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Welcome to the first 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

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.](#)

Best wishes for the New Year, 2018, which is a very significant year for our Society; it marks 40 years since our society was formed: it's our **RUBY** anniversary year.

NWKFHS was formed after an inaugural meeting of interested

parties on 14 July 1978 at Bromley Central Library. Its objects were agreed to be *‘to encourage the study of family history, genealogy and heraldry in South East London and North West Kent; and to promote the preservation of records relating to those studies’*.

Have we succeeded? Judge for yourselves!

As we move into 2018:

- From a start, 40 years ago in Bromley, we now operate through 3 branches - in Bromley, Dartford and Sevenoaks - offering a total of 33 meetings with speakers each year, free to all members.
- 2017 saw over 20 workshops on such subjects as organising your family history records, pre-1700 sources and the 1939 Register. Almost all were over-subscribed and many more are planned for our **RUBY** Year.
- Three popular groups – one for discussion and two for writing skills – meet on a regular quarterly basis.
- We have several flourishing house groups; from January 2018 a new one will focus on DNA.
- Our Library and Resource Centre, operated in conjunction with Kent Libraries, provides advice and research facilities to members. Our library room holds over 5,500 items and we also provide access to various online services.
- A quality journal is posted to members every quarter; there is a twice monthly e-newsletter and we have a thriving Facebook page.
- Over the years, volunteers have transcribed dozens of parish registers, thereby making the data accessible to far-flung researchers and generating income for the society; over 250 CDs and DVDs have been created from these transcriptions.
- We have showcased the society and promoted family history generally with an information table and volunteers at several external events during 2017.
- Just recently in 2017 our neighbours in Tunbridge Wells FHS chose to benefit from the services that we have developed by merging with NWKFHS.

To follow our next 40 years of progress, [JOIN US](#)

As we celebrate this milestone, we recognise that our success has been the result of the hard work, passion for family history and willingness to help others contributed by hundreds of volunteers over the past four decades.

In our first, Autumn 1978, Journal the editor, Fred J Whyler DFC, closed his article with *“Our future is in the hands of our members”*.

I think he would be proud of those members' achievements and his words ring true.

New Year Resolutions? Too many to count?

That's definitely how I feel. Maybe this will be the year I sort out photographs. Carefully pencilling on the reverse who the people are. Their actual names that is -

I have inherited some which say, for example, 'mother'.



For photos with a lot of people in eg wedding photos, I photocopy the original and then write the names on the front of the copy. I write near the edge with a line drawn to the person named. I can also pass the copy around other family members who may be able to identify some people who I don't recognise.

To protect against disaster, all the precious old photos are scanned to my computer then emailed to other family members - so the memory cannot be lost even if the original somehow is. (Prior to the days of a PC, I just photocopied them and posted them to close relatives).

Facebook

1. 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. The Branch Programme Organisers have been busy and meetings up to March 2018 are already listed and more events will be listed shortly to take us to the end of 2018 and beyond.

2. Society Vice-President and for many years Chairman, Walter Eves, has started a Facebook Group page for members and friends of NWKFHS. We hope this will be an even more interactive way of communicating online. 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](#).

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/767236786758351/>

The benefits of a group page are that, once you have joined, your posts appear in the main timeline, rather than somewhat hidden away as visitors' posts. If you have difficulty joining, please leave a visitor post on the existing Facebook page and we'll look into it.

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.

Existing members: 2018 subscriptions: next year's subscriptions are being collected at the branch meetings and the library. 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.

North West Kent Chimneys



The Society is looking for an image of an industrial chimney in the NWKFHS area to use on the new Display Roller Banner that the Society takes to its events. The photograph can be of paper mills, silk mills, Thames riverside factories or any Industrial building but it must have a large Chimney. Historical images and any ideas are welcome. Perhaps you have an image of a nice, old brick chimney before it was demolished?

