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# North West Kent Family History Society

(N W Kent and ancient Kent parishes now S E London plus incorporating TWFHS)



North West Kent FHS  
Library & Resource Centre  
KCC 80 Summerhouse Drive Bexley DA5 2EE

**Welcome to the 14 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@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.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.](#)**

**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](mailto: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.

**If you are a member who hasn't renewed yet for 2018, please help our membership and renewals volunteers and renew now using the blue form in the December Journal. It greatly**

**reduces the workload if you pay by standing order.** On 6 February 127 email renewal reminders were sent out.

- Those of you who joined on or after 1 October 2017 already have 2018 membership and do not need to renew.
- If you are a UK taxpayer it increases our income if you make a Gift Aid Declaration.

**Thank you.**

### **NWKFHS @ 40th anniversary year 2018**

Things were different in 1978. Family history research has changed considerably - and so has the Society. We owe our existence to a group of interested people who founded NWKFHS at 8pm on 14 July 1978 at the Bromley Central Library. After a vote, the name North West Kent Family History Society was adopted 'by a close margin' - I would like to know what the losing names were!

You can look up our first Journal, autumn 1978 here: <http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/nwkhfs-01-01.pdf>

Our first editor was Fred Whyler DFC and this is what he wrote in the inaugural Journal in Autumn 1978:

*The task of compiling this first issue of the Society's Journal has been an interesting but anxious one. At one time it was felt that it would never be accomplished. The material was available but there was no money. Printers willing to produce a journal of this kind are surprisingly difficult to find, and they quote an amazing range of prices.*

*This is not to be just another family history journal. It is to be something different and unique. Something which contains not only articles of interest to members, but also records information which will assist family historians in their researches now and in the future. It must have a wide appeal.*

*The potential is immense, and there is no doubt that this journal will assist in furthering the study of family history in the area of the ancient North West Kent. Its ability to do this will depend upon the support it receives and the quality of its articles and other material. Our future is in the hands of our members.*



I was intrigued to find out more about Fred Whyler DFC who wrote those memorable words. I found that, during the war, Fred flew Hurricanes, Lysanders and Lancasters. On 25 September 1945 the Air Ministry announced that "The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following award: — Distinguished Flying Cross. Flying Officer Frederick James WHYLER (1185486), R.A.F.V.R., 100 Sqn in recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations".

Fred's daughter Joan Denwood has kindly supplied me with three photographs and told me the following:

"I attach a photo of my Dad, Fred, when he passed out as a pilot and has his wings. The only photo I have

of him wearing his DFC medal ribbon is the one with Mum, Mary Edwards, when they got engaged autumn 1945. He read in the London Gazette 21st September 1945 that he had been awarded the DFC. I understand that he was in 100 Squadron, he flew Lancasters in at least 30 bombing raids and that part of his training took place in Canada.



He lived in Catford, South London as a boy and also after he got married. Then in 1970 he moved with Mum to a bungalow in Tubbenden Lane, Orpington. He always enjoyed, and was fascinated by, his local history research and he devoted a great deal of his retirement time to it, along with gardening.



His last 2 years were spent in a Care Home near me in Steyning, West Sussex, during which time we attended the RAFA Air Show at Shoreham Airport. The third photo is of Dad wearing his DFC medal on the occasion of meeting Dame Vera Lynn in June 1911 when he was 97 years old and in a care home. She came to open a new wing of the care home.

He was born on 1.8.1913 and died aged 98 on 29.12.2011"

Thank you Fred and all our founder members.



**Our 40th anniversary is fast approaching and plans are being made to celebrate.** A new logo (shown left) has been designed for the Society. At our AGM and Family History day on 14 April guest speaker Ian Waller will talk about *The times they are a changing* - reflecting on 40 years of genealogical research. A celebratory cake for our afternoon tea will be specially made for the occasion.

On 21 July 2018 in Bromley, the epicentre of the new Society in 1978, our President, David Cufley, will speak on *40 years of changes in family history and the NWKFHS*.

**Our Journal Editor, Pauline Heathcote, is collecting snippets from the last 40 years, congratulatory quotes and messages about the Society.**

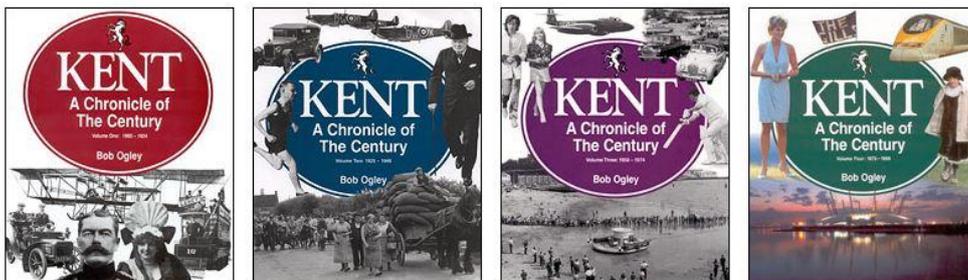
Please kindly email her [editor@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:editor@nwkfhs.org.uk) with any anecdotes, or your thoughts about the Society's achievements and how it has helped you (even if you are a very recent member, or even a non member who simply enjoys this newsletter and interacts via our Facebook page) she would be very glad to hear from you. Please send your messages in.

