



The Bridge, Eastbury

Image colourised by Jim Bradshaw

Hi friend

Finding the location of this week's vintage photo was surprisingly easy, because Eastbury is a linear village which crosses the Lambourn at only one point. All I had to do was drop in to the crossing point, switch to StreetView, do a 360 and [there it was!](#) Of all the buildings to have survived, the one on the right was perhaps least expected. I tried to look around the exterior views to see what it might be but, tantalisingly, the StreetView car didn't travel up the road to its right so I could the rear view.. According to the excellent National Library of Scotland maps site, [Pigeonhouse Farm was across the road](#) to the east so maybe it's an associated building that has survived - there's no other indication on the 19th/20th Century large scale maps. Perhaps a local can tell us?



Membership Updates

Membership fee

Our basic membership fee has been unchanged for five years, during which time inflation has reached 20%. We strive to keep membership rates down while keeping our services at the highest level we can - for example, we have the most active events programme of any English family history society - but for renewals from 01 Mar 2025 our membership rate is increasing to £20/year. This rate applies to all members wherever they are, and every member is entitled to add a second person who is co-resident, at no extra charge. You can add a second member name anytime by accessing your [profile page](#).

Auto-renewal

We are delighted to announce that for members who join or renew after 01 Mar 2025, we have added the option for you to set up auto-renewal so that you no longer have to worry about renewing each year. UK-based members can choose between direct debit or card auto renewal. Overseas members have the card option. It's really easy to set up - just a small variation on the process you've used for the past 5 years. For our UK members we recommend the direct debit option because it's a one-time setup.

The option to renew manually each year remains if that's your preference, but auto renewal reduces the amount of admin work for our volunteers.

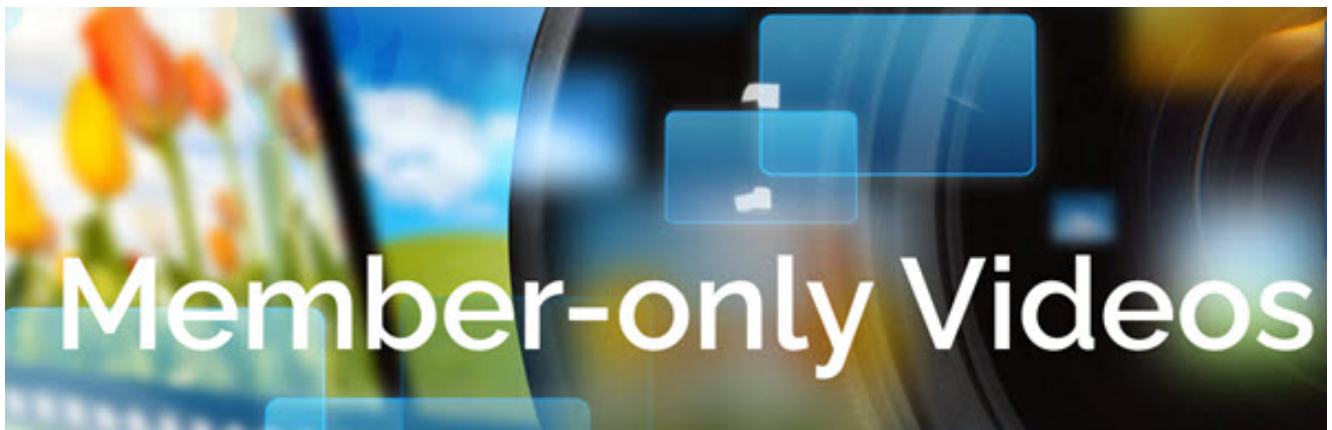
For more information on these changes, please see the Membership 2025 article on p12 of the March Historian, which is now [available online](#) and should have started dropping on doormats over the last few days for our non-digital members.



We have some more exchange journals to share with you:

- Glamorgan FHS
- Liverpool & SW Lancashire FHS
- Society of Genealogists
- Suffolk FHS
- Tasmanian FHS
- Wagga Wagga & District FHS

[View on line](#)



Tracing a House History in England and Wales

by Gill Blanchland

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.

This video is only available until 01 Apr 2025

[View online \(login required\)](#)



Have you booked your place yet?

As you are aware, in 2025 Berkshire Family History Society celebrates its 50th birthday. Over the course of this year, we will be celebrating this milestone in a number of ways including a celebratory conference on Saturday 7th June. It's our first conference since 2014, so we are aiming to make it a very special experience. We hope to be able to welcome as many of you as possible.

This important conference will span social and family history over the sixty-three years of the reign of Queen Victoria. Topics include Victorian records in The National Archives, factory work, death and the Victorians, crime and punishment, The Great

Exhibition of 1851 and the Victorian soldier.

The line-up of speakers is headed up by historian, author and TV presenter Professor Kate Williams, and represents a wide range of expertise from the media and academia. Attendees may choose from a varied programme of talk and advice sessions and there will also be time to browse exhibition stands in the display area.

The venue is Wokefield Place in the Wokefield Estate, just outside of Reading. Set in 250 acres of Berkshire parkland, and now owned by De Vere Hotels, the Wokefield Estate offers excellent conferencing facilities, and its hotel facilities include 376 bedrooms - so it's also a great place to stay for those coming from further afield.

Tickets are now on sale and cost £55 for members/£65 for non-members

Early bird offer: £50 for members/£60 for non-members if booked by 31st March

Includes lunch in the restaurant, refreshments throughout the day, access to your chosen talks and to the Fair. Pre-booking is required for the conference.

Find out more, choose your talks and [book your place here](#)

Anniversary Visits

To celebrate our anniversary, the Society has also organised a year-long programme of visits to interesting venues of historical significance. These are in addition to our usual events programme. Some of those events are selling fast - so secure your place early, if you don't want to miss out.

Coming up first:

Tours of St George's Chapel, Windsor, and St George's Archives

Monday 7th April

2-4.30pm

This visit to St George's Chapel and St George's Archives is organised by Windsor Branch as part of the special events to celebrate the 50th birthday of Berkshire Family History Society. It is open to members and non-members alike. Enjoy a tour of both places with experts in their history. Places are limited and bookings close on 27th March - so don't delay booking your place.

[Find out more and book here](#)

EVENTS



March Natter Group

Tue 04 Mar 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



Drop In Advice Session

Thu 13 Mar 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.

For ALL family historians wherever your ancestors came from.

Find out more



Reading's Trams

Thu 13 Mar 14:00 - 15:30

Talk by Dr Richard Marks

The Centre for Heritage & Family History

Prior to the advent of buses, there was a different mode of transport. A group of innovative local businessmen launched a horse bus service, which, though rudimentary, marked the town's first foray into public transportation. Then in 1878 the Reading Tramways Company was established. This provided what we would now call an urban mass transit system, better known as the tramway. This talk will explore the origins of the company and the tram routes it established.

Tickets £5 (Members £4)

Book



Online Family History Advice Clinic

Mon 17 Mar 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



Drovers' Roads in Oxfordshire and Beyond

Mon 17 Mar 19:30 - 21:30
Abingdon Branch meeting
with speaker Tim Healey
Long Furlong Community Centre,

In centuries past drovers took cattle, sheep and ponies from the far reaches of West Wales to London and the South East, passing through Oxfordshire on the way. This talk tells of the wilderness paths which they followed to avoid paying fees at toll gates, with the dangers of harsh weather and highway robbery. It also describes drovers' lives, their favoured inns and the tell-tale marks which they left on the landscape.

Free to members. Non-members £5

Find out more

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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