
In Touch

1 message

Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org.uk>

22 October 2023 at 08:00

[View this email in your browser](#)**in touch**

Image colourised by Jim Bradshaw

Hi Webmaster

This week's image features an important feature for villagers and drovers in our rural communities. This photo was taken in Edwardian times. Now, you would think that locating this on the modern map would be an impossible task. Not so. A quick search for **Bucklebury animal pound** soon led to Wikimedia Commons where I found the same image, [snapped in 2011](#) and the metadata includes the exact GPS location! It was a quick step from there to the NLS Map system for a side-by-side view of the modern satellite image and the 1888-1913 OS 6 inch map series, where you can see the location, south east of the village - look for the indent in the road near [Brown's Cottages](#). The image was taken looking from the direction of

Bucklebury.

In other news, it's official. Our members are a ghoulish lot. Last time, we told you about the Medieval Murder Map. 'Enjoy a taste of the macabre', we said - and you certainly did - it was the most clicked link in the newsletter! I guess you'll all be having a wail of time at Halloween next week. See what I did there?



Journal Exchanges

It's becoming quieter on the exchanges front this time although we do have another new one which brings the total to 55, and the last is from the best-named FHS on the planet.

Barnsley FHS

Central Society Scotland FHS (*new*)

Lanarkshire FHS

Newfoundland & Labrador FHS

Wagga Wagga and District Family History

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



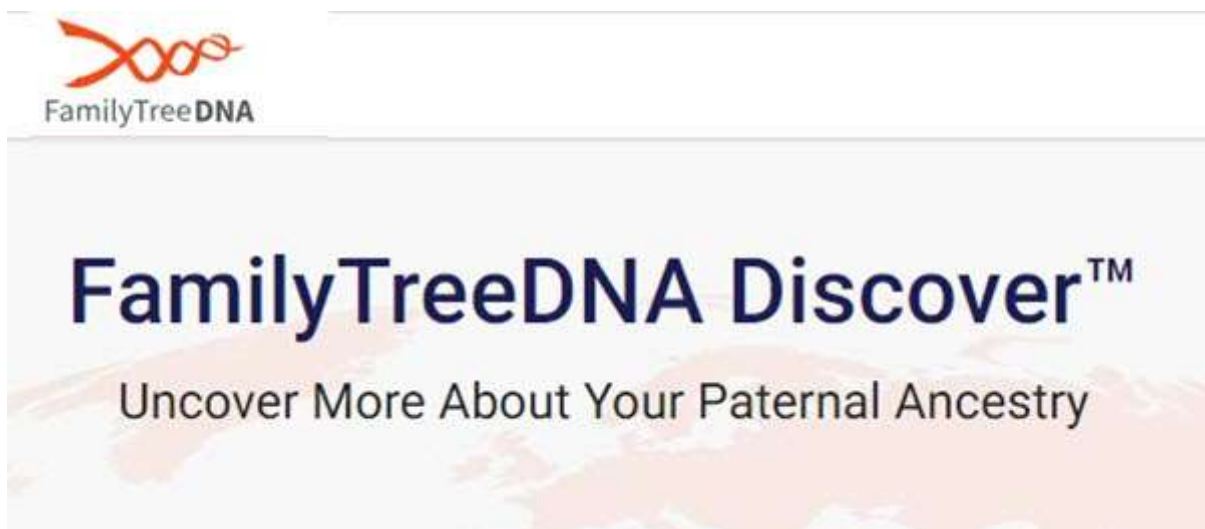
“Shaw House: Berkshire’s Hidden Gem” - Follow On

August’s Centre talk was on the historic Shaw House, near Newbury. If you haven’t had the opportunity to visit yet - then you will almost certainly enjoy this virtual tour put together by West Berkshire Local Authority, current custodians of the house.

You can navigate yourself around this stunning location and even look out of the window through which Charles I was apparently almost shot during the English Civil War. Tip: for maximum fun, you can play the entire tour by pressing the play button indicated by the red arrow.

