
Here's this week's In Touch

1 message

Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org.uk>

19 November 2023 at 08:48

in touch



Hi

There's a definite Christmas vibe to this week's In Touch because the last shipment dates from our shop are alarmingly close. We've lined up a list of items that would make good presents for genealogists, especially those with a local or specific interest, but there are plenty more to discover online.

There are some seasonal Branch Meetings; and the approach of December heralds a new wave of journals from other societies including another new exchange from Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS.



Exchange Journals

We now have so many exchanges in place that this news item has become a standard piece. We have another new one, lots of new editions, and quite a few back editions too.

- British Columbia Genealogical Society (1 current and 1 back edition)
- Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire FHS
- Cheshire FHS
- East of London FHS
- East Yorkshire FHS
- Glamorgan FHS
- Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS (**new** - 1 current and 5 back editions)
- Isle of Wight FHS
- Ormskirk & District FHS
- Queensland FHS
- South Australian Genealogy and Heraldry Society

Enjoy!

[View online \(login required\)](#)



Royal Berkshire Archives

The Royal Berkshire Archives (previously known as the Berkshire Record Office) is currently closed to visitors for stocktaking. It reopens at 09:00 on Tuesday 28th November 2023 (they do not open on Mondays or weekends).

To find out their opening hours or to contact them, see:

<https://www.royalberkshirearchives.org.uk/contact-us>



Are you searching for that special present for Christmas?

As the holiday seasons approach - Berkshire Family History Society's bookshop offers a great selection of potential presents for either yourself or your loved ones.

There are over 1,000 items in our product range - so plenty to choose from. On a practical note however - don't leave it too late to put your order in. The last dates for Christmas orders are Friday 15 December (UK) and Friday 1 December (Overseas) to give us time to process your request and get it into the post before the relevant final postal dates.

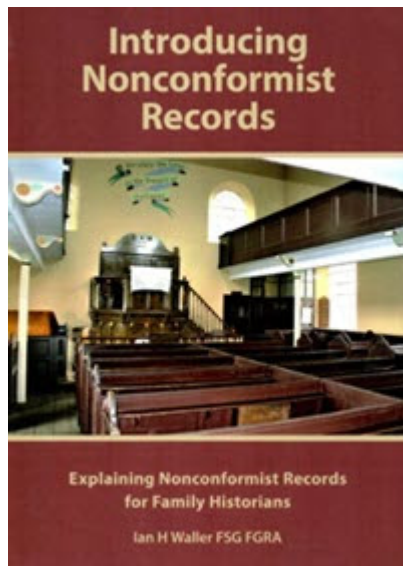
Here are a few new additions and favourites that you might be interested in, for a full selection visit <https://shop.berksfhs.org/>

Introducing Nonconformist Records - explaining nonconformist records for family historians

£14.95

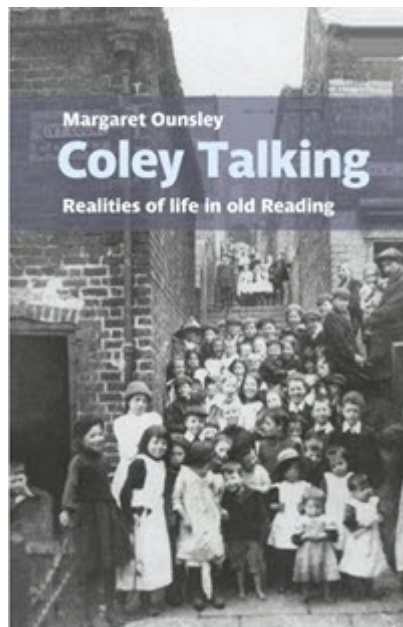
This immensely detailed and invaluable guide is a must for those tracing their nonconformist ancestors and will provide all the help that the family historian needs.

