

Keeping in touch

Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org>

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To: Paul <paul.b@rrett.me.uk>

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in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



Exterior of Walls Carnival Stores, Caversham Road, Reading

Image courtesy of

The Museum of English Rural Life, University of Reading, Dann-Lewis Collection *P DX322 PH1/DL4/63*

Hatch 'em, match 'em and dispatch 'em

The Burial and Monumental Inscriptions downloads that we launched in Q4 2020 were very popular, particularly for our overseas customers for whom the

instant gratification of immediate access was a big draw.

So having *Dispatched 'em* in Q4, this quarter we're going to *Match 'em*. Look below for the first batch of matches.

We hope you're enjoying the vintage photos from the Museum of Rural Life. We have lots more to come, depicting life around the old county in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

But we're kicking off this week with a novel way to raise funds for the society that requires no expense and almost zero effort.

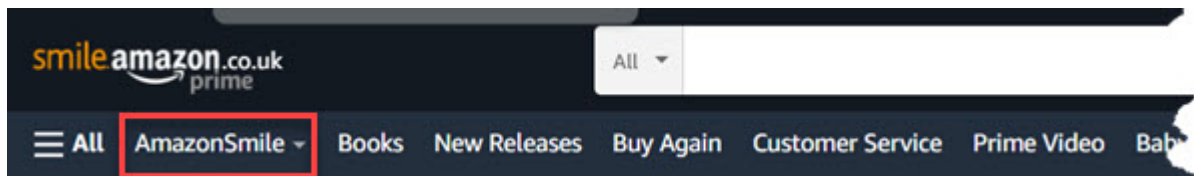
News



If you use Amazon for online shopping you may be aware of Amazon Smile which is a way to support a charity when you shop. Berkshire Family History Society is now one of the charities you can choose to support.

If you are not already supporting a charity this way go to smile.amazon.co.uk and you can sign up. The donation isn't a lot but it costs you nothing and as a certain supermarket ad says "every little helps."

Once you've selected us as your nominated charity, all you have to do is shop using the smile.amazon.co.uk address instead of the regular amazon.co.uk address, and a percentage of what you spend will come to us.



Amazon Smile



More help for your Irish Family History Research

Prominent Dublin-based genealogist, John Grenham, now has a [YouTube channel](#) hosting short videos aimed at helping researchers of Irish Family History.

Six videos are already live. These are anything from 11 to 22 minutes long and cover

- [A Welcome to the Irish Ancestors website](#)
- [Is your surname Irish?](#)
- [The 1901 and 1911 Census Maps](#)
- [The Griffiths \[Valuation\] Maps](#)
- [Why can't I find mine?](#)
- [The Catholic Baptisms Map](#)

Those of you with Irish forebears, or with an interest in Irish local history, should find plenty of interest here, with the promise of more to come.

New to The Genealogist - WW2 RAF Record Books

The Genealogist has added more than 1.8 millions Royal Air Force Operations Records Books from the Second World War to its website. This is the first part of a digitisation project which includes ultimately all records from The National Archives' series AIR27. The record books record the movements of different squadrons, the names of pilots and support staff and accounts of encounters with the enemy and crashes.

Whilst The Centre in Reading remains closed due to Covid-19, members can access the society's Genealogist account via the society's website:

Use your member-exclusive access to The Genealogist



This time next year ...

Less than 365 sleeps to go (hopefully) before the 1921 Census is published by Findmypast. So what can we look forward to?

By 1921 there were 38 million people in England and Wales. As this was the first census after the First World War, children were asked whether their mother or their father, or both, were dead. It is also the first census when people were

asked whether a marriage had been dissolved by divorce.

Look forward to more information about employers including their name. RAF staff in stations overseas are also included for the first time.

Sadly, those helpful questions included in the 1911 Census about the length of the present marriage and the total number of children born and the number still living, were omitted in 1921. Instead, the question asks how many children or stepchildren the family had, and how many were still alive.



