

## Keeping in touch

Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org>

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**in touch**

Berkshire Family History Society



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Welcome to Edition 42 of our bi-weekly newsletter. As all Douglas Adams fans will know, 42 is a significant number because it is the answer to that fundamental question, "The Meaning of Life." This is a happy coincidence because this week we have a focus on DNA - a topic that is increasingly popular with family historians as it opens up whole new avenues of research.

Elsewhere, batch five of marriage downloads is available right now in the shop and you can jump straight in with the links below, and we have our usual pick of the upcoming events.

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DNA News

## DNA and Family History

Over recent years, DNA has increasingly been used as a powerful tool for family historians to validate and expand their research and to break down long-established brick walls. However, it's fair to say that most of us are probably only getting a fraction of the benefit that we could from analysing our matches. In this newsletter we wanted to highlight a few tools that are on hand to help you.

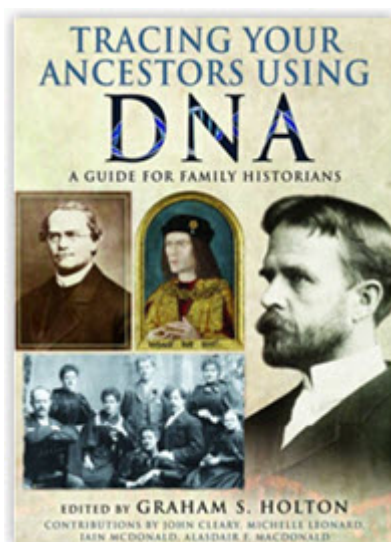
## DNA Events



Firstly, each quarter the society runs a **DNA Special Interest Group**, facilitated by international DNA expert **Debbie Kennett**. It's informal, bang up to date and allows you to share and benefit from tips and techniques which are relevant to you and your results. There's no requirement to come to every session, and new members are always welcome. **The next session is on Saturday 10th April - see the events section at the end of this newsletter for more details.**

**Hot off the press** - Debbie will also be giving a beginners' talk on DNA testing later this year - keep an eye on our website and this newsletter for more details.

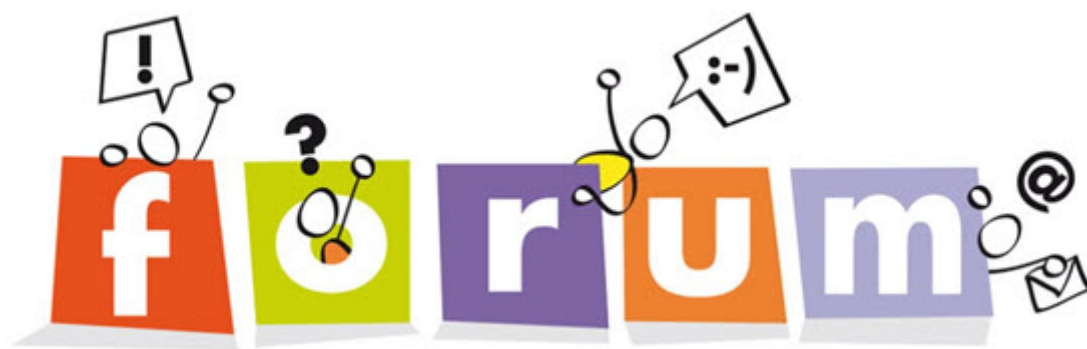
And if you want to hear how **autosomal DNA** results have been used to great effect within a one-name study - **John Titterton** will be talking about just that at **Windsor Branch's meeting on 30th March**. Again, the events section at the end of this newsletter contains more details if you haven't yet booked your place.



## DNA Expert Guide

For those who like to read around a subject, the society's bookshop currently has copies for sale of [\*Tracing your Ancestors using DNA\*](#). This book provides an accessible, wide-ranging introduction to this subject, and offers a clear explanation and practical guide for family historians to DNA discoveries and their use in exploring our ancestry and their ethical and legal implications.

[Buy Now](#)



## **New Forum section dedicated to DNA**

Lots of questions and need advice from others? Or lots of answers and able to help others? The society's Forum now has a dedicated DNA section where you can post your questions. If you're very lucky, you may even find yourself on the receiving end of advice from international DNA expert, Debbie Kennett. There is already advice to peruse on topics such as the different tests available, transferring results between companies and quick and dirty family trees - so it's worth checking out and adding your questions.

[Visit DNA Forum](#)

## **Marriage Data Downloads - Fifth Batch DNA Pick 'n Mix!**

We'd be kidding ourselves if we believed marriage was a prerequisite to human reproduction. Whatever the churches might like us to think, the human race managed quite well before they arrived. Nevertheless, in the documented ancestry that we're all fascinated by, marriages had a significant part to play.

