

In Touch

1 message

Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org.uk>

18 June 2023 at 08:02

in touch



Berkshire Family History Society
for family historians, wherever you are



East Garston station by Henry Taunt taken from the church tower.

Colourised image courtesy of Jim Bradshaw

Hi

This week's featured image is of East Garston station by Henry Taunt taken from the church tower. The railway station opened in 1898 on the Lambourn Valley Line and mainly carried dairy products, especially milk churns. The single line track originally passed a 9 inch high platform and there was no building, which was ideally suited to loading milk churns from wagons. Manor Farm was and still is adjacent to the station site. Was the station site chosen for that reason? The line was upgraded

starting in 1907 with the addition of higher platforms and buildings on several stations, so we know that this photo post dates that.

The line was closed in 1960 - pre Beeching - and today the track bed has become the Lambourn Valley footpath - all traces of the station were demolished long ago. If you look on the NLS maps website and use the slider, you can [see the preserved tree-lined route of the railway](#). The old map even shows the pond in the photo.

You can also find a lot of info including more photos on the [Disused Stations website](#)



If you joined the society before we introduced flexible renewal based on your joining date a couple of years ago, then it's time for renewal. In the next few weeks, our system will send automated reminders in batches to distribute the load. If you haven't received a reminder yet, you will soon.

If you prefer, you can renew before receiving the reminder. Regardless of when you renew, your existing term will be extended by a full year. To renew now, [click here](#) (login required).

This year, we have simplified the process even further and introduced a new option. You can now choose between receiving a paper or digital copy of The Historian. This change was made based on the results of a customer survey, where preferences between paper and digital were evenly divided. When you renew, you will see the option to make your choice. If your renewal is due later in the year or if you change your mind, you can always update your preference on [your profile page](#) (login required). The option can be found at the bottom of the profile page.

Please note that this reminder is part of a general newsletter sent to all members. The newsletter application doesn't know if you've already renewed, so if you have, there's no need to do so again. Not sure if you have? You can check your membership profile page (subscription tab) to see your transactions.



New Marriage & Banns Data Downloads - Part 2

This week we bring you news of the latest new data downloads which can be purchased 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 second 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.

- [Aldworth St Mary Marriages \(Download\) D1049](#)
- [Ardington Holy Trinity Marriages 1607-1837 \(Download\) D1066](#)
- [Shefford Woodlands St Stephen Marriages \(Download\) D1369](#)
- [Wittenham, Long St Mary Marriages \(Download\) D1467](#)
- [Hendred, East St Augustine Marriages \(Download\) D1530](#)
- [Moreton, North All Saints Marriages \(Download\) D1556](#)
- [Earley St Peter Marriages \(Download\) D1845](#)
- [Wokingham Salvation Army Hall Marriages \(Download\) D1857](#)
- [Bray St Michael Marriages \(Download\) D1865 Part 2 of 2](#)
- [Shefford, West Methodist Church Marriages \(Download\) D1372](#)

[Spencers Wood United Reform Church Marriages \(Download\) D1384](#)

[Wantage St Peter & St Paul Marriages \(Download\) D1450](#)

[Letcombe Regis St Andrew Marriages \(Download\) D1548](#)

[Bourton St James Marriages \(Download\) D1836](#)

[Caversham St John Marriages \(Download\) D1840](#)

[Inglesham St John the Baptist Marriages \(Download\) D1853](#)

[Sunningdale Holy Trinity Marriages \(Download\) D1856](#)

[Wokingham St Paul Marriages \(Download\) D1858](#)



Let's reprise those articles

It's June, and as well as the new Historian edition being available, it's also time to reprise the articles from the June 2022 Historian and release them into the wild of the public internet

[Can Anyone Have a Coat of Arms?](#)

Hilary Waller answers the question

[Sydney Joseph Rosier](#)

Ruth Robinson shares the life of her great grandfather

[Busting a Gut in Warsaw, Łódź and Łomża – Polish Ancestral Tourism – Part 3](#)

Leigh Dworkin Chairman Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain (JGSGB) and Berks FHS Windsor Branch Chairman, continues his (mis)adventures in Poland

WE NEED YOU

Help Wanted

The Projects & Publications team is in need of some extra help from someone who has experience with MySQL.

The Society transcribes parish registers into Excel spreadsheets which are then loaded into mySQL databases from which we produce reports that form the basis of our CDs. Periodically, we then upload some of this data to Findmypast (FMP).

We already have one volunteer who is working on uploading data to FMP, however we are seeking someone else with mySQL skills to help share the task load as we have a lot of entries we wish to share with them.

