
In Touch

1 message

4 December 2022

in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



The original Angel Inn - Woolhampton
image courtesy of Jim Bradshaw

Hello friend

The original Angel Inn was demolished in the mid 20th century to make for the widening of the Bath Road - the A4 - and the area is architecturally poorer for it because the replacement that stands to the north east is a rather bland 50s building. If anything remains of the foundations of the old inn, they are now buried beneath the roadway. However, if you take a look on [Street View and spin](#)

[through 180 degrees](#), you'll see they really had no other choice, because this beauty was on the other side of the road.

In case you missed them last time we've re-run our Christmas ads, with a reminder that no login is required to buy!

Registration for Rootstech 2023 is open - see the first item - and Reading Old Cemetery have a wonderful new website.



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

This year, the world's largest genealogy conference will be a global virtual event enhanced by an in-person experience. You decide how to enjoy RootsTech!

2-4 March 2023 — Virtual (FREE) and in Salt Lake City (\$98)

<http://Rootstech.org/register>.

BERKSHIRE FHS PRESENTS

**THE GIFT
YOU'RE
LOOKING
FOR**



Feed their genealogy obsession with a year's membership - whether or not they're a current member

For more information, visit berksfhs.org/member-gift



CHRISTMAS TIME, BIRTHDAY TIME OR JUST ANY OLD TIME



Membership - to give or to receive

Do you know someone who might benefit from membership? Does your family wonder what to get you each year?

Either way, and regardless of whether the recipient is already a member, a gift membership is the perfect answer. We no longer use a fixed renewal date, so a new member can join any time and receive a full year's membership from that date, and an existing member can use it to extend their existing membership by a year - they don't have to wait until renewal is due. Maybe wait until the Christmas pud has gone down, though?

You can order these right up to the last minute of course, because they are ordered and the certificate is delivered online.

[Buy one here](#)

CHRISTMAS WISH LIST



Prefer something a little more tangible?

Here's a pick of some of the popular products from our online shop. Don't see what you want? Then head over to the shop site and have a look for something else. With over 1,000 product lines so they'll be something for everyone's family history interests.

Order early! Because of postal service disruption in the UK please help us to help you by ordering as soon as possible. In these circumstances it's hard to give a definitive last ordering date. We suggest Dec 11th for the UK*

[A Secretary Hand ABC](#)

A handy guide to "secretary hand" including illustrations of characters A to Z, common abbreviations, practice words, numbers and some samples and transcripts of wills 16th to 18th centuries, nursery rhymes and a list of words.

[Abbot Cook to Zero Degrees: an A to Z of Reading's Pubs and Breweries](#)

A comprehensive directory and history of pubs and breweries in Reading, both past and present. As well as detailed histories of the sites, the maps show their locations also. Published by the History of Reading Society.

[Berkshire Monumental Inscriptions Vol 1](#)

Reissue on CD of transcriptions of the extant gravestone and similar inscriptions and maps of the burial grounds of the churchyards of Aldworth, Ashampstead, Lower Basildon, Midgham Park, Reading St Laurence, Remenham, Shippon, and Woolhampton

[Berkshire Monumental Inscriptions Vol 2](#)

Reissue on CD of transcriptions of the extant memorial inscriptions and maps of the burial grounds of the churchyards of Beech Hill, Caversham Victoria Road/Hemdean Road, Eddington, Goosey, Lyford, Midgham, Mortimer Methodist, Newbury St Nicholas, Newbury URC and Oare.>

[Berkshire Monumental Inscriptions Vol 3](#)

Provides data of over 4,500 people from several churchyards previously available only on fiche: Avington; Enborne; Grazeley (new); Grove; Hungerford St Lawrence; Reading Baptist burial ground; Shurlock Row All Saints (new); Theale and Winterbourne.

[Emmer Green - Past & Present](#)

This information packed book published by the Emmer Green Residents Association traces its history from an estate hamlet to village and then to a suburb of Caversham. It is a reprint of the 2003 second edition with additional pages covering the years to 2022.

[Georgian Newbury](#)

This book uses historical records and personal stories to bring life to Georgian Newbury and Georgian society generally. Covering all aspects of town life from education, trade, health, transport to leisure, crime and religion; no part of daily life is ignored.

