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Welcome to the 1 August enews

Royal Arsenal Woolwich, Main Gate (our opening photo) – Historic note

This extract summary below is from W T Vincent's *'The Records of Woolwich District'* published c1890 in two volumes, p 296-380.

The dockyard was first established in 1512. It is after this time the 'Arsenal' was established and although a precise date is unknown its foundation is before 1716. the commonly held date. G E Grover RE in a paper to the Royal Artillery Institution in 1874 suggests its existence dates back to 1667. This date was an order from the King Charles II to Prince Rupert to raise works and batteries at Woolwich in the Warren. The Warren was an unclosed site inhabited chiefly by rabbits.

The rope yard at Woolwich was erected in 1573-6 on the edge of the Warren. One of its appurtenances was a storehouse by the water, solidly built in brick. The early ordnance departments in 1572 were part of the ropery and consisted of the armoury, storehouse and workshops and were extended over the following 50 years.

At first there was only a wooden fence about the Arsenal. The earliest reference to a brick wall is by General Belford, the governor, in an order of 1758, but it was not complete. In 1777 convict labour was constructing the wall on the land side with a brick wall.

The wall was not more than eight foot high before 1804 then it was raised along the Plumstead Road to twenty foot high. Other parts were fifteen foot high and some to a twelve foot height.

The Middle Gate on Plumstead Road was built in 1830 and was previously known as the 'Lower gate'.

The Main gate facing Beresford Square was constructed in 1829. Previously the main gate had been at Rope Yard Rails west of the police offices.

Until 1844 the Arsenal was entirely in charge of the military then the police and sentries had joint custody. In 1861 all but a small guard of the military were withdrawn, but not until 1880 were the police in absolute charge.

A new dataset of surnames, forenames and dates of birth for 794 former industrial employees of the inspection staff at Royal Arsenal Woolwich is only available to logged in Society

members <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/resources/data-sets/royal-arsenal-woolwich>

The information now available on our site was provided by Mr Phillip Clarke who was the Membership Secretary to the Royal Arsenal Woolwich Historical Society; and Mr Ray Fordham one of their members who recovered many records which were being destroyed. The Royal Arsenal Woolwich Historic Society was unfortunately disbanded in the autumn of 2016.

More Useful Sources of Information - 1



I recently discovered that one of our members, Michele Jeannotte, has her her own YouTube channel *Ties To The Past* with useful family history tips. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiOvzfCLwMe8oWA7s-3O7zA/featured?app=desktop>

Michele says: *"It's my personal YouTube channel and everyone is welcome to access it."*

I have 4 different playlists: Let's Write (which focuses on Microsoft Word tips and how to structure documents), Exploring Archives, the original Mondays With Michele series (which focuses on various record types) and a new series which covers FamilySearch tips."

More Useful Sources of Information - 2

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers>

This is a wonderful FREE resource for reaching old New Zealand newspapers which

If you are aware of any little-known free websites which are useful sources of family history data, please email me and I will print it here for the benefit of other readers. enews@nwkfhs.org.uk This might be especially true if you are outside the UK and know of 'local' sites less likely to be known to UK readers.

More Useful Sources of Information - 3

Please make sure to keep up to date with Society news through our website nwkfhs.org.uk our blog <https://nwkfhs.org.uk/community/news-journals/blog/> and our twitter page <https://twitter.com/nwkfhs> . Both are updated regularly with interesting stuff, in the case of twitter, daily.

If you are not a Society member then you are missing out on information in our Members Only Area.

Also you may be losing out on a Find My Past discount which could be bigger than our membership fee of only £10.

The society provides transcribed Parish data to FindMyPast via the Federation and as a result you as a society member can claim a 15% discount on your subscription plus an additional 10% for "Pay as you go" units bought online.

Discounts are:

Type	Use	Code
Subscription	15% off bought online	?
Pay as you go	10% extra units purchased	?

The code is available in our Members Only Area.

If you are a Society Member but haven't yet logged in to our website, here is a 3 minute video created by our Webmaster Stephen Moon, which explains how to log in for the first time: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYBG1RWufrU>

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Creating a One-Street or One-Place Study with Gill Thomas

**Saturday 6 August: 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

One-place studies are a blend of family history and local history, with a focus on the entire population of a single road, village or community, not just a single, geographically dispersed family line.

