



Welcome to the 1 February 2018 issue of emailinfoservice, the NWKFHS email fortnightly information service, comprising the latest information about the Society and its events, and other items of interest for family historians.

It is compiled by me, Stella Eames; please send me any comments and contributions via emailinfoservice@nwkhfs.org.uk

I hope you will enjoy it, but you can unsubscribe by emailing me on the above address or clicking unsubscribe at the foot of this email.

[Click here for the latest branch newsletters and back issues of this e-newsletter. You will be taken to a screen where you can then click on the newsletter you want to read.](#)

[North West Kent Family History Society Group Facebook](#)

We know that interacting with other members is one of the most enjoyable things about the Society so please sign up. It's also a good forum for quick questions about ancestors in the NWK area, as other Facebook readers may share your ancestors. We know we have many far flung members all over the world who cannot get to meetings. The new page,

which is in addition to our existing page, is called [North West Kent Family History Society Group](#).

To join NWKFHS and come to the library, all our meetings, house groups and workshops please just click [here](#) or email Membership Secretary Mrs Christina Barnett, on membership@nwkfhs.org.uk **Membership is only £10 per year or £12 for two people at the same address. Value of family history news and help you can receive priceless. Your subscription will be valid til 31 December 2018.**

Membership benefits: members get access to all our meetings with speakers PLUS PLUS PLUS a quarterly journal packed full of articles and useful information, monthly workshops on topics requested by members and the benefits of our library and research centre, open Wednesdays.

General Register Office

I received the following email on 19 January: The £6 PDF pilot is continuing until end June 2018

Dear User Group Member

We are sending this update to those who have been invited to previous meetings of our civil registration stakeholder groups to give an update on our current services.

Please note that we have now decided to continue the Extended PDF pilot for a further 6 months to the end of June 2018. This will help GRO better understand the level of demand for such a service.

Thank you for your continued interest.

Regards

GRO People & Engagement
www.gov.uk

In Memoriam Poems

Ages ago I read that John Major (ex UK PM) who loved cricket, had supposedly prayed 'Oh Lord if I should die today, Please make it after close of play'

I thought that very succinct and amusing.

Today I found three interesting poems for genealogists, on a website which I came across by chance whilst searching. I thought they were good enough to reproduce here. The website is <http://lawsandlawes.blogspot.co.uk/2017/10/monday-16th-october-2017-number-1216.html>

Lord, help me dig into the past
and sift the sands of time
That I might find the roots that made
This family tree of mine

Lord, help me trace the ancient roads,
On which my fathers trod
And led them through so many lands
To find our present sod.

Lord, help me find an ancient book
Or dusty manuscript,
That's safely hidden now away
In some forgotten crypt

Lord, let it bridge the gap that haunts
My soul, when I can't find
The missing link between some name
That ends the same as mine

and

Dear Ancestor,-
Your tombstone stands amongst the rest, neglected and alone
The names and dates are chiselled out, on polished marble stone
It reaches out to all who care, it is too late to mourn
You did not know that I exist, you died and I was born
Yet each of us are cells of you, in flesh, in blood, in bone.
Our blood contracts and beats a pulse entirely not our own

and

Dear Ancestor,
The place you filled one hundred years ago
Spreads out amongst the ones you left who would have loved you so,
I wonder if you lived and loved, I wonder if you knew
That someday I would find this spot, and come to visit you.

Why did you start researching your family history?

Tracing family history is now one of the most popular pastimes. It's interesting to discover where our ancestors lived, and what their lives were like. Learning about family history also goes alongside learning about local, social and national history.

In my case, I had a very unusual maiden name - GRATWICK - and, back in 2007, a friend who was already addicted urged me to start some research - beginning with asking my parents (whilst I could, whilst they were still alive) what they could remember about their parents / grandparents names, dates of birth and occupations. Also I enjoy history, research and problem solving so it was a fit with my interests.

How many of these reasons fit you?

- You want to discover more about where you came from.
- You are the Keeper of the Family Records and you hope one of your children or grandchildren will catch the genealogy bug so you can pass the torch to them one day, so the records won't be lost.
- You enjoy research and field trips and following up research gives you a purpose or additional interest when on outings - and a reason to go places.
- You want to put your genealogy in a book, even if it is a notebook, and share it with your family.
- You love mysteries and puzzles and unravelling clues.
- It's fun!

