



Berkshire Family History Society



Image by [nextvoyage](#) from [Pixabay](#).

I thought we'd have a change of scenery this week and celebrate the 66th Edition of the members' newsletter with a friendly tip of the hat to our numerous members in the US, especially California. Did you know we're big in California? Plus, as I write this it's a cold, wet and stormy day in England and I thought we all deserved a glimpse of blue sky.

*(To be clear, unlike Route 66 this isn't the end of the trail for **in touch** - we'll be back in two weeks with Edition 67!)*

Scandal at Kintbury



Thanks to member Judith Thomas for bringing this one to our attention.

Enjoy a little bit of historic scandal? If so, read on.

The Rev. James Whitley Deans Dundas probably had his eye on the vicar position at St. Mary's Church in Kintbury for some time. His father, Captain and later Admiral Dundas, was Lord of the Manor of Kintbury and patron of the ancient church, and James Dundas had commenced studying for Holy Orders in 1834. So when in 1840, the longtime vicar, Mr. Fowle, died, it was his time.

However, first there was the matter of his wife to be resolved.

Find out more at:

<https://victorianclericalerrors.blogspot.com/2022/01/the-most-painful-case-of-its-kind.html>



History Begins at Home

Collecting and preserving the stories from each generation is something many family historians aspire to do. However, sometimes it can be a bit of a challenge to get a conversation started and to think about the kind of things you might like to ask.

That's where History at Home's useful website really comes into its own. It is packed with example questions and topics, currently spanning forty two

different themes, but continuing to grow. Themes run from the usual school days, holidays and work to the less well recorded fashion, food and sounds. There are also useful tips on capturing and recording memories.

Check it out at:

<https://www.historybeginsathome.org/>



Collected – 150 Years of Reading Football Club

Reading Museum's latest exhibition tells the history of Reading Football Club, one of the Football League's oldest clubs, through the medium of ephemera, images and mementos.

With expert interpretation provided by the Club's community of historians, the exhibition will be of special interest to those with a personal connection to the club. Star objects bring this history to life, including never-before-seen photographs from the Club's history, loans from iconic players, and a range of items from the personal collection of legendary Reading FC chairman, Sir John Madejski.

David Downs, one of the historians who contributed to this exhibition, is speaking to the society on 24 March (Zoom talk).

Find out more and book your place at:

<https://berksfhs.org/events/150-years-of-reading-football-club/>

BOYDELL & BREWER

County History of Oxfordshire

Volume XX of the Victoria County History of Oxfordshire is due to be published later in February. This is the volume that includes Caversham (most of which was annexed by Reading in 1911) and neighbouring parishes such as Mapledurham, Whitchurch, Goring and Shiplake, opposite Berkshire along the Thames.

Through our membership of the Berkshire Local History Association, Berkshire Family History Society members who wish to purchase the volume are entitled to a 25% discount if they order the book online before the end of April. **To gain your discount enter the code BB985 at checkout.**

<https://boydellandbrewer.com/9781904356547/the-victoria-history-of-the-county-of-oxford-volume-xx/>



Events

Our events programme is mostly online

Join us - wherever you are



DNA – A Practical Guide

**Abingdon branch meeting with
talk by James Thornber
21 Feb 19:15 for 19:30**

Long Furlong Community Centre

Have you been thinking of taking a DNA test, but unsure how it can help with your research or who to test with? Have you taken a DNA test and are not sure how to work with the results?

In this presentation James will be looking at the different types of genealogical DNA tests that are available and how they can help you in a totally practical way. He will be using his own family tree as an example.

This talk will steer clear of the science behind DNA testing and explore which companies do which tests, how to get the best value for money and where you

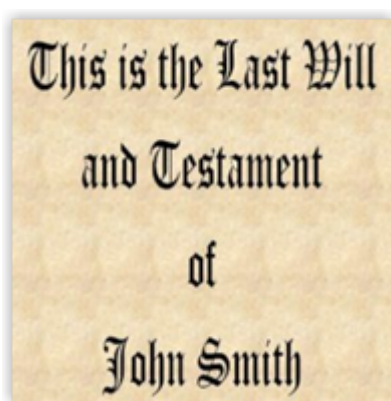
can turn to for help online with interpreting your results.

This is a F2F talk

Free for members. Non-members £3

Pre-booking is not essential, but it does help us with spacing the seating within the hall.

Book now



Wills for Family History

**Windsor Branch Meeting with talk
by Jackie Depelle
22 Feb 19:15 for 19:30**

Online

From ancient to modern, local to house, rich and poor, Wills are an all embracing resource not restricted just to Family History. A detailed probate record can be full of names, personal details and interests as well as who, did or didn't to get what. They can provide many clues and signposts to additional source material to build up a family tree and extend any research project. True; not everyone did make a Will and if they did you'll need some reading handwriting skills, but why not check available indexes just in case – you might be surprised at what you find.

