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1 message

Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org.uk>

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in touch

your bi-weekly members' newsletter



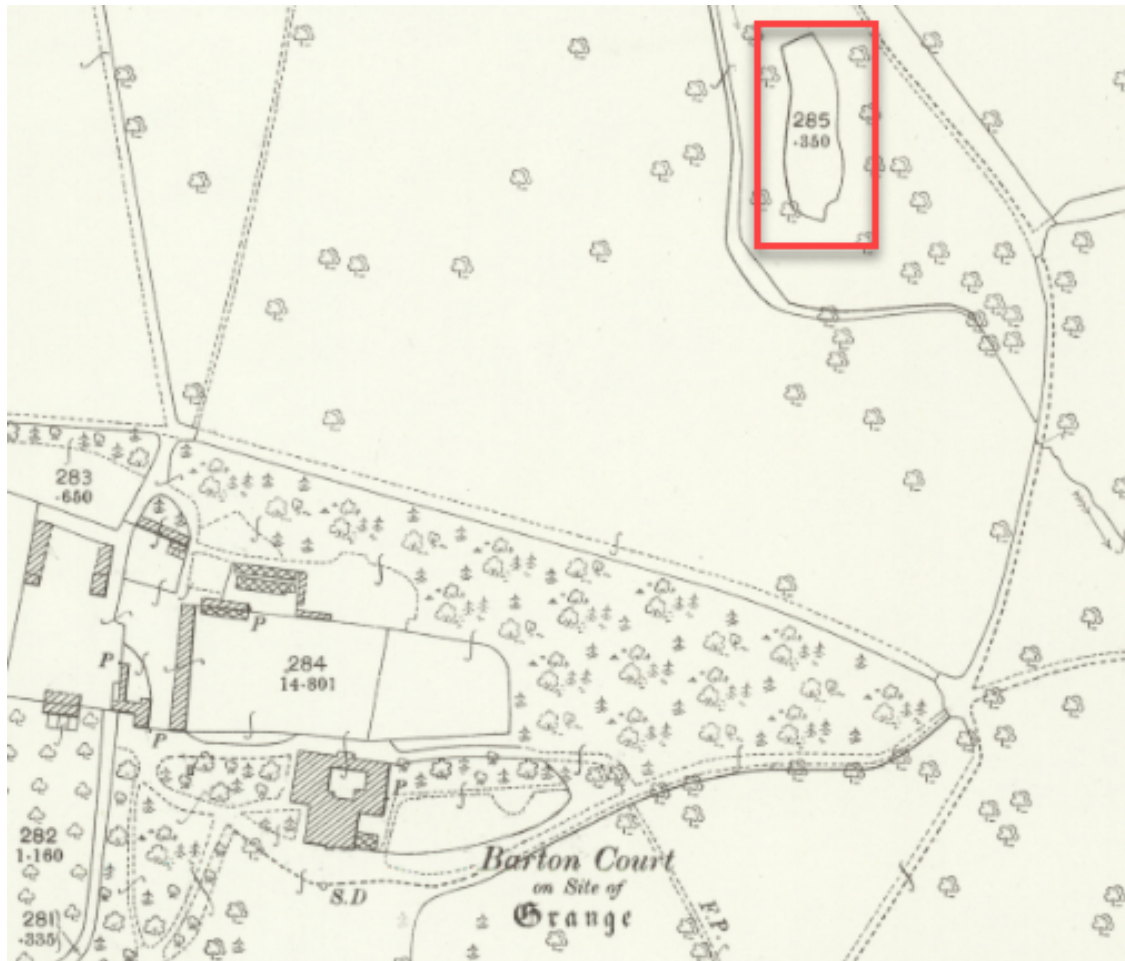
Skaters at Barton Court, Kintbury in the nineteenth century

Image colourised by Jim Bradshaw

Hi Paul

This week's image is a challenge because it's within the ground of Barton Court and the Google StreetView cars are limited to public roads. I thought finding the location was going to be difficult so I

turned to the National Library of Scotland's excellent mapping service and a possible candidate was found on the 25 inch to the mile sheet, a little to the north east of the house.



