a reminder, no worries, just login to the website and choose menu option **Membership > Renew**.

Not sure if you've renewed or not? Login to the website and select **Profile** and then below your Membership Number, you'll see a **Subscriptions** link. Click that and you'll see your recent payment history.

Increase the value of your subscription by 25% without it costing you a penny

As part of the renewal process you'll be asked if you want to elect for Gift Aid. If you're a UK taxpayer, you just need to tick a few boxes and add your name and address and we'll be able to claim 25% back from the taxman, which is always a good feeling!

**If you joined since July 2020, this doesn't apply to you - your renewal is one year from the date you joined and you'll be sent a email reminder when the time comes.*



Manorial Documents Register

The National Archives (TNA) has just announced that the Manorial Documents Register (MDR) for England and Wales has now been completed after thirty years' work. For the purposes of the MDR the definitive proof of the existence of a manor is the survival of records produced by the manorial court.

As Ian Waller outlined in his talk to the society last October, manorial documents can be incredibly helpful to family historians, particularly as some manorial functions continued until relatively recently. These functions often produced an informative evidence trail.

Checkout the TNA's guide to manorial documents [here](#):

Search the register [here](#):



YourTrees Certificate of Digital Legacy

When you've taken the trouble to deposit a copy of your digital research with us, you need the assurance that your family knows where it is and how to access it when the time comes.

So when you submit your tree, we'll now send you a PDF certificate that you can print and give to members of your family. You should also keep a copy with your will so that your

executors know your wishes and can bring them to the attention of your beneficiaries.

This will apply to all new trees that we receive and we'll work back through the existing submissions to make sure that everyone has their certificate.

The reverse of the certificate has informational notes for you and your family and a large space for you to add personal notes.

Making sure your family knows your wishes, where you've deposited your research and how to access it is a vital part of ensuring your digital legacy. This certificate will help you do that. Keep it safe by sending copies everywhere!



Events

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



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](#)



Chalk, Caverns and Commandos

Talk by Rob Wallace
14 July 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: The Centre for Heritage & Family History, Reading

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.

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

Tickets cost £5 (members £4)

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

[Book now](#)

Drop In Advice Session

Bracknell Branch
14 July 14:00 - 17:00



Venue: Bracknell Central Library Town Square, Bracknell

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.

[More information](#)



Creating an enduring family tree in YourTrees

Tutor: Paul Barrett
14 July 18.45 for 19.00

Venue: Online

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?

YourTrees was launched by the society in 2021 as a free member-only service to:

- Provide a facility for members to preserve their research and pass it on to a family member
- Allow members to easily share their research discoveries – now and in the future
- Allow members to tackle research challenges together
- Grow a bespoke collective resource for people, names, places and more

This workshop has been developed to help you create a comprehensive enduring family tree, that is relevant to the digital generations, so that you can store a copy on YourTrees. 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.

It is a member exclusive Zoom workshop and FREE
Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



1-1 Family History Advice Session – July

**The Centre - Berkshire FHS
18 July 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?

These popular family history advice sessions are online, using Zoom technology – so you can book a session, wherever you live in the world. Sessions are 1-1, free of cost and are 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 (fully booked)

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](#)



Family History Advice Clinic

Advice Session

21 July 11:00 - 14:15

Venue: The Centre for Heritage & Family History, Reading

Just beginning your family history research and need some advice? Baffled by so many competing research websites? Banging your head against a brick wall? Or struggling with some other issues? In this one-to-one session, one of our seasoned advisors will help you make some progress.

To make the most of your session our advisors will carry out some preliminary research beforehand, and for that we need you provide us with some information please:

- to tell us what you've done so far
- describe the nature of the problem
- attach copies of any key documents such as BMD certificates, research notes
- if possible, provide a link to a family tree we can view (members – if your tree has been uploaded to YourTrees, that would be perfect) or at least

attach a copy of a hand drawn tree of the immediate family of the people you're researching

After you've booked you'll be taken to a page where you can enter that information. You can do it later but it's much better to prepare that material now and complete the form while you're at the keyboard and the topic is fresh in your mind.

Slot 1: 11.00 – 11.30

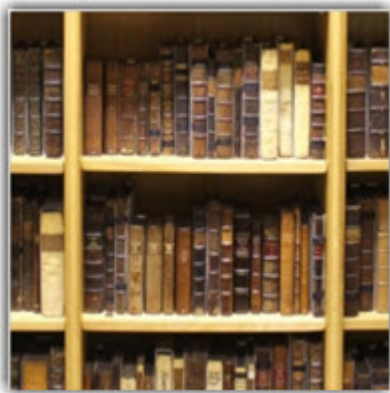
Slot 2: 11.45 – 12.30

Slot 3: 13.45 – 14.30

Free to Everyone

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



"A chest with three locks"

The Archives of the College of St George since 1352

**Windsor Branch Meeting with
speaker: Kate McQuillian
26 Jul 19:15 for 19:30**

Venue: Online

St George's Chapel Archives is home to a stunning collection of documents relating to the history of the Chapel, the properties it once owned and the Order of the Garter, which has its spiritual home at St George's. These documents include accounts and deeds dating from as early as the 12th century; maps, plans and photographs; and collections of the personal papers and correspondence of individuals associated with the Chapel over the centuries. In this talk, Archivist and Chapter Librarian Kate McQuillian will explore the history of the collection, the characters who helped to develop it and some of its star attractions.

Free to members
£3 non-members

[Book now](#)



Berkshire Heritage Fair

The Centre - Berkshire FHS

06 August 10:00 - 12:00

14:00 - 16:00

Venue: Online

This online heritage fair is organised jointly between Berkshire History Society and Berkshire Local History Association. It takes place in two sessions between 10am and 12 noon and 2-4pm. You may book places on either or both sessions.

The event aims to give attendees the opportunity to connect with participating organisations from across the historic county of Berkshire. Additionally, family history societies from the contiguous counties will also be present. A full list of participating organisations can be found [here](#)

This is the first time this type of event has been held in Berkshire. So it offers a unique opportunity to connect to local experts who can help you to deepen your understanding. Of the places your family lived, the organisations they were connected to and the businesses for whom they worked.

Each participating organisation will have their own breakout room. Attendees will be able to move from room to room to pose questions, ask advice and share information with the experts present. These are private conversations and can only be heard by those present in the "room".

Experts from Berkshire Family History Society will also be available. They will be able to answer your questions on topics such as Berkshire's parish registers, wills and probate, maps, getting started in family history and breaking down brick walls.

Free to members and non-members

Pre-booking required because places are limited

[Book morning session](#)

[Book afternoon session](#)

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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