

In Touch

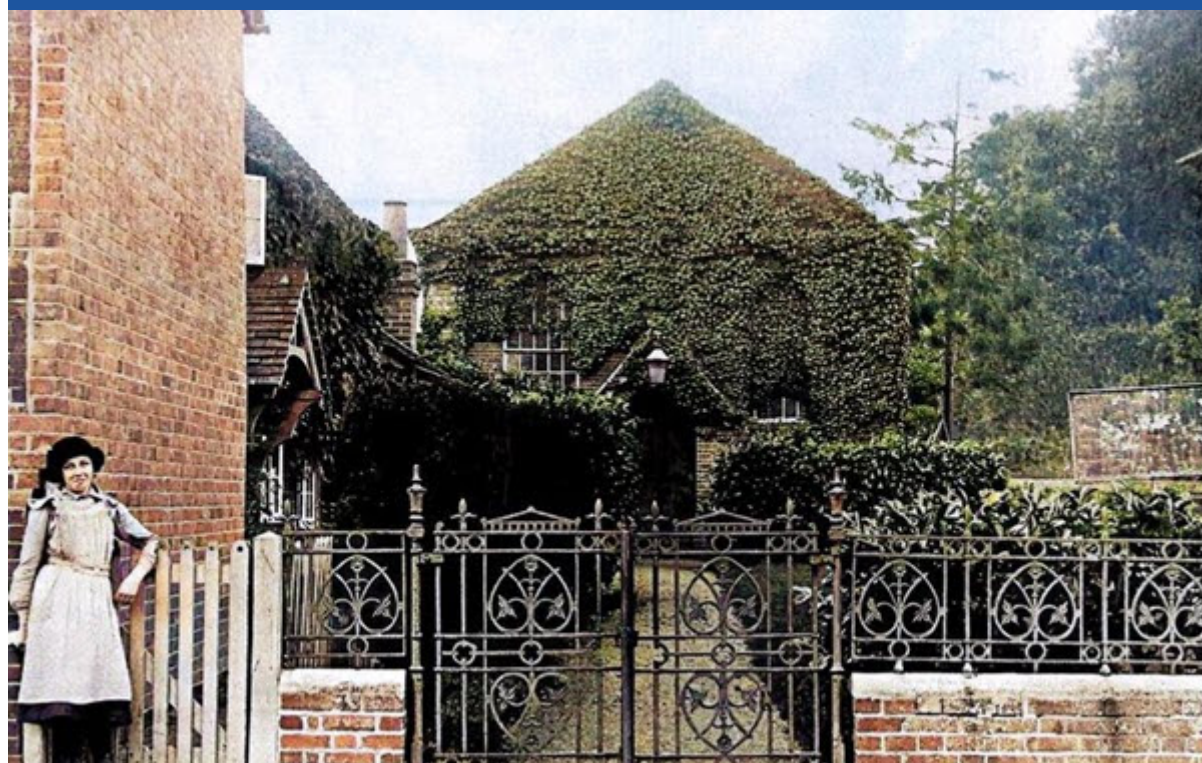
Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org.uk>

4 June 2023 at 08:26

in touch



Berkshire Family History Society
for family historians, wherever you are



Thatcham Wesleyan Chapel opened in the summer of 1834 in what had previously been an old
brush turnery in Chapel Street

Colourised image courtesy of Jim Bradshaw

Hi

I'm channeling my inner Victor Meldrew this week* - in fact I think a DNA test might be in order because I'm sure there's a genetic disposition to the grumps. It's recognisably the same place but there are few redeeming features about the [modern](#)

[view](#) compared to the one above other than the removal of the ivy from the building facade. The congregation must have suffered for their faith, with light blocked from much of the windows.

It's another interesting study in the features of the maps website, especially if you overlay today's [satellite imagery](#) with the OS 25 inch map from 1892-1914. If you move the opacity slider to hide/reveal the old map, you'll see the explosion of housing in the past century. Don't believe it? Welcome to the 'Victor Meldrew Impersonators Society.'

Elsewhere there's a reminder about our AGM and this year sees the return of an accompanying talk - details below. For those of you who've been members for a few years, a reminder that it's time to renew and some information on a new option during renewal.

**If overseas members are unfamiliar with Victor, let Google and YouTube be your friend*



The poster features a central image of a hand placing a wooden block with the letter 'A' on top of two other blocks labeled 'G' and 'M', forming the acronym 'AGM'. The background of this image is a soft-focus landscape with a body of water and a distant shoreline.

Come and meet other members of the society and hear about what's happening during 2022/2023

Following the AGM it's 'Why Family History Matters' a talk by genealogist, Christopher Broom

We look forward to seeing you

Wednesday 7th June
7.00pm for a 7.30pm start

Berkshire Family History Society's Annual General Meeting

BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
berksfhs.org/whats-on

BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, READING CENTRAL LIBRARY, ABBEY SQUARE, READING, BERKSHIRE, RG1 3BQ. CHARITY NO: 283010

Annual General Meeting

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

If you haven't yet booked your place, there is still time to do so.

