

Have you got CAPON or SWEETSIR in your family tree?

This postcard, from the Society's Flickr page, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/nwkf/13938853746/in/album-72157713104667752/>

was posted to Florrie Capon, High Street, Snodland, Kent postmarked 2 September 1908.



40 Mrs Macintosh  
47 Eastbourne  
F Royal Parade  
Eastbourne

**POST CARD**  
FRITH'S SERIES

*This Space may be used for Communication.*

*Dear Florrie,  
Everything as  
long as I could be  
we for the sea  
now. Am very sorry not to have  
a few days for you from the  
one with a great wish to have  
kept you at home. I will get away  
things for you (what to do). I will  
so bring you the rest of  
love & best  
Florrie.*

*The Address only to be written here*

Miss F. Capon  
High St.  
Snodland  
Kent.

*M. Rochester.*

**EASTBOURNE**  
SEP 2 1908

Florrie Capon, born 1889, was the daughter of Thomas and Emma Capon who lived with Emma's sister, Mary Sweetsir, at May Place, High St, Snodland, Rochester, Kent. Mary Sweetsir ran a Tobacco and Confectionery shop.

Thomas and Emma were there until 1901 with their 3 children including Florence. By 1911 only Emma and Florrie were with Mary. Emma was listed as a widow, but in 1911 there was a Thomas Capon living in a barn at Billingshurst, Sussex whose details match those of the Emma's husband.

Florrie Capon married Sydney E Russell in 1923.

Sweetsir in particular is such an uncommon surname that I wondered if it is a registered study surname at the Guild of One Name Studies. [https://one-name.org/surnames\\_a-z/](https://one-name.org/surnames_a-z/) It isn't - but I found that Capon is and I've alerted the study contact to this postcard's existence. He was delighted.

Don't overlook what a wonderful resource the Guild of One Name Studies is. If someone is researching one of your surnames of interest you can make contact and share information.

For far - flung readers, Snodland is on the River Medway and more information about it can be found here: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snodland>

And if you are interested in the fate of Eastbourne Pier, read here: <https://www.eastbournepier.com/about.html>

## Welcome to the 3 March 2023 enews

You might recall that I mentioned in a recent enews that we might be changing our bulk emailer as MailChimp is about to start charging.

Just FYI, after reflection, and investigation, we have decided to remain with MailChimp and pay the costs.

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**Dartford Branch Talk: *The Great Estates : Hall Place and Foots Cray Place* with Oliver Wooller**

**Saturday 4 March: 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**

Oliver Wooller, who is archivist for Bexley borough, tells the fascinating story of the historic houses some of which no longer exist, in his book *The Great Estates*.

Oliver will talk about **Hall Place, in Bexley**, saying that there has been a house on the site for centuries, but the history of the present house only begins with the purchase of the estate by Sir John Champneys from the Shelley Family in 1537.

Sir John was an archetypal member of the new gentry which emerged under Henry VIII, and he became Lord Mayor of London in 1534. It is not inconceivable the King may have hunted on the estate.

**Foots Cray Place, in Sidcup**, had an equally fascinating history. But whereas Hall Place flourished into the 21st century, Footh Cray is mainly known now for its meadows; with most visitors unaware of the fine house which once stood there and its famous occupiers. The ancient Manor of Footh Cray is recorded in the Domesday Book.

Among its many famous inhabitants were the Walsingham family. Sir Francis was the man who set up an intelligence network, which uncovered the Babington plot, preserving Elizabeth I on her throne and bringing about the execution of Mary, Queen of Scots.

Tragically, a fire broke out on October 18, 1949, and the building was so badly damaged, it had to be demolished.

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 Rise and Fall of Lullingstone Roman Villa* with Rod Shelton**

**Saturday 11 March Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am  
Otford Village Memorial Hall 28A High Street, Otford, Kent TN14 5PQ**

### **About the speaker**

Author, artist and model-maker, Rod has lived in Otford for some 25 years. Active in village matters, he is the local historian and chairs the Otford Society. He was a London advertising copywriter, then ran his own commercial film company.

### **Talk Summary**

Rod has researched the story of the villa and reveals for the first time how its fate lay in the violent machinations of the Roman Emperors and the lust to gain Imperial power. Lullingstone, he suggests, was to become a pawn in this game of political ambitions.