[Click here to buy.](#)



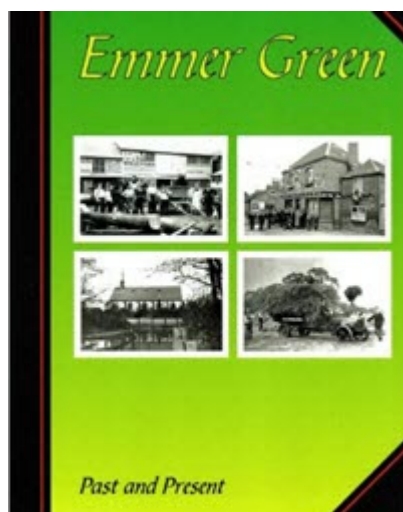
Coley Talking - realities of life in old Reading

£12.99



These recollections of the Coley area of Reading provide an understanding of the area's social, economic and political history – an area now much changed through clearance of poor housing and demolition to accommodate new roads construction. The story of the area is given through its people, its community activities and the day to day struggles of life.

[Click here to buy.](#)



Emmer Green - Past & Present

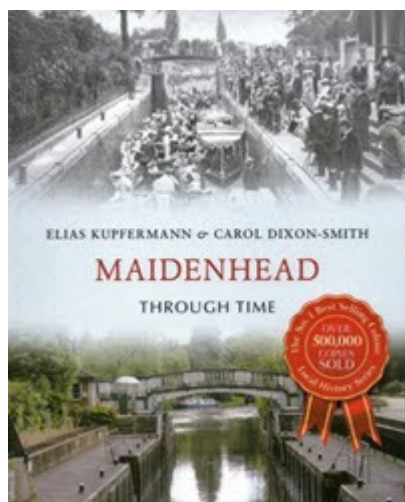
£12.00

This information-packed book on Emmer Green traces its history from an estate hamlet to a suburb of Caversham. It is a reprint of the 2003 second edition with additional pages to bring it up to 2022.

[Click here to buy.](#)

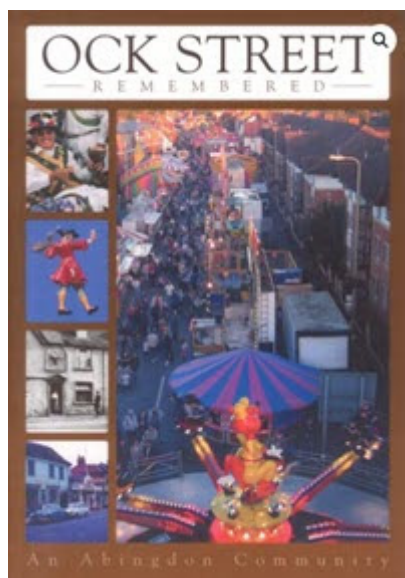
Maidenhead Through Time

£15.99



A fascinating selection of photographs showing the many ways in which the town has developed over the last century.

[Click here to buy.](#)



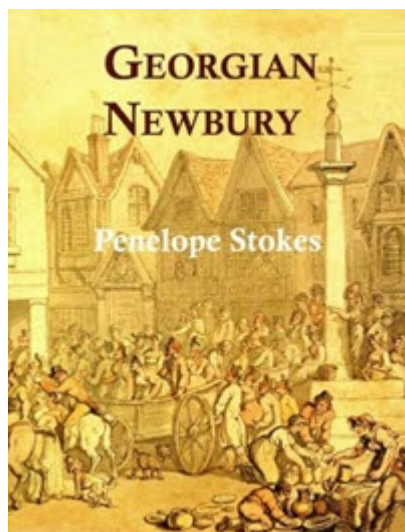
Abingdon, Ock Street Remembered

£5.00

This well illustrated book published by the Ock Street Heritage Group, describes the trades and people of this historic Abingdon thoroughfare.

It also covers the social changes and key events that shaped the area.

