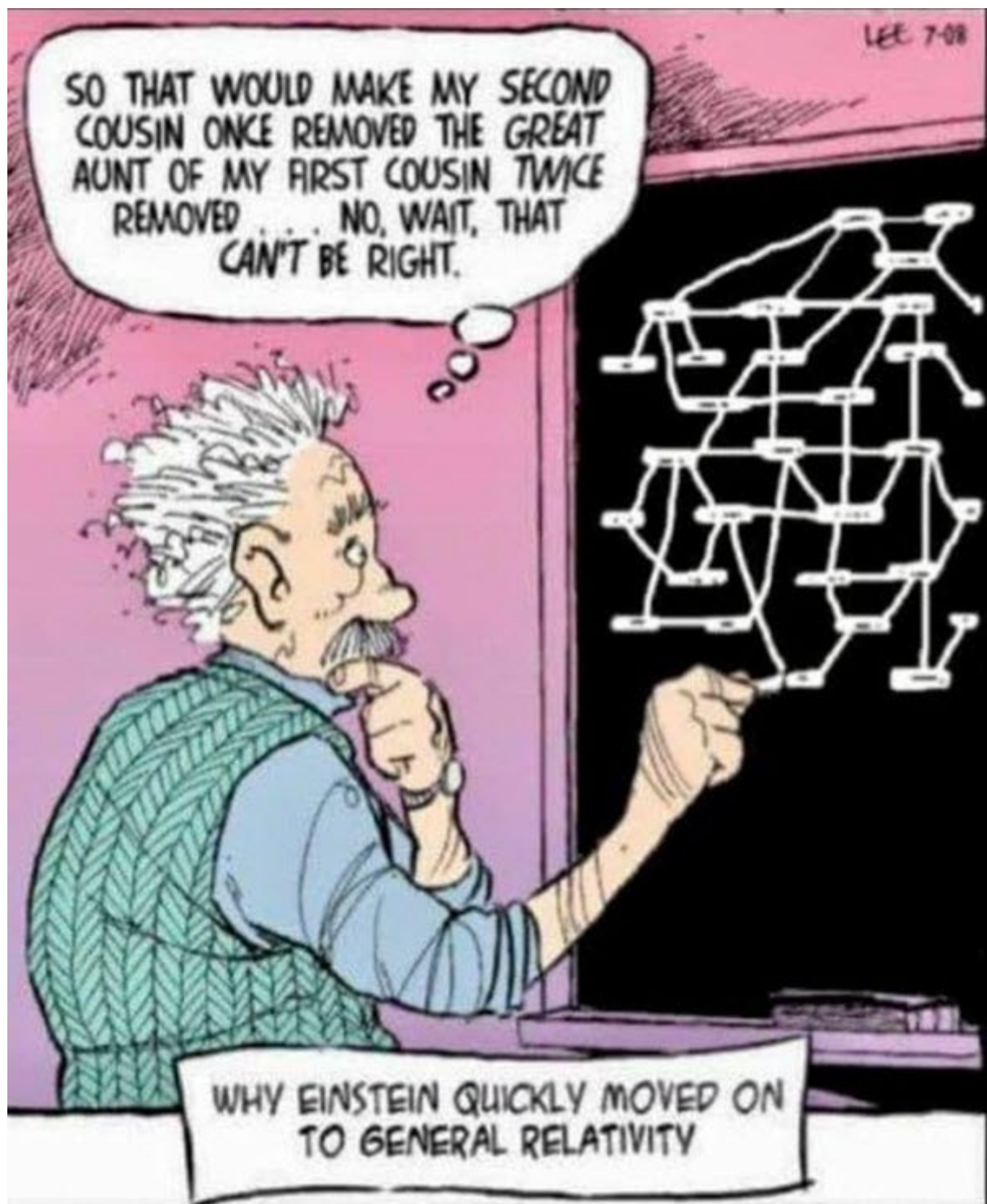




23 October 2022 at 08:10

in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



Hello

I was putting together this week's newsletter when this cartoon popped up in one of my social media feeds. I've often resorted to head scratching over relative relativity so I had no hesitation in using it for this week's banner. I think we can all empathise with Einstein.