The Name Event 5/6 May 2018 (first May Bank Holiday weekend) 10-4.30pm

London Suite, ILEC Exhibition Centre, 47 Lillie Rd, Earls Court, London SW6 1UD

<http://thenameevent.com>

The Society has decided to staff an information stand at this event, showcasing the Society. A few more volunteers are needed. If you can spare a few hours on either of the two dates, please let Barbara Phillips know on barbara_phillips@ntlworld.com. If you wish to attend the show for yourself please note tickets have to be bought in advance, not on the door.

What's On - NWKFHS Events during the coming weeks

[\(see the Events tab on our Facebook page for events a few months further ahead\)](#)

[\(Or the website for the entire Talks programme April 2018 - March 2019 so you can book your diaries ahead\)](#)

Our meetings are interesting mix of speakers and workshops. The Branch meetings with speakers are held at venues in Bromley, Dartford and Sevenoaks and the workshops are in the Society Library in Joyden's Wood, which we have sole use of on Wednesdays.

Branch meetings are free to NWKFHS members and no booking is required. Guests are welcome but we appreciate a donation to the Society's funds to help cover the costs of hall hire and

the speaker. Please join the Society if you want to come to more than one meeting - only £10 a year or £12 total for two members at the same address <http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/join.htm>

The 2-hour workshops are limited to 10 members and have proved very popular. Several are full already - however don't let that stop you booking them as reserve lists are kept and a second workshop on the same topic is arranged if there is demand. Sometimes reserves are invited to join the workshop at short notice. Please note that **booking is essential for workshops** and we invite a donation towards the costs of maintaining the library.

The Library at 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joyden's Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE is open to members and visitors every Wednesday from 10am to 4pm. Our volunteers can help you with your research and you can use the library computers with free Find My Past and Ancestry access.

February 3 - Saturday 10.30am - Speaker at Dartford
Early days of the Metropolitan Police

Guest speaker Ken Chamberlain will tell us about the Metropolitan Police Service which was established, by Act of Parliament, in 1829 by the then Home Secretary, Sir Robert Peel. Two Commissioners of Police for the Metropolis were appointed.

An establishment of 895 constables, 88 sergeants, 20 inspectors and 8 superintendents were recruited. This grew within one year to 3,000 men, organised into seven divisions policing the metropolitan area. Many recruits were former soldiers or sailors, and came from outside London. This excluded the City of London, where a separate city police force was established in 1832.

The Metropolitan Police were directly answerable to the Home Secretary until the year 2000, when the Metropolitan Police Authority was created (MPA).

Doors open 9.45am, meeting starts 10.30am. The venue, Dartford Science and Technology College, Heath Lane, Dartford DA1 2LY, has a large, free car park via the Heath Lane entrance.

Free to all NWKFHS members. No booking - just turn up. Guests are welcome but we appreciate a £1.00 donation to the Society's funds. More info from dartford@nwkhfs.org.uk

February 6: Tuesday 12.15pm at Orpington Library CANCELLED

Fran's talk will not take place as she's just learnt that the library mixed up the dates and double booked another speaker.

February 8 - Thursday 8.00pm Speaker at Sevenoaks

Please note change of topic
Kent in the Twentieth Century

Our guest speaker Bob Ogley will explore this topic for us this evening.

Bob Ogley was born in Sevenoaks, has lived in the county all his life and is proud to be a Kentish man. As author of more than 20 books he has travelled extensively in pursuit of information and photographs and is in great demand from organisations across the south-east to tell his unique story.

