

Keeping in touch

Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org>

Sun, Oct 17 2021 09:02:10

in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



Hi

After a sustained period of nearly two years since we started these newsletters, our contributor-in-chief is having a well-earned holiday. So this is an **in touch lite** edition. We'll be back next time with the full monty.

The need to book visits to the Centre is now lifted and you can drop in whenever

we're open - see below. We also have the results of the lucky draw and the usual selection of talks, workshops and discussion groups for you to sign up for.



Centre for Heritage & Family History - open longer from mid-October

It has been so lovely to see everyone who has come to see us since we reopened the doors of the society's heritage centre on the second floor of Reading Central Library. We have been busy most days and are welcoming a mix of customers who are able to pre-book and those who drop in on chance there will be space. You are all very welcome.

To find out more about the Centre and our covid-precautions, see:

<https://berksfhs.org/planning-a-visit/>

In addition, we are delighted to let you know that **from Monday 18th October** we will be increasing our opening hours further. From the 18th onwards, you will no longer need to pre-book your visit and may just turn up.

Opening hours from 18th October

Mondays 11am - 3pm

Tuesdays 11am - 3pm

Thursdays (last Thursday of the month) 11am - 3pm

Saturdays (1st Saturday of the month) 11am - 2.30pm

Our opening hours will be reviewed again in early 2022. We look forward to seeing more of you over the coming months.



And the lucky winners are ...

The draw took place 12 Oct in the Berkshire Record Office and the winning entries were drawn by Imogen, one of the archive assistants there. So, without further ado, here are the names:

[cue suspenseful music. Presenter pauses for an interminable length of time, to the point where we all begin to wonder whether we could've put kettle on for a cuppa...]

- **Lesley Heaney**
- **Michelle Wolfenden**
- **David Ross-Hamilton**
- **Helen Richmond**
- **Nick Prince**

Congratulations everyone - you'll be hearing from our events organiser shortly.

Thank you also to everyone who participated. We hope you enjoyed the challenge

We must do that again sometime!



Events

Our events programme is mostly online

Join us - wherever you are



Getting the most out of UK Census Records

Workshop led by Tony Roberts

20 Oct 19:00 - 21:00

Venue: Online

Find out how to get the most from census records for your family history research. This workshop considers the background to the census and looks at it in some of its early forms in England and Wales. Attendees will explore the development in the modern census from 1841 to date, including also the 1939 Register, and have the opportunity to examine examples of different census.

Members: £9 Non-members: £10

[**Book now**](#)



Fairmile Hospital – Berkshire's county asylum

Talk by Mark Stevens
21 Oct 13:45 for 14:00

Venue: Online

One hundred and seventy six years ago, public mental health care was invented. Acts of Parliament from 1845 resulted in 'lunatic asylums' being built in every county in England and Wales. Berkshire's own asylum opened in 1870 and became known as the Fair Mile Hospital. Situated near the River Thames, and close to the village of Cholsey, this institution dispensed care to generations of local people and appears in many of our family trees. Discover its history in this fascinating talk by Mark Stevens.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4)

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



An Introduction to Caribbean Family History

Talk by Guy Grannum
23 Oct 14:45 for 15:00

Venue: Online

The Caribbean was populated by millions of voluntary and involuntary migrants and settlers from the UK, Africa and South Asia from the 17th century. Many later returned or migrated to the UK for education and work. Especially in the 20th century. Do you have family who settled in the Caribbean or migrated to the UK from the Caribbean? Guy Grannum will introduce you to sources available in the UK and online, and techniques to help you to research your Caribbean ancestors.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4)

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



November Natter Group

Discussion Group facilitated by:
Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens
02 Nov 18:45 for 19:00

Venue: Online

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 members

Pre-booking required

Book now



Wilts and Berks Canal

Talk with speaker: Martin Buckland

04 Nov 14:00 - 15:15

Venue: Online

The Wilts & Berks Canal opened in 1810 and links the Kennet and Avon Canal at Semington near Melksham, to the River Thames at Abingdon. It had a chequered career until its legal closure in 1914, its demise hastened by the collapse of Stanley Aqueduct in 1901. In 1977, restoration of the canal began in a few places but in 2004 full restoration of the entire 62 miles was decided upon.

This talk looks at the historical, restoration progress and future proposals for this major East to West canal link.

Non-members £5, members £4

Pre-booking required

Book now

That was just a selection from our extensive
events programme ...

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

Events routinely sell out so book early to secure
your place



Berkshire Family History Society
for family history research - in Berkshire and beyond

The Centre for Heritage and Family History
2nd Floor, Reading Central Library, Abbey Square
Reading, Berkshire, RG1 3BQ, United Kingdom
Registered Charity Number 283010

[Unsubscribe from this list](#)

[Unsubscribed by mistake?](#)

