
 In Touch

1 message

Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org>

29 January 2023 at 08:01

in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



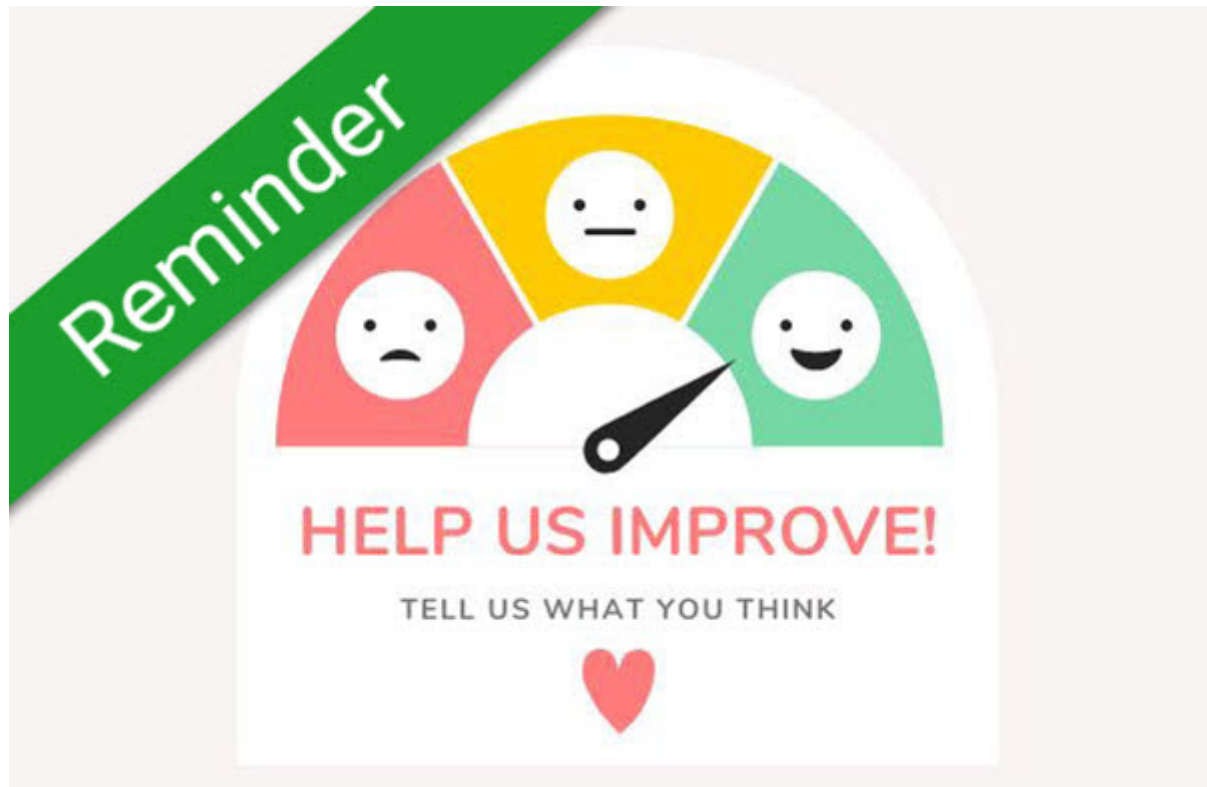
Colourised image courtesy of Jim Bradshaw

And so, in the blink of an eye, it's the end of January. Good, because Spring beckons and already the first tentative shoots of the snowdrops and daffs are appearing.

It's hard to tell whether this week's image is a spring or autumn scene. The climbing plant on the baker's wall is not in leaf. I wonder, though, whether this

is the same Wisteria that graces '*Market Hair*' in this instantly recognisable [modern view](#).

We are continually looking for innovations to help you with your family history research and this week's **in touch** includes two new services. We'd love to hear if there's anything else we can do for you and whether our current services meet your needs. Please let us know by completing our customer survey - details of how to do that follow...



Have your say!

A massive thank you to everyone who has completed our customer survey - we really appreciate you taking the time to do that.

If you haven't completed it yet, it will only take a few minutes and the answers will help us shape our services for the next five years. So, please, grab a cuppa and have your say.

You can access the survey here:

<https://berksfhs.org/customer-survey>.

...and you will need this PIN

2023

THE 1921 CENSUS AVAILABLE AT THE CENTRE

in association with



NEW!

Free access to the 1921 Census

In the first of two new services we're launching this week, visitors to The Centre will have access to the 1921 Census from 1st Feb, because we've upgraded our subscription to include this valuable resource. There's no need to book, but we do expect this to cause a jump in attendance. We have six computers available for visitors to use.

So please head on in, and see what you can find about the post war history of your ancestors - a time of enormous social change.

Video Hub

Courses and talks

Subscribe and view

NEW!

Access-Pass Video Service

For a while now we've made recordings available of select talks from our branch meetings - free to members as part of your membership.

Now we're delighted to announce a new video service for some of our paid-for events. This fledgling service will be open to everyone but members will receive the usual discounts. The sessions are perfect for people who couldn't make the live one due to other commitments or who live in distant time zones.

