

100 In Touch

1 message

Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org.uk>

2 July 2023 at 08:02

in touch



Berkshire Family History Society
for family historians, wherever you are



Hi

It seems hard to believe but this is edition **100** of **In Touch**. We began in Dec 2019 and went into overdrive when the pandemic hit. Six months later we spun off the separate Events newsletter and went bi-weekly - mostly because finding enough news events on a weekly basis was a challenge - and we've produced 73 of those too. Our second century beckons. Howzat!



Is your browser current?

If you are using Windows Internet Explorer 11, technical support for this browser ended a year ago. Consequently, you will encounter difficulties while attempting to book events, purchase products, renew your membership, and perform similar tasks. This is because our payment processor, Stripe, has also discontinued support for IE11. To resolve this issue and to protect you on other sites you may visit, you need to upgrade to a modern browser like Edge, Chrome, or Firefox. By now, you have likely received numerous notifications from Microsoft urging you to make this change. However, just to be thorough, let's go through the steps.

Step 1: Confirm whether you are using Internet Explorer. To do this, simply visit the following website: <https://www.whatsmybrowser.org/>. It will provide you with the necessary information. If the result indicates any browser other than Internet Explorer, no action is required.

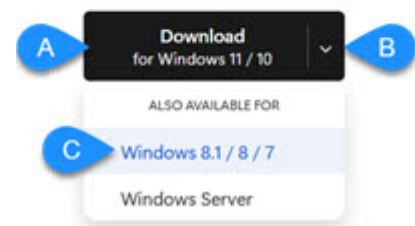
Step 2: If you are still using Internet Explorer, it is time to download and install a new browser. To acquire Microsoft's new browser, Edge, please visit the following website: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/edge/download?form=MA13FJ>.

If you have any further questions or require assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out, on our [contact page](#).



Windows

Microsoft Edge is the best browser for Windows





We're now about halfway through our annual renewal cycle for those who joined before we introduced flexible renewal based on your joining date a couple of years ago. By now the system will have sent the first reminder to everyone who's due to renew.

If you've mislaid your reminder you can renew by [clicking here](#) (login required). Regardless of when you renew, your existing term will be extended by a full year.

This year, we have simplified the process even further and, based on the results of a customer survey, introduced a new option. You can now choose between receiving a paper or digital copy of The Historian. If your renewal is due later in the year you can express your preference now or if you change your mind, you can always update your selection on [your profile page](#) (login required).

The reminder included in this newsletter is intended for all members. The newsletter application is unaware of your membership renewal status, so if you have already renewed, there is no need to do so again. Uncertain about your renewal status? You can verify your transactions by visiting your membership profile page and navigating to the subscription tab.

 Banns Download for	 Marriages Download for
Bearwood St Catherine 1904 - 1960	Aldworth St Mary 1556-1977

New Marriage & Banns Data Downloads - Part 3

This week we bring you news of more new data downloads which can be purchased

from our online shop.

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.

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 third 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.

[Ashbury St Mary Marriages \(Download\) D1861 Part 2 of 2](#)

[Aston Upthorpe All Saints Marriages \(Download\) D1875 Part 2 of 3](#)

[Charney Bassett St Peter Marriages \(Download\) D1496](#)

[Cold Ash St Mark Marriages \(Download\) D1841](#)

[Eastbury St James Marriages \(Download\) D1846](#)

[Frilsham St Frideswide Marriages \(Download\) D1521](#)

[Hinksey, South St Lawrence Marriages \(Download\) D1533](#)

[Hungerford \(Eddington\) St Saviour Marriages \(Download\) D1851](#)

[Hurley St Mary Marriages \(Download\) D1536](#)

[Milton St Blaise Marriages \(Download\) D1555](#)

[Moreton, South St John Baptist Marriages \(Download\) D1557](#)

[Stanford in the Vale St Denys Marriages \(Download\) D1386](#)

[Theale Congregational Church Marriages \(Download\) D1399](#)

