
 In Touch from Berkshire FHS

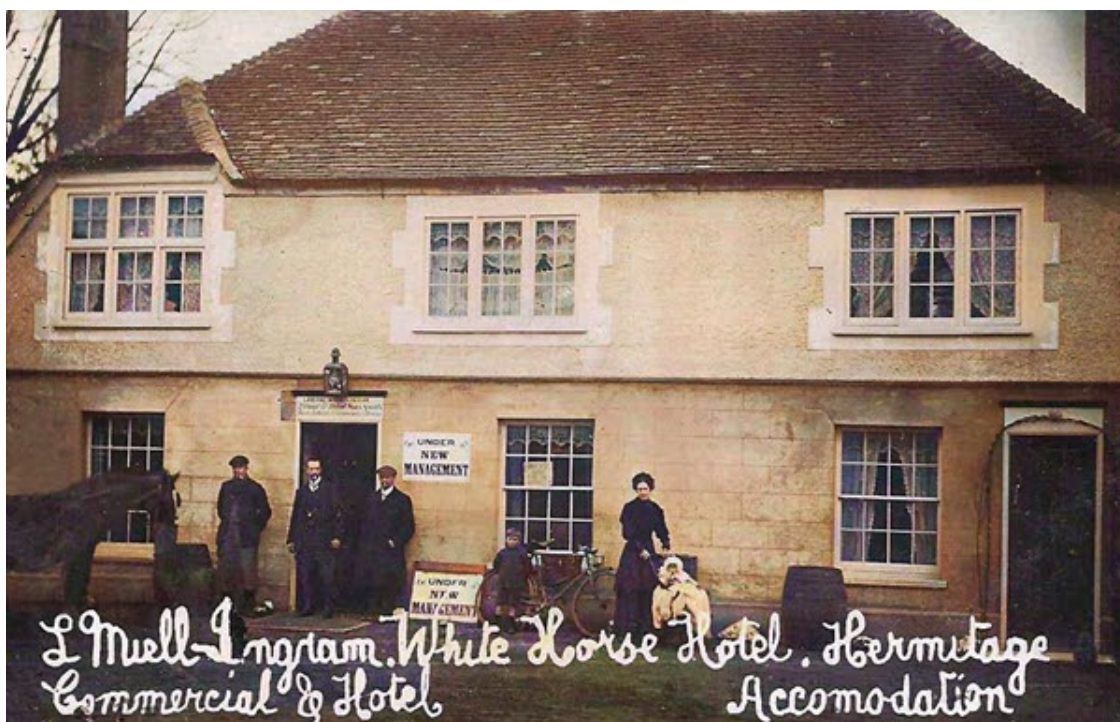
1 message

Berkshire Family History Society <webmaster@berksfhs.org.uk>

12 February 2023 at 08:00

in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



Colourised image by Jim Bradshaw

Hi Paul

Welcome to our new look newsletter! We've changed our service provider and it's a whole new editing experience for us. It'll take us a few weeks to settle into our stride - so please bear with us.

Once again our featured place is easily found on the **modern map**, although the entrance is now where the woman and child once stood and the transport parked

outside is of the horseless variety. At the time it was under new management. I wonder how many new managers there have been since then?

This week we have our usual mix of news and events and another reminder about the customer survey. We're sorry the subject keeps coming up but it's very important. We're going to make decisions based on the results so the more of you that express your views the better we can reflect the needs of all members.

It's literally a five-minute job so please, if you haven't already done it, follow the links below to get started. The deadline for submissions is 28 Feb, just over two weeks away.



Have you booked your place yet?

Rootstech 2023 runs from Thursday 2nd to Saturday 4th March and you can attend either in person or virtually. For virtual attendees it's free!

As in previous years, the choice of potential talks you can attend is vast. Anything from "Five Google hacks to decipher your German documents" to "Getting the most out of your family photographs". Talks on DNA are predictably very popular, as are those on getting the most out of the FamilySearch website, Familysearch being one of the main sponsors. There are also beginner and often advanced talks about researching your ancestors in countries across the globe.

