



Berkshire Family History Society
in touch

50th Anniversary Conference
7 Jun - Wokefield Place
Click here for details and to book



Eddington, Hungerford, probably during the First World War.

Image colourised by John Bradshaw

Hi friend

My virtual tour of Eddington didn't take long because the village was and is small. That distinctive gable end in the rear of the image is completely unchanged, as you will see [here](#) and the buildings on the right have mostly survived. It's a different story on the left where modernity has imposed itself.

Have you booked your 50th Anniversary Conference ticket yet? Click the banner at the top of the page to view our conference pages, where you can find out more about the venue, the speakers and the other special events we have planned through the year

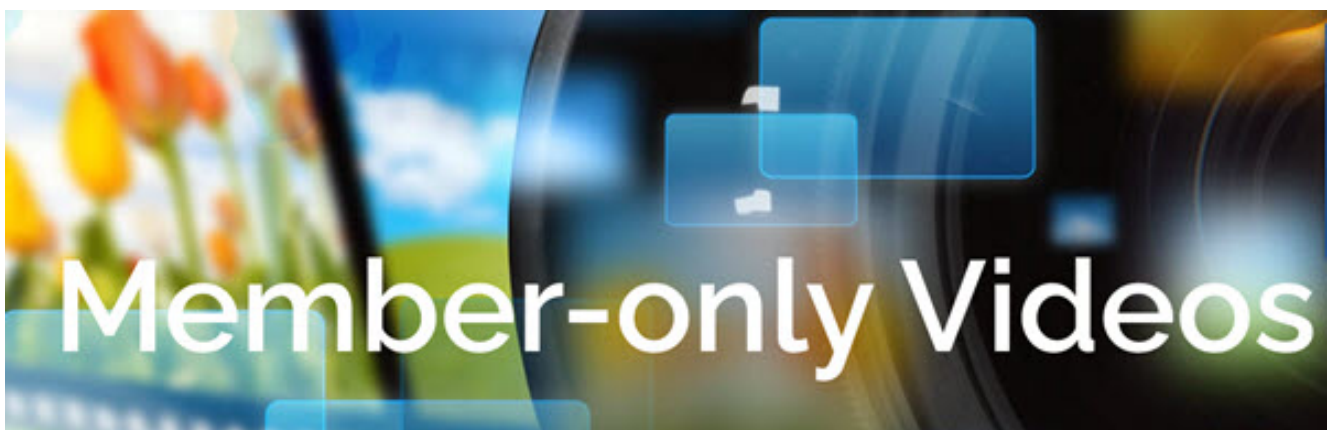
NEWS



We have some more exchange journals to share with you:

- Barnsley FHS
- British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa
- Calderdale FHS
- Family History Society of New Zealand
- Herefordshire FHS
- Queensland Genealogical Society
- Society of Australian Genealogists

[View on line](#)



We have two videos for you this week. The first is the latest recorded talk from our Windsor Branch and is free to members:

[Help! What do I do before 1837?](#)

Researching your Ancestors before Civil Registration

Note: this video is only available until 16 Feb, so you need to be quick

The second is a recent talk given at The Centre

[The Victorian Legacy](#)

What our ancestors did next

This talk was part of our paid events programme so a £5 fee (members £4) applies

Do you have a special place?

A new TV series for the BBC is looking for people with meaningful memories tied to a particular building in the UK



New TV Series for the BBC - seeking interested participants

MGM UK Unscripted TV is currently making a brand-new TV series for the BBC about lost or derelict buildings in the UK that are still meaningful to people.

Do you have personal memories tied to a particular building? It could be a much-loved childhood home that has been sold; a now-derelict pub where you first met your life-partner; a shut-down local sports club where you spent the teenage years; an old factory where you first worked – in fact any building that has personal emotional significance. The TV production team wants to create a keepsake to remind you of your special place and are currently seeking any local Berkshire people who have personal stories and memories connected to buildings in the area.

If this resonates with you, drop the production team an email within the next couple of weeks to: casting@mgmuktv.com

Filming will take place between March and May this year and participants will need to be available for 3-4 days during that period.



RootsTech 2025

The theme for this year's RootsTech Conference has now been announced - **"discover"**.