Courses come with video content and full collaterals and we're kicking off with two items. The first is Joan Dils' ever popular *Understanding Old Handwriting* three-part course with three just under two-hour videos, documents for you to decipher, and worked examples. This will be followed by *Five Generations at the Fairmile Hospital*, a talk by Ian Wheeler, which examines Fairmile's foundation, growth and methods through the eyes of ten of its former employees - all members of his family - spanning a century.

You can access the service here:

<https://berksfhs.org/video-hub/>

If you have friends or family who are interested, please send the link to them. Everyone is welcome!



Reading Cemetery Records

Another very interesting article from the Berkshire Record Office in their latest newsletter - this time about Reading's Cemetery records. This is part two in a series and covers the Hemdean Road Cemetery, Henley Road Cemetery and Reading Crematorium. Part one covered Reading old cemetery (London Road) and a link to that is at the start of this article, in case you missed it.

The article gives a brief background to each cemetery before explaining what records exist and what details you can find on them.

<https://www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk/blog/cemetery-records-part-two>

Don't forget that Society volunteers have transcribed the monumental inscriptions for both Reading Old Cemetery and Caversham's Hemdean Road Cemetery and they can be purchased either in CD format or in a digital download via the society's online shop:

<https://shop.berksfhs.org/product/berkshire-memorial-inscriptions-collection-volume-2-bfhs-cd/>

<https://shop.berksfhs.org/product/caversham-hemdean-road-cemetery-mi-1885-1997-download-d1406/>

<https://shop.berksfhs.org/product/reading-london-road-cemetery-monumental-inscriptions-1843-1994-cd-bfhs/>

<https://shop.berksfhs.org/product/reading-london-road-cemetery-mi-1843-1994-download-d1425/>

Society volunteers have also transcribed the burial registers for all four cemeteries mentioned and these can be found in the Berkshire Burials 13th Edition CD or in individual digital downloads.

<https://shop.berksfhs.org/product/berkshire-burials-13th-edition/>

<https://shop.berksfhs.org/>

**Capturing war-time
memories, before it is too
late**



Can You Help?

The BBC wants to gather as many first hand accounts from the surviving men and women who served in the Second World War as possible, to preserve them for future generations ahead of the 80th anniversary of the end of the conflict in 2025.

The *"We Were There"* Project is carried out in conjunction with a number of organisations including the Normandy Memorial Trust and the Royal British Legion.

If you are a veteran of the war, or you know someone who is, you can contribute by emailing haveyoursay@bbc.co.uk, contacting **@BBC_HaveYourSay** on Twitter or by filling in the form at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-63504826>.

You can watch videos of previous interviewees from the project at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/c2x639z8vkvt>

Events

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



Drop In Advice Session

31 Jan 14:00 - 16:30

Wokingham 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.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WOKINGHAM LIBRARY HAS MOVED TO:

Carnival Hub,
Wellington Road,
Wokingham,
RG40 2AF.

The entrance to the Centre is on the right of the building looking from the road.

Free to all
Prebooking not required

[View details](#)



The Church Missionary Society (CMS) Archives

**Windsor Branch Meeting with talk
by Yetunde Abiola
31 Jan 19:30 - 21:30**

Online

Founded in 1799, the Church Missionary Society works with Christians around the world. By the end of this talk, you will be able to glean information from letter books, missionary journals, school records, correspondence and other original papers and learn more about your ancestor.

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

[Book now](#)



Online Family History Advice Clinic

06 Feb 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

For members and non-members of Berkshire Family History Society
Free

Book now

February Natter Group

**Discussion Group facilitated by: Chad Hanna and
Gillian Stevens**

07 Feb 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.

Free to members

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



Historical Research Using British Newspapers

**Newbury Branch Meeting with talk
by: Denise Bates
08 Feb 19:30 - 20:30**

Online

Historical Research Using British Newspapers originated as a byproduct of Denise Bates' research into breach-of-promise cases and (separately) women in coal mines. Her talk covers the various steps involved in locating newspaper information about an ancestor and placing it in the context of the time. The talk is based primarily on the British Newspaper Archive.

Denise Bates is a Midlands-based writer on social and family history who has written three books and contributed to programmes on BBC Radio 4 and Channel 5.

Tickets cost £5 (members free)

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



The hidden history of Reading's War Graves and Memorials

Talk with speaker: Liz Tait

09 Feb 14:00 - 15:30

The Centre for Heritage & Family History

Like every similar sized town across England, Reading suffered a large number of casualties as a result of the First World War. The talk will refer to Reading Old Cemetery's WW1 war graves and commemorations. Liz will also make reference to the Alfred Sutton School War Memorial and the St. Luke's Church War Memorial.

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.

Non-members £5

Members £4

Book now



Drop In Advice Session

09 Feb 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 to all
Prebooking not required

[View details](#)



WW1 Navy Records for Family Historians Workshop

Tutor: Richard Marks
11 Feb 11:00 - 13:00

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

This workshop is designed for Family Historians who are researching their relatives who served in the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines, the Royal Naval Air Service and the Royal Naval Division during World War One.

WW1 saw a huge change in the Royal Navy with submarines and aircraft joining the fleet for the first time in a major conflict. We will look at some of these and what they meant to the men and women who served. We will look at the ranks and also the roles each rank undertook both onboard ship and ashore. Finally, we will unravel some of the terminology and jargon used.

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
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