[Click here to buy.](#)



Georgian Newbury

£15.00

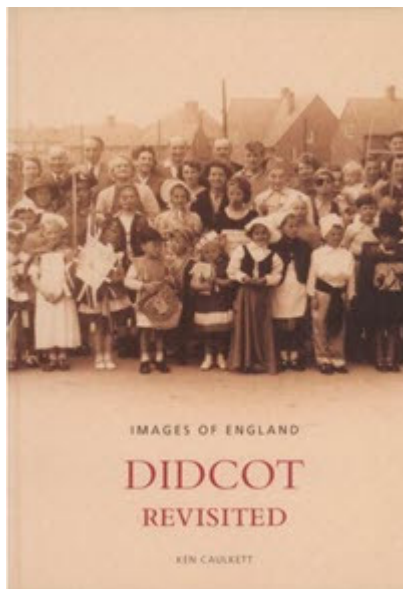
This book brings to life Georgian Newbury and Georgian society generally.

Covering all aspects of town life from education, trade, health, transport to leisure, crime and religion; no part of daily life is ignored.

[Click here to buy.](#)

Didcot Revisited

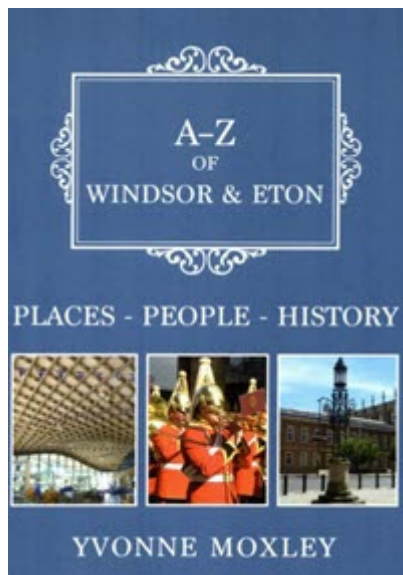
£12.99



Presents a collection of more than 200 photographs, exploring the history of Didcot during the twentieth century.

Every aspect of life in Didcot is captured in this tribute to the town: weddings and parties, schools and sports teams, churches, local clubs and theatre groups, hours of work and of leisure.

[Click here to buy.](#)

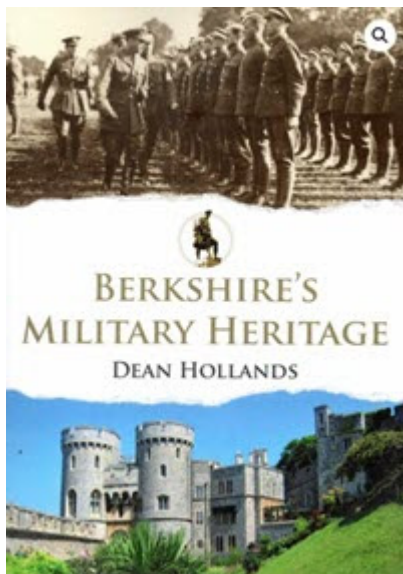


A-Z of Windsor & Eton: places – people – history

£14.99

This well illustrated A-Z journey through Windsor, Eton and surrounding areas throws interesting, sometimes intriguing, light on the significant heritage of the towns and district.

[Click here to buy.](#)



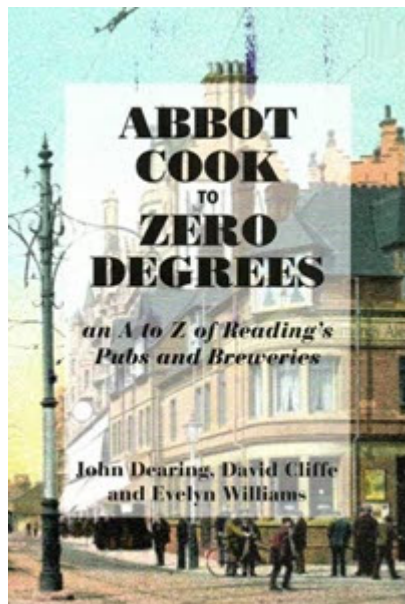
Berkshire's Military Heritage

£15.99

This book traces the story of Berkshire's military forces and actions from Roman to modern times, and includes sections on Sandhurst and other Colleges and also on Memorials

[Click here to buy.](#)

