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in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



The Silchester Cottage Challenge

[See it on Facebook](#)

Hi Paul

We had a lovely piece of reader feedback after our 16 May edition, appreciating these newsletters and saying how, as an Australian, he loved the almost flippant mention of the thousand-year old building in the featured image. He mentioned that to an Australian 150 years seems historic. That reminded me of a quote by the American author Diana Gabaldon.

"An Englishman thinks a hundred miles is a long way; an American thinks a hundred years is a long time"*

* or Australian or Canadian

It's easy to become blasé about the history around us in Europe. I once lived a ten-minute walk from a small, inconspicuous, ruined castle in Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire. The locals rush blindly past on their way to the adjacent railway station but in 1066, one William 'The Conqueror' accepted the surrender of the Archbishop of York in Berkhamsted, following which the [Norman motte and bailey castle](#) was built.

Some years later I lived half a mile from Edge Hill, in 1642 the scene of one of the [battles of the English Civil War](#). And now I live just a few miles south of [Hadrian's Wall](#), the northernmost outpost of the Roman Empire, built around 122 CE/AD.

I never chose locations close to these ancient monuments - they just happened to be there - which goes to show how much history oozes out of the British landscape. The Historic County of Berkshire is no exception. The construction of the iconic [Windsor Castle](#) also began during William the Conqueror's reign and then there's the [Uffington White Horse](#) which dates to sometime between 1380 and 550 BCE/BC. [Reading Abbey](#) celebrates its 900th birthday this year!

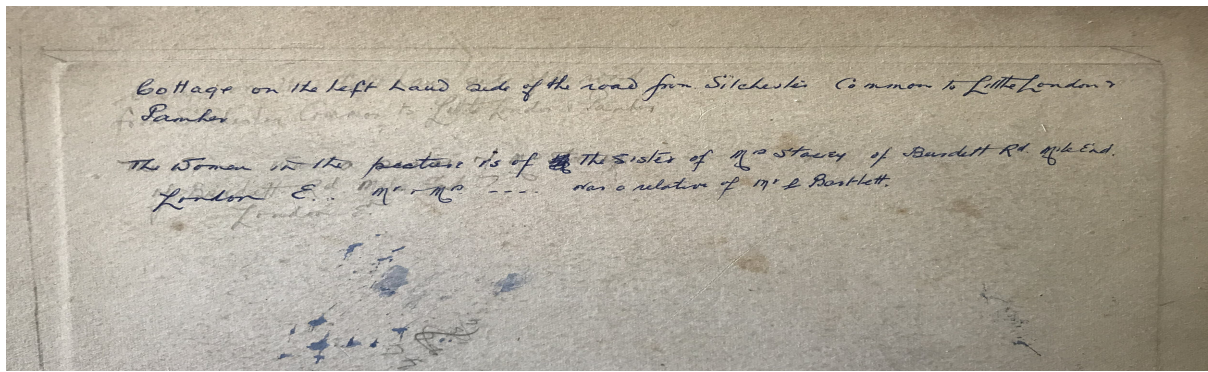
News



From our Facebook Page

Our featured image this week isn't from Berkshire but from just over the Hampshire border. It comes from a post on our Facebook page from Jenny H, who is trying find the location of the cottage in the picture.

Do you know where this cottage is or was? There's a caption on the rear of the photo which gives some clues (click to enlarge).



If you can help, please head over to the [Facebook](#) page. You'll find other interesting threads there too. Facebook is just one of the ways you can interact with us, along with the website, forum, Twitter and our Event's Programme.

For example, through the Facebook page I have just established contact with a member who might share a common 7 x GGF with my wife. A remarkable connection identified from a completely unrelated post in the Facebook group. What connections might *you* make?



Baptism Downloads - Batch 2

Following the launch of baptism downloads in the last newsletter, we are delighted to now release the second batch.

As a reminder, data downloads have been developed 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 Baptisms Edition Three CD](#), likewise, [individual Parish CDs](#) also exist. So check out what best suits your needs.

