

Welcome to the 1 May enews



Some of you who are Society members and receive our Journal, might remember a couple of articles by Victor Nutt, currently our Chair, about an old family Bible he had bought and his efforts to find the family of the people whose births and deaths were listed in it. (*'The Brons, a Bergers and a Bible'* December 2016 and December 2017 Journals).

I enjoy investigating and problem solving and thought that one day I might make a similar purchase. But my research opportunity came via a rather different route.

In September 2018, I came home with some second hand books I'd bought, and as I took them out of my bag, I noticed four small, thin, lightweight aerogramme letters among the pages of one.

I glanced at them and noticed that they were written in the early / mid 1960s, from a lady in Australia to a friend of hers in Hove, Sussex England UK.

To my shame, I dismissed them as of little interest – because they were not that old – not Victorian, or written during the wars. I didn't throw them away though; I put them in a 'deal with later' family history folder. As you can imagine, that folder rather gathers documents than gets thinner. I don't think I ever completely forgot about the aerogrammes but didn't feel motivated to move them to the top of the pile either.

Then in September last year I came across them again and for the first time started to read one of them. The writer, whose sender's name was 'Mrs G Buckman', was telling a friend, Pearl, back in Hove how overjoyed she and her husband George were at the birth of their son R.....

There were some more clues: she mentioned their daughter D....., now 2, and that having been married 12 years before having D..... a second child was doubly precious. The writer's name looked like Eileen. (R and D are still alive so I am using only initials for them).

I wondered if George and Eileen had been Ten Pound Poms and had married in Hove before emigrating. If so, that would give me a line of enquiry. Looking for a George Buckman who had married an Eileen in Hove and using the approximate date of the marriage from the clues in the letter, I found on Freebmd.org.uk

Marriages Jun 1949

Buckman George A Simmons Hove
Simmons Eileen E Buckman Hove

That year fit the facts exactly.

Hoping to trace descendants who might wish to have the letters, I looked for Eileen and George on Ancestry trees. I needed Eileen's approximate year of birth – but I could calculate that - she was old enough to be married in 1949 but still of child bearing age in the early 1960s.

The first person I contacted, who responded immediately - a man in Scotland called John – said that George, Eileen, D and R were connected to his family although they had never met. He knew they were descendants of his grandmother's sister – and he also knew that the sister, his great aunt, had travelled to Australia once to visit her daughter's family. But that was all he knew – he could not help me to contact D or R.

The second person I contacted through Ancestry, who also responded by return, turned out to be D herself. The tree (with only 12 people on it!) was luckily not 'Private' but was in her initial plus married surname so I didn't know that she was 'my' D until she responded.

She told me a terribly sad story. Her and R's mother Eileen had died when D and R were aged 11 and 9. So they never knew her as adults. So it was very poignant and emotional for them to see scans of letters she wrote telling Pearl of her happiness in having her children. (Cue tears all round including mine).

Those aerogrammes had survived all this time and were evidently treasured and kept by Pearl - I suspect there were many more and they got dispersed when Pearl died and her belongings were disposed of.

They have now winged their way back to Australia and are in D's 'family treasure box' and have now also been read by Eileen and George's granddaughter.

In one of our email conversations, D had told me that she and R had nothing else in their mother's handwriting and only one photo of her. So, to touch and handle something she had written was very moving.

That set off a light bulb moment and I reconnected with John in Scotland.

I explained that I was now in touch with D and R and passed on the sad information that their mother Eileen had died when they were children, and that D had told me they only had one photo of her. As John had mentioned that his grandmother's sister had gone to Australia to visit it occurred to me that it would be very natural if she posted back some photos to her sister, John's grandmother - was it possible?

John's immediate response '*I inherited my grandparents' photo album, I will look at it tonight*'. (Wow!)

The very next day John emailed me the scans of several photos including Eileen for forwarding to D and R together with his email address in case they had any questions.

Little did I know that my research would be so meaningful for Eileen's children. There were a lot of chances involved in those letters - carefully saved in Hove for many decades - somehow ending up in a boot sale in Bromley.

And, finally, making their way back to Australia to become 'family treasure' - now that is something to celebrate.

.....
On 4th April, Kathy Chater gave the Dartford Branch a brilliant talk on Coroner's Inquests. After the meeting she issued a detailed handout which she agreed could be put on the website. See the link below.

<http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/resources/all-other/zoom-talk-videos>

Please note - you need to be a logged in Society member to access the link above.

.....

Help needed to publicise and market the Society

Mike Weeks is the Society's Publicity Officer but the team around him has dwindled of late, partly because team members have taken on other responsibilities. So the Publicity sub committee is in need of ideally another two members with fresh ideas to help publicise and market the Society.