Abbot Cook to Zero Degrees: an A to Z of Reading's Pubs



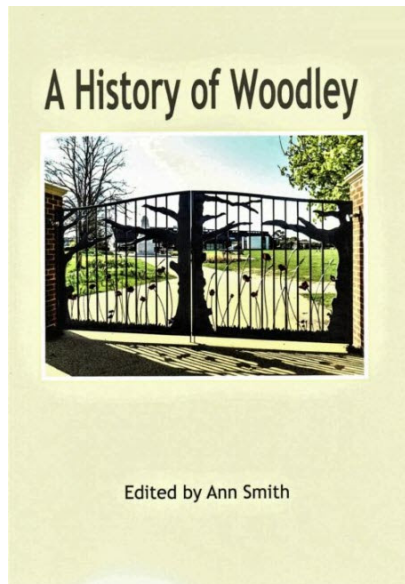
and Breweries

£12.00

A comprehensive directory and history of pubs and breweries in Reading, both past and present. As well as detailed histories of the sites, the maps show their locations also.

Published by the History of Reading Society

[Click here to buy.](#)

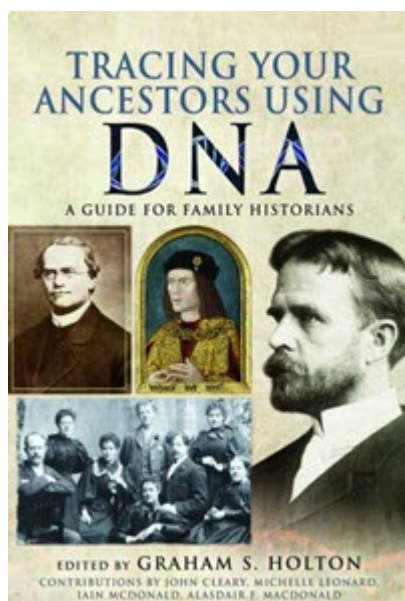


The History of Woodley

£10.00

This history of Woodley has been compiled by local U3A groups and provides the development over the centuries to what is now a suburb of Reading. The book is lavishly illustrated with photographs of places, people and events. Well known for it's part in aviation this book shows the reader that there is much more to Woodley than a former aerodrome and aircraft factory.

[Click here to buy.](#)

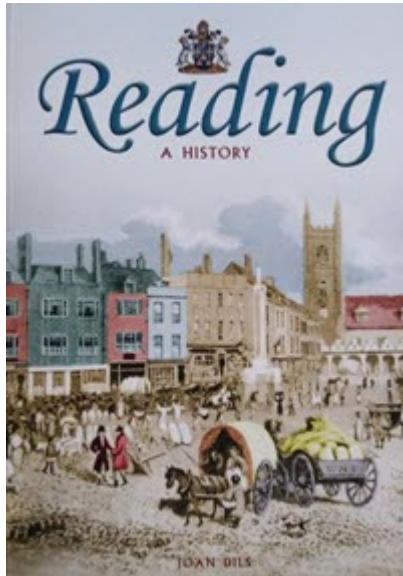


Tracing your Ancestors using DNA

£14.99

This book provides an accessible, wide-ranging introduction to this subject, and offers a clear explanation and practical guide for family historians to DNA discoveries and their use in exploring our ancestry and their ethical and legal implications.

[Click here to buy.](#)



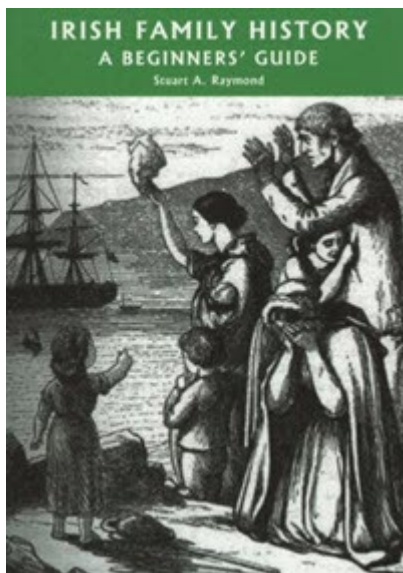
Reading: A History

£25.00

By Joan Dils

The story of Reading is a long and fascinating one, and this superb book by a renowned local historian is a must for anyone with an interest in the history of the town. Over the last 1000 years it has attracted a host of influential individuals from royals and clerics to philanthropists and entrepreneurs, turning the town from a barely visible dark age settlement to the wealthy and vibrant community of the 21st century.