The tasks include:

- Reformat the data to match FMP requirements and our previous submissions.
- Filter out events less than 100 years old (baptisms), 85 years old (marriages & banns), 50 years old (burials).
- Filter out events for parishes which have not given permission for online publication.
- Remove addresses from any event less than 100 years old.
- Filter out any records we have previously sent to FMP.
- Add security features so we can prove copyright should our data appear elsewhere.
- Provide reports such as number of records per parish.
- Upload batch to FMP as mySQL data export.

Help and guidance are available.

If you can help, please contact Tony Wright at projects@berksfhs.org.uk



The latest batch of Exchange Journals

Another new one this week

- Glamorgan FHS
- Hillingdon FHS
- International Society for British Genealogy and Family History
- New Zealand Society of Genealogists
- Society of Genealogists
- St Louis Genealogical Society (Missouri) (*new!*)

Where are we up to now? 48! That's also the number of years we've been in operation. In those days the only way you'd get to see an Exchange Journal would be by visiting the office in person. Now you don't even have to get up off the sofa!

Events

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

Branch Meeting

Mon 19 Jun 19:30 - 21:30
Abingdon Branch



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.

Visitors and Non-Members are welcome.

Free to members.

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

[Find out more](#)



Crime spree 2: Law enforcement

Wed 21 Jun 19:30 - 21:30

Computer Branch Meeting and talk by the members

Online

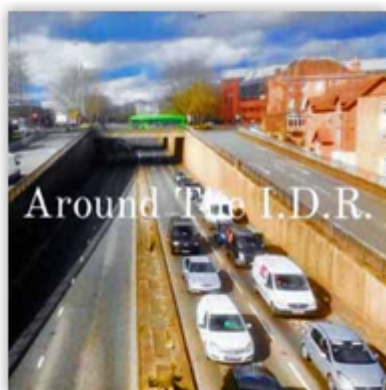
A series of talks about law enforcement. Finding records and stories relating to Assizes, Quarter Sessions, Petty Sessions, Police and other officials.

Free to members.

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

Pre-booking required.

[Book now](#)



A trip around the Inner Distribution Road in Reading

Thu 22 Jun 14:00 - 15:15

Talk by Graham Turner and Joe Doak

Online

The Inner Distribution Road (IDR) opened in 1969 as a radical solution to the regular build-up of traffic in the town centre. Its construction resulted in parts of old central Reading being demolished, changing the shape of the town forever. The talk will provide selective descriptions of some of the areas which were affected by the building of the IDR. This will make use of the photographic record produced by Doug Noyes of the before and after situation around Coley/Castle Street and the London Street/Queens Road area. Graham and Joe will highlight some of the key changes and discuss them in a Q&A session.

Image: The Inner Distribution Road, image courtesy of Joe Doak.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4).

Pre-booking is required.

[Book now](#)



Drop In Advice Session

Tue 27 Jun 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.

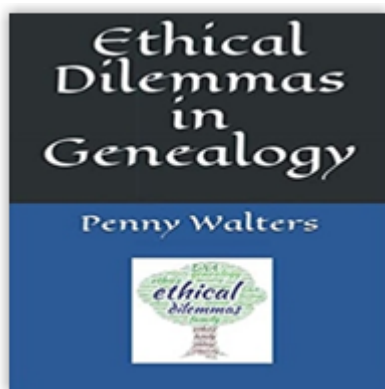
For ALL family historians wherever your ancestors came from.

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](#)



Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy

Tue 27 Jun 19:30 - 21:30

Windsor Branch Meeting and talk by Dr Penny Walters

Online

I'm a nice person. 'I'm just compiling our family tree, what possible problems could there be? Researching a family tree traditionally involved asking grandparents and relatives about their lives, drawing a tree and undertaking a paper trail, but it now involves finding new records and dealing with strangers on the internet. What information should and shouldn't you include on your tree? Ethical dilemmas came to the forefront since law enforcement utilised information from GEDMatch to apprehend a suspected serial killer, which created a division in the genealogy field about invasion of privacy. Ethical dilemmas unfolding include discovering other people's secrets, lies, enslavement, unexpected ethnicities, indigenous cultures, convict ancestors, criminality, new DNA relatives, and finding that some relatives aren't now related. People can study accredited courses and join professional bodies which have Codes of Ethics and Conduct, responsibilities and accountability. Attendees will benefit from reflecting on their own ethical dilemmas and considering ethical issues with empathy, sensitivity and diplomacy. What ethical dilemmas have you found in your genealogy research?

Free to members.

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

Pre-booking is required.

[Book now](#)



Online Family History Advice Clinic

Mon 03 Jul 14:00 - 16:00

See below for session 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.

For members and non-members of Berkshire Family History Society.

Free.

[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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