

Merry Christmas from the In Touch team

1 message

Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org>

18 December 2022 at 08:34

in touch

Berkshire Family History Society

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Welcome to the Christmas edition of in touch

We hope you've enjoyed reading in touch each fortnight throughout 2022. If you missed an edition or want to check back for a useful website link, all of the back copies can be found on the website under "Resources".

Coming up in 2023 there will be more product launches, website recommendations and research tips. If you have a best practice you'd like to share with others or something to recommend – do get in touch with us.

Happy Christmas and New Year

Catherine Sampson



Three Christmas Treats for you

In our Christmas newsletter we like to bring you something a little different. Given that many of us have Londoners somewhere in our trees, this year we bring you three film montages of London in the past. We hope you enjoy them.



Wonderful old London around 1900 (AI enhanced and coloured)

This is an extremely interesting collection of coloured old film footage about London more than a century ago. This footage spans a period between 1895 and around 1915. Some footage is very old and damaged, so the picture quality varies with each scene (from excellent to reasonable).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJJBA2wuBs&list=PLP_6hUsQRi8sOgzj80XqJ5nUUTxL_KDWb&index=7

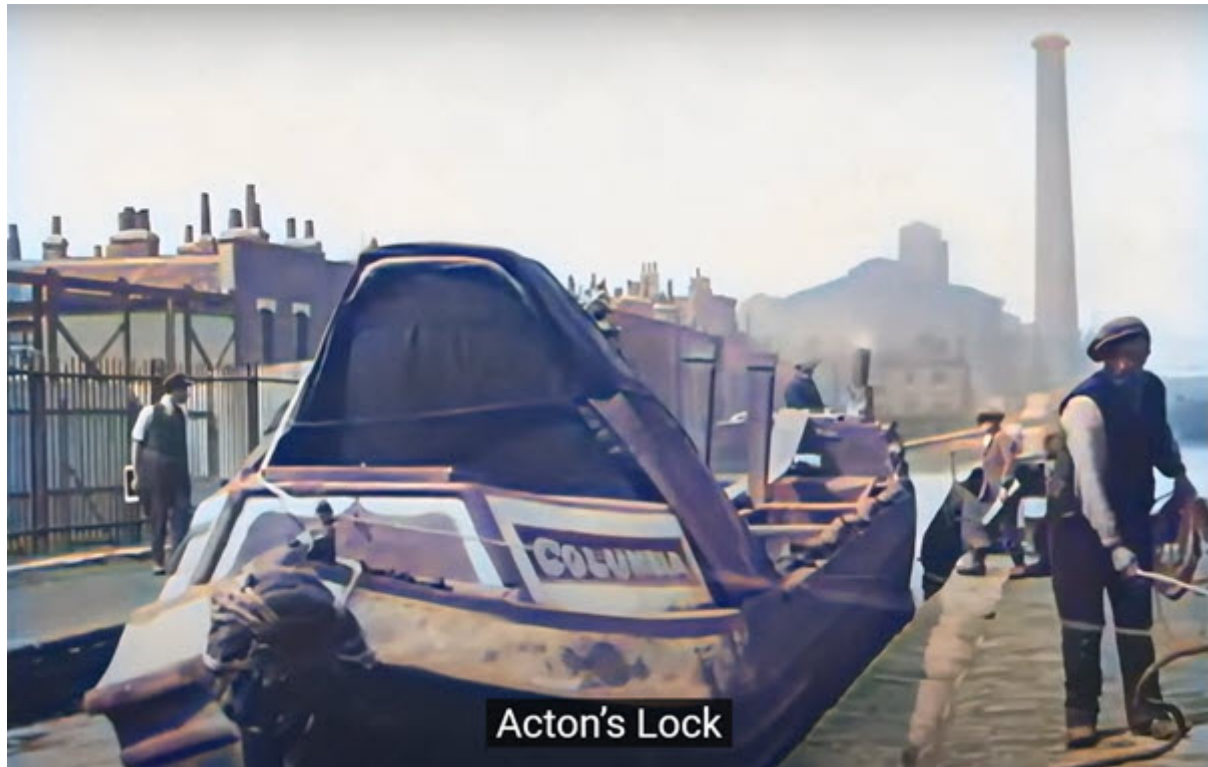


Extremely rare, spectacular film about London during WW-II

(AI enhanced & colourized)