In the run up to Nick Barratt's talk on the inner workings of WDYTIA we had contact from several members who would have loved to hear the talk but were

constrained by other commitments or time zones. Well, we're pleased to tell you that Nick agreed for his talk to be recorded, and you can find it in the member's area - see the next item for more details.

Elsewhere, we have more data downloads and, for a bit of fun, an invitation to a biscuit recipe competition to celebrate 200 years of Huntley & Palmers. Can you win? You'll just have to enter and see how the cookie crumbles!* And if you're interested in learning more about Huntley & Palmers' history, you can do so by signing up for our social history series of talks which includes a dedicated session - see below.

**sorry, but I couldn't let the opportunity pass*



Behind the scenes of Who Do You Think You Are?

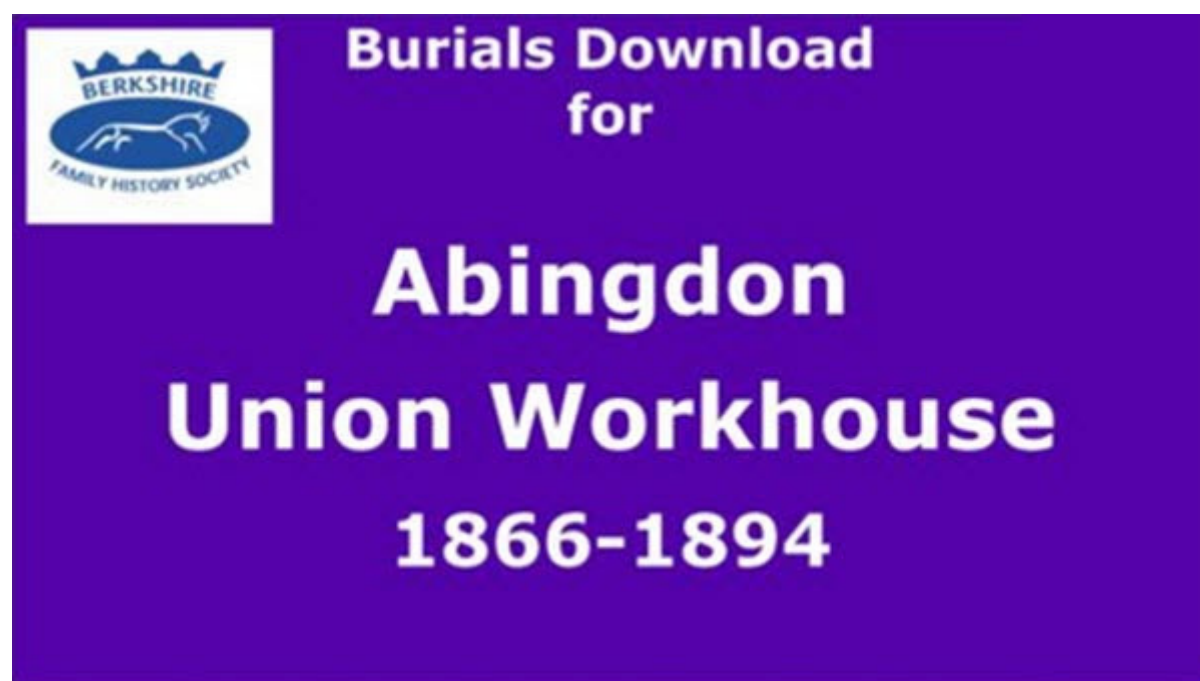
Catch the talk by Nick Barratt - but in your own time

On Wednesday 19 Oct, over a hundred and twenty of us booked onto the live Zoom meeting to hear Nick's talk. Technical issues with Zoom led to some being unable to join. Now, for those of you who missed the live show or who live in far flung places, we have a recording for you to view at your leisure. To view it, log in to the website and use menu option **Resources > For Members** and then select **Meeting Recordings**.

"Who Do You Think You Are?" first aired on BBC in 2004 and well over 150 celebrities have been helped to trace their family tree, sometimes with very surprising results, but often uncovering poignant human-interest stories. More

than ten international adaptations of the programme have now been produced.