In addition to the new content, you can also watch videos of previous conference

talks going back to 2019.

Plenty to get stuck into.

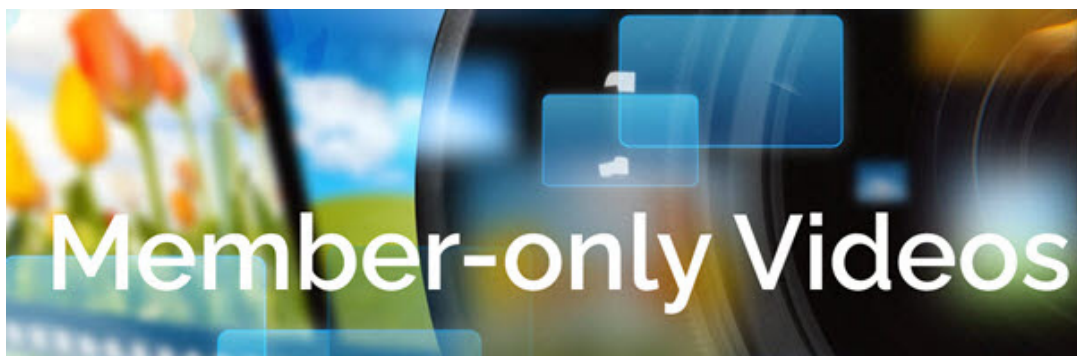
Register here:

<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/home>



Spring has sprung

I mentioned last time that the first snowdrops were appearing. The appearance of spring is a little more advanced in the fens than up here in Northumberland and has now been marked by the appearance of the Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire FHS Spring Journal - available in the exchange journals section of the website.



Video Catch Up

A new video has been added to the members' only free video section *'The Church Missionary Society (CMS) Archives: Searching for Information about your*

Ancestors' with speaker Yetunde Abiola is the latest recorded talk from Windsor Branch.

Founded in 1799, the Church Missionary Society works with Christians around the world. By the end of this video 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.

Log in to the website and choose **Resources** and scroll down to **Talks & Tours - Video**. Not Video Hub - that's where the pay-to-view videos can be found, although now I mention it.....

