

in touch



Berkshire Family History Society
for family historians, wherever you are



Streatley Watermill c. 1900

Colourised image courtesy of Jim Bradshaw

Hi

Following the Leckhampstead pond mystery, a member asked if we were going to feature any water mills. Your wish is granted because Jim Bradshaw has two images

of Streatley Watermill in his collection. You can see the other one over in the forum but I chose this one because a mirrored image is always good, when the waters are as in this case literally as still as a mill pond. But it's also a testament to Jim's prowess at colourisation - to accurately reflect the colours when the mirrored effect you're working on is effectively artificial.

The mill was mentioned in the Domesday book but was destroyed in a fire in 1926. You can read more about it on the excellent [Goring Gap History website](#)

As far as the modern view is concerned, the only view of the site on StreetView is [here](#) but if you're prepared to do a little work, there's another perspective available that those of you who attended our workshop on "Getting to know the Maps website" will have learned all about - the ability to overlay contemporary maps with today's satellite imagery. Again, you can learn more about that over in the forum.

If you want to know more about how the maps website works but were unable to attend the live session, you can buy an access pass to the recorded talk - see below

[Discuss on the Forum](#)



Getting the Most out of the Maps Website - Craig Statham

The latest in our series of premium video talks is available to subscribe and stream.

If you like to better understand the lives of your ancestors and enjoy old maps - you will almost certainly enjoy this workshop! It explores the country's foremost online map collection. The National Library of Scotland, which hosts the maps website, holds over two million cartographic items, making it the largest collection of maps in Scotland and one of the largest in the world. There are several separate collections of maps within the library's holdings, namely the Bartholomew Archive and the Graham Brown Collection. There are maps relating to many different kinds of

landscapes, such as estates, counties, railways, maps which show the trenches of World War I, and alpine areas.

Craig Statham, takes us on a tour of the maps, shows how they can help us understand the environment our ancestors lived in, and explains how to get the most information from them.

£5 for three month access pass (Members: £4 with coupon)

[Subscribe and view](#)



Exchange Journals

More new editions and 6 more new exchanges, bringing the total to 46

Aberdeen & North-East Scotland FHS

Barnsley FHS

Bradford FHS **(new!)**

Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire FHS

Dyfed FHS

East Yorkshire FHS

Eastbourne & District FHS

Gladstone Genealogy

Highland FHS

Newfoundland and Labrador FHS

New Zealand FHS **(new!)**

Norfolk FHS

Ontario Genealogical Society **(new!)**

Queensland Family History Society **(new!)**

... and staying in Queensland, where they are obviously very competitive! ...

Queensland Genealogical Society *(new!)*

Society of Genealogists - *March edition plus five newly received issues going back to Dec 2021*

Suffolk FHS

Victoria Genealogical Society *(new!)*

[Go to exchange journals index](#)



IT refresh at The Centre

We know from the recent Customer Survey that the Research Zone at The Centre is valuable to local users and to members from further afield who view us as a 'destination resort'. We're therefore delighted to tell you that we've had there's a tech refresh underway at the Centre.

- Newly upgraded, more powerful PCs are now available for visitors
- New menu screens make it easier to find resources and search our catalogues of books, microfiche and data sets
- FMP is available on up to four of the PCs at a time, and all can access Ancestry and The Genealogist
- Access to the British Newspaper Archive is available from one PC with a larger screen to make it easier to view newsprint
- Solid State Drives mean fast access times to the Society's data sets while on site - *please note we don't allow downloads to external devices/services*

So, there's never been a better time to visit

Opening hours

 Day	 Time
Mondays* <i>*except public/bank holidays</i>	10:30 - 15:00
Tuesdays	10:30 - 16:00
Third and last Thursdays of the month Except 15th June when we will be CLOSED. Open 22nd June instead	10:30 - 16:00
First Saturday of the month	10:30 - 14:30



Society Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th June at 7.30pm, via Zoom.

This is a great opportunity to join this important part of the governance of the Society - whether it's your 48th AGM or 1st! Meet other members of the Society, hear about the Society during 2022/2023 and find out the plans ahead. Questions and debate is encouraged. We welcome all members, wherever you may live.

Following the Society business there will be a talk by genealogist, Christopher

Broom. 'Why Family History Matters', is a talk that promotes the numerous benefits of family history research, while also encouraging attendees to reflect on the unique sequence of events leading to their own birth, the many challenges faced by their ancestors and the importance of documenting their own lives.'