This is London during WWII. Much of this film footage is very rare. The source is raw footage for an unknown film about London with the working title "Heart of the City " which has been digitally improved and stabilised. The film shows remarkable scenes of bomb damage, close up filming of the release of barrage balloons, anti-aircraft gun positions, traffic at Trafalgar Square and Piccadilly Circus, military parades in front of Buckingham Palace and beautiful scenes of the Thames during daytime.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLbPYQcUcgM&list=PLP_6hUsQRi8sOgzj80XqJ5nUUTxL_KDWb&index=1



Barging through Old London over the Regents Canal in 1924

(AI enhanced & Colourised)

This one's our favourite! Take a trip on a horse-drawn towing barge from Limehouse into old Central London! The trip goes over the Regents Canal from Limehouse, via the Wharves of East London, Mile End Road, Various locks, White Chapel, Hertford Union Canal, Old Ford, Acton's Lock, Hackney, through Islington Tunnel, passes under the New River, over the GNR at Kings Cross, under the Midland at St.Pancras, Kentish Town, Alpine Chalet, through Regents Park and London Zoo and ends at Paddington Basin just off Edgware Road.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TotdDyQrc6E&list=PLP_6hUsQRi8sOgzj80XqJ5nUUTxLKDWb&index=8



Three more Christmas Treats to help your research



Scotland's 1921 Census is Launched

Scotland's 1921 census was finally launched on St Andrews Day on the National Record of Scotland's ScotlandsPeople website.

For many Scots who left the country to start new lives elsewhere during the 1920s, this may be the last record of them in their homeland.

Records cost 6 credits to view (£1.50), with 30 credits for £7.50 being the smallest number you can purchase.

The census was conducted on 19 June 1921. It was the first to ask questions about whether children had both parents still alive, a question prompted by the huge loss of life caused by the First World War. It was also the first to name people's employers.

Check it out here:

<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>



Catherine through the ages!

Greek Goddess - 16th C Royalty - 1940s film star - 1970s It Girl

More AI Photograph Wizardry from MyHeritage

MyHeritage, the family history software provider, has recently released an "AI Time Machine"™, a fun new feature that creates stunning images of you as you would have looked in different time periods throughout history.

This certainly isn't for everyone, but since its release in the USA, it's taken social media by storm. So if your dream has been to see yourself as an Egyptian pharaoh, a Viking or a 19th-century lord or lady (or a lot of other possibilities) you can now do so with a few clicks.

AI Time Machine™ is a paid feature. However a 20-theme pack lets you upload photos for one person to create 160 images for a few pounds. At the moment you can try it out for free!

Check it out here:

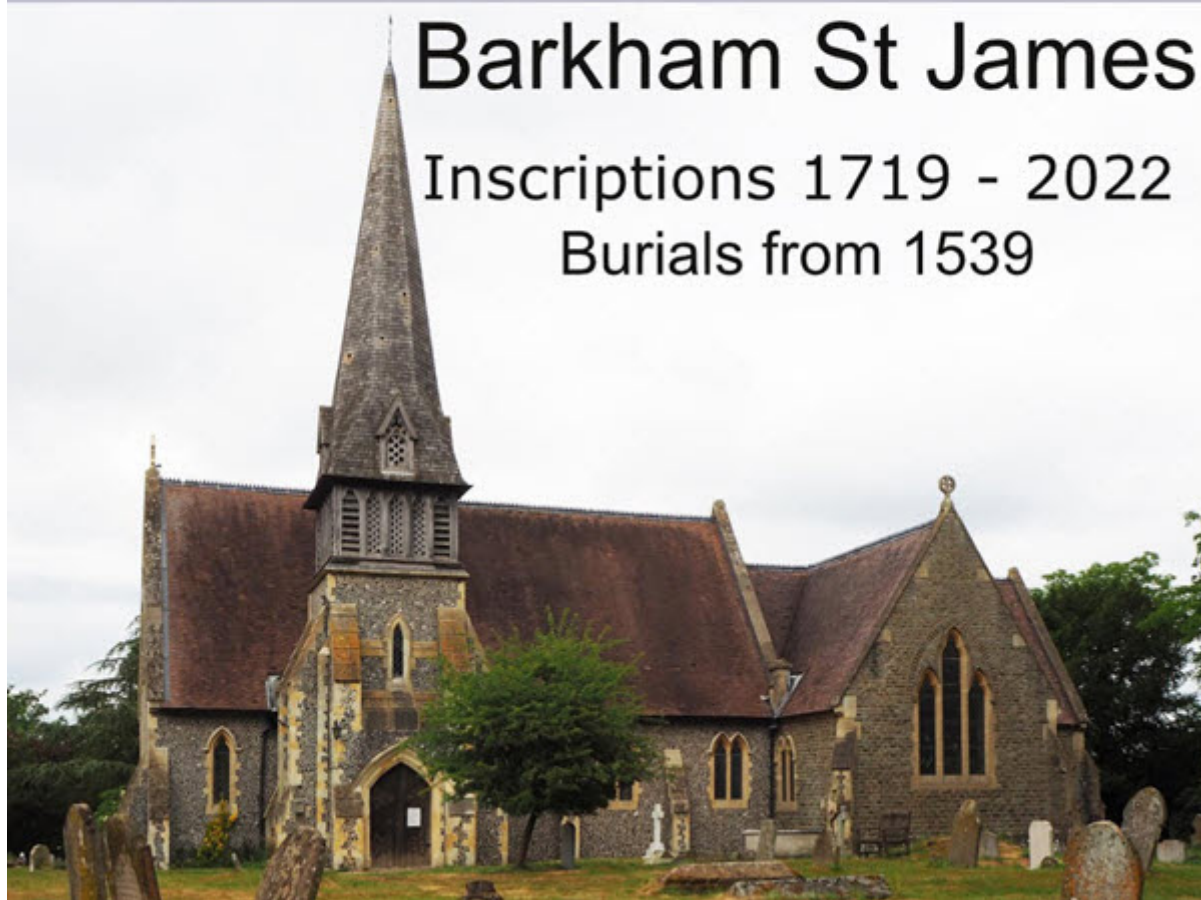
<https://www.myheritage.com/ai-time-machine>