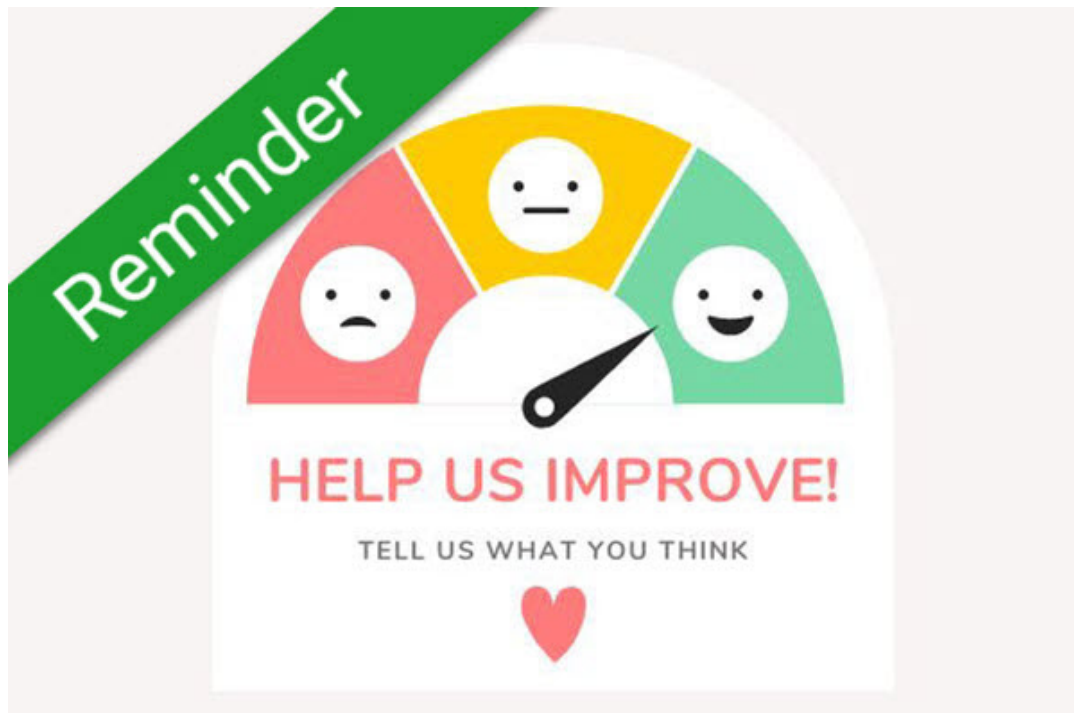


.... Understanding Old Handwriting

One of the topics asked for in the Customer Survey results we've received so far was a talk on palaeography. As luck would have it, the first item in our newly launched Video Hub has a three-part course on that very subject. You get three video workshops of just under two hours each, and course materials such as exercises and worked examples with transcriptions, delivered by the eminent Berkshire-based expert, lecturer and author - Joan Dils.

A three month access pass will cost members £24. (Non members £30).

Now, having mentioned the survey...



... Have you done yours yet?

Thank you everyone who has submitted a response - we really appreciate it - but if you haven't submitted one yet we'd urge you to do so. We need your views on what you want the next five years' services to look like. Your response will help us shape that, so please take the opportunity to tell us what you want.

As an extra thank you there are 10 prizes of £10 vouchers on offer to spend on events or products, and the draw will be held soon after March 7th

You can find the survey here:

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

And you'll need this PIN:

2023



Farewell Amazon Smile

Thank you so much to everyone who signed up to Amazon Smile and listed the society as their beneficiary charity. Whilst it was a fairly small bank transfer that we received from the scheme - nevertheless it was much appreciated and every little helps.

Sadly Amazon has announced that it plans to wind down AmazonSmile by February 20, 2023. It continues to pursue and invest in other charitable programmes.

Events

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



International Research

Computer Branch Meeting

15 Feb 19:30 - 21:30

Online

Short talks on aspects of research in Europe and elsewhere.

Planned talks include France, the Netherlands and Germany.

Tickets cost £5 (members free)

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



The Thames from Oxford to Windsor

Bracknell Branch Meeting with talk by Peter Halman

17 Feb 14:45 - 17:00

**The New Priestwood Community Centre,
Bracknell**

Since the earliest times, the Thames has had a profound influence on historical events and on the lives of those who lived near to the river. The talk will consider the river's role as a political boundary, a means of livelihood, a line of communication, a source of food and more recently, a highly valued social and environmental resource.

Branch library available to members to borrow books. Refreshments available.
Car park outside the hall.

Free to members

We request a donation of £5 from non-members

[Find out more](#)



Abingdon Branch Meeting

20 Feb 19:30 - 21:30

Long Furlong Community Centre, Abingdon

A chance for attendees to talk informally and seek advice about their family history research, break down a brick wall and/or share a eureka moment.

An enjoyable evening where even the most experienced family historian can learn something new.

This meeting is ideal for those new to family history. Tea and Coffee with biscuits are available.

Raffle.

Large free car park adjacent to the hall.

Free to members.

We request a donation of £5 from non-members

Find out more



Titanic Effort! Dash to save a stricken liner

Online talk with speaker: Paul Barnett

23 Feb 14:00 - 15:15

Named after the Carpathian mountain range, RMS Carpathia was a Cunard line transatlantic passenger steamship. It is probably best known for rescuing survivors of the rival White Star Line's RMS Titanic, after the latter struck an iceberg and sank with the loss of between 1,490 and 1,635 people in the North Atlantic Ocean.

