

In Touch

Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org.uk>

8 October 2023 at 08:00

in touch



Compton with the Swan Hotel, early 1900s

Image colourised by Jim Bradshaw

Hi

Image after image from Jim Bradshaw's collection of colorisations shows us how little rural Berkshire has changed, and this week's is no exception - another [modern view](#) that is instantly recognisable. Nor is it just the village - look at how little the [surrounding countryside](#) has changed

The Swan Hotel has undergone a name change to The Foinavon, after a locally trained racehorse who won the Grand National under the strangest of

circumstances, as you can see [here](#)

In other news, if you find the annual cost of FMP to be a little steep, they've introduced a 3 month subscription - details below. Plus, there's murder afoot. Enjoy a taste of the macabre!

**Please note: Reading Central Library is closed on Mon 16 Oct,
therefore The Centre will also be closed**



Journal Exchanges

More journal exchanges, including three back copies from Waltham Forest FHS, as well as another new exchange which brings the total to 54

Botany Bay FHS
Calderdale FHS (New)
City of York & District FHS
Family History ACT (Canberra)
Society of Australian Genealogists
Waltham Forest FHS (x3)

You can view them here: [Journal Exchange - Berkshire Family History Society](#)



Historian Reprise

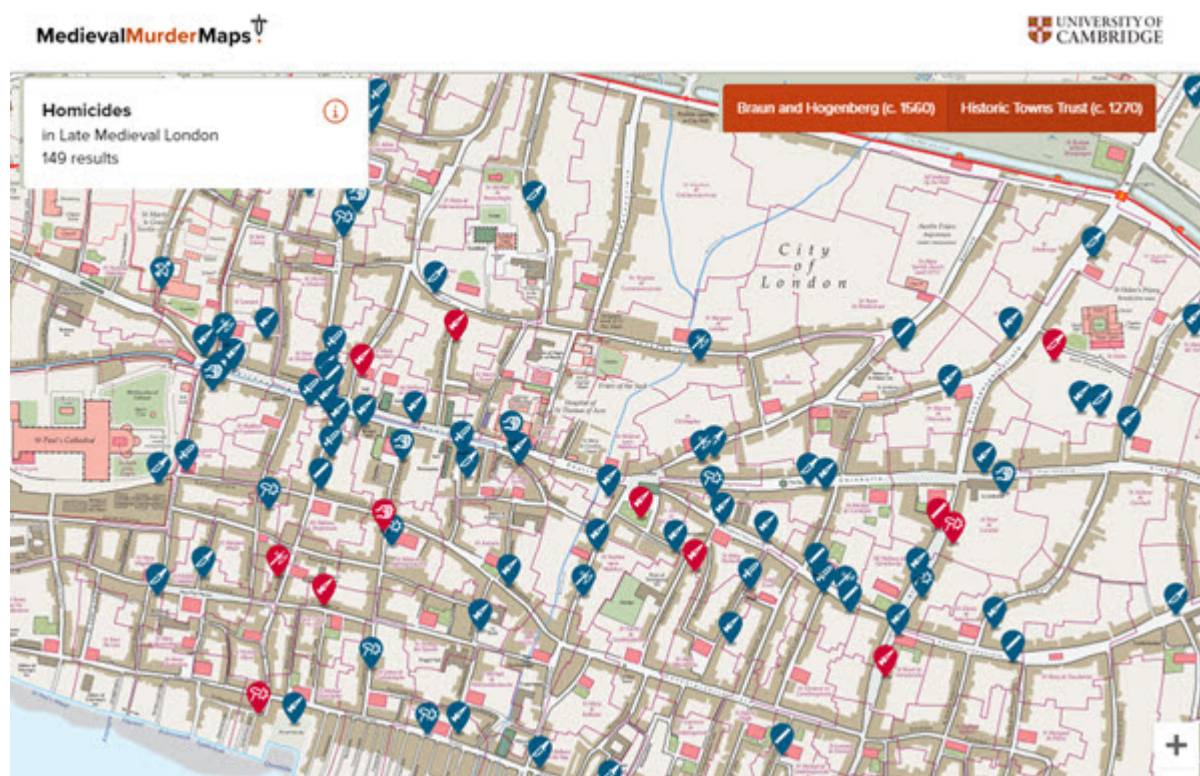
As usual, the publication of the Sept 2023 Historian is accompanied by the release into the wild of the member articles from Sept 2022. So why not have a trip down memory lane and take another look?

