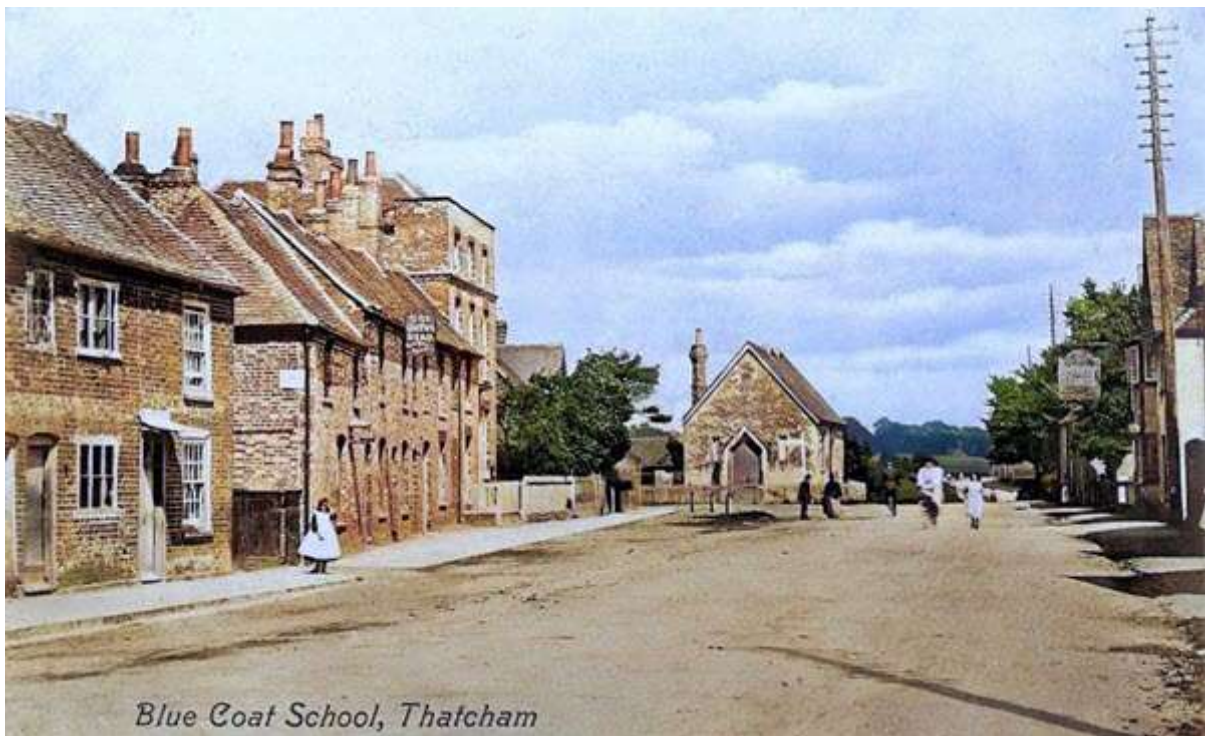

Keeping in touch

Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org>

25 September 2022 at 07:54

in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



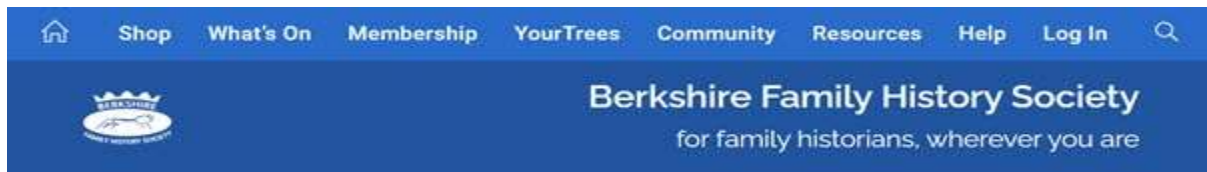
**Thatcham - Blue Coats School (centre) with the Queen's Head on one side of the road
and the New Inn opposite
Image courtesy of Jim Bradshaw**

Hello

Well that was quite a send off we gave the late Queen Elizabeth II - and now she lies in St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle with her family. I am sure we all have our special memories of the day and of her life so we've created a special page in the Community section of the website where you can share your stories and anecdotes - see below for more details.

Under our revised newsletter schedule it has been three weeks since our

previous members' newsletter so this is a bumper edition. Without further ado then ...



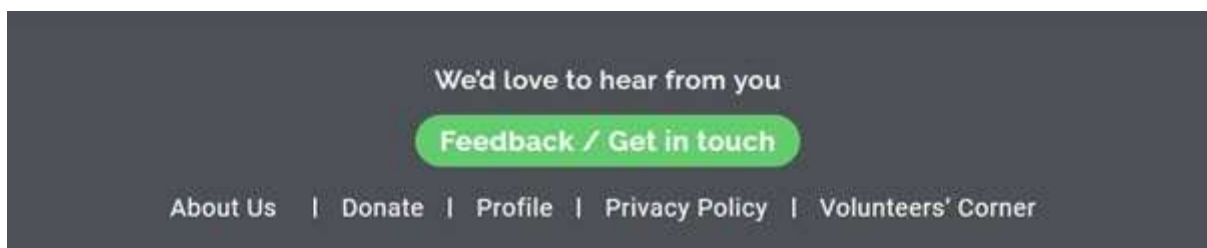
Website makeover

Can you believe it's three years since the new look websites were launched? But we have all been poignantly reminded in the last fortnight that time marches on, so to keep our website fresh and engaging it has been given a small makeover.

