



Donnington Hill - the Oxford Road in the Edwardian period

Image colourised by Jim Bradshaw

Hi friend

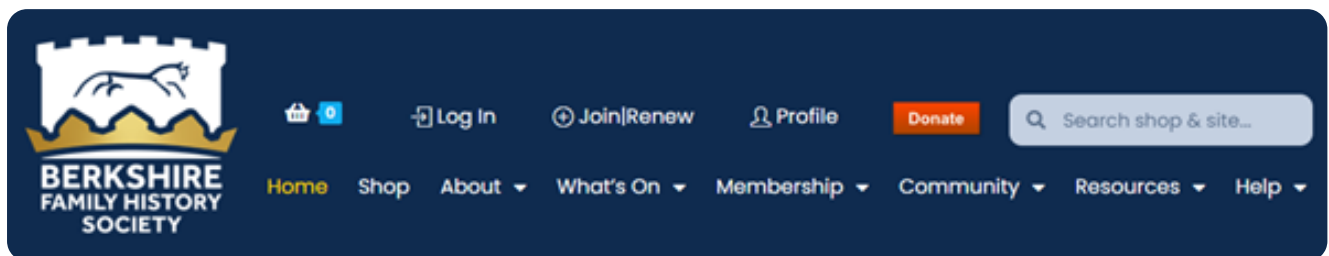
And, just like that, we've reached the 150th edition of this, our bi-weekly members' newsletter, **in touch!**

This week's then-and-now image was really easy to find. No sleuthing required, no poring over period Ordnance Survey maps, just a simple Google maps search for the address, switch to Street View and a virtual stroll down the Oxford Road until those distinctive chimney stacks came into view. [The view is instantly recognisable - so little has changed.](#)

Monday 23 Jun is our Annual General Meeting, an essential part of our charitable governance and compliance measures. Our AGMs are a lot more interesting than they sound, as they provide the opportunity to hear how we have done over the past

year and what's on the horizon, and to elect our President, VPs and Trustees for next year. To book your place, click [here](#) (second members need a ticket too).

NEWS



Website update

Along with our new logo, we've given the homepage a bit of a makeover to make more of our services one-click accessible. New features include a section where you and the public can see our upcoming bookable online and face-to-face family history advice sessions, and library drop-in sessions. We've also updated the resources sections to provide more homepage links to the many resources we offer to members and the public. All of this is designed to make it easier for you to find and engage with our content.

Click the image above to visit the site.



London in the Second World War Exhibition

On display now at The London Archives (formerly known as The Metropolitan Archives) - an exhibition on London in the Second World War. A subject which touched the lives of many of our families.

The exhibition draws upon material within the archive to show aspects of life in our capital city. This includes the compelling London County Council bomb damage

maps, in which the council charted destruction at the level of individual properties. Plus, the remarkable photographs taken by City Police photographers Cross and Tibbs.

You can discover how Londoners felt about life on the home front through diaries and personal stories; uncover the little-known story of Auxiliary Ambulance Station 50 in Paddington, staffed entirely by South Asian Londoners; and take a look at staff magazines produced by Woolworths and Co to see how the war impacted on people's working lives. You'll also have the chance to hear the voices of those who lived and worked through the war by listening to a series of oral histories.

The exhibition features rarely seen original artworks recording the devastation experienced in the city. It also examines the way that London sought to rebuild after the war through the creation of the County of London plan, and how this was put into place at Poplar's Lansbury Estate for the opening of the Festival of Britain in 1951. The exhibition is free to attend but booking a ticket in advance is advisable. You can find out more and book your ticket [here](#).



Exchange journals

We have some more for you.