The criteria is that it must be your own work and copyright. The building must be within the Society's area, which you will find on the back cover of your journal. It must be a large resolution colour image. If you have such an image and would like it to be considered, or have any queries about this request, please contact David Turner at library@nwkfhs.org.uk

Your Outings Suggestions Please

Hilary Waters asks: over the last 2 years I have organised a couple of successful trips for members to Edenbridge & Tonbridge & am now thinking of where we can go in 2018, probably in May. I have a couple of ideas but would be interested in hearing from any members with suggestions of where they would like to go, or if anyone knows a professional walking or property guide who could help us. If you have any suggestions please email me at hilarywaters@me.com sooner rather than later.

Please use this opportunity to come forward & let me know where you are interested in going. These trips are a good opportunity to bring together members & friends from parts of North West Kent who would not normally meet.

Stella Eames: I have been on the previous days out planned by Hilary and they were both very enjoyable. Not only did she arrange guides who really knew their stuff historically but it was nice afterwards to have a coffee or lunch together before making our way home.

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

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

<http://thenameevent.com>

The above event is being run on a non-profit making basis similar to that run by the Society of Genealogists at the Royal Horticultural Hall before the days of WDYTYA ie for Family History Societies and other appropriate groups/organisations. The date is 5/6 May – the first May Bank Holiday Weekend – the original week-end date for the SoG fairs.

I am making enquiries to find out how many members would be willing to travel to Earls Court and staff the NWKFHS stand, perhaps drive there with passengers, help with setting up or even organise it. We have a meeting at the end of January 2018 and we need some idea of the support we would get if we went ahead, particularly for staffing the stand.

Please contact me on barbara_phillips@ntlworld.com if you are interested in helping. Thank you.

Barbara Phillips

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.

January 6 - Saturday 10.30am - Speaker at Dartford

OurThames: from Dartford to Grain

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 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@nwkfhs.org.uk

January 17 - Wednesday 10.30am Workshop at the Library

Using maps to trace your ancestors

A workshop exploring how your research data can be used to create a map of the counties and parishes where your ancestors have lived and worked.

By producing a distribution map, you will have a visual image of their movements, which may help you solving some research queries. The workshop will use timelines, spreadsheets and/or databases to create the information that can be used by hand or software ie GENMAP to create the map. Hand drawn maps can use any map as background by marking locations and years of the event. Led by David Cufley.

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.

January 20 - Saturday 10.30am - Speaker at Bromley

Behind the scenes of television's golden years

Please note change of speaker to that previously published.

Our January speaker is Wilf Lower, who has a wide background of knowledge of entertainment will take us "Behind The Scenes of Television's Golden Years". Wilf will enliven miserable post festival days with his background knowledge of the BBC and stories of much loved television programmes

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

**January 24 - Wednesday 10.30am Discussion Group at the Library
The Future of family History Societies part 3 led by Victor Nutt.**

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 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 sargeants, 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@nwkfhs.org.uk

**February 8 - Thursday 8.00pm Speaker at Sevenoaks
World War I Poets; explanations and recitations**

The poets of World War One - Sassoon, Owen, Blunden - have acquired an almost celebrity status. Our guest speakers who will explore this topic for us this evening are Bob and Fern Ogley.

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.

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.

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.

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. Or see the Talks PDF on our website <http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/Branch%20programme%202018-19.pdf>

Thrifty Genealogy - get the most out of free websites



In the last email I promised some information on cheap and free ways to further your research. Experienced researchers are probably aware of some of these. Once I started writing it, I realised that it was looking to be a very long article - and, no doubt, I still won't have thought of everything.

So I have decided to split it into - if not bite-size chunks - at least into pieces which are not too long. Therefore, today I am focusing on some useful free websites. Future articles will include more websites, free talks and free newsletters which are also a good source of data.

www.Google.co.uk

Don't forget the obvious one. To cut down irrelevant results put the name you're searching in "double inverted commas"; remember that olden abbreviations may be different from those commonly used today eg Thos for Thomas; Wm for William. Try permutations like surname first etc. Use + and - signs eg if looking for a nurse using +nurse will help drill down if you are getting too many results. Use the minus sign to try and eliminate irrelevant results.

www.nwkhfs.org.uk

Even though our website looks dated whilst we finalise the new revamped one, there is still useful, free info there. Eg the transcription of headstones in Ladywell and Brockley cemetery. I found my maternal great grandparents listed here, when I was looking for their burial, before I'd even joined NWKFHS. <http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/searchable.htm>

<https://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/search.pl>

Birth, marriages and deaths from 1837 to mid / late 1900s (varies, according to what has been transcribed, most, but not all, registers have).

