

Welcome to the 1 October enews

Right now is the very best time to join the Society. Anyone joining from 1 October gets membership until the 31 December 2023. So 15 months membership for the price of 12. Membership is only £10 or £12 for joint members using one address.

Individual	Family (Couple)	Association/Library
		
£ 10.00	£ 12.00	£ 12.00*
JOIN NOW	JOIN NOW	JOIN NOW

Members get a 15% discount on FindmyPast membership which can be worth more than the £10 cost of joining the Society and access to all our talks and workshops. Some of these are still held on Zoom for the benefit of far flung members. <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings>

Why not join? Membership is open to anyone, anywhere in the world for the same price and you will receive our quarterly journal mailed direct. Or you can opt to read it online and you'll be notified by email when each Journal is uploaded to our website.

You can attend the monthly meetings held at each of our two branches (Dartford and Sevenoaks), and can purchase books and listen to a wide variety of talks. All members are welcome to attend any or all of the branch meetings at no extra cost. Other advantages of membership are listed on the website Home page.

Access to the Members Only Area of the website, where you can view and download exclusive content.

A short time after joining, you will receive a welcome Membership Pack along with your allocated membership number (2 numbers in the case of Family/Couple Membership) which will include details of how to log into the Members Only Area.

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

By the way, regarding the memorial on the front page of the last journal, above: apologies to all those who went looking for the Scout Memorial in Joydens Wood. The title of the short article in the September Journal was incorrect and the error was not spotted by any of the proofreaders, in particular by Victor, who wrote the piece! It should in fact say, Bexley Woods. The directions within the article are, however, correct.

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ONLY 2 WEEKS UNTIL VOTING CLOSES FOR YOUR SOCIETY COMMITTEE

If you are a paid-up member of our great Society don't forget to vote for its officers before the 14th October. Sign in and go to the web page <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/agm-voting#> (you will need to be logged in)

The Society belongs to you the members and voting gives you an excellent opportunity to have a say in its management.

A CV of all the candidates was included in the September Journal.

If you would like to meet them then you can do so at the 1st October Dartford meeting or at the Sevenoaks meeting on the 8th October.

Jim Murchie, current Honorary Secretary, will be at both meetings in order to collect paper voting forms from members who wish to vote via paper, to save you the costs of posting them. Papers forms were in the centre of the September Journal.

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Society Library: now back to pre-pandemic opening hours

I am delighted to tell you that the library is now open and staffed by library volunteers on Wednesdays from 10am to 4pm and there is no need for booking.

There is a proviso that, if as at 2pm there is no one there, the volunteers will close up, but they are very happy to stay if the library is in use.

Our new Librarian is Hilary Waters, who is taking over from Janet Rose who served as Society Librarian and did a fantastic job for many years.

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 (via any library in Kent) to be able to log in to the library edition of Ancestry, FindmyPast and other resources.

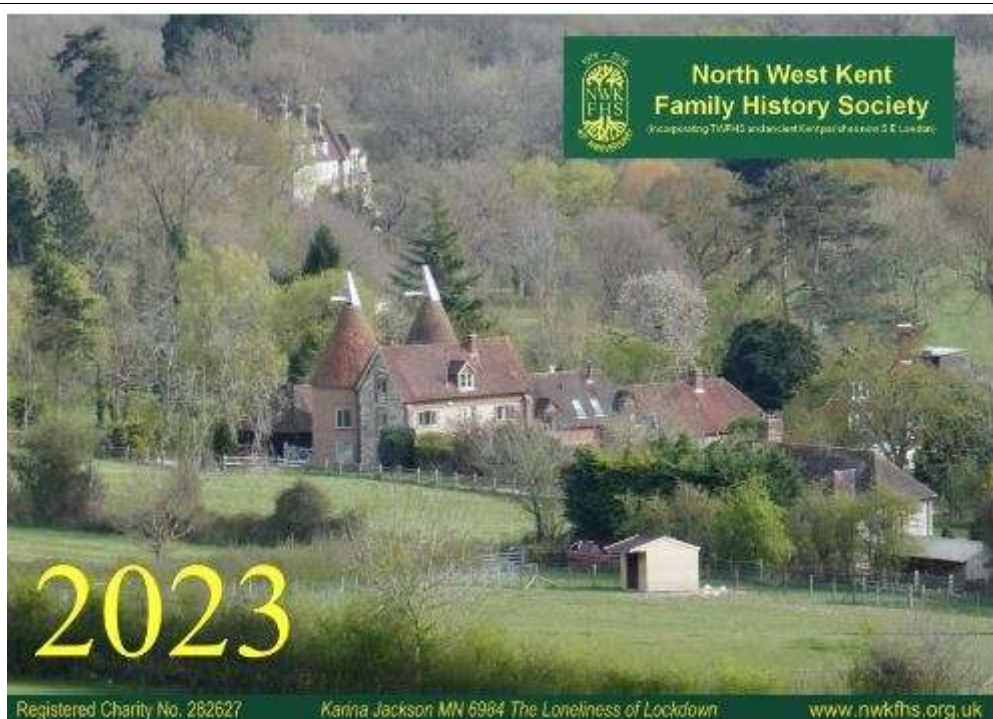
Library at: 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Kent DA5 2EE
(On the corner of Summerhouse Drive and Eden Road)
Parking in Eden Road or other nearby roads.

