



If you could not get to the Sevenoaks Branch speaker on 14 February you missed an absolute treat.

Retired Police Officer Richard Griffin's talk about his decades as a Royal Protection Officer was enthralling and entertaining with plenty of humour.

When he was first offered the post of Royal Bodyguard Richard imagined himself travelling in Rolls Royces, on the Royal Train and on the Royal Yacht Britannia. But he came down to earth with his first assignment which was guarding Prince Edward at Cambridge University, as he spent three years literally on his bike cycling around Cambridge, as that was the Prince's mode of travel as a student.

Richard's talk covered numerous other incidents as well as serious ones such as the attempted kidnap of Princess Anne outside Buckingham Palace in 1974 by a man with two loaded pistols.

The Princess, age 23 at the time, and her then-husband, Captain Mark Phillips, were en route to the palace returning from a charity event, when a Ford Escort driven by petty criminal Ian Ball age 23, swerved in front of their chauffeur-driven limousine on the Mall.

<http://home.bt.com/news/world-news/march-20-1974-shots-fired-on-the-mall-as-gunman-attempts-to-kidnap-princess-anne-11363969509985>

Richard donated his speaker's fee to the Kent Air Ambulance.

Welcome to the 1 March 2019 emailinfoservice, the NWKFHS fortnightly information service, comprising the latest information about the Society and its events, and other items of interest for family historians.

I (Stella Eames) would welcome photos of people or places (specially historical or family history) in the North West Kent area with a story about them as I want to start each newsletter with a photo and story. Please email me at emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk with your contributions. Any photos must be your own copyright. If I don't receive any I will have to use my own which may not be as interesting.

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

Click on our other links [Blog](#) [Facebook](#) [Flickr](#)

[What's On - A reminder of NWKFHS Events during the next few weeks](#)

[\(Click here to see the entire Talks, Workshops and Events programme so you can book your diaries well ahead\)](#)

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 of eg £1 - £2 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 <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/about/our-membership>

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 eg £5 towards the costs of maintaining the library.

Go to the Society website and you can see all the workshops for the next 12 months. Just hover your cursor over the event entry for further info. Workshops do fill up quickly and are only open to members. Not joined yet? - don't dine in for £10 - join the Society for a whole year for £10 instead.

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/community/events>

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.**

Membership benefits: members get access to all our meetings with speakers 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. The website has a members - only area with back journals and other data.

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. NOTE: no wifi access on 6 March due to the council making some changes. Normal service will hopefully be resumed by 13 March.

Final Membership Renewal Call

If you are a member who has not renewed, please help our volunteer membership and renewal secretaries and renew now. Membership renewal was due on 1 January. You can pay by standing order; or by cash or cheque at one of our meetings; or by post - and a renewal form was in the centre of the December Journal (yellow pages). If you pay basic rate UK income tax please gift aid. This costs you nothing and boosts the value of your membership by 25% to the Society.

If the renewal form is not to hand (or you are abroad and find it easier to pay online), you can renew online here <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/membership/individual-membership-renewal>

The March journal will only be sent after your 2019 renewal is paid.

March 2 - Saturday 10.30am - Speaker at Dartford The Siren Sea - Nations depend on it Guest Speaker Imogen Corrigan

The ship is one of the most common images found in medieval churches and manuscripts and not just on the coast, but often far inland as well. Nations depend on the sea for nourishment, safety and wealth but, all too often, it brings ruin and death. It was ever thus.

In this talk the life of the medieval mariner will be brought to life with his hopes, fears and superstitions. We'll also look at some spectacular ship-wrecks, some of which changed the course of history, and see how they fought to save their ships and cargo. We'll learn how they built ships and think about how they

navigated: extraordinary journeys were made in a time when no one was completely confident that they wouldn't simply sail off the edge of the world or into the mouths of dragons. No wonder those returning to safe harbour were so full of tall tales.

Free to all NWKFHS members. No booking - just turn up. Guests are welcome but we appreciate a donation to the Society's funds. More info if needed 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.

Dartford Science and Technology College asks: due to having a pupil with a severe allergic reaction to nuts and aerosols, we have had to ban these two items to ensure the pupil's safety. Please do not bring any products that are aerosol based, or foods which may contain nuts, onto site. I do hope that you all will understand the importance of this request, and we thank you for your understanding.

March 13 - Wednesday 10.30am - 12.30 Workshop at the Library

Self help computer group

A regular monthly group to discuss computer problems and other IT matters of mutual interest. It will continue on the second Wednesday every month. Book to join this exciting group.

Self help with input from library 'experts'

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact Victor on workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk

£5 donation requested towards library running costs.

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

March 14 - Thursday 8pm - Speaker at Sevenoaks preceded by Sevenoaks Branch Annual Meeting

Underground Britain from factories to military transport

Note - change of speaker from that previously publicised

Guest speaker Geoff Beer is now retired after a very interesting work history which has included

Toll Road management in the UK, South Africa, and the Republic of Ireland, Information

Technology implementation, and various Directorships.

