



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 NWKFHS email information service

Welcome to another 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

[Click here for a link to the latest branch newsletters and back issues of emailinfoservice \(described as Society newsletter\)](#)

You can also keep up with all the NWKFHS news on Facebook. Just click [the link](#) and look at the Events tab on the left hand side of the Facebook page.

About our Library and Resource Centre

The library and resource centre at 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood DA5 2EE is available for the sole use of NWKFHS members on Wednesdays from 10am - 4pm (the rest of the week it is a KCC Public Library).

Our library is a very busy place on Wednesdays. NWKFHS members might recall an article Pauline Heathcote, Journal Editor, wrote about the library (if you wish to re-read it, it was September 2016 Journal page 109). One Wednesday Pauline walked around the library and asked people what they were working on. She found a huge variety of research being undertaken, much local to our area, but also involving ancestors in Germany and India as well as other parts of the UK.

On Wednesdays the Library is staffed by NWKFHS volunteers, led by our Librarian Janet Rose. Library volunteers willingly give their time every week to

ensure the library is ready for members. They fill a variety of roles including: arranging chairs and tables; welcoming members and visitors; showing intending and new members round the premises; helping members with their research; ensuring the computers are switched on and printers filled with paper; and doing lots of other tasks, not forgetting Janet's tea / coffee and cakes. The Society is very appreciative of the time and effort given by the library volunteers.

And last but not least, it's where we hold our programme of workshops.

Why not pop in one Wednesday? If you are not already a NWKFHS member (only £10 pa) you can join at the library.

To join NWKFHS and come to the library, all our meetings 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.**

Help needed for an hour or two on Saturday 25 November

On this date, Tesco in Orpington at the War Memorial Roundabout (9 Augustus Lane, BR6 0NH) has given NWKFHS free use of its foyer. It is a lovely big light space with a guaranteed footfall of hundreds of passers by. We hope to raise the profile of NWKFHS - engage with passing shoppers about family history, take email addresses to send further info, give out flyers and maybe sell some calendars and get some new members.

I (Stella Eames) will be there to set up and all day. I am hoping we can staff our stall from 10am til 3pm, but that depends on volunteers helping me. I'd really like at least 3 Society members there at any one time and I have received offers for the morning period up to 12.30 /1pm. If you could spare an hour or two from 12.30 to 2pm or 3pm please do contact me. Please email me on interstellae@hotmail.co.uk

Helpers will have free parking at Tesco for the duration of their stint (which is freely available for up to three hours anyway, no purchase necessary) and Tesco is on many bus routes.

Volunteers are NWKFHS's lifeblood

Are you a NWKFHS member and ever thought:
If I was in charge I would
Wouldn't it be great if the Society organised a
Why doesn't NWKFHS?

Ideas are always welcome - it's YOUR Society. If you have any suggestions please email Tony Codling our Chair on Chairman@nwkfhs.org.uk or speak to any committee member you see at meetings and events.

But please also remember that actions can only happen if there are willing volunteers to take them forward. Many of our volunteers have been volunteering for years and find the experience interesting and rewarding. The Society could not operate without our dedicated volunteers - and we are in need of more in order to carry out the effective running of the Society. Please come to our free open meeting at the Joyden's Wood Library on Wednesday November 15 10.30am – 12.30pm for anyone interested in volunteering for NWKFHS

Do you have just an hour a day, a week or a month when you could carry out any of the small tasks that the current volunteers struggle to find time to do? Come along with your ideas and also find out how you can help your Society maintain its services to members. Open to all members of NWKFHS. Complimentary tea/coffee and cakes. Please let us know you're coming so we can plan for the right number of guests, by emailing Victor on workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk

Speak with those already helping and see whether there is something you could do to assist.

What do volunteers get out of volunteering with us? Friendship, insight, a purpose, the satisfaction of helping the Society and other researchers and motivation are just a few of the things we've heard from our volunteers.

Society Secretary

The important job of providing liaison between the Trustees, Branch Committees, Branches, Projects and other groups needs a willing volunteer. The Secretary@NWKFHs.org.uk email also receives external correspondence and general enquiries but this is not onerous and is usually interesting to deal with. If you could help please contact our Chair Tony Codling on Chairman@NWKFHs.org.uk.

Webmaster and Website Assistants

Our new website is finally reaching fruition. But it's been hampered by lack of a Webmaster with in-depth knowledge of how to operate and maintain a website. The new website uses Joomla. If you have these skills and could advise the Trustees about the website use and development, please contact our Chair Tony Codling on Chairman@NWKFHs.org.uk.

Events co-ordinator

To promote the Society we need a volunteer to plan, book and organise volunteers to attend events in the local area. The vacancy is due to the present organiser taking on additional responsibilities. **email Tony Codling, chairman@nwkfhs.org.uk**

What's On - NWKFHS Events during the coming weeks

(see the Events tab on our Facebook page for events further ahead)

Our meetings are interesting mix of speakers and workshops. The Branch meetings 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.

