



The Hatchet - Childrey

Image colourised by Jim Bradshaw

Hi friend

Identifying this week's 'Then & Now' location was very easy and the building remains largely unchanged in [the modern view](#). Unfortunately The Hatchet has shared the fate of many pubs and is now permanently closed.

NEWS



Exchange Journals

- Bucks FHS
- Hertfordshire FHS
- Newfoundland and Labrador FHS
- Queensland GS
- Society of Australian Genealogists
- South Australian Genealogy and Heraldry Society

[View on website](#) (login required)



Railway Work, Life and Death Database

Just released: around 69,000 newly transcribed records of historical railway staff accidents are now available through the free Railway Work, Life & Death database – bringing the total to over 125,000 cases from 1855 to 1939.

If you haven't come across this website before - it's a mine of information - thanks to the hard work of volunteers who are attempting to bring more and more data relating to railway accidents into the accessible public domain. It is a joint initiative between the University of Portsmouth, the National Railway Museum (NRM) and the Modern Records Centre at the University of Warwick (MRC). They are also working with other institutions including The National Archives and the RMT Union.

It's a fantastic resource for those with ancestors who worked or travelled on the railways.

The database is set up as a spreadsheet, currently containing a number of worksheets. You can download this for free, as long as you comply with the terms and conditions for fair usage.

Find out more and search the records [here](#).



Royal Berkshire Archives (RBA) - Parking changes

Please note that due to building works commencing on Tuesday 15 July 2025, RBA's main car park will be closed. When entering from Coley Avenue, customers will need to take the first right and park along the west wall of the building. The main car park will be unavailable until the end of 2026.

Parking enforcement will also begin from this date. A permit must be obtained from Reception and displayed in the windscreen to avoid a fine. RBA staff cannot intervene on a visitor's behalf if they are fined.

Please also note that the owners of Yeomanry House use a parking contractor to prevent parking in front of the building.

For full details of where to park (including photographs) click [here](#).

DID YOU KNOW?



Berkshire Data

Not all our research data has to be paid for. Exclusively for members we have some Berkshire data sets on our website, including:

- Amalgamated Society of Engineers, Reading Lodge
- East Hendred Churchwardens' Presentments
- Feet of Fines for Berkshire
- Hungerford National School
- Men Joining Reading Borough Police Force 1865-1903
- Railway Plans and People...
- Reading's Voter's List - 1790
- Shaw-cum-Donnington War Memorial
- Snares Reading Directory 1842
- The Reading Mercury and Oxford Gazette

Find out more [here](#)



Are you travelling?

If you're travelling this summer, or any time in fact, and you try to access our website from exotic climes, you may receive a message that you have been blocked. It's not you, it's us - or rather, it's our website's security firewall.

Unfortunately we receive our share of cyber attacks and we have to use geo-blocking to prevent access from outside our regular catchment areas to reduce the attack surface of website. If you are blocked but need access there are a few solutions you can use:

1. Email webmaster@berksfhs.org.uk with a screenshot of the message you receive and we can whitelist your IP address for you.
2. A better solution would be for you to use a VPN with a US or UK endpoint, to circumvent the country block.
3. Kick back, order another jug of Sangria and enjoy your trip! As they say in Hawaii, **Ho'onanea**

EVENTS



**Summer Potpourri
Talks Series**
from Thu 24 Jul 14:00-15:15
Online

Our Summer series of three talks includes: From Log Cabin to the Palace of Westminster, Lawson Lies Still in the Thames, and Chimney Stacks and Climbing Boys.

[Find out more and book](#)



**Drop In Advice
Session**
Tue 29 Jul 14:00 - 16:30
Wokingham Library

Bring your questions, problems and 'brick walls' ... and get some new ideas and advice from members of the Society. For ALL family historians. Facilitated by the Bracknell Branch.

[Find out more](#)

**From Log Cabin to
Palace of Westminster**
Thu 24 Jul 14:00 - 15:15
Online

This talk uncovers postcard stories from both sides of the Atlantic—featuring a log cabin-born MP, a Hollywood actor, and a haunting tale of how tragedy fades from memory.

[Find out more and book](#)



**Cookham Abbey Tour and
Holy Trinity Church**
Tue 29 Jul 14:00 - 16:00
Meeting place advised on booking

Visit the newly uncovered Saxon Cookham Abbey, the University of Reading's ongoing excavation work. Learn about Queen Cynethryth, and the many important finds.

[Find out more and book](#)



Thames Valley Police Museum

Tue 05 Aug 11:00 - 13:00

Meeting place advised on booking

Join Newbury Branch for its Berkshire FHS's 50th event to Thames Valley Police Museum, Sulhamstead—featuring crime exhibits, historic forces, and interactive displays.

[Find out more and book](#)



VJ Day Anniversary Lunch and Talk

Thu 14 Aug 13:00 - 15:30

The Centre

Join the Society's VJ Day 80th anniversary event with a fish and chips lunch, followed by Dr Richard Marks' talk: Over the Kwai – The Story of the Burma-Siam Railway in World War 2.

[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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