Geoff will explore interesting things beneath the ground from war time factories to Cold War bunkers, mines, underground pipelines of all sorts, geology, catacombs and crypts, dumping, and of course pavement markings. His talk is illustrated with text, pictures and videos.

Free to all NWKFHS members. No booking - just turn up. Guests are welcome but we appreciate a £2.00 donation to the Society's funds. More info from sevenoaks@nwkfhs.org.uk

March 16 Saturday 10.30am - Speaker at Bromley on Powers behind the Thrones

Talk preceded by Branch Annual Meeting

Guest speaker Imogen Corrigan

Many think that it was only in the twentieth century that women came into their own, even though there are still arguments about whether or not women should be bishops and generals, or if there should be a higher proportion in the board room.

The truth is that our Anglo-Saxon sisters had a surprising freedom in law; they could own land, sue and be sued. A quarter of all wills that survive from before the Conquest were written by women.

Whilst Anglo-Saxon England led the way in the first millennium, other countries were not far behind.

In this talk we discover the influential woman of the first thousand years AD. Whilst we will meet saintly and worthy women who led with a firm, guiding hand, perhaps the more interesting ones are those who go down in history for their cruelty and monstrous behaviour, although it is also one or two of these who helped to spread Christianity. What is plain is that these women had a voice, sometimes ruling those who ruled with surprising authority: down-trodden and marriage chattels they were not!

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- £2 donation to the Society's funds. More info from bromley@nwkfhs.org.uk

March 20 - Wednesday 10.30am - 12.30 Workshop at the Library Static or Peripatetic?

Jean Stirk leads this workshop which covers following ancestors' movements if they moved about. Consider their reasons for moving to guide you to the relevant records; seeking some less obvious records for those who stayed in one place.

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact Victor on workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk

£5 donation requested towards library running costs.
At the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE
Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

March 27 - Wednesday 10.30am - 12.30 Workshop at the Library Dating old photographs part 2 (Practical)

Please note this workshop is for those who attended Part 1 (Theory) last August.
Led by Hilary Waters.

Each participant will bring in a photo chosen for inclusion in the group discussion.
We will have a general discussion on how we feel about the process and encourage everyone to recommend books and websites not mentioned in Part 1.

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact Victor on workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk

£5 donation requested towards library running costs.
At the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE
Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

(Note if this interests you, please note your diaries that Bromley Branch has a guest speaker on Dating Old Photos on Saturday 20 July, 10.30am, usual Bromley venue)

Tuesday 2 April - Dartford guided history walk led by Christoph Bull organised by Hilary Waters.

On Tuesday 2 April Chris Bull will entertain us around Dartford.

Commencing at about 11.00am he will point out places of interest which could be easily overlooked in the historic town centre.

After a break for lunch we will go behind the scenes in the Library. Originally built with the aid of a grant from the philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie, it has served the town since 1916.

If you would be interested in joining the walk please email Hilary Waters

at newsletters@nwkfhs.org.uk and please enter Dartford Walk 2019 in the subject box. I will then add you to my list so I can give you more details.

Hilary Waters

PS WOULD YOU LIKE?

Last month Dartford Branch had a very informative and entertaining talk by Ian Bevan.

Ian is an official London tour guide so I was wondering how many of you would like a walking tour around Woolwich? Many society members have family history from this fast changing area of South East London so why not look at Ian's website: www.ianswalksandtalks.co.uk/walks.html and then contact me, Hilary, at the new newsletters@nwkfhs.org.uk address using Woolwich as the subject. If I get a reasonable response I will see what I can do for September/October time.

Thursday 11 April Family History day and AGM 9.30 - 4.30 AGM at midday

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/community/events>

The Society will be selling interesting family history donated duplicate books at the AGM. So bring plenty of change. A good Buy or you can make us an offer for a better Buy. All the money goes to the Society.

For events further ahead just look at the website. The monthly Branch talks are listed til March 2020.

Anyone can attend a talk at the locations in Bromley, Dartford and Sevenoaks; but if you are a non member a donation is requested towards the cost of the hall and speaker. £1- £2 suggested. Non members asked to join if attending more than one meeting.

As most workshops are over subscribed they are intended for members only and seen as a benefit of paid-up membership.

NWKFHS Membership is just £10 and lasts til 31 December 2019.

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/community/events>

Important Notice for Users of our Library at Joyden's Wood

We have been advised that the Kent County Council computer system is changing and as a result the wifi throughout all KCC libraries will be unavailable for the days stated below.

Monday 4, Tuesday 5 and Wednesday 6 March 2019

The Kent County Council (KCC) computer booking system will be moving from its current server to a new cloud-based system. This means there will be no access to public computers, printers and WiFi during this time using either the library PCs or your own. Photocopying will still be available though.