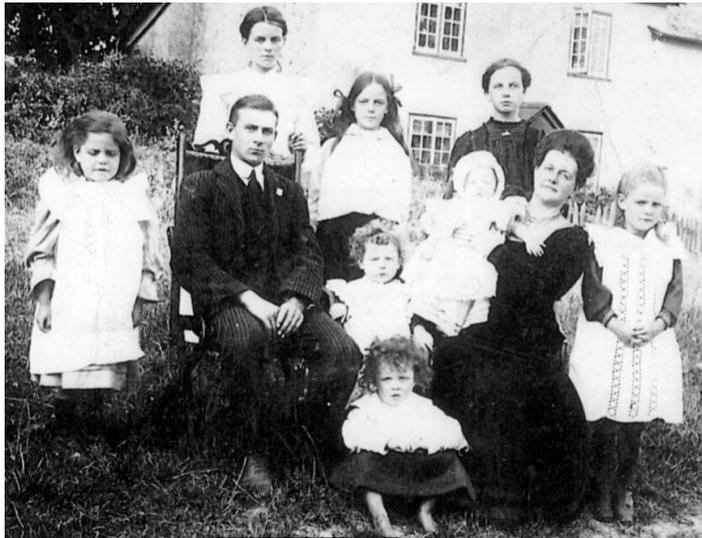
A former editor of The Sevenoaks Chronicle, Bob was a journalist for more than 30 years before he left his newspaper to concentrate on writing books and giving his talks. He is also a regular broadcaster on BBC Radio Kent. Bob likes to tell humorous stories and he has an amazing collection of anecdotes which he delivers with great enthusiasm.

Free to all NWKFHS members. No booking - just turn up. Guests are welcome but we appreciate a £1.00 donation to the Society's funds. More info from sevenoaks@nwkfhs.org.uk

Venue: Sevenoaks Community Centre, Cramptons Road, off Otford Road, Sevenoaks TN14 5DN

Doors open 7.15pm, meeting starts 8pm. Finishes by 9.30pm. There is a large free car park.

**February 17- Saturday 10.30am - Speaker at Bromley
Call the Midwife**



Our Guest Speaker, Ian Porter, is an historian, writer, public speaker and walks guide. He has lived in St Johns, Lewisham, Catford and pretty much every other place in South East London (the full list sounds like a railway announcement) to which his restless parents moved.

Ian obtained a degree in history at the University of Birmingham and has written a novel, *Whitechapel*, set in the East End slums of 1888. Ian also writes articles and gives lectures on various elements of old East End life from the start of the industrial revolution through to the era of today's talk 'Call the Midwife'. Ian is full of knowledge and adds his humour to make a very enjoyable and interesting talk.

Doors open 9.45am, meeting starts 10.30am. The venue, Bromley Methodist Church, College Road, Bromley BR1 3NS has a free car park (although this can fill up) and is close to Bromley North Station and is on or near many bus routes.

Free to all NWKFHS members. No booking - just turn up. Guests are welcome but we appreciate a £1.00 donation to the Society's funds. More info from bromley@nwkfhs.org.uk

**February 21 - Wednesday 10.30am Workshop at the Library
The 1939 Register**

Led by Christine Hills. This is a duplicate of the workshop last held on 19 July 2017 because many more members wanted to attend than we had space for.

The Register can be used as a census substitute but, unlike other census, it

is not a snapshot in time but an evolving document which continued to be updated for some years after WW2. We will examine what it contains and discuss any problems you may have encountered when using it.

The 1939 Register is a useful resource for family, social and local historians. As the 1931 census for England and Wales was destroyed by fire during the Second World War and no census was taken in 1941, the 1939 Register provides the most complete survey of the population of England and Wales between 1921 and 1951.

The Register can be viewed online at FindMyPast (subscription) or free at The National Archives at Kew. NWKFHS members can view FMP free at the Society library on Wednesdays.

Workshop open to all members of NWKFHS. Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact Victor on workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk £5 donation requested towards costs.

Venue is the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

February 28 - Wednesday 10.30am Workshop at the Library Writing Group

Open to all members of NWKFHS. Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact Victor on workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk £5 donation requested towards costs.

Venue is the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

March 3 - Saturday 10.30am - Speaker at Dartford LostCousins <https://www.lostcousins.com/>

Guest speaker LostCousins founder Peter Calver will tell us about how the best people to help you knock down your 'brick walls' are your cousins - indeed, one of your cousins may already have solved the problem that you're finding so challenging. In the past research has tended to focus on just a few family lines - but at LostCousins you can search for cousins from all of your lines simultaneously.