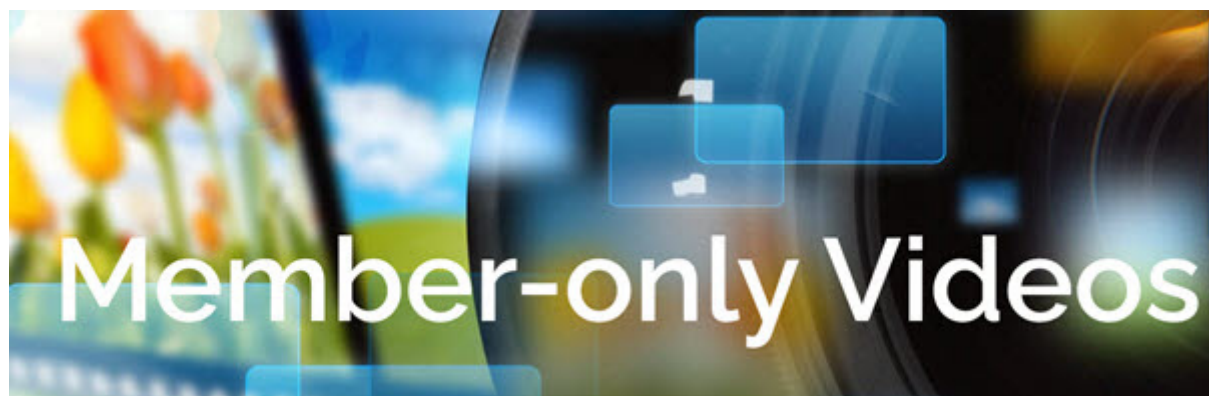
[Three Mile Cross Methodist Church Marriages \(Download\) D1435](#)

[Windsor, Old St Peter & St Andrew Marriages \(Download\) D1462](#)

[Wokingham St Sebastian Marriages \(Download\) D1859](#)

[Woodley Congregational Church Marriages \(Download\) D1470](#)

[Wytham All Saints Marriages \(Download\) D1860](#)



The latest in our series of recorded talks is available for members-only to stream on demand, courtesy of Windsor Branch.

Irish Wills and Testamentary Records

Wills & Testamentary Records are a rich source of genealogical information. Although many Irish records including wills were destroyed in Dublin in 1922, there are still remaining records to be found. The wills are to be found in a variety of places in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland – some are online and some are only accessible in the archives. This talk examines where to find Irish wills, transcripts and abstracts that will help to build your family tree, particularly for the vital period before civil registration of births, marriages and deaths.



You will find it [here \(login required\)](#)

And if you're interested in Irish Wills





Ireland, Inland Revenue Wills & Administrations
1828-1879

Early Irish Wills added to Findmypast

Family History website Findmypast has added a collection of over 305,000 Irish Inland Revenue wills and administrations from 1828-1879.

The records are a rare survivor as wills were amongst the records which were destroyed when the Public Record Office of Ireland in Dublin was destroyed in 1922, at the start of the Irish Civil War.

The records contain indexes for all years and surviving registers for 1828-1839 that contain extracts from the original documents.

AGM video now in Catchup

Warning: contains scenes of accountancy - discretion advised

If you missed the live show, the video is now available in the video catchup section - see link below.

The meeting was longer than in previous years because of the discussion around moving the society's charitable status to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) - a change that has no material effect on members but makes operating the society easier. Because of this the scheduled talk was postponed to later in the year - keep an eye on the events list and newsletters



[View recording](#) (Login required)

Events

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



July Natter Group

Tue 04 Jul 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](#)



DNA Special Interest Group

Sat 08 Jul 14:30 - 16:30

Facilitator: Debbie Kennett

Online

This special interest discussion group is aimed at those wanting to get the most out of their DNA results. It is facilitated by international DNA expert, Debbie Kennett. Sessions are held quarterly, but there is no obligation to attend on a regular basis and first time attendees are always welcomed. This is a great opportunity to ask questions and to gain ideas for how you can use your results to solve questions and break down brick walls. All levels of expertise with interpreting DNA results welcome from beginner level to experienced.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4).

Pre-booking required.

[Book now](#)

Houses & Estates Talks Series

Thu 13 Jul 14:00 - 15:30

Thu 10 Aug as above

Thu 14 Sep as above



The Centre for Heritage & Family History, Reading

This all series ticket covers all three talks in the “Houses & Estates” talks series, for the discounted price of £12.50 (members £10.00). You may also book each talk individually – see each separate event page. All three talks are on Thursdays at 2pm in The

Centre for Heritage and Family History, Reading. They last about an hour with time for questions and discussion afterwards. Tea, coffee and cake after the talk is included in the price.

