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Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org.uk>

10 November 2024 at 08:02



in touch

your bi-weekly members' newsletter



Chaddleworth 1915

Image colourised by Jim Bradshaw

Hi Paul

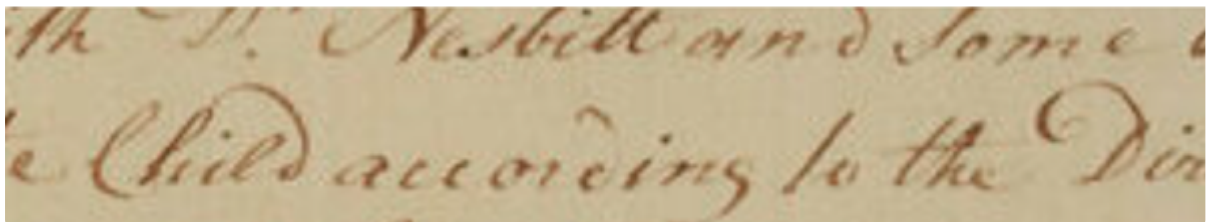
This time we're taking another look at the Chaddleworth image. If you recall, something didn't look quite right about the modern image compared to the old. The buildings looked very similar but the spacing was not quite right in the [modern view](#).

Member Steve Freeman grabbed his deer stalker and magnifying glass, and set off on a hunt. He concluded that the the camera location and direction was here



'The buildings in the photo match very closely to the map. Plus, you can see an Inn sign hanging from the building on the right near the top of the slope.'

Nicely done sir! That has to be the place. This is one of those occasions where the modern view bears no relation to the old - it had to happen eventually because most of the time the view is instantly recognisable. But not this time, [look](#). If you click a bit further up the road, the Ibex Inn appears.



Foundling Hospital Archive - 405 volumes covering 100,000 pages now online

Coram has launched a digital archive of almost 100,000 pages of records from England's first home for abandoned babies, the Foundling Hospital. The archive, covering 1739 to 1899, reveals the stories of over 20,000 children and includes touching petition letters from their birth mothers.

Part of Coram's Voices Through Time project, the archive provides valuable insights into childcare, education, and the lives of working-class women. Family historians can explore details about children, parents, staff, and apprentices. The records are free to access and searchable online.

This is an exciting launch for those with ancestors from Berkshire in particular, where many of the foundling babies were placed with local women to nurse them.

For example, just one page in the book of children placed to nurse 2, 1 May 1757 - 18 July 1857 reveals two Wokingham women who were taking in children:

Hannah Frankum of Oakingham {Wokingham} Berkshire, is named as the nurse to Jonathan Hall between 5 May and 20 May 1758. Whilst Mary Dear of Oakingham, was looking after Ann Doncaster in that same year.

Other records show the stories behind those taken into care.

Sarah Willis of Stanford, Berkshire is named in one "Petitions Admitted" document. She was just fifteen years old when on the 26th August 1842 "she delivered of a male child". She named the father of her child as Cornelius Willis and states that when she first knew him he was a baker in Stanford, Berks. The document goes on to provide details of when she last saw the father and other interesting background details.

As well as providing a good quality image of the document, the website also gives you contextual background to the source and what information was recorded.

Search the archive



Ancestry publish first tranche of Second World War Service Records

Ancestry has announced that it has published digital images of 1.7m British Army medal record cards and 150,000 service records. These can be found on Forces War Records and Fold3 military subscription with an index of the records also available via Ancestry, which is offering seven days of free access to its military records from 7 November to mark Remembrance Day.

The collection will be the largest release so far of British Army Second World War records and marks a major step in the digitisation of the collection that is currently being transferred from the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to The National Archives (TNA).

The service records that have been released include approximately 56,000 from the Corps of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) as well as approximately 96,000 from smaller groups such as the Pioneer Corps, the Military Police, the Royal Corps of Music, Royal Army Veterinary Corps and the Royal Army Dental Corps. They comprise attestation records, statements of service, B103 Service and Casualty forms and tracer cards which documented promotions and transfers. Medical records and conduct reports, along with any other miscellaneous records included in a person's file will not be included as part of the digitised record.

