
In Touch

1 message

Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org>

12 March 2023 at 07:43

in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



Bray - The Hinds Head Hotel & The Ringers Pub with St Michael's Church in the background - c.1890

Colourised image courtesy of Graham Nash

Our heritage images of Berkshire continue but with a new contributor this week, Graham Nash. As you can see in [Google Street View](#), the ancient building on the right has been replaced with a modern build that reflects the style of the old. If you look at the gable wall of the building behind it you can see the outline of the previous building's roofline

This week we continue the launch of new products and services. Last time we announced the new [video hub](#). Have you visited yet? This week we have the launch of Berkshire Marriages - 5th Edition and a new Berkshire Names Index for all of our county-wide CDs



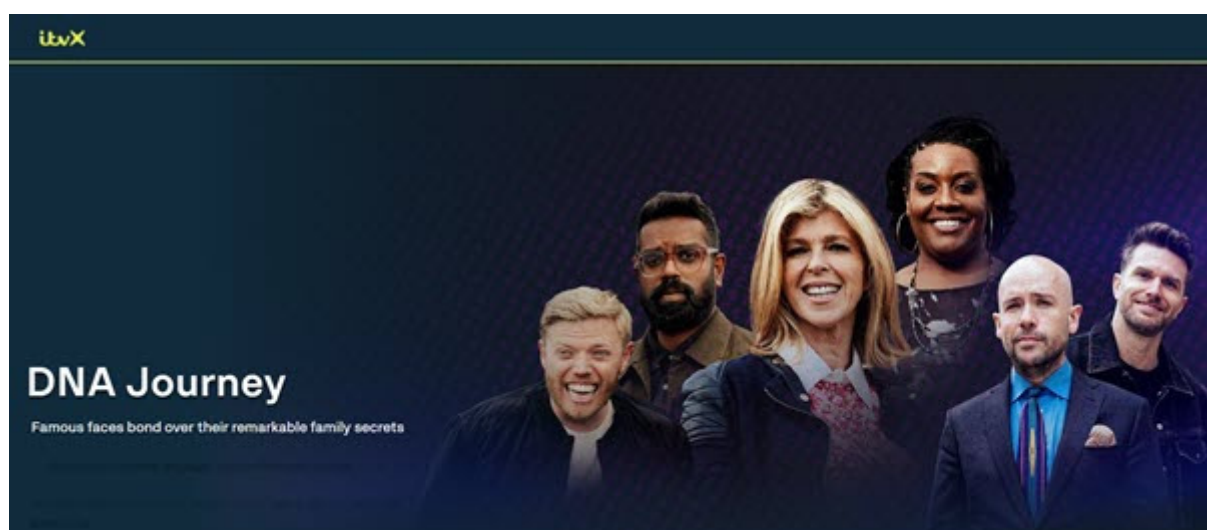
The CWGC's February plea for relatives includes a man buried in Tilehurst St Michael churchyard. Are you related? If so, please get in touch with the CWGC via their website.

Stroud, Cecil William, service number 978951, Gunner in the Royal Artillery, died 26 July 1941

Reason contact sought: the private memorial marking the grave of Gunner Stroud no longer provides adequate commemoration. The Commission is in the process of making a new headstone to mark his grave.

Find out more and get in touch here:

<https://www.cwgc.org/our-work/news/appeal-for-relatives-february-2023>



A new series of ITV's DNA Journey started on ITVM on Tuesday 7th March at 9pm. The series features the following celebrity pairings and promises some extraordinary revelations.

1. Adrian Dunbar & Neil Morrissey
2. Johnny Vegas & Alex Brooker
3. John Bishop & Hugh Bonneville
4. Oti & Motsi Mabuse

You can find out more and watch the previous series at:

<https://www.itv.com/watch/dna-journey/2a5252>

BERKSHIRE MARRIAGES
Fifth Edition
over 270,000 records





Launch - Berkshire Marriages Edition 5 CD

We are delighted to confirm that the Fifth Edition of Berkshire Marriages is now available in the Society's shop.

