
Here's your latest In Touch

1 message

Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org.uk>

24 March 2024 at 08:01

in touch



Image colourised by Jim Bradshaw

Hi

Once again, my rose-tinted nostalgia glasses make me hanker for the image above, rather than the [modern scene](#) although, as we have seen many times before, the scene is once again instantly recognisable. That said it's a shame that the wonderful diamond-pattern brickwork in the modern view is obscured by ivy in the original.

The theme this week is commemoration, with articles from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and Oxford University's 'The Finest Hour'. There are lots of exchange journals too.



Exchange Journals

We have eight this time with some previous issues in two cases:

- Airedale & Wharfedale FHS
- British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (+3 previous issues)
- Buckinghamshire FHS
- Cheshire FHS
- Essex FHS
- Family History ACT (Australia)
- Hertfordshire FHS
- International Society for British Genealogy and Family History (+1 previous issue)

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



UK, Royal Mail Pension and Gratuity Records, 1860-1970

Post Office Pension Records now on Ancestry

The family history website Ancestry has added 278,540 Royal Mail pension and gratuity records covering the period 1860-1970. This is thanks to its partnership with the Postal Museum.

The records are searchable and include digitised images.

Search the collection here:

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62452/>



The Legacy of Liberation - commemorating D-Day

In early June, the country will be commemorating the 80th anniversary of D-Day with a series of events across the UK and in Normandy. You can find out how you can be involved, sign up to receive the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's guide to events, plus read the first of their planned articles on the Second World War here:

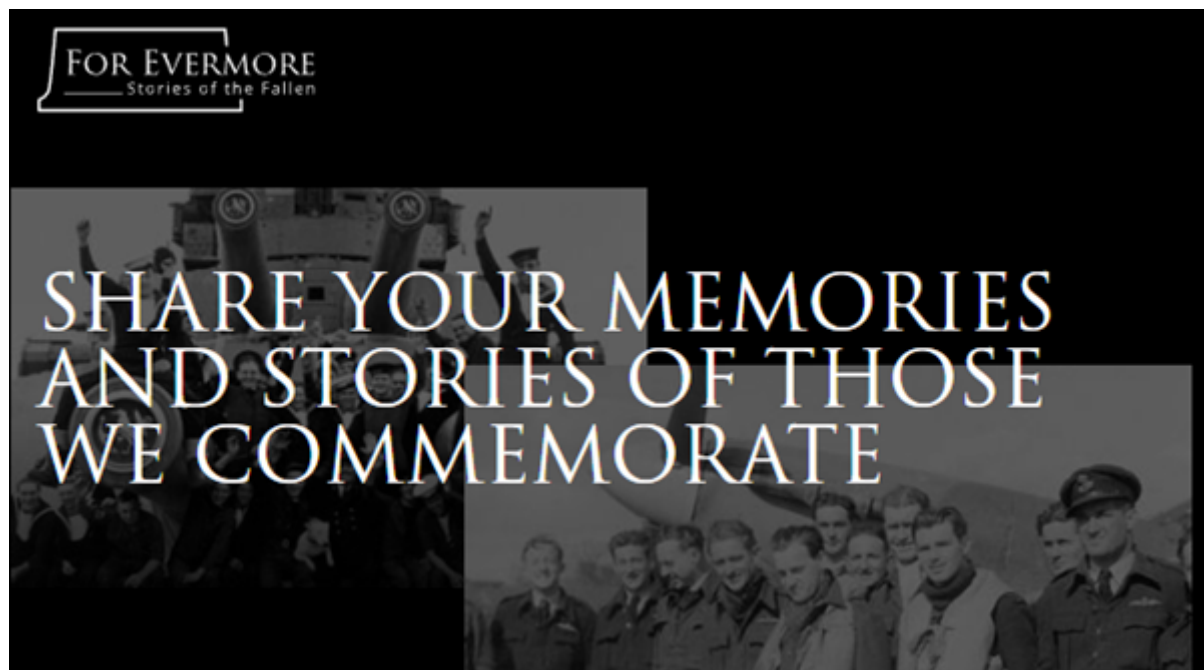
<https://www.cwgc.org/liberation/>

Berkshire Family History Society will also be commemorating the events of June 1944 with a series of two talks setting the scene for D-Day, which culminate in a special D-Day lunch and talk on Thursday 27th June in The Centre for Heritage and Family History.