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2023 Calendars are now for sale: at our meetings and via our e shop.
Prices quoted include postage in UK, EU and Rest of the World.

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/shop/nwkhfs-shop/services> (scroll down a little way)

I find them handy small Christmas gifts for people out of our area. As the prices are so cheap and include 2nd class postage, why not have them sent direct to your recipient and let them know separately that it is a gift from you.

£2.50 UK, £3.50 EU and £4.25 rest of world.



Talk: Alcock and Brown, Knights of the Air with David Gillham

**Saturday 1 October: 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 meeting will start promptly with the Dartford Branch Annual Meeting at 10.30am so members are requested to arrive in good time.

David Gillham will tell us the story of the first non-stop trans-Atlantic flight in 1919 in a Vickers Vimy designed and built in Crayford.

In 1913, Lord Northcliffe, owner of The Daily Mail, offered £10,000 to the first pilot who flew fly non-stop across the Atlantic taking no longer than 72 hours.

Due to the disruption of the First World War, the first attempt was not made until April 1919 by the Short brothers; their Shamrock plane flew only 12 miles before crashing into the sea. In May 1919, the second attempt was made by Hawker and Grieve. They had to be rescued by a ship in the Atlantic. Just one hour behind was the Martinsyde Raymor but it crashed on take-off. The Berlin Bomber and the Vickers Vimy were the final two contenders left to embark on the challenge. After mechanical difficulties concerning the Bomber, Alcock and Brown's Vimy was the only remaining aircraft to take on the feat.

John Alcock was born in 1892 in Manchester, England. He first became interested in flying at the age of 17. He gained his pilot's license in November 1912. He was a regular competitor in aircraft competitions. During the First World War he served as an RAF pilot.

Arthur Whitten Brown was born in 1886 in Glasgow, Scotland. He began his career as an engineer before the outbreak of the First World War when he joined the army then the Royal Flying Corps as an observer, later training to become a navigator.

Both men were captured during the First World War, Alcock while he was in Turkey and Brown while in France by the Germans.

After the war Alcock wanted to continue his flying career and took up the challenge of attempting to be the first person to fly directly across the Atlantic. Alcock and Brown first met by chance at the Vickers Weybridge / Brooklands site, when the attempt was being discussed. Alcock was impressed when he first met Brown, whose ability as a navigator far exceeded his own. Brown was assigned to the attempt alongside Alcock.

(The speaker originally planned for today, Nicola White on Mudlarking, has had to cancel).

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 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.

The meeting will be led by Janet Rose.

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Lullingstone's 20th Century Secrets with Nick Fothergill

**Saturday 8 October: a Sevenoaks Branch Meeting
at Otford Memorial Hall, 28A High Street, Otford TN14 5PQ
Doors open 10.45am Meeting starts at 11am**

This morning our speaker is Nick Fothergill and he will reveal how the plans to build a large housing estate and another London Airport in the Lullingstone and Farningham area in the 1930s arose and how the airport very nearly came to fruition.

He will also describe the building of a dummy airfield during the war to deflect enemy aircraft from Biggin Hill.

All members and guests very welcome.