In dangerous conditions, the Carpathia navigated the ice fields, managing to arrive two hours after the Titanic had sunk, and enabling the crew to rescue 705 survivors from the ship's lifeboats. In 1918, the Carpathia in turn sank after being torpedoed three times by a German submarine. Find out more in this fascinating talk by Paul Barnett.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4)

Pre-booking required

Book now



Introduction to Irish Records

Reading Branch Meeting and talk with speaker:

Dr James Ryan

23 Feb 19:45 - 21:00

Online

In this comprehensive presentation Dr Ryan will start by outlining the administrative divisions (Barony, Parish, Townland, Poor Law Unions etc.) used for record creation, and the problems caused by variations in family & place names. It will also describe the major Irish archives and libraries, and useful websites and support services (e.g. maps, place names, history).

Having set the context, Dr Ryan will describe the content and availability of major comprehensive records: Griffith Valuation & Tithes; Government Censuses; Civil Birth, Marriage & Death records; and Church records, including their access on free and subscription websites.

Having described these major record types, the talk will then outline other forms of record including: gravestones, commercial and social directories, wills, newspapers, deeds, estate papers and rentals; and published family and local histories. For each Dr Ryan will describe the information contained, and the types of people likely to be mentioned in each form of record. It will also describe the relevance of each record type and how the information can best be used; and detail the availability of each record type and how to access them. This will include both web and other sources. This presentation will be well illustrated with maps and their interaction, with examples of different records and examples of their use.

Free to members

We request a donation of £5 from non-members.

Pre-booking is required

Book now



Tour of Holy Trinity Church, Reading

28 Feb 14:30 - 15:30

Tour Leader: Ron Cutting

Meeting point will be notified within booking process

The society's visits and tours are always very popular. However, our first visit to Holy Trinity, in 2022, was so popular we have repeated it a year later, as we have received so many requests.

Holy Trinity Church stands on the Oxford Road in Reading, about 500 metres west of the town centre. It was built in 1826 as a proprietary chapel, to the designs of local architect Edward Garbett. It appears in one of the earliest photographs ever taken by Henry Fox Talbot, in 1840.

The church is Grade II listed, mainly because of its chancel rood screen designed by Augustus Pugin. However, the church is packed with other fine furnishings. The high altar was designed by Martin Travers and the very tall Queen Anne pulpit, from which both Wesley brothers have preached, was rescued from Oxford. Below, lies its crypt with burial vaults dating back to the earliest years of the building's use.

Churchwarden Ron Cutting will lead this tour. He will explain the history of the church and some of its more prominent parishioners. The tour will include a visit to the very fine and atmospheric crypt, which, for many, will be the highlight of this special visit.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4)

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



Drop In Advice Session

28 Feb 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.

[Find out more](#)



My Ancestor was an Immigrant

Windsor Branch Meeting and talk with

speaker: Sue Gibbons

28 Feb 19:30 - 21:30

Online

This talk covers finding a place of origin; sources for immigrants in the UK and Abroad; contacting relatives and other researchers; translating documents in other languages.

Finding a place of origin refers to tracing the roots of a person's ancestry and determining where their forefathers came from. This can be done through various methods including genealogy research, historical records, and DNA testing.

Sources for immigrants in the UK and abroad refer to the archives, libraries, and other resources that contain information about immigration patterns and the lives of immigrants. These sources can include government records, ship passenger lists, naturalization papers, and census data.

Contacting relatives and other researchers involves reaching out to other people who are also interested in genealogy research, as well as to close relatives who may have personal knowledge or documents that can help in the search.

Translating documents in other languages is important when researching genealogy as many historical records may be written in languages other than

English. Translating these documents can help to gain a deeper understanding of the information contained within them and can help in the search for a person's ancestry.

Free to members

We request a donation of £5 from non-members.

Pre-booking is 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



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