

## In Touch

Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org>

15 January 2023 at 09:17

**in touch**

Berkshire Family History Society



Colourised image courtesy of Jim Bradshaw

After a four-week break, **In Touch** is back for 2023 - and a very Happy New Year to you all.

Have you made any New Year's resolutions - apart from remembering to write '2023' that is? Is it too late to add another? I mean, of course, to submit your family tree to YourTrees, as one hundred and sixty three of your fellow members have already done. More on that below.

As you know, I try to pinpoint the location of our banner photo on the modern map and see what Google Streetview has to offer. This week's location is almost unchanged but for the intrusion of street furniture and telegraph poles. That rustic track in front of the house is still a track as you can see [here](#).

What else? Well, The Centre has reopened, with longer opening hours and we have our usual mix of news and events.



## The Centre for Heritage and Family History

The society's Research Zone in The Centre for Heritage and Family History reopened on the 3rd following our Christmas and New Year break. We now have new extended opening hours - so it's a great time to come down and spend a chunk of time getting to grips with your family tree and accessing websites you may not usually get to see.

We now have six personal computers from which you can access the society's subscription accounts. There is plenty of room on each desk to also bring your own laptop or tablet if you so wish. Tea, coffee and water are available and we have a separate seating area where you can eat a packed lunch - so no reason to have to lose valuable researching time!

No need to book - just turn up.

## New opening hours from 03 Jan 2023

| 📅 Day                                 | 🕒 Time        |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Mondays                               | 10:30 - 15:00 |
| Tuesdays                              | 10:30 - 16:00 |
| Third and last Thursdays of the month | 10:30 - 16:00 |
| First Saturday of the month           | 10:30 - 14:30 |

Find out more about what you can access here:

<https://berksfhs.org/research-at-the-centre/>



A week ago we had the latest in our regular workshops on how to create an enduring legacy with YourTrees, and a hot topic of conversation was the desire for greater control over our family trees, and to be less dependent on services such as Ancestry for storing our research.

That's the beauty of YourTrees - you can store a complete copy, including media, and it's free during *and after* your membership.

Our aim is simple - to **preserve** your research for future generations, **not monetise** it. We even give you a certificate to leave with your important papers

to let your family know how and where they can access your research, and what your wishes are.

So, how about adding that last-minute New Year's resolution? Submit *your* tree soon and secure your digital legacy.

For more information, log into the website and select **YourTrees** from the menu.

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## Journal Exchanges

Towards the end of last year we signed new exchange agreements with a lot of societies, which means that Dec/Jan is even more of a bumper season for Winter editions from all our partners, new and old. There are too many to list and we'll probably have received a few more by the time you read this.

So, log into the website, click on **Resources**, scroll down to **Other societies' journals** and feast yourself on over 20 new additions. That should give you enough reading material to get you through the rest of January!

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*The White Hart, Fyfield (in Berkshire before the 1974 boundary changes saw it become part of Oxfordshire)*

## Reprise of Dec 2021's Historian articles

As is now customary when we publish the Historian each quarter, we also make public the member articles from the same quarter the previous year. It's a good chance for us all to take a second look. This time we have the following:

### [Councillor Jones – A tale of long service](#)

*John Harman* details a career in service to the village of Binfield

### [Jeannie Marion Reid, a journey](#)

*Richard Croker* delves into the Scottish census

### [A Wartime Childhood](#)

*Lindsay Knott* shares memories of her father, Peter Barrie Knott's, life in Reading

### [The White Hart at Fyfield – from chantry to hostelry – our ancestors' local](#)

*Sheila Wheatley* tells the tale of a village pub

**Login not required**



## Virtual Family History Fair 2023

## East Surrey Family History Society Online Fair

After the success of their last online fair - East Surrey Family History Society are back with another one on Saturday 28th January.

- The sessions are online - so available anywhere in the world.

- There are two sessions - each lasting two hours - timed to give a wider time range.
- Multiple societies are participating including **Berkshire Family History Society**
- Zoom breakout rooms enable each participating organisation to have their own room
- FREE to attend - you may book for either or both sessions.
- Numbers are limited so don't leave it too late to secure your place.

MORNING SESSION STARTS: London 10am, Perth 5pm, Canberra 7pm, Auckland 9pm

AFTERNOON SESSION STARTS: London 2pm, Perth 9pm, Seattle 6am, Ottawa 9am

Find out more and book [here](#)



## The Dangers of Self-Adhesive Photograph Albums

An interesting article from the Berkshire Record Office in their latest newsletter about some of the challenges of rescuing photographs from old self-adhesive photograph albums, before it is too late.

This is a difficult issue for many family historians - so do check the article out.

<https://www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk/blog/repackaging-photographs>

Events

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



## **Lest We Forget**

**Abingdon Branch Meeting with  
talk by Brian Denton  
16 Jan 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)

[Find out more](#)



## **WW1 Army Officers**

**Computer Branch Meeting with  
talk by Chad Hanna  
18 Jan 19:30 - 21:30**

**Online**

Chad Hanna will talk about five army officers who joined the army during World

War 1, one winning the Military Cross.

Some joined directly as officers while others enlisted. Branches include Infantry, Artillery, Machine Gun Corps and Chaplaincy. Training, records and death and discharge will be covered.

Tickets cost £5 (members free)

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



## **2023 Anniversaries and Royal Family Quizzes**

**Bracknell Branch Meeting  
20 Jan 14:45 - 17:00**

### **The New Priestwood Community Centre, Bracknell**

Come and enjoy our annual quiz afternoon. Join others and play as a team to test your knowledge on the anniversaries in 2023 and on the Royal Family. This will also give you a chance to catch up with fellow members after the Christmas break.

Our branch library will be available to members to borrow books. We will be holding our Raffle with tempting prizes to win. Refreshments will be available with some treats. There is a free car park outside the hall.

