

Keeping in touch

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Sun, Oct 25 2020 07:38:43

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in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



12th-century church of **St Michael in Shalbourne**, formerly Berkshire, now Wiltshire. Like Reading, Shalbourne has its own Maiwand memorial, having lost three villagers in the 1880 battle.

Photo by Penny Stokes

Another fortnight - another set of Covid-19 restrictions - another edition of **in touch**

The projects team has been busy again, with another batch of data downloads - 46 this time, and details are given below.

As well as the usual round up of events and general interest items we've a member recommendation for a radio programme that might appeal to you. On



that note, if any of you come across an item that might interest others, please don't hesitate to tell us so we can consider publishing it here. Email the details to webmaster@berksfhs.org.uk

News

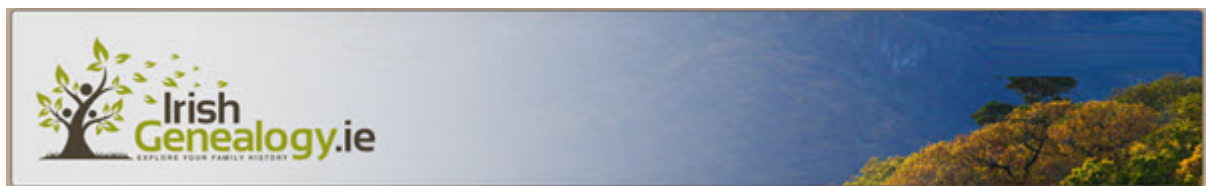


SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

THE NATIONAL FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE

We begin with news of another Journal Exchange arrangement - with the Society of Genealogists. Their September edition is now available to members of Berkshire Family History Society, [here](#)

You need to be logged in to view the content



1871-77 Irish death record images added to Irish Genealogy

The images of over 671,000 Irish civil death records have been released on Irish Genealogy, the free Irish government records website.

The images cover the years 1871 to 1877 and were previously only available as transcriptions. Each record includes details of the date and place of death;

marital condition, age and profession of the deceased; and the cause of death. They also include the name and address of the informant of the death and their signature, or mark if they were illiterate.

Irish Genealogy now holds over 1.5 million civil records, covering 1864-1919 births, 1845-1944 marriages and 1871-1969 deaths, most now including images. It also holds a growing collection of Church records. Find out more at:

<https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/>



University of Reading Virtual Reading Room



Launch of Reading University's Virtual Reading Room

Reading University has launched a **Virtual Reading Room**, where you can access thousands of items, including images from across Berkshire and rare books, from the University of Reading's Special Collections, Art Collections and Museum of English Rural Life.

You can browse selected low-resolution items from MERL's galleries or by theme. Sign up for a free account and you can explore many more items, with high resolution viewing. Check it out at:

<https://vrr.reading.ac.uk/>

Yet More Berkshire Data Downloads!

We've added another 46 data sets to the shop - in PDF format to provide choice, flexibility and instant access in how you access data for Berkshire.

Your purchase is automatically fulfilled as soon as you have paid. Ts & Cs apply and these downloads are for your personal use only.



Prices vary but start from just £2.00. The usual member discounts apply.

Burial entries are presented in alphabetical and date order, monumental inscriptions are fully indexed and include a plan to help you locate graves.

[Abingdon Lower Meeting House Ock St Baptist Burials 1764-1837 \(Download\) D1002](#)

[Aldermaston St Mary MI 1666-2002 \(Download\) D1400](#)

[Appleton St Laurence Burials 1570-1891 \(Download\) D1009](#)

[Ashbury St Mary Burials 1612-1993 \(Download\) D1015](#)

[Bracknell Larges Lane Cemetery Burials 1882-1979 \(Download\) D1036](#)

[Bucklebury/Thatcham Congregational \(Mortons Chapel\) Burials 1819-1871 \(Download\) D1045](#)

[Caversham St Peter MI 1715-2003 \(Download\) D1405](#)