The History of Coley House & the Coley Park Estate

Thu 13 Jul 14:00 - 15:30

Talk by Katie Amos & Mike Cooper

Coley House, Reading, in its various iterations has a rich and varied history associated with it. The Tudor manor house was built during the reign of Queen Mary I by the staunchly Catholic Vachell family. Its Georgian replacement, once set in landscaped parkland, would be taken over by The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food after the Second World. Find out more in this fascinating talk.

[Thursday 13 July “The History of Coley House & the Coley Park Estate” with Katie Amos & Mike Cooper](#)

Shaw House: Berkshire’s Hidden Gem

Thu 10 Aug 14:00 - 15:30

Talk by Sarah Sommerville

The Elizabethan mansion at Shaw has many fascinating stories to tell. Built from the profits of the cloth trade in 1581, it has since enjoyed visits from royalty, including Elizabeth I and Charles I, as well as being the setting for Civil War skirmishes and accommodation for soldiers during World Wars. Later, Shaw House became a school for local pupils. Now in the 21st century, following over £6 million of conservation and restoration, which revealed many secrets, the house is a visitor attraction and business and conference centre.

[Thursday 10 August “Shaw House: Berkshire’s Hidden Gem” with Sarah Sommerville](#)

The History of Purley’s River Estate

Thu 14 Sep 14:00 - 15:30

Talk by Catherine Sampson

One of only two large inter-war plotland sites in Berkshire, Purley’s River Estate has a significant history. It began life in 1935 as a holiday destination suitable for camping and caravanning in usually idyllic former parkland by the Thames. However, very soon many of the plots gained more permanent accommodation, particularly after

war broke out in 1939. Entrepreneurship thrived, resulting in a multitude of private businesses and shops over the years, as did a strong community spirit. This talk is accompanied by lots of images of the estate and its people, including its famous range of adapted dwellings such as railway carriages and buses.

[Thursday 14 September “The History of Purley’s River Estate” with Catherine Sampson](#)

Please note that these are face-to-face talks.

The all series ticket cost £12.50 (members £10).

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

[Book now](#)



The History of Coley House & the Coley Park Estate

Thu 13 Jul 14:00 - 15:30

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

Coley House, Reading, in its various iterations has a rich and varied history associated with it. The Tudor manor house was built during the reign of Queen Mary I by the staunchly Catholic Vachell family. Its Georgian replacement, once set in landscaped parkland, would be taken over by The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food after the Second World.

This is the first of three talks in the Houses & Estates Talks Series. You may book tickets for individual events or for all three talks in the series for a reduced price (see previous item).

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

Thu 13 Jul 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](#)



World War Two RAF Records Workshop

Thu 13 Jul 19:00 - 21:00

Tutor: Richard Marks

Online

In this workshop, we will decipher some of the terminology used by the RAF which commonly crops up in both official and personal documents. We will look at:

- how the RAF recruited and trained its men and women during the war.
- what roles people undertook
- how the air force was structured and how this can help the family historian identify what their relative did while enlisted
- the aircraft they may have encountered
- prisoners of war
- what sort of records are available and where they might be found, as well as how to interpret them.

Tickets cost £10 (members £9).

Pre-booking is required because places are limited.

[Book now](#)



Caversham Road Walk

Fri 14 Jul 14:00 - 15:30

Walk Leader: David Neale

Meeting Point will be notified within booking process

Discover a part of Reading where department store and brick magnates left their mark and the bicycles for the British Army's first cycling regiment were made. This area has had a wide range of industries over the years. From the malthouses that sold to Simonds Brewery, to the iron foundries near the Thames. The latter served the railways and other light industries such as vehicle works and Cox & Wyman printers, who operated in the area for over 200 years. For many years this area has been something of a neglected backwater. Probably, one of the reasons a surprising amount of its heritage has survived to this day.

Join us for a short guided walk exploring the area's rich history. The walk will be on level ground and will last about 90 minutes. This walk is led by David Neale of the Bell Tower Community Association. The association is itself named after the distinctive tower on the area's school – E.P. Collier.

During the walk you will be shown historic photographs. This will help you visualise the Victorian street scenes and the figures from the past who shaped not only the local area, but Reading and even the country as a whole.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4).

Pre-booking is required because places are limited.

[Book now](#)



Face-to-Face Family History Advice Clinic

Thu 20 Jul 11:00 - 14:30

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

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

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

Free.

Pre-booking required.

[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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