

**Welcome to the mid November 2023 enews and our programme of talks and workshops over the next few weeks.**

**Do read to the end for other genealogy news.**

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**Dartford Branch Talk: *Mrs Beeton's Victorian Christmas* with Toni Mount**

**Saturday 25 November: Doors Open 9.45am Talk starts 10.30am**

**Please note change of date**

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

We welcome back Toni Mount to start our Christmas Season with her talk on "Mrs Beeton's Victorian Christmas" based on her book of the same name which contains a selection of cookable recipes that your ancestors may have tried, and also explains how they celebrated Christmas.

Toni is a well-known lecturer, historian and author whose books are based on her research into the lives of ordinary and sometimes extra-ordinary people through history, including Mrs Beeton.

The talks venue has a large, free car park but it is shared with other users and can be busy at times.

No booking, just turn up.

Free to members. A donation towards hall hire and speaker fee is appreciated from visitors.

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**Sevenoaks Branch Talk and Christmas nibbles:**

***Christmas on the Home Front 1939 - 1945* with *Mike Brown***

**Saturday 9 December Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am**

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

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.

Mike 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.

If you would like to do so, please bring along a plate of Christmas treats. However, because Covid is still around, we are asking people to bring along 'anything that could be picked up with a cocktail stick e.g. sausage rolls, mini cocktail sausages etc.' and also crisps/snacks in individual small packs from multipacks. Again, possibly individually wrapped chocolate bars such as mini Twix, mini Mars bars etc.

We do not want people to bring in sandwiches i.e. anything that might be accidentally handled by someone else.

As usual we will have hand sanitiser available.

No booking, just turn up. Free to members. A donation towards hall hire and speaker fee is appreciated from visitors.

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 [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>

**Workshops can also be read about on the above link. Those during the next few weeks are listed below. Workshops are for Society Members only.**

**15 November 10.30am Zoom DNA Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln**

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-dna-discussion-group-2>

**22 November 2.30pm ZOOM Discussion Group Let's Talk About Family History with David Cufley**

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

**29 November 10.30am Library** *Family History Writing Group* with Pauline Heathcote

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/future-workshops/library-family-history-writing-group-with-pauline-heathcote>

**6 December 10.30am Zoom** *Family History Discussion Group* with Ann Clarke

The group will discuss: How did historical events shape the lives of our ancestors?

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-grtoup-with-ann-clarke>

**13 December 7.30pm Zoom** Discussion Group *Let's Talk About Christmas Family History Traditions* with David Cufley

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-lets-talk-about-christmas-family-history-traditions>

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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 our volunteer workshop coordinator for arranging our exciting programme of workshops, and to the workshop leaders who all give their time freely.**

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# Society 2024 Calendar Available NOW



Online Website shop  
Postal sales 01322 278646  
Email: [shop@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:shop@nwkfhs.org.uk)



<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/society-calendar>

Click above link to purchase online.

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Contact [shop@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:shop@nwkfhs.org.uk)

With 2nd class stamps now costing 75p this price is an absolute bargain.

Why not give the postal address of one of your long distance friends when you purchase - and a calendar with photos of our area will be posted straight to them. You can let them know via email that it's from you. It's little more than the cost of a Christmas card plus postage.

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**Society Library:** The Society Library has long been back to pre Covid opening arrangements, open every Wednesday from 10am to 4pm for members to do their own research, socialise, participate in library based workshops and discussion groups and receive help from the library volunteers.

There's no need to book just to use the library resources, but booking to attend workshops and other groups is essential for space reasons.

You can use the library's PCs to access Ancestry - and FindMyPast which currently includes access to the 1921 census. We suggest joining Kent Libraries as you can then access these websites from your own device whilst in the library which eases pressure on the library PCs.

Non members, on Wednesdays you can join the Society at the library.

80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley Kent DA5 2EE Free parking in nearby side roads.

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## Other Genealogy News

### **Ancestry Discounts - offers end 19 November**

[https://www.ancestry.co.uk/c/dna/gifts?o\\_xid=81657&o\\_lid=81657&o\\_sch=Paid+Search+Brand&anced=tzyfpz5bwq&qad\\_source=1&qclid=CjwKCAiA9dGqBhAqEiwAmRpTC7Yfpqj60elsW4Oa9Lil4QJ8GOk\\_iK1yzrk0rl4cNQQIYrQ6oALBMRoCP6MQAvD\\_BwE&gclidsrc=aw.ds](https://www.ancestry.co.uk/c/dna/gifts?o_xid=81657&o_lid=81657&o_sch=Paid+