
🎄 **Paul, here's your Christmas In Touch**

1 message

Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org.uk>

17 December 2023 at 08:00

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in touch



Hi

Welcome to this Christmas edition of In Touch.

We hope that you have enjoyed reading In Touch throughout this year and found the articles and snippets interesting. You can find back copies of all the editions on the website under [“Resources”](#).

Thank you to everyone who has suggested items to include, they are always much welcomed. If you come across something you think others would find useful, please do contact us at chairman@berksfhs.org.uk

Coming up next year we have news of more baptism publications and of some exciting upcoming events, plus the usual round of society news, changes in the

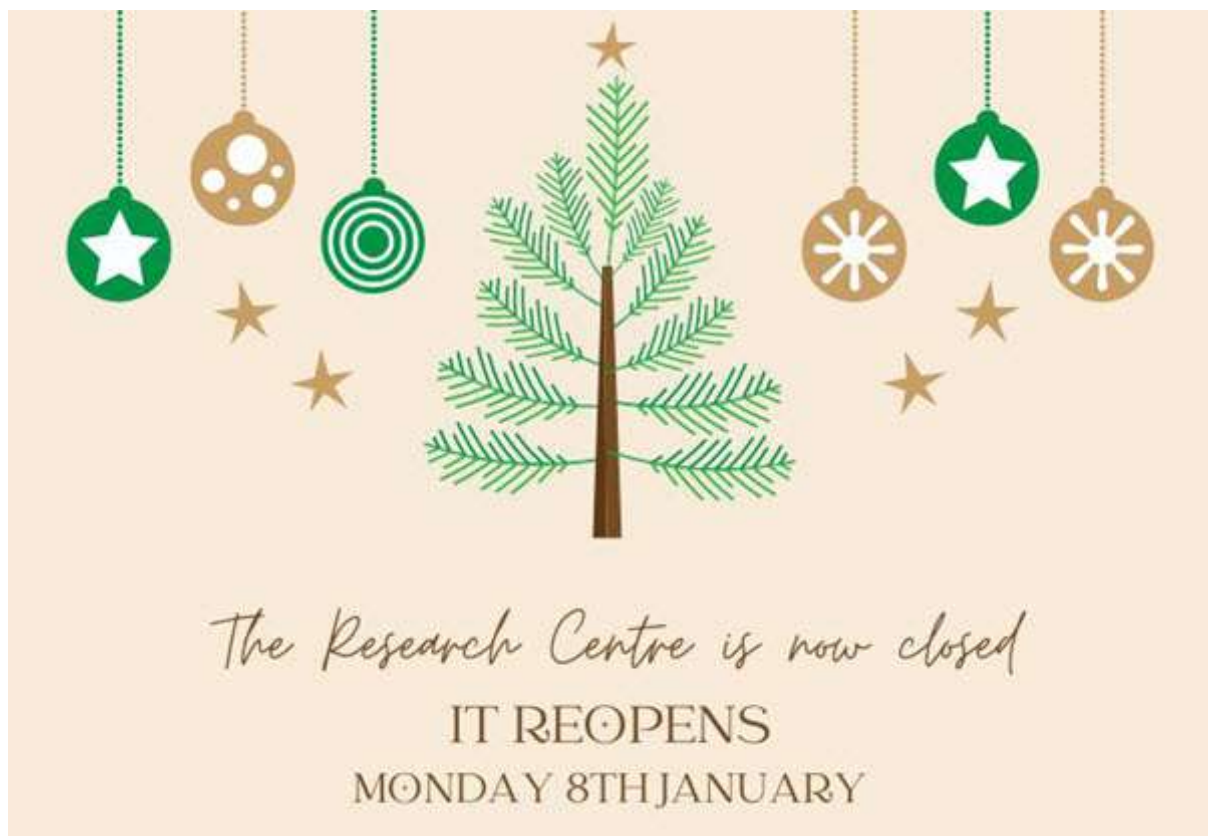
world of family history and new or enhanced Berkshire-specific sources.

A very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Catherine Sampson

PS The editorial team is taking a break - we'll be back on 7th January 2024

Christmas Closures





The Royal Berkshire Archives (RBA - formerly Berkshire Record Office) will be closed from 25th to 29th December 2023 and will not be able to process enquiries during this time (it does not open on Mondays, weekends or Bank Holidays). If you plan to visit during the week of 2nd to 5th January 2024, [please aim to book by 22nd December 2023 at the latest.](#)

They re-open at 09:00 on Tuesday 2nd January 2024.

