

**Welcome to the December enews**  
**and a very happy and healthy Christmas and 2023 to you all**

Today's picture is a Christmas card sent in 1904 (postmarked 24 December 1904) from Daisy to Miss Connie Scott.

Through research I have found, in the 1911 Census, a Constance F Scott age 16 living at 20 Archway Road.

This is probably her birth: from [gro.gov.uk](http://gro.gov.uk)

**SCOTT, CONSTANCE FLORA**

**VAN NIEROP**

GRO Reference: 1894 M Quarter in RICHMOND - SURREY Volume 02A Page 416

An unusual mother's maiden name enabled me to trace her parents' marriage on [freebmd.org.uk](http://freebmd.org.uk):  
 Marriages Dec 1891

Scott	George Richard	St. Olave	1d 624
Van Nierop	Flora	St. Olave	1d 624

St Olave refers to an area of Southwark which in 1891 spanned the counties of Surrey and London.

I bought this card for 25p and would be happy to post it to a family member.

## Easyfundraising

I just got this email from easyfundraising:

Your activity:		Your cause:	
£1.10	£37.61	£18.70	£921.68
Raised this month	Raised in total	Raised this month	Raised in total

*easyfundraising* partners with over 7,000 brands who will donate part of what you spend online to North West Kent FHS. It won't cost you any extra. The cost is covered by the brand.

Brands pay *easyfundraising* a commission because when you start your shop from the *easyfundraising* website or app, they can see it sent you to them. If you make a purchase, a commission is generated, and it turns that into a donation.

Stella's note: I don't use an app. But I have signed up to *easyfundraising* and so when I shop online at 'ordinary' shops such as supermarkets, John Lewis, Lakeland, Robert Dyas, and hundreds of others, it makes a small donation to North West Kent FHS via *easyfundraising*. Please sign up now:

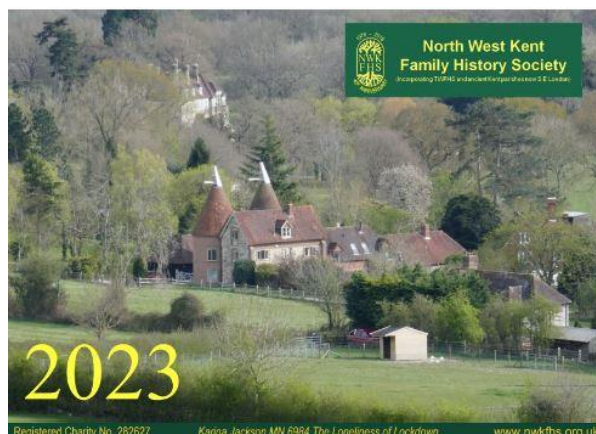
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/login/>

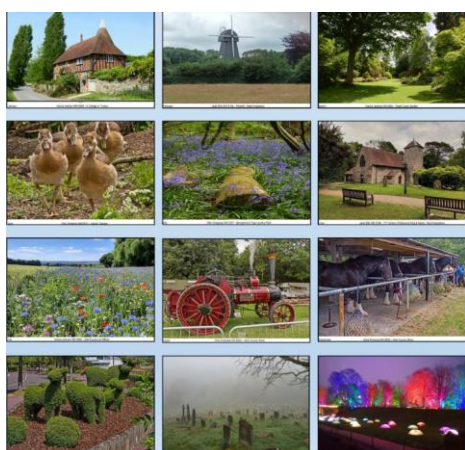
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**2023 Calendars are still for sale at our meetings and via our e shop. Prices quoted include postage in UK, EU and Rest of the World.**

<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.





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**Dartford Branch Talk: *Christmas on the Home Front 1939 - 1945* with Mike Brown**  
**Saturday 3 December: Doors Open 9.45am meeting starts 10.30am and will end by 12.30pm**

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

Mike Brown is an experienced speaker whose TV credits include Time Team and Timewatch. His entertaining, seasonal talk will be enhanced by a collection of artefacts such as ration books, uniforms and toys.

The outbreak of war in 1939 saw the disappearance of many traditional British celebrations. Guy Fawkes' Night went immediately – gunpowder production was needed for the war effort and bonfires contravened the blackout. Summer holidays became a thing of the past and Easter all but disappeared as chocolate – and even real eggs – went 'on the ration'.

