



Beech Hill

Image colourised by Jim Bradshaw

Hi friend

Beech Hill was and is a tiny village (pop. 274 in 2011 census) and that body of water - Beech Hill Pond - made it easy to find the location for [this week's photo](#). If you click just a little further along the route, the chimneys of the house, currently obscured by a tree, will come into view. You can also see the raised pathway to the left. According to Wikipedia, '[Beech Hill is a Norman name derived from the family of De La Bec](#), usually resident at Aldworth, but who also had a home at Beaumys Castle, just over the parish boundary in Swallowfield'.

NEWS



Exchange journals

The flow of incoming journals has slowed considerably as we approach month end but we still have four for you:

- Barnsley FHS
- East Yorkshire FHS
- Hillingdon FHS
- West Surrey FHS

[View online](#) (login required)



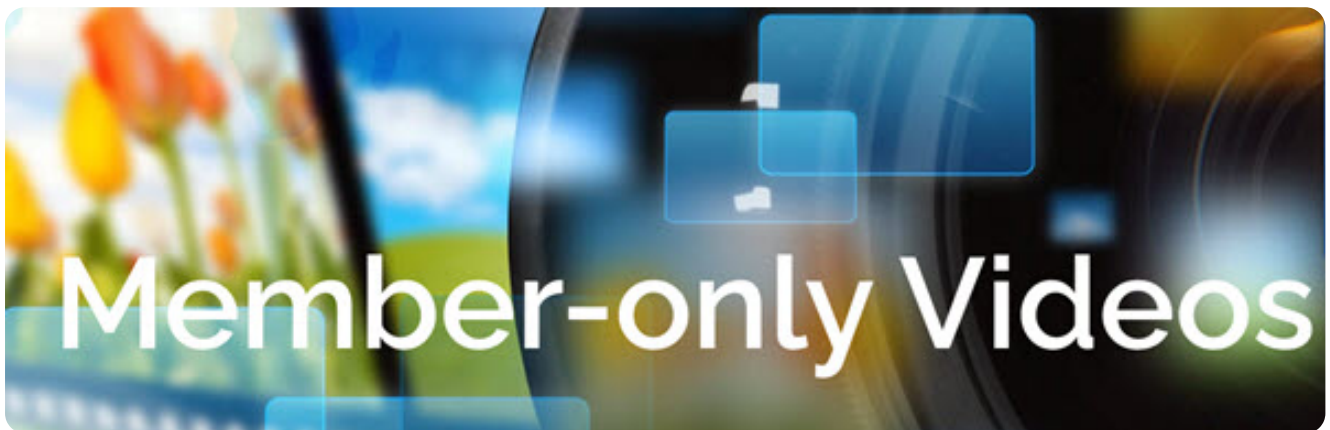
Health and Safety Coordinator

We have a vacancy for someone to keep an eye on our health and safety compliance.

Zip-wiring, rock climbing or sky diving are not really our thing so the role is not onerous and is mainly concerned with reviewing the Risk Assessments for the Centre and other venues, such as those used by our branches. You'll need to:

- work with the branches to ensure they know how to report incidents and carry out initial investigations.
- assist activity leaders to undertake relevant risk assessments of buildings used for society activities
- ensure that all equipment used is certified as safe by the appropriate bodies
- ensure that members and visitors have appropriate equipment including PPE, where relevant, for the activity and relevant training in its safe use.

That may sound like a long and complex list but, given what we do, it really isn't very time-consuming. It is very important though. If you're interested please contact policies@berksfhs.org.uk



Using Facebook for genealogical research

This video features Claire Wilson, an experienced genealogist, discussing the use of Facebook as a valuable tool for genealogy and historical research, while providing insights on navigating the platform, joining groups, and connecting with others in the field.

This video is only available until 28 Dec 2025

[View online](#) (login required)

Event Planning

Next Year's Events Programme - give us your feedback

At this time of year we begin to look ahead to next year's programme of events and activities, and put the Society's events programme together. We would love to hear

from you as to what you would like to see in that programme.

- Is there a particular subject you would like to hear about in a talk?
- Are there any great speakers and topics you can recommend to us?
- What areas of your research would you welcome practical support on - either through advice sessions or in a workshop or course, and do you have any topics on which you could provide expertise advice to others?
- What churches, places or areas would you enjoy exploring on a guided walk?

Please do get in touch with us at booking@berksfhs.org.uk



New at TheGenealogist

Over Half a Million New Clergy Records

This release provides over 500,000 new clergy records from 1890-1952, including Anglican and Methodist ministers. It's a valuable resource for family historians tracing ancestors' careers in the Church.

Discover Doctors, Nurses & Medical Staff

Nearly 200,000 new occupational records for medical and nursing professionals are now available. Spanning the mid-19th to mid-20th century, they detail qualifications, training, addresses, and career histories.

Find out more [here](#).

And of course, don't forget you can access Society's subscription to 'TheGenealogist' free of charge [via our website](#) (you have to be signed in first though).

EVENTS



Drop In Advice Session

Tue 30 Sep 14:00 - 16:30

Wokingham Library

Bring your questions, problems and 'brick walls' ... and get some new ideas and advice from members of the Society. For ALL family historians. Facilitated by Bracknell Branch.

[Find out more](#)



Heroes & Ghosts – how they affect genealogical research

Tue 30 Sep 19:30 - 21:30

Online

Pioneer aviator Wing Commander Harold Blackburn MC AFC's story, once buried for a century under scandal and shame, is brought to light in this revealing talk.

[Find out more and book](#)



The New Poor Law Workshop

Sat 04 Oct 11:00 - 13:00

Online

Explore the impact of the New Poor Law Amendment Act and learn about workhouse records, Poor Law Unions, and how to trace ancestors through these vital documents.



DNA Special Interest Group

Sat 04 Oct 14:30 - 16:30

Online

Facilitated by expert Debbie Kennett. Get the most from your genetic results. Beginner or more advanced, you can share successes and get new ideas on how to use your DNA.

[Find out more and book](#)



Victoria Park Area Reading, Walk

Tue 07 Oct 10:30 - 12:30

Meeting place will be confirmed

Join us on a guided walk through a lesser-known part of Reading, from Abbey lands of the 12th century to Victorian streets and a thriving modern residential area.

[Find out more and book](#)



Drop-in Advice Session

Thu 09 Oct 14:00 - 17:00

Bracknell Central Library

Bring your questions, problems and 'brick walls' ... and get new ideas and

[Find out more and book](#)



October Natter Group

Tue 07 Oct 19:00

Online

Members of Berkshire FHS can join an informal online discussion group, facilitated by Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens. Topics are chosen monthly by attendees.

[Find out more and book](#)



Witches and Witch Trials During the English Civil War

Wed 15 Oct 19:45 - 21:00

Online

A Combined Branches talk on East Anglia's 1640s witch-hunts. Discover

advice from members of the Berkshire Family History Society. For all family historians wherever you are.

[Find out more](#)

why fear, politics and religion led to trials in Great Yarmouth, aided by witchfinder Matthew Hopkins.

[Find out more and book](#)

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](#)

[Windsor](#)

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