[Crowthorne St John the Baptist Burials 1873-1968 \(Download\) D1069](#)

[Eastbury St James the Great Burials 1867-2005 \(Download\) D1082](#)

[Faringdon All Saints Burials 1589-1799 \(Download\) D1282 \(Part 1 of 2\)](#)

[Finchampstead St James Burials 1607-1893 \(Download\) D1093](#)

[Frilsham St Frideswide Burials 1607-1835 \(Download\) D1094](#)

[Fyfield St Nicholas Burials 1605-1906 \(Download\) D1095](#)

[Grazeley Holy Trinity Burials 1851-1964 \(Download\) D1097](#)

[Hamstead Marshall St Mary MI 1666-2018 \(Download\) D1412](#)

[Hendred, East St Augustine Burials 1558-1973 \(Download\) D1078](#)

[Hendred, West Holy Trinity Burials 1559-1972 \(Download\) D1246](#)

[Hungerford St Lawrence Burials 1559-1799 \(Download\) D1284 \(Part 1 of 2\)](#)

[Hungerford St Lawrence Burials 1800-1969 \(Download\) D1285 \(Part 2 of 2\)](#)

[Kingston Lisle St John the Baptist Burials 1559-1807 \(Download\) D1114](#)

[Knowl Hill St Peter MI 1842-2004 \(Download\) D1414](#)

[Letcombe Bassett St Michael & All Angels Burials 1565-1989 \(Download\) D1120](#)

[Maidenhead Congregational Church Burials 1791-1942 \(Download\) D1130](#)

[Maidenhead High St Wesleyan Methodist Burials 1858-1903 \(Download\) D1131](#)

[Marlston St Mary Burials 1925-1998 \(Download\) D1137](#)

[Moreton, North All Saints Burials 1735-1996 \(Download\) D1156](#)

[Moreton, South St John the Baptist Burials 1600-1994 \(Download\) D1197](#)

[Mortimer West End St Saviour Burials 1869-1982 \(Download\) D1140](#)

[Newbury Shaw Cemetery Burials 1913-1949 \(Download\) D1298 \(Part 1 of 2\)](#)

[Newbury Shaw Cemetery Burials 1950-1972 \(Download\) D1299 \(Part 2 of 2\)](#)

[Newbury United Reformed Church MI 1754-1889 \(Download\) D1421](#)

[Newnham Murren St Mary Burials 1678-1992 \(Download\) D1154](#)

[Reading London Road Cemetery MI 1843-1994 \(Download\) D1425](#)
[Shaw cum Donnington St Mary MI 1686-2011 \(Download\) D1427](#)
[Stratfield Mortimer St Mary Burials 1615-1977 \(Download\) D1206](#)
[Thatcham St Mary Burials 1561-1769 \(Download\) D1343 \(Part 1 of 2\)](#)
[Thatcham St Mary Burials 1770-1970 \(Download\) D1344 \(Part 2 of 2\)](#)
[Theale Congregational Church Burials 1922-1995 \(Download\) D1222](#)
[Theale Holy Trinity Burials 1832-1932 \(Download\) D1223](#)
[Twyford St Mary Burials 1847-1967 \(Download\) D1229](#)
[Windsor, Old St Peter & St Andrew Burials 1612-1940 \(Download\) D1158](#)
[Wokingham All Saints Burials 1580-1799 \(Download\) D1355 \(Part 1 of 2\)](#)
[Wokingham All Saints Burials 1800-1947 \(Download\) D1356 \(Part 2 of 2\)](#)
[Wokingham All Saints MI 1533-2006 \(Download\) D1432](#)
[Woodley Woodley Chapel \(Congregational\) Burials 1858-1905 \(Download\) D1261](#)
[Yattendon St Peter & St Paul Burials 1558-1982 \(Download\) D1266](#)

View all downloads

A member recommends ...