- Discover your story
- Discover your connections
- Discover you

RootsTech takes place 6 - 8 March, 2025 and you can attend online for free or in person (price depending on whether you purchase a 1 or 3 day pass).

Register for your place here:

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech>



Long Lost Family on itvX

After almost 14 years on the screen, the ITV Series Long Lost Family, with presenters Davina McCall and Nicky Campbell, continues to reunite close relatives after years of separation.

The episode aired on 21st January was a special episode which featured women affected by a historic baby scandal in Spain from the 1930s through the Franco era to the 1990s. If you missed the original broadcast, you can catch up with the programme instead on itvX* at:

<https://www.itv.com/watch/long-lost-family/1a8904/1a8904a0112>

Another of the special episodes broadcast last year saw Davina and Nicky join forces with “War Detectives” as they attempt to identify World War One Soldiers and trace their surviving families. Catch up with it here:

<https://www.itv.com/watch/long-lost-family/1a8904/1a8904a0099>

**overseas users may be able to watch if they use a VPN with a UK endpoint*



February Natter Group

Tue 04 Feb 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, facilitated by Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens. Topics are

chosen by the group on a monthly basis. End time varies.

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

Book



Huntley & Palmers Biscuit Factory Workshop

With tutor: Dr Richard Marks

Thu 06 Feb 19:00 - 21:00

Online

Huntley and Palmer played a pivotal role in Reading's history for almost a century and a half. Starting modestly, the company grew to become a global behemoth and a staple of Reading.

For those with ancestors who lived in Reading during the Huntley and Palmer years, many will have either worked directly for Huntley and Palmers or for a company that had a connection to them.

Image: Bill-Nicholls – The last bit CC-BY-SA-2.0

Book



Research Zone Tour

Mon 10 Feb 11:00 - 13:00

**Tour Leaders: Catherine Sampson
and Vanessa Chappell**

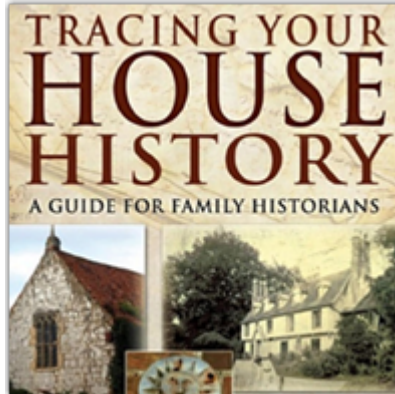
The Centre

Yet to visit The Centre for Heritage and Family History and would like to know what's available there and how it can help your family history research? This tour will introduce you to the facilities of the Centre and also those within the adjoining Local Studies Library.

Free to all.

Pre-booking is required because numbers are limited.

Book



Tracing a House History in England and Wales

Wed 12 Feb 19:30 - 20:30

Newbury Branch Meeting with speaker:

Gill Blanchard

Online

Discover the main resources to trace the history of your own home and where your ancestors lived with a leading UK house historian. Discover where to find records locally, nationally, and online. Find out which sources to use to place a building in time and place, uncover who lived in it, what else it was used for and when it was built. Resources focused on include census returns, tithe and enclosure maps, deeds, the inland revenue valuation survey and national farm survey, newspapers, and directories.

Booking is required.

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

Book



Drop In Advice Session

Thu 13 Feb 14:00 - 17:00

Bracknell Central 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.

Free for everyone

Find out more



Reading's Grey Friars 1233-1538

Thu 13 Feb 14:00 - 15:30
with speaker: Malcolm Summers

The Centre

From 1233 to 1538 Reading had two religious foundations, Reading Abbey and the Reading Franciscan Friary. This talk tells the story of the medieval friary, its friars, and their relationship with the town. It ends with the dissolution under Henry VIII, leaving us just the Greyfriars Church building as a remnant of the past.

After the talk, tea/coffee and cake will be available (included in the price). Pre-booking is preferred, but you can pay on the door, if there are spaces available.

Ticket £5 (£4 for non-members)

Image: Greyfriars Church, Friar Street, Reading, from the south-east, c. 1875.

Find out more/book



Online Family History Advice Clinic

Mon 17 Feb 14:00 - 16:00
Four slots - see below

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, 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.

Slot 1 - 14:00-14:25

Slot 2 - 14:30-14:55

Slot 3 - 15:00-15:30

Slot 4 - 15:35-1600

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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