Any queries to library@nwkfhs.org.uk

Calling Calendar Girls (and Boys) 2020 NWKFHS Calendar

This year we are again asking for sponsorship to cover the printing so that all the sales are profit for the Society's funds. Those who sponsor will have the privilege of seeing their names listed as sponsors (amounts will not be stated).

The competition for photos for the 2020 calendar ends on 30 June. This cut off date is necessary so that the winning photographs can be chosen and the calendars printed in time for us to get them on sale in early autumn before buyers have bought their calendars elsewhere. Remember to take your smartphones or cameras with you when you are out and about in the NWK area.

Please send photos by email to Tony Codling chairman@nwkfhs.org.uk and donations to Pat Gooding, Treasurer marked 'calendar sponsorship' - using the library address on the inside cover of the Journal.

Remember the closing date for photos and to be listed as a sponsor is 30 June 2019.

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Can you help?

There are several boxes of books at the library that need to be taken to branch meetings (any or all), offered for sale and returned to the library.

The boxes are full of books of interest to Family historians and are all recent donations and duplicates of books in the Society library.

All funds raised support the Society.

Talk to David Cufley, Janet Rose (phone 01322 384836) or library@nwkfhs.org.uk

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<https://www.stmarysatcray.org.uk/>

St. Mary's Church Open House

St Mary's Church, St Mary Cray will be opening its doors again this summer from 10:00 until 16:00 on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month from April until September.

We are only doing the two Wednesdays a month due to the difficulty of finding the necessary stewards.

For those of you who have a particular interest in the Family History of the church and its Parish Registers, I will be present on the afternoons of the 1st Wednesday and will be only too pleased to help.

If you require particular information please contact me in advance so I can prepare for your visit.

Tony Lathey (tonylathey@gmail.com)

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National Family History Shows within travelling distance from North West Kent

Family Tree Live at Alexandra Palace 26 - 27 April

<https://www.family-tree.co.uk/ftre/show/family-tree-live/book-now>

£12 in advance, £14 on the door

Lectures and talks have been announced but I notice you have to pre-book a seat at them

The Federation of Family History Societies is a partner and sponsor of this event

The Family History Show London at Sandown Park 24 August

<https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/london/>

£6.50 in advance or 2 for £8 in advance, £8 each on the day

Very affordable, I went last year and especially enjoyed the talks by Dick Eastman and Jayne Shrimpton. 2019 speaker programme not yet announced. I am a bit worried that it is on a bank holiday weekend when trains are famously subject to engineering work.

Roots Tech London 2019 at the Excel Centre 24 - 26 October

<https://www.rootstech.org/london>

Roots Tech is on right now in Salt Lake City and in 2019 is coming to London for the first time (despite Brexit!!)

Registration opened today and 3-day passes are reduced to £89 for a very short while til 2 March. One-day passes are £49.

But I cannot see an actual speaker programme showing times and date (although there is a list of the most well-known speakers).

I have asked the organisers for this info as I think a lot of people will want to know this before deciding how many days to attend (and therefore whether to opt for the 3-day pass). When I find out I will post on the Society Facebook

page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/767236786758351/> but I fear that the actual programme has not been finalised or surely it would be on the website.

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Women of Medway
The infamous, the feted and the forgotten

Come and celebrate the lives of local women for
International Women's Day at the
Medway Archives Centre
Saturday 9th March 2019 11am to 3pm

Medway Archives Centre, 32 Bryant Road, Strood.
www.medway.gov.uk/archives
Phone: 01634 332714

f Medway Archives and Local Studies

ME2 3EP
Medway
Serving You

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<https://livesofthefirstworldwar.org/>

Each and every one of the 8 million who served during WW1 **deserves to be remembered**. Help ensure that they are not forgotten and that their stories are properly told and saved for future generations.

Join Imperial War Museums and help tell these Life Stories by adding your images, sharing their stories, find their records and adding known facts. Share your stories by 18 March 2019.

D-Day veterans encouraged to fill last places on historic 75th anniversary voyage

6 June 2019 marks the 75th anniversary of The D-Day Landings – one of the most remarkable Allied wartime operations.

The Royal British Legion is working with the UK Government and other stakeholders to plan significant commemorations to mark D-Day 75, both in Normandy and across the United Kingdom.

We're excited to announce that The Royal British Legion, in partnership with Arena Travel, have chartered a ship, the [MV Boudicca](#), to provide a fully funded tour for 300 D-Day Veterans. Each veteran is able to bring one carer who will also be fully funded.

Priority will be given to veterans who participated in the D-Day Landings, with the remaining spaces allocated to Normandy Veterans via a ballot.

To apply for a place on the MV Boudicca, please download and return the following three forms by **Monday 4 March 2019**

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/community/d-day-75/>

Editor's note: I often get asked to publicise family history fairs, new books on genealogy and small genealogy businesses. I use my discretion in including ones which are local to our area or which I think may interest readers. It does not mean that I or NWKFHS has any personal knowledge, or makes any recommendation, about the event or business.

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 I am a volunteer creating this e-newsletter in my 'spare time' but, 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

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