Marriage Data Downloads - now launched

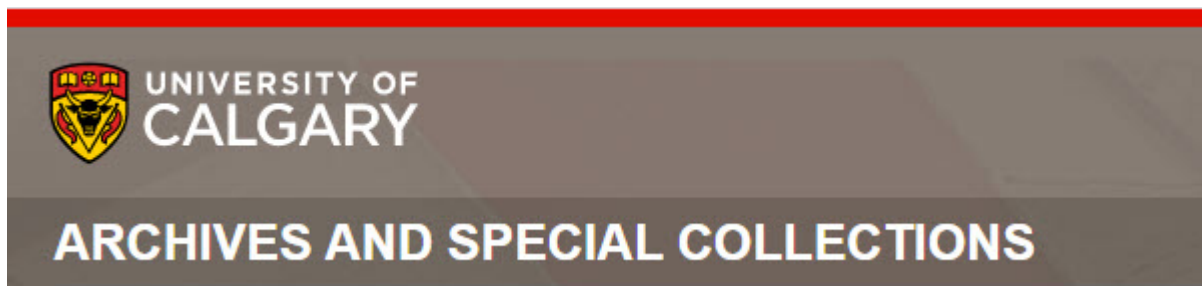
Following the successful launch of burial and monumental inscriptions downloads last quarter, the society is delighted to follow that with marriages this quarter.

We have developed data downloads to provide choice and flexibility in how you access data for Berkshire. Each download is in PDF format and your purchase is automatically fulfilled as soon as you have paid. Terms and conditions apply and these downloads are for your personal use only. Prices vary but start from just £2.00. The usual member discounts apply.

If you're interested in a number of parishes, also check out [Berkshire Marriages Edition Four CD](#), likewise, individual [Parish CDs](#) also exist. So check out what best suits your needs.

[Aldermaston St Mary Marriages 1559-1935 \(Download\) D1039](#)
[Aston Upthorpe All Saints Marriages 1862-1935 \(Download\) D1118](#)

[Childrey St Mary Marriages 1559-1928 \(Download\) D1499](#)
[Clewer St Andrew Marriages 1607-1837 \(Download\) D1502](#)
[Moulsford St John Baptist Marriages 1616-1837 \(Download\) D1170](#)
[Newbury Congregational Church Marriages 1839-1935 \(Download\) D1171](#)
[Padworth St John the Baptist Marriages 1618-1838 \(Download\) D1178](#)
[Pangbourne St James the Less Marriages 1562-1841 \(Download\) D1179](#)
[Purley St Mary Marriages 1607-1935 \(Download\) D1199](#)
[Reading St Mark Marriages 1920-1935 \(Download\) D1360](#)
[Reading St Saviour Marriages 1922-1935 \(Download\) D1363](#)
[Sandhurst St Michael Marriages 1580-1837 \(Download\) D1367](#)
[Shippon St Mary Magdalene Marriages 1856-1935 \(Download\) D1376](#)
[Sonning St Andrew Marriages 1592-1837 \(Download\) D1379](#)
[Warfield St Michael the Archangel Marriages 1569-1837 \(Download\) D1451](#)
[Winkfield St Mary Marriages 1564-1837 \(Download\) D1463](#)



Canadian pioneers in your family tree?

Thanks go to **Cindy Andrews**, one of our Canadian members, for sending us details of the excellent website at the University of Calgary in Alberta.

The University has digitized over five kilometres of documents, books, newspapers, photographs etc. relating to the prairie provinces of Canada. The collection also includes local history books from small rural areas. It's a great resource with material that isn't easily findable elsewhere and a treasure trove for those with family interests in this part of Canada. You can then enter a topic in the search area or enter the word index for a complete listing of the records.

Check it out

Events

Our events programme is exclusively online -
so join us - wherever you are



Using MyHeritage for your English Genealogical Research

**Windsor Branch Meeting with
Speaker: Daniel Horowitz
26 Jan 19:15 for 19:30**

MyHeritage Search is delighting family history fans worldwide. Learn how this search engine works, and how it can benefit your research, covering billions of records and important repositories and databases, in a single search, finding the resources you need for your English research.

