



Thatcham Broadway in the early 20th Century

Image colourised by Jim Bradshaw

Hi friend

The Thatcham Broadway in this week's image was exactly as the name suggests. In the modern view a median has appeared, so the 'broad way' has lost its original identity. Many of the buildings have been remodelled beyond recognition or completely replaced, but that distinctive double gable frontage is immediately recognisable [today](#) alongside the adjacent shop.

NEWS



Exchange Journals

It's the eve of the third quarter so the journals are arriving at pace:

- Aberdeen & North-East Scotland FHS
- Bundaberg Genealogical Association
- Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire FHS
- Doncaster & District FHS (+ 4 back copies)
- East Yorkshire FHS
- Liverpool & SW Lancashire FHS (+ 1 back copy)
- Queensland FHS
- Shropshire FHS
- Suffolk FHS

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

Berkshire Family Historian

*The quarterly journal of the
Berkshire Family History Society*



September's Historian is here

Those of you who subscribe to the paper version of the Berkshire Family Historian may already have had it drop through the letterbox. If yours hasn't arrived yet or you are one of our digital subscribers, the full colour version is now available [online](#) (log in required).



September 2024 revisited

As is now traditional, the publication of the latest edition of the Berkshire Family Historian is accompanied by the online publication of the member articles from the corresponding edition last year. These are in the public area of the website so no login is required. This time the articles are:

[US Social Security Number Application Forms \(SS-5\) – Part 2](#)

Leigh Dworkin shows us how to order these under-used documents

[How a Berks FHS Event Can Reach Further Than Family History](#)

Sarah Swatridge explains how a Berks FHS course impacted on her day job



Welcome to England's largest festival of history and culture!

Heritage Open Days 2025: 12-21 September

Heritage Open Days

Every September thousands of volunteers across England organise events to celebrate our fantastic history and culture. It's your chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences – all of which are FREE to explore.

This year, Heritage Open Days run from 12 to 21 September and events are themed on

“architecture”.

Across Berkshire, there are a wide variety of events and activities for you to choose from. Some of these you can just turn up to, others require pre-booking. Find out more about events in your area [here](#).

Here's a few that caught our eye from what's coming up first:

Berkshire Family History Society

12 September 7.30pm

Berkshire Family History Society, as usual, will be taking part this year with a free online talk “Berkshire Churches” at 7.30pm on Friday 12th September. Pre-booking is required. Find out more and book [here](#).

Exploring the Architecture of Georgian Reading

13 September, 10am - 12.30pm

A walking tour of Reading's extensive Georgian architecture by Dr Stephen Gage, Lecturer in Architecture at University of Reading. Reading has over 400 listed buildings from the Georgian period, representing a substantial part of its built heritage. Pre-booking is required. Find out more and book [here](#)

Hungerford Heritage Trail

14 September, 10am - 3pm

Visit Hungerford's Heritage Festival for Harvest Festival Wheatsheaf Loaf workshop, Morris Dancing, have a go at traditional crafts and the chance to meet the producers who are keeping rural traditions alive including venison and bee-keeping. Find out more [here](#).

Donnington Castle Guided Tours

13 September, 2.30pm onwards

Join our expert volunteers for an exclusive tour of this fascinating site. Pre-booking is required. Find out more and book [here](#).

St James Church, Finchampstead - Open Tower

14 September, 2 - 5pm

Come and see the view from the top of the 1720s tower of this beautiful Norman Church. Enjoy a delicious tea at the end of your visit. Find out more [here](#).

Taplow Court Open Day

14 September, gardens: 12.30 - 5pm, house: 2 - 5pm

Taplow Court, a mid 19th-century mansion set high above the Thames near Maidenhead, and its grounds will be open to the public from 1230-1700 on Sunday

EVENTS



September Natter Group.

Tue 02 Sep 19:00

Online

Informal discussion group, facilitated by Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens. Topics are chosen by the group on a monthly basis. The session end time varies.

Find out more and book



How AI can save time when researching family history

Fri 05 Sep 14:45 - 16:30

New Priestwood Community Centre

This talk will show you how AI is already helping your family history research on sites like Ancestry. Learn how tools like ChatGPT can make your research more efficient.

Find out more



Lost Churches and Chapels of Newbury

Wed 10 Sep 14:00 - 16:00

West Berkshire Museum



Drop-in

Advice Session

Thu 11 Sep 14:00 - 17:00

Bracknell Central Library

At this Newbury branch meeting, uncover the history of the town's churches, chapels and nonconformist sites. Including vanished buildings to those repurposed for modern uses.

[Find out more](#)



Reading's Trolleybuses

Thu 11 Sep 14:00 - 15:30

The Centre

Discover Reading's early public transport in this illustrated talk on trolleybuses from 1934–1966. See lost streetscapes and discover how a few vehicles live on at Sandtoft Museum.

[Find out more and book](#)



Online Family History

Bring your questions, problems and 'brick walls' ... and get some new ideas and advice from members of the Berkshire Family History Society. For members and non-members.

[Find out more](#)



Berkshire Churches

Fri 12 Sep 19:30 - 20:30

Online

Find Berkshire's hidden churches and churchyards in this illustrated talk. Hear of Anne Seymour, Amy Robsart and more, woven into rich local history and lore.

[Find out more and book](#)



Seeking

Advice Clinic

Mon 15 Sep 14:00 - 16:00

Online

Just starting your family history journey or stuck at a brick wall? Need some help, so why not book a free 1:1 online advice session via Zoom—open to all, wherever you are in the world.

[Find out more and book](#)

Margaretta

Mon 15 Sep 19:00 - 21:30

Long Furlong Community Centre

After discovering a long-lost aunt, a family historian embarked on a decade-long search. They reveal how they used detective skills, archives, and lucky breaks to unravel this secret.

[Find out more](#)

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](#)

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