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Welcome to the 1 April 2021 email newsletter. Today's headline photo is the 1926 wedding, in Dartford, of Maud Alice GRADWICK (born 1901) and John (Jack) HUNT (born 1899).

Maud is my 2nd cousin twice removed, and her grandson David had posted this photo on a Facebook Group called *Dartford Then and Dartford Now*. I was not a member of that FB Group but Society Member Hilary Waters is and alerted me.

Although the surname is one letter different to my maiden name Gratwick, I already knew that, back in 1821, John Gratwick born 1791 in Lingfield, and his wife Mary nee Jones, a Sutton at Hone girl, had somehow registered their oldest son William with the surname Gradwick. Not unusual at a time when parish clerks wrote what they thought they had heard. For that branch, the surname had continued down the generations as Gradwick.

I immediately joined the FB group myself and contacted David (my 4th cousin) and we've since exchanged many emails and swapped more photos.

Thank you Hilary!

Why not post a 'vintage' photo on a Facebook group for the relevant locality, remembering

to state the full names and dates of birth of the parties, and see if anyone else researching the same names contacts you?

North West Kent FHS has it's own FB group and this is the link if you would like to join: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/767236786758351>

The Society needs you

You have seen that before but fulfilling the need is proving challenging, especially when the Society is unable to have face to face contact with members.

We do need more people to get involved with running the Society and the services it provides. Join the 100+ volunteers who already get job satisfaction and enjoy camaraderie by meeting other helpers whilst providing a service to fellow family history researchers.

All sorts of existing skills can be used, for example, there is a pressing need for someone to take on the crucial role of Treasurer. Could you do that? Or why not think round the folk you know and talk to them? All we need is for them to talk to Tony our chairman, and tell him what sort of skills they have.

Do you know someone who just needs a nudge... perhaps someone who has just retired or stopped commuting .. or you may fancy a change ...

Contact Tony Codling at chairman@nwkfhs.org.uk

ZOOM Talks

Zoom Talks are free and open to all. They cannot be booked but please log on via the link in good time.

All times given are UK time.

(NWKFHS members who missed a talk, perhaps because you are not in our timezone, note that some speakers have allowed their talks to be recorded -

<https://nwkfhs.org.uk/resources/all-other/zoom-talk-videos> note this link only works for paid up members logged into the website).

Saturday 3 April 10am for 10.30 - Francine Payne 'Dartford Hospitals during WW1'

Francine says: *I have always been interested in history and my interest in the hospitals came when I was working in the library at Joyce Green; the hospital was due to close and there was a huge amount of archive material collected by Dr John Burne.*

As I sorted through the collection I made notes, took a few photocopies and eventually had enough material to write my first book 'A History of the Darent Hospitals' which covers the smallpox camps, the Southern, Darent Park and the Mabledon. I then wrote 'Joyce Green and the River Hospitals', covering the hospital ships, Long Reach, the Orchard and Joyce Green.

'Stone House: the City of London Asylum' was written after the Trust contacted me and asked me to write their history. All three books are available on Amazon.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82765793790?pwd=VjJjNnRZaFNueVdlcVE4TXpyQjNYZz09>

Meeting ID: 827 6579 3790 Passcode: 762980

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Tuesday 13 April 7.00 for 7.30pm - Melanie Gibson Barton "Elizabeth Barton of Aldington"

Elizabeth Barton (1506 - 1534) is the Prophetess who was executed for speaking against Henry VIII.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83353682747?pwd=QXpNeVRWVGVBbTZ3VFRMUXV3aVFadz09>

Meeting ID: 833 5368 2747 Passcode: 090034

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**Saturday 1 May 10am for 10.30 - 12 midday including time for questions:
Donna Rutherford (Part 1)- 'DNA for beginners'**

(Part 2 'Making the most of your results' will be 17 June 7.30pm)

We are delighted that we have been able to book the well known DNA expert
Donna Rutherford.

Have you ever wondered how having a DNA test could help your family history research?

Before spending any money, do you want to know more about the three types of test (autosomal, mitochondrial and Y) and which type or types is more likely to give you the results you are looking for?

What are the pros and cons of the different commercial companies which offer DNA tests?