The personal stories of some of the inhabitants through their own letters and memoirs add much to the mix. Hinting at personal and professional differences, and the feelings of the townspeople that led to changes within the town.

[Historical Atlas of Berkshire](#)

This new enlarged edition with 74 articles on Berkshire's history from the Palaeolithic to 21st century each accompanied by maps in full colour, and with numerous illustrations. Indispensable to those with Berkshire ancestors.

[Newbury St Nicholas Parish Registers \(CD\)](#)

This CD contains a full transcription of the parish registers and is fully indexed. It also contains a brief history of Newbury. The Coverage is: Baptisms 1538-1910, Banns 1754-1904, Marriages 1538-1917 and Burials 1538-1965

[Ock Street Remembered](#)

changes and key events that shaped the area.

[The History of Woodley](#)

This history of Woodley has been compiled by local U3A groups and provides the developments over the centuries to what is now effectively a suburb of Reading.

[Tracing Your Ancestors using the UK Timeline](#)

This timeline guide to genealogical resources helps the family historian to understand what records are available and from when, and allows to put our ancestors into a historical and socio-cultural context. (Ed: I have a copy - it's fantastic)

[Up in the downs \(A Portrait of Chilton\)](#)

A Portrait of Chilton produced for the Millennium in photographs and recollections of her people, lavishly illustrated, and with an index of places and people. It traces the change from a small rural village to the site of an advanced nuclear laboratory.

[Wokingham - A Potted History](#)

The town of Wokingham has a long history and this book provides an accessible picture of this typical country town from its origins in Anglo-Saxon times to the present day. The book traces the town's history through good times and bad, and how its people played their part in great and notable events, and how its buildings have reflected change.

** we'll do our absolute best but we're sure you'll appreciate that third party action is outside our control*



OUR CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR
CALENDAR

Dec 11th – Last date for assured
shipping UK Christmas orders

Dec 13th – Research Zone closes

3rd Jan – Shop shipments restart
– Research Zone reopens



Reading Old Cemetery Website

Just launched - the much awaited new website by Reading Old Cemetery undertaking Project (ROCUP).

This is an innovative website with some excellent content on the cemetery's history, some of the people buried there and also the nature and wildlife of the cemetery. If you have ancestors buried there - do check it out and also strongly consider submitting your ancestors stories and photos so that they can also be remembered.

Well done to everyone involved in getting the website up and running.

Check it out here:

<https://readingoldcemetery.uk/>

And for further reading on Reading Old Cemetery - see the latest blog from the Berkshire Record Office:

<https://www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk/blog>

Be Our Guest

When buying from our shop,
you do not need to login or
create an account

Events

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



December Natter Group

Online discussion group facilitated
by Chan Hanna and Gillian
Stevens

06 December 18:45 for 19:00

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 Chan Hanna and Gillian Stevens. Topics are chosen by the group on a monthly basis. End time varies.

This month the starting topic will be Family Traditions.

Free to attend, but pre-booking is required so that the meeting link can be emailed to you.

[Book now](#)



Reading's First World War Hospitals

F2F talk with speaker: Lionel Williams

08 December 14:00 - 15:30

The Centre for Heritage and Family History

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.

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.

Members £4, non-members £5

[Book now](#)

Drop In Advice Session



08 December 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.

Free

No booking required

[View details](#)



Short talks and quiz

Reading Branch Meeting

08 December 19:15 for 19:45

Church of LDS, Tilehurst

Join us for an informal, face to face, evening of entertainment, personal stories and a quiz to test those brain cells. Branch members will be sharing their stories of personal triumphs and tribulations and introducing us to some of their ancestors.

Free parking.

Free entry for members, non-members are invited to make a £5 donation towards costs.

Pre-booking is preferred but not essential.

[Book now](#)



The Murder of Alfred Oliver

Online Talk with speaker: David Downs

15 December 14:00 - 15:15

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.

Pre-booking is required, because the event link will be sent in advance.

Members £4, non-members £5

[Book now](#)



Online Christmas Genealogy Social

Computer Branch Christmas Meeting

21 December 19:15 for 19:30

Forget about all the things you need to do before the big day.

Relax, bring your own seasonal hat, wear a seasonal jumper (or sweater), and enjoy a mince pie and your preferred beverage!

Prebooking is required

Free entry for members, non-members are invited to make a £5 donation towards costs.

[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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