- Botany Bay FHS
- British Columbia GS
- Family History ACT
- Herefordshire FHS
- Hillingdon FHS
- New Zealand Society of Genealogists
- Wagga Wagga & District FHS
- West Surrey FHS (**New!**)

[View on website](#) - login required

OUR RIVER THAMES

An exhibition exploring our history
and interaction with the
River Thames

11 JUNE - 29 AUGUST 2025
TUES -THURS: 9AM TO 5PM
FRI: 9AM TO 4.30PM

RBA

Royal Berkshire Archives

ROYAL BERKSHIRE ARCHIVES
9 COLEY AVENUE, READING,
BERKSHIRE RG1 6AF

WWW.ROYALBERKSHIREARCHIVES.ORG.UK

Our River Thames Exhibition at The Royal Berkshire Archives

And news of another free exhibition - this time within the Royal county.

The latest exhibition at The Royal Berkshire Archives has now opened and it contains some fascinating exhibits.

It explores our shared and individual relationship with the Thames throughout its history. Records showing those who live, work, and play on the Thames will be on display. From lock keepers to artists; river workers to millers; authors to swimmers, their stories will be shared in this exhibition. Available during our opening hours until 29 August 2025.

<https://www.royalberkshirearchives.org.uk/events>



Recognise your female ancestors with a Blue Plaque

Members of the public are being invited to nominate women in their family to be commemorated with England's iconic blue plaques. Leading family history website Ancestry has partnered with Historic England for this year's National Blue Plaque Scheme.

Historic England took over responsibility for the Blue Plaque Scheme across England in 2023. As of 2023, only 15% of blue plaques in London commemorated women.

To be eligible, your ancestor must be a girl or woman who is likely to have appeared in the 1921 Census for England and Wales. She must also meet the criteria for the National Blue Plaque Scheme, which are:

- She must have died at least 20 years ago.
- She must have made a significant contribution to human welfare or happiness; and/or exceptional impact in her field or community or on society at large.
- There must be one building in England associated with her, which must survive in a form that she would have recognised, and be visible from a public highway.

Nominations are open until 10 July. The nomination form is available [here](#)

EVENTS



Annual General Meeting 2025

Mon 23 Jun 19:30 - 21:00

Online

All members are invited to the 50th AGM of Berkshire FHS—a chance to celebrate 50 years of family history and learn about future plans.

Please book early.

[Find out more and book](#)



Drop In Advice Session

Tue 24 Jun 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. For ALL family historians.

[Find out more](#)



Criminal Courts before 1971

Tue 24 Jun 19:30 - 21:30

Online

Join the Windsor Branch for a talk on the evolution of the criminal courts, the main courts involved and where to find their records. Includes examples of some of these records.



Coffers, Clysters, Comfrey and Coifs

Thu 26 Jun 14:00 - 15:15

Online

'Why do you need a bum roll?' 'What colour were carrots in the seventeenth century?' 'Can you think of 47 uses for urine?' Dr Janet Few provides insights into 17th century domestic life.

[Find out more and book](#)



Reading Library Illustration Collection

Thu 26 Jun 19:45 - 21:00

Church of Jesus Christ of LDS

Join the Reading Branch as Katie Amos showcases the extensive historic county photos covering many subjects and reveals how to explore the collection for yourself.

[Find out more](#)



Wantage Town Walk

Fri 04 Jul 10:30 - 12:00

Meeting place advised on booking

Explore Wantage on a guided walk with Trevor Hancock, from quiet

[Find out more and book](#)



July Natter Group

Tue 01 Jul 19:00

Online

Members of Berkshire FHS can join an informal online discussion group, facilitated by Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens. Topics are chosen monthly by attendees.

[Find out more and book](#)



Getting the most out of your Membership Workshop

Wed 09 Jul 19:00 - 21:00

Online

New to Berkshire FHS? Join this friendly members-only workshop to

backstreets to Market Square and the museum - uncovering sites like the Wharf and historic Tramway.

[Find out more and book](#)

explore benefits, get help with research, and learn how to make the most of your membership..

[Find out more and book](#)

That was just a small selection from our extensive programme



Events often sell out - book early to avoid disappointment

What's happening in your branch?

[Abingdon](#)

[Bracknell](#)

[Computer](#)

[Newbury](#)

[Reading](#)

[Windsor](#)

[View email in browser](#)

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