A collection may be published in the Journal later this year with the senders' names - a modern update on congratulatory telegrams on the occasion of an anniversary.

Personally, although I've only been a member for 4 years and a volunteer for 2, I have witnessed and admired the enormous effort which goes on behind the scenes to arrange talks programmes, book speakers and halls, transport equipment, grapple with the new website technology, arrange and lead workshops, transcribe records, prepare the library for members and visitors each Wednesday etc etc. We have over 100 volunteers in all and could not operate without them. I have already sent in my message.

**Bob Ogley's talk to Sevenoaks Branch on 8 February**

<http://www.frogletspublications.co.uk>



If you couldn't get to the Sevenoaks meeting, you missed an absolute treat. Bob is an accomplished, humorous speaker and his talk about Kent in the twentieth century was amazingly interesting. Bob started by telling us about himself and what caused him to change careers from Editor of the Sevenoaks Chronicle to author, publisher and speaker.

Bob had been a journalist for 30 years when the hurricane hit Kent in October 1987. He lived at Toys Hill on the top of Brasted Chart, and, that morning, Bob found his home surrounded by fallen trees.

He struggled on foot to work at 'Oneoak' (roads were blocked by fallen trees) and hired a plane from Biggin Hill to photograph and record the devastation.

He thought this would make the basis of a book but no publisher would touch it. It wasn't considered commercial. So he and his wife Fern self-published, using a spare room at home to store the stock. 5,000 copies were sold in the first week and, numerous print runs later, over 280,000 copies had been sold. It became a national bestseller. and only Rosemary Conley's *Hip and Thigh Diet* kept it from the no 1 spot.

Having founded his own publishing company, Bob's life changed. He left the paper to move into writing and publishing. His writing adventure continued with being asked to write about the history of Biggin Hill as a fighter station in WW2 guarding the Southern approaches to London. Bob wrote *Biggin on the Bump* (Fern helping with research, taking photos and being greatly involved in the production) and dedicated his author's royalties to the RAF Benevolent Fund.

Bob told us many fascinating acts about Kent and also people you may not have heard of.

David Salomons of Tunbridge Wells was a motoring pioneer who, in 1895, was the first person in England to own a horseless carriage. He had bought a Peugeot in France and the same year organised the first car show - in Tunbridge Wells - inviting all other Peugeot owners in England to attend - and they all did - all four of them.

H G Wells predicted horseless carriages would one day be owned by ordinary men. But in David Salomons' day such vehicles could only travel at 2mph in towns and 4mph in the countryside. They were often overtaken by horses!

Bob told us many other interesting facts, too many to include here. Enid Blyton, Frances Hodgson Burnett, Ivor Novello, Edith Nesbitt, all lived in Kent and were inspired by their surroundings. On the Isle of Sheppey planes were built to the Wright Brothers' design.

The US Wright Brothers were the first to fly a powered aircraft when they flew a heavier-than-air machine at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina on December 1903.

Brothers Eustace, Horace and Oswald Short, known as Short Brothers, were influenced by Wilbur Wright's demonstration flights in France, and obtained a contract to build Wright Brothers airplane designs on the Isle of Sheppey.

By November 1908, Short Brothers had been incorporated and contracted to build six Wright Flyers plus a glider for the Hon. Charles Stewart Rolls (yes - that Rolls who is normally mentioned in conjunction with Royce). The first Short, No 1, was unsuccessful, but Short No 2, built more along the Wright Brothers' design, was flown by John Moore-Brabazon with such success that on October 30 1909 he won The Daily Mail's £1,000 prize for the first flight in the UK of one mile in a closed circuit by an all- British combination of pilot, aircraft and engine. They were pipped at the post because in the same year Louis Bleriot flew the first successful flight across the English Channel.

I have run out of space, but if this has whetted your appetite I have linked to Bob's website above and of course all his books can be found on Amazon.

## Votes for Women (and Men)

[8 Geo. 5.] *Representation of the People Act, 1918.* [Ch. 64.]

is not inhabited by the person in whose service he is in such office, service, or employment, be deemed to occupy the dwelling-house as a tenant; and

A.D. 1918.

- (ii) for the purposes of this section the word tenant shall include a person who occupies a room or rooms as a lodger only where such room or rooms are let to him in an unfurnished state.

4.—(1) A woman shall be entitled to be registered as a parliamentary elector for a constituency (other than a university constituency) if she—

Franchisees  
(women).

