

In Touch

1 message

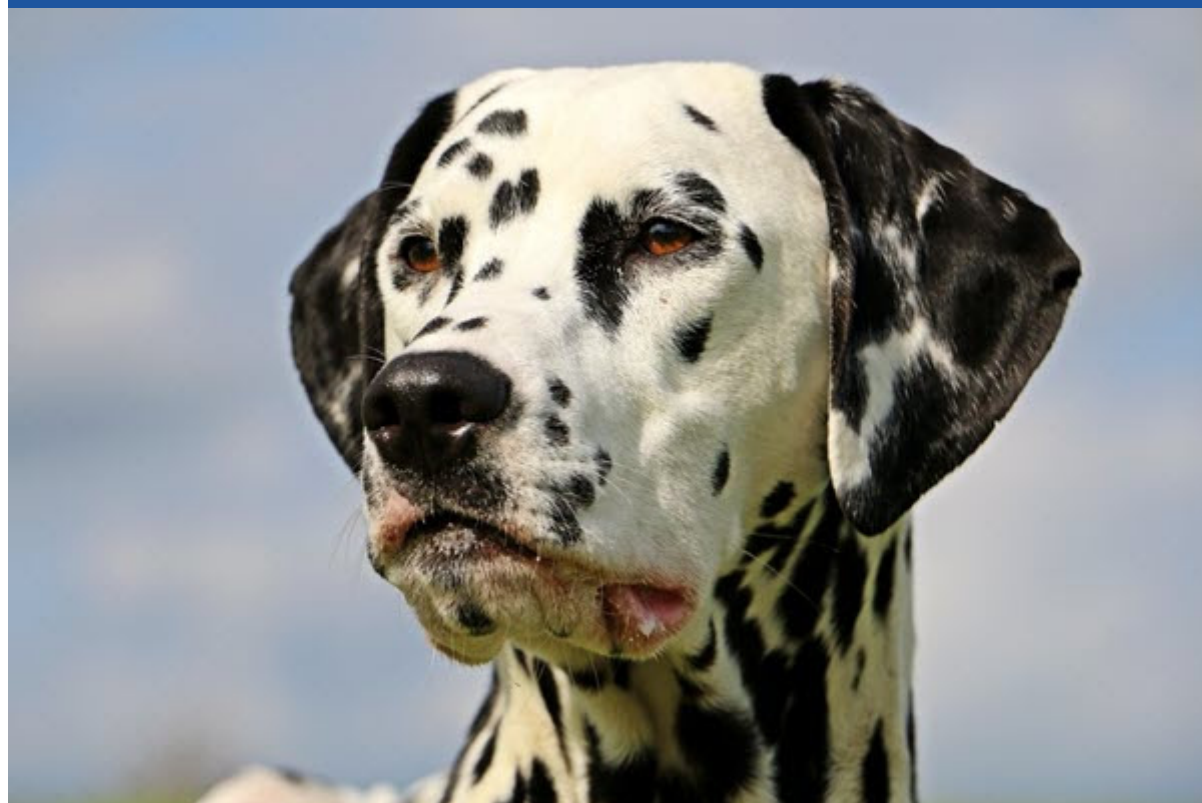
Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org.uk>