Episode 1 of 3

From just a pair of photographs Charlotte and Cole uncover a story involving Einstein, Marconi, the author of *The Chamomile Lawn* Mary Wesley, infidelity and a trial for murder.

🕒 28 minutes

The Wedding Detectives – new Radio 4 Programme

Member Liz Butcher alerted us to this gem.

Wedding albums capture the happiest day of a couple's life. But what happens when those pictures are lost, discarded or even thrown away? Radio 4's new series explores three different sets of photographs. Wedding album collector Charlotte Sibtain and journalist Cole Moreton uncover the stories behind the photographs and try to reunite them with the family.

The first episode featured two photographs from the 1959 high society wedding of Tim and Sonya Bryant, and uncovered a trail which led to West Cornwall and an extraordinary story involving Einstein, Marconi, landed gentry in decline, the author of *The Chamomile Lawn* Mary Wesley, infidelity and a trial for murder. Don't worry if you missed it, you can still catch it at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000nl79>

Episode two airs at 11am on Tuesday 27th October.

Virtual Events to entertain and educate
Available to **all** members regardless of where you
live



**Polish Ancestral Tourism –
“Wolf Hunting in Womja”
Windsor Branch Online Meeting &
Talk by Leigh Dworkin
27 October 19:30 - 21:30**

This talk details Ancestral Tourism in Warsaw and Lomza, Poland with minimum budget and embarrassingly little planning...

It describes the speaker's first trip to Poland. Finding himself unexpectedly in Warsaw on business, he arrived a day early to take in museums, cemeteries and a synagogue.

He took a few extra days holiday after business was complete to explore more cemeteries, holocaust memorials and archives in the Lomza district in northeastern Poland. This was interspersed with walking the town squares and streets of his ancestral home towns and villages.

Despite not speaking a word of Polish, this felt so much more like home than other places he has lived in and visited such as the UK, the USA and Israel. Even with the lack of planning, he managed to drive his research back three more generations into 18th century Poland and to discover where his family was really from.

Free to members - £3 non-members. Pre-booking required.

Book Now

Photos And Memorabilia

Reading Branch Online Meeting & Talk

29 Oct 19:00 for 19:45

You are invited to bring along your favourite photograph or piece of memorabilia with the story behind it for an informal night of discussion. We hope this is going to be a fun, interesting and very informative evening. There will be 10 minute slots for people to show their photo or item, and explain about it.



Maybe you have a photo or unidentified item, but no story behind it, just questions. Bring it along, you never know, help may be at hand with tips and clues to guide your way.

Free to members, £3 non-members. Pre-booking required.

Book now



Beginning Your Family History

Online Talk by Peter Beavan

31 October 14.00 to 15:15

This talk introduces the starting steps to take in discovering your family history, to help you get the most out of your research. It is designed to help those just starting out. And also, those a little more established who would like to make sure they have covered all the basics.

£4 members, £5 non-members. Prebooking is required

Book now

November Natter Group

Discussion group, facilitated by Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens
03 November 18:45 for 19:00

Join in this online discussion from your own home, wherever you live. Open only to members of Berkshire Family History Society.



Informal discussion group, facilitated by Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens. Topics are chosen by the group on a monthly basis. End time varies.

Free. Pre-booking required.

[**Book now**](#)



Living Through the English Civil War

Online talk by Catherine Sampson
5 Nov 14.00 – 15:00

The countryside in and around Reading was horribly affected by the Civil War. This talk tells the story of what happened to the ordinary folk when the soldiers arrived.

Discover how villages, particularly those along the Bath Road, were caught up in the skirmishes. Practically all were looted. Many individuals died because of the diseases the soldiers brought with them. Others attempted to stave off financial disaster. The cloth trade suffered disastrously.

Among the masses however, we can still identify the individual. The husband

who hid his valuables. The Reading Pest House occupant who feared the worst.
And the Woolhampton sheep farmer who attempted to stop the plundering.
Discover their stories in this fascinating talk.

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

Book now



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

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