Find out more at [WDYTVA](#)



Cope Hall: A Women's Training Colony

Newbury Branch Meeting with speaker: Carol Brindley

Wed 13 Nov 14:00 - 16:00

West Berkshire Museum

Cope Hall, near Newbury was first believed to have been built in the Tudor period. This talk by Carol describes its more recent history when it was used as a Women's Training Colony, a place for "rescued" women who might otherwise have found themselves in prison. Here, in this large house and gardens of over twenty acres, with the help of Dr Helen Wilson and her team the women could learn new skills for a better future.

Members free - Non-Members £5

Find out more



Drop In Advice Session

Tue 29 Oct 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.

Free for ALL family historians wherever your ancestors came from.

Find out more



London Underground By Design

Thu 14 Nov 14:00 - 15:30

Talk by Paul Joyce

The Centre

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.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4).

Pre-booking is preferred, but you can pay on the door, if there are spaces available.

Early booking is recommended as this is likely to be a very popular talk.

Book



Getting the most out of your Membership - Workshop

Thu 14 Nov 19:00 - 21:00

Online workshop with Catherine Sampson and Vanessa Chappell

Are you a relatively new member of the Society and now want to get the most out of your membership? Join this informal workshop by zoom which introduces you to the range of benefits that is now available. The workshop covers:

- Accessing the Society's transcriptions and the mechanisms to enable you to collaborate and share your research with others
- Ways to obtain help in breaking down brick walls and the various discounts and savings available for members

Open only to members of Berkshire Family History Society. Assistance will be given to members who are new to joining Zoom meetings.

Free to attend, but pre-booking is required.

Book



Migration throughout the UK

Fri 15 Nov 14:45 - 16:30

Bracknell Branch Meeting with speaker: Debbie Bradley

The New Priestwood Community Centre

Our ancestors moved and sometimes great distances. A practical talk about things you need to think about to find your ancestors if they moved around the country.

The speaker Debbie Bradley will be giving her talk via Zoom to the audience in our venue at The New Priestwood Community Centre.

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

[Find out more](#)



WW1 Royal Flying Corps Records Workshop

Sat 16 Nov 11:00 - 13:00

With speaker: Dr Richard Marks

Online

This online workshop is designed for family historians researching their ancestors who were in the Royal Flying Corps in World War One. The workshop will unravel the mysteries of the RFC for family historians, looking at where and how it operated. It will also consider the the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) and how it operated in conjunction with both the army and the navy. It will cover the jobs undertaken by the personnel of the corps, both flying and ground based. as well as their planes. Also, how they were trained and lived and how to locate their records.

£10 (members £9)

Pre-booking is required.

[Book](#)



A Stroll through Berkshire's Graveyards

Mon 18 Nov 19:30 - 21:30

Abingdon Branch Meeting with speaker: Catherine Sampson

Long Furlong Community Centre

Berkshire's churchyards are full of stories about the individuals who are buried there, the communities in which they lived and the prevailing burial customs and beliefs and the impact of events.

This talk explores some of those stories, reveals favoured epitaphs and showcases some of the outstanding architecture of Berkshire's funerary monuments.

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

Find out more



Tour of St Nicholas Church, Hurst

Tue 19 Nov 14:00 - 15:00

Tour Guide: Chris Curnow

Meeting Point will be notified within booking process

There has been a church on the same site in Hurst for over 900 years. Come and learn about its colourful and exciting history, from its connection to the Civil War, the Battle of Trafalgar, its association with Merton College in Oxford as well as the village's own bread charity.

Join our guide, Chris Curnow, for this rare chance to look around St Nicholas' Church in Hurst.

Image: Steve Daniels / St Nicholas Church in Hurst / CC BY-SA 2.0

Tickets cost £5 (members £4).

Pre-booking is required.

Book



Preserving your Family History Research

Wed 20 Nov 19:30 - 21:30

**Computer Branch meeting with speakers:
Chad Hanna, Gillian Stevens & Tony Wright**

Online

Do you worry about the future of your research? Will your disk drive crash? Will your house suffer serious fire, water or other damage? Will your online service continue? How can you provide access to your family history in the distant future? How can you collaborate with others?

How have you tackled these challenges? We want to hear from you!

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

Pre-booking is 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

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