New CD launched

Barkham St James

Inscriptions 1719 - 2022

Burials from 1539



Barkham St James Monumental Inscriptions

In case you missed the launch in this month's Historian, or haven't yet received your Historian yet - we have a new CD just out.

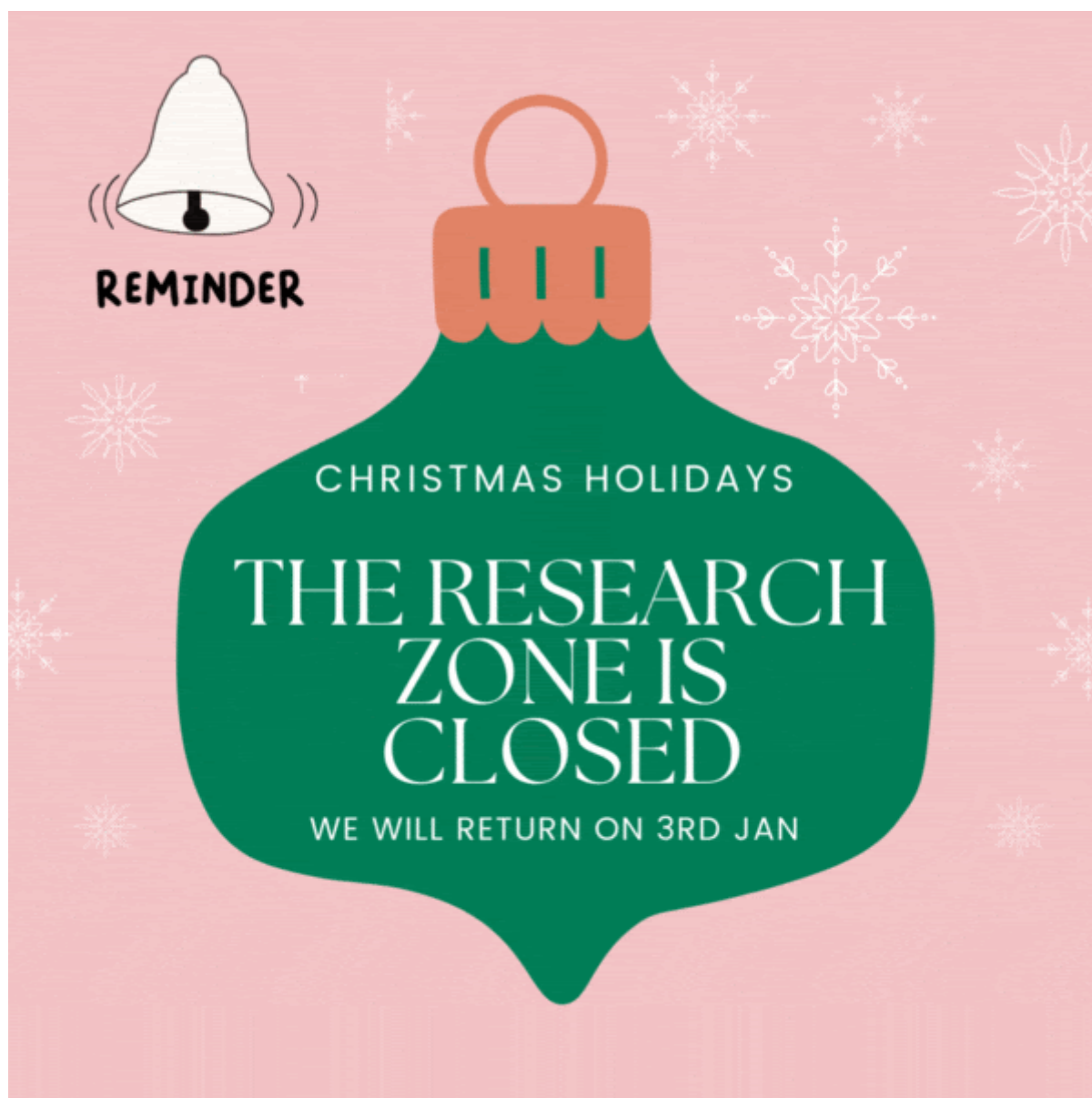
Barkham St James Monumental Inscriptions contains almost 2,200 names, approximately 650 consisting of transcriptions and photographs of all the visible monuments from 1719 to 2022 and the remainder being entries from the church's burial register from 1539.