[Click here to buy.](#)

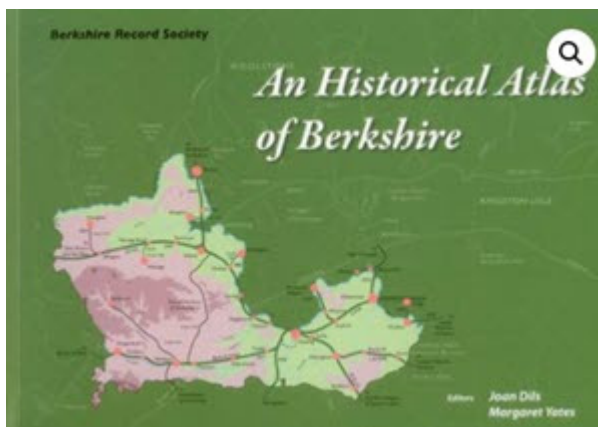


Irish Family History, A Beginners Guide

£5.95

For those wanting to research their Irish family history this book provides the basic guidance needed. It introduces the reader to techniques of research, guides to the use of archives, libraries and the internet, and suggests numerous research sources.

[Click here to buy.](#)



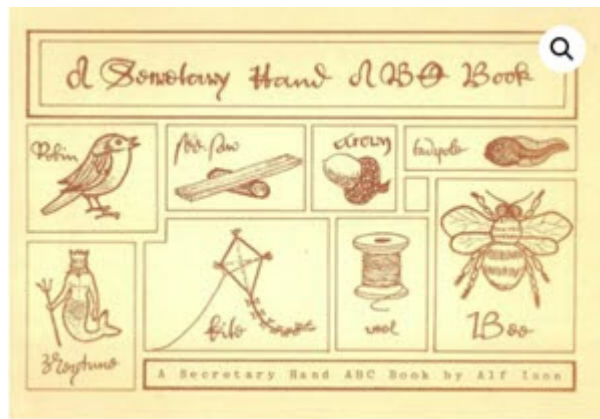
An Historical Atlas of Berkshire, (2nd Edition)

£20.00

This new enlarged edition with 74 articles on Berkshire's history from the Palaeolithic to 21st century each accompanied by maps in full colour, and with numerous illustrations. Indispensable to those with Berkshire ancestors.

Joan Dils and Margaret Yates

[Click here to buy](#)

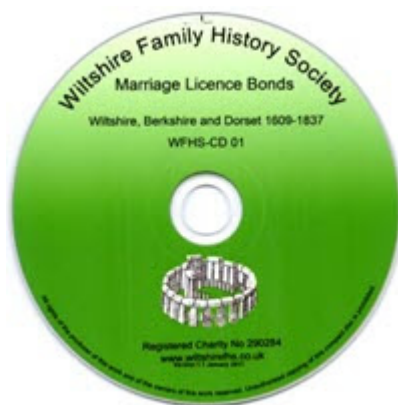


A Secretary Hand, an ABC Book

£5.00

A handy guide to “secretary hand” including illustrations of characters A to Z, common abbreviations, practice words, numbers and some samples and transcripts of wills 16th to 18th centuries, nursery rhymes and a list of words.

[Click here to buy](#)



Berkshire, Wiltshire and Dorset Marriage Licence Bonds (CD)

£12.00

Details of 70,000 Marriage Licence Bonds for people expecting to be married in the Salisbury diocese. Includes people from outside the diocese. Normally includes groom's name, age, occupation, place of residence and marital state, bride's name and age.

[Click here to buy](#)

And don't forget our Gift Memberships - from them to you or you to them

Introduce someone to the world of family history by buying them a Gift Membership so they can enjoy all the benefits of society membership.