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, (£1 for 3 hours, 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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**Zoom Talk: with speaker Imogen Corrigan: Viking Life and Legends
Thursday 20 October 7.30pm - 9pm**

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

Warriors at heart, the popular and not inaccurate view of the Vikings is of thuggish invaders and ferocious fighters. Whilst it's always acknowledged that they were also masters of navigation and sea-faring and were great traders, not much attention is paid to their culture and how some of it influenced later church art in Britain.

Their religious beliefs worked seamlessly with their legends so sometimes the two are hard to separate. Sagas tell of heroic deeds by both man and monster, whilst others unintentionally show the nuts and bolts of Scandinavian society. Skaldic poetry with its strange metaphors is more specific – deliberately so – composed so that it couldn't be altered by future generations and so the story couldn't be lost.

North West Kent FHS 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.

The Zoom link will be posted on the website nwkfhs.org.uk nearer the date.

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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.

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Workshops, Special Interest and Discussion Groups

Workshops (including Discussion Groups and Writing Groups) whether in person or via Zoom 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.

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5 October Library writing group with Pauline Heathcote 10.30am - 12.30

This workshop is at the library which the Society has sole use of on Wednesdays.

Any interested new members please contact Pauline on theeditor@nwkfhs.org.uk

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 at the library is appreciated.

Kent County Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood Bexley, Kent, DA5 2EE

Parking in nearby roads.

5 October Zoom Workshop Mapping Family Distributions with David Cufley 7.30pm - 9.30

A workshop exploring how your research data can be used to create a map of the counties and parishes where your ancestors have lived and worked.

By producing a distribution map, you will have a visual image of their movements which will help you solving some research queries.

The workshop will use timelines, spreadsheets and/or databases to create the information that can be used by hand or software i.e., GENMAP to create the map.

Hand drawn maps can use any maps as background by marking locations and years of the event.

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>

12 October Library Workshop Researching your Welsh Ancestors with Mari Alderman 10.30am - 12.30

At this meeting we'll be talking about resources for researching Welsh Ancestors.

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 towards the Society's contribution to the library running costs is appreciated. A donation box will be available on the day.

This is a face to face meeting at the library, which the Society has sole use of on Wednesdays.

Kent County Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley, Kent, DA5 2EE

Parking in nearby roads.

19 October Library DNA Discussion Group 10.30 to 12.30

A members-only event for you if you are new to how DNA can help with family history or you want to discuss particular aspects of DNA.

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 towards the Society's contribution to the library running costs is appreciated. A donation box will be available on the day.

This is a face to face meeting at the library, which the Society has sole use of on Wednesdays.

Kent County Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley, Kent, DA5 2EE
Corner of Eden Road and Summerhouse Drive.

Parking in nearby roads.

26 October Zoom DNA Discussion group with Laura Lincoln 10.30am - 12.30

A discussion of various aspects of DNA for family history.

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>

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Dartford Meeting Place Thursday 27 October 10am - 12 noon.

Tuesday 1 November at West Kingsdown Library. 10am - 12 noon.

NWKFHS Members please see <http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings-for-October-workshops-and-discussion-groups>.

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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.

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

**The Family History Federation's online Really Useful Show
11 and 12 November (Friday evening and all day Saturday).**

Talks, workshops and expert sessions.

See the website for full details and to buy tickets.

A £12 ticket entitles you to full access to The Really Useful Show November 2022, including the Exhibition Hall on Friday 11th November between 6pm and 10pm GMT; and talks, expert sessions and workshops (as well as the Exhibition Hall) on Saturday 12th November between 10am and 6pm.

North West Kent FHS volunteers will be staffing our stand remotely, and many other Societies will be represented too, to answer your questions. <https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/exhibition-hall>

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Free Useful Sources of Information

<https://billiongraves.com/> Search its free database by people or by cemetery. Many entries have photos of memorials. Data and photos supplied by volunteers.

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

Owned by Ancestry but information and photos have been created by volunteers. Both sites are free and are a great resource, especially when you find, as I have, the headstones of far flung ancestors.



Grave 29 St Mary's, Bathwick Cemetery

Photo taken by Liz COLES

Items for the mid October enews should please reach me as soon as possible, and by 12 October 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 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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Our mailing address is:

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

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