The top section has been updated and the menu moved to the very top of the screen. It is a 'sticky' menu, so it will always be visible and enable you to navigate around the website more easily. Some more images of Windsor Castle have been added to the homepage - such an iconic structure as we all saw recently.

The Forum title was somewhat dated and not really reflective of its purpose. It has been renamed "Community".

With all the extra functionality added to the website since 2019 the menu was becoming cluttered, so some of the lesser used options have been moved to a new menu down in the page footer.



Take a look at <https://berksfhs.org>



New Journal Exchanges

Vicki Chesterman, our Historian Editor, has had a very busy and productive couple of weeks, and has agreed Journal exchanges with no less than **EIGHT** new organisations!

They are:

- Airedale & Wharfedale FHS
- Barnsley FHS
- Botany Bay FHS
- British Columbia Genealogy Society
- Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire FHS
- Glamorgan FHS - Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluol Morgannwg
- Family History ACT (Canberra)
- Hillingdon FHS

Most of the new societies have provided us with 1 - 2 years back copies which means there's a lot of new material for you to read, so while you're admiring the updated homepage why not hop over to the journals page and take a look?

Login, then choose these menu items - **Resources > Members > Journal Exchanges**



New Community Section for HM The Queen

Do you have a treasured memory or anecdote of Queen Elizabeth II?

Family History is as much about the stories as the facts, as a tribute to our late Queen Elizabeth a new section has been created within the Community where you can share your anecdotes. To get things rolling, I have added one from my wife's family - 'Carpenter Required'.

Log in to the website and choose Community from the top menu.

To be notified when someone posts a new memory/anecdote look down at the bottom left of the new section and click this prompt:



YourTrees password change

From time to time we update the password for the YourTrees member service. As a reminder, you can access the service here:

Address: <https://yourtrees.berksfhs.org>

Username: **member**

New password: **wantage**

Remember, your regular member credentials won't work on YourTrees.



YourTrees homepage

The ascension of King Charles III to the throne on 8th Sep 2022 compels us to make another website change. The YourTrees homepage has been updated to show HM The King as the new head of the Royal Family of Windsor.

Why not take a moment to log into YourTrees and take a look at the Royal's Family Tree? Who's who, now that the hereditary clock has moved on?



**Burials Download
for**

**Letcombe Regis
St Andrew
1536-1863**

More Berkshire Burials Digital Downloads

Following the launch of the first batch of our final tranche of Burial downloads in the last newsletter, we are delighted to confirm that the second batch is now available to purchase in the society's 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.

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.

[Didcot St Peter Burials 1916-1990 \(D1807\)](#)

[Enborne \(Wash Common\) Congregational Church Burials 1825-1837 \(D1809\)](#)

[Maidenhead Cemetery \(as recorded in St Luke Parish Magazine\) Burials 1892-1967 \(D1813\)](#)

[Maidenhead St Luke Burials 1866-1967 \(D1133\)](#)

[North Moreton All Saints Burials 1552-1733 \(D1833\)](#)

[North Moreton All Saints Burials 1735-1996 \(D1829\)](#)

[Reading Guardian Minutes Burials 1836-1868 \(D1816\)](#)

[Wallingford Baptist Church Burials 1796-1857 \(D1821\)](#)

[Warfield St Michael The Archangel Burials 1568-1922 \(D1824\)](#)

[West Hanney St James the Great Burials 1564-1964 \(D1830\)](#)



Oxfordshire Family History Society Fair

Oxfordshire Family History Society's popular Family History Fair is back as a face-to-face event on Saturday 1st October, for the first time since 2019.

The Fair takes place at The Marlborough Church of England School, Shipton Road, Woodstock, OX20 1LP.

It is open between 10am and 4pm.

Entry to the Fair is free, as is parking. Refreshments are provided by Good Food Catering who are praised each year for the quality and variety of their food.

What can you expect to see at the Fair? A variety of Family History and Local History Societies providing information and selling books and other goods related to their respective areas including Berkshire Family History Society. There will also be a number of specialised stalls.

Find out more at:

<https://www.ofhs.uk/events/event/fair2022>

Events

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



Family History, Secrets & Lies

**Windsor Branch Meeting with talk
by Frances Hurd
27 September 19:30 - 21:30**

Online

Some extraordinary and poignant stories uncovered whilst researching for clients.