This is a great opportunity to join this important part of the governance of the Society - whether it's your 40th 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.

You can read and download the papers for this year's AGM **and submit advance questions here:**

<https://berksfhs.org/2023-agm-documents/>

Book your place [here](#)



Exchange Journals

More new editions and another new exchange, bringing the total to 47

Botany Bay FHS

Bradford FHS

British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa **(new!)**

City of York FHS

Isle of Wight FHS

Lancashire FH & Heraldry Society

Richmond-Tweed FHS, Ballina, NSW

Shropshire FHS

[Go to exchange journals index](#)

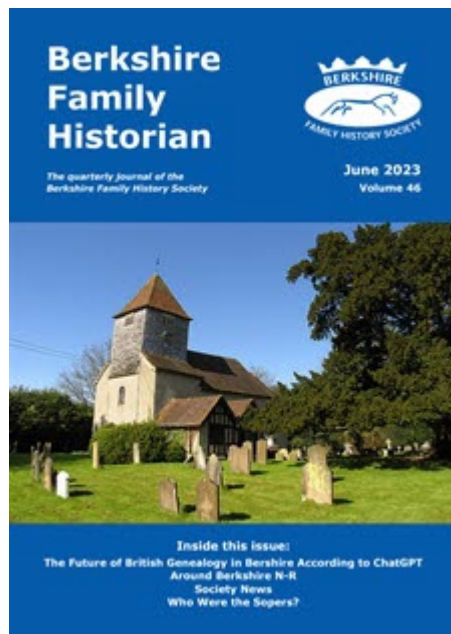


If you joined the society before we introduced flexible renewal based on your joining date, a couple of years ago, then renewal season is upon us. If you haven't already received an automated reminder, you will in the next few weeks as our system sends them out in batches to spread the load.

If you want to renew before you receive your reminder, please go ahead - your existing term will be extended by a full year regardless of when you renew. [Click here to renew now \(you'll need to log in\).](#)

We've simplified the process a little more this year and we've added a new option for you to choose between a paper or digital copy of The Historian. This is in response to the customer survey in which preference between paper and digital was evenly divided. You'll see the option when you renew. If your renewal is not due until later in the year or you change your mind at any time [you can make/amend your choice on your profile page \(login required\)](#). (You'll find the option at the bottom of the profile page)

June 2023 Historian is out



It will shortly be arriving in your mail.

Production was already at an advanced stage when the new option for a digital copy was introduced to the renewal form, so this quarter everyone will receive a copy. But if yours hasn't arrived yet or you want to read the digital version now in full colour, you'll find it here:

<https://berksfhs.org/june-2023/>



New Marriage & Banns Data Downloads

We're delighted to announce the launch of more Berkshire data which can be downloaded from our online shop.

Data downloads were developed and originally launched in 2020, to provide choice, flexibility and instant access in how you access data for Berkshire. The downloads are in PDF format and your purchase is automatically fulfilled as soon as you have paid. Ts & Cs apply and these downloads are for your personal use only.

Prices vary but start from just £2.00. The usual member discounts apply.

Over the coming months, each fortnight we will gradually release the next tranche of marriage records and, for the first time, also banns records in download format.

Marriage and Banns entries are presented in alphabetical and date order. If you're interested in a number of parishes, the [Berkshire Marriages Fifth Edition CD](#) may be better value.

The first batch of 18 downloads is now available (click the links below) and more will be released shortly. Keep an eye on the website and the newsletters.

[Ascot, South All Souls Marriages \(Download\) D1475](#)
[Beenham St Mary Marriages \(Download\) D1863 Part 2 of 2](#)
[Blewbury St Michael Marriages \(Download\) D1864 Part 3 of 3](#)
[Blewbury St Michael Marriages \(Download\) D1876 Part 2 of 3](#)
[Caversham St Andrew Marriages \(Download\) D1838](#)
[Chilton All Saints Marriages \(Download\) D1500](#)
[Hendred, West Holy Trinity Marriages \(Download\) D1531](#)
[Hermitage Holy Trinity Marriages \(Download\) D1849](#)
[Kingston Lisle St John the Baptist Marriages \(Download\) D1542](#)
[Longworth St Mary Marriages \(Download\) D1566](#)
[Newbury St Nicolas Marriages \(Download\) D1175 Part 2 of 2](#)
[Newbury St Nicolas Marriages \(Download\) D1878 Part 1 of 2](#)
[Reading White Eagle Lodge Marriages \(Download\) D1364](#)
[Shefford, East St Thomas Marriages \(Download\) D1868 Part 2 of 2](#)
[Twyford St Mary Marriages \(Download\) D1441](#)
[Winkfield St Mary Marriages \(Download\) D1874 Part 2 of 2](#)
[Winnersh St Mary the Virgin Marriages \(Download\) D1464](#)
[Woodley St John Marriages \(Download\) D1471](#)



Who Do You Think You Are?