It does not provide exact dates but says in which quarter an event (birth, marriage, death) was registered. So a late November or December birth may have been registered the following year and be listed in the first (March) quarter for that calendar year. Quarters are March (for events reg Jan - March); June for events reg April - June and so on.

For births, mothers' maiden names are only stated from 1912 onwards.

If you've not used freebmd before, play with it. If you want to search an unusual surname - just type the surname and click 'All types' 'all districts' and 'all counties'. Only introduce filters (date ranges, counties) if you have to because you have triggered too many results. Play with it. Using the birth search screen, put in a parent or grandparent's name. If you know ancestors' surnames eg grandparents' surnames put both surnames in and search under births. There may be children, ie uncles and aunts, you've not heard of. If both names are common you may get coincidences of names, although using a date range and if necessary only searching in certain areas will help.

If you are lucky enough to be searching an unusual surname, you could just search on the surname and see what happens. At worst freebmd will post a message saying there are over 3,000 hits so it cannot search. So refine your search by using filters eg a forename.

www.freereg.org.uk

Another useful free site. This only allows you to search in up to three counties at a time. Lots still to be transcribed, but definitely worth looking. Entries which have been transcribed go back 100s of years.

<https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/Login.asp>

The UK Government site for births and deaths, and the cheapest way to get a certificate if you need one. Currently a pilot scheme sells downloadable PDFs for £6. Births: 1837 –1916; Deaths: 1837 –1957.

But the brilliant thing about birth records on this site is that mother's maiden name is now included right back to 1837. To search the site you have to open a free account (you only pay if you order a certificate) and you can then search. The slight negative is, you can only search 5 years at a time (year + and - 2 years). So my advice is look for the birth on freebmd.org.uk first, then, if it's before 1912, use the GRO to get mother's maiden name. This might save you from needing to order a birth cert to check mother's maiden name.

<https://www.deceasedonline.com>

It costs a couple of ££s to order info but you can search for free and may find the burial details you're looking for.

Commercial websites

Most English public libraries have free access to Ancestry and some (eg the NWKFHS library in Joyden's Wood) have free access to FindmyPast too. Both companies have occasional free weekends.

Lost Cousins and Censuses

This website speaks for itself. It's free to sign up and receive its newsletter (which is very informative) and you can enter your cousins for free. To be able to contact any living relatives who've also signed up to the site you have to be a subscriber which costs £10 a year. Here is a link to the last newsletter

<https://www.lostcousins.com/newsletters2/dec17news.htm>

To save me listing how to look at some censuses free of charge, see this Lost Cousins link for the

info: https://www.lostcousins.com/pages/info/census_search.mhtml

<http://sortedbyname.com/index.html>

There's a ton of stuff here, mainly covering chunks of the US with odd bits of other countries. Probably of little use as a primary source but might just be helpful if trying to demolish some brick walls. Probably most useful for post-census searches.

<http://one-name.org>

Again, this costs to join, but you don't have to join just to look up surnames you are interested in. If someone else is already carrying out a study of the same surname(s) they will probably be very pleased to hear from you and you may be able to swap info. Their contact email details are stated on the site.

I am winding up here as this article is already long enough. To be continued in the next emailinfo.

Buckinghamshire Family History Society Open Day

Bucks FHS has asked us to publicise the following in case readers of this emailinfo have Buckinghamshire ancestors and would like to attend.

Saturday 28th July 2018, 10am to 4pm

The Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury, HP21 7NH.

Research facilities including our names database (over five million entries), Parish Register, People, and Places libraries. Parish Register transcripts and other research aids will be on sale. Expert advice; guest societies from around the country; local history and heritage groups; suppliers of data CDs, maps, software, archival materials and much more.

Admission is free, with free parking at the venue. Refreshments area for teas, coffees and snacks, also mobile catering offering burgers hot dogs etc.

Further information, including a full list of organisations attending, can be found at www.bucksfhs.org.uk

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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