[Aldermaston St Mary Baptisms 1559-1812 \(Download\) D1577](#)

[Bearwood St Catherine Baptisms 1846-1920 \(Download\) D1590](#)

[Bray St Michael Baptisms 1763-1836 \(Download\) D1602 \(Part 1 of 2\)](#)

[Bray St Michael Baptisms 1837-1920 \(Download\) D1733 \(Part 2 of 2\)](#)

[Chilton All Saints Baptisms 1584-1920 \(Download\) D1615](#)

[Farnborough All Saints Baptisms 1607-1920 \(Download\) D1636](#)

[Ilstey, East St Mary Baptisms 1608-1920 \(Download\) D1627](#)

[Lambourn St Michael & All Angels Baptisms 1813-1856 \(Download\) D1649](#)

[Purley St Mary Baptisms 1607-1920 \(Download\) D1668](#)

[Reading Baptist Church Lane Baptisms 1735-1819 \(Download\) D1671](#)

[Reading St Luke Baptisms 1878-1919 \(Download\) D1678](#)

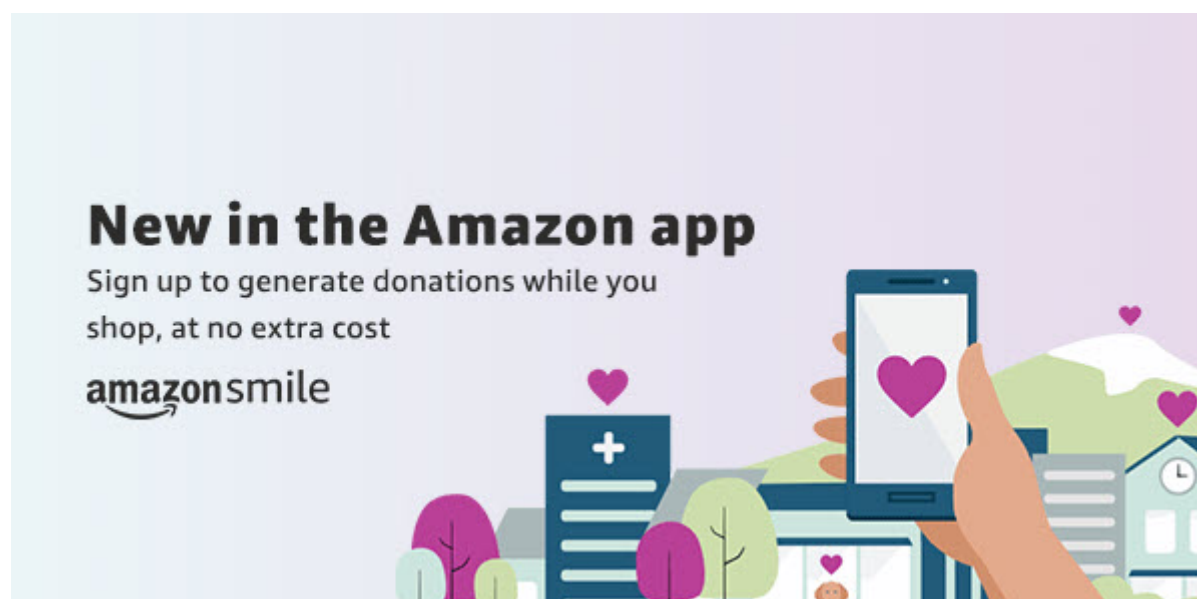
[Reading St Mark Baptisms 1904-1920 \(Download\) D1679](#)

[Shefford, Great Primitive Methodist Chapel Baptisms 1831-1837 \(Download\) D1640](#)

[Sparsholt Holy Cross Baptisms 1559-1920 \(Download\) D1690](#)

[Theale Holy Trinity Baptisms 1832-1920 \(Download\) D1703](#)

[Wallingford Independent Chapel Market Place Baptisms 1788-1837 \(Download\) D1709](#)



Amazon Smile - you shop, Amazon gives

Back in January, we announced that Berkshire Family History Society was now one of the listed charities you could support if you use Amazon for online

shopping. Thank you to everyone who has nominated the society as their chosen charity.

If you are not already supporting a charity and would like to support the society, you can go to smile.amazon.co.uk and 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.