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Gill is a professional genealogist and AGRA member. She will be giving us the benefit of her experience on how to use genealogical and other sources to create a One-Place Study and how this can inform our family history research.

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.

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Researching Brewery and Publican Ancestors with Guest Speaker Simon Fowler

Zoom Talk Tuesday 9 August 8pm (Seattle 12pm; Ottawa 3pm; August 10 Auckland 7am)

This talk is organised by East Surrey Family History Society, which has invited members and friends of North West Kent FHS to attend free of charge.

Many of us have ancestors who worked somewhere in this industry. The talk will help researchers to discover the various avenues of research available.



Simon formerly worked at the National Archives. Brewers and publicans are just one area of his exhaustive knowledge so fill up your glass and join us!

You must Register in advance for this meeting using the link below:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAld-qvrT0qEtCyq4xkb5DooYBTsegy6DY_

Please note: this talk will be recorded but the recording will be played only once: on 10 August at 10am. (Perth 5pm. Canberra 7pm, Auckland 9pm) but the zoom link for the recording is only available to members of North West Kent and East Surrey FHSs.

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

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**Saturday 3 September: 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

Glen Jones leads the Kent Branch of the Orders and Medals Research Society (OMRS). <https://www.omrs.org/branches/kent>

OMRS exists to promote a general interest in the study of orders, decorations and medals and to actively encourage and publish research into all aspects of civil and military medals, with a particular focus on those issued by Great Britain and the Commonwealth countries.

Glen's talk covers medals issued for gallantry, campaigns, long service, jubilee and coronation and will include interesting historical facts and stories.

He will offer some advice on research and also *Dos and Don'ts* regarding those family medals which you may be lucky enough to possess.

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.

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Making Do - Wartime Fashions 1939 - 1945 with Carol Harris

**Saturday 10 September: a Sevenoaks Branch Meeting
at Otford Memorial Hall, 28A High Street, Otford TN14 5PQ
Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am**

Our speaker this morning, Carol Harris, is a freelance journalist, speaker, and social historian. For the past 20 years, she has written and spoken on a range of historical themes, generally around feminism, fashion and fighting.

Her first book, *Miller's Collecting Fashion and Accessories*, was followed by several telling the previously untold stories of women in WW2.

Carol is currently Social History Editor at Coram, the UK's oldest children's charity, and on the interaction team at the Imperial War Museum.

What was it like to 'Make Do and Mend'? By looking at the lives of ordinary people Carol will present us with a vivid picture of daily life on the Home Front in wartime Britain.

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, (payment required) car park but it is shared with other users and can be busy at times.

No booking, just turn up.

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Birth and Death, the hidden secrets of registration with Guest Speaker Antony Marr

Zoom Talk Thursday 15 September 7pm for 7.30

Please log in from 7pm and enjoy an informal talk between attendees before the talk starts at 7.30pm

Antony Marr is a retired police officer with many years training and experience, and former deputy registrar of births, deaths and marriages. Now a professional genealogist and Chair of AGRA (Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives). Specific interest in the records of civil registration.

Why can the same birth be registered more than once and in different years? Why does a single death registration involve three different certificates?

This talk will look at the complex rules of registering birth and death events, uncovering the complexities and hidden information these essential records of civil registration can contain.

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 the speaker and our Zoom licence.

A link to the zoom meeting will be placed on the website www.nwkhfs.org.uk a few days before the meeting, check website for updates.

Logging in to Zoom : Zoom Glitches on 28 July for Mina Jury talk

Some members had problems logging in to the talk.

The problem appears to be a change and update by Zoom a couple of days ago.

It now appears that unless you have the FREE 'Basic' licence or better on your computer you will have problems joining the meeting whether you use the link or you use the ID and passcode.

up with four buttons. You use the top right 'Join' button and enter the meetings details.

You can download this from the [Zoom.us/download](https://zoom.us/download) web site.

This page says

Zoom Desktop Client

'The web client will download automatically when you start or join your first zoom meeting and is also available for manual download.'