- Who do you think we should be targeting membership at? The newly retired? Young people?
- Are you a member of other societies and can share ideas and experience?
- Want to share your thoughts on what we do or could be doing? Is there such a thing as too much publicity?
- Do you have ideas for posters, or a way with words for articles? We want your ideas for promoting family history and the Society.
- You can be anywhere in the world as committee meetings can be hybrid - a mix of *Zoom* and in person.

Please contact Mike Weeks if you have ideas or want to find out more on publicity@nwkfhs.org.uk

The Festival of Britain with Guest Speaker Alan Williams

Saturday 7 May; a Dartford Branch meeting

at Dartford Science and Technology College, Heath Lane, Dartford Kent DA1 2LY

Doors Open 9.45am meeting starts 10.30am and will end by 12.30pm



The **Festival of Britain** was a national exhibition and fair that reached millions of visitors throughout the United Kingdom in the summer of 1951.

The Festival was a triumphant success during which people flocked to the South Bank site, to wander around the Dome of Discovery, gaze at the Skylon, and generally enjoy a festival of national celebration.

The British public showed that it had not lost the capacity for enjoying itself.

Above all, the Festival made a spectacular setting as a showpiece for the inventiveness and genius of British scientists and technologists.

(Regrettably our original speaker, Nicola White, is unable to come. However, she has been rebooked for 1 October 2022 to talk to us about the magical pastime of mudlarking on the Thames shore and the fascinating historical objects she has found.)

The meeting will be led by Janet Rose.

The Society is a registered charity and membership fees and donations are an important part of our income. The Talk is free to members but guests and visitors are asked to make a donation towards hall hire and speaker's fee. There will be a donations box at the venue.

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.

.....
He's Cast A Shoe with Guest Speaker Alan Williams

Thursday 12 May; a Sevenoaks Branch Meeting
at Otford Village Memorial Hall, 28a High Street, Otford TN14 5PQ
Doors Open 7.15pm meeting starts 8.00pm and will finish by 9.30pm



The story of (probably) the most well known painting of Otford High Street, featuring the Forge in Victorian times..

Once owned by the Royal Family and painted by Otto Weber a favourite of Queen Victoria.

The Society is a registered charity and membership fees and donations are an important part of our income. The Talk is free to members but guests and visitors are asked to make a donation towards hall hire and speaker's fee. There will be a donations box at the venue.

No booking, just turn up. Free parking in the evenings at the adjacent large car park.

.....
A Prisoner of War - The case study of Private Mehmet Habi, Cyprus Regiment during WWII with Guest Speaker Philip Mills

Zoom Talk Saturday 14 May Log in from 10.am (and enjoy an informal chat between attendees) for 10.30am start of the talk.

Philip Mills describes the methods used to uncover the history of Mehmet Habi - who served in the Cyprus Regiment 1940 to 1946 - with virtually no starting information beyond a basic service record.

Philip's research uncovered Mehmet's remarkable activities including action under fire, capture, five escapes, a love story and two near-death experiences whilst a POW.

Zoom host: Victor Nutt

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

This talk will be recorded and placed on the Members Only Area of the website - probably within a few days afterwards.

If you listen to a talk, especially if you are a non-member of the Society, please consider making a donation to the Society through our eshop <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/shop/nwkhfs-shop/services/society-donation>

The Society is a registered charity and membership fees and donations are an important part of our income. Even though we don't need to hire a hall for our virtual talks, we pay the speaker and have bought Zoom licenses.

.....
Victorian London Street Life with Guest Speaker Delia Taylor

Saturday 4 June: a Dartford Branch meeting
at Dartford Science and Technology College, Heath Lane, Dartford Kent DA1 2LY
Doors Open 9.45am meeting starts 10.30am and will end by 12.30pm



This is a fascinating insight into how the poor people of London lived and survived in the late nineteenth century.

Covering: the fear of the Workhouse, including personal stories and details of popular foods and the plight of working children. We will follow them throughout a typical day, ending in a Music Hall.

All of Delia's talks are comprehensively illustrated with audio and visual clips.

The meeting will be led by Janet Rose.

The Society is a registered charity and membership fees and donations are an important part of our income. The Talk is free to members but guests and visitors are asked to make a donation towards hall hire and speaker's fee. There will be a donations box at the venue.

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.

.....

The Art of the Folly with Guest Speaker Russell Bowes

Thursday 9 June; a Sevenoaks Branch Meeting

at Otford Village Memorial Hall, 28a High Street, Otford TN14 5PQ

Doors Open 7.15pm meeting starts 8.00pm and will finish by 9.30pm

Starting with a look at what a folly actually *is* (and what it isn't), **The Art of the Folly** looks at weird, wonderful and (generally) unexplained garden buildings of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Many have entertaining stories behind their creation - find out how to out-do the Bishop of Salisbury, what happens when you put an advert in the paper for a hermit and how to produce a 50 foot pineapple.