Free to all NWKFHS members. No booking - just turn up. Guests are welcome but we appreciate a £1.00 donation to the Society's funds. More info from dartford@nwkfhs.org.uk

Doors open 9.45am, meeting starts 10.30am. The venue, Dartford Science and Technology College, Heath Lane, Dartford DA1 2LY, has a large, free car park via the Heath Lane entrance.

March 8 - Thursday 8.00pm Speaker at Sevenoaks Queen Victoria's Dreadful Uncles

One of history's most iconic monarchs, Queen Victoria (1819–1901) ruled for more than 60 years. She was empress of the world's largest ever empire, and her name denotes an entire era of British history.

But when Princess Alexandrina was born in 1819, the chance of her becoming queen seemed very remote. As the only child of King George III's fourth son, Edward, the Duke of Kent, she was fifth in line to the throne. By the time Victoria reached her teens, however, the death of her father, his older brothers and any other legitimate heirs left the young princess as King William IV's closest surviving heir.

Sheila Boyd is our guest speaker tonight and will talk about Victoria's uncles, their mistresses and illegitimate children.

The Branch Annual Meeting will precede the guest speaker.

Free to all NWKFHS members. No booking - just turn up. Guests are welcome but we appreciate a £1.00 donation to the Society's funds. More info from sevenoaks@nwkfhs.org.uk

Venue: Sevenoaks Community Centre, Cramptons Road, off Otford Road, Sevenoaks TN14 5DN

Doors open 7.15pm, meeting starts 8pm. Finishes by 9.30pm. There is a large free car park.

March 17- Saturday 10.30am - Speaker at Bromley The Unknown Warrior



At the west end of the Nave of Westminster Abbey is the grave of the Unknown Warrior, whose body was brought from France to be buried here on 11 November 1920. The grave, which contains soil from France, is covered by a slab of black Belgian marble from a quarry near Namur.

Our guest speaker today, Mr Don Doncaster, will be talking about The Unknown Warrior who was buried as a memorial to the dead of World War One, particularly those who have no known grave.

Doors open 9.45am, meeting starts 10.30am.

The Branch Annual Meeting will precede the guest speaker.

Free to all NWKFHS members. No booking - just turn up. Guests are welcome but we appreciate a £1.00 donation to the Society's funds. More info from bromley@nwkfhs.org.uk

Bromley Methodist Church does have a carpark, but it may fill up. It is very near Bromley North Station and on or near many bus routes.

March 28 - Wednesday 10.30am Workshop at the Library

Beginners Guide to researching Soldiers of WWI

This workshop is aimed at those members wishing to research WW1 Soldiers from records on Ancestry & Find My Past. - Led by Fran Rogers

Open to all members of NWKFHS. Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact Victor on workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk £5 donation requested towards costs.

Venue is the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

March 29 - Thursday 10.00am - 2.00pm NWKFHS Information Table and Volunteers at The Meeting Place, Dartford

The Meeting Place is in the Orchards Shopping Centre, opposite Boots

If you're already a NWKFHS member, come in and say Hi.

If you're not, come in and find out more about the Society and sign up.

April 7 - Saturday 10.30am - Speaker at Dartford

Old Swanley, or Up The Junction

Guest speaker Keith Whitmore is a former resident of Swanley & Northfleet & belongs to the Swanley History Group, the Hextable Heritage Centre, and North West Kent Family History Society where is he often seen on a Wednesday at the library. He has done an enormous amount of research on Swanley businesses and has amassed a fascinating collection of photographs of old Swanley. Today is also the Dartford Branch Annual Meeting which will precede the talk.

Free to all NWKFHS members. No booking - just turn up. Guests are welcome but we appreciate a £1.00 donation to the Society's funds. More info from dartford@nwkfhs.org.uk

Doors open 9.45am, meeting starts 10.30am. The venue, Dartford Science and Technology College, Heath Lane, Dartford DA1 2LY, has a large, free car park via the Heath Lane entrance.