As a reminder, to help you unravel the strands, we have developed data downloads to provide choice and flexibility in how you access data for Berkshire. Batch 5 is available now and each download is in PDF format and your purchase is automatically fulfilled as soon as you have paid. Terms and conditions apply and these downloads are for your personal use only. Prices vary but start from just £2.00. The usual member discounts apply.

Marriage entries are presented in date order, and there is also a "by person"

finding aid to assist your use of the download. Berkshire's marriages are also available in CD format. If you're interested in a number of parishes, also check out [Berkshire Marriages Edition Four CD](#), likewise, individual [Parish CDs](#) also exist. So check out what best suits your needs.

[Aston Tirrold St Michael Marriages 1607-1935 \(Download\) D1115](#)  
[Bearwood St Catherine Marriages 1846-1935 \(Download\) D1152](#)  
[Beenham St Mary Marriages 1563-1836 \(Download\) D1478](#)  
[Braywood All Saints Marriages 1867-1935 \(Download\) D1487](#)  
[Combe St Swithun Marriages 1560-1935 \(Download\) D1505](#)  
[Crowthorne St John the Baptist Marriages 1874-1908 \(Download\) D1511](#)  
[Didcot All Saints Marriages 1571-1840 \(Download\) D1513](#)  
[East Garston All Saints Marriages 1554-1837 \(Download\) D1515](#)  
[Hungerford Wesleyan Chapel Marriages 1886-1897 \(Download\) D1535](#)  
[Ilsey, East St Mary Marriages 1609-1935 \(Download\) D1538](#)  
[Lambourn St Michael & All Angels Marriages 1571-1837 \(Download\) D1544](#)  
[Leckhampstead St James Marriages 1754-1935 \(Download\) D1546](#)  
[Reading All Saints Marriages 1909-1935 \(Download\) D1239](#)  
[Ruscombe St James the Great Marriages 1559-1932 \(Download\) D1366](#)  
[Sparsholt Holy Cross Marriages 1559-1812 \(Download\) D1381](#)  
[Waltham St Lawrence St Lawrence Marriages 1558-1837 \(Download\) D1449](#)  
[Wargrave St Mary Marriages 1539-1789 \(Download\) D1452 \(Part 1 of 2\)](#)  
[Wargrave St Mary Marriages 1790-1935 \(Download\) D1576 \(Part 2 of 2\)](#)  
[Windsor, New St John the Baptist Marriages 1559-1837 \(Download\) D1461](#)  
[Woodhay, West St Lawrence Marriages 1614-1836 \(Download\) D1469](#)

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## In Other News...



# Caring for your family archives at home

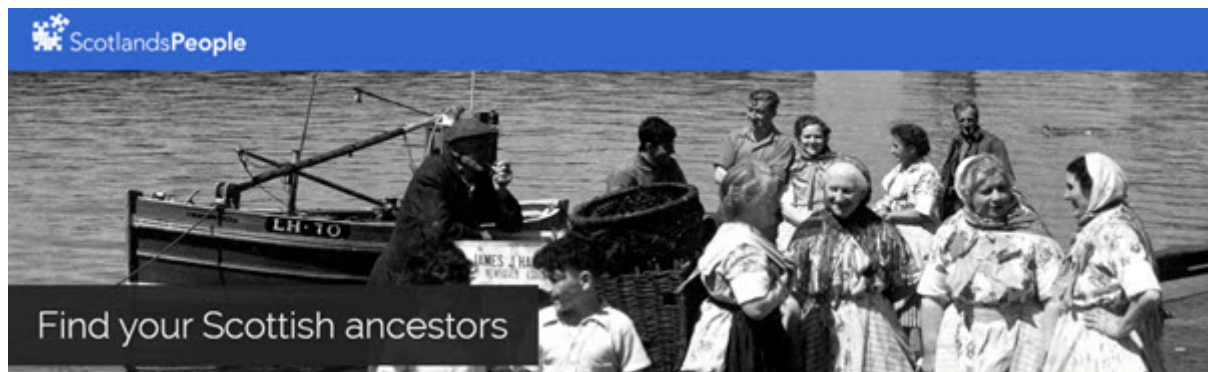
Have you been spending lockdown sorting out your family archives and memorabilia?

Caring for your important documents at home can seem daunting, so London Metropolitan Archives have put together seven guides with some basic advice from their conservation team to help. Topics cover: loose documents, books, prints and drawings, photographs, LPs and CDs, Newspapers and offcuts, and Pests.

