



**Welcome to the 1 September 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.**

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#### **Today's Photo**

Nobody has sent me anything this time so I have had to fall back on one of my own photos. This is my father Gordon Dennis GRATWICK as a young man. Born 27 November 1927 (died 1 December 2008), Dad was too young to serve in the armed forces in WW2, but of course he did do National Service and told me he was a nurse in the navy.

That is as much as I knew until last year, because of course when he spoke about it I was much younger and not interested in knowing more - although I can recall dad (who smoked roll your own Old Holborn tobacco all his life until giving up due to throat cancer in about 1992) saying in those days they believed that smoking was a good thing as it killed cold germs.

The interesting thing about this photo is that until last year I had never seen it or any photo of my father as a young man. I was given this by my cousin Chrissy. And the interesting thing about that is - until I started researching family history I did not even know I had a first cousin called Chrissy and we only met in 2018 for the second time. The first time was in 1973 in Bromley and I only knew about it last year when I met Chrissy (for what I thought was the first time) and she told me that she saw me in the Nat West Bank where I was a cashier (and she had popped in to cash a cheque - no ATMs in those days) but she was so surprised she did not make herself known to me. She is 5 years older than me.

So how did I find Chrissy once I knew she existed? Good old Facebook. Don't overlook these modern ways of researching. Chrissy has been a great source of photos and family info and I have also been able to share some of mine with her. We've also been able to fill in gaps in our knowledge.

Moving on, I was idly googling and browsing and I came upon this site by complete chance.



<http://www.hmsbarfleur.co.uk/ratings.htm>

Look to see if any of your ancestors are listed.

**Gratwick, G., A/B., 639 Mitcham Road, Croydon, Surrey** is one of the ratings who joined on 2 February 1946.

Is this my dad Gordon Dennis Gratwick? Gratwick is a fairly unusual surname but I didn't know Dad ever lived in Croydon, I thought he was born and brought up in Bromley.

Or could it even be his dad, Gilbert Jesse Gratwick (1901 - 1973) this is Gilbert in uniform (another photo I only have due to Chrissy).

***If you know of any free websites that are name-rich and useful but might not be well known, please pass them on to me for publication***

***here. [emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk)***

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*I (Stella Eames) welcome photos of people or places (specially historical or family history) in the North West Kent area with a story about them as I like to start each newsletter with a photo and story. Please email me at [emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto: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.*

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**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](#)

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**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.** *Visitors are welcome and are invited to make a contribution towards costs of hall hire and the speaker. Returning visitors are invited to join the Society only £10 a year or £12 total for two members at the same address.*

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/about/our-membership>

**The 2-hour workshops** are limited to 10 members and are very popular. Even if full, 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 until about March 2020. 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 until 31 December 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](mailto: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 free 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.

We welcome all new members whether experienced at family history or novices. Our library volunteers can help you get started or possibly overcome a brick wall. Come to the library on a Wednesday between 10am Aand 4pm, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joyden's Wood, DA5 2EE. You can join the Society at the library.

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**Saturday 7 September Speaker at Dartford 10.30am**  
**Guest speaker Fred Lemont will talk about Cadbury, Fry and Rowntree; the Chocolate Quakers**

Members of the Society of Friends (Quakers) created a great many of our best known Manufacturing Companies and Banks. The presentation will look at why such a small section of the population helped transform Britain into an industrial nation, focusing particularly on the creation of the Chocolate Industry.

All three companies were dedicated to the welfare of their workers.

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.

Visitors are welcome and are invited to make a donation towards the hall and speaker costs. Returning visitors attending more than one meeting are asked to join the Society (£10 per calendar year).

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.*

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**Wednesday 11 September 10.30am - 12.30 Computing Group at the Library**  
**Self help with input from library experts.**

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk)  
*There is no charge for workshops but they are only open to Society members. Attendees are invited to make a contribution, suggested £5, towards costs.*

Held at the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE

Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

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**Thursday 12 September Speaker at Sevenoaks 8pm**  
**Speaker Gillian Halcrow will talk about Churchill's Secret Army - the SOE, Special Operations Executive**

(a change from our previously advertised meeting)

The SOE's task was to carry out sabotage behind enemy lines, and organise the resistance in occupied countries and, as Churchill ordered, to 'Set Europe Ablaze'. This is a fascinating account of the training and preparation the agents underwent and also stories of a few of the missions, some of which achieved amazing success, whilst other agents were betrayed.

Gillian will capture your interest from the start and, over the course of the talk, will move you both to laughter and to tears.

The life expectancy of an SOE wireless operator in occupied France during this period was just six weeks. The agents came from many different walks of life, including a former chef, an electrician and a daughter of a Brixton motor car dealer.

Doors open 7.30pm meeting starts 8pm. The new venue, Main Hall, Otford Village Memorial Hall, 28a High Street Otford TN14 5PQ is adjacent to a car park which is free after 6.30pm.

Visitors are welcome and are invited to make a donation towards the hall and speaker costs. Returning visitors attending more than one meeting are asked to join the Society (£10 per calendar year)

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**Wednesday 18 September 10.30am - 12.30 Workshop at the Library**  
**How to use the Discovery Catalogue on The National Archives Website**  
**effectively**  
**led by Joyce Hoad**

Discovery holds more than 32 million descriptions of records held by The National Archives and more than 2,500 archives across the country. Over 9 million records are available for download.

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

Are you 'new to Kew' or just looking for more help? Joyce will show you how to get the most out of this online database.

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk)  
*There is no charge for workshops but they are only open to Society members. Attendees are invited to make a contribution, suggested £5, towards costs.*

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

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**Friday 20 September 2pm - 4pm DNA Group at the Library**

Meets every third Friday of the month. Self help.