It's available to purchase now from the society's shop. The full price for the CD is £8.00, and Members can purchase it for £7.20. Postal charges may also apply if you are purchasing online.

Find out more and purchase here:

<https://shop.berksfhs.org/product/barkham-st-james-monumental-inscriptions/>

And if Barkham is one of your parishes of interest - don't forget you can also purchase a complete transcript of the parish registers in either [CD](#) or three downloadable PDFs.



Membership - to give or to receive

It may be too late to order products for physical delivery before Christmas but Gift Memberships can be ordered 24/7 and are delivered online.

Do you know someone who might benefit from membership? Does your family wonder what to get you each year?

Either way, and regardless of whether the recipient is already a member, a gift membership is the perfect answer. We no longer use a fixed renewal date, so a new member can join any time and receive a full year's membership from that date, and an existing member can use it to extend their existing membership by a year - they don't have to wait until renewal is due. Maybe wait until the Christmas pud has gone down, though?

You can order these right up to the last minute of course, because they are ordered and the certificate is delivered online.

[Buy one here](#)

Events

Our events programme is a mixture of online and face-to-face (F2F)



Online Christmas Genealogy Social

Computer Branch Christmas Meeting

21 December 19:15 for 19:30

Forget about all the things you need to do before the big day.

Relax, bring your own seasonal hat, wear a seasonal jumper (or sweater), and enjoy a mince pie and your preferred beverage!

Prebooking is required

Free entry for members, non-members are invited to make a £5 donation towards costs.

[Book now](#)



Create an enduring family tree in YourTrees

Tutor: Paul Barrett

07 January 14:00 - 16:00

Online

Ever wished that your grand or great grandparents had kept a family history? How many of our grand and great grandchildren might feel the same about us in the future? How durable and easily interpreted is your current family archive? Will it stand the test of time, or ultimately end up in a cardboard box in the attic?

YourTrees was launched by the society in 2021 as a free member-only service to:

- Provide a facility for members to preserve their research and pass it on to a family member
- Allow members to easily share their research discoveries – now and in the future
- Allow members to tackle research challenges together
- Grow a bespoke collective resource for people, names, places and more

This workshop has been developed to help you create a comprehensive enduring family tree, that is relevant to the digital generations, so that you can store a copy on YourTrees. It is aimed at those who have already saved versions of their tree(s) on YourTrees and those that are thinking of doing so

or wondering whether they should.

The sessions are very interactive, and with a lot of content to cover we will have Q&A sessions at the end of each section.

It is a member exclusive Zoom workshop and FREE
Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



Irish Ancestry Research

**Newbury Branch meeting
with talk by Linda Hammond
11 January 19:30 - 20:30**

Online

Although many documents were destroyed, there is still a wealth of records existing to help you research your Irish ancestry.

Linda Hammond explores civil and church records available online as well as census returns and census substitute records to cover those periods where documents no longer exist. By looking at valuation records, burial and probate records, passenger lists and newspaper archives you can endeavour to trace your Irish roots and locate your ancestor's hometown.