Russell is a freelance garden historian and has been giving talks on the subject since 2000; and in 2003 he was awarded the University of London Diploma in Garden History.

The Society is a registered charity and membership fees and donations are an important part of our income. The Talk is free to members but guests and visitors are asked to make a donation towards hall hire and speaker's fee. There will be a donations box at the venue.

No booking, just turn up. Free parking in the evenings at the adjacent large car park.

.....

Catching up with FamilySearch with Guest Speaker Sharon Hintze

Zoom Talk Tuesday 21 June; Log in from 7pm (and enjoy an informal chat between attendees) until 7.30pm start of the talk.

Sharon Hintze will talk about how busy Family Search has been recently and has finished digitising its microfilm collection.

To find out what this and other developments mean to you, plan on attending this talk. A long to-do list will likely be the result (!).

<https://www.familysearch.org/>

Zoom host: Pat Gooding

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

This talk will be recorded and placed on the Members Only Area of the website for a period of one month - probably within a few days afterwards.

The Society is a charity and membership fees and donations are an important part of our income. So, if you are not a North West Kent FHS member, please consider making a donation via our [web shop](#) towards the cost of our Zoom licence.

.....
NWKFHS members who missed a ZOOM 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://nwkhfs.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.

.....
ZOOM Workshops, Special Interest and Discussion groups

Workshops (including Discussion Groups and Writing Groups) have a maximum number to allow all participants to be involved, **and are restricted to paid up North West Kent FHS members only**. They generally last for about 2 hours.

Please note that booking is essential.

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>

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

Face to Face workshops in the library are hoped to start again in October and details will be published nearer the time.

.....
4 May Workshop *Fluctuating Population Numbers* with David Cufley 2.30pm – 4.30

A workshop discussing the life span of ancestors at different historical times.

Capacity 15

Spaces are limited. Please reserve a place with workshop.booking@nwkhfs.org.uk including the event, title and date together with your name and membership number.

Workshop leaders freely give their time, but a donation via the web shop is appreciated. <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/shop/nwkhfs-shop/services/society-donation>

11 May *Discussion Group* with Carolyn Barclay 10.00am – 11.45am

How can we tell if our ancestors' lives were typical?

Capacity 12

Spaces are limited. Please reserve a place with workshop.booking@nwkhfs.org.uk including the event, title and date together with your name and membership number.

Workshop leaders freely give their time, but a donation via the web shop is appreciated. <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/shop/nwkhfs-shop/services/society-donation>

18 May *Writing Group* with Pauline Heathcote 10.30am – 12.30pm

(A decision will be made nearer the date whether this will be Zoom or in the Society Library at 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Kent DA5 2EE Participants will be informed nearer the date.)

Spaces are limited. Please reserve a place with workshop.booking@nwkhfs.org.uk including the event, title and date together with your name and membership number.

Workshop leaders freely give their time, but a donation via the web shop is appreciated. <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/shop/nwkhfs-shop/services/society-donation>

25 May *DNA Discussion Group* with Laura Lincoln 10.30am – 12.30pm

Discussions on various DNA topics.

Capacity 12

Spaces are limited. Please reserve a place with workshop.booking@nwkhfs.org.uk including the event, title and date together with your name and membership number.

Workshop leaders freely give their time, but a donation via the web shop is appreciated. <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/shop/nwkhfs-shop/services/society-donation>

1 June *Researching your Naval Ancestors* with Pam Goddard 10.30am – 12.30pm

A workshop to help find and track ancestors while learning about their lives in the Navy using service records, log books and other sources available on the internet.

Capacity 15

Spaces are limited. Please reserve a place with workshop.booking@nwkhfs.org.uk including the event, title and date together with your name and membership number.

Workshop leaders freely give their time, but a donation via the web shop is appreciated. <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/shop/nwkhfs-shop/services/society-donation>

8 June *Bring something an ancestor would have held* with Carolyn Barclay 10.00am – 11.45am

Attendees, please bring something which your ancestor would have held.

Capacity 12

Spaces are limited. Please reserve a place with workshop.booking@nwkhfs.org.uk including the event, title and date together with your name and membership number.

Workshop leaders freely give their time, but a donation via the web shop is appreciated. <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/shop/nwkhfs-shop/services/society-donation>

15 June *Scottish Interest Group* with Pam Goddard/Carolyn Barclay 10.30am - 12.30pm

Scottish Interest Group discussing aspects of Scottish genealogy and records which help to research Scottish ancestors.

Zoom online or face to face, (A decision will be made nearer the date whether this will be Zoom or in the Society Library at 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Kent DA5 2EE Participants will be informed nearer the date.)

Spaces are limited. Please reserve a place with workshop.booking@nwkhfs.org.uk including the event, title and date together with your name and membership number.