Free to members

We request a donation of £5 from non-members

[Find out more](#)

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## **WW1 Royal Flying Corps Records Workshop**





## **Tutor: Richard Marks**

### **21 Jan 11.00 - 13.00**

#### **Online**

The Great War of 1914-18 saw the first use of aircraft in warfare and the British Royal Flying Corps playing an important role throughout.

In this workshop, we will start by looking at what the Royal Flying Corps was. We will also examine how it related to the Royal Naval Air Service prior to the amalgamation of the two into the RAF in 1918. We will then go on to investigate how the family historian can discover what their relative did in the RFC. Including – their experiences, their aircraft, what records may be available and where to find them.

Tickets cost £10 (members £9)

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



## **A Potpourri of Social History Talks – Winter Series**

**26 Jan 14:00 - 15:15**

**23 Feb as above**

**23 Mar as above**

#### **Online**

This all series ticket covers all three in the Winter “Potpourri of 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 and last about an hour. Afterwards there will be time for questions and discussion. This is an online talks series using Zoom.

## **Five Generations at the Fairmile Hospital**

The Fair Mile Hospital (before 1948 known by a succession of different names) was until relatively recently Berkshire's county lunatic asylum. If the term 'lunatic asylum' sends shivers of dread down your spine, be ready to adjust your perceptions. Consider the alternatives and try to understand that the Victorian asylum system was a well-founded effort to tackle mental illness head-on through compassion, diligent care and research. No mental institution was ever entirely sweetness and harmony. However, these places made possible valuable and largely unrecognised advances in mental health care. Ian Wheeler's illustrated talk examines Fair Mile's foundation, growth and methods through the eyes of ten of its former employees. All were members of his family, and their service spanned over a century.

[Thursday 26 January "Five Generations at the Fair Mile Hospital, Cholsey" 2 – 3.15pm with Ian Wheeler](#)

## **Titanic Effort! RMS Carpathia's dash to save a stricken liner**

Named after the Carpathian mountain range, RMS Carpathia was a Cunard line transatlantic passenger steamship. It is probably best known for rescuing survivors of the rival White Star Line's RMS Titanic, after the latter struck an iceberg and sank with the loss of between 1,490 and 1,635 people in the North Atlantic Ocean. In dangerous conditions, the Carpathia navigated the ice fields, managing to arrive two hours after the Titanic had sunk, and enabling the crew to rescue 705 survivors from the ship's lifeboats. In 1918, the Carpathia in turn sank after being torpedoed three times by a German submarine. Find out more in this fascinating talk by Paul Barnett.

[Thursday 23 February "Titanic Effort! RMS Carpathia's dash to save a stricken liner" 2 – 3.15pm with Paul Barnett](#)

## **The Thames Before Time**

Berkshire is privileged to have the Thames running through it. But what is the history of the river and its people, fauna and the landscape? This talk looks at the way the river and the physical and human landscape have changed over the last two million years from the earliest inhabitants to the start of modern history. From the elephants who lived here 800,000 years ago, when it was a lot warmer, to the archaeological evidence of early settlements, find out more in this fascinating talk.

[Thursday 23 March "The Thames Before Time" 2 – 3.15pm with Rob Wallace](#)

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

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



## Five Generations at the Fairmile Hospital

**Talk with speaker: Ian Wheeler**  
**26 Jan 14:00 - 15:15**

**Online**

The Fair Mile Hospital (before 1948 known by a succession of different names) was until relatively recently Berkshire's county lunatic asylum. If the term 'lunatic asylum' sends shivers of dread down your spine, be ready to adjust your perceptions. Consider the alternatives and try to understand that the Victorian asylum system was a well-founded effort to tackle mental illness head-on through compassion, diligent care and research. No mental institution was ever entirely sweetness and harmony. However, these places made possible valuable and largely unrecognised advances in mental health care. Ian Wheeler's illustrated talk examines Fair Mile's foundation, growth and methods through the eyes of ten of its former employees. All were members of his family, and their service spanned over a century.

This talk is the first of three in the Winter Potpourri online talks series. Book here if you just want to attend this session, or above for all three talks in the series at a discounted price.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4)

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)

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## Heroes of Woodley Airfield

**Reading Branch Meeting and talk**  
**Speaker: Joy Pibworth**



**26 Jan 19:45 - 21:00**

## **Online**

Join us for this fascinating talk where we will learn of many key figures in aviation history who have ties with Woodley. Some such as Douglas Bader, Amy Johnson, Geoffrey de Havilland and Charles Lindbergh are well known, others such as Lettice

Curtis less so.

Free to members, non-members £5

Prebooking is required

**Book now**



## **DNA Special Interest Group – January**

**Facilitator: Debbie Kennett**

**28 Jan 14:30 - 16:30**

## **Online**

This special interest discussion group is aimed at those wanting to get the most out of their DNA results. It is facilitated by international DNA expert, Debbie Kennett. Sessions are held quarterly, but there is no obligation to attend on a regular basis and first time attendees are always welcomed. This is a great opportunity to ask questions and pick up ideas for how you can use your DNA results to resolve queries and break down brick walls.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4)

Pre-booking required

**Book now**





# **The Church Missionary Society (CMS) Archives**

**Speaker: Yetunde Abiola**  
**Windsor Branch Meeting and talk**  
**31 Jan 19:30 - 21:30**

**Online**

## **Searching for Information about your Ancestors**

Founded in 1799, the Church Missionary Society works with Christians around the world. By the end of this talk, you will be able to glean information from letter books, missionary journals, school records, correspondence and other original papers and learn more about your ancestor.

Free to members, non-members £5

Prebooking is required

[\*\*Book now\*\*](#)

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

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

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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  
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