In spite of this, the nation remained determined to celebrate Christmas as a time of family and community; a time when war could be set aside, if only for a day.

Drawing upon personal recollections, contemporary Mass Observation reports, newspaper articles, advertisements, and personal and archive photographs, Mike Brown looks at each wartime Christmas on the British Home Front, from 1939 to 1944.

He explores how people celebrated Christmas despite the problems of shortages, rationing, the blackout, Luftwaffe raids and the absence of family members who had been called up or evacuated.

Life in Britain changed dramatically as the war progressed; the annual celebration of Christmas provides fascinating yearly 'snapshots', illuminating the changes over six years of conflict.

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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**Sevenoaks Branch Talk: The Goose is Getting Fat! The History of Christmas Traditions with Imogen Corrigan**  
**Saturday 10 December Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am**

Come along and enjoy a quiz and mince pies as well as the talk..

What's behind the Wassail and why do we kiss under mistletoe and let loose women into York at Christmas?

Every family hones its own traditions, but mainly they are based on a central theme: filling our houses with greenery and bling, sending cards, eating too much, wearing a silly hat, singing songs and playing games that we don't bother with for the rest of the year.

How has all this come about? Some are based on pagan festivities that either honoured spirits or simply helped to break up the winter. Others, such as advent calendars and crackers, are much more recent.

This talk cannot possibly cover all of our traditions, but it gives a glimpse behind the scenes to see our ancestors preparing for the day, stirring-up puddings and dragging Yule logs into the house on Christmas Eve and the rituals that went with it. We see Lords of Misrule lording it over rowdy parties, how pantomime developed and how a few carollers sent out a coded message.

No booking, just turn up.

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There is a large public car park (payment required) adjacent to the hall but it can be busy.

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**Dartford Branch Talk: *Tracing My Ancestors During Lockdown* with Clare Walker**  
**Saturday 7 January: Doors Open 9.45am meeting starts 10.30am and will end by 12.30pm**  
**Dartford Science and Technology College, Heath Lane, Dartford Kent DA1 2LY**

When Clare Walker set out to research her husband's ancestors, she never imagined the astonishing stories she would unearth and the many frustrating mysteries that would both enthrall and frustrate her.

She also didn't bargain on the shocks she would have to deliver to her family: ancestors who were executed (they backed the wrong side); murdered in their bed by a best friend; a

missing RAF crewman; a doctor who left his young wife and two small daughters to travel to Australia where he drowned; and a Gaiety Girl who voyaged to South Africa with her wedding dress in her suitcase to marry a “stage-door Johnny”

Clare Walker is a former journalist, author and pilot with over 30 years experience of thrilling audiences with her engaging, entertaining and informative talks on a wide range of topics.

Clare’s presentations are highly visual, using rarely seen historical footage, photos and fascinating anecdotes and are based on in depth interviews and research.

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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**Sevenoaks Branch Talk: *Oh No It Isn't! A history of Pantomime* with Pete Allen  
Saturday 14 January Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am**

What is it about Pantomime that attracts us to this strange concoction of fairy tales, dance, jokes, songs and cross-dressing?

And what is it really like to play the back end of a Pantomime Cow?

All this, and the answer to whether something really is behind you will be answered in this festive talk about one of the great British Christmas traditions.

Pete works extensively as a professional theatre director and film-maker and all his talks are accompanied by visuals and include time for questions and answers.

No booking, just turn up.

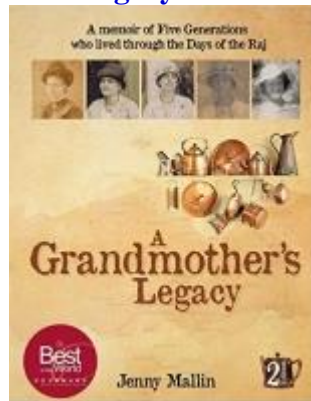
*The Society is a registered charity and membership fees and donations are an important part of our income. The Talk is free to members but guests and visitors are asked to make a donation towards hall hire and speaker's fee. There will be a donations box at the venue.*

There is a large public car park (payment required) adjacent to the hall but it can be busy.