Workshop leaders freely give their time, but a donation via the web shop is appreciated. <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/shop/nwkhfs-shop/services/society-donation>

22 June *DNA Discussion Group* Leader Laura Lincoln 10.30am – 12.30pm

Discussions on various DNA topics.

Capacity 12

Spaces are limited. Please reserve a place with workshop.booking@nwkhfs.org.uk including the event, title and date together with your name and membership number.

Workshop leaders freely give their time, but a donation via the web shop is appreciated. <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/shop/nwkhfs-shop/services/society-donation>

29 June 2022 *Breaking Down Ancestral Brick Walls* with David Cufley 7.30pm – 9.30pm

A workshop to help researchers overcome research hurdles.

After you have booked a place on the workshop your 'Brick Wall' must be submitted to David Cufley by the 15th June using president@nwkhfs.org.uk

Capacity 15

Spaces are limited. Please reserve a place with workshop.booking@nwkhfs.org.uk including the event, title and date together with your name and membership number.

Workshop leaders freely give their time, but a donation via the web shop is appreciated. <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/shop/nwkhfs-shop/services/society-donation>

*** END OF NEWSLETTER ***

Many, many thanks to workshop coordinator Carolyn Sekulowicz-Barclay for arranging our exciting programme of workshops, and to the workshop leaders who all give their time freely.

Society members please book by emailing Carolyn for the link / code to enable you to attend any of the above Workshops and Discussion Groups. workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk including your name and membership number.

Carolyn would like to hear from you if you have topic requests for workshops or want to suggest different dates or times. (Or have some expertise on a topic which you think would interest others and would be willing to lead a workshop).

Workshops to the end of June are on page 8 of the March Journal.

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

Society Library: opening hours and booking

At present the library is open and staffed by library volunteers on Wednesdays from midday to 4pm.

To prevent overcrowding users must, please, phone our Librarian Janet on 01322 384836 in advance to check there is space for the time period you would like to come.

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.

If you cannot get there in the afternoon but can make the morning, please phone Janet to discuss as a library Volunteer may be able to open up early for you.

Library at: 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Kent DA5 2EE
Parking in nearby roads.

<https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/event-federation-the-future-of-genealogy-young-genealogists-at-the-helm-2022-05-07>

Young Genealogists: Event 7 May 2022

If you know any genealogists under 30 (or any young person just thinking about family history) please tell them about this virtual event especially aimed at their age range.



**Society of
Genealogists**

The Future of Genealogy – Young Genealogists at the Hel

International event bringing young people tog
Saturday 7th May 2022—online

The Family History Federation, supported by the Society of Genealogists, will this exciting online Zoom event. We want to provide a platform for genealogists to come together, exchange ideas and support each other.

This is intended to be an international event bringing young people together to shape the future of the community. The Family History Federation and the Society of Genealogists will support the conference administratively, but we want this to be youth-led. Sessions will include a facilitated safe space, to discuss what young people want from the community and societies and a range of presentations, panels and discussions. If you are interested in what family history and genealogy are about, then come along and find out!

www.familyhistoryfederation.com/event-federation-the-future-of-genealogy-young-genealogists-at-the-helm-2022-05-07



Virtual Family History Fair

Saturday May 7 2022

10.00 am – 12.00 pm

2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

FREE to All

Join us via Zoom to meet with other enthusiastic researchers from other Societies. Use the breakout rooms to move between Societies and bring your queries to obtain answers from locally knowledgeable genealogists
Bookings open later this month

Morning and Afternoon Sessions 10am to midday and 2pm to 4pm

An opportunity to talk to people from lots of different family history societies, who will each have their own breakout room for you to visit. London 10.00 am, Helsinki 12.00 pm, Perth 5.00 pm, Canberra 7.00 pm, Auckland 9.00 pm

North West Kent FHS volunteers will be staffing a virtual stall for both morning and afternoon sessions.

Register in advance for these Zoom sessions

[Morning Link 10am](#) (London 10am, Helsinki 12pm, Perth 5pm, Canberra 7pm, Auckland 9pm)

[Afternoon Link 2pm](#) (London 2pm, Helsinki 4pm, Perth 9pm, Seattle 6am, Ottawa 9am)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the sessions.

.....
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 <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/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

North West Kent Family History Society Registered Charity No 282627

Copyright © 2021 North West Kent Family History Society All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email as you have given permission for the society to send you email newsletters

The email service uses MailChimp to bulk send the e-newsletters. Therefore we supply MailChimp with your first name, surname and email address. Click on this link to view MailChimp's privacy policy:

https://mailchimp.com/legal/privacy/?_ga=2.96984220.2058400163.1524684902-1180422693.1512585308

Our mailing address is:

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

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [unsubscribe from this list](#)