
 In Touch

1 message

Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org>

26 February 2023 at 08:43

in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



Colourised image courtesy of Jim Bradshaw

Hi Paul

This week's featured place took a little more finding on the [modern map](#), mainly because Station Road is nearly 2.5 miles of rural views and lies almost entirely to the north of the village. Still, it was a pleasant virtual stroll. Rose-tinted glasses make it easy to prefer the Edwardian scene over the present day.

We start with a *final* reminder about the customer survey. We're sorry the subject keeps coming up but this is the last time - we promise!



... for the Customer Survey

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. ***The survey closes for submissions on 28th Feb*** and we wouldn't want you to miss out. 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

Please remember:

- It doesn't matter if you have no Berkshire ancestors - we still want to hear from you
- it doesn't matter if you're not an active member of the society - we still want to hear from you
- it does matter that you have your say - we will act on the answers we get
- no response = no influence

You can find the survey here:

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

And you'll need this PIN:

2023



Journal Exchanges

Four more new editions have been added to the website

- Glamorgan FHS
- Highland FHS
- IHGS Journal
- Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society

To view them log in to the website and select **Resources > Other societies' Journals**

space to be left blank for the Chelsea Number.

TERRITORIAL FORCE.

Proceedings on Discharge during the period of Embodiment.

(When forwarded for confirmation these proceedings should be accompanied by the documents specified on the 4th page.)

No. <u>7342</u>	Rank <u>Private</u>
Name <u>Philip & John Basil Rathbone</u> (The name must agree strictly with that on enlistment, unless changed subsequently by authority.)	
Corps of Territorial Force <u>14th Res. Batty London Regt.</u> Battalion, Battery, Company, Depot, &c. <u>London</u> <u>Gottlieb Froy</u> <u>Buckingham Gate.</u>	
Date of discharge	
Place of discharge <u>Gailes.</u>	
1. Description at the time of Discharge.	
Age <u>24</u> years <u>7</u> months	Descriptive marks. <u>Nil</u>
Height <u>6</u> feet <u>7 1/2</u> inches	
Chest { girth when fully expanded <u>44</u> ins.	
measure- { range of expansion <u>2 1/4</u> ins.	
ment	
Complexion <u>Fresh</u>	
Eyes <u>dark</u>	
Hair <u>dark</u>	
Trade <u>actor</u>	
Intended place of residence { <u>24. Henning Ave</u> (To be given as fully as practicable) <u>Wandsworth Common</u> <u>London S.W.</u>	

(This description should be carefully taken on the day the man leaves his unit, but in the case of men sent home from abroad for discharge, the age and intended place of residence should be left blank to be filled in by the Officer who confirms the discharge at home.)

New Berkshire WW2 material on Ancestry

To mark the 80th anniversary of bombing raids in Berkshire on 10th February 1943, the Berkshire Record Office has digitised World War Two material in conjunction with Ancestry UK.

This material is now available to view via the Ancestry website.

There are four new datasets available:

- World War II Civil Defence Records, 1939-1945
- World War II Home Guard Records, 1943-1958
- World War II Related Miscellaneous Records, 1939-1971
- World War II Evacuation Records, 1939-1945

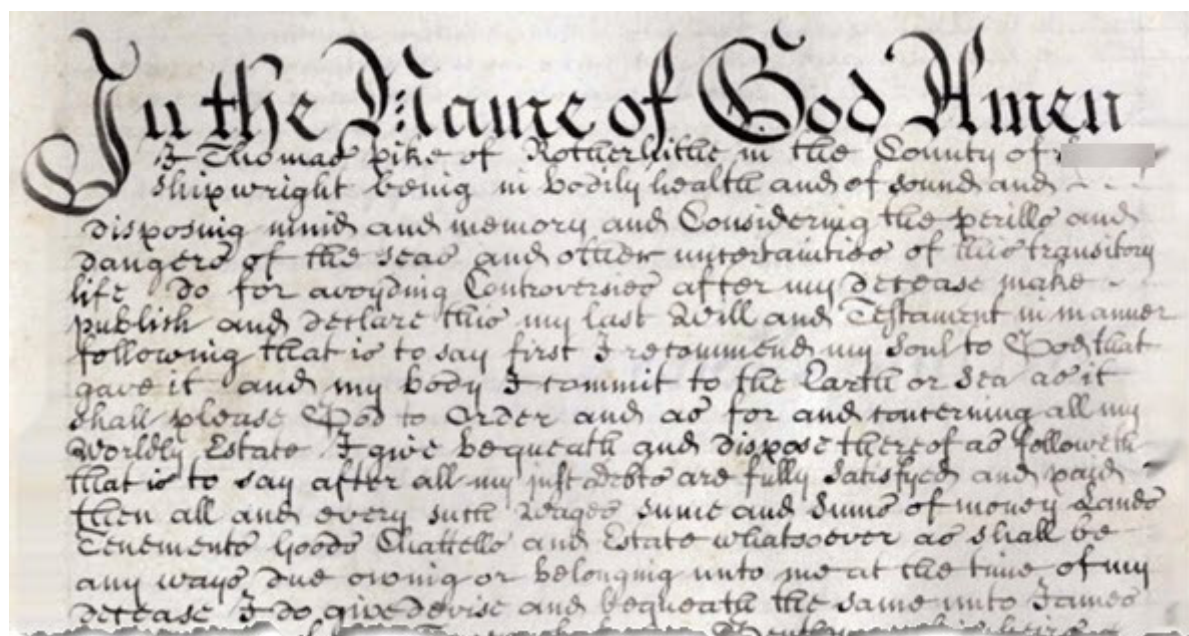
The collection likely to be of most interest to family historians is that relating to the evacuation of people from major cities during the Second World War. The collection includes images of the original documents, which are in various formats with both typed and handwritten information.

