
Keeping in touch

Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org>

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in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



Wantage - the canal basin, part of the Wilts and Berks Canal, abandoned in 1914

Image courtesy of Jim Bradshaw

Hello

And so it's September and Autumn is upon us, or if you're reading this from the USA, Fall. My father disliked 'Americanisms' and insisted on 'Autumn.' He was most put out when I explained that 'Fall' is actually an Old English word that had fallen (see what I did there?) into disuse in Britain.

New season, new *Historian* - and that means we have published it on the website, along with the member articles from last year's edition. We have some other new items for you too, but the really big news this week is the release of more Berkshire Burial Data Downloads - see below for more details and the links to place your orders.



New RAF and Honours Records on Findmypast

Findmypast have recently added three new collections to their extensive Second World War records.

The records of almost 129,000 men and women who died while serving in the Royal Air Force are now available. The details of 58,000 service personnel who died whilst serving with Bomber Command have also been added from an International Bomber Command Centre database. It includes rolls of honour, Squadron Association records, and prisoner-of-war records. Findmypast has also added recommendations for honours made between 1935 and 1990 by the British Army.

Check it out at [here](#)



**Burials Download
for**

Letcombe Regis St Andrew 1536-1863

New - Berkshire Burials Digital Downloads

We're delighted to announce the launch of more Berkshire data which can be downloaded from our online shop.

Data downloads were developed and originally launched in 2020, to provide choice, flexibility and instant access in how you access data for Berkshire. The downloads are in PDF format and your purchase is automatically fulfilled as soon as you have paid. Ts & Cs apply and these downloads are for your personal use only.

Prices vary but start from just £2.00. The usual member discounts apply.

Over the coming months, each fortnight we will gradually release the final parish burials for Berkshire not yet released in download format. These include populous collections such as Newbury St Nicholas and Reading & Oxfordshire Quakers, smaller parishes and part-parish collections such as Little Coxwell and Watchfield, municipal cemeteries such as Coleshill and Maidenhead, non-conformist chapels such as Wash Common and Shippon, and Union Workhouse death registers (often very detailed) such as Hungerford and Windsor.

Burial entries are presented in alphabetical and date order. If you're interested in a number of parishes, the Berkshire Burials 13th Edition CD may be better value.

The first 10 downloads are now available (click the links below) and more will be

released shortly. Keep an eye on the website and the newsletters.

[Abingdon Upper Meeting House \(Congregational\) Burials 1730-1853](#)

[Ascot Priory Road Cemetery Burials 1927-1950](#)

[Berkshire & Oxfordshire Quakers Burials 1655-1862](#)

[Brightwell St Agatha Burials 1607-2015](#)

[Datchet Cemetery Burials 1899-1970](#)

[Faringdon Baptist Church Burials 1712-1714](#)

[Hinton Waldrist St Margaret Burials 1559-1977](#)

[Letcombe Regis St Andrew Burials 1536-1863](#)

[Little Coxwell St Mary Burials 1583-2017](#)

[Watchfield St Thomas Burials 1861-1990](#)



Your *Historian* in Colour

Most members should by now have received their September edition of the *Historian*. We apologise that it was slightly late this month due to the ongoing postal strike in the UK.

If you would like to see the *Historian* in colour, or haven't yet received your copy and can't wait - the colour version is now online on the society's website.

To view it, log in to the website and then select the menu options:

Resources > For Members > The Historian



Articles from the Sep 21 Historian

As usual, when we publish the latest edition of *The Historian*, we also publish (on the website) the member articles from the same quarter last year.

And so we have for your delectation:

[George Barnard Smith \(1885-1962\)](#)

Michael Hill recounts his grandad's life

[The Binfield Family of Reading](#)

Gordon Cox introduces us to a musical dynasty

[Robert Claude Utley \(1896-1911\)](#)

Eric Saxton tells a tale of a life cut short

[Sharing my Seares saga...](#)

Jackie Mitchell details a family who have given her a few problems

ENJOY!



