

in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



Bucklebury St Mary Churchyard

Image © Catherine Sampson

August has barely started but while out and about today I noticed some trees have started to turn! Autumn is always early up here in Hadrian's Wall country where the editor lives, but this is ridiculous!!

So, to redress the balance, we're featuring a Spring photo. Look for the daffodils.

We've lots of new informational sites for you this week along with My Heritage's latest photo repair tool - the ability to sharpen up fuzzy photos. And of course it wouldn't be **in touch** without a selection of events from our extensive programme. What do you do if you missed an event? Some of our events will

be available to watch as a recording, beginning with our branch meetings. We hope to add some of our paid for events later, once we have a payment mechanism in place.

CATHOLIC BURIALS



New Catholic Burial Records Database

During the period of over 200 years from the middle of the sixteenth century until the late eighteenth century, when the practice of the Roman Catholic faith was illegal in what is now the United Kingdom, Catholics had no churches and no official burial grounds. Even well into the nineteenth century this was the case. Many Catholics were buried in the local Anglican churchyard as there was frequently nowhere else. This can make finding burials difficult for family historians looking for the graves of Catholics or even just a record of their deaths. Fortunately, it was quite common for parish incumbents who were thorough in their work to indicate the religious affiliation of the deceased in their burial registers.

The Catholic Family History Society (<https://catholicfhs.online/>) has now launched a database of such burials. It uses Google Sheets and so the data can be manipulated and searched or downloaded for that purpose. The society hopes that family historians who notice Catholic, Papist or Recusant burials in the course of their research will be able to submit their findings in one of the several ways explained on the 'Contribute' tab on the website.

You can access the database at:

<https://catholicburials.weebly.com/>



New Irish Court records added to Findmypast

Great news for those with Irish ancestors - Findmypast have recently added more court records to their offering.

[Ireland, Petty Sessions Court Registers:](#)

Unique to Findmypast - over 62,000 new court records from Donegal County Archives.

[Ireland, Court of Chancery Bill Books 1627-1884](#)

Uncover family disputes and more in this vast collection of court records spanning over 250 years of Irish legal history.

[Ireland, Court of Exchequer Bill Books 1627-1884](#)

Did your ancestor have their day in one of Ireland's busiest courts? Delve into over a million new records to find out.



My Heritage launch Photo Repair

My Heritage has added yet another tool to their range of photo enhancement software – Photo Repair. Photo Repair automatically fixes scratches, tears, holes, stains and other damage on historical photos. The full suite of photo tools available from My Heritage includes features for colourizing, restoring, enhancing, animating and now repairing historical photos.

Photo Repair is extremely easy to use. Simply upload a scratched or damaged photo to MyHeritage, and if the software detects damage, it will suggest that you apply Photo Repair by displaying a Repair button. The results can vary – it doesn't always work as well on faces and some detail can be lost in the process – but certainly one to try out for free and see if it adds value to your photo collection.

<https://www.myheritage.com/photo-enhancer>

Good news for those with Scottish ancestry

Family history website **Findmypast** has announced that a new collection of 10.7 million records is now available, indexed from Scottish old parish registers and other surviving church records.

The collection, which consists of baptisms, marriages and burials (as well as related records) joins over 200 million other Scottish records added to Findmypast since 2019, making it the largest Scottish ancestry records collection now available online, according to the company.

The records date from 1561 to 2017, providing 150 years more coverage than the parish register entries currently available on the Scottish government website Scotland's People, which only covers records before the start of Scottish civil registration in 1855. As well as the Church of Scotland, the records cover nonconformist churches including the Episcopal Church, Free Church and United Free Church, whose records were not previously available online.

They also include unique records such as 'irregular marriages' from kirk session records, which were not officially recorded by the parish registers; mortcloth rentals, which record deceased Scots who were too poor to afford a proper burial and had to hire the cloth that was placed over their coffin; and 'ringings of the burial bell' for those who were too poor to afford a mortcloth and paid for the bell to be rung in their memory.

Search [Scotland, Parish Births & Baptisms 1564 - 1929](#)

Search [Scotland, Parish Marriages & Banns 1561 - 1893](#)

Search [Scotland, Parish Deaths & Burials 1564 - 2017](#)

In addition!

The Genealogist has added transcriptions of the 1841-1901 Scottish census to its website – a whopping 24 million records in total. This means that transcriptions of these Scottish census are now on **Ancestry**, **Findmypast** and **The Genealogist** – giving more chance of getting past any transcription errors which may have crept in. Don't forget you can still access both **Findmypast Worldwide** and **The Genealogist** using the society's accounts, via our website. The original census records remain accessible only through the Scottish government's pay-per-view website **ScotlandsPeople**.

