



Image colourised by Jim Bradshaw

Hi friend

East Hanney is a small village that retains some of its thatched cottages but I've been unable to locate this one on my virtual tour this week. There is a potential candidate for that steeply-pitched gable end [here](#) but the building in the background and the thatched cottage are either absent or hidden. But this is definitely a picture for the classic car buffs. I think that might be a circa 1928 model Morris Minor. What do you think?

NEWS



Exchange journals

We have six more for you this time and couple of societies have provided some back copies too.

- British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (+1 back copy)
- Calderdale FHS
- Herefordshire FHS
- Isle of Wight FHS (+2 back copies)
- Newfoundland and Labrador FHS
- Society of Australian Genealogists

[View online](#) (login required)



Honorary Treasurer Position Vacancy

Our Honorary Treasurer has decided to stand down and we thank him very much for his service to the Society. A temporary treasurer has kindly stepped in to manage our finances until the end of the financial year so we are therefore seeking a new Honorary Treasurer to take over the reins either before or at the next annual general meeting.

If you have the appropriate skills and would like to support the Society by taking on this important voluntary role, contact Alison Pedley, secretary@berksfhs.org.uk. Full handover and ongoing support will be given and it is not essential that you live in Berkshire. Much of our online processes are now automated, easing the administration levels of this role. As Honorary Treasurer you will need to be a Trustee of the Society. Executive Meetings are usually held bi-monthly over Zoom and therefore your location is not an issue.



Heroes and Ghosts - how scandal and shame affected genealogical research

The video features Michael Hallett discussing his grandfather, Wing Commander Harold Blackburn, a pioneer aviator, and how family scandals and trauma have obscured genealogical research and influenced familial relationships over generations.

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DID YOU KNOW?



Cousins

If working out cousin relationships gives you a migraine, there's a handy chart available to help you, on the [International Society of Genetic Genealogy Wiki](#). They have lots of other useful resources too.

Oh no! Where's my meeting link?

From time to time we receive an SOS message just before a meeting starts, asking for the meeting link. Whether we see it in time depends on who it goes to and whether they're at their computer, so you may not get a reply in time. If this happens to you just remember, the email confirmation we sent you when you booked contains the link, and we resent it a few days before the meeting. The quickest way to find those emails is to search for 'Zoom' using your email client's search tool.



Jacksons store: 150th anniversary

September 2025 marked 150 years since the doors were opened at one of Reading's best-known shops. Jacksons, at the western edge of King's Road, began life when Edward Jackson bought up an established draper and tailor's business. He greatly expanded its premises, purchasing the neighbouring properties and redeveloping them in 1885. The celebrated 'Jacksons Corner' frontage was added in 1925.

Though Jacksons closed in 2013, it is still fondly remembered. During October, the Royal Berkshire Archives is hosting a small display to mark its anniversary, featuring items from our collections together with objects cared for by Thomas Macey, Jacksons' historian.

Visitors are welcome throughout the month, Tuesdays-Fridays. If you miss it, a slightly different version of the display will be in the Reading Museum during December.

Find out more [here](#).

The World's Largest Family Discovery Event

Join RootsTech Online for FREE!

Online Worldwide – March 5-7, 2026

RootsTech Online 2026 - Registration now open!

Registration for RootsTech Online 2026 is now open. Describing itself as the world's largest family discovery event RootsTech 2026 will run from 5 - 7 March 2026. It is free to attend online and next year promises over 200 new online sessions, available in over 26 languages.

Find out more and register [here](#)

EVENTS



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

Find out more and book



Create an enduring family tree in YourTrees Thu 16 Oct 19:00 - 21:30

Online

Wish your grandparents had recorded a family history? Make sure your grandchildren don't miss out. Create a lasting family tree in YourTrees—durable, clear and built to endure.

Find out more and book



Online Family History Advice Clinic

Mon 20 Oct 14:00 - 16:00

Online

Just starting your family history journey or stuck at a brick wall? Need some help, so why not book a free 1:1 online advice session via Zoom—open to all, wherever you are in the world.

[Find out more and book](#)



Discussion Group

Mon 20 Oct 19:30 - 21:30

Long Furlong Community Centre

An informal Abingdon Branch evening for family historians to share challenges and discoveries. Bring brick walls or remarkable finds for open discussion in a friendly setting.

[Find out more](#)



White Waltham Airfield and the ATA

Thu 23 Oct 14:00 - 15:15

Online

This talk tells the story of the Air Transport Auxiliary, created in 1940 to ferry RAF aircraft to the ATA HQ at White Waltham, where men and women flew with minimal training.



Drop-in Advice Session

Tue 28 Oct 14:00 - 16:30

Wokingham Library

Bring your questions, problems and 'brick walls' ... and get new ideas and advice from members of the Berkshire Family History Society. For all family historians wherever you are.

[Find out more and book](#)

[Find out more](#)

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](#)

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