Free to members

We request a donation of £5 from non-members

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)

First World War Social History Talks Series

12 Jan 14:00 - 15:30



09 Feb as above

09 Mar as above

The Centre for Heritage & Family History, Reading

This all-series ticket covers all three talks in the “First World War Social History” talks series, for the discounted price of £12.50 (members £10.00). You may also book each talk individually – see each separate event page. All three talks are on Thursdays at 2pm in The Centre for Heritage and Family History, Reading. They last about an hour with time for questions and discussion afterwards.

Britain’s Railways in WW1

This quarter, we have not just one but two talks on aspects of the railways in World War One. This first talk will explore how conscription impacted Britain’s railway companies and how the role of women on the railway changed during World War One. Discover how the railway companies contributed to essential war work. How they used their massive manufacturing capacity to support the army. Plus, how they contributed to the development of new technology used in the field. We will examine how government control impacted upon the railways during the war years and the legacy it left for post war Britain.

[Thursday 12 January “Britain’s Railways in WW1” with Richard Marks](#)

The hidden history of Reading’s War Graves and Memorials

Like every similar sized town across England, Reading suffered a large number of casualties as a result of the First World War. The talk will refer to Reading Old Cemetery’s WW1 war graves and commemorations. Liz will also make reference to the Alfred Sutton School War Memorial and the St. Luke’s Church War Memorial.

[Thursday 9 February “The hidden history of Reading’s War Graves and Memorials” with Liz Tait](#)

Tracks to the Trenches

An affecting account of railway activities in England and in France during the Great War. This second talk on railways during the war will include the transport and care of the wounded back to Blighty with some focus on South Oxfordshire and West Berkshire. Railways permitted the mass movements of munitions,

equipment and men – and the harrowing resulting casualties, many of whom were taken through the Thames Valley.

[Thursday 9 March “Tracks to the Trenches” with Mike Hurst](#)

The all series ticket cost £12.50 (members £10)

Pre-booking is preferred but you can just turn up on the day

[Book now](#)



Britain's Railways in World War One

Talk with speaker: Richard Marks
12 Jan 14:00:15:30

The Centre for Heritage & Family History

This quarter, we have not just one but two talks on aspects of the railways in World War One. This first talk will explore how conscription impacted Britain's railway companies and how the role of women on the railway changed during World War One. Discover how the railway companies contributed to essential war work. How they used their massive manufacturing capacity to support the army. Plus, how they contributed to the development of new technology used in the field. We will examine how government control impacted upon the railways during the war years and the legacy it left for post war Britain.

After the talk, tea/coffee and cake will be available (included in the price). Pre-booking is preferred, but you can pay on the door, if there are spaces available.

Members £4

Non-members £5

[Book now](#)



Drop In Advice Session

Bracknell Central Library

12 Jan 14:00 - 17:00

Bring your questions, problems and 'brickwalls' ... and get some new ideas and advice from members of the Berkshire Family History Society.

For ALL family historians wherever your ancestors came from.

Free to everyone

[Find out more](#)



Lest We Forget

**Abingdon Branch Meeting with
talk by Brian Denton**

16 January 19:30 - 21:15

Long Furlong Community Centre, Abingdon

Our speaker will relate the stories of two members of his family who died in the First World War.

Brian will explain how, with the aid of Regimental War Diaries, he uncovered an intriguing mystery and an unforeseen coincidence.

Come along and hear the evidence and make your own decision.

Tickets cost £5 (members free)

Pre-booking required

[Find out more](#)



Face-to-Face Family History Advice Clinic

19 January 11:00 - 14:30

The Centre for Heritage & Family History, Reading

Just beginning your family history research and need some advice? Baffled by so many competing research websites? Banging your head against a brick wall? Or struggling with some other issues? In this one-to-one session, one of our seasoned advisors will help you make some progress.

To make the most of your session our advisors will carry out some preliminary research beforehand, and for that we need you provide us with some information please:

- to tell us what you've done so far
- describe the nature of the problem
- attach copies of any key documents such as BMD certificates, research notes
- if possible, provide a link to a family tree we can view (members – if your tree has been uploaded to YourTrees, that would be perfect) or at least attach a copy of a hand drawn tree of the immediate family of the people you're researching

For members and non-members of Berkshire Family History Society

Free

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)

That was just a selection from our extensive
events programme ...

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

Events routinely sell out so book early to secure
your place



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

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