[Scotlandspeople.gov.uk](https://scotlandsppeople.gov.uk)

[Thegenealogist.co.uk](https://thegenealogist.co.uk)



RootsTech Connect 2022 announced

FamilySearch has announced that its free online family history event Roots Tech Connect (rootstech.org) will return on 3-5 March 2022. Registration is due to open in September.

One for the diary!

<https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/rootstech-connect-2022/>



Events

Our events programme is mostly online

join us - wherever you are



August Natter Group

**Facilitated by Gillian Stevens
and Chad Hanna**

10 Aug 18:45 fof 19:00

August's Natter Group will take place on the second, rather than first Tuesday of the month.

This is an informal online discussion group, facilitated by Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens. Topics are chosen by the group on a monthly basis. Join in the discussion from your own home, wherever where you live.

Open only to members of Berkshire Family History Society
Free to attend, but pre-booking is required.

Book now



The Battle of Maiwand

With speaker: Dan Allen

12 Aug 19:30 - 20:45

The impressive cast iron statue of a lion in Forbury Gardens, Reading has become one of the most iconic images of Reading. Built by George Blackall Simonds and unveiled in 1886, it commemorates those who died in the Battle of Maiwand. Yet few of us probably know much about the Battle and its tragic

association with Berkshire.

In this talk, Dan Allen, of the Victorian Military Society, tells us about the events which led to the conflict, the battle itself and its local connections.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4)

Pre-booking required

Book now



Writing up your Family History Workshop

Tutor: Dr Barry Jerome
21 Aug 10:45 for 11:00

Have you been researching your family tree and would like to write it up as a story but don't know how to start?

In this online workshop, Barry will help you get started and show you how you can structure it, so that you can write-up your family history while still continuing your research. Barry will show you the system he developed and also suggest alternative approaches and opportunities.

The workshop will help if you have not started yet. Or, if you have already been writing up your family history and would like additional advice, or inspiration.

Tickets cost £10 (members £9)

Pre-booking required

Book now



Reading Volunteers in the Spanish Civil War, 1936-39

Talk by Mike Cooper
26 Aug 13:45 for 14:00

Reading has one of the country's best regarded memorials to volunteers who served in the International Brigades, fighting in the Spanish Civil War, 1936-39.

In this talk, Mike Cooper, co-author of "We Cannot Park on Both Sides" a history of Reading volunteers in Spain, will look at the background to the memorial, the war, and what are now believed to be over 15 men and women with a Reading connection who served in Spain.

Image: Poster of the Spanish Civil War, Por las Armas-La Patria, el Pan y la Justicia (cropped), Creative Commons CC PD-UK-unknown.

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

Book now



1-1 Family History Advice Session – September

20 Sep 14:00, 14:30, 15:05 & 15:35

Are you just getting started in family history and wanting guidance as to how to proceed? Or are you stuck at a particular "brick wall" and need some help?

Our popular family history advice sessions have returned, online only for the moment using Zoom technology. These sessions are 1-1, free of cost and are

available to members and non-members alike.

Book a 25 minute slot with our advisers and you'll receive help from our experienced research assistants. We will provide whatever help and suggestions that we can within the time frame and will book a follow-on session with you if needed. Four 1-1 slots are available in this session:

Slot 1: 14.00 – 14.25

Slot 2: 14.30 – 14.55

Slot 3: 15.05 – 15.30

Slot 4: 15.35 – 16.00 (sold out)

Free

Pre-booking required

Book now

This is just a selecton from our extensive events
programme ...

... click here for the full programme

Events routinely sell out so book early to secure
your place



Mixing DNA with a Paper Trail - The Video

If you weren't able to make the live event, the recording is now available to view at your leisure.

Dr Penny Walters, author of 'Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy' and 'The Psychology of Searching' take people past receiving their DNA results, and just

looking at their ethnicity estimates. How to merge DNA results with an established paper trail is explained, and how these two methods can interact with each other, to devise a better-informed tree is explored.

Useful information for adopted people is given. We look at the advantages and disadvantages of different tests, a variety of helpful methods, putting DNA on different sites, including GEDmatch. Collaborating with matches and successfully merging DNA results with an evidence-based tree can lead to a more informed family history narrative, although some ethical dilemmas may arise.

[View now](#)



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

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