14 April 2018 AGM and Family History day: at Farringtons School, Chislehurst

Members, book your diaries now. The AGM will be at midday but there is a full programme of events starting with welcome coffee at 9.30am including morning and afternoon speakers. See the insert in the December Journal for details and the booking form for lunch and afternoon tea if you'd like that. **Book soon if you want to come, as orders for lunch and tea are closing on 13 March.**

Remember that all our planned talks and workshops for the next year are listed in the Talks PDF on our

website <http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/Branch%20programme%202018-19.pdf>



Inevitably many of the free websites, free newsletters, free talks and freely searchable documents have now already been mentioned. So I am going to make this the last of the series. However, if you come across any useful free or cheap resources which would interest our readers please do send them to me at emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk and I will print them.

Janet Digby emailed as follows: *I came across this website today which lists genealogy resources. The link is to the Kent section but you can choose other areas from the homepage or select a town from the list on the left. I haven't found a key for the symbols used but a pile of coins seems to link to a paying website, generally Ancestry or Find My Past.* <http://forebears.co.uk/england/kent>

FindmyPast

<https://blog.findmypast.co.uk/free-bmd-census-records-2529910564.html>

To celebrate 100 years of votes for women, FMP has made all of its civil birth, marriage, death and census records FREE from Thursday 1 February - Thursday 8 February 2018. Plus, its newly-released Suffragette Collection is available FREE for an extended period until Thursday 8 March 2018.

<https://beta.worldcat.org/archivegrid/>

This lists a lot of national and university archives including UK.



[Crew Lists of the British Merchant Navy – 1915](#)

The National Maritime Museum has published crew lists for the Merchant Navy in 1915. Click on the link and then enter a name to see the service record.

British Home Children Registry -

Canada <http://www.britishhomechildrenregistry.com>

From 1869 to 1939 over 100,000 destitute children emigrated from Britain to Canada to be used as indentured farm workers and domestics. Believed by Canadians to be orphans, only two percent truly were. These children were sent to Canada by over 50 organisations including the well-known and still working charities such as Barnardo.

Only surnames beginning with AA to HY are online so far and can be searched - but this small section of the alphabet includes over 30,000 children. Work is ongoing daily to enter missing children, emigration information, and perform logic and error checks.

Click the link above and search to see if any of your ancestors were among the children who, it was thought, were going to a better life.

[Free online genealogy course with University of Strathclyde](#)

I've just signed up as I hope to learn more about DNA during the course.

This free online course will help you develop an understanding of basic genealogy techniques and how to communicate your family history. We will consider how to effectively find and analyse sources and [explore the potential of DNA testing as applied to genealogy](#). We'll help you add historical context to your family history and discuss how to record and communicate research findings in a clear fashion. The course is primarily designed for people at beginner to intermediate level.

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/genealogy/>

<https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#wills>

Free search is by surname and year only. Results are in the year the probate was granted but in date of death order (so may be in the calendar year following death). So unless you know the date of death, you will have a lot to look through. But can be useful in confirming info you already know. It's £10 to buy a copy of the probate.

Snipping Tool

At the library last week I spoke to a researcher who brought up the subject of web pages which are hard to save or download. This is where 'snipping tool' is very useful - I use it a lot. On my laptop the icon is one of several along the bottom but you may have to look for in your tools menu, depending on your operating system.



Click on the snipping tool icon which I've shown on the right. A smallish box will appear. Click on 'New' and then you can use the mouse to draw round the item on the screen you wish to save. A save box for you to decide where to file it will appear at the top of your snip.

[West Surrey FHS Open Day](#)

West Surrey FHS has asked us to let readers know about its Family History Fair and Open Day on Saturday 3 November 2018 10am - 4.30pm. Admission free. Venue: Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road, Woking GU22 9BA. Parking is available in a Woking Council carpark (charges apply). Cafeteria on site. Further information about the programme will be available nearer the time.

If there is anything else I should be aware of, to give you maximum benefit from this email service, please let me know. I do receive many suggestions and requests for external events to be included, but there is only room for so much and I am conscious that the longer this email is, the less likely it is to be read. Some external events I publish on our Facebook page instead. But I'd welcome your opinions on the length and content and whether there is anything additional you'd like included.

Please mention it to others and encourage them to sign up so that we can keep society members and anyone interested in family history informed of NWKFHS activities.

PS If you do notice any errors please tell me, so that they are not carried forward to the next email.

Stella Eames, Compiler

emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk

North West Kent Family History Society

Registered Charity No 282627

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