

in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



Newbury - a rare image of a very busy Market Place in 1895

image courtesy of Jim Bradshaw

Hello Paul

The permanence of the built environment of Britain must be quite astonishing to

our overseas members. This week's image from Jim Bradshaw shows a bustling marketplace from 1895. Reverse the middle numbers to make 1985 and you'll find a picture which is instantly recognisable, of the same location, [here](#). Fast forward another thirty years and the ugly modernity of the 1980s is replaced by a [tranquil pedestrianised zone](#) where the removal of the car must make today's market scenes more reminiscent of 1895. A lot less horse dung too!

We have more data downloads and, if your interests happen to be focused on Newbury St Nicolas then you're in for a treat with this week's batch! Other than that there's the usual mix of news, a fun site (this week, where you can find out the day of the week for any given date) and, of course, some of our upcoming events.



What day of the week was Grandma born?

Have you ever wondered what day of the week an event occurred? I thought there must be a way to calculate this and sure enough another Google search led me to a lot of sites that had 'easy' ways - most of which needed at least 30 lines of instruction - the definition of 'easy' is clearly a flexible construct. But add "online calculator" to the search term and you find lots of useful sites like this one, that *will* do it easily.

<https://www.timeanddate.com/date/weekday.html>

That site will also produce a calendar for any given year should you have the urge.

(The answer was Thursday, by the way)



**Burials Download
for**

Basildon St Bartholomew 1539-1982

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 fifth 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.

[Basildon St Bartholomew Burials 1539-1982 \(D1021\)](#)

[Cold Ash St Mark Burials 1865-1993 \(D1059\)](#)

[Newbury St Nicolas Burials 1538-1639 \(D1300\)](#)

[Newbury St Nicolas Burials 1640-1699 \(D1301\)](#)

[Newbury St Nicolas Burials 1700-1754 \(D1302\)](#)

[Newbury St Nicolas Burials 1755-1819 \(D1303\)](#)

[Newbury St Nicolas Burials 1820-1869 \(D1826\)](#)

[Newbury St Nicolas Burials 1870-1965 \(D1827\)](#)



OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL

Heritage Search

New Heritage Search Site for Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire's various historical and archaeological archives, museums and repositories have come together for the first time in a new website which allows you to search the over 920 thousand records they hold.

Input a parish or person name into the search engine and a list of all the holdings will be displayed, with digital copies viewable if available. Although the majority of Berkshire records are held in the Berkshire Record Office, a surprisingly high number are in Oxfordshire's repositories - and not just those that transferred into the county in 1974. A search for Tilehurst, Berks, for example, returned 23 matches - mostly deeds, grants of probate and enclosure awards.

Worth checking out at:

<https://heritagesearch.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

 ScotlandsPeople



Pricing announced for Scotland's 1921 census

The National Records for Scotland have announced that the much awaited 1921 census Scotland is still on track to be released on the ScotlandsPeople website at the end of 2022.

The price of the Scottish 1921 census will be £1.50 per page (6 credits), the same as other census records on ScotlandsPeople. This will be on a pay-as-you-go

basis using the same credit system that is in place for other census records on the website.

There will also be access at the Scotland's People Centre in Edinburgh, the Burns Monument Centre in Kilmarnock, the Clackmannanshire Family History Centre in Alloa, the Heritage Hub in Hawick, the Highland Archives Family History Room in Inverness and the Mitchell Library in Glasgow.

Scotland's census for 1921 was taken on Sunday 19th June, with the questions asked being similar to the census return for England and Wales.

- name and surname
- relationship to head of household
- age (in years and months)
- marital status
- orphanhood (for those under 15)
- place of birth
- nationality
- whether they spoke Gaelic and/or English
- occupation
- details of employment including name of employer
- whether entitled to National Insurance benefits
- number and age of children under 16

<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>



***TheGenealogist* completes Domesday Survey records for London**

Family history website *TheGenealogist* has completed its publication of the records of the Lloyd George Domesday Survey for Greater London. North Buckinghamshire is also now complete. This is great news for those with ancestors living in London in the early 20th century.

Officially called the Valuation Office Survey 1910-1915 it is often colloquially

known after the then chancellor, David Lloyd George, who instigated it. The survey was carried out between 1910 and 1915 to provide an assessment of the value of all property across England and Wales. It can be a great tool for family historians.

The National Archives has useful guide to it at:

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/valuation-office-survey-land-value-ownership-1910-1915/>

TheGenealogist's final tranche has added another 118,437 records to the collection taken from another 23 boroughs.

You can find *TheGenealogist* here:

<https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/>

Members can also access these records for free via the society's subscription site (another one of your member benefits) by logging into the society's website and then choosing Resources on the top toolbar. Please note this subscription website can only be accessed when the society's Research Zone is closed to the public.

Events

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



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](#)

Reading's Home Guard

Talk by Mike Cooper

10 November 14:00 - 15:30

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

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.

After the 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.

Image: The Home Guard in the Second World War H30444 creative commons

Tickets cost £5 (members £4)

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



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](#)



Drop In Advice Session

Bracknell Branch
10 November 14:00 - 17:00

Bracknell Central Library

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.

[Find out more](#)



Two Graves, a Turnpike and a Murder

**Computer Branch meeting
with talk by Gillian Stevens
16 November 19:30 - 21:30**

Online

How a selection of ordinary family history documents can uncover more about the lives of our ancestors.

Yes, there is a murder, not something everyone is 'lucky' enough to find.

Image: Wikipedia, credit for original to "A Rosevear / Old Milepost by the A404 at Carpenter's Wood / CC BY-SA 2.0"

Free to members

We request a donation of £5 from non-members

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



Face-to-Face Family History Advice Clinic

17 November 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:

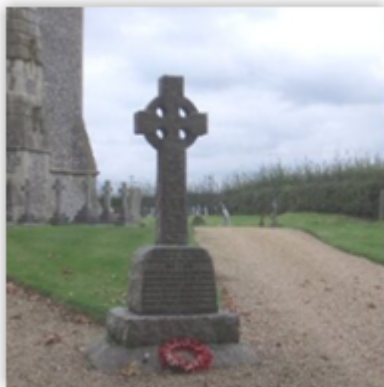
- to tell us what you've done so far
- describe the nature of the problem
- attach copies of any key documents such as BMD certificates, research notes
- if possible, provide a link to a family tree we can view (members – if your tree has been uploaded to YourTrees, that would be perfect) or at least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

For members and non-members of Berkshire Family History Society

Free

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



Tall Tales, Secrets and Ordinary Lives

Bracknell Branch meeting with talk by Sue Ellis

18 November 14:45 - 17:00

The New Priestwood Community Centre

Family History is one of the fastest growing hobbies, and extremely popular. This talk takes a light look at some of the minutiae in family history – including the ordinary lives of local WW1 soldiers discovered during research into the names on a selection of local war memorials; the secrets disclosed by the census, and by Wills; and the tall tales told in every family, which sometimes turn out to be based on truth.

Free to members

We request a donation of £5 from non-members

[Find out more](#)



What Makes a Marriage – Rules & Regulations

**Abingdon Branch Online Meeting
with talk by Anthony Marr
21 November 19:30 - 21:30**

An entertaining look at the laws and rules of modern and historical marriage, explaining the legal processes, registration and delving into the history of this special event. The talk covers the findings and interpretation of marriage records, how to track down divorces and perhaps identify a bigamist in the family!

Free to members

We request a donation of £5 from non-members

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

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