Perhaps the third most useful source after certificates and census, wills are a personal insight into relationships and possessions. Find indexes and associated records, order copies and read the documents.

Tickets cost £3 (free to members)

Pre-booking required

Book now



The History of Yeomanry House, Reading

Talk by Katie Amos

24 Feb 13:45 for 14:00

Online

Sitting at the junction of Coley Avenue, Castle Hill, Bath Road and Tilehurst Road, and hidden by trees, Yeomanry House is perhaps a little ignored in comparison to the other big houses in the area. Until recently, it was home to Berkshire Family History Society and the Berkshire Register Office, but what of its past, and where does its name come from? From its origins on the fringes of the town, confusing house names (it was previously called Castle Hill House, as was another in the same area), to polite society, a school, military links and weddings, this house has seen it all. Discover its history and some of the families associated with it – the Sherwood's, Jesse's, Levett's, Fiennes and more.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4)

Pre-booking required

[**Book now**](#)



Tips and Tricks for online searches

Reading Branch Meeting with talk by the members

24 Feb 19:15 for 19:45

The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints, Tilehurst, Reading

Do you have problems getting the results you expect from your online searches?

Join us for an evening that, hopefully, will help you get the most from the more common websites. Our branch members will be sharing their tips and tricks for different websites, from what's best to put in search boxes, to the hidden information that is only a click or two away.

This is a face to face meeting, but should circumstances change, will move online, so it is best to book a place below.

Tickets cost £3 (free to members)
Pre-booking required

Book now



Free family history advice

Newbury Branch
25 Feb 10:30 - 12:30

Newbury Library

Did you make a start on your family tree during the lockdowns? Have you always wanted to research your family but are not sure how to start?

Whether you are just beginning, or you have become stuck on your family tree, you can get free, one-to-one help from a member of Berkshire Family History Society's Newbury branch.

Book yourself an hour's slot by calling in to Newbury Library (the first floor desk) or by telephoning them on 01635 519900

Understanding Old Handwriting Course

Tutor: Joan Dils
Saturday March 5th, 12th, 19th.
All sessions 11.00 - 13.00
Online



Sooner or later, every family historian has to tackle the challenge of deciphering old handwriting. This course will look at the structure of documents from the 17-19th centuries, which are of most use to family historians, and teach attendees how to read the various handwriting styles used. Examples of handwriting and documents will be provided.

Joan Dils, course tutor, is a well-known local historian in Berkshire and President of the Berkshire Local History Association. She taught history and local history for the schools of continuing education at both Reading and Oxford Universities.

Tickets cost £30 (members £24)

Pre-booking required

Book now



Beginners' Family History Course

Tutors: Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens

Six sessions: 14.30 - 16.30

**Mar 8, 15, 22, 29 and Apr 5, 12.
Online**

This course comprises of a series of six workshops for those new to researching family history including where to start, how to progress and good research practice. Learn how to work with core records of civil registration, censuses, parish registers and modern wills. Discover the different genealogy websites, the content they offer and their strengths and limitations.

This is also a good refresher for those who want to make sure they have covered all bases.

This course comprises of six sessions: Tuesdays – 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th

March and 5th & 12th April.
All sessions run from 2.30 – 4.30pm.

Tickets cost £35 (members £28)

[Book now](#)



Conserving your family archive

**Newbury Branch Meeting with
talk by Sue Gibbons
09 Mar 19:30 - 20:30
Online**

Have you ever wondered how you should be looking after your family papers, photographs, and other heirlooms? Perhaps you have inherited ceramics, toys or even furniture. Or are you just wondering about the best way to preserve your digital media?

Sue Gibbons, librarian at the Society of Genealogists for nearly 20 years, is an author of books on family history and a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists. She will be speaking on the general principles of preserving your personal family archives.

Tickets cost £3 (free to members)
Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



These recordings are a member only service



1921 Census with Jen Baldwin from Findmypast

**The census background & how we can
gain access to the 38 million lives who
are recorded within**

The 1921 Census for England and Wales was launched on 6th January 2022. The imaging and transcription of the 1921 Census schedules, held by the National Archives, has been performed by Findmypast - who also tackled the 1911 Census and 1939 National Register. As you might remember when Findmypast launched the 1939 register, they love spreading the word about their new collection to family history and genealogy society members, giving them the best possible chance to broaden their research and break down those brick walls!

[Click here to view the video \(must log in\)](#)

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?](#)