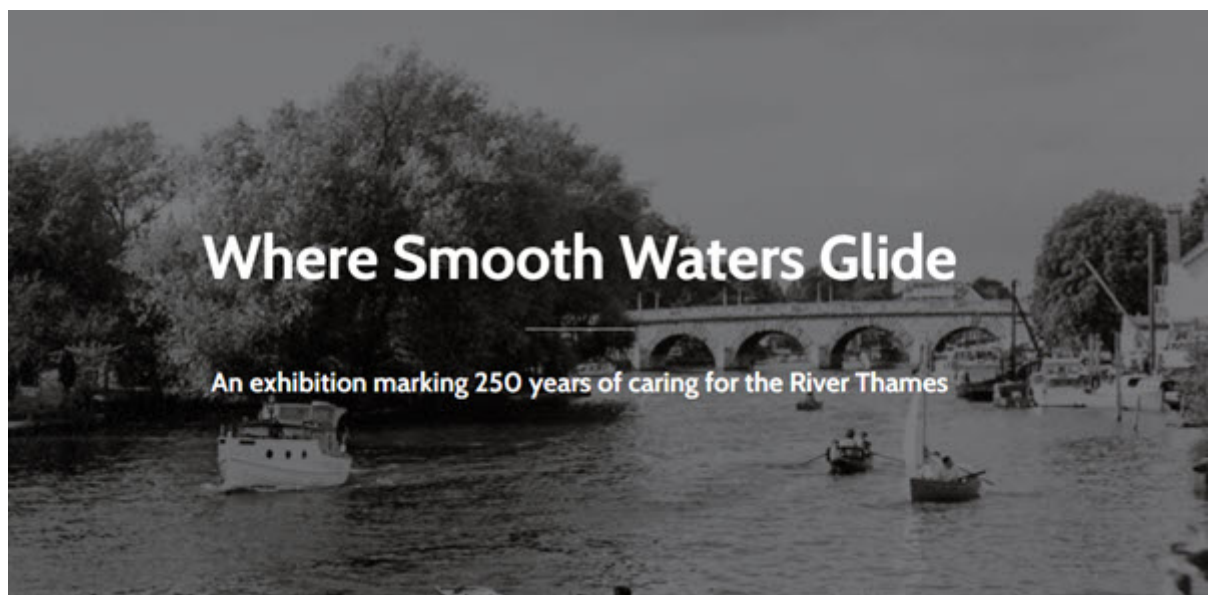
Use the Amazon app and want to make a difference while you shop, at no extra cost to yourself?

Simply follow the instructions below to select Berkshire Family History Society as your charity and activate AmazonSmile in the app. Amazon will donate a portion of your eligible mobile app purchases to us.

How it works:

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
2. Select the main menu ☰ & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programmes & Features
3. Select Berkshire Family History Society as your charity
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app

Thank you.



Where Smooth Waters Glide - new online exhibition

The Berkshire Record Office has launched their latest online exhibition to celebrate the 250th anniversary of when the Thames Navigation Commission (later Thames Conservancy) first met on 9 May 1771.

The exhibition charts the use and care of the river Thames from the days of its earliest settlers to modern day. It is organised into broad themes and rich with examples of historic documents and photographs. If your ancestors worked or served on the river or lived by it - then there's plenty here which may be of interest.

<https://thames250exhibition.com/>



Events

Our events programme is mostly online -
join us - wherever you are



June Natter Group

**Informal discussion group led by:
Gillian Stevens and Chad Hanna**

01 Jun 18:45 for 19:00 start

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.

Free to members

Pre-booking required

Book now



A stroll through Berkshire's Graveyards

Talk by: Catherine Sampson
03 June 14:00 - 15:15

Berkshire's churchyards are full of stories. About the individuals who are buried there, the communities in which they lived and the prevailing burial customs and superstitions. They reveal local industry and commerce and the impact of events – both local and national. And of course they tell us of past pandemics and other causes of death.

