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[Test] friend, Heritage Open Days Special

1 message

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1 September 2024 at 08:47

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To: paul.barrett@berksfhs.org.uk



Hi friend

Every September, thousands of volunteers across England organise events to celebrate our fantastic history and culture. It's your chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences – all of which are FREE to explore.

Here are some of the many highlights of what is available in Berkshire in this year's programme.

You can explore all of the planned heritage openings at:

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>

Please check the website in advance – as pre-booking is required for some events.



Broad Street, Reading c1900

Once again, Berkshire Family History Society is taking part in the Heritage Open Days.

In line with this year's theme, Society volunteers will be offering guidance on **tracing the history of a house and its past occupants**, as well of course as tracing family history. And you'll be able to visit on more days as **we will be extending the opening hours of The Centre for Heritage and Family History** on the second floor of Reading Central Library.

In addition, throughout this period we will be running a **panoramic view of Broad Street, Reading** based on the 1881 census. It's a spectacular and rarely seen display - so don't miss the chance to study it and see the shops and buildings your ancestors would have known.

Plus, on Saturday 7th September, we will be showing a **video screening of the areas of Reading affected by the creation of the Inner Distribution Road** at 11am and again at 1pm. One of the video's creators - Graham Turner - will be joining us for the day to chat to visitors about the area of Coley which was particularly altered by our ring road, sharing memories and tales of families displaced and houses lost.

image [Walton Adams](#), Public domain, via [Wikimedia Commons](#)

Find out more and book a place at one of the screenings



Taplow Court, Maidenhead

Taplow Court, a mid-19th-century mansion set high above the Thames near Maidenhead, and its grounds will be open to the public from 12:30-5pm on Sunday 8th September, 2024. You may picnic in the 85 acres of ground and Taplow Court House will be open to visit. Cream teas will also be available from 2pm. The house will be open between 2-5pm

[Find out more](#)



All Saints Church, Binfield

All Saints Church will be open on 7th September, 10am-4pm, with stewards and information brochures. Refreshments will be available and all are very welcome. The church dates back to the 12th century. It was originally one of the chapels of the Royal Manor of Cookham, which covered an area as far away as Sunninghill, that was given to the Abbey of Cirencester by Henry I.

[Find out more](#)



Reading Old Cemetery, London Road, Reading

There are several tour events planned.

On Sunday 8th September 1-3.30pm, you can join a tour organised by volunteers from Econet Friends of Reading Old group that will focus on the history and background of the garden cemetery movement plus look at some of the specimen trees which were part of the original planting of the site during the Victorian era by Sutton Seeds Ltd.

Find out more

A further opportunity to discover the site comes on 15th September 1-3pm when you can find out about the history of the site, some of the monuments and the life stories of people buried there. Dressing Up optional but fun!

Find out more



Wokingham Baptist Church - Celebrating 250 Years

Wokingham Baptist Church then and now: come and explore 250 years of local history through displays around the building and activities for children on Saturday 14th September 11am-3pm. Find out about the history of the buildings, how the life of our community has changed over the centuries, and the part Baptist Christians have played in the life of Wokingham and beyond. At the end of your visit, enjoy a free tea or coffee and cake.

Find out more



Reconstructing the story of the rise and fall of Donnington Castle

St Mary's Church Shaw cum Donnington – Saturday 14th September – is the venue for a special focus day on Donnington Castle, with speakers and a tour of the gatehouse. See and hear anew the story of Donnington Castle from the day when it was built in the late 14th Century, during the reign of King Richard II, through to its capture and destruction by Parliament in the English Civil War, during the reign of King Charles I.

[Find out more](#)



Hungerford Food & Artisan Market

Heritage Festival

Sunday 8 September
10am - 3pm

Free Entry!



Croft Field, Hungerford RG17 0HY

Hungerford Heritage Festival

Visit Hungerford's Heritage Festival on 8th September for thatching demonstrations, ferret racing, Morris Dancing, have a go at traditional crafts and the chance to meet the producers who are keeping rural traditions alive including venison and bee-keeping.