[Hora-Sicamma Coat of Arms](#)

Susan Hora tells us about her family's coat of arms

[The Broad Silk Hand Loom Weavers of Spitalfields](#)

Alan Winter writes of the weavers' struggles against the decline of their trade 1828-1860



Mediaeval Murder Maps!

Sadly, most of us won't be able to trace our ancestors back into the Medieval period, however that doesn't prevent us being able to enjoy the excellent maps of Medieval London, York and Oxford that the talented criminologists at the Institute of Criminology of the University of Cambridge have published online.

In the first half of the fourteenth century, London was a bustling metropolis. Along the Thames, the wharfs and markets saw merchants from Flanders and the Hanse Cities, and the area around Poultry and Bank was home to a large financial industry with bankers from Florence and elsewhere. Markets around Bishopsgate, along Cheapside offered fish, meat, milk, bread and other daily goods. London was also famous for its luxury goods, especially gold, clothes, shoes, spices, weapons and jewellery. Powerful guilds such as the tailors, fishmongers, bakers, and cordwainers dominated local politics, controlled prices, and gave a sense of identity to young people as apprentices. Religious houses were scattered across the city, and St Paul's Cathedral with its massive spire dominated the skyline.

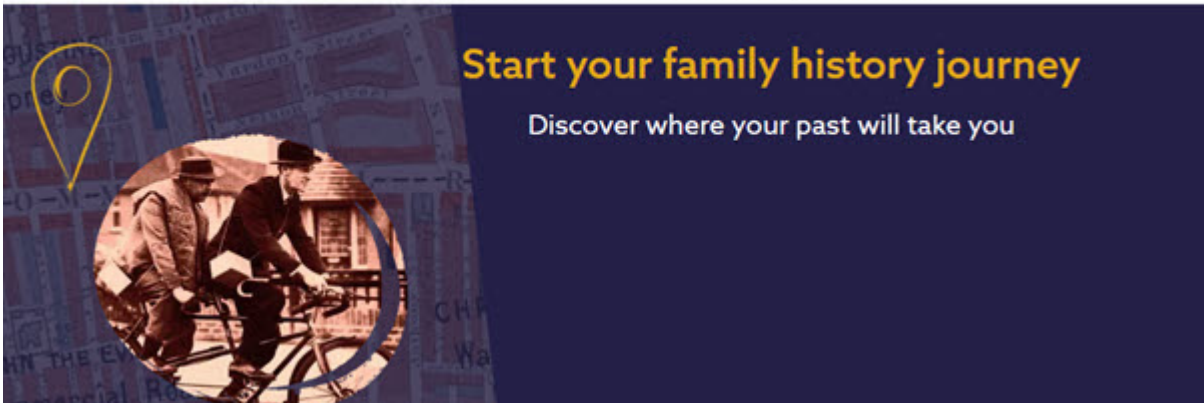
And yet London also had its darker side with 142 murder incidents alone investigated in the Coroner Inquests which survive between 1300 and 1340. Discover Medieval London, York and Oxford in these detailed maps - their streets, alleys and buildings and the incidents which boiled over into murder.

Prepare to be absorbed here:

<https://medievalmurdermap.co.uk/maps/>



New! Access everything with our new 3-month Premium subscription



Findmypast

Findmypast has launched a new 3-month Premium subscription, which offers all the benefits open to Premium members for a shorter period. The new subscription gives

unlimited access to over 14 billion historical records and Findmypast's rich, interconnected tree network, plus exclusive access to the 1921 Census. Members can also delve into Findmypast's bank of over 70 million historical newspaper pages.

The new 3-month Premium subscription is available for £59.99. Any existing subscribers who wish to upgrade can do so on a pro-rata basis. Plus, for a limited time only, Findmypast is offering a 15% discount for those wishing to upgrade to the 12-month Premium subscription, bringing the cost down to just £169.99.

Find out more here:

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/>

Events

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



Lesser-Known Reading Talk Series

Thu 12 Oct 14:00 - 15:30

Thu 09 Nov as above

Thu 07 Dec as above

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

This all series ticket covers all three talks in the "Lesser-Known Reading" 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.

Reading's Victorian Buildings

Thu 12 Oct 14:00 - 15:30

Talk by Terry Dixon

A layman's view of some of Reading's Victorian buildings, covering several architects, styles, genres and functions. Discover why you should stop and take a

closer look. Our speaker is Terry Dixon who runs popular walking tours of the town. This talk is inspired by his Reading Architecture Walkabout, during which he takes participants on a walk through the many different architectural styles in his wonderful town. If you're not already proud of these buildings, you will be by the end of the talk.