If you know someone who's already a member, why not treat them to a year's free membership? Not sure if they've already paid for the year? Don't worry, if they have they can use your gift to extend their membership for a further year. They don't have



to wait until their membership is due - they can add it at any time for the one-year extension.

The pack includes a gift certificate you can download and print off for them.

[Complete the form and we'll do the rest.](#)



Image by [Mint Miller](#) from [Pixabay](#).

Planning your Christmas events ahead

There are already a number of Christmas events in the diary - so do plan ahead if you are able to.

As I write, Abingdon and Reading Branches both have face-to-face social events planned; one talks, a quiz and seasonal refreshments and the other a social get together at The King's Head and Bell in Abingdon. The Zoom Centre talk on 14th December is "Jane Austen's First Christmas".

See our events programme for full details:

<https://berksfhs.org/whats-on/>

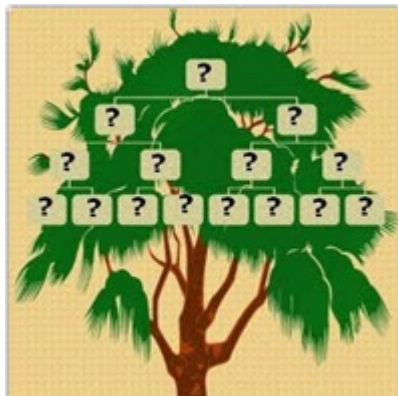
Elsewhere, the Zoom talk "From peace to pigs in blankets: the British Christmas from 1945 onwards", organised by The National Archives, caught my eye. It takes place on Wednesday 6th December at 7.30pm and the fee is "pay what you can/fee optional.

You can find out more and book here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/from-peace-to-pigs-in-blankets-the-british-christmas-from-1945-onwards-tickets-698331858387?aff=web>

Events

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



Abingdon Branch Meeting

Mon 20 Nov 19:30 - 21:30

Long Furlong Community Centre

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.

Free to members

£5 donation requested from non-members

[Find out more](#)



Literary and Artistic Footprints of The Thames Valley

Thu 23 Nov 14:00 - 15:15
Talk by Nick Brazil

Online

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.

Image: Hardwick House by Philip Pankhurst

Tickets cost £5 (members £4).
Pre-booking is required.

[Book now](#)



Create an enduring family tree in YourTrees

Thu 23 Nov 19:00 - 21:30
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.

As one attendee put it:

"I recently loaded my data to YourTrees and have found it very useful in showing up mistakes/anomalies in my original. It offers reporting on some fields which are hard to get to on my desktop program. I thought I would let you know that it has already helped."

It is a member exclusive Zoom workshop and FREE.

Pre-booking required.

[Book now](#)



Drop In Advice Session

Tue 28 Nov 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](#)



The Empress of Ireland - Canada's Titanic

Tue 28 Nov 19:30 - 21:30

**Windsor Branch Meeting with talk
by Helen Baggott**

Online

When the RMS *Empress of Ireland* sank in 1914, more passengers lost their lives than on *Titanic* – yet few have heard of the tragedy. Our speaker reveals the story of the sinking – and three families from Dorset and Somerset that were affected. Illustrated by postcards and photographs, this talk remembers a forgotten tragedy.

Free to members.

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

[Book now](#)



Tall Tales, Secrets and Ordinary Lives

Thu 30 Nov 19:45 - 21:00

**Reading Branch Meeting with talk by
Sue Ellis**

**The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day
Saints, Tilehurst**

Family History is one of the fastest growing hobbies, and extremely popular. This

talk takes a light look at some of the minutiae in family history – including the ordinary lives of local WW1 soldiers discovered during research into the names on a selection of local war memorials; the secrets disclosed by the census, and by Wills; and the tall tales told in every family, which sometimes turn out to be based on truth.

This talk is free to members of Berkshire Family History Society and we request a donation of £5 from non-members.

[Find out more](#)



Online Family History Advice Clinic

Mon 04 Dec 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 (sold out)

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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