Events

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



September Natter Group

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

Online

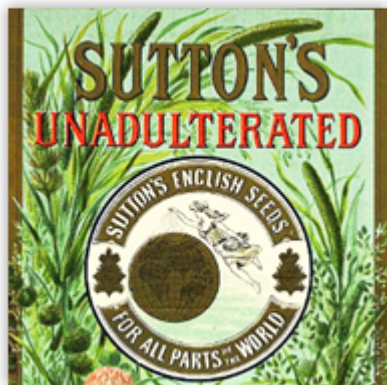
Join in this online discussion from your own home, wherever where you live.
Open only to members of Berkshire Family History Society.

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](#)



Suttons Seeds

**Talk by Richard Marks
08 September 14:00 - 15:30**

**The Centre for Heritage & Family
History, Reading**

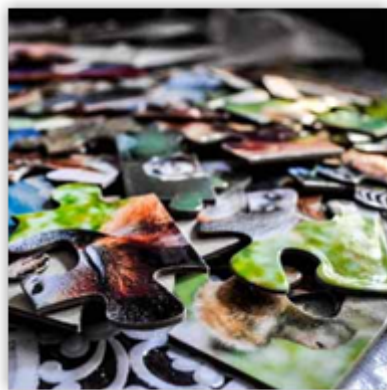
Suttons Seeds was an iconic institution in Reading for decades. This talk will look at how it all began and what it was like to work for the company. It will examine how the company built its global reputation for reliable seeds and plants which were guaranteed across the world. The talk will also look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

developed over the years from humble beginnings in Reading to its move to Devon in the 1970s.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4)

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



Who Do We Think We Are?

Talk by Catherine Sampson

10 September 12:00 - 13:00

**The Centre for Heritage & Family
History, Reading**

Are you interested in tracing your family tree? Discover how to research, what types of records are available and how to interpret them. The talk is interspersed with humorous and poignant stories of ancestors encountered along the way and their stories. Speaker, Catherine Sampson, will share some of her own back story. This includes war heroes, pioneers, an early Union activist and aspiring politician, smugglers, criminals and a murderer. And it takes us to the coal mines of the North-East, London's dockyards, the fields of Cambridgeshire, the Suffolk coast, the prairie lands of Canada and the battlefields of the First World War.

For members and non-members of Berkshire Family History Society

Free

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)

Caversham Two Bridges Walk

Walk Leader: David Cliffe

13 September 14:30 - 16:00



The Centre for Heritage & Family History, Reading

Join eminent historian David Cliffe on a walk around the Reading/Caversham border, exploring the historic aspects of the River Thames. From leisure to industry there have been many businesses that have sought the energy, resources and tranquility of Reading's most famous river.

The walk will take about one and a half hours.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4)

Pre-booking required

Book now



Family History Advice Clinic

15 September 11:00 - 14:30

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

For members and non-members of Berkshire Family History Society
Free
Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



The Swing Riots

**Newbury Branch Meeting with
talk by David Peacock**

15 September 14:00 - 16:00

West Berkshire Museum, Newbury

The Swing Riots were an outburst of revolt by agricultural workers in England in 1830, with West Berkshire among many areas affected. This talk looks briefly at the causes of the riots, and then relates events to specific locations in the Newbury area, including places in Kintbury and Hungerford.

A former journalist and teacher, David Peacock is the author of the 2011 edition of *The Story of Newbury*, and the 2018 *Newbury Roman Cemetery*, as well as numerous articles for local newspapers and a variety of periodicals. He gives local history talks to many clubs and societies, and since 2017 has been chair of

the Newbury Society.

Free to members

We request a donation of £3 from non-members

[Find out more](#)



1-1 Family History Advice Session

19 September 14:00 to 16:00

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

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](#)



Lest We Forget

**Abingdon Branch Meeting with
talk by Brian Denton
19 September 19:30 - 21:15**

**Long Furlong Community Centre,
Abingdon**

Our speaker will relate the stories of two members of his family who died in the First World War.

Brian will explain how, with the aid of Regimental War Diaries, he uncovered an intriguing mystery and an unforeseen coincidence.

Come along and hear the evidence and make your own decision.

Tickets cost £3 (members free)

Pre-booking preferred

[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
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