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Welcome to the mid December enews.

As we approach our 2nd Covid dominated Christmas I hope you are looking forward in good health and an optimistic spirit. Best of luck with keeping to your New Year Resolutions.

I will take a short break and the next enews will be January 2022.



Good news - the library at Joyden's Wood has re-opened for members to do their research on Wednesdays. At present it is open and staffed by library volunteers from midday to 4pm.

Our Society Librarian, Janet, asks those who want to come to book a time slot to prevent overcrowding. Janet's phone number is 01322 384836. Janet has told me that most people come about midday and stay til 3.30pm or so. At the moment there is plenty of space for everyone who has booked.

There are three PCs for research; or you can use your own device but if using your own device you need to join Kent Libraries to be able to log in to the library edition of Ancestry, FindmyPast and other resources.

Library at: 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Kent DA5 2EE

Parking in nearby roads.

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Talks are now either in person at our Dartford and Sevenoaks venues or by Zoom. The combined details of Zoom and in person talks are in one chronological list below.

The description for each event states clearly whether it is via Zoom or an in person talk.

Currently all Workshops remain Zoom.

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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 and recorded talks are saved here - <https://nwkfhs.org.uk/resources/all-other/zoom-talk-videos> note this link only works for paid up members logged into the website. Sometimes speakers have given permission for their talks only to be recorded for a specified amount of time, so members please do check the link.

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**Saturday 8 January Doors Open 9.45am meeting starts at 10.30am at Dartford Branch.
Location: Dartford Science and Technology College, Heath Lane, Dartford Kent DA1 2LY**

Guest speakers Pam and Mark Bathurst of the Medway Queen Preservation Society will talk about *The Heroine of Dunkirk: the Paddle Steamer Medway Queen*

The Medway Queen paddle steamer, built in 1924, originally took holidaymakers on trips around Kent before being commissioned by the Navy, in 1939. The boat became known as the Heroine of Dunkirk in 1940, after helping to evacuate British troops from Normandy.

For more information about the *Medway Queen* click [here](#).

The meeting will be led by Janet Rose.

Free to NWKFHS members; non members are asked to make a donation towards costs of hall hire and speaker.

There is a large, free car park but it is shared with other users and can be busy at times.

No booking, just turn up.

Please wear a mask inside the building unless you are exempt.

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(There will be no meeting of Sevenoaks Branch in January).

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Zoom Talk Thursday 20 January log in from 7pm for 7:30 start

Speaker Sue Gibbons will talk about: "Conserving your family archive"

This Zoom talk will be hosted by: Pam Goddard.

Sue Gibbons will cover:- General principles for keeping things safe and in good condition. Detailed advice on caring for and storing documents, photographs and many other items.

Suggestions for preserving your heritage as a book or a website and making plans as to what will happen to it all after your death plus some trustworthy sources for further help and advice.

The meeting will be recorded and may be available for members to view on the website for one month. Please check website for updates.

The *Zoom* host will admit participants up to 30 minutes before the start so they may chat among themselves until the start time.

Zoom etiquette means that once the talk commences and until questions at the end, you should mute and un-video yourself to ensure all participants are able to concentrate on the speaker.

It's free to members and non members alike and there is no pre booking.

The *Zoom* link will be put on the website www.nwkhfs.org.uk nearer the date.

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Zoom Talk Thursday 27 January log in from 7pm for 7:30 start

Speaker Myko Clelland will introduce the 1921 Census of England and Wales.

The 1921 Census of England and Wales is here. Join Findmypast for an unmissable exploration of the biggest new arrival in family history. After years spent digitising and transcribing this unique snapshot of our recent history, discover the stories and secrets contained within. Along with the historical context, tips for effective searching and using it to trace elusive relatives, we'll learn how the 1921 Census will help you understand your ancestors' lives better. And your own.

Myko Clelland, Regional Licensing and Outreach Manager, talks about the 1921 England and Wales census, due to be published by Find My Past www.findmypast.co.uk on 6 January 2022. This census was taken between two world wars, during a period of economic turmoil and at a time when women had just won the right to vote, the 1921 Census should provide some fascinating insights about society and how it has evolved over the past 100 years.

A recording of the meeting will be made available on the website for members only at a later date.

The *Zoom* link will be published on the website www.nwkhfs.org.uk nearer the date.

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ZOOM Workshops, Special Interest and Discussion groups

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://nwkhfs.org.uk/events/workshops/past-zoom-workshop-videos>

Please note that booking is essential.

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

December

22nd 10.30am DNA Discussion Group Laura Lincoln.

January 2022

5th Errors, Lies and Misinformation David Cufley 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Capacity: 25 participants

A workshop discussing errors in official records and commercial search engines and how to try and spot them. Case studies will be used as part of the discussions.

Do you believe what your ancestors told officials and their families?

Do you believe what other researchers tell you, how good is their research?

Are transcriptions accurate and do the indexes reflect the original documents?