Author, historian and broadcaster Nick Barratt was involved from the very first series. Using case studies from the show, he will take us 'behind the scenes' of WDYTIA, explaining how the series was originally created and the impact that it's had on the way genealogy is presented in the media today. Nick will reveal how the programme changed its focus from ten stories about British social history in the first series, to an emotional journey of discovery that brought family history to a mainstream audience and explored the myth that it was just about collecting names of dead people. The media exposure, alongside the rise of the internet and platforms such as Ancestry and Findmypast, turned genealogy into something everyone could do, with implications we're still feeling today.



More Berkshire Burials Digital Downloads

Following the launch of our final tranche of Burial downloads in early September, we're delighted to confirm that the fourth 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.

[Abingdon Union Workhouse Burials 1866-1894 \(D1800\)](#)

[Cookham Union Workhouse Burials 1848-1867 \(D1805\)](#)

[Easthampstead Union Workhouse Burials 1848-1914 \(D1808\)](#)

[Hungerford Union Workhouse Burials 1866-1914 \(D1811\)](#)

[Newbury Union Workhouse Burials 1868-1951 \(D1815\)](#)

[Reading St Laurence Union Workhouse Burials 1843-1846 \(D1817\)](#)

[Wallingford Union Workhouse Burials 1909-1942 \(D1822\)](#)

[Wantage Union Workhouse Burials 1835-1866 \(D1823\)](#)

[Windsor Union Workhouse Burials 1835-1888 \(D1831\)](#)

[Windsor Union Workhouse Burials 1908-1936 \(D1834\)](#)



Caribbean Family History Group

As October is now traditionally focused on black history we thought we would give a shout out to the Caribbean Family History Group who have been assisting family history researchers with their Caribbean research for fourteen years now.

The Group have an exhibition at Solihull Library in October on "Tracing your Ancestors – enslaved and enslavers, during the Period of British Slavery 1807 – 1850's" and their October (29th at 2pm) and November meetings (face to face and accessible via Zoom) focus on aspects of that same subject.

Find out more at:

<https://caribbeanfamilyhistorygroup.org/>

THE 1921 CENSUS IS HERE

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THE	
NATIONAL	
ARCHIVES	

1921 Census - update on access

Findmypast currently remains the only website through which you can access the 1921 census. So far, this has only been possible through micropayments, but *Findmypast* has just introduced a new premium subscription which includes unlimited access to the 1921 census. The census remains accessible through micropayments on all their other subscriptions and to anyone signed up to an account with them.

Find out more at:

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/1921-census>

And don't forget that as a member you can receive a discount of 15% against any new 3-12 month subscription package taken out with *Findmypast*. Just log into the society's website and you'll find the discount code under the Resources tab.



Journal Exchanges

Four more new ones since our last edition of In Touch, bringing the total to 24, more than double the total from just two months ago. Way to go Vicki Chesterman!

- Dyfed Family History Society *Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluol Dyfed*
- The Heraldry Society
- Hertfordshire FHS
- Institute of Heraldic & Genealogical Studies

The search continues. Watch this space.

If you are interested in a particular society's journal, let us know and we'll give them priority. (We can't guarantee success because some societies don't operate an exchange scheme, but we can ask.)

Email: editor@berksfhs.org.uk

We've also added a lot of latest versions and back copies to the library for other societies. Check it out by logging into the website and selecting the **Resources** menu item



PRIDE OF
READING
AWARDS



Design a Reading Biscuit to celebrate the town and our people

Calling all bakers - there is still time (just) to come up with a recipe and submit your entry to the Reading Biscuit competition for the annual Pride of Reading Awards in December.

Use your imagination to invent a celebratory biscuit recipe that honours something interesting about the history or heritage of Reading and its people, in all of its diversity. It doesn't have to be serious - you can have fun with it! (But

please do not use nuts or cream!).

The winner bags a place at the awards lunch at Reading FC Conference & Events - and can bring a guest!

Individuals can enter or you might like to come up with something as a group. And the shortlisted entrants will be asked to bake a batch of six biscuits and submit them for a taste test.

Awards organisers want you to join them championing numerous anniversaries in the town. The competition is supported by sponsor Jacobs the Jewellers as they prepare to celebrate their 75th anniversary in 2023. This year is also the 200th anniversary of Huntley & Palmers, the town's legendary biscuit bakers.