We announced the launch of series 20 in our last newsletter but we've included it again, in brief, as we now have timings for it. You can catch the series on BBC1 at

9pm on Thursdays. The first episode was on Thursday 1st and focused on Andrew Lloyd Webber's journey of discovery, the actor Claire Foy is up next.

If you missed the first episode - you can catch it on iplayer* here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m001mgp3/who-do-you-think-you-are-series-20-1-andrew-lloyd-webber>

**UK viewers only, although if you know how to use a VPN with a UK endpoint, that might work*

Find out more here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001mn0q/episodes/guide>

Events

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



June Natter Group

Tue 06 June 18:45 for 19:00

Discussion Group facilitated by: Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens

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



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.

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 are encouraged. We welcome all members, wherever you may live.

- Bookings close one **hour** before the meeting.
- Joining instructions will be sent on Monday 5th June to those who booked on or before Sunday 4th.
- If you book Mon - Weds, you'll receive the Zoom link in your booking confirmation.
- AGM documents can be access using the green button below
- This year we have added the facility to submit questions in advance.
 - Live questions will be welcomed too but advance questions allow us to answer more fully
 - Click the green button below if you would like to do this

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

Free to members.

Pre-booking required.

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

[Book now](#)

[View documents and submit advance questions](#)



Drop In Advice Session

Thu 08 Jun 14:00 - 17:00
Bracknell Branch

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](#)



Tilehurst in World War Two

Thu 08 Jun 14:00 - 15:30
Talk by Mike Cooper

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

Was there any such thing as an "ordinary" community in WW2? Mike Cooper looks at the experience of Tilehurst from newspaper and official records. Tilehurst was bombed, saw the arrival of US airborne troops, raised a Home Guard company and its people welcomed evacuees. From as early as October 1939, the village suffered losses and was also organised as part of Civil Defence and food production.

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

Image: Tilehurst War Memorial by Des Blenkinsopp – cropped – CC-BY-SA-2.0

Tickets cost £5 (members £4).

Pre-booking is preferred, but you can pay on the door, if there are spaces available.

[Book now](#)



A practical introduction to tracing WW1 soldiers

Wed 14 Jun 14:00 - 16:00

**Newbury Branch meeting with speaker:
Mike Cooper**

West Berkshire Museum

There are many sources of information available to anyone who is researching British Army ancestors or local figures involved in the First World War. This talk will take a practical approach and is an introduction to understanding and using the main sources of information readily available.

The talk is designed for those researching WW1 records for the first time, and will take a practical approach to

- Managing expectations and planning your “campaign”
- Understanding the context of what you find
- Understanding medal and Service records and War Diaries
- Using photographs and trench maps

Mike has had a lifelong interest in history, especially military and local history. Following a history degree at the University of Reading he worked as a librarian, with both the University and Reading Library. In addition to work on librarianship, he has had three books on the history of Reading published.

Free to members.

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

Photograph from the collections of the British Library.

[Find out more](#)



More than Biscuits, Beer and Bulbs *Reading's Other Industries*

Fri 16 Jun 14:45 - 17:00

**Bracknell Branch Meeting with speaker:
Jo Alexander Jones**

The New Priestwood Community Centre

1920's Huntley, Boorne & Stevens Ltd – Tin Works

While Reading is rightly renowned for its baking, brewing and seed businesses, the town had many lesser-known industries that brought with them prosperity and just as importantly jobs for the wider population.

In a time when most companies were privately owned, we will explore a number of these companies and the people who owned them covering industries such as printing, ironworking and brickmaking; names like Cox and Wyman, Katesgrove Foundry and Poulton's Waterloo Kiln Brickworks.

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](#)

Family History Advice Clinic

Thu 22 Jun - Session times:

11:00 - 11:30

11:45 - 12:30

13:45 - 14:30



The Centre for Heritage & Family History

Just beginning your family history research and need some advice? Baffled by so many competing research websites? Banging your head against a brick wall? Or struggling with some other issues? In this one-to-one session, one of our seasoned advisors will help you make some progress.

To make the most of your session our advisors will carry out some preliminary research beforehand, and for that we need you provide us with some information please:

- to tell us what you've done so far
- describe the nature of the problem
- attach copies of any key documents such as BMD certificates, research notes
- if possible, provide a link to a family tree we can view (members – if your tree has been uploaded to YourTrees, that would be perfect) or at least attach a copy of a hand drawn tree of the immediate family of the people you're researching

After you've booked you'll be taken to a page where you can enter that information. You can do it later but it's much better to prepare that material now and complete the form while you're at the keyboard and the topic is fresh in your mind.

Bookings close 7 days before the session to give us time to research your submission. But every extra day helps, as we're manned solely by part-time volunteers so the earlier you book, the better.

These sessions are face-to-face and free to everyone

[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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