
here's your latest In Touch

1 message

Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org.uk>

29 September 2024 at 08:02



in touch

your bi-weekly members' newsletter



Pangbourne - the George Hotel surrounded by floods - probably in the 1890s

Image colourised by Jim Bradshaw

Hi Paul

This week's featured image is both historic and topical, although I don't know whether this year's floods have reached this far! The most recognisable feature on [StreetView is the house next door](#). The George Hotel has been remodelled - it looks as though a mock Georgian facade added in the past has been

removed to strip the building back to something closer to the original. Or has it? Perhaps a local can tell us.

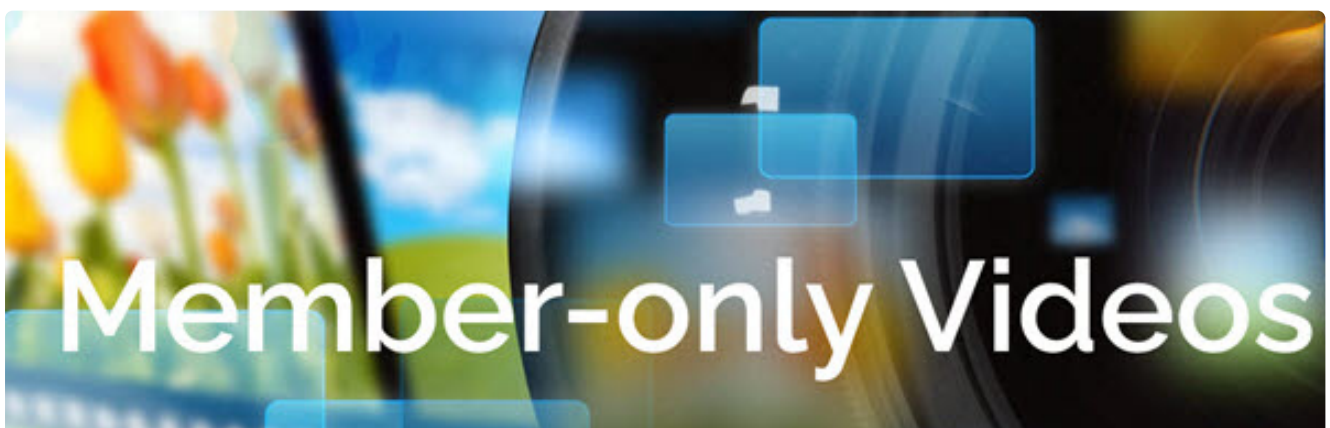


Exchange Journals

After the deluge last time, it's more of a trickle this time, the reverse of the weather!

- British Columbia Genealogical Society
- British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa
- Herefordshire FHS
- Isle of Wight FHS
- South Australian Genealogy and Heraldry Society

[View on website \(login required\)](#)

