



messages

Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org.uk>

13 October 2024 at 08:12



in touch

your bi-weekly members' newsletter



Ufton Nervet Church & Cottages

Image colourised by Jim Bradshaw

Hi Paul

Last time we featured an image of the George Hotel, Pangbourne with its Georgian facade that has since been removed. Member Clive Chaney responded, *'I think it was standard practice in Georgian times to add facades to Tudor buildings rather than go to expense of pulling down and rebuilding in "modern" style - see Lavenham in Suffolk where this was done extensively.* [Wokingham's Tudor House at Reading end](#)

of Broad Street was one similarly treated until the front fell off in a storm one night leaving the property in its present original half-timbered state.' If you're unfamiliar with Lavenham - especially overseas members - but enjoy a half-timbered building, then a quick web search for Lavenham will provide a feast of delights!

Back in Berkshire, this week we have Ufton Nervet Church. This must have been taken from land across the road from the church, land which is now enclosed by a wall and trees because we can't replicate the photo in [the modern view](#).



A House Through Time: Two Cities at War

A new series begins on BBC2 at 9pm this coming Thursday 17th. This time, presenter David Olusoga will look at the stories behind two apartment blocks, one in London and one in Berlin. The series will cover history from the 1920s to the 1940s, as Britain and Germany go to war with each other.

There will be four episodes altogether, broadcast on the following Thursdays.

David's focus this time will be the diverse residents of two apartment buildings, Montagu Mansions in Marylebone and [72 Pfalzburger Strasse](#) in Wilmersdorf. These include a soldier, an artist, a Nazi teacher, an African academic, a Jewish refugee, an Italian waiter, a poet, a prisoner of war, a woman spy, and an SS officer.

"Europe is at a crossroads and these ordinary people face extraordinary choices: to stay or to go, to speak out or stay quiet, to go to war or fight for peace. Told through their personal experiences, this is the story of the winners and the losers, the persecutors and the persecuted, those who survive and those who don't."

If you missed the previous series - this is still available on BBC iPlayer (overseas users may be able to use a VPN to access it)

[View on iPlayer](#)



Help, My Ancestor Has Vanished

One of the commonest problems faced by family historians is that ancestors suddenly vanish from the records often for no seeming reason. This thought-provoking presentation looks at why this might be so. It discusses three main reasons:

- the genealogist might have made a mistake in their research;
- there is a problem with the records. Either the clerk made a mistake recording names or the records no longer exist;
- the ancestor may have genuinely gone missing, perhaps emigrating overseas or becoming a tramp.

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



GRO Index Update

The General Register Office (GRO) has recently updated their indexes to now include the year 2022. These can be searched, as usual, using the GRO Online Indexes page.

GRO Index

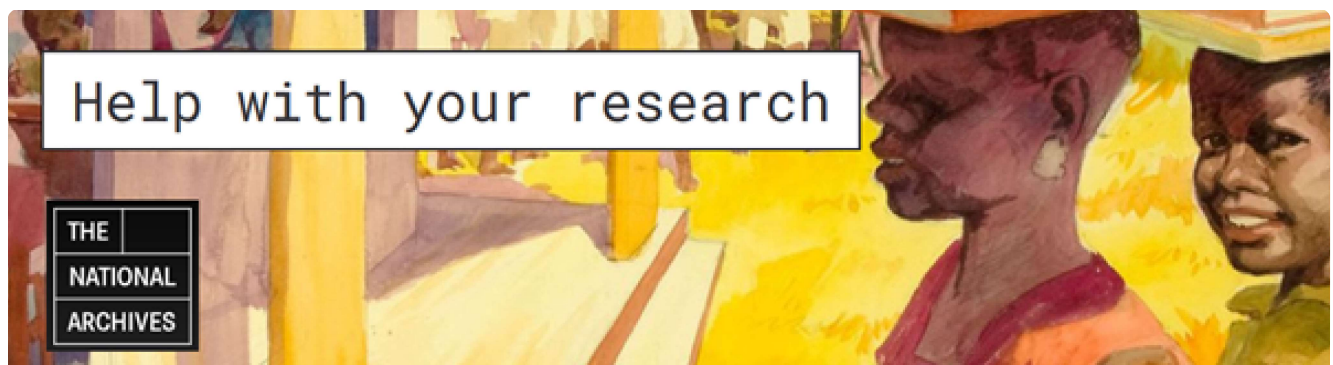


DNA data with 23and me?

DNA company 23andme has been going through worrying times of late, causing some industry experts to suggest safeguarding your DNA data in case the company goes down.

The WhoDoYouThinkYouAre website has a handy guide to downloading your DNA data, should you have tested with 23andme and wish to do so. There is also a useful paragraph on choosing a new company to transfer to.

Find out more



New guides now available on emigration and migration

The National Archives (TNA) has created four new online guides to help family historians trace their overseas forebears using the records in their collections.

The new topics now covered in TNA guides are:

- Family members who emigrated from Britain to Australia and New Zealand.
- Family members who emigrated to the USA and Canada.
- Irish Forebears.

- Family members who migrated to the UK from Africa as well as those who lived in British colonies in Africa during the period of the British Empire.

[Discover all the guides](#)

**Find
past**



Bringing to light British Home Children's stories

Findmypast adds new Home Children Records

Family Tree Website Findmypast has added three new datasets to their Home Children collection.

With emigration records, lodging registers and newspaper cuttings there are a total of 2,213 new images to explore.

