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*Welcome to the North West Kent Family History Society email newsletter 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017*

**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.

A special warm welcome to readers who are new this month, perhaps because you signed up to receive information from us at our stand at Tesco Orpington on 25 November. This email is issued fortnightly, at the beginning of the month and about halfway through. You won't be bombarded, you can unsubscribe at any time and your email address is never sold to third parties.

However, now that we're into the festive season, I won't send one out in mid December. The next one will be the beginning of January and will contain an article about the free or cheapest ways to research your family history.

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

#### Latest Newsletters

[Society eNewsletter \(November 2017\)](#)

[Dartford branch \(December 2017\)](#)

[Bromley branch \(November 2017\)](#)

[Sevenoaks branch \(November 2017\)](#)

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.

**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. Joining now will mean you get a free month as your subscription will be valid til 31 December 2018.**

**Existing members: 2018 subscriptions:** next year's subscriptions will start being collected at the meetings in December and January. Yet another year without any increases so it is still £10 per individual or £12 for 2 people at the same address. What a bargain! Please consider setting up a standing order, not only is it less administration for our volunteer membership and renewals secretaries and our voluntary Treasurer but also for you too.

**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.

#### Give the gift of family history this Christmas



**What to buy the person who has 'got everything' and who doesn't want more 'stuff'?** Membership, or gift membership, is only £10 a year. It will last from now until 31 December 2018. Please just click [here](#) or email Membership Secretary Mrs Christina Barnett, on [membership@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:membership@nwkfhs.org.uk)

#### Easy Fund Raising

Your NWKFHS Committee is constantly reviewing ways we can increase Society income and reduce costs. Rarely a committee meeting goes by when it isn't on the agenda. When I joined the Society I was very impressed that, for just £10 a year, I received the journal and could attend all the meetings with speakers - for which a hall had to be hired and the speaker paid, at no extra charge. It's only possible because of tight reins on the budget and constantly trying to think of ways to raise funds which don't involve increasing the membership fee.

The cost of running meetings - hall hire and speakers' fees - has been rising steadily and so is the cost of producing and posting the Journal. The Society has reserves but these are our emergency funds intended to protect us from major, unexpected problems and to ensure we always have at least a

year's running costs in hand.

For example, if we were ever to lose the use of Joydens Wood Library, the cost of finding alternative accommodation for our valuable collection of local records – and our programme of workshops and other activities based at the library – would be expensive. So please consider signing up to **Easy Fund Raising** a way of raising funds which won't cost you anything.

Whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be fundraising for North West Kent Family History Society at no cost to you.

There are over 3,000 shops and sites ready to make a donation to NWKHS, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's – and it won't cost you anything extra.

1. Click on <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/northwestkentfamilyhistorysociety/> and sign up.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to NWKFHS at no extra cost to you.

**There are no catches or hidden charges for you and North West Kent Family History Society will be very grateful for your donations. Thank you for your support.**

### December Journal

The Society is 40 years old... how long have you been researching your Family History? What's your favourite resource? How can the Society help you? Contact [editor@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:editor@nwkfhs.org.uk)

Although emailinfo is free to all, our Journal is only posted to members. The December Journal will be out in the next few days and contains lots of interesting articles. Emailinfo is suited to short items where the reader can click a link to find out more if they wish to but the Journal contains longer items with room for interesting details of members' research stories.



## North West Kent Family History Society

### *The Journal*

*A quarterly publication for members*



***Membership renewal form inside***

***World War 1 Commemoration***

Volume 14 No 8      December 2017  
Member of the Federation of Family History Societies  
[www.nwkfhs.org.uk](http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk)

For example, in the December Journal, Cliff Scottow writes:

During the summer Tony Codling invited me to accept an invitation from [Creekside Discovery Centre](#) in Deptford which was seeking to expand on contacts in the area with other like minded Conservation or Local and Family History Groups and similar.

This involved a guided walk along Deptford Creek at low tide followed by a film presentation and a longer article is in the NWKFHS Journal in December.

Creekside Discovery Centre and Education Trust is an interesting project highlighting the history, plant and wildlife there and the charity organises guided exploratory wading trips in the creek, which are ideally suited to both adults and children aged around 9 upwards, with appropriate equipment being provided.

Anybody making a booking might indicate that they learned of the project from NWKFHS.

### **[Our Facebook Page is a useful free resource](#)**

Family history news, old photographs, NWKFHS events, interesting websites and enquiries from out of town researchers wanting local knowledge. All these and more are on the NWKFHS Facebook page. Several hundred people regularly look at our page and, if you are a Facebook user yourself, you can like, comment on and share any of our posts which will increase our audience further. Visitors to the site can contribute messages, photos and interesting topical info for the benefit of other readers. I will also use the immediacy of Facebook to pass on urgent information such as a late change of speaker or if, exceptionally, a meeting is cancelled due to eg bad snowy conditions.