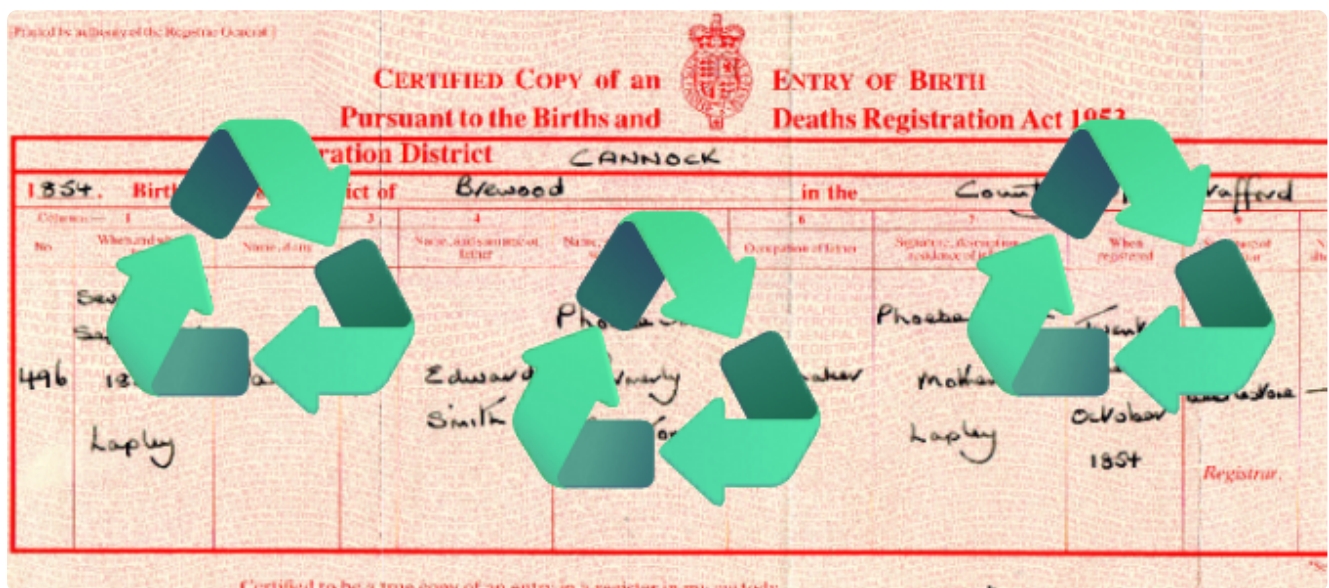


Using a research methodology in family history

A new events season after the summer break also brings our first recorded session for you to enjoy. It's a cracking one too, discussing how a repeatable, consistent and thorough research methodology can help produce better results and break down brick walls.

And, in another first, **this recording is subtitled** using a lot of AI and a smattering of human intelligence - well, let's not get carried away, some human editing at least. It's by no means perfect but it's close enough. We hope it helps those of you with hearing impairment. **This content is only available until 29 Oct**

[View on website \(login required\)](#)



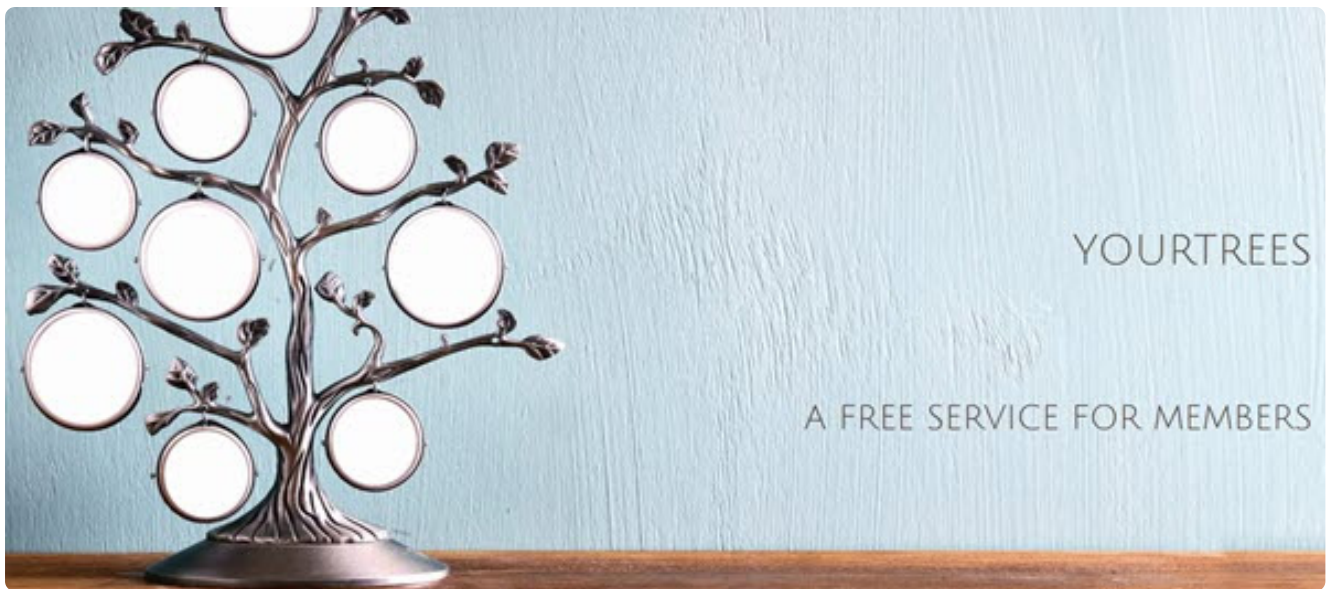
New webpage - Recycled Certificates

We hold a number of Birth, Marriage and Death certificates that are no longer needed by their owners. You may find one that belongs to your family. Several of the surnames listed crop up in YourTrees. We've added a new page to the website where you can see what's available