There are some good tips in there - so worth a read to make sure you're doing all you can to preserve items for future generations.

Check them out at:

<https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/history-and-heritage/london-metropolitan-archives/about-lma/conservation>



## One million kirk session records added to ScotlandsPeople

Images of over one million kirk session records have been released on ScotlandsPeople, the Scottish government records website. Until the introduction of civil registration in Scotland in 1855, kirk session records of baptisms, marriages and burials are the primary source for tracing key life events in our ancestors' lives.

Kirk sessions were also held to settle issues within the community, such as adjudicating on the paternity of illegitimate children and disciplining parishioners for behaviour such as drinking, cursing and breaking the Sabbath.

They may also include accounts of how communities dealt with out of the ordinary events such as wars, epidemics and extreme weather.

The newly-launched records date from 1559 to 1900. They were previously only available to view in person at the NRS building, which is currently closed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Although the records cannot be searched by name, they can be searched by a place or volume reference or by the kirk session, presbytery or other court or institution that created them. Once you locate the records for where your family lived, you can then search them to see if their name appears. The images of the records are free to view, while downloading them costs two ScotlandsPeople user credits.

<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

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## Events

Our events programme is exclusively online -  
so join us - wherever you are

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### **Mistranscriptions Reading Branch Meeting with floor open to members 25 Mar 19:15 for 19:45**

Have you ever found what you were looking for to be hard to find? A mistranscription was probably to blame. Tonight we invite members and non-

members to share the mistranscriptions they have found. They may be amusing, baffling, or downright ludicrous – why not share your amusement or incredulity with others?

How about sharing a tip you have learnt that helps you avoid being sent off track by mistranscriptions?

If you'd like to contribute, please email [reading@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:reading@berksfhs.org.uk).

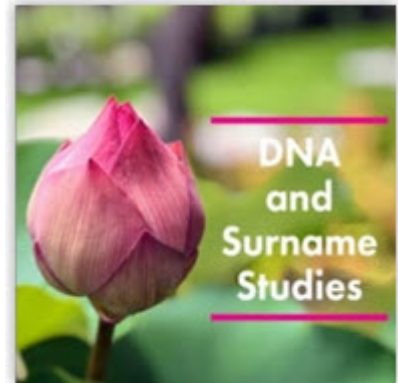
Free to members - £3 non-members. Pre-booking required.

**Book now**

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## **Autosomal DNA and One Name Studies**

**Windsor Branch Meeting with  
speaker: John Titterton  
30 Mar 19:15 for 19:30**



As the registered researcher of the Titterton One Name Study our speaker is researching all instances of the name Titterton and has established that the family had its origins about 1400 in the North Staffordshire village of Alstonefield.

This talk discusses how it was possible to use the autosomal DNA evidence that four people were genetically/genealogically related though the Titterton family to make connections between several different Titterton branches

Free to members - £3 non-members. Pre-booking required.

**Book now**

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## **April Natter Group**

**Facilitators: Gillian Stevens and Chad Hanna  
06 Apr 18:45 for 19:00**

Join in this online discussion from your own home, wherever where you live.  
Open only to members of Berkshire Family History Society.



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

Free to attend, but pre-booking required.

**Book now**

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## **The Kitchen Garden of Caversham Court**

**Talk with speaker Dr John Evans**  
**08 Apr 14:00 - 15:15**



The online talk will look at how kitchen gardens have evolved over time from early monastic plots to the grand walled gardens of the Victorian era.

Using the walled gardens at Caversham Court, in Caversham, as an example, it also follows how many have survived the passage of time to become allotments. Valued plots which provide a source of folklore, amusing techniques, fine food and friendship.

This is the first talk of five in the Spring Potpourri of Social History Talks Series. There is still time to [book all five talks in one multi-ticket for the discounted price of four.](#)

This talk: £4 members - £5 non-members. Pre-booking required.

**Book now**

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## **DNA Special Interest Group**



## **Discussion group with Tutor: Debbie Kennett**

**10 Apr 14:30 - 16:30**

Enjoy this online DNA special interest group from the comfort of your own home, and wherever you live in the world, whilst still being able to contribute fully to the discussion.

This special interest discussion group is aimed at those wanting to get the most out of their DNA results. It is facilitated by international DNA expert, Debbie Kennett. Sessions are held quarterly, but there is no obligation to attend on a regular basis and first time attendees are always welcomed.

£4 members - £5 non-members. Pre-booking required.

**Book now**

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These are just a few examples from our extensive events programme....

**... [click here for the full programme](#)**

Our events routinely sell out so book early to secure your place

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# Berkshire Family History Society

*for family history research - in Berkshire and beyond*

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