Thousands of new records are continuously added; hi-tech algorithms were created to cover spelling and phonetic variations, understand nicknames, handle synonyms, and deal with ethnic variations.

If you have done a DNA test, the new Genetic Groups will help you focus on the areas your ancestors may have come from, and their descendants established for thousands of years.

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

Book now

'King of all Balloons': James Sadler

Speaker: Mark Davies

28 Jan 14:00 - 15:15

Oxford pastry cook & England's first aeronaut

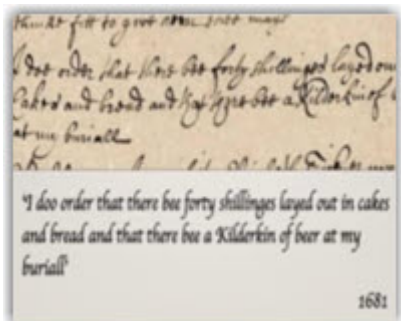


There are several Berkshire associations within the story of James Sadler (1753–1828), the unlikely first Englishman ever to build and fly a hot-air balloon. His wife came from Abingdon, for instance. And the first English woman to fly, as a result of Sadler's expertise, came plausibly from Bucklebury.

Subsequently an engineer, designer of armaments, and Chemist to the Navy, Sadler returned to ballooning after a gap of 24 years in 1810. He and his son Windham set numerous records while ascending from some 40 British towns and cities. Many being the first ever from those places. Yet despite a lifetime of achievement, which brought him into contact with some of the most significant names in Georgian Britain, Sadler ended his days in impoverished obscurity.

£4 members - £5 non-members. Pre-booking required.

Book now



Humour in Genealogy

Reading Branch Meeting with
Speaker: Chris Broom
28 Jan 19:15 for 19:45

As the title suggests, Chris Broom's talk "Humour in Genealogy" uses a number of light-hearted examples to demonstrate the advantages of scrutinising original documents in

family-history research, many of which contain additional information not included in online records.

A little bit of humour is just what we all need right now, even if some of the gags are not just old, but positively medieval, so book your place!

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

Book now

February Natter Group

Facilitators: Gillian Stevens and Chad Hanna

2 Feb 18:45 for 19:00

Join in this online discussion from your own home, wherever where 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.

Members only - free. Pre-booking required.

Book now

Railways Records for Family Historians Workshop

Tutor: Richard Marks

6 Feb 11:00 - 13:00



Did your Ancestors work on the railways? Britain's railway history is complex and can be difficult to decipher. In this online workshop, firstly, we will unravel the history of the railway companies, from British Railways in the 1980s back to the first railway companies in the Victorian period.

We will then work through some sample railway documents to decipher what the railway language used within them means, and how they can be used by family historians to build their family histories. The workshop will conclude by looking at where railway archives can be found and how they can be accessed.

£9 members - £10 non-members. Pre-booking required.

Book now

Beginners' Online Family History Course

Tutors: Gillian Stevens and Chad Hanna

Session 1 of 6 16 Mar 14:00 - 15:30

This course comprises of six sessions: Tuesdays – 16th, 23rd & 30th March and 6th, 13th & 20th April.

All sessions run from 2pm – 3.30pm.

The course is aimed at those new to researching family history and includes where to start, how to progress and good research practice. Learn how to work with core records of civil registration, censuses, parish registers and modern wills. Discover the different genealogy websites, the content they offer and their strengths and limitations.



£28 members - £35 non-members. Pre-booking required.

Book course now

These are just a few examples from our extensive events programme - for more....

... [click here for the full programme](#)

Our events routinely sell out so book early to secure your place



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

The Centre for Heritage and Family History
2nd Floor, Reading Central Library, Abbey Square
Reading, Berkshire, RG1 3BQ, United Kingdom
Registered Charity Number 283010

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