Things to do





Celebrating Christmas in the Tudor period

Did you know that many of our favourite Christmas traditions date back to the Tudor period?

Carol-singing, present-giving, mulled wine and mince pies were all part of the festive fun – and even Father Christmas and roast turkey have their origins in the 16th century.

[Find out more](#)



VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Victorian Christmas Traditions

Many of today's favourite Christmas traditions were popularised by Queen Victoria and the royal family in the 19th century.

From presents to puddings, discover the Victorian origins of some of the traditions practised across the country today in this short article by the folks at English Heritage.

[Find out more](#)



A Day in Old London in 1920 in colour!

A wonderful AI enhanced and colourized film about old London a century ago. The duration of this film is 10 minutes. All the famous points of interest come into focus in this very old film.

[View the video](#)

Things to read



Exchange Journals

And still they keep coming! Here's the latest batch:

- Botany Bay FHS
- Bradford FHS
- British Columbia Genealogical Society
- Bucks FHS
- Essex FHS
- Hillingdon FHS
- ISBGFH
- Lothian FHS
- New Zealand Society of Genealogists

Enjoy!

[View online \(login required\)](#)

Things to buy



Need a last-minute present?

Introduce someone to the world of family history by buying them a Gift Membership so they can enjoy all the benefits of society membership.

If you know someone who's already a member, why not treat them to a year's free membership? Not sure if they've already paid for the year? Don't worry, if they have they can use your gift to extend their membership for a further year. They don't have to wait until their membership is due - they can add it at

any time for the one-year extension.

The pack includes a gift certificate you can download and print off for them.

[Complete the form and we'll do the rest.](#)

Events

Our programme is a blend of online and face-to-face events



Abingdon Branch Christmas Social

Mon 18 Dec
From 19:30

The Kings Head & Bell, [10 E St Helen St, Abingdon](#)

Join us for a social evening at The Kings Head and Bell in Abingdon.

Please Note: Due to circumstances beyond our control; we have a change in date and venue to those previously published.

Christmas Jumpers encouraged.

[Find out more](#)



Welsh Family History Research

Wed 10 Jan 19:30 - 20:30
Newbury Branch Meeting with talk by Eilir Ann Daniels

Online

Although Welsh research broadly utilises the same official sources as you would use in England, the country's social, linguistic, cultural and religious fabric means that a different approach is called for.

This talk will discuss issues specific to Wales – aspects of which researchers may be unaware of or which can make research a little tricky – including the importance of the historical context and ‘the chapel’ in Welsh life; matters relating to place names & parishes; and the significance of Welsh naming practices.

It will also consider some research strategies as well as a few databases and useful websites relating to Welsh research.

Free to members.

We request a donation of £5 from non-members.

Pre-booking is required.

Book now



Around Reading Talks Series

Thu 11 Jan 14:00 - 15:30

Thu 08 Feb as above

Thu 07 Mar as above

**The Centre for Heritage & Family History,
Reading**

This all series ticket covers all three talks in the “Around Reading” 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. Tea, coffee and cake after the talk is included in the price.

Tilehurst – a History

Thu 11 Jan 14:00 - 15:30

Talk by Mike Cooper

Now a residential suburb, was Tilehurst ever a village as such? Mike Cooper – who’s written Reading Libraries’ booklet on Tilehurst – looks at the history of the place and its community and how change has affected the area from the break-up of Reading Abbey lands, through the industries which took advantage of it’s natural assets down to trolleybuses and council housing.

[Thursday 11 January “Tilehurst – a History” with Mike Cooper](#)

A History of Woodley

Thu 08 Feb 14:00 - 15:30

Talk by Ann Smith

Woodley grew from a village to a suburb of Reading in the 20th century. But it is not just another village absorbed by Reading. It's famous for Miles Aircraft and The Aerodrome, and there is more history than you can see. This talk will show the hidden history of Woodley. Ann Smith researched Woodley history with the local U3A groups, and edited and published a book on the subject.