- (a) has attained the age of thirty years; and  
(b) is not subject to any legal incapacity; and  
(c) is entitled to be registered as a local government elector in respect of the occupation in that constituency of land or premises (not being a dwelling-house) of a yearly value of not less than five pounds or of a dwelling-house, or is the wife of a husband entitled to be so registered.

(2) A woman shall be entitled to be registered as a parliamentary elector for a university constituency if she has attained the age of thirty years and either would be entitled to be so registered if she were a man, or has been admitted to and passed the final examination, and kept under the conditions required of women by the university the period of residence, necessary for a man to obtain a degree at any university forming, or forming part of, a university constituency which did not at the time the examination was passed admit women to degrees.

(3) A woman shall be entitled to be registered as a local government elector for any local government electoral area—

- (a) where she would be entitled to be so registered if she were a man; and  
(b) where she is the wife of a man who is entitled to be so registered in respect of premises in which they both reside, and she has attained the age of thirty years and is not subject to any legal incapacity.

For the purpose of this provision, a naval or military voter who is registered in respect of a residence qualification which he would have had but for his service, shall be deemed to be resident in accordance with the qualification.

The **Representation of the People Act 1918** extended the vote to women over the age of 30 who were householders; and to all men over 21.

In 1928 all over - 21s became eligible to vote.

In 1969 the voting age was lowered to 18

## What's On - NWKFHS Events during the coming weeks

[\(Click here to see or download the PDF listing the entire Talks programme April 2018 - March 2019 so you can book your diaries ahead\)](#)

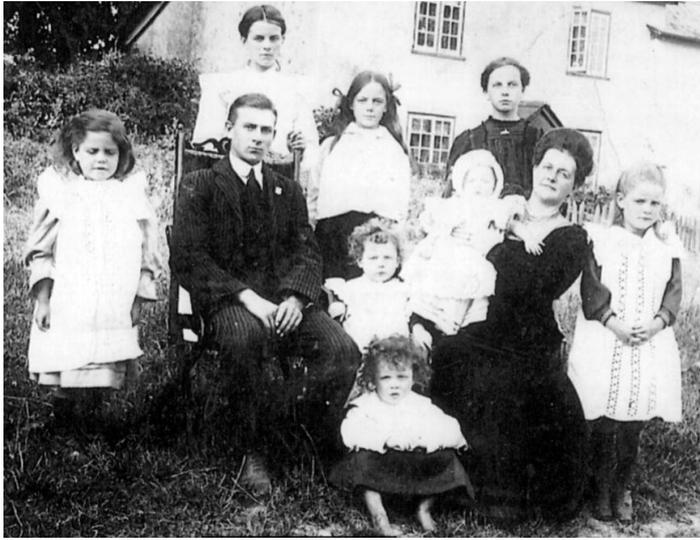
Our meetings are interesting mix of speakers and workshops. The Branch meetings with speakers are held at venues in Bromley, Dartford and Sevenoaks and the workshops are in the Society Library in Joyden's Wood, which we have sole use of on Wednesdays.

**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.nwkfhs.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 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](mailto: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@nwkfh.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfh.org.uk)  
£5 donation requested towards library running 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@nwkfh.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfh.org.uk)  
£5 donation requested towards library running 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 that 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@nwkfh.org.uk](mailto:dartford@nwkfh.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@nwkfh.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaks@nwkfh.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](mailto: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](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk) £5 donation requested towards library running 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](mailto: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 and 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 as orders for lunch and tea are closing on 13 March. Even if you don't want lunch or tea, it's useful for our organisers to know numbers so they can plan for the right numbers of chairs, coffees etc.**

Remember that all our planned talks and workshops for 2018-2019 are listed in the Talks PDF on our website <http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/Branch%20programme%202018-19.pdf>

### **Welsh History**

I'm always impressed if someone has written up their family history and had it published, so I'm giving space to this request from Philip Nanney Williams (Author):

*I wonder if it would be possible for you to bring my family history book - **Nannau - A Rich Tapestry of Welsh History** to the attention of your family history society members. The book is particularly relevant to family history enthusiasts as it chronicles the history of one family through nearly a thousand years with a wealth of imagery and information.*

Ordering information can be found at [www.nannauhistory.com](http://www.nannauhistory.com)

### **Nannau – A Rich Tapestry of Welsh History**

A lavishly illustrated account of one of Wales' great families through their thousand-year tenure. it will appeal to all who are interested in Welsh history and culture.

### **Swanley Armed Forces Day**



Swanley Town Council is hosting an Armed Forces Day on Saturday 30 June from 11am – 4pm on Swanley Recreational Ground.

There will be community stalls, charity stalls, children's entertainment, re-enactment groups and food and drinks stalls in attendance throughout the day as well as displays in the arena.

If there is anything else I should be aware of, to give you maximum benefit from this emailinfoservice, 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 emailinfo.*

Stella Eames, Editor

[emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk)

North West Kent Family History Society

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