It contains over 227,000 marriage records, plus more than 44,000 banns records, transcribed from details entered in 235 parish and non-parochial registers of pre-1974 Berkshire. Over 1,000,000 people are named and it is fully indexed. Records date from 1536 - 2010.

The Fifth Edition adds more than 32,000 new marriages, and over 21,000 new banns. Twenty-six parishes appear for the first time.

The CD is priced at £20 (members £18) and can be purchased face-to-face at The Centre for Heritage and Family History or online via the Society's website. We will now start work on producing individual data downloads for the new data sets added and will launch these as soon as they are completed. You can peruse the list of parishes covered in Edition Five and buy your copy here:

Buy now



The society is delighted to announce the launch of its new Berkshire Names Index - which includes four indexes - one each for baptisms, banns, marriages and burials. These indexes are aimed at helping you to track down your elusive ancestors and allow you to identify the products which are most likely to meet your needs.

For many years, our volunteers have diligently transcribed millions of parish records. We make this data accessible in a variety of ways to provide choice - on CD, via Findmypast, and in PDF Downloads (available as soon as you have completed your

purchase).

The society's county-wide CDs have been particularly popular. They are fully indexed which makes finding your ancestors as they migrated from village to village relatively easy. It's amazing how far some of them travelled.

As the next step in making the society's transcriptions more accessible, you can now access the county-wide indexes for baptisms, banns, marriages and burials on the society's website. You'll find them in the Resources section and you don't even have to be signed in to use them.

So, if you're looking for an ancestor named Ann Pocock – these will list the occurrences across the county, the year and the parish.

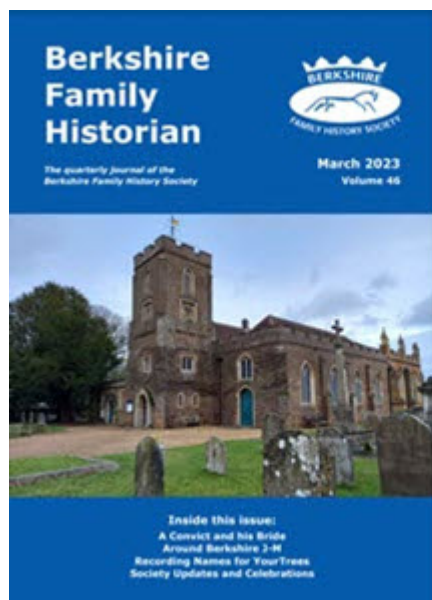
Once you have found it in the index, the full entry, usually giving details such as the name of parents, name of spouse, occupation, age, address etc, can be viewed in the relevant county-wide CD.

Alternatively, if PDF Downloads better meet your need, check the availability for the parish in question and, if published, you'll find the same full entry there as well. The majority of parishes in our county-wide CDs are also available in download format, but some are still a work in progress. So please bear with us.

We hope you find these indexes a real asset in tracking down your elusive ancestors and allow you to identify the products which are most likely to meet your needs.

Happy hunting!

[View Berkshire Names Index](#)



Featured articles

- A Convict and his Bride
- Around Berkshire J-M
- Recording Names for Your Trees
- Society Updates and Celebrations

March 2023 Historian available to view online

If the vagaries of the postal system mean that your copy of the March 2023 edition of the Berkshire Family Historian hasn't arrived yet or if you prefer to read a full colour edition, head on over to the website where you'll find a digital version you can download.

[View Berkshire Family Historian](#)

Events

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



Steps towards DNA

Computer Branch Meeting
15 March 19:30 - 21:30

Online

An explanation of DNA testing and experience and successes of using DNA testing for genealogy.

Free to members.

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

[Book now](#)



Blotters, Boards and Banknotes

**Bracknell Branch Meeting with talk
by Sheila Viner
17 March 14:45 - 17:00**

**The New Priestwood Community
Centre, Bracknell**

In this talk you will learn about Berkshire's historic enterprises which led to worldwide industries. Where blotting paper was created, the first banknotes were made and several items for the home were devised – and more – all manufactured through our local watermills.