This service is for certificates that WE hold. If you have certificates YOU hold that you want to recycle, you can do so through the dedicated forum page - please don't send them to us!

[View new page \(login required\)](#)

[View forum page \(login required\)](#)



Are you on YourTrees yet?

We had our latest workshop on 21st August and within 24 hours we received three new trees to add to the service. We have 436 trees now and a total of 348,000 people. Have you submitted yours yet? It's a free member benefit and we'll keep your tree forever. We've just added the next tranche of workshops to the calendar - at quarterly intervals right the way through to October 2025.

Several participants have used the TreeFix reports we send them to improve the quality of their record keeping. Some have commented they wish they'd had a workshop like this when they started their tree! We have a page dedicated to 'Creating great digital records' - scroll down it to see the complete schedule of workshops.

Creating great digital records

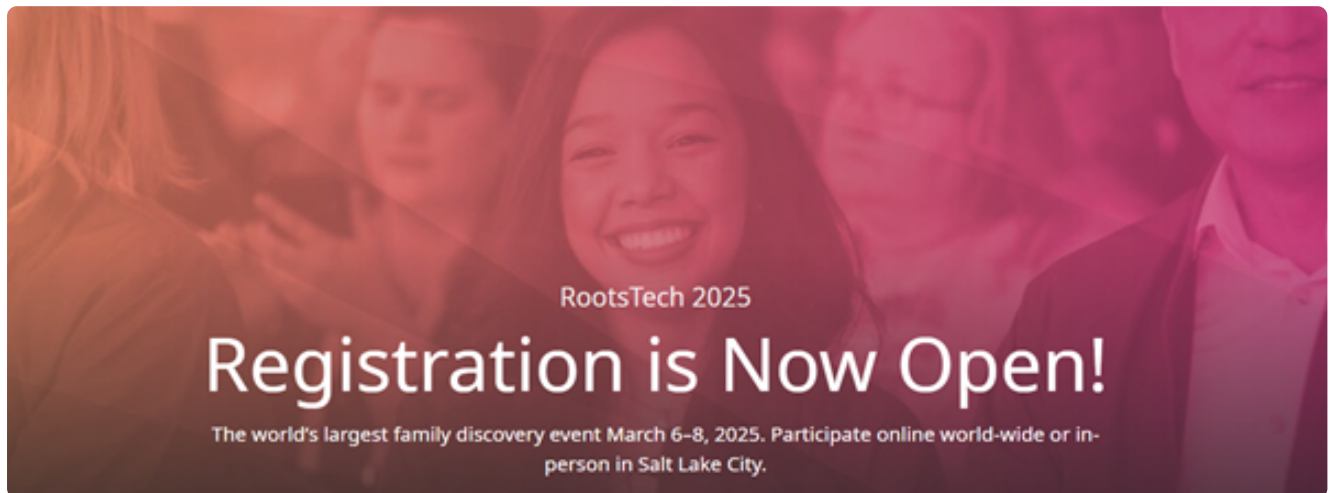


The Didcot, Newbury and Southampton Railway

Berkshire was at one time blessed with extensive railway lines and connections, many of which have long closed. In fact it's the subject of our face-to-face Centre talk on 10th October.

For those with family connections to The Didcot, Newbury and Southampton Railway, or the countryside and towns it covered, or railway enthusiasts generally - a treat is now also available on YouTube. Tim Harvey has put together a short montage of images of the line, its trains, stations and personnel, covering the period 1882-1962, it is available to view for free.

[View on YouTube](#)



Rootstech 2025

I can't believe we're at that time of year already - but registration for Rootstech 2025 has now opened across the world.

