

28 April 2024 at 08:00

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in touch



Hungerford Road, Great Shefford

Image colourised by Jim Bradshaw

Hi

This week I have to admit defeat. I've virtually roamed the few streets of Great Shefford in Street-View, looking for that acute-angled asymmetric roof line and I am unconvinced by the only candidate I can [find](#). We don't know the date of this photo but, were it not for some of the buildings in the background, this scene could just as easily be from the 16th to 18th centuries. Timeless Britain.

Which reminds me, don't forget the challenge we set last time, to continue this series with a **Readers' Pics** theme? Have a dig around in your own photo archives to see if you have any heritage photos. If you know the locations we can have a go at

locating them on the modern map and Google Street View. If you find something you'd like us to use, email it to webmaster@berksfhs.org.uk, along with some details of when and where, and we'll be delighted to feature it. Go on, it's pouring with rain still - you need *something* to do!



Exchange Journals

Just three new ones this week:

- Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire FHS
- Herefordshire FHS
- Queensland FHS

Plus all of 2023's back issues for:

- Dyfed Family History Society

View online (login required)



Pay-to-view Video

For those of you who missed the live talk, we've added another new recorded talk to our Video Hub

The Battle of Britain with speaker Dr Richard Marks

In 1940, Britain stood alone following the fall of France. With the German army poised across the channel, only the RAF could prevent the Luftwaffe from gaining the air supremacy needed to successfully mount the expected invasion. Historian Richard Marks looks at how the RAF's systems and equipment allowed them to prevent the invasion.

Access Pass: £5 (members £4 with coupon code)

Note: for licensing reasons the content is only available until 31 Jul 2024

Buy an access pass

That is just the latest in our series of recorded talks and courses. The other topics (which you can buy an access pass for using the button above) are:

Five generations at the Fairmile Hospital

Understanding Old Handwriting

Getting the Most out of the Maps Website



Royal Berkshire Archives - new digital archive

The Royal Berkshire Archives (RBA) has announced the launch of its new digital repository. This is where they store records which they have received in digital format and also some copies of some of their paper-based records.

This is very much work in hand but it immediately opens up more lesser-used and known sources for Berkshire.

One to bookmark to come back and regularly explore. To search their digital catalogue visit the site [here](#)

Events

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



Drop In Advice Session

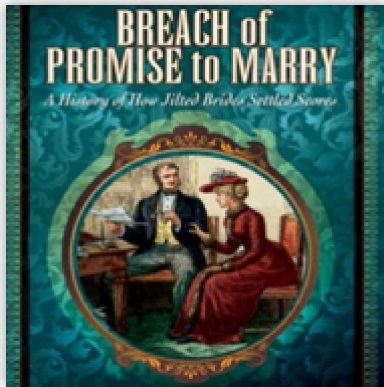
Tue 30 Apr 14:00 - 16:30

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](#)



Breach of Promise to Marry – The Real Miss Havishams

Tue 30 Apr 19:30 - 21:30

Windsor Branch meeting and talk by Denise Bates

Online

Breach of Promise to Marry investigates the social and cultural history of broken engagements between 1780 -1970 and why the law allowed the person who had been jilted to claim damages from the person who had broken the engagement.

Discover who were the real Miss Havishams and why they found different endings to their fictional counterpart.

Free to members.

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

Pre-booking required.

[Read more and book](#)



May Natter Group

Tue 07 May 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](#)



History of Thames Valley Police + BAM

Wed 08 May 14:00 - 16:00

Newbury Branch Talk and BAM

West Berkshire Museum

After a brief Branch Annual Meeting, this talk covers the origins of policing, starting with the tithing system and the communities 'self-policing'. It discusses the lack of properly organised policing in the growing communities of the industrial revolution and Robert Peel's formation of the first official police, which rapidly expanded out into borough and county forces and gave us two nicknames for the police, 'Bobbies' and 'Peelers'

[Read more](#)



Drop In Advice Session

Thu 09 May 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](#)



Purley Hall and Charles Bridgeman

Thu 09 May 14:00 - 15:30

Talk with speaker: Ben Viljoen

The Centre for Heritage & Family History

Our speaker is Ben Viljoen, a founder member of Berkshire Gardens Trust. Ben has always been interested in the history of 18th century English landscape gardening, and was delighted to find that both Charles Bridgeman, father of the English Landscape movement, and Humphry Repton, who succeeded Lancelot Brown, did work in Purley. His talk will be 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 and book](#)



The Industrial Revolution Course

Fri 10 May, 17 May, 24 May, 31 May,

Fri 07 Jun

14:00 - 15:45

Tutor: Dr Richard Marks
Online

Every family historian with British ancestry has ancestors whose lives were changed either directly or indirectly because of the Industrial Revolution. In this five week online course for family historians we will look at:

- Why the Industrial Revolution happened in Britain
- The experiences of those involved
- How the Industrial Revolution can be researched by family historians
- How their ancestors lived and worked during this period of great change

Tickets cost £50 (members £45)
Pre-booking is required.

[Read more and book](#)



Face-to-Face Family History Advice Clinic

Mon 13 May 11:00 - 12:00

The Centre for Heritage & Family History

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.

Booking closes 02 May. Hurry - there's only ONE slot!

[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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