Places must be booked in advance. If there are two members within your household, please book two places. Booking will close 2 days before the AGM.

[Book your place](#)



New Series of Who Do You Think You Are?

Keep an eye on the TV schedules as from early June *Who Do You Think You Are?* will return to BBC One, for a nine-part series (its 20th) once again following celebrities as they each delve into unknown family ancestry.

With discoveries ranging from clog-wearing rope dancers and Scottish royalty to murder trials and tragic accidents, the celebrities' journeys take them across the UK as well as to Ireland, the Netherlands, Canada, Jamaica and Australia in pursuit of the truth behind their family stories.

And this series participants – some surprising big names as well as some lesser known: Andrew Lloyd Webber, Emily Atack, Claire Foy, Lesley Manville, Kevin Clifton, Dev Griffin, Chris Ramsey, Chris and Xand van Tulleken, and Bear Grylls.

Find out more here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/2023/who-do-you-think-you-are-return>

Events

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



The History of the Gas Industry in Berkshire

Thu 25 May 14:00 - 15:15

Talk by Jo Alexander Jones

Online

From the 1820s, gas technology was being adopted as a lighting, and latterly heating and cooking, resource. This talk looks at the growth of the gas industry in Berkshire, using the Reading Gas Company as an example of how the industry developed, the locations it used, and the impact that gas had on the area's population.

Image: Reading Gas Holder before its demolition, image courtesy of Jo Alexander-Jones.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4).

Pre-booking required.

Book now

A light overview of the English in India, 1600's through to 1947

Thu 25 May 19:45 - 21:00

Reading Branch Annual Meeting with talk by Jeremy James Heath-



Caldwell

The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints, Tilehurst

Lots of young British men went to India to make money. As a result the East India company grew and took over the Indian subcontinent although there was probably never an intention to do so.

Join us for an evening learning about why the English were in India.
Free parking.

This talk will follow our short Branch Annual Meeting (BAM).

Image: India, 1849 – British Library, No restrictions, via Wikimedia Commons.

Free to members.

Pre-booking is preferred but not essential.

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

[Book now](#)



Drop In Advice Session

Tue 30 May 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.

No booking is required
Free to all

[Find out more](#)



Irish wills and testamentary records

Tue 30 May 19:30 - 21:30

**Windsor Branch Annual Meeting with talk
by Natalie Bodle**

Online

Although many wills were destroyed in 1922, there are still surviving records and this talk will examine where you may find the wills themselves or transcripts and abstracts that will help to build your family tree. It will include records to be found in the different jurisdictions of Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland as well within UK records.

This talk will be followed by our short Branch Annual Meeting (BAM).

Free to members.
Pre-booking is required.
We request a donation of £5 from non-members.

[Book now](#)

Online Family History Advice Clinic

Mon 05 Jun 14:00 - 16:00
See below for slot times



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

Pre-booking is required because full joining instructions will be emailed to attendees in advance. You will also be asked to confirm the advice you are seeking, so that we can make the session as useful as possible for you. Bookings close one week before the event.

Free to all

[Book now](#)



Annual General Meeting

Wed 07 June 19:00 for 19:30 start

Online

Berkshire Family History Society's Annual General Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 7th June at 7.30pm**, via Zoom.

Following the Society business there will be a talk by genealogist, Christopher Broom. 'Why Family History Matters', is a talk that promotes the numerous benefits of family history research, while also encouraging attendees to reflect on the unique sequence of events leading to their own birth, the many challenges faced by their ancestors and the importance of documenting their own lives.'Places must be booked in advance. If there are two members within your household, please book two places. Booking will close 2 days before the AGM.

This is a great opportunity for those of you who haven't previously been able to attend an AGM, to join this important part of the governance of the society. Meet other members of the society, hear about the society during 2022/2023 and find out the plans ahead. Questions and debate is encouraged. We welcome all members, wherever you may live.

Details allowing you to join the meeting will be sent to you on Monday 5th June, along with the relevant paperwork, but only if you have booked a place before Sunday 4th June.

Please Note: This meeting will be recorded for the benefit of members who are unable to attend the live session.

Free to members.

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

[Book now](#)

That was just a small selection from our extensive events programme

[Click here for the full programme](#)

Our events routinely sell out -

book early to secure your place



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