About 25,000 children were evacuated from London to Reading between September 1939 and October 1941. By January 1940, about half of the evacuees had returned home because the German bombing raids hadn't occurred. However, after Germany invaded France in the spring of 1940, a second round of evacuations took place during the summer and autumn of that year.

The newly digitised records detail Berkshire's work as a reception area. Besides the attendance registers of evacuated schools, there are files about emergency accommodation, maternity homes, nurseries and hostels.

View them here at:

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/categories/39/>



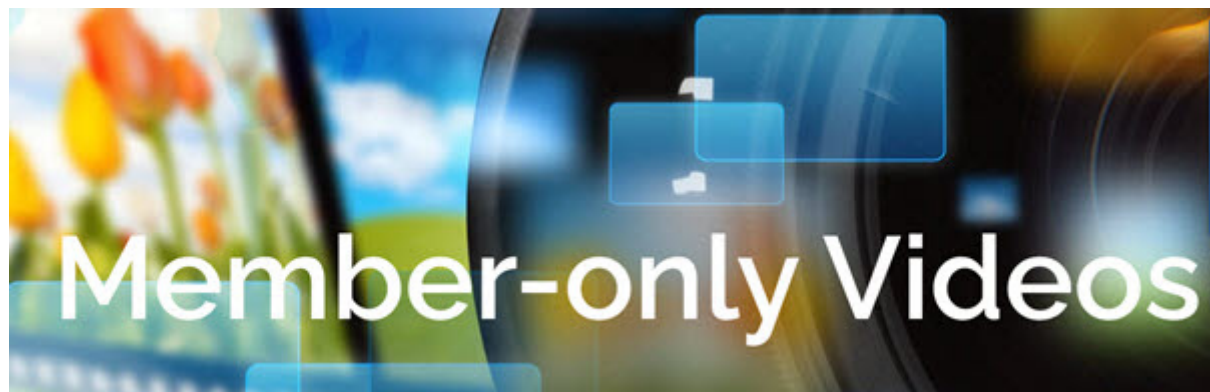
Hampshire Probate records added to Ancestry

Good news for anyone whose family history has crossed the county border into Hampshire.

Family history website Ancestry ([ancestry.co.uk](https://www.ancestry.co.uk)) has added a new collection of 95,154 wills inventories and admon records that were created in Hampshire. These cover the years 1398-1858 and derive from probate records of the church courts of the Winchester Diocese.

The collection includes the original documents which are held at Hampshire Archives and Local Studies.

Find out more about the collection and search here:



New service for members - Berkshire Historic Video Tours

As you are aware, society volunteers regularly organise walks, tours and visits in Berkshire and have been doing so for years. We are regularly asked if there is a way we can share these tours with members who, for varying reasons, are unable to attend them. It is not always practical or feasible to video the actual tour whilst it's in progress, so we have instead come with something a little bit different.

Thanks to the skill and expertise of volunteer videographers, we are aiming to produce short video tours of places of historic interest to family historians interested in Berkshire. Our capacity limits us to around 2 or 3 a year, but we are happy to respond to requests, if we can find a suitably knowledgeable person to front the video.