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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## **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.

If you have a topic or subject you feel would interest other members and or / help with their research and

is suitable material for a workshop, please do contact Carolyn Sekulowicz-Barclay on [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk) who would very much like to hear from you. The workshops are all led by volunteers and very much depend on volunteers coming forward. Thank you

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

**Whilst the next six weeks or so workshops are listed below, workshops have been planned for the whole of 2023 and can be read about on the above link.**

8 March 10.30am Library DNA Discussion Group

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/discussion-group/library-dna-discussion-group-for-those-who-are-either-new-to-dna-or-want-to-discuss-particular-aspects-of-dna>

8 March 7.30pm Zoom Scottish Interests Discussion Group with Pam Goddard and Carolyn Barclay

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-scottish-interests-discussion-with-pam-goddard-and-carolyn-barclay>

9 March 2.30pm Zoom Royal Arsenal Workshop with David Cufley

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-workshop/royal-arsenal-workshop-with-david-cufley>

15 March 10.30am Library Library Workshop Reading Court Hand for Probate Records with Mari

Alderman <http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/future-workshops/library-workshop-reading-court-hand-for-probate-records-with-mari-alderman>

15 March 7.30pm Zoom Workshop Drawing Charts and Trees By Hand as a Research Tool with David Cufley

<http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-workshop/zoom-workshop-drawing-charts-and-trees-by-hand-as-a-research-tool-with-david-cufley>

22 March 10.30am Library Zoom DNA Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln

<http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-dna-discussion-group-with-laura-lincoln>

29 March 2.30pm Zoom Discussion Group: Let's Talk About Family History with David Cufley

<http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-let-s-talk-about-family-history-with-david-cufley-2>

29 March: if you have booked the brick walls workshop on 12 April, your brick wall should be advised to David Cufley by today at the latest.

5 April 10.30am Zoom Family History Discussion Group on backing up your research with Ann Clarke.

<http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-family-history-discussion-group-with-ann-clarke>

12 April 10.30am Library DNA Discussion Group for those who are either new to DNA or want to discuss



particular aspects of DNA

<http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/discussion-group/library-dna-discussion-group-for-those-who-are-either-new-to-dna-or-want-to-discuss-particular-aspects-of-dna-3>

12 April 2.30pm Zoom Workshop; Breaking Down Ancestral Brick Walls with David Cufley

<http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-workshop/zoom-workshop-breaking-down-brickwalls-with-david-cufley>

Note that any brick wall you want included in the discussion should be pre advised to David by 29 March. Use the [workshop.booking@nwkhfs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkhfs.org.uk) to do this.

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**For Zoom workshops, please log in from 15 minutes before the start time and enjoy chat amongst participants before the workshop starts.**

**For library workshops please arrive any time after the library opens at 10.am**

**Numbers are restricted to enable all participants to ask questions, share knowledge and engage with other members therefore booking is essential.**

**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 either at the library for in person workshops or via the web shop is appreciated. <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/shop/nwkhfs-shop/services/society-donation>

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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.**

**Carolyn would like to hear from you if you have some expertise on a topic which you think would interest others and would be willing to lead a workshop.**

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### **Calendar Competition 2024**

The Society will be producing a calendar again this year for 2024.

The latest submission date for your photos to be considered for the calendar is as previous years; 30 June.

We judge and select the winning photographs in July and get the proof calendar to the printers by the end of that month.

Why not take some now as well as in the summer? Something one would want to look at for a month and preferably in our area.

See here for the winning 2023 photos: <http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/society-calendar>

Send your photos to [publications@nwkhfs.org.uk](mailto:publications@nwkhfs.org.uk)

Landscape images please with Name, Membership No, Place it was taken and preferably the Date it was taken. It's not desirable to have people in the photos as their permission has to be obtained.

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## RootsTech 2 - 4 March 2023

Don't forget to sign up for free online access to Rootstech. <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/>

Virtual access to all their speakers and events is completely free. And a big bonus - if you have added yourself to FamilySearch's world Family Tree, Rootstech tells you of relatives who have also signed up even if you've never heard of them. I've already got a list of several people to message.

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**Items for the mid-March enews should please reach me as soon as possible, and by 12 March 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](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)

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