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Today's photo was sent in by Jean Harding and she tells me "It is a VE Day Party which took place shortly after the end of WW2 held in Orpington. The area was known as the Mount and today it is the site of Perry Hall Junior School. Included in the photograph are my husband and his parents and I suspect quite a few faces that would be recognised.

My husband is David Harding born 19/2/1939 and his parents were Ernest Harding born 4/06/1907 and Violet Lee born 28/05/1912."

Welcome to the mid 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

for a whole year for £10 instead.

<https://www.nwkhfs.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@nwkhfs.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.nwkhfs.org.uk/shop/nwkhfs-shop/membership/individual-membership-renewal>

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)

FINAL CALL for 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 by Friday 29 March latest and please enter Dartford Walk 2019 in the email subject box. You can bring a friend. Payment is cash on the day, £10 per person 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 newsletters@nwkfhs.org.uk address using Woolwich Walk as the subject. If I get a reasonable response I will see what I can

do for September/October 2019.

**April 6 - Saturday 10.30am - Speaker at Dartford
Talk preceded by Branch Annual Meeting
Guest Speaker Claire Weiss**

Zoe Hart Dyke and the Leyton Silk Road

Claire Weiss talks about the remarkable life of silk maker Zoe Hart Dyke who was born in Leyton.

Although now closed, Lullingstone Silk Farm was established by Lady Zoe Hart Dyke, in the early 1930s and was the country's first such farm. A childhood passion became a flourishing business, producing silk for the late Queen Mother's coronation robes in 1937, for the Queen's wedding dress in 1947 (using silkworms from China - as it was thought unpatriotic to use 'enemy' Italian silkworms, so soon after WW2),

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.

Wednesday April 10 - 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.

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

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

Don't forget that there will be stalls selling a variety of Family History / History goods.

These will include archival quality storage, postcards and books including duplicate books from our own library. For the latter, all proceeds will go back into the Society coffers. So, don't forget to bring plenty of cash and change!

THERE WILL BE NO SEVENOAKS EVENING MEETING TODAY.

April 13 Saturday 10.30am - Speaker at Bromley on

Travelling on the Victorian Railways

Guest speaker Dr David Turner

The railway was one of the main modes of long distance travel for Victorian Britons, and its processes - checking the timetable, buying a ticket, taking a seat

- were central to both the industry and leisure of the period.

Dr David Turner tells the story of travelling by rail after 1830 to the turn of the century and the development of stations, passenger carriages, waiting rooms and tickets; less familiar phenomena such as smoking and 'ladies only' compartments, and excursion trains; and the danger of accidents.

This introduction to the Victorian railways shows the face of an era reflected in its new method of travel, and will allow the reader to note fascinating similarities between travel in that period and our own.

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

April 17 - Wednesday 10.30am - 12.30 Workshop at the Library
Illegitimacy

Led by Mari Alderman

Illegitimacy is a frequent stumbling block when researching your family

and how such children were treated; touching on Poor Law, workhouses, orphans, fostering and adoption.

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.

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>

Interested in the MATSON family of East Kent?

<http://acms.sl.nsw.gov.au/transcript/2014/D32715/a1453.pdf>

I googled an ancestor's name and this amazing piece of research was displayed as one of the results. Sadly the connection proved not to be my ancestor, but I thought you might be interested in taking a look.

It's a document of over 300 pages (!) but page 290 onwards is a list of names in surname order. One of your ancestral surnames may be listed because he or she married into the MATSON family. Why not take a look? The document is fully searchable for names, place-names etc.

Calling Calendar Girls (and Boys) 2020 NWKFHS

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

Weald and Downland Living Museum Family History Days

The next family history events are:-

15 April 2019 The Kevin Bacon Family History Laboratory 6.30pm - 8pm

An interactive experiment to make family history links between members and to verify if the 'six degrees of separation' has any relationship to Family History Research.

It will explore the connections members have to each other and how they may be related by genes, place or event.

The laboratory may stimulate members research and breakdown those brick walls to that elusive ancestor.

Serendipity and Kismet are important research tools of family historians and are little used and explored, this laboratory will try to highlight their use.

Speaker David Cufley

<https://www.wealddown.co.uk/courses/kevin-bacon-family-history-laboratory/>

Saturday 11 May 2019 Family History: Trades and Occupation research day 10am - 4pm

During the day we will explore methods used for the selected trades that can be applied to other trades of your ancestors.

- a. Brickmakers and other trades on the brickfields. Including walk around the pugmill and Drying shed at the museum to discuss how bricks are made. This talk will explain and discuss brickmaking. Mainly in the 19th century, and how the workforce acts as teams, their wages and social conditions.
- b.
- b. Trade sources. Methods to research trades using examples for

will be available on the day.]

c. Ratcatchers. More than vermin destroyers ... 19th century ratcatchers and their trade, earnings, methods of trapping and the use of the rats.

d. Calico printers and printing. The trade and migration patterns around the Greater London areas. Location of the trade around London prior to 1840s. Method of printing, the location of the trade and how the workers moved from some centres to others.

Timetable:

10am – 10.45 talk (a) then Q & A followed by coffee and comfort break then walk around pugmill and drying shed.

11.30 – 12.30 talk (b) then Q & A.

Lunch 1 hour.

13.30 – 14.30 talk (c) and Q & A followed by tea and comfort break.

15.00 – 16.00 talk (d) and Q & A.

Tutor David Cufley

<https://www.wealddown.co.uk/courses/family-history-trades-and-occupation-research-for-family-historians/>

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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 to 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)

The Second Net Exhibition of Volunteer Groups

Tuesday 16th April, 2019, 12 noon to 5pm

Fulston Manor School, Brenchley Road, Sittingbourne, ME10 4EC

An opportunity to showcase your Club, Society or Charity face to face.

Meet many others running a wide variety of local charities and voluntary groups

Recruit new members or volunteers for your club or society

An opportunity for charities and voluntary groups of all kinds – social, self-help, sports, music, etc. – to promote what they do, sign up new members or volunteers and to forge new relationships with other like-minded people. There were 35 very varied organisations at our first exhibition in Chatham last October including Kent Wildlife Trust, Air Ambulance, British Legion, Tools with a Mission, Rotary, Lions, Diagrama, Medway Caledonian Association and Lordswood WI. Their feedback after the event was very positive with almost everybody making useful contacts on the day.

Could you represent the Society at this event? If so please contact events@nwkfhs.org.uk

Stop Press : News Just In

Do you have the luck of the Irish? [Search our Irish records for free today](#) to see if you have Irish roots.

Free access to all Irish Records until 20 March 2019.

Enjoy your search and share this news and your discoveries with the world.

Happy St. Patrick's Day,

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

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