East Hagbourne Mill. Photograph by Arthur Lowe.

Free to members.

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

[Find out more](#)



WW1 Royal Flying Corps Records Workshop

**Tutor: Richard Marks
18 March 11.00 - 13.00**

Online

The Great War of 1914-18 saw the first use of aircraft in warfare and the British Royal Flying Corps playing an important role throughout.

In this workshop, we will start by looking at what the Royal Flying Corps was. We will also examine how it related to the Royal Naval Air Service prior to the amalgamation of the two into the RAF in 1918. We will then go on to investigate how the family historian can discover what their relative did in the RFC. Including – their experiences, their aircraft, what records may be available and where to find them.

This workshop was originally advertised for 21st January, but has been rescheduled to this date.

Tickets cost £10 (members £9)

Pre-booking required

Book now



Royal Women

**Abingdon Branch Meeting with talk
by Catherine Sampson
20 March 19:30 - 21:45**

Long Furlong Community Centre, Abingdon

This talk explores the lives of three Royal women from the Tudor Court – Catherine of Aragon, Anne of Cleves and Lady Katherine Knollys. Two well-known, one less so. All survived the potentially life-threatening difficulties they faced by largely utilising strategies learnt during their own childhoods. We will also explore their Berkshire connections which includes, in one case, a sojourn at Abingdon Abbey.

Tea / Coffee and biscuits available

Raffle

Large free car park adjacent to hall

Free to members.

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

[Find out more](#)



WW2 Navy Records Workshop

Tutor: Richard Marks
22 April 11:00 - 13:00

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

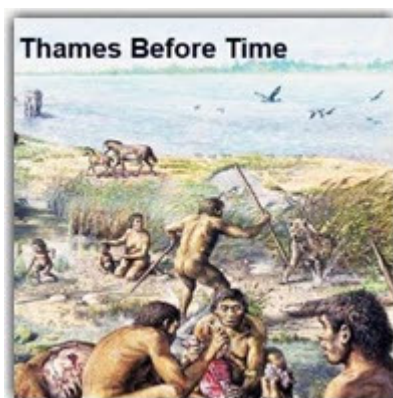
This workshop is designed for family historians who are researching their relatives who served in the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines, the Fleet Air Arm or the Women's Royal Naval Service in World War Two. We will look at the ranks, roles and divisions of each service, the ships and aeroplanes they served on, and what that meant to the lives of the people who served. This will help researchers gain an understanding of what family relatives were doing during World War Two. Attendees will also have the opportunity to ask questions pertinent to their own research.

After the talk, tea/coffee and cake will be available (included in the price).

Tickets cost £10 (members £9)

Pre-booking is required

[Book now](#)



The Thames Before Time

Talk with speaker: Rob Wallace
23 March 14:00 - 15:15

Online

Berkshire is privileged to have a close relationship with the River Thames. But what is the history of the river and its people, fauna and the landscape?

This talk looks at the way the river and the physical and human landscape have changed over the last two million years from the earliest inhabitants to the start of modern history. From the elephants who lived here 800,000 years ago, when it was a lot warmer, to the archaeological evidence of early settlements, find out more in this fascinating talk.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4)

Pre-booking is required

[Book now](#)



Huntley and Palmers Walkabout

24 March 10:00 - 12:30

Walk with guide: Terry Dixon

Starting point: To be advised

Final ticket!

Join experienced guide and historian Terry Dixon for his new Huntley & Palmers (H&P) 200th anniversary walkabout. During the walk, Terry will tell a biscuit themed story from Roman times to the present. It will feature the H&P people, and their significant influence on Reading, biscuits, factories, buildings and and so much more. The walk will finish at the Museum of English Rural Life where you can stop for a biscuit and a drink. Please note the end point is 1 mile from the start point.

The walk will be around 2 1/2 hours in length. Attendees will be notified of the meeting point, by email, approximately a week beforehand.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4)

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



Berkshire Family History Society
for family history research - in Berkshire and beyond

The Centre for Heritage and Family History
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Registered Charity Number 283010

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