We recommend you do a manual download before you are going to join your first meeting and to make sure you have the latest version on your computer if this is not your first zoom talk.

Click on the 'Download' button which says version 5.11.4 (7185) (64-bit) unless you have a 32-bit client in which case that download is shown below the button in blue lettering.

A 'Basic' licence is free and you can also get it from the [Zoom.us/pricing](https://zoom.us/pricing) web site.

For those that missed the Mina Jury talk it was recorded and will go into the nwkfhs.org.uk Members Only Area in the next few days.

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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://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.

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

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

This is an interactive workshop using documents left by Ray Fordham.

Ray left a number of documents and databases that he had rescued from the Arsenal when it closed. The final collection we have received are a number of documents and maps relating to the bombing casualties of WW2. Among the files are lists of names without date or source, but they give addresses within the Arsenal boundary.

The idea of this workshop is to discover the sources that may provide more information as to who these people were and what happened to them.

The files also contain a number of lists of the bombs that fell on the Arsenal and the surrounding borough and parishes. The names and location of these casualties will eventually become databases on our web site.

During the workshop these lists will be compared with the names on the address lists.

As this period 1939 – 45 is difficult to research a record of the sources discovered will be produced to help other members of the society in their research.

Handouts for the workshop are:-

- 1) Article on 'Police W. D. Constabulary (prior to 1967)'
- 2) Map of the Woolwich Parish area of Arsenal (undated)
- 3) Personnel living in married quarters (undated)
- 4) Officer's quarters (undated)
- 5) Street No 5 (undated)
- 6) Police quarters Harrow Manorway (undate

Numbers are restricted to enable all participants to ask questions, share knowledge and engage with other members.

Please reserve a place with workshop.booking@nwkfhs.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.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services/society-donation>

10 August ZOOM Workshop: Family Stories with Carolyn Barclay 10am - 11.45am

Have you got a family story which made you laugh, smile, cry or groan? Would you like to hear others' stories?

Book your place and log in from 9.45am.

Please reserve a place with workshop.booking@nwkfhs.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.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services/society-donation>

17 August ZOOM Writing Group with Pauline Heathcote 10.30am - 12.30

Numbers are restricted to enable all participants to ask questions, share knowledge and engage with other members.

Please reserve a place with workshop.booking@nwkfhs.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.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services/society-donation>

17 August: if you have booked the workshop on 31 August Breaking Down Ancestral Brick Walls please email details of your brick wall by today at the latest to David Cufley on president@nwkfhs.org.uk

24 August ZOOM DNA Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln 10.30am - 12.30

Numbers are restricted to enable all participants to ask questions, share knowledge and engage with other members.

Please reserve a place with workshop.booking@nwkfhs.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.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services/society-donation>

24 August LIBRARY Workshop with Pam Goddard 10.30am - 12.30

What did your mother or (great) grandmother do during the war? Find out about the various services in which women featured during the war and if any records are available.

Numbers are restricted to enable all participants to ask questions, share knowledge and engage with other members.

Workshop leaders freely give their time, but a donation is appreciated in the Donations Box at the library.

Please arrive at least a few minutes early to enable the workshop to start promptly. Parking in nearby roads.

KCC Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joyden's Wood, DA5 2EE

31 August ZOOM Workshop Breaking Down Ancestral Brick Walls with David Cufley 7.30pm - 9.30

Please log in from 7.15pm for the 7.30pm start

A workshop to help researchers overcome research hurdles.

'Brick Walls' must have been submitted to David Cufley by the 17 August using president@nwkfhs.org.uk

Numbers are restricted to enable all participants to ask questions, share knowledge and engage with other members.

Please reserve a place with workshop.booking@nwkfhs.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.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services/society-donation>

NWKFHS Members please see [http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings-for-workshops-and-discussion-groups-during-the-next-few months](http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings-for-workshops-and-discussion-groups-during-the-next-few-months).

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).

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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 any NWK member to use 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.

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Any items for the mid August enews should please reach me as soon as possible, and by 14 August latest.

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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 enews@nwkfhs.org.uk with your contributions. Any photos must be your own copyright.

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Click on our other links <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/blog> [Facebook](#) [Flickr](#)
<https://twitter.com/nwkfhs>

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

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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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