

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



Chapel Street, Thatcham - 1898

Image colourised by Jim Bradshaw

Hi friend

I struggled to find the location of this week's image on the modern map. I had settled on a redeveloped location to the east before it was pointed out to me that it was [hiding in plain sight further down the road](#). Oops! Coincidentally, I have an eye test on Monday morning. Not a moment too soon by the looks of it! Close by is the Old Bluecoats School, which featured in an earlier edition of **intouch**, a few years ago.

NEWS

COMMEMORATING VE DAY 80

How to search for a Soldier in The Gazette

The 80th anniversary of VE Day has focused many of us on the experiences of our family members during the Second World War.

The Gazette is the official bearer of War Office and Ministry of Defence (MOD) events, and for hundreds of years The Gazette has been publishing honours and awards for gallantry and meritorious service in the armed forces, often referred to as 'Mentioned in Despatches'

The easiest way to start a search on The Gazette is to head to the All notices section of the website, where you can type in the name of a soldier in the 'Text search' box.

And the good news - searches are FREE.

To maximise your chances of success, The Gazette has produced this handy guide to searching their website:

<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/all-notices/content/116>

Search The Gazette here:

<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/>

WWII Commemorative Editions of The Gazette

If you find your ancestor "mentioned in despatches", you may want to purchase a personalised edition. Whilst not cheap, the World War II deluxe presentation pack makes a unique present for someone looking to commemorate a relative who received an award or a citation in The Gazette for their service.

The pack features a linen-textured folder containing a customised Certificate of Record printed on embossed paper, and a replica edition of The Gazette from the day of publication of the award.

Find out more at The Gazette shop.

<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/shop>

SOLDIER

Back Issues of the British Army's Magazine now online

The complete archive of Soldier, the official magazine of the British Army, launched during the Second World War, is now available to read for free online.

The brainchild of Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery, Soldier was designed to boost the morale of soldiers fighting in Europe.

You can search the archive here:

<https://soldier.army.mod.uk/archive>

The logo for the National Army Museum, featuring the words "NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM" in a white, sans-serif, all-caps font, centered within a dark green rectangular background.

National Army Museum Blogs

For those interested in finding out more about the end of the war without having to wade through long and detailed accounts - the National Army Museum offers a series of highly readable and informative blogs.

The latest "Victory: May-August 1945" can be found here:

<https://www.nam.ac.uk/explore/victory-may-august-1945>

And you can explore previous articles via the homepage of their website:

<https://www.nam.ac.uk/>

EVENTS



The Foundling Hospital and Newbury + Newbury BAM

Wed 14 May 14:00 - 16:00

West Berks Museum

Learn about Thomas Coram's Foundling Hospital and how babies were sent to Newbury between 1750-1780. Dr John Collet played a key role. A short Branch Annual Meeting precedes the talk.

[Find out more](#)



A History of Wargrave + Bracknell BAM

Fri 16 May 14:45 - 16:30

New Priestwood Community Centre

Explore the history of Wargrave, from its Domesday roots to 19th and 20th century growth. Kings, queens, and local heroes shaped this Berkshire village. A short Branch Annual Meeting precedes the talk.

[Find out more](#)



Online Family History Advice Clinic

Mon 19 May 14:00 - 16:00
Online



A Man and his Shed + Abingdon BAM

Mon 19 May 19:30 - 21:30
Long Furlong Community Centre

Get 1:1 family history advice in free online Zoom sessions. Whether you're starting out or facing a brick wall, our experienced research assistants are here to help.

[Find out more and book](#)



Basildon Park House & Gardens

Tue 20 May 11:00

Basildon Park

Celebrate the Society's 50th anniversary with a visit to Basildon Park. Enjoy a house tour, explore the grounds, and discover the park's four trails. Open to all.

[Find out more and book](#)



The story of Herbert George Mullard, who began making concrete products in 1923.

His work shaped Abingdon. A short Branch Annual Meeting precedes the talk.

[Find out more](#)



Modern Marriages + Computer Branch BAM

Wed 21 May 19:30 - 21:30

Online

Join us for a demo of Family Echo, explore how to record non-conventional marriages, and learn how to handle modern partnerships and offspring. Branch Annual Meeting precedes the talk.

[Find out more and book](#)



Stories from Berkshire's Graveyards

Thu 22 May 14:00 - 15:15

Online

Explore Berkshire's historic graveyards, from Basildon to Cholsey, and uncover the stories of Titanic and Lusitania victims, plus a possible murder linked to a notorious blackmailer.

[Find out more and book](#)

Getting the most out of your Membership - Workshop

Thu 22 May 19:00 - 21:00

Online

New to the Society? Join this informal workshop to discover member benefits, from accessing transcriptions to collaborating with others and getting help with brick walls.

[Find out more and book](#)



Reading Abbey Quarter Tour & Cream Tea

Fri 23 May 14:00 - 16:00

Meeting place advised on booking

Join a 90-minute walk through Reading's Abbey Quarter with expert John Painter. Discover the history of the royal abbey and enjoy a cream tea at the Centre for Heritage & Family History.

[Find out more and book](#)

That was just a small selection from our extensive programme



Events often sell out - book early to avoid disappointment

[View email in browser](#)

Copyright © 2025 Berkshire Family History Society CIO, All rights reserved.
You are subscribed to this mailing list because you opted in when joining/renewing.

Our mailing address is:

Berkshire Family History Society CIO, The Centre for Heritage & Family History
2nd Floor, Reading Central Library, Abbey Square, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 3BQ, UK
Registered Charity No: 1204390

Members, please leave the unsubscribe links below alone! We've got a special VIP path for you to manage your newsletters. Just [CLICK HERE](#) to visit your preferences centre on our website and make your changes in a jiffy!
It's the fastest way to keep the emails you enjoy and ditch the ones you don't.

[unsubscribe](#)