If you look at the NLS [side-by-side, swipe-view map](#), you'll notice that the pond is now considerably different and the gravel pit just north on the old map has disappeared. The unmade road layout has also changed. It's looks like the pond has been excavated as a new gravel pit and the old one backfilled with the toppings etc from the new excavation. The new road layout was presumably to allow lorries to remove the gravel, with access to the minor road and thence to the Bath Road (A4). Isn't it amazing what services like the NLS site can allow you to discover?



Christmas Shopping ideas from Berkshire FHS

Looking for something a little bit different for a Christmas present - for you or others? Look no further than the Society's online shop. Remember though to get your order in before the last order and posting dates:

UK - 16th December

Overseas - 25th November (untracked) (sorry for the short notice - one of the elves fell asleep)

We've come up with a few suggestions for you of new and popular titles you might be interested in:

[Mind Mapping Made Easy for family historians £9.95](#)

[An Historical Atlas of Berkshire £20.00](#)

[The History of Woodley £10.00](#)

[Tracing your Ancestors using the UK Historical Timeline £12.99](#)

[Abbot Cook to Zero Degrees - an A-Z of Reading's Pubs and Breweries £12.00](#)

[The Surnames Handbook - a guide to family name research in the 21st century £7.50](#)

[A Reading Scrapbook £17.99](#)

[Introducing Non-Conformist Records - explaining non-conformist records for family historians £14.95](#)

[How to get the most from Family Pictures £5.00](#)

EVENTS



Drop In Advice Session

Tue 26 Nov 14:00 - 16:30

Wokingham 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](#)



Victorian Hiring Fairs

Tue 26 Nov 19:30 - 21:30

Windsor Branch Meeting with speaker: Clare O'Grady

Online

An important time of the year for any rural community, the Hiring, Mop or Statute Fair reached its peak popularity in the 19th Century as a way to seek and to provide employment. This talk will outline:

- How, when and where the fairs worked
- The evidence they leave behind
- The campaign against the fairs
- Registration societies
- Why the fairs declined as employment tools
- Some of the other attractions provided

Image: Miami U. Libraries – Digital Collections, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

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

Book



Curtain's Up: The History of Reading's Art Venues

Thu 28 Nov 14:00 - 15:15

Talk by Katie Amos

Online

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.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4).

Pre-booking is required.

Book



Research at Home Using Your Local Library's Online Resources

Thu 28 Nov 19:45 - 21:00

Reading Branch Meeting with speaker: Paul Gaskell

Online

This talk will look at some of the resources that local library services in the UK make available free of charge to their members for online use at home. This session will be up to date and will reflect the iterative changes made in the availability of datasets during 2024.

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

Pre-booking is required.

Book



Book Fair

Sat 30 Nov 11:00 - 14:00

The Centre

Love books and reading? Looking for something different for a Christmas present?

Over recent years, we've been given many pre-loved books to sell. These are predominantly local history, family history and social history books – although we also have a fair number of military and transport history books, plus others. Come along and grab a bargain. We also have some vintage maps. We need to clear the decks a little, so everything will be out on display. Plus we'll have some of our new books, maps and publications available to purchase, including our data CDs.

The book fair lasts for three hours, and you'll be able to buy refreshments whilst you ponder your purchases.

Just turn up – no pre-booking required.

Free entry.

Find out more



Face-to-Face Family History Advice Clinic

Mon 02 Dec 11:00 - 12:00

(one slot available)

The Centre

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 these popular one-to-one sessions, one of our seasoned advisors will help you make some progress.

Book



Christmas Social

Wed 04 Dec 19:00 - 21:00

Combined Branches' Meeting

Online

Come and join us for a Combined Branches' Christmas Social. It will be a chance to get together, catch up on Society developments and chat to other members of the Society.

So feel free to join us for festive beverages and nibbles of your choice, depending on your whims and time zones.

Sorry, it's BYO refreshments.

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

Book



Berkshire's Canals

Thu 05 Dec 14:00 - 15:30

Talk with speaker Dr Richard Marks

The Centre

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.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4).

pre booking is preferred, but you may pay at the door subject to availability.

Book



Online Family History Advice Clinic

Mon 16 Dec 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

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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