Find out more here:

<https://berksfhs.org/events/a-potpourri-of-social-history-talks-spring-series-3>

<https://berksfhs.org/events/d-day-lunch-talk>



Commonwealth War Graves Commission - For Evermore

The CWGC is still seeking relatives and ancestors of those commemorated by the Commission to upload their stories and photographs to their For Evermore online commemorative resource.

This is a fast growing resource and a great way to preserve stories and research for future generations. You can submit a story here:

<https://www.cwgc.org/stories/create-a-story/>



Their Finest Hour - Reminder

Whilst on the subject of preserving stories and images - the countdown is now on to add content to the University of Oxford project that collects and digitally archives the

everyday stories and objects of the Second World War. The thousands of stories and objects that they already have recorded and digitised will be available to view for free in their online archive from 6 June 2024.

Submit your story here:

<https://oxford.omeka.net/s/theirfinesthour-archive/page/direct-submissions>

Events

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



Drop In Advice Session

Tue 26 Mar 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.

Free for ALL family historians wherever your ancestors came from.

[Read more](#)

April Natter Group

Tue 02 Apr 18:45 for 19:00

Monthly Discussion Group facilitated by Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens



Online

Join this online discussion from your own home, wherever you live. Open only to members of Berkshire Family History Society.

Free - for members only.
Pre-booking required.

[Read more and book](#)



Education in Thatcham: A thirst for knowledge!

Wed 10 Apr 14:00-16:00

**Newbury Branch Meeting with speaker:
Sue Ellis**

West Berks Museum, Newbury

A look at both the drivers for education within England, and the provision of education in Thatcham, from the foundation of Lady Winchcombe's Charity in the Chapel of St Thomas the Martyr to the provision of secondary education with the founding of Thatcham's first secondary school.

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

[Read more](#)

Houses & Estates Talks Series

Thu 11 Apr 14:00 - 15:30

Thu 09 May as above

Thu 13 Jun as above

The Centre for Heritage & Family History, Reading



A series of three talks covering Houses and Estates in Berkshire.

Tilehurst's Big Houses: Dellwood, The Laurels & Kentwood

Thu 11 Apr 14:00 - 15:30 with Katie Amos

Katie Amos, Local Studies Lead for Reading Library, will be taking a look at three properties, where

each used to be a private house.

- Dellwood, an ex-maternity and care home
- The Laurels, now the infant department of Park Lane School,
- Kentwood Farmhouse, which is now flats.

[Read more...](#)

Purley Hall and Charles Bridgeman

Thu 09 May 14:00 - 15:30 with Ben Viljoen

Ben Viljoen, a founder member of Berkshire Gardens Trust will be talking about the rich history of Purley Hall, a secluded Jacobean manor house that is not open to the public, and its connection with Charles Bridgeman.

[Read more...](#)

Caversham Park – 930 Years at the Centre of History

Thu 13 Jun 14:00 - 15:30 with Dr Stephen Goss

Dr Stephen Goss fascinating talk covers the history of the Manor of Caversham from the Domesday Book to listening in for doomsday during the cold war.

[Read more...](#)

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.

Tea, coffee and cake after the talk is included in the price.

[Read more and book](#)

Drop In Advice Session

Thu 11 Apr 14:00 - 17:00

Bracknell Central Library



Bring your questions, problems and 'brick walls' ... and get some new ideas and advice from members of the Berkshire Family History Society.

[Read more](#)



DNA Special Interest Group

Sat 13 Apr 14:30 - 16:30

Facilitator: Debbie Kennett

Online

A special interest discussion group aimed at those wanting to get the most out of their DNA results. Sessions are held quarterly, by international DNA expert, Debbie Kennett. There is no obligation to attend on a regular basis and first-time attendees are always welcomed. All levels of expertise welcome from beginner level to experienced.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4).

Pre-booking required.

[Read more and book](#)

Online Family History Advice Clinic

Mon 15 Apr 14:00 - 16:00

(four 25 minute slots available)



Just getting started in family history and want guidance as to how to proceed? Stuck at a “brick wall” and need help?

These popular family history advice sessions are online, using Zoom - you can book a 1:1 free session wherever you live in the world.

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

[Read more and book](#)



F2F Family History Advice Clinic

Mon 15 Apr

Session 1: 19:40 - 20:30 (3 tickets)

Session 2: 20:40 - 21:30 (3 tickets)

Hosted by Abingdon Branch

Long Furlong Community Centre

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?

Members of the Abingdon Branch are doing something a bit different and turning their Branch Meeting into a one-to-one session, where one of our experienced members will help you make some progress.

Booking is essential but is free to all

[Read more and book](#)

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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