### **[Our website \[www.nwkhfs.org.uk\]\(http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk\)](#)**

Those of you who've been members for a while will know that for many years we had an award winning website, created over many years by our previous webmaster Steve Archer.

But, after a long period of having no webmaster, those who were trying to help were operating at the margins of their knowledge and parts of our website became out of date, particularly as regards events. However, Brian Kirk has been volunteering for many, many hours behind the scenes together with our Chair, Tony Codling, to develop a brand new website, and we are over the moon that Brian has recently stepped forward and agreed to be our new webmaster. We hope our new website will be operational sometime in the new year.

Whilst it's being finalised we're conscious the current one is out of date regarding Events. But Events are in the Journal, this emailinfo and on the Facebook Events tab. You don't have to be a member to view the Facebook page or post as a visitor. Many other parts of the website eg joining information and newsletters are up to date.

### **[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 and visitors on Wednesdays from 10am - 4pm (the rest of the week it is a Kent CC Public Library). Whether you have ancestors in the area or beyond we can help you to explore your family history with expert help and advice readily available.

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.

The library has free access to FindMyPast and Ancestry websites. The library computers can be popular. Join the Kent County Council library service and you'll be given a password so you can use your own laptop at the library to access FindMyPast and Ancestry.

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. (But please note our volunteers will take a break over Christmas so the library will not be open on 27 December.)**

### **GET ORGANISED NOW - WITH YOUR PHOTOS**

I (Stella Eames) try to get NWKFHS as much free publicity as possible and so I'm over the moon that we got a mention in Maria Gracia's free enewsletter which goes to 182,000 people in 219 countries.

By contrast this NWKFHS free enewsletter goes to 653 people in 8 countries (UK, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, France, Finland).

If you know anyone else who would like to receive ours ask them to email [emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk) (they don't have to be a member).

To get Maria's go to <https://www.getorganizednow.com>

Nov 21 - Identifying Photographs - Get Organized Now!

**GON Mini-Edition**  
Create a Happier, Healthier, More Fulfilling Life  
with Maria Gracia



### Get Organized Now! Mid-Week Mini Edition

By Maria Gracia  
November 21, 2017 [getorganizednow.com](http://getorganizednow.com)  
Fabulous Reader Tip

#### Photographs - Making It Easier to Identify



When you print photographs that will be organized in photo boxes and albums OR when you inherit old photos, if you know the people in the photo, always write their names on the back. I think many of us have inherited precious old photos, and are not sure who the people in them are. That's very disappointing.

This fabulous reader tip was submitted by...  
**Stella Eames**  
(of North West Kent Family History Society)

#### 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 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. **But our volunteers will take a break over Christmas so the library will not be open on 27 December.**

**December 2 - Saturday 10.30am - Speaker at Dartford**

## Medieval Christmas

Our Guest Speaker today is published author and well known speaker Toni Mount. Life in medieval England is Toni's specialist subject and Christmas then was without Turkey, roast potatoes, crackers, cards, trees and Father Christmas. Toni will talk about Old Man Winter and St Niklaus, so effectively the story of Christmas plus a lot of other Christmas stories.

Doors open 9.45am, meeting starts 10.30am. The venue, Dartford 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@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:dartford@nwkfhs.org.uk)

## December 14 - Thursday 8pm Speaker at Sevenoaks

### A celebration of Christmas

Our guest speaker Anne Carter will be giving her very seasonal talk entitled 'Celebration of Christmas'. Anne will take us back in time and explain how Christmas was spent through the years. Before Anne's talk start we will all enjoy some Christmas food, brought by members.

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.

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](mailto:sevenoaks@nwkfhs.org.uk)

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

## January 6 - Saturday 10.30am - Speaker at Dartford

### Medieval Christmas

Our guest speaker, Mr Christoph Bull, is a local historian, speaker, guide, author and librarian who has entertained many local groups with his illustrated talks and walks.

He is also Municipal Mace Bearer for Gravesham Borough Council and historical advisor to Swanscombe & Greenhithe Town Council.

Doors open 9.45am, meeting starts 10.30am. The venue, Dartford 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@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:dartford@nwkfhs.org.uk)

## January 20 - Saturday 10.30am - Speaker at Bromley

**The booked speaker has had to cancel. There will be a speaker but, as at the date of this email, the details are not confirmed. Facebook will be updated as soon as I know.**

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)

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

Members, book your diaries now. The AGM will be at midday but we will have a full programme of

events including morning and afternoon speakers.

*Remember that all our planned talks and workshops for the next several months 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.*

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

North West Kent Family History Society

Registered Charity No 282627

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