



Berkshire Family History Society

in touch



The picture of a farmer leading his cattle down Theale High Street really sums up country life back in the early 20th Century

Image colourised by Jim Bradshaw

Hi friend

Theale High Street then and [now](#) is another easily identifiable location. The building on the left is intact and across the road the old post office remains - it's still listed by internet searches. The Victorian street lamp has crossed the road in the modern view, to the wider pavement, but the basic design remains unchanged, probably because in 1971 Theale High Street was designated a Conservation Area as you can see from this [map](#).

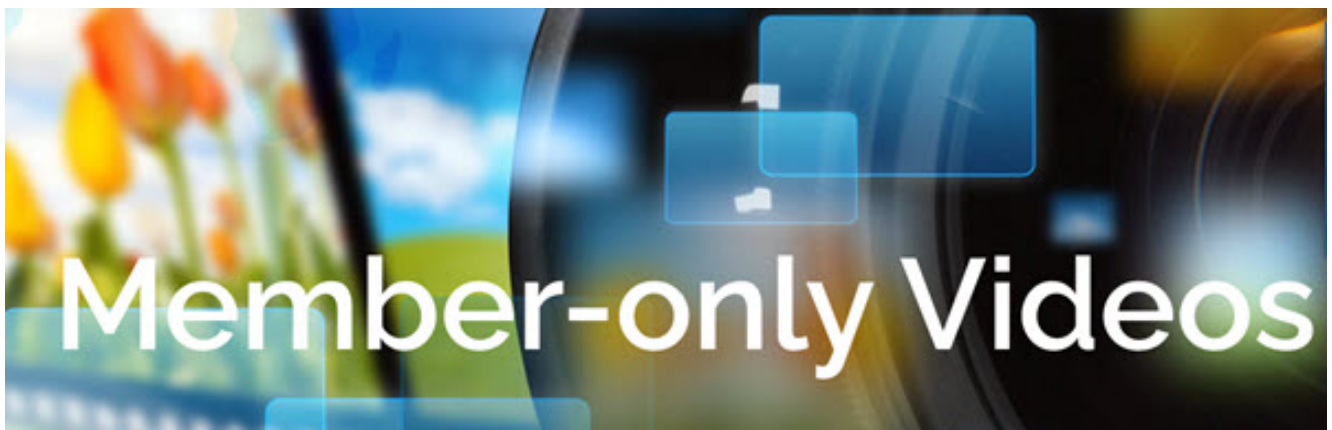
NEWS



We have a deluge of exchange journals to share with you this time:

- Aberdeen & North-East Scotland FHS
- Bedfordshire FHS
- Bradford FHS
- British Columbia GS
- Cheshire FHS
- East of London FHS
- Family History ACT - Canberra (+2 back copies)
- Gladstone Genealogy (+ 1 back copy)
- Heraldry Society
- Hertfordshire FHS
- Hillingdon FHS
- International Society for British Genealogy and Family History
- Lancashire FHS (+ November back copy)
- Lothians FHS
- Newfoundland and Labrador FHS
- New Zealand Society of Genealogists
- Ontario Genealogical Society
- Ormskirk and District FHS
- Richmond – Tweed FHS Inc – Ballina NSW – Australia
- Shropshire FHS
- St. Louis Genealogical Society

[View on line](#)



Researching and writing the Mourning Brooch

Trilogy

By Jean Renwick

Researching and writing historical fiction based on fact. The Mourning Brooch, Books One and Two cover 1849-1913 and follow the lives of the daughters of the Doncaster farmer's wife commemorated in the brooch.

Increasingly, people are fascinated by their family tree and the many family history societies around the country provide valuable knowledge and resources to say nothing of their enthusiasm.

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



Member articles

It has become a tradition that, as we publish the latest edition of the Berkshire Family Historian, we reprise the members articles from one year ago.

[The John Willis Family of Dorchester and Caroline Counties, Maryland](#)

Gary N. Willis tells of a life after Berkshire

[Thomas Willats: High Sheriff and Prisoner](#)

Laurel Davies lifts the lid on the ups and downs faced by one man

[The Butlers of Inkpen](#)

Patricia Coveney Sears tells us of an ecclesiastical family

[When My GGG-Great Aunt Terrified The Queen](#)

Richard Peaver recounts a royal tale



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



An Introduction to Irish Family History Research

Combined Branches' Meeting with speaker

Natalie Bodle

Wed 19 Mar 19:45 - 21:30

Online

Irish ancestry research has the reputation of being tricky but this talk will cover how you can get started with your Irish ancestral research. We will dispel the myths about which records were destroyed in 1922, which records are available and best of all which are free.

This will give you a good grounding to making a start on finding your Irish ancestors.

Free to members. Non-members £5

Book



Drop In Advice Session

Tue 25 Mar 14:00 - 16:30

Wokingham 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 to everyone

Find out more

A Walk on the Thames Path



Oxford – Pangbourne

with speaker Bill King

Thu 27 Mar 14:00 - 15:15

Online

This is a stunning section of the Thames as it meanders its way through the countryside and past villages and towns with particularly interesting histories including Oxford, Abingdon, Wallingford and Pangbourne. Many of us will have ancestors who came from this area and were very familiar with the river, possibly using it for their leisure activities and perhaps even dependent on it for their income.

Bill is a popular speaker at the Society and his journey along the Thames is richly illustrated with images.

Book



Book Fair

Sat 29 Mar 11:00 - 14:00

The Centre for Heritage & Family History

Love books?

Over the years, Berkshire Family History Society has been given many pre-loved books to sell, many very recently. 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. If “history” is your thing – then come along and grab a bargain. We need to clear the decks so everything will be out on display. Plus we will also have some of our extensive bookshop of 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 and enjoy – no pre-booking required.

Free entry.

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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Berkshire Family History Society CIO, The Centre for Heritage & Family History
2nd Floor, Reading Central Library, Abbey Square, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 3BQ, UK
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