16 July 2023 at 08:02

in touch

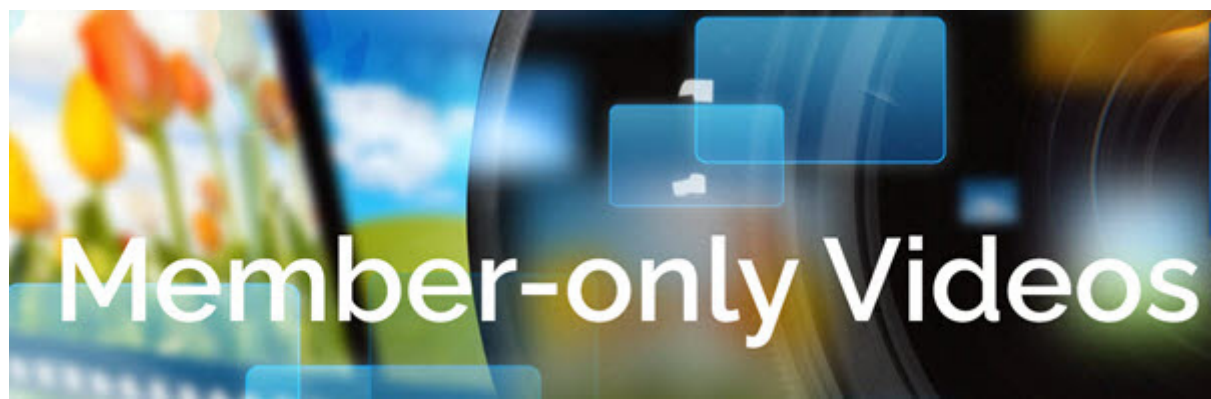


Berkshire Family History Society
for family historians, wherever you are



Hi

As this is edition **101** of **In Touch** and, in the interest of balance after the last edition's cat a picture of a dog is called for, and a Dalmation seemed an obvious choice - too good a cliché to miss in fact! Next time we'll revert to Berkshire heritage photos - promise.



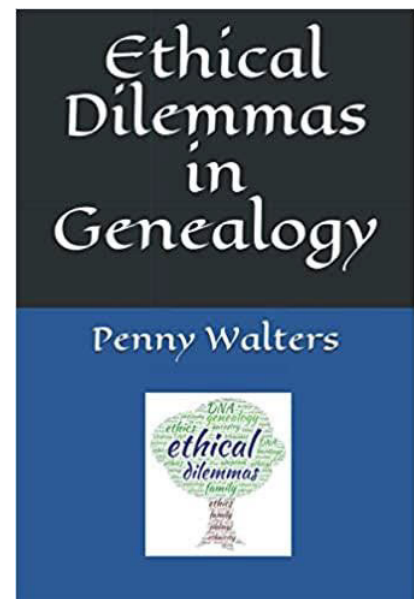
Video Catchup Service - new content

If you were unable to catch the live event, the video is now available to stream

Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy - Dr Penny Walters

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.



[Stream here](#)



How's that renewal coming along?

We're now well over 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 Bearwood St Catherine 1904 - 1960	 Marriages Download for Aldworth St Mary 1556-1977
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New Marriage & Banns Data Downloads - Part 5

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 fifth batch, of 16 downloads is now available (click the links below) and more will be released shortly. Keep an eye on the website and the newsletters.

- [Aston Upthorpe All Saints Marriages \(Download\) D1862 Part 3 of 3](#)
- [Chaddleworth St Andrew Marriages \(Download\) D1493](#)
- [Didcot All Saints Marriages \(Download\) D1867 Part 2 of 2](#)
- [Finchampstead St James Marriages \(Download\) D1565](#)
- [Fyfield St Nicholas Marriages \(Download\) D1522](#)
- [Harwell St Matthew Marriages \(Download\) D1870 Part 2 of 2](#)
- [Hatford St George Marriages \(Download\) D1529](#)
- [Hinton Waldrist St Margaret Marriages \(Download\) D1850](#)
- [Ilsey, East Chapel Marriages \(Download\) D1852](#)
- [Midgham St Matthew Marriages \(Download\) D1554](#)
- [Newbury St John the Evangelist Marriages \(Download\) D1174](#)
- [Slough United Reform Church Marriages \(Download\) D1855](#)
- [Steventon St Michael & All Angels Marriages \(Download\) D1387](#)
- [Sulhamstead Bannister St Michael Marriages \(Download\) D1872 Part 2 of 2](#)
- [Tilehurst St George Marriages \(Download\) D1437](#)
- [Woodhay, West St Lawrence Marriages \(Download\) D1873 Part 2 of 2](#)



More journals for you to enjoy

New editions - new partnerships

Buckinghamshire FHS

Bundaberg Genealogical Association - **new!**

East of London FHS - **new!**

Family History ACT (Canberra)

Herefordshire FHS

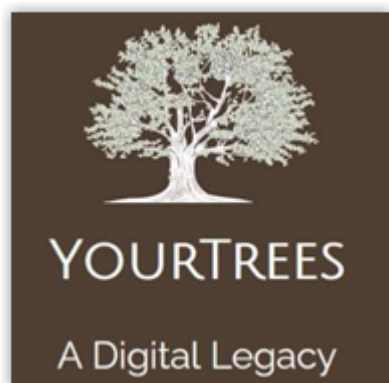
Hertfordshire FHS

Newfoundland & Labrador FHS

Society of Australian Genealogists

Wagga Wagga & District FHS

[View here](#)



