

Welcome to the 1 April enews and our programme of talks and workshops over the next four weeks or so.

Talks and workshops have been planned until the end of the year
see <http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings> to book your diary ahead of time.

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Dartford Branch Talk: *Thomas Coram and the Foundling Hospital* with Carol Harris

Saturday 1 April: 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

Carol Harris is a freelance journalist, speaker and social historian.

She is currently Social History Editor at Coram, the UK's oldest children's charity.

Carol will explain the history of the hospital, the aims of its founder and what primary sources are still available.

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.

(Please note that, as the first Saturday in May is the King's Coronation, the Dartford Talk due 6th May will be held the week before on Saturday 29 April.)

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Sevenoaks Branch Talk: *Endell Street: The Women Who Ran Britain's Trail-Blazing Military Hospital in WW1* with Wendy Moore

Saturday 8 April Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am

Otford Village Memorial Hall 28A High Street, Otford, Kent TN14 5PQ

About the speaker

Wendy lives in Eltham. She is a journalist and author of a number of books, including one about the talk she is giving. She also supports her local 'Elthamread' including the Junior section.

Talk Summary

When the First World War broke out, the suffragettes suspended their campaigning and joined the war effort.

For pioneering suffragette doctors (and life partners) Flora Murray and Louisa Garrett Anderson that meant moving to France, where they set up two small military hospitals amidst fierce opposition. Yet their medical and organisational skills were so impressive that in 1915 Flora and Louisa were asked by the War Ministry to return to London and establish a new military hospital in a vast and derelict old workhouse in Covent Garden's Endell Street. That they did, creating a 573-bed hospital staffed from top to bottom by

female surgeons, doctors and nurses, and developing entirely new techniques to deal with the horrific mortar and gas injuries suffered by British soldiers.

Receiving 26,000 wounded men over the next four years, Flora and Louisa created such a caring atmosphere that soldiers begged to be sent to Endell Street. And then, following the end of the war and the Spanish Flu outbreak, the hospital was closed and Flora, Louisa and their staff were once again sidelined in the medical profession.

The story of Endell Street provides both a keyhole view into the horrors and thrills of wartime London and a long-overdue tribute to the brilliance and bravery of an extraordinary group of women.

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: *Annie Besant and the Match Girls Strike* with Jeffrey Page **Wednesday 20 April 7.30pm**

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

The Zoom link will be published nearer the date here: <http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-talks/zoom-talk-annie-besant-ad-the-match-girls-strike-with-jeffrey-page>

Annie Besant was a British Socialist and a women's rights activist. She became involved in the Match Girls Strike in 1888. The match girls were employed by the company Bryant & May in the east end of London.

On 23rd June 1888, Annie Besant (1847-1933), a campaigner for women's welfare and rights published an article called 'White Slavery in London' in her weekly paper, *The Link*. She revealed the terrible working conditions and low wages suffered by the young women and girls employed at the factory.

Besant's article gained a great deal of publicity because the Victorians believed that only 'inferior races' engaged in the practice of slavery. In 1833 Britain abolished slavery in most parts of the Empire. To find out that women worked in such dreadful conditions in the match factories shocked many respectable Victorians.

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.

The Society hasn't been given permission to record this talk.

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Dartford Branch Talk: *The Normandy D-Day Landings* with Ian Thomson

Saturday 29 April: 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

Ian is well known to the Society.

This fascinating talk is not about the fighting; Ian will reveal the intelligence war behind the Operations and how the allies fooled the Germans.

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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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 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 four 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.

5 April 10.30am Zoom Family History Discussion Group on Migration 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 have been pre advised to David by 29 March. Use the workshop.booking@nwkhfs.org.uk to do this.