[Thursday 12 October "Reading's Victorian Buildings" with Terry Dixon](#)

Horse Dealing in Reading

Thu 09 Nov 14:00 - 15:30

Talk by Caroline Piller

Horse dealing was an extremely important trade in town and country. Discover how the well-known horse dealers of Reading in the 19th and early 20th centuries carried out their business, which could be quite lucrative. The last dealers in Reading were Oliver Dixon Ltd, of Crescent Road Repository at Mockbeggar Farm. They were rewarded with royal patronage and worldwide fame but were forced to give up their premises in 1941. Oliver Dixon was well known in Reading, mixing socially with Sol Joel, the Palmers, Arthur Hill, Vincent and Dick Francis of Emmbrook. Find out more in this fascinating talk.

[Thursday 9 November "Horse Dealing in Reading" with Caroline Piller](#)

The 1688 Fight – Reading & the Glorious Revolution

Thu 07 Dec 14:00 - 15:30

Talk by Mike Cooper

On Sunday 9th December 1688, troops loyal to King James II were driven out of Reading by the invading army of William of Orange. For over 100 years after the event, Reading's churches rang their bells in celebration. This talk looks at the events of the Fight and its background during the Glorious Revolution and, particularly at the primary sources available for the events of that day.

[Thursday 7 December "The 1688 Fight – Reading & the Glorious Revolution" with Mike Cooper](#)

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 for this series ticket at the first talk, if there are spaces available.

Book now

Reading's Victorian Buildings



Thu Oct 12 14:00 - 15:30
Talk by Terry Dixon

The Centre for Heritage & Family History, Reading

A layman's view of some of Reading's Victorian buildings, covering several architects, styles, genres and functions. Discover why you should stop and take a closer look.

Our speaker is Terry Dixon who runs popular walking tours of the town. This talk is inspired by his Reading Architecture Walkabout, during which he takes participants on a walk through the many different architectural styles in his wonderful town. If you're not already proud of these buildings, you will be by the end of the talk.

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

Image: Reading museum & Town Hall by Paul Gillett (cropped).

Tickets £5 (Members £4)

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

Book now



Drop In Advice Session

Thu 12 Oct 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](#)



Writing Up Your Family History Workshop

Sat 14 Oct 11:00 - 13:00

Tutor: Dr Barry Jerome

Online

Have you been researching your family tree and would like to write it up as a story but don't know how to start?

In the popular workshop, Dr Barry Jerome will help you get started. He will also show you how you can structure it, so that you can write up your family history while still continuing your research.

Tickets cost £10 (members £9).

Pre-booking is required because places are limited.

[Book now](#)



Coffee & Chat

Abingdon Branch Meeting

Mon 16 Oct 19:30 - 21:30

Long Furlong Community Centre, Abingdon

An informal evening, with the chance to chat over a coffee and get to know your local members of Berkshire Family History Society.

An ideal opportunity to ask for help with your research; pick up some tips on using online resources and IT programs.

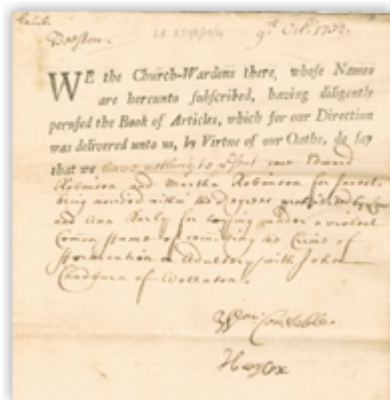
Raffle

Large free car park adjacent to the hall.

Pre-booking not required

Visitors and Non-Members are welcome – £5 pp

[Find out more](#)



Underused Sources for Genealogical Research

Wed 18 Oct 19:45 - 21:30

Combined Branches' Meeting and talk by Lady Mary Teviot

Online

In the United Kingdom the wealth of records available for research are so many and so varied that sometimes some which are not on the internet are overlooked. Some are early dating back to the 1500s.

In this presentation, we identify and discuss a number of under-used sources of historical information which have not been exploited to their potential by family historians.

One example which we would like to mention, are the churchwarden's presentments. These were reports to the bishop pertaining to the misdemeanours of the parishioners, often known more formally as bills of presentment. Churchwardens of each parish were obliged to exhibit these to the ecclesiastical authorities, often at the bishop's visitation. These records start quite early but unfortunately there is a blank period at the time of the commonwealth, from 1649 to 1660.

Free to members.

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

[Book now](#)



Face-to-Face Family History Advice Clinic

Thu 19 Oct 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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