Take the tour here:

<https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=jcW4UMvGL6g>



Family TreeDNA - new free Beta platform

If you or one of your male family members have taken a Y-DNA Test or are considering it then you'll probably be interested in Family TreeDNA's new Beta Platform.

This is a free platform which enables you to discover more about the haplogroup from your Y-DNA test, and its mutations over time. With tools such as a migration map and archaeological ancestors it will certainly open up an interesting debate over dinner. If you are not a member of FTDNA you will not be able to view recent genetic haplogroup ancestors, this is only unlocked by purchasing a Big Y test.

Try it out here:

<https://discover.familytreedna.com/>



COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION Caring for the fallen

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES *Foundation* Our charity site

CWGC - Are these your relatives?

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has posted an appeal for the families of five casualties from the First World War, and one from the Second World War, who are buried in Reading's London Road Cemetery to get in contact. In each case, the Commission is planning to erect a permanent grave marker to commemorate the place of burial.

Find out more at:

<https://www.cwgc.org/our-work/news/appeal-for-relatives-september-2023/>



Preserving Second World War memories

Their Finest Hour is a University of Oxford project that aims to collect and digitally archive the everyday stories and objects of the Second World War that have been

passed down from generation to generation.

Many of us have war-related stories and objects that have been passed down from our parents, grandparents and other family members. This is a great opportunity to digitally preserve those stories and objects for future generations and beyond the immediate family, whilst retaining the original.

Events are being organised across the country to which people can bring stories of their family's wartime experience - and also associated objects such as diaries, letters, medals, journals and ration books. The objects and stories will be recorded, scanned and/or photographed and then uploaded to the Their Finest Hour online archive, which will be free-to-use when it launches in June 2024.

There are currently three digital collection days coming up within Berkshire, a fourth was held in Abingdon in September.

Theale Library **Tuesday 14th November 2023 10-2pm** Church Street, Theale, Berkshire, RG7 5BZ

Hungerford Library **Thursday 30th November 2023 10-2pm** Church Street, Hungerford, Berkshire, RG17 0JG

West Berkshire Museum **Wednesday 17th January 2024 10-2pm** The Wharf, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 5AS

For information about the project visit: <https://theirfinesthour.english.ox.ac.uk/>

Events

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

WW2 Navy Records Workshop

Wed 25 Oct 19:00 - 21:00

Tutor: Richard Marks

Online



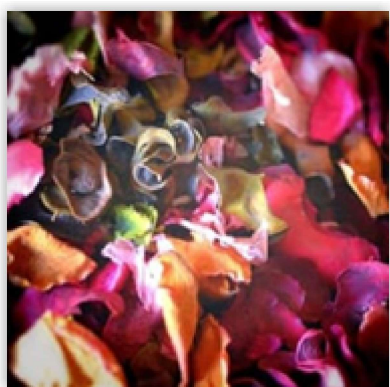
This workshop is designed for family historians who are researching their relatives who served in the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines, the Fleet Air Arm or the Women's Royal Naval Service in World War Two. We will look at the ranks, roles and divisions of each service, the ships and aeroplanes they served on, and what that meant to the lives of the people who served. This will help researchers gain an understanding of what family relatives were doing during World War Two.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to ask questions pertinent to their own research.

Tickets cost £10 (members £9).

Pre-booking is required because places are limited.

Book now



A Potpourri of Social History Talks – Autumn Series

Thu 26 Oct 14:00 - 15:15

Thu 23 Nov as above

Thu 14 Dec as above

Online

This all series ticket covers all three talks in the Autumn “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.