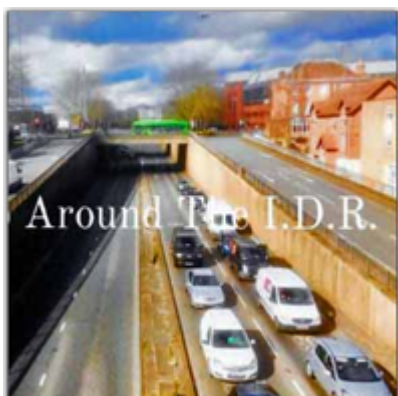
Find out more



Abingdon Abbey Buildings

Visit the remaining domestic buildings of the medieval Abingdon Abbey - and experience life in Iron Age Abingdon! Multiple dates available. If you visit on Saturday 14 September you can enjoy an Iron Age experience with The Vicus & Pario Gallico. It will be a living history event with fun for all ages including re-enactments, demonstrations, crafts, interactive displays, and more!

[Find out more](#)



A trip around the Reading Inner Distribution Road – Before & After

Video screening

Sat 07 Sep 11:00 & 13:00

The Centre for Heritage & Family History

In support of Heritage Open Days, the Society will be screening a video of parts of Reading affected by the creation of the Inner Distribution Road (IDR.) There will be two screenings.

The IDR opened in 1969. It was a radical solution to the build-up of traffic in the town centre. Its construction resulted in parts of old central Reading being demolished, changing the shape of the town forever.

One of the video's creators – Graham Turner – will be joining us for the day. Graham will chat to visitors about the area of Coley which was particularly altered by our ring road. He will share memories and tales of families displaced and houses lost.

Refreshments will be available, for a small donation.

Free to all

Pre-booking is recommended to guarantee a place but walk-ins are possible subject to availability

Book now



September Natter Group

Facilitated by Gillian Stevens

& Chad Hanna

Tue 10 Sep 18:45 for 19:00 start

Online

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

Informal discussion group. Topics are chosen by the group on a monthly basis. End time varies.

Free to attend, but pre-booking is required so that the meeting link can be emailed to you.

Members only

Book now



A Nice Quiet Life

Newbury Branch Meeting

with speaker: Robert Chicken

Wed 11 Sep 14:00 - 16:00

West Berkshire Museum

Robert's grandfather was in the Merchant Navy from 1908 to 1946. This talk covers how he came to be a mariner, the voyages and ships he sailed on and his experiences. Including time with the White Star Line and at Gallipoli.

Hear how during the second world war his ship was torpedoed, spending sometime in a lifeboat before crossing a continent to join his next ship. The talk includes many images of the ships in which his grandfather served.

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

Booking not required

Find out more



Drop In Advice Session

Thu 12 Sep 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.

For ALL family historians wherever your ancestors came from.

Booking not required

[Find out more](#)



More than Biscuits, Beer and Bulbs – Reading's Other Industries

Thu 12 Sep 14:00 - 15:30

The Centre for Heritage & Family History

This is the last of three talks in the Industry and Archaeology Talks Series.

While Reading is rightly renowned for its baking, brewing and seed businesses, the town had many lesser-known industries that brought with them prosperity and just as importantly jobs, for the wider population. In a time when most companies were privately owned, we will explore a number of these companies and the people who owned them covering industries such as printing, ironworking and brick making; names like Cox and Wyman, Katesgrove Foundry and Poulton's Waterloo Kiln Brickworks.

£5 (Members £4)

Pre-booking is recommended to guarantee a place but walk-ins are possible subject to availability

Book



Online Family History Advice Clinic

Mon 16 Sep 14:00, 14:30, 15:00, 15:35

Online

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 – 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.

You’ll receive help from our experienced research assistants. We’ll provide whatever help and suggestions that we can within the time frame and book a follow-on session with you if needed. Four, 25-minute, 1:1 slots are provided, starting at the times above.

Check availability and book

This was just a small selection from our extensive events programme



Our events often sell out so please book early to avoid disappointment

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