October 19 - Drop in session at The Meeting Place, Dartford 10am - 2pm NWKFHs volunteers will be speaking to passers-by about researching family history and our Society.

Please pop in and say Hallo if you are passing. You can also join the Society, buy calendars and notelets and receive some help with your research.

October 21 – Saturday 10.30am Speaker at Bromley The future of the internet for family historians

Our guest speaker is Peter Christian, author of The Genealogist's Internet.

There is a wealth of data on the Web for those researching a family tree. However, the sheer volume of information and diversity of websites can make starting your search confusing and time-consuming. Peter will detail the major sources of data available on-line and highlight the most helpful directories and gateways. Use it to contact others with the same surname or to access the numerous forums, discussion groups, mailing lists and newsgroups focusing on genealogy.

Doors open 9.45am, meeting starts 10.30am.

At the usual Bromley Branch venue, Bromley Methodist Church, College Road, Bromley BR1 3NS. The church has a car park which can fill up. But it's only yards from Bromley North Station and on or near many bus routes.

October 21 – Saturday 10.00am Drop in session at Bexley

Drop in to Townley Road Library between 10am and 2pm and meet the friendly NWKFHS events team. They can tell you how to get started with family history research and answer your questions.

ALSO: Some Woolwich arsenal databases: Ray Fordham worked for the Woolwich Arsenal for many years as an electrician. His working life ended in retirement when the Arsenal closed. During this time many tons of paperwork was being destroyed and Ray retained some that he thought were worthwhile keeping.

The information relating to part of the material he retrieved is as follows.

- A list of 1st World War (1914-18) disabled who were employed at the Arsenal during the period 1936 to 1945. This database includes name, date of birth, clock & centre number, date of birth, date employed and nature of disability. There are over 800 names.
- A list of air raid casualties during the 2nd World War (1941-1945). This database gives name, address, hospital they were taken to and injury. There are over 500 names.
- The Arsenal had its own doctor's surgery and medical staff were able to do operations on site. The data base is for 1906 and has over 500 names. The information includes name, age, case number, the department they worked in and 'concern'. Typical were ruptures, hernias, splinters, appendicitis etc. The doctor would also come out to the home if the employee lived within 3 miles of the arsenal.
- Roy also retrieved some 40 photographs of children's parties held in the arsenal during the 1950s. No one is identified.

The aim is to have this information freely available on our website, to which we have agreed. However, Ray would like further verification of his information to be achieved by way of enquiries. [Ray will come to Bexley Local Studies on the 21st and he would have his databases with him so if anyone would like to come to talk to him about them he would be pleased.](#)

October 25 – Wednesday 10.30am – 12.30pm Workshop at the Library (date change from 18 October)

The history of education led by Janet Rose and Sheila Elisak

A history of education in England with details of where to find records. Documents from Janet's own research and long career in education will be used as examples. Workshop open to all members of NWKFHS. Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact Victor on workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk donation requested towards costs.

November 4 - Saturday 10.30am - Speaker at Dartford The Masons and 300 years of the Grand Lodge of England

Our guest speaker today is Peter Jones

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

November 9 -Thursday 8pm Speaker at Sevenoaks Spooky Tales: the history of Halloween

Our Guest Speaker Geoff Hutchinson was born in Hastings and has lived in East Sussex all his life. Geoff has a tremendous enthusiasm for local history and the colourful characters associated with it. Come and hear his spine-chilling tales.

Doors open 7.15pm, meeting starts 8pm, ends by 9.30pm. The venue, Sevenoaks Community Centre, Cramptons Road, off Otford Road, Sevenoaks TN14 5DN (near Bat and Ball rail station) has a large free car park.

November 15 – Wednesday 10.30am – 12.30pm Open Meeting at the Library for anyone interested in volunteering for NWKFHS

Do you have just an hour a day, a week or a month when you could carry out any of the small tasks that the current volunteers struggle to find time to do? Come along and

find out how you can help your Society maintain its services to members.

Speak with those already helping and see whether there is something you could do to assist. Volunteers are the NWKFHS' lifeblood and we cannot exist without them.

Open to all members of NWKFHS. Complimentary tea/coffee and cakes. Please let us know you're coming so we can plan for the right number by emailing Victor on workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk

November 18– Saturday 10.30am Speaker at Bromley

The goose is getting fat! The history of Christmas food

Our guest speaker, Imogen Corrigan, will tell us why we kiss under mistletoe and how our own traditions - decorating our houses with greenery and bling, sending cards, eating too much, wearing a silly hat - are based on pagan festivities that either honoured spirits or simply helped to break up the winter. Others, such as advent calendars and crackers, are much more recent.

Imogen's talk gives a glimpse behind the scenes to see our ancestors preparing for the day, stirring-up puddings and dragging Yule logs into the house on Christmas Eve.