English Folklore & Calendar Customs

Thu 26 Oct 14:00 - 15:15

Talk by Dr Jameson Wooders

Did your ancestor chase cheeses down steep hillsides in Gloucestershire, or carry flaming tar barrels on their shoulders to celebrate Bonfire Night in an otherwise sleepy Devon village? This talk will look at some of the curious customs and events that occur across the country to mark the passing of the year, from wassails and

straw bears, through mock mayors and rushcarts, to mummers' plays and molly dancing. Dr Wooders has a long interest in archaeology, history and folklore, and has attended and participated in many traditional events across the country.

[Thursday 26 October "English Folklore & Calendar Customs" 2 – 3.15pm with Dr Jameson Wooders](#)

Literary and Artistic Footprints of The Thames Valley

Thu 23 Nov 14:00 - 15:15

Talk by Nick Brazil

Enjoy a virtual journey up the Thames from Mapledurham House to the village of Aldworth, above Goring and Streatley, visiting the places frequented by notable writers and artists throughout history. For example, we examine the links poet Alexander Pope had with Martha Blount and her family at Mapledurham and the connections between Kenneth Graham, author of *The Wind in the Willows*, and Hardwick House and why it lays claim to being Toad Hall. Many others will cross our path, including D. H. Lawrence, Henry James and Alfred Lord Tennyson.

[Thursday 23 November "Literary and Artistic Footprints of The Thames Valley" 2 – 3.15pm with Nick Brazil](#)

Jane Austen's First Christmas

Thu 14 Dec 14:00 - 15:15

Talk by Joy Pibworth

Unusually harsh winter weather, festive imports from far-away countries, a costly foreign war, issues of law and order and the birth of a Christmas baby. What was happening in England at the time of Jane Austen's birth in 1775? Find out more in this fascinating seasonal talk.

[Thursday 14 December "Jane Austen's First Christmas" 2 – 3.15pm with Joy Pibworth](#)

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

Pre-booking required.

Book series ticket

English Folklore & Calendar Customs

Thu 26 Oct 14:00 - 15:15

Talk by Dr Jameson Wooders



Online

Did your ancestor chase cheeses down steep hillsides in Gloucestershire, or carry flaming tar barrels on their shoulders to celebrate Bonfire Night in an otherwise sleepy Devon village? This talk will look at some of the curious customs and events that occur across the country to mark the passing of the year, from wassails and straw bears, through mock

mayors and rushcarts, to mummers' plays and molly dancing.

Dr Wooders has a long interest in archaeology, history and folklore, and has attended and participated in many traditional events across the country.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4).

Pre-booking is required.

[Book now](#)



Drop In Advice Session

31 Oct 14:00 - 16:30

Wokingham 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.

Free for everyone

[Find out more](#)

1-1 Merchant Navy Advice Session

Final slot remaining!



Wed 01 Nov 13:00 - 15:00

Online

Do you have Merchant Navy ancestors and need some advice in how to trace or interpret their

records?

Our specialist family history advice sessions are always popular. They are 1-1, free of cost and available to members and non-members alike. These particular Merchant Navy sessions are online, using Zoom technology – so you can book a session, wherever you live in the world.

You may book a 30 minute slot with our adviser, three 1-1 slots are available in this session:

Slot 1: 13.00 – 13.30 (sold out)

Slot 2: 13.40 – 14.10

Slot 3: 14.20 – 14.50 (sold out)

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



Railway Records for Family Historians Workshop

Sat 04 Nov 11:00 - 13:00

Tutor: Richard Marks

Online

The railways are a complex industry with many people involved in supporting the provision of the service. In this workshop, we will look at what railway workers did from the earliest days to the 1980s. How did a signaller's job evolve and what was it like to be on the footplate of a steam locomotive for a full shift? What did a station master or shunter actually do? What is a lengthman and why was a wheeltapper so important?

We will answer all of these questions and more as we look at the roles that the men and women of the railways undertook during their careers. Attendees will also have the opportunity to ask questions pertinent to their own research.

Tickets cost £10 (members £9).

Pre-booking required because places are limited.

Book now



Online Family History Advice Clinic

Mon 06 Nov 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 (sold out)

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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