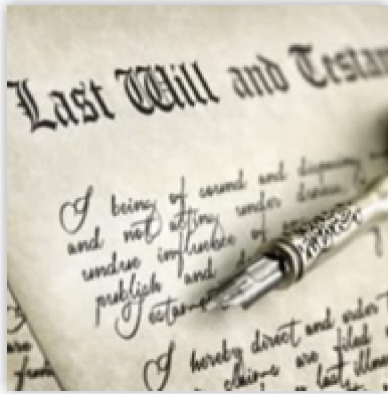
Every family history — and many historical records — contain secrets and lies, many connected to illegitimacy, others arising from more surprising causes. This talk explores some of those which Frances has uncovered in the course of her research.

Free to members

We request a donation of £3 from non-members

Pre-booking required

Book now



Where there's a will there's usually an argument

**Reading Branch Meeting with talk
by Sue Ellis**

29 September 19:45 - 21:00

The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints, Tilehurst

Local and family historian Sue Ellis will be giving us an insight into how to interpret wills. She explains where you can find them, what the stock phrases are, how you interpret the contents and what the mysterious word "admons" means. She also looks at how the inventories of people's possessions give us an invaluable insight into our ancestors' lives and show how different they were from our own.

Free to members

We request a donation of £3 from non-members

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)

DNA Special Interest Group

Facilitator: Debbie Kennett

01 October 14:30 - 16:30

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](#)



Natter Group

**Discussion Group facilitated by:
Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens
04 October 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](#)



1-1 Merchant Navy Advice Session

**Expert: Tony Wright
05 October 13:00 - 15:00**

Online

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. They are 1-1, free of cost and available to members and non-members alike. These particular Merchant Navy sessions are online, using Zoom technology – so you can book a session, wherever you live in the world.

You may book a 30 minute slot with our adviser, three 1-1 slots are available in this session:

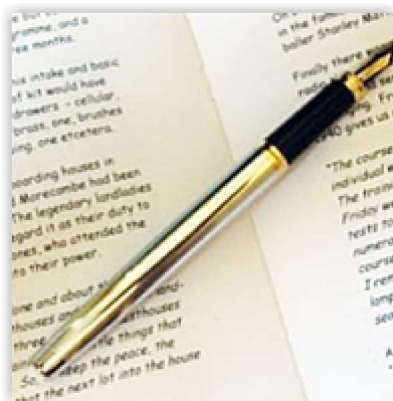
Slot 1: 13.00 – 13.30 (sold out)

Slot 2: 13.40 – 14.10

Slot 3: 14.20 – 14.50

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

[Book now](#)



Writing up your Family History Workshop

Tutor: Dr Barry Jerome
08 October 11:00 - 13:00

Online

Have you been researching your family tree and would like to write it up as a story but don't know how to start?

In the popular workshop, Dr Barry Jerome will help you get started. He will also show you how you can structure it, so that you can write up your family history while still continuing your research.

Tickets cost £10 (members £9)
Pre-booking required



War and Remembrance Social History Talks Series

13 October	14:00 - 15:30
10 November	as above
08 December	as above

The Centre for Heritage & Family History, Reading

This all series ticket covers all three talks in the “War and Remembrance 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.

After each talk, tea/coffee and cake will be available (included in the price). Pre-booking is preferred, but you can pay on the door, if there are spaces available.

[Thursday 13 October “The influence of Victorian Mourning on Reading Cemetery” with Anna Ellis](#)

The iconic landmark that is Reading Cemetery, on London Road, was established after an act of Parliament in 1842. The first burial took place a year later. Its design was based on London’s seven “garden cemeteries” and influenced by the writings of the landscape gardener John Claudius Loudon. This talk tells of the growth of the cemetery in the Victorian period, and the development of more flamboyant, ritualised forms of mourning after the death of Prince Albert in 1861.

[Thursday 10 November “Reading’s Home Guard” with Mike Cooper](#)

Formed in 1940, the Home Guard was part of a long list of voluntary and part-time formations raised for local defence. Despite the bumbling image created by the BBC classic “Dad’s Army”, the force emerged as a well-trained, well equipped

and highly motivated part of Britain's defences. Find out about Reading's Home Guard in this fascinating talk.

[Thursday 8 December "Reading's First World War Hospitals" with Lionel Williams](#)

Reading was one of the largest war hospital complexes during the First World War. It was based on Battle Hospital as War Hospital No. 1 and a number of schools and larger houses were taken over to accommodate the wounded. The main war hospitals were run by the military but many of the auxiliary hospitals were run by the Red Cross. The first war hospital opened in 1914 and the last one closed in 1920. This is their story.

Tickets cost £12.50 (members £10)

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



Railway Records for Family Historians Workshop

Tutor: Richard Marks

15 October 11:00 - 13:00

The Centre for Heritage & Family History, Reading

Did your Ancestors work on the railways? Britain's railway history is complex and can be difficult to decipher.

In this workshop, we will unravel the history of the railway companies, from British Railways in the 1980s back to the first railway companies in the Victorian period. We will work through some sample railway documents to decipher what the railway language used within them means, and how they can be used by family historians to build their family histories. We will conclude by looking at where railway archives can be found and how they can be accessed.

Tickets cost £10 (members £9)

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

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