Closing date is November 1. Terms and conditions apply

Simply send your recipe to porawards@yahoo.com

For more information go to porawards.co.uk

Events

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



A Potpourri of Social History Talks – Autumn Series

27 Oct 14:00 - 15:15

24 Nov as above

15 Dec as above

Online

This all-series ticket covers all three in the Autumn "Potpourri of 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 and last about an hour. Afterwards there will be time for questions and discussion.

A Brief History of Reading Gaol

County Archivist Mark Stevens will explore the history of one of Reading's most iconic Victorian buildings – Reading Prison – from the Georgian period until its first closure in 1920. Find out about the separate system of 'hard labour, hard board and hard fare' that characterised the Victorian regime; before hearing about Oscar Wilde, some of the prison's executions and Reading's little-known role in the Easter Rising.

[Thursday 27 October "A Brief History of Reading Gaol" 2 – 3.15pm with Mark Stevens](#)

Huntley and Palmers

Huntley and Palmers were not only one of Reading's major employers but an institution within the town and a global brand familiar to many tables across the world. In this talk, find out how the company began, and why it grew to the huge corporation it became. Huntley and Palmer were a prime user of railways and used the great Reading's position as a transport hub to export its products across the globe, find out how in this talk. Our speaker, Richard Marks, will also explore what it was like to work for the company across the decades. A must for anyone whose ancestors worked in this iconic institution.

[Thursday 24 November "Huntley and Palmers" 2 – 3.15pm with Richard Marks](#)

The Murder of Alfred Oliver

The murder of Reading tobacconist Alfred Oliver, in Cross Street in 1929, remains unsolved to this day. Several witnesses saw a man near the shop at the time of the murder and later identified him as Philip Yale Drew, an American-born actor performing at Reading's County Theatre. The ensuing Coroner's Inquest, at which Drew was subjected to intensive questioning, divided opinion and attracted considerable crowds and controversy. Find out more in this fascinating talk by David Downs.

[Thursday 15 December "The Murder of Alfred Oliver" 2 – 3.15pm with David Downs](#)

The all series ticket cost £12.50 (members £10)
Pre-booking required



[Book now](#)



A Brief History of Reading Gaol

Talk by Mark Stevens
27 October 14:00 - 15:15

Online

County Archivist Mark Stevens will explore the history of one of Reading's most iconic Victorian buildings – Reading Prison – from the Georgian period until its first closure in 1920. Find out about the separate system of 'hard labour, hard board and hard fare' that characterised the Victorian regime; before hearing about Oscar Wilde, some of the prison's executions and Reading's little-known role in the Easter Rising.

Image: "Reading Gaol" by spicygreenginger licensed under CC-NC 2.0

Tickets cost £5 (members £4)
Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



November Natter Group

Discussion Group facilitated by:
Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens
01 November 18:45 for 19:00

Online

Join in this online discussion from your own home, wherever 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.

This month the initial discussion will be what we have achieved, or hope to achieve, with DNA testing.

Free to members

Pre-booking required.

[Book now](#)



Creating an enduring family tree in YourTrees

Tutor: Paul Barrett

05 November 14:00 - 16:00

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](#)



Online Family History Advice Clinic

07 November 14:00 - 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 (sold out)

Slot 2: 14.30 – 14.55

Slot 3: 15.05 – 15.30

Slot 4: 15.35 – 16.00

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

[Book now](#)



A Stroll through Berkshire's Graveyards

**Newbury Branch Meeting with
talk by Catherine Sampson
09 November 14:00 - 16:00**

West Berkshire Museum, Newbury

Berkshire's churchyards are full of stories. About the individuals who are buried there, the communities in which they lived and the prevailing burial customs and superstitions. They reveal local industry and commerce and the impact of events – both local and national. And of course, they tell us of past pandemics and other causes of death. This talk explores some of those stories and showcases some of the outstanding architecture of Berkshire's funerary monuments.

Free to members

We request a donation of £5 from non-members

[Find out more](#)



Munition Workers in World War One Workshop

**Tutor: Richard Marks
12 November 11.00 - 13.00**

Online

The First World War was the first global conflict fought by industrialised nations. Each side was dependent upon a ready supply of munitions. Who were the people who worked in these factories and what did they do to support the men at the front?

In this workshop, we will look at where the munitions factories were and what

people who worked in them did. We will consider working conditions and experiences, including the accidents which occurred, and what records may be available and where to find them.

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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