[Find out more and search the records](#)

EVENTS



The Earl and the Pharaoh

Wed 16 Oct 19:15 for 19:45

Combined Branches' Meeting with speaker:

Lady Carnarvon

Online

This talk is about a man whose life and death became front-page news throughout the world between the autumn of 1922 and the spring of 1923 when, with his colleague Howard Carter, he discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun and then, shortly afterwards, died.

The media circus that accompanied the opening of the tomb latched onto the glint of gold, the extraordinary treasures and, of course, the superstitious world of ancient Egypt. The back story of hard work, the acquisition of experience and knowledge in an in-hospitable climate, has been overlooked in a welter of excited prose – it is a tale of discovery. Hear about it all directly from the author of the book of the same title.

Members free, non-members £5. Pre-booking is required.

Book



The High Street of Hungerford and Beyond: a guided walk

Fri 18 Oct 10:30 - 12:15

Walk Leader: Dr Hugh Pihlens

Meeting Point notified within booking process

Hungerford is full of interesting history. The town was laid out as a new town in the 13th century, and the heart of the town retains its medieval roots. Many of the High Street buildings are timber framed. However, a number were modernised during the hey-day of the coaching era, which brought so much prosperity to the town.

This guided walk will cover the history of the town, key buildings in the High Street, Church Street and The Croft, before ending in Bridge Street.

Image: Chris Talbot / Hungerford – High Street /CC BY-SA 2.0

Tickets cost £5 (members £4). Numbers are limited, so pre-booking is required.

Book



Getting the Most out of Parish Registers Workshop

Sat 19 Oct 11:00 - 13:00

Online workshop with tutor

Catherine Sampson

Increase your chances of success with a family historian's core resource and better understand what parish registers can provide for you.

Since their introduction in 1538, parish registers have gone through a number of changes. Throughout their history, they bear witness to life within each parish, and record the important personal events of baptism, marriage and burial and of course, after 1753, the reading of banns.

This workshop shows where to find them, how Church of England and non-conformist registers differ, and how to interpret them. Also discover some of the hidden codes which can appear in registers and what they tell us.

Image: copyright Royal Berkshire Archives and reproduced with their kind permission.

Tickets cost £10 (members £9). Pre-booking is required.

Book



Online Family History Advice Clinic

Mon 21 Oct 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 – 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 14.00, 14.30, 15.00, and 15.35.

Free to all. Pre-booking required.

Book



Discussion Group

Abingdon Branch Meeting

Mon 21 Oct 19:30 - 21:30

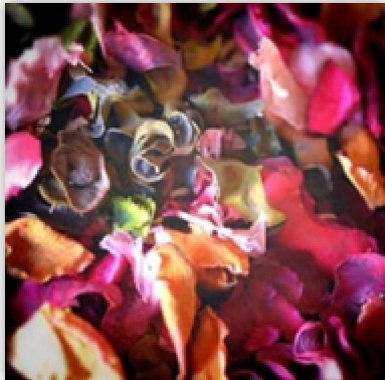
Long Furlong Community Centre

This evening is designed to encourage open discussion about family history research.

Whether you have hit a brick wall and need some advice or have made a remarkable discovery, this is the evening to share in a small informal gathering. Suitable for all levels of family historians.

Raffle, Second-hand Book Stall, Tea and Coffee will be available.

[Find out more](#)



A Potpourri of Social History Talks – Autumn Series

Thu 24 Oct 14:00 - 15:15

Thu 28 Nov 14:00 - 15:15

Thu 12 Dec 14:00 - 15:15

Online

This all series ticket covers all three talks in the Autumn “Potpourri of Social History” talks series, for the discounted price of £12.50 (members £10.00). You may also book each talk individually – see each separate event pages. All three talks are on Thursdays at 2pm and last about an hour. Afterwards there will be time for questions and discussion. This is an online talks series using Zoom.

[Thu 24 Oct ‘Tea Before Victoria’ with Joy Pibworth](#)

We are all very familiar with the concept of Afternoon Tea as a very agreeable social event. Before this mini-meal was conceived in the 1840s the role of tea was very different and this talk explains the social and legal changes which had to take place during the 17th and 18th centuries before tea took its place as Britain’s national drink.

[Thu 28 Nov “Curtain’s Up: The History of Reading’s Art Venues” with Katie Amos](#)

Katie Amos is known as the Local Studies Lead for Reading Library. However, she has also been a member of the Reading Arts Front Of House team for over 30 years too. With these dual roles, she is ideally placed to discuss the histories of the three Arts venues – The Hexagon, Concert Hall and South Street. From old to new, each venue has a different feel, but they have hosted many national and international stars over the years, some of whom may get a mention in this talk.

[Thu 12 Dec “An Historical Tour of the Streets of Old Coley” with Joe Doak and Graham Turner](#)

This virtual tour of Old Coley will take participants through the streets of Coley before slum clearance and the Inner Direction Road destroyed large sections of working class housing in this inner city area of Reading. Using a mixture of historic maps, old photographs, personal knowledge and desk-top research, Joe and Graham will present a history of the area and tales of life in this tough but vibrant community. They will stop-off along the way to explore the Coley Steps, Coley Primary School, Simonds Brewery, St Saviour’s Church and the local brick making industry. It should be of interest to Old Coleyites, local historians, current residents and anyone intrigued about what existed before the IDR.

Book series ticket

That 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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