We are delighted to launch the video tours with one of Reading Old Cemetery. The video can be found in the members' area of the website under Resources/Talks and Tours Videos. "*A Tour of Reading Old Cemetery*" lasts 15 minutes and joins cemetery expert Liz Tait on a walking tour. It's free to members and we hope you enjoy it. Thanks go to Phil Cutting, Liz Tait and Vicki Chesterman for their time and expertise spent putting this together.

You can view the video here (you'll need to be signed in):

<https://berksfhs.org/member-protected-content/member-video/>

If you live within reach of Reading, and would like to see more of the cemetery and hear more from Liz Tait on its history - you may be interested in joining a face-to-face tour we have arranged on 25th April. Find out more here at:

<https://berksfhs.org/events/reading-old-cemetery-tour/?occurrence=2023-04-25>

And for those interested in the rich history of Newbury - there's more!

Phil Cutting, the volunteer videographer who made our first video tour, lives in Newbury and has made several fascinating videos about Newbury's history. These can be seen on his YouTube channel, and the links for individual videos are below.

[Oldest House in Newbury](#)

[Whatever Happened to Jack of Newbury?](#)

[The Legend of Newbury Castle](#)

Enjoy!

Events

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



Drop In Advice Session

Bracknell Branch
28 February 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.

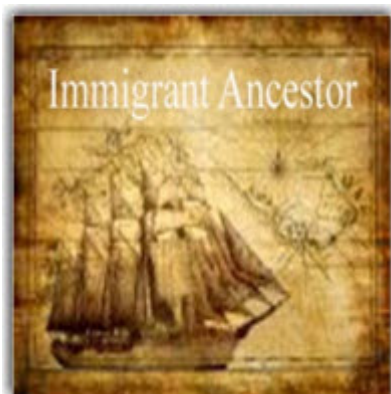
For ALL family historians wherever your ancestors came from.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WOKINGHAM LIBRARY HAS MOVED TO:

Carnival Hub,
Wellington Road,
Wokingham,

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](#)



Online Family History Advice Clinic

06 March 14:00 - 16:00

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

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](#)

Online Beginners’ Family History Course



Tutors: Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens

Six sessions: 19.00 - 21.30

Mar 6, 13, 20, 27 and Apr 3, 17

This course comprises of a series of six workshops for those new to researching family history including where to start, how to progress and good research practice.

Learn how to work with core records of civil registration, censuses, parish registers and modern wills. Discover the different genealogy websites, the content they offer and their strengths and limitations. This course also acts as a good refresher for those wanting to make sure they have covered all the bases.

Tickets cost £35 (members £28)

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



March Natter Group

Discussion Group facilitated by: Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens

07 March 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](#)



After the Great War: History in the 1921 Census

Newbury Branch Meeting and Talk with speaker: Sue Ellis

08 Mar 14:00 - 16:00

West Berkshire Museum

The 1921 census is important for several reasons. For family historians, it's the last publication of a detailed resource for family history research for the next thirty years, and for social historians, it's very informative about the impact of the First World War. Sue Ellis's talk looks at the census from the standpoint of the people living in Newbury and Thatcham in 1921, and examines what the census can tell us about their lives – as well as looking at the census in general, and how to use it for your own research.

This talk is free to members of Berkshire Family History Society but we request a donation of £5 from non-members.

[**Find out more**](#)



Tracks to the Trenches

Talk with speaker: Mike Hurst

09 Mar 14:00 - 15:30

The Centre for Heritage & Family History

An affecting account of railway activities in England and in France during the Great War. This second talk on railways during the war will include the transport and care of the wounded back to Blighty with some focus on South Oxfordshire and West Berkshire. Railways permitted the mass movements of munitions, equipment and men – and the harrowing resulting casualties, many of whom were taken through the Thames Valley.

This is the last of three talks in the First World War Talks series. The other talks take place on 12th January and 9th March. You may book tickets for individual events or for all three talks in the series for a reduced price.

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.

[Book now](#)



Drop In Advice Session

09 Mar 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](#)



Making the most of autosomal DNA Workshop

Tutor: Debbie Kennett

11 March 11:00 - 13:00

The Centre for Heritage & Family History

Have you tested for DNA but are now wondering how to use those results?

This workshop is led by Debbie Kennett, an international DNA expert, and is aimed at individuals who have tested and have results, preferably from Ancestry. The

workshop is a practical session. It is aimed at helping you interpret your DNA results and explaining how to get the most out of your matches. Participants are encouraged to bring along their own results and ask questions.

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
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Registered Charity Number 283010

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