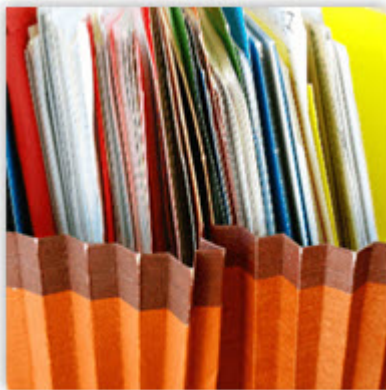
This online talk explores some of those stories and showcases some of the outstanding architecture of Berkshire's funerary monuments – both in its burial grounds and also inside its churches.

Non-members £5 (members £4)

Pre-booking required as places are limited

Book now

Organising your research with Evernote



Newbury Branch Meeting & talk by: Phil Isherwood 09 June 19:15 for 19:30

Are your files overflowing? Can't find that vital reference you need?

Evernote is possibly the best known tool for note taking, organisation, task management and finding that elusive reference. Phil Isherwood will explain how it works and show practical examples of how he has used it to transform the organisation of his genealogy projects.

Phil Isherwood works in the software industry and is particularly interested in innovations in technology for family history. He is a Family History Advisor for Oxfordshire Family History Society and a committee member for OFHS's Online Meeting Group.

Free to members. Non-members £3

Pre-booking required

Book now



Introduction to the Industrial Revolution in Britain - Course

**Tutor: Richard Marks
Session 1: 18 Jun 14:00 - 15:45**

*Course sessions are: Fridays June 18th & 25th, July 2nd, 9th & 16th
All sessions run: 2 – 3.45pm.*

This online course comprises of five consecutive sessions and is designed especially for family historians.

The Industrial Revolution in Britain changed the world forever, but why did it

occur in Britain first? In this course, we examine why the Industrial Revolution happened in Britain, and whether it really was a “Revolution”. We will look at some of the individuals and inventions who made the Industrial Revolution. We examine how life was experienced by the factory workers and the impact upon their health. Session four looks at how the Trades Unions began and how the first welfare systems started (and how to find evidence of them). Alongside this, we will consider the experiences of women in the workplace and how this changed over time. Finally, in week five, we explore how the Industrial Revolution can be researched by family historians. And how we can trace and better understand how our ancestors lived and worked during this period of great change.

Course Outline

Week 1: Why the Industrial Revolution happened in Britain and was it really a ‘Revolution’ ?

Week 2: The People who made the British Industrial Revolution: Engineers and Invention

Week 3: Life in the Industrial Revolution: Slums and Sickness

Week 4: Factory Life: Trades Unions, Women and Welfare

Week 5: The Industrial Revolution for Family Historians

Tickets cost £50 (members £45)

Pre-booking required

Book now



Annual General Meeting

18 Jun 19:00 for 19:30

This is a great opportunity for those of you who haven't previously been able to attend an AGM, to join this important part of the governance of the society. Meet other members of the society, hear about the society during 2020/2021 and find out

the plans ahead. Questions and debate are encouraged. We welcome all members, wherever you may live. There will be no speaker booked for the event, as we will only be conducting society business.

Places must be booked in advance. If there are two members within your household, please book two places.

Please Note: This meeting will be recorded for the benefit of members who are unable to attend the live session.

Members: Free

Pre-booking required

Book now



House Histories Course

Tutor: Dr Margaret Simons
19 & 26 Jun 11:00 - 13:00

Researching the history of a house can be both exciting and rewarding, revealing fascinating stories of those that lived there before you. Do you have a house that you are interested in

knowing more about, have you come up against a dead end or do you just want to know how to approach the subject?

If so, then this online course will help you reveal people, dates, events and much more using familiar resources like the census, but also introduce you to the less familiar such as the national Farm Survey, 'Modern Domesday', the 1910 Inland Revenue valuation survey, rate books, tithe records, local authority records, sales particulars and auction catalogues. You are welcome to bring your housing project to these sessions.

Week 1. Establishing what you know already and a starting point for your research. Identifying those records that will get you started.

Week 2. Where next? Using the facts and figures of our data collection as our base we will consider those sources that can help us to give context to our research and flesh out our house history.

Non-members £20 (members £18)

Pre-booking required

Book now

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

... [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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