

1 message

Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org.uk>

21 July 2024 at 08:02



in touch

your bi-weekly members' newsletter



Picnic on White Horse Hill, 1913, a year before war broke out

Image colourised by Jim Bradshaw

With nothing more than haystacks to guide us, identifying the location of this week's image is not possible. You might think this has to be at the site of the Uffington White Horse but there's another White Hill - near Hungerford - which is closer to Jim Bradshaw's usual stomping ground. We might not know **where**, but we do know **when** the photo was taken - 10.8.(19)13 is etched on it.

I'm not sure which is the most splendid, the bike, the beard, the picnic or the bonnet. I think I see cake, so the picnic edges it!

The big news this week is the publication of the 4th Edition of Berkshire Baptisms - available now in the shop - see below for ordering details



Exchange Journals

Just four this week:

- East of London FHS (March back copy)
- East Yorkshire FHS
- Newfoundland and Labrador FHS – Canada
- Queensland Genealogical Society

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



BERKSHIRE BAPTISMS

Fourth Edition



Berkshire Baptisms Edition 4 - now available to buy

The latest edition of Berkshire Baptisms is now available to purchase from the society's website.

This CD has transcriptions of over 583,000 baptism records from 190 parish and non-parochial registers in the pre-1974 County of Berkshire. Dates range from 1538 to 2006 and the entries provide details of over 1,890,000 people. The CD includes three finding aids: Name Index; Name by Date and Officiating Ministers.

First time purchases cost £20 (members £18) and updates from previous editions £5, £10 and £15, Please see the product listing in the bookshop pages of the society's website for full details and the CD coverage.

[Buy now](#)



GENUKI - are you missing out?

We like to regularly bring you updates on useful websites to help your research, and to remind you of some old favourites which you might have missed or forgotten about. GENUKI, whilst being regularly updated, probably falls into the latter category.

The GENUKI website provides a virtual reference library of genealogical information of particular relevance to the UK and Ireland. It is a non-commercial service, maintained by a charitable trust and a group of volunteers. Berkshire's pages are expertly maintained by Robert Monk, who also volunteers for Berkshire Family History Society.

The site contains a wealth of information and so acts as a "go to" resource for many genealogy topics - such as Correctional Institutions, Poor Law records, Probate and Taxation. It also has individual sections for each county, and each parish therein, detailing basic parochial information and often a more detailed overview of the records which may be available and where to locate them. It's a great one-stop place for better understanding the sometimes complicated parish relationships, especially for the period leading up to the population growth in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries as new parishes were established and non-conformity rose in significance.

Check it out.

GENUKI site



Bomber Command Losses

As we head towards the 80th anniversary of VE and VJ days in 2025, we aim to bring you details of some of the many websites which can help you research the World War Two servicemen in your family tree.

The Losses Database held on the International Bomber Command Centre website is one of those lesser-known gems that have been painstakingly researched by a group of dedicated volunteers.

Each casualty has their own dedicated page which contains a range of information including enlistment details, date and place of death, place of commemoration, aircraft flown, the reason for the crash, other servicemen who died at the same time and final operation details. This information has been drawn from a number of different sources and so it provides a more detailed overview than usually available elsewhere. You also have the opportunity to post your own image of the deceased.

[Find out more and search the database](#)



Bracknell New Town

As part of the [New Jerusalem's new towns project](#), funded by the Wellcome Trust, the Royal Berkshire Archives are cataloguing, and conserving, the records of the Bracknell Development Corporation, 1949-

1982.

These records provide a fascinating insight into the history of Bracknell, town planning, new towns, architecture and more.

You can find out more about the new town archives and the stories behind them, plus additional articles on Bracknell, on RBA's website:

RBA website



Getting the most out of your Membership Workshop

Mon 22 Jul 19:00 - 21:00

Online

Are you a relatively new member of the Society? Want to get the most out of your membership?

This informal workshop will introduce you to the range of benefits that you have available to you. It will include accessing the Society's transcriptions, the mechanisms to enable you to collaborate and share your research with others, ways to obtain help in breaking down brick walls, and the various discounts and savings available for members. Q&A welcomed.

Open only to members of Berkshire Family History Society.

Free to attend, but pre-booking is required so that the meeting link can be emailed to you.



A Potpourri of Social History Talks – Summer Series

Thu 25 Jul 14:00 - 15:15

Thu 22 Aug as above

Thu 26 Sep as above

Online

The 'all series ticket' includes all three Social History – Summer Series talks at a discounted price.

Tilehurst's Big Houses: Dellwood, The Laurels & Kentwood

Thu 25 Jul 14:00 - 15:15

Talk by Katie Amos

This was such a popular talk when we held it face-to-face in April that we are repeating it on Zoom. Katie Amos, Local Studies Lead for Reading Library, will reveal the tragedies, scandals and stories behind three properties.

- Dellwood, an ex-maternity and care home
- The Laurels, now the infant department of Park Lane School
- Kentwood Farmhouse, which is now flats

[Read more...](#)

Bells and Bricks (Two Wokingham Industries)

Thu 22 Aug 14:00 - 15:15

Talk by John Harrison

This talk describes the traditional Wokingham and Berkshire industries. From casting church bells in the mid 1300's to brick making in the early 20th century. The industries may be long gone but they have left their mark.

[Read more...](#)

The History of Purley's River Estate

Thu 26 Sep 14:00 - 15:15

Talk by Catherine Sampson

The Purley River Estate started out as a plotlands site for camping and caravans in 1935, but soon attracted more permanent accommodation when war broke out. It was well known for its converted carriages and buses and its strong community spirit.

[Read more...](#)

The all series ticket cost £12.50 (members £10.00).
Pre-booking is required because places are limited.

Book all series ticket



Tilehurst's Big Houses:

Dellwood, The Laurels & Kentwood

Thu 25 Jul 14:00 - 15:15

Talk by Katie Amos

Online

This was such a popular talk when we held it face-to-face in April, that we are repeating it on Zoom to allow more people to hear it.

Katie Amos, Local Studies Lead for Reading Library, will be taking a look at three properties – Dellwood, an ex-maternity and care home, The Laurels, now the infant department of Park Lane School, and Kentwood Farmhouse, now flats. Each used to be a private house. Katie will reveal the tragedies, scandals and stories behind each one.

Image: Kentwood Farmhouse – courtesy of Reading Local Studies Library.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4).
Pre-booking required.

Check availability and book



Drop In Advice Session

Tue 30 Jul 14:00 - 16:30

hosted by Bracknell & Wokingham Branch

Bring your questions, problems and 'brickwalls' ... and get some new ideas and advice from members of the Berkshire Family History Society.

For ALL family historians wherever your ancestors came from.

Booking is not required

[View details](#)



Ancestors on the Map;

Finding Locations of Family Photographs

Tue 30 Jul 19:30 - 21:30

Windsor branch meeting with talk by

Dr Nicholas Dixon

Online

Those who are fortunate enough to have collections of old family photographs must often wonder where their ancestors were in such pictures, particularly if they were taken outside a studio.

This talk will show how it is often possible not only to find information about studio photographers but also to pinpoint the locations of family photographs using a variety of online resources.

The speaker will show how he has been able to do this when researching photos of his ancestors and offer advice about how to make similar discoveries.

Image: Bacon, George Washington (1830-1921), Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Free to members.

We request a donation of £5 from non-members.

Book

That was just a small selection from our extensive events programme



Our events often sell out so please book early to avoid disappointment

[View email in browser](#)

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