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk)  
*There is no charge for workshops but they are only open to Society members. Attendees are invited to make a contribution, suggested £5, towards costs.*

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

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**Wednesday 25 September 10.30am - 12.30 Workshop at the Library**  
**Genealogical Proof Standard led by Ellen Shelly**

What do you know about Genealogical Proof Standard and how do you use it to ensure the integrity of your research? These are questions which often face family historians. Ellen will guide you through the minefield.

AGRA Associate and holder of the University of Strathclyde Post Graduate Certificate in Genealogical, Palaeographic and Heraldic Studies and the Diploma in Local History from the University of Oxford, Ellen is also a volunteer with NWKFHS as well as running her own business.

<https://www.shellyancestry.co.uk/>

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk)  
*There is no charge for workshops but they are only open to Society members. Attendees are invited to make a contribution, suggested £5, towards costs.*

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

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**Saturday 28 September Speaker at Bromley 10.30am**

**Derek Morris will talk about London's Sailortown 1600 - 1800**

Derek discovered many years ago that the great explorer and navigator, Captain James Cook, lived in the East London hamlet of Mile End Old Town from 1765 until his murder in 1779 in Hawaii, and that Derek's family lived nearby.

This discovery has led to twenty years of very deep research into the archives of London and has led to four well-regarded books, dozens of articles and talks, and a willingness to lead walks around London's Sailortown and adjoining areas.

The result has been to greatly widen our knowledge of the merchants and mariners, who lived in the area, and their world-wide trading connections, and challenged many well-established stereotypes of these east London parishes in the 18th century.

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.

Visitors are welcome and are invited to make a donation towards the hall and speaker costs. Returning visitors attending more than one meeting are asked to join the Society (£10 per calendar year)

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**Friday 4 October 2.00pm - 4.00pm Writing Group at the Library**  
**Led by Nigel Durrant**

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk)

*There is no charge for workshops but they are only open to Society members. Attendees are invited to make a contribution, suggested £5, towards costs.*

Held at the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE

Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

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**Saturday 5 October Speaker at Dartford 10.30am**

**Guest speaker Ian Waller will talk about Gondolas and Growlers: how the hansom cab affected the lives of every Londoner**

The London cabbie was an anonymous character. This talk looks at how the industry grew and declined and how the Hansom Cab affected the lives of every Londoner.

Prior to retirement Ian was a professional genealogist with over 30 years experience. He is currently Chairman of AGRA (The Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives) the body which represents professional genealogists throughout England and Wales.

He is a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists and has published several books in the Society's "My Ancestor" series including *My Ancestor was an Agricultural Labourer*, *My Ancestor was a Mormon*, *My Ancestor was in the Royal Navy* and *My Ancestor was a Leather Worker*.

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.

Visitors are welcome and are invited to make a donation towards the hall and speaker costs. Returning visitors attending more than one meeting are asked to join the Society (£10 per calendar year).

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.

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**Wednesday 9 October 10.30am - 12.30 Computing Group at the Library  
Self help with input from library experts.**

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk)  
*There is no charge for workshops but they are only open to Society members. Attendees are invited to make a contribution, suggested £5, towards costs.*

Held at the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE

Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

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**Thursday 10 October Speaker at Sevenoaks 8pm  
Speaker Christoph Bull will talk about Dickens in Kent**

Christoph is a local historian, speaker, guide, author and Librarian of over 35 years experience who has entertained NWKFHS audiences many times. He makes a welcome return to give us this illustrated talk.

Doors open 7.30pm meeting starts 8pm. The new venue, Main Hall, Otford Village Memorial Hall, 28a High Street Otford TN14 5PQ is adjacent to a car park which is free after 6.30pm.

Visitors are welcome and are invited to make a donation towards the hall and speaker costs. Returning visitors attending more than one meeting are asked to join the Society (£10 per calendar year)

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*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.*

***For NWKFHS events further ahead just look at the website, events are listed til March 2020.***

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

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

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**Another interesting but maybe little-known name-rich website**  
**Oldest People in Britain**

<http://oldestinbritain.nfshost.com/index.php>

Several lists, easily word-searched by surname or place. Are any of your ancestors listed, or anyone with a surname you are researching?

There are various possible lists to browse or search eg 107 years old and over or 'supercentenarians' who lived to over 110.

The oldest living person in the UK, Gwen Payne, lives in Sevenoaks, (within the North West Kent area.)

Dorothy Gwendoline "Gwen" Payne (née ATTENBOROUGH, born 5 August 1907) from Sevenoaks, Kent is an English supercentenarian. At the age of 111, Gwen is the oldest living person in the United Kingdom following the death of 112-year-old Grace Jones on 7 June 2019.

She was born in Bromley, and was the oldest of three children born to Ralph Ernest Attenborough (1881-1965) and Dorothy Frances WILLIAMS (1883-1971). She married John Laurence Payne (1913-1961) in 1939, and has two sons.

Makes my Great Aunt Alice PULHAM (January 1909 - February 2011) who lived to 102 (father's side) and my maternal Grandmother Mildred Edith Elizabeth COLES nee SAYLE (August 1909 - February 2011) who lived to 101, mere youngsters.



Alice on her 100th birthday January 2009



Mildred on her 100th birthday August 2009

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**Pearce family from Marden, Kent**

Dorothy Pearce nee Bradley would like to be contacted by anyone researching this family, mainly from Marden, as she has some information to share. [dorothy.bradley@btinternet.com](mailto:dorothy.bradley@btinternet.com)

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*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.*

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*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.*

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*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.*

Stella Eames, Editor

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

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