Mark Twain said if you don't read the newspaper, you're uninformed. If you read the newspaper you're misinformed. You could apply this to family history documents. This workshop will give you the tools to avoid researching someone else's family as yours.

12th Scottish Interest Group Carolyn Barclay & Pam Goddard 10.30am-12.30pm

Capacity: 15 participants

The group will discuss the Highland Clearances and the impact they had on the lives of our ancestors.

19th DNA Discussion Group Laura Lincoln 10.30am-12.30pm

26th Breaking Down Brickwalls David Cufley 7.30pm-9.30

Anyone wishing to attend, please email your, 'brickwall' by the 12th January to allow sufficient time for queries to be looked at. Please provide a name/topic and some background information.

February

2nd Medieval Records Part 1 David Cufley 7.30pm

9th Discussion Group Carolyn Barclay 10.00am

16th Powerpoint presentations David Cufley 7.30pm

23rd DNA Discussion Group Laura Lincoln 10.30am

Many, many thanks to workshop coordinator Carolyn Sekulowicz-Barclay (taking over from Pam Goddard) for arranging our exciting programme of workshops, and to the workshop leaders.

Society members please email Carolyn for the link / code to enable you to attend any of the above Workshops and Discussion Groups. workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk

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

If you participate in a workshop, please consider making a donation to the Society through our eshop <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services> and scroll down for 'Society Donation'.

See <https://nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings> for topics and dates / times of Workshops and Talks further ahead.

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Society Membership and Renewal still only £10



Why not buy someone membership as a Christmas present? It's only £10 and members get four journals a year, full of interesting information; and access to all the data in the Members Only Area of the website plus access to workshops.

Members, unless you pay by standing order, please think about your membership renewal which is due 1 January.

2021 has been an unusual year, but we hope you still felt your £10 subs was a bargain given our programme of talks and workshops, whether in person or *Zoom*, and our four quarterly journals.

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

(this enews is free to members and non members alike).

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Society Facebook Group

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

Why not join the Society Facebook Group? It's a great source of information between issues of enews. For example, this came in to my email on 2 December ie after the last enews had been issued and would have been out of date by this issue.

I received it from MyHeritage and posted it on FB the same day.

"Enjoy Free Access to our Huge City Directories Collection

We are pleased to offer free access for a limited time only to our huge collection of historical U.S. city directories. The collection includes 25,000 public U.S. city directories published between 1860 and 1960, with over 1.3 billion entries that have been consolidated into 561 million easily searchable records. These records will be available to search for free from December 2–7, 2021"

I just put in my study surname GRADWICK without using any of the many other filters because I expected very few results (there were 45). I did select 'match exactly'. Without 'match exactly' there were nearly 66,000 results.

I found it very easy to copy and paste my 45 exact results into a doc on my laptop. It was only necessary to copy three pages. It would be longer to copy the actual records which you'd have to do one by one.

Also, you need to create a free account with MyHeritage to view the records. But, overall, a load of free info which I wouldn't otherwise have had access to.

The 1921 census

Do make sure you log into Zoom to hear Myko Clelland's talk about the 1921 census on 27 January.

If you are fortunate enough to live in travelling distance of the three hubs you can access the census online free of charge.

The National Archives Advises:

We're excited to announce two regional hubs that will provide free online access to the 1921 Census of England and Wales from 6 January 2022.

The census will be available online via our commercial partner [Findmypast](#) and will be free to access in this way at [The National Archives](#), in Kew.

In addition, visitors to the [Manchester Central Library](#) and the [National Library of Wales](#) will also be able to access the 1921 Census via the Findmypast website for free next year.

Just wondering how busy these hubs will be on 6 January!

Easyfundraising

[Click here](#) to raise donations for North West Kent Family History Society whenever you shop online. Turn your everyday online shopping into FREE donations.

So far the Society has 40 easyfundraising supporters who have raised over £700.

I am one of them and, although the Society receives donations from retailers whenever I buy online or click and collect, it does not cost me any extra.

Look Behind You!!



I went to the PANTO in London yesterday and am pleased to report that the London Palladium was almost full (sorry Chris Whitty) - evidently those who booked weren't doomsters who later cancelled.

In the UK, the news is sadly full of the devastating impact of Omicron on hospitality, and some shows have cancelled performances.

I was reading recently that 100 years ago Pantomimes were already popular: Aladdin was showing at the London Hippodrome.

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Alan Godfrey Maps <https://alangodfreymaps.co.uk/se1.htm>

A member who uses Alan Godfrey maps has suggested I mention them here as new ones are due out for Bexley and Dartford at a very reasonable charge.

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Exhibition

Chatham Intra Photographers in the Victorian Era

An exhibition by Rikard Österlund

Free to attend



7 December 2021 – 26 February 2022

Medway Archives Centre
32 Bryant Road, Strood, ME2 3EP

phone 01634 332714
medway.gov.uk/archives



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 enews@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-news in my 'spare time' but, if you do notice any errors, please tell me, so that they are not carried forward to the next edition.

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 enews service, 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

enews@nwkfhs.org.uk

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