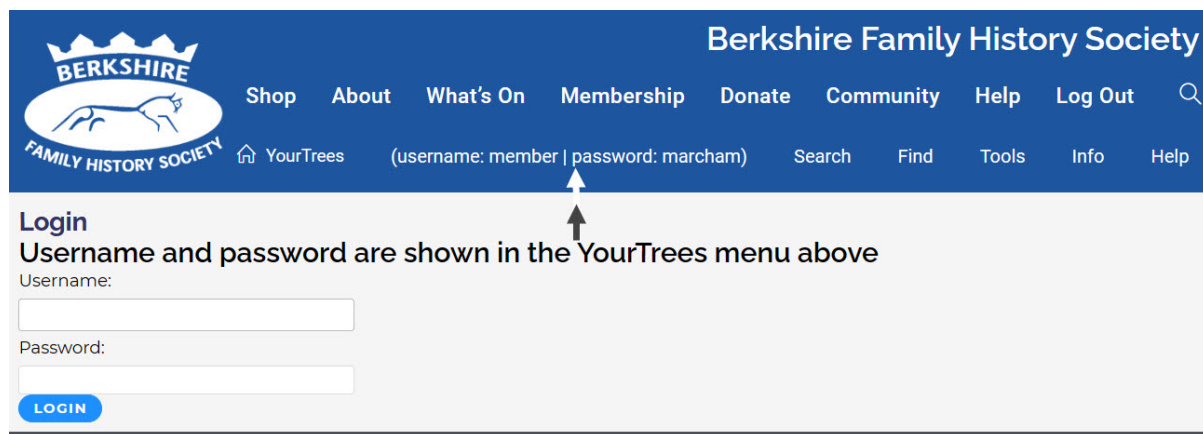
YourTrees has moved

Now even more accessible

When we launched YourTrees we had no idea whether it would be useful so, initially, we used a small server, separate from our main website. We are now integrating it into our main website.

This addresses a recurring issue that has made it difficult for some members to log in to YourTrees and has inhibited uptake. Due to the service being hosted on a separate server, all members had to use a generic username and password. Remembering or locating the password was not always straightforward.

Now that the service resides on our main server, we have simplified the process for you. We can't synchronise your website username and password with YourTrees for cost reasons - so the generic username and password remain - but we have made them immediately available. Now they're unmissable - in the YourTrees menu that appears for current members after logging into the website - and the login box for YourTrees clearly indicates where to find them. There's no Log In option on the YourTrees sub menu - as soon as you select a protected page from the menu, the system will prompt you to login



Berkshire Family History Society

Shop About What's On Membership Donate Community Help Log Out

🏠 YourTrees (username: member | password: marcham) Search Find Tools Info Help

Login

Username and password are shown in the YourTrees menu above

Username:

Password:

LOGIN

We've also made it easier to submit a tree, introduced a TreeFix report that tells you about any data quality issues in your tree and converted the Boomerang Tree service to a Disaster Recovery service.

To try it, go to the website and log in. A second menu will appear in the top bar. Click **Search** in the YourTrees menu and you'll be prompted for the YourTrees password. You'll remain logged into the genealogy system for the duration of your session.

[Go to website](#)



General Register Office (GRO) Certificates

Great news from the GRO - Family historians can now order instant-access images of birth records from 1837-1922 and deaths from 1837-1887.

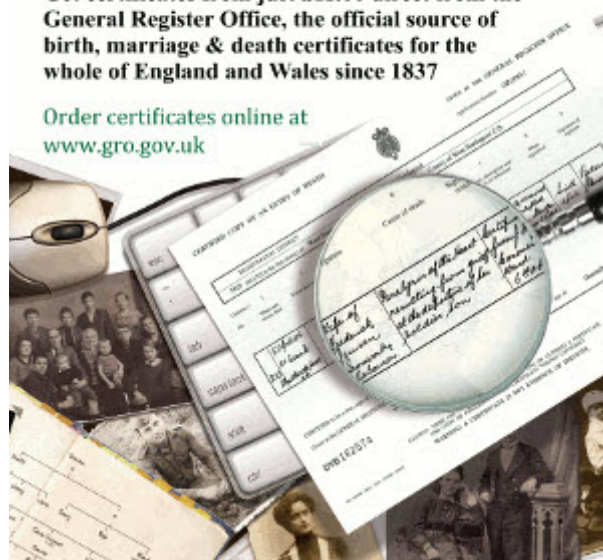
Civil registration of births, marriages and deaths was introduced in England and Wales in 1837. The civil records are a vital resource in family history research. Birth records from 1837 to 2021 and death records from 1837 to 1957 and 1984 to 2021 are indexed on the GRO website.