[Thursday 8 February "A History of Woodley" with Ann Smith](#)

A History of Wargrave

Thu 07 Mar 14:00 - 15:30

Talk by Peter Delaney

The village of Wargrave is on the Berkshire bank of the river Thames between Reading and Henley. The parish includes the hamlets of Crazies Hill and Hare Hatch. Recorded in the Domesday Survey, the talk will look at people, places and events from over 900 years of its history. The story includes kings, queens and bishops, village benefactors, farmers and many others – some well-known, others less so. The impact of forward-thinking villagers, national events, and its growth in the 19th and 20th centuries will be illustrated with photographs from the last 150 years.

[Thursday 7 March "A History of Wargrave" with Peter Delaney](#)

Please note that these are face-to-face talks.

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

Pre-booking is preferred but you can pay on the door for this series ticket at the first talk, if there are spaces available.

Book series ticket



Tilehurst – a History

Thu 11 Jan 14:00 - 15:30

Talk by Mike Cooper

**The Centre for Heritage & Family History,
Reading**

Now a residential suburb, was Tilehurst ever a village as such? Mike Cooper – who's written Reading Libraries' booklet on Tilehurst – looks at the history of the place and its community and how change has affected the area from the break-up of Reading Abbey lands, through the industries which took advantage of its natural assets down

to trolleybuses and council housing.

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.

Image: St Michael's Church Tilehurst, Creative Commons Attribution-Sharealike 2.0 (cropped).

Tickets cost £5 (members £4).

Pre-booking is preferred but you can pay on the door, if there are spaces available.

Book now



Drop In Advice Session

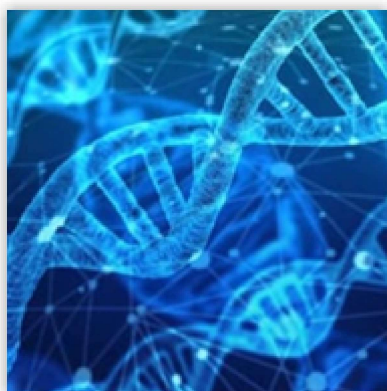
Thu 11 Jan 14:00 - 17:00
Bracknell Branch

Bracknell Central Library

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.

Find out more



DNA Special Interest Group

Sat 13 Jan 14:30 - 16:30
Facilitator: Debbie Kennett

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 to gain ideas for how you can use your results to solve questions and break down brick walls. All levels of expertise with interpreting DNA results welcome from beginner level to experienced.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4).

Pre-booking required.

[Book now](#)



Online Family History Advice Clinic

Mon 15 Jan 14:00 - 16:00

Are you just getting started in family history and wanting guidance as to how to proceed? Or are you stuck at a particular “brick wall” and need some help?

These popular family history advice sessions are online, using Zoom – so you can book a session wherever you live in the world. Sessions are 1:1, free of cost and are available to members and non-members alike.

You’ll receive help from our experienced research assistants. We’ll provide whatever help and suggestions that we can within the time frame and book a follow-on session with you if needed. Four, 25-minute, 1:1 slots are provided, starting at 14.00, 14.30, 15.05, and 15.35. Check availability on the website by clicking the button below.

Pre-booking is required because full joining instructions will be emailed to attendees in advance. You will also be asked to confirm the advice you are seeking, so that we can make the session as useful as possible for you.

For members and non-members of Berkshire Family History Society.
Free.

[Check availability and book](#)



The Life and Work of Rosalind Franklin

Mon 15 Jan 19:30 - 21:30

**Abingdon Branch Meeting with talk by
Laura Holland**

Long Furlong Community Centre, Abingdon

Rosalind Franklin is a key figure in the greatest discovery in life science in the 20th Century – the discovery of the structure of DNA.

This discovery shaped modern biology in a profound way, creating whole new fields of research and understanding.

This talk will discuss the life and work of this great experimental scientist, the lesser known projects she worked on, and her place in scientific history.

Franklin's name is now lent to multiple awards, organisations and institutes, one of which sits on the Harwell Campus in South Oxfordshire.

Large Free Car Park adjacent to hall.

Photograph: Rosalind Franklin ©National Portrait Gallery London

Free to members.

We request a donation of £5 from non-members.

Pre-booking is preferred, but non members can pay on the door.

[Book now](#)

That was just a small selection from
our extensive events programme

[Click here for the full programme](#)

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



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