13 April 2.30pm Zoom Workshop on Royal Arsenal Documents with David Cufley

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

19 April 10.30am Library Zoom DNA Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln

<http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-dna-discussion-group-with-laura-lincoln-8>

26 April 10.30am Library Writing Group: New To Writing Up Your Family History? with Pauline Heathcote

<http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/future-workshops/library-new-to-writing-up-your-family-history-with-pauline-heathcote>

26 April 7.30pm Zoom Workshop: Basic Excel Spreadsheets with David Cufley

<http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-workshop/zoom-workshop-using-excel-spreadsheets-with-david-cufley>

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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 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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Ancestry DNA Sale now on

https://www.ancestry.co.uk/c/dna/offer?o_iid=67547...

£79 Autosomal test normally £79 reduced to £59.

Offer ends 5 Apr 2023 at 11:59 p.m. Excludes shipping.

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Make a Scrapbook of Your Life

<https://www.getorganizednow.com/?nl>

I receive a free, short daily enewsletter from Maria Gracia of *Get Organised Now*. Recently Maria answered a reader's question about creating a scrapbook of her own life.

This is something we family historians should try and find time to do - wouldn't we be thrilled to find an ancestor's scrapbook?

I've reproduced the question and answer below and included the web address above in case any of you wish to sign up for Maria's emails.

GON Reader Question

Creating a Scrapbook of My Life

I love all the ideas you share each day! I love getting my life organized! I know you are a scrapbooker, so maybe you could help me get started on my next project. For my 70th birthday, I would like to create a scrapbook of my life, but am feeling overwhelmed.

What to include, where to begin, how to arrange it all? Any ideas you have would be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

A faithful reader, Dianne

Maria's Response

Hi Dianne,

What a lovely note...thank you!

Creating a scrapbook of your life is such a wonderful idea. I'm so happy to hear you want to take this project on.

This should be a fun, relaxing, meaningful project that is meant to be enjoyed and savored...and done over a period of time. So take a deep breath and commit to enjoying the process, regardless of how long it may take.

1. Choose the topics and photos. The very first thing I would do is start choosing the photos you want

to include in your compilation. I'm assuming you want to do a chronological account, so you'd be separating into categories like baby photos, early grade school, maybe a sport you were in (like swimming, etc.), teen years, marriage, favorite vacations, and so on.

Typically, four to five photos can fit on a 12" X 12" page (*if that's the size scrapbook you're working on*), so choose the photos that best represent each topic.

2. Don't adhere anything just yet. Personally, I would not adhere anything into the scrapbook until you have a good idea of what photos are going to go on each page.

3. Plan the number of topics/pages and buy your scrapbook. Determine the number of pages you wish to do. Many scrapbooks come with 20 pages, but you can add or subtract as needed. You'll also have to determine if you're going to do single or double-page layouts.

I generally prefer double-page layouts, but that's totally up to you. The first and last page in your scrapbook will be a single page layout no matter what.

So, keep this all in mind while you're choosing your scrapbook.

4. Sketch it out. If I were tackling this, I would start by quick-sketching out each page, on scrap paper:

Layout 1: Baby Photos (and then put the photos that pertain to that page in an acid-free envelope marked Layout 1: Baby Photos)

Layout 2: Early Grade School (and then put the photos that pertain to that in an acid-free envelope marked Layout 2: Early Grade School Photos)

And so on.

5. Focus on the skeleton first. Decorate second. Don't worry about any journaling, embellishments, paper colors, etc. until you have the "skeleton" of your project thought out and the photos chosen.

6. Work on one layout at a time. After that, I would then just focus on one layout at a time. Bring the photos for that layout to the scrapbooking store or have them in front of you if you're shopping online.

Find paper that matches the photos (*color and "the feel you're trying to capture"*), and a few embellishments. I like to incorporate buttons, brads ribbon, etc. all the time for "dimension."

7. Don't forget to journal. You'll also want journaling on each layout that describes your life at that time. You can either do this short and sweet in a paragraph or two (*or even in a bulleted list*), or you can write up an entire letter or account, fold it, and stick that journaling in an envelope that you attach to the layout. You can do this in your own handwriting, or in a computer font that you simply print on scrapbooking paper and adhere to the page.

I'm very excited for you and hope these tips help you get this project off and running. Keep me posted.

Maria

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Items for the mid-April enews should please reach me as soon as possible, and by 12 April 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

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