The General Register Office

Know your ancestors better

Get certificates from just £11.00 direct from the General Register Office, the official source of birth, marriage & death certificates for the whole of England and Wales since 1837

Order certificates online at www.gro.gov.uk



Family historians have previously had the option of ordering records as either a print record for £11 with a GRO index reference supplied, or a PDF for £7. It takes up to four working days for orders to be despatched. However, the GRO has now launched a scheme for births from 1837 to 1922 and deaths from 1837 to 1887 to be available as digital images. The digital images cost £2.50 each and are available to view immediately after purchase.

[Find out more](#)



Help us shape a new Reading Central Library and Civic Customer Reception

Reading Central Library - Consultation

As you will be aware from our recent AGM, Reading Borough Council has secured Government Levelling-Up funding to relocate Reading Central Library to the Civic Offices in Bridge Street, and is currently undertaking a public consultation exercise on what facilities should be provided in the new library. The consultation runs until Monday 24 July at:

<https://consult.reading.gov.uk/css/newciviclibrary/>

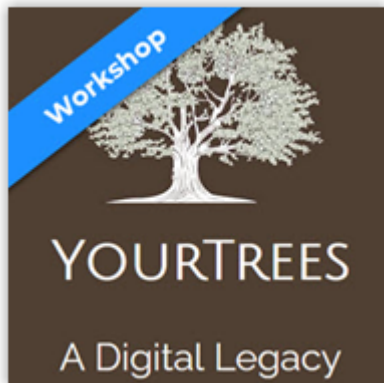
Reading Central Library houses not just Berkshire Family History Society's Centre for Heritage and Family History, but also the local studies library.

It would be helpful to get a good response to the questionnaire, and to use this to comment on the importance of ensuring that family history, the local studies collection, and research, reference and heritage studies generally, are recognised and promoted in the new library, and that adequate and equivalent space is made for them.

Please do complete the consultation if you're able to.

Events

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



Create an enduring family tree in YourTrees

Thu 20 Jul 19:00 - 21:00

Tutor: Paul Barrett

Online

Ever wished that your grand or great grandparents had kept a family history? How many of our grand and great grandchildren might feel the same about us in the future? How durable and easily interpreted is your current family archive? Will it stand the test of time, or ultimately end up in a cardboard box in the attic?

YourTrees was launched by the society in 2021 as a free member-only service to:

- **Provide a facility for members to preserve their research and pass it on to a family member**
- **Allow members to easily share their research discoveries – now and in the future**
- **Allow members to tackle research challenges together**
- **Grow a bespoke collective resource for people, names, places and more**

This workshop has been developed to help you create a comprehensive enduring family tree, that is relevant to the digital generations, so that you can store a copy on YourTrees. It is aimed at those who have already saved versions of their tree(s) on YourTrees and those that are thinking of doing so or wondering whether they should.

The sessions are very interactive, and with a lot of content to cover we will have Q&A sessions at the end of each section.

Start times to suit as many regions as possible are:

- Thu 20 Jul 19:00
 - (14:00 East Coast US, 11:00 West Coast US)*

**These local times are a guide. Please double check them yourself.*

It is a member exclusive Zoom workshop and FREE.
Pre-booking required.

[Book now](#)



Use of DNA in Medieval Research

Fri 21 Jul 14:45 - 17:00

**Bracknell Branch Meeting with talk by
Christopher Singleton**

**The New Priestwood Community Centre
Bracknell**

Chris Singleton will tell us about his research into the early Singleton line in Lancashire and how DNA was used to confirm his ancestors of the 11th century in the settlement of Singleton near Blackpool. Taking what he learnt from his own research, Chris will talk about DNA as a tool for members' research.