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## **Zoom Talk: A Grandmother's Legacy with Jenny Mallin**



**26 January 7.30pm to 9pm**

Please log in from 7pm and enjoy a chat amongst attendees beforehand.

Jenny delivers a fascinating insight into five generations of her family who lived during the days of the British Raj in India.

Seen through the eyes of their granddaughter, Jenny captures a period of British history through her PowerPoint presentations with extensive collection of family sepia photographs, and manages to bring her stories to life: her grandmothers' lives as memsahibs and the "legacy" that Jenny has been given, a 170 year old cookbook penned by Jenny's great 4 x grandmother in 1844 when she was aged just 15 and a newlywed bride, married to an English schoolmaster.

Jenny also describes her grandfathers, uncles and relatives who served in the British Army as early as 1798, The Royal Indian Navy, the Railways in Madras, a co-founder of an English Medium School in India in the early 18th century and a great uncle who rose up through the ranks to become Postmaster General in the telegraph industry.

Now a writer, Jenny has had a successful career at the BBC in television production. She lives in Kingsclere, Hampshire with Stewart, her husband of over 30 years, their Westie dog, and their three cats. Any spare time that she has is spent doing painting, home decorating, jewellery making, listening to music, photography and enjoying nature.

Jenny has travelled extensively throughout India and has also visited many other countries, including Hong Kong, Japan, Australia, and America. Her travelogues and written anecdotes of her journeys are much enjoyed by her family and friends.

A collection of talks based on generations of her British Raj Family with fascinating sepia photographs and interesting facts about the history of the infrastructure of India.

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 our Zoom licence and speaker's fee.

This talk won't be recorded.

The Zoom link will be posted on the website [www.nwkhfs.org.uk](http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk) nearer the time.

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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://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.

Our Zoom November speaker, Peter Calver of Lost Cousins, delivered a very interesting talk which was attended by 83 participants with several more from North America saying they would watch the recording due to time differences. The recording is now online in the Members Only Area.

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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://nwkhfs.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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### **7 December: Zoom Mystery Workshop with David Cufley 7.30pm - 9.30pm**

Please log in from 7.15pm for the 7.30pm start

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

Please reserve a place with [workshop.booking@nwkhfs.org.uk](mailto: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>

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## **14 December: Zoom Heralds' Visitations Workshop with David Cufley 2.30pm - 4.30pm**

Please log in from 2.15pm for the 2.30pm start.

This workshop will look at the Heralds Visitations which were collected and compiled from the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

From 1530 at intervals of approx. 30 years the Heralds made tours of the country to examine the claims to have arms and had the right to destroy all unlawful arms and crests.

The visitations continued until c1686.

Although some are suspect many are genealogical records of value (quote by Pauline Saul in 'Tracing your ancestors. The A-Z Guide' published by FFHS).

The Harleian Society has printed and published copies of the visitations.

(Please note in case more convenient for your timezone, this workshop will be repeated on 12 July 2023 at 7.30pm)

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](mailto: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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**During January 2023, there will be six workshops and discussion groups either via Zoom or in person at the Joyden's Wood Library.**

**Topics range from DNA, writing your family history to understanding the 1939 Register and more. To see the full range, click the link below and change the date to January 2023.**

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings>

Workshops have been planned throughout 2023 and I am gradually adding them to our website as and when I have time. So far January and February's workshops are on the website.

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### **Drop In Session 1 December 10am until midday at The Meeting Place, Dartford**

If you are in the Dartford area, please do drop in and chat to our friendly volunteers who will do their best to help with your family history queries.

The Meeting Place is in The Orchards Shopping Centre (DA1 1DN), opposite Boots.



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**NWKFHS Members please see <http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings> for future 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](mailto: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.kentminningmuseum.co.uk/>**



This newly opened museum on the site of the former Betteshanger Colliery near Deal, Kent, may be of interest to those who enjoy industrial heritage. Free entry, see website for more information.

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**Items for the 1 January enews should please reach me as soon as possible, and by 28 December latest.**

**There won't be a mid-December enews, I am giving you and me a break.**

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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](mailto: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>

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*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.*

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*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](mailto:enews@nwkfhs.org.uk)

North West Kent Family History Society    Registered Charity No 282627