And what happens after you've posted the testing kit back to the company?

Or maybe you know most of this but would like a refresher.

Then this talk is for you. Book your diary now for this and Donna's follow up talk on 17 June at 7.30pm.

The Zoom code for this and other talks further ahead will be published on the website nearer the date.

ZOOM Workshops

Zoom Workshops (including Discussion Groups and Writing Groups) have a maximum number to allow all attendees to participate, and are restricted to paid up North West Kent FHS members only. Workshops last for 2 hours.

If any Society members missed a workshop which they would have liked to attend, or it filled up, see here for videos of some past workshops: <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/workshops/past-zoom-workshop-videos>

Note the above link will only work for Society members logged into the website.

April Workshops - for Society members only, and must be booked; numbers are limited to allow all attendees to participate

7 April Carolyn's Discussion Group 10am - 12pm. - Migration in our families (A change to the previously advertised topic which will be held later in the year).

14 April Workshop 10.30am - 12pm Breaking Down Brickwalls Led by David Cufley
Anyone wishing to attend please can you submit your 'brickwall' by 1st April to allow sufficient time for the queries to be looked at. Please provide a name/topic and some background information.

21 April Discussion Group 2.30pm - 3.30 One Name Study and Record Keeping Led by David

Cufley

28 April Workshop 7.30pm - 9.30 How to use Excel to enter and manage data. Led by David Cufley

Contact workshop coordinator Pam Goddard for the link / code to enable you to attend any of the above Workshops and Discussion

Groups. workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk

Pam would like to hear from you if you have topic requests for workshops or want to suggest different dates or times.

See <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings#year=2021&month=1&day=5&view=month> **for topics and dates / times of Workshops and Talks further ahead.**

The Really Useful Show 10 April 10am - 6pm

North West Kent FHS and many other FH Societies will have a rota of volunteers on hand throughout the day to answer questions coming in from visitors to the show around the country and abroad. There is also a full roster of speakers and talks will remain available for 7 days.

Over 1.500 tickets already sold.

<https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/>

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Lesser known websites

Many of us have ancestors located all over the UK and abroad, not just North West Kent. So I thought I would mention some websites outside our area where there is a lot of free information to be gleaned. Today's list comprises data for Scotland, the Isle of Man and the East Riding of Yorkshire.

If you know of any useful free sites which are not generally known, please do send them to me for publication in future newsletters.

<https://www.scottishindexes.com/>

A lot of info is available freely by searching. If you have any Scottish ancestors search using their names and if there are any results you can click on 'Full Record' for more info.

<http://www.eastridingarchives.co.uk/WW1Lives>

Many thanks to Society member Jean Allen who told me about this site which contains over 1,000 biographies.

The First World War Lives project tells the previously untold stories of East Riding service personnel involved in the First World War. Since the project's launch in 2014, on the centenary of the outbreak of the War, a team of volunteers have researched the lives of over 1,100 individuals whose photographs were published in the Green's Beverley Almanac and Beverley Guardian newspaper. These photographs show individuals of all ranks and walks of life, most of whom we previously knew little about other than their names and faces.

Developed by our volunteers, this exhibition highlights the stories of a selection of lives looking at various topics relating to the First World War:

Looking myself, I could not see how to search for names. But you can easily download a PDF or Excel spreadsheet of the names and search that.

http://www.mathjim.ca/IOM1/Wills.html?fbclid=IwAR2IsODAkj_8dRaULRxfMuhriWezAe3aYrLYhl1myq5N7TmuYGRjXorU71Y

As we know, Wills can contain vast amounts of family information, often specifying sons and daughters and other relatives. And what a joy that these Isle of Man Wills have all been transcribed!

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Kent Libraries in lockdown

Member Richard Anthony advises that: because people have not been using the library to borrow books etc then the library cards get locked due to inactivity.

If people find they can't do the online access they need to get Kent Libraries to revalidate their card and a new PIN will be issued. Librariesinformationservices@kent.gov.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. with your contributions. Any photos must be your own copyright.

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

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.

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.

Stella Eames, Editor

emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk

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North West Kent Family History Society
Society Library 80 Summerhouse Drive
Bexley Kent DA5 2EE

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