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](#)



Visit to Maidenhead Heritage Centre

**Windsor Branch Tour/Visit
Tues 25 Jul 19:30 - 21:30**

Maidenhead Heritage Centre

A visit to the Maidenhead Heritage Centre at [18 Park Street, Maidenhead SL6 1SL](#)

We will be divided into two groups.

One group will be upstairs and the other downstairs, say 45 minutes in each gallery.

The downstairs group will have a short talk about MHC and our collection before having look at the displays.

The upstairs group can look at all the exhibits and a few lucky people could get a 10 minutes taster flight in the Spitfire simulator.

We then swap over.

Coffee and biscuits thrown in!

Free to members

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

Pre-booking is required, because space is limited to 20 attendees. Booking ends one day before event.

[Book now](#)



WW1 Navy Records for Family Historians Workshop

Wed 26 Jul 19:00 - 21:00

Tutor: Richard Marks

Online

This workshop is designed for Family Historians who are researching their relatives who served in the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines, the Royal Naval Air Service and the Royal Naval Division during World War One.

WW1 saw a huge change in the Royal Navy with submarines and aircraft joining the fleet for the first time in a major conflict. We will look at some of these and what they meant to the men and women who served. We will look at the ranks and also the roles each rank undertook both onboard ship and ashore. Finally, we will unravel some of the terminology and jargon used.

Tickets cost £10 (members £9).

Pre-booking is required because places are limited.

[Book now](#)



Potpourri of Social History Talks – Summer Series

Thu 27 Jul 14:00 - 15:15

Thu 24 Aug as above

Thu 28 Sep as above

Online

This all series ticket covers all three in the Summer “Potpourri of Social History” 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 and last about an hour. Afterwards there will be time for questions and discussion. This is an online talks series using Zoom.

Berkshire & South Oxfordshire Churches

Thu 27 Jul 14:00 - 15:15

Talk by Catherine Sampson

This talk gives a glimpse at some of the many historical, unusual and sometimes hidden churches and churchyards in and around Berkshire and the people associated with them. Catherine will share some of the social history and associated stories. These include the marriage of Anne Seymour at Hatford St George Church. Plus also the suspicious death of her sister-in-law, Amy Robsart, which rocked not just Cumnor, but the Court of Queen Elizabeth I. Expect lots of photographs!

[Thursday 27 July “Berkshire & South Oxfordshire Churches” 2 – 3.15pm with Catherine Sampson](#)

The History of Douai Abbey

Thu 24 Aug 14:00 - 15:15

Talk by Father Geoffrey Scott

Douai Abbey was founded in Paris in 1615, following the suppression of the English Benedictine abbeys by Henry VIII, 1436-1540, and after the death of the last Westminster Abbey monk in 1603. The Community survived in Paris until the French Revolution, when the resident Community was imprisoned, but freed in 1794. It then

re-established itself in Douai, in northern France, in 1818, and was there for nearly a century until in 1903 it returned to England, to Woolhampton, taking over St Mary's College, Woolhampton, where it survives until today.

[Thursday 24 August "The History of Douai Abbey" 2 – 3.15pm with Father Geoffrey Scott](#)

Industrial archaeology in your garage, shed and attic

Thu 28 Sep 14:00 - 15:15

Talk by Bill King

We are surrounded by elements of industrial archaeology throughout our everyday lives but often take them for granted without realising their significance or the history which surrounds them. This talk shows how artefacts reveal over a timescale of hundreds of years, the development of culture and society through the use of materials and technologies. The talk highlights the pace of change and contrasts items from Victorian times with items from the 1920's, 30's, 40's and latter 20th century and the present day.

[Thursday 28 September "Industrial archaeology in your garage, shed and attic" 2 – 3.15pm with Bill King](#)

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

Pre-booking required.

[**Book now**](#)



Berkshire & South Oxfordshire Churches

Thu 27 Jul 14:00 - 15:15

Talk by Catherine Sampson

Online

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Catherine will share some of the social history and associated stories, including the marriage of Anne Seymour at Hatford St George Church and the suspicious death of Amy Robsart which rocked not just Cumnor, where she was staying, but the Court of Queen Elizabeth I. Expect lots of photographs!

Tickets cost £5 (members £4).

Pre-booking required.

[Book now](#)



Online Family History Advice Clinic

Mon 07 Aug 14:00 - 16:00

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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