Doors open 9.45am, meeting starts 10.30am.

At the usual Bromley Branch venue, Bromley Methodist Church, College Road, Bromley BR1 3NS. The church has a car park which can fill up. But it's only yards from Bromley North Station and on or near many bus routes.

November 23 - Drop in session at The Meeting Place, Dartford 10am - 2pm NWKFHS volunteers will be speaking to passers-by about researching family history and our Society.

Please pop in and say Hallo if you are passing. You can also join the Society, buy calendars and notelets and receive some help with your research.

November 25 - NWKFHS in the Foyer at Tesco Orpington 10am - 3pm NWKFHS volunteers will be speaking to passers-by about researching family history and our Society.

Please pop in and say Hallo if you are passing. You can also join the Society, buy calendars and notelets and receive some help with your research.

NB We are still looking for volunteers for this event to help from 12.30 til 2pm or 3pm. If you live within travelling distance and can help please contact Stella on interstellae@hotmail.co.uk if you can offer an hour or two.

November 29– Wednesday 10.30am – 12.30pm Writing Group No 2 at the Library

Because the current quarterly writing group has proved so popular, it has been decided to start a second, rather than trying to accomodate new members within the original group.

The success of writing group No 1 has shown that a maximum of six members is an ideal number to allow all voices to be heard. The on-going future of the two groups will be re-evaluated at the beginning of 2018. Leader Pauline Heathcote.

Writing Group No 2 is open to all members of NWKFHS. Booking essential - please contact Victor on workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk Donation requested towards cost of maintaining the library.

Remember that all our planned talks and workshops to the end of the year and beyond are listed in chronological order on our Facebook page (google NWKFHS Facebook). Just click the Events tab on the left hand side of the Facebook page.

Amy Johnson Crow eNewsletter

I signed up to this newsletter a few weeks ago. The one that popped into my inbox on 1 October said that October is Family History and Archives Month in the US. That got me googling, and, although I found that several countries have a Family History Month, I could not find that the UK does. Maybe it's seen as more important in those countries which received a lot of European emigrants whose descendants want to

trace their history.

Anyhow, these are some of Amy's suggestions for actions this month. To go to her website and/or sign up to her newsletter yourselves, click <http://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com>

- Label photos
- Record a story
- Share a story
- Backup your data
- Review your notes about an ancestor
- See what events are happening at your local genealogy society
- Scan photos
- Transcribe a document
- Make a timeline for an ancestor
- Send copies of scanned photos to a cousin
- Write a short article for a genealogy society
- Make plans to go to a genealogy conference
- Visit a cemetery

As Amy says - there's no shortage of ways we can celebrate Family History Month! Even though we don't have such a thing in the UK, these are all still good calls to action.

http://www.chelsfieldhistory.org.uk/events_fraud_and_forgery.htm

Thanks to Janet Digby for telling me about this website about the history of Chelsfield. Click on the heading to read a case of identity theft back in 1866.

Sir Charles Igglesden (1861 - 1949)

<https://www.pressreader.com/uk/kentish-express-ashford-district/20170803/281814283946123>

Malcolm Horton writes: I am in the process of gathering material to write a biography about Sir Charles Igglesden editor of the Kentish Express from 1885 until his death in 1949. He was perhaps best known for his 34-volume series "A Saunter through Kent with Pen and Pencil" which were issued between 1900 and 1946.

He was in fact much more - a great sportsman, politician and the author of fifteen literary works including six romantic novels.

If you or your members have any information concerning his works and life, I should be grateful if you would share these with me.

I am publishing his biography in the Spring of 2018 and have additionally, found 9 villages that although they appear as weekly articles in the Kentish Express between 1942 -1944 they never found their way into hardback form.

I am therefore publishing a final volume 35 as an appendix to the biography.

Therefore, any information that you or any of your members may have would be very helpful.

Please contact malcolmchorton@gmail.com

British Library: lunchtime talk on Family History and Archived Oral Histories

Monday 30 October, 12.30pm-1.30pm British Library Conference Centre, Euston Road, London

Price: £5.00 (concessions available; includes refreshments)

Talk by Mary Stewart (Curator for Oral History, British Library) and Cynthia Brown (Oral Historian). Through case studies from the British Library's oral history section and stemming from local history research in the Leicestershire area, Mary and Cynthia will discuss how archived recordings add crucial context to family research and explore how some families have reacted when accessing a relative's audio interview, including how the interview intersects with existing family histories.

Following the talk, there will be the opportunity for questions, networking and discussion – all in the space of your lunch-break. Feel free to bring your packed lunch – tea, coffee and **cake** will be provided!

For more details and to register, please visit: <https://www.bl.uk/events/family-history->

[and-archived-oral-histories](#)

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, Compiler

emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk

North West Kent Family History Society

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