The dates for next year's online conference is March 6-8 and the event organisers promise hundreds of exhibitors, and new products for everyone interested in discovering their family history.

[Find out more](#)





October Natter Group

Tue 01 Oct 18:45 for 19:00

Led by Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens

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.

Members only, free to attend, but pre-booking is required.

Book



Castle Hill, Reading, Walkabout

Fri 04 Oct 10:30 - 12:00

Tour Leader: Terry Dixon

Meeting Point will be notified

within booking process

Join walk guide Terry Dixon for this walk exploring the Castle Hill area. Do you know what a pop-up pub was? Where the Coley steps were? See the changes from Courts to a Mansion, lost industries, changing communities and learn some fascinating facts. Plus, visit the Holy Brook Nook.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4).

Numbers are limited, so pre-booking is required.

Image: Graham Horn / Castle Hill /CC BY-SA 2.0



Transport Talks Series

Thu 10 Oct 14:00 - 15:30

Thu 14 Nov 14:00 - 15:30

Thu 05 Dec 14:00 - 15:30

The Centre

The all series ticket covers all three talks in the “Transport” talks series, for the discounted price of £12.50 (members £10.00). You may also book each talk individually – see each separate event page. The talks last about an hour with time for questions and discussion afterwards. Tea, coffee and cake after the talk is included in the price.

Thursday 10 October “Berkshire’s Forgotten Railways” with Dr Richard Marks

Historically, Berkshire had a more expansive railway network than it does today. Before the 1970s, the county had a strong railway service, with most places having easy access to a railway station. However, the situation changed significantly in the late 1960s and 1970s when extensive railway cutbacks resulted in the closure of many stations and lines.

Thursday 14 November “London Underground By Design” with Paul Joyce

Many of us will have travelled on the London Underground and admired the beauty of some of our underground stations. This talk celebrates their design and architecture. Hear about such diverse subjects as architecture, posters, signage, decorative tiling, Art Deco lighting, general fixtures and fitting and much more in this fascinating talk by a life-long railway enthusiast. Early booking is recommended as this is likely to be a very popular talk.

Thursday 5 December “Berkshire’s Canals” with Dr Richard Marks

Before the advent of railways, Berkshire was known for its extensive canal network. These waterways played a crucial role in Britain’s transportation infrastructure, establishing Berkshire as a significant junction and contributing to the county’s economic growth. This talk will explore the reasons behind the extent of the county’s canals and their impact on the local population. Additionally, it will reveal how the railways eventually overtook the canals, possibly at a slower pace than commonly perceived.

Pre-booking is preferred, but you can pay on the door for the series ticket at the first talk, if there are spaces available.

Image: Narrowboat on Kennet & Avon Canal by Steve Daniels, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Book



Drop In Advice Session

Thu 10 Oct 14:00 - 17:00

hosted by Bracknell Branch

Bracknell 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.

Find out more



Victorian Workhouses Workshop

Sat 12 Oct 11:00 - 13:00

Online workshop with tutor Joan Dils

After 1834 the workhouse became the most feared and hated aspect of the New Poor Law, well known because of its portrayal in Charles Dickens's *Oliver Twist*. Although most workhouses offered at least food and shelter, the severe regime, separation of families and social isolation caused many paupers to prefer severe poverty outside. Eventually there were some improvements over the century before its abolition in 1928.

Discover what life was like in a Victorian workhouse with eminent Berkshire historian Joan Dils who explains:

- what was expected of inmates and what was their diet?
- what were the rules governing the workhouse?

- what records were kept?
- where can you now find those records?
- what can they tell researchers?

Delve into the life of those unfortunate enough to fall on hard times, fall ill or injured, or simply just getting old.

Tickets cost £10 (members £9).

Numbers are limited, so pre-booking is required.

Image: Photo © Peter Church (cc-by-sa/2.0)

Book



DNA Special Interest Group

Sat 12 Oct 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. 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.

Sessions are held quarterly, by international DNA expert, Debbie Kennett.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4).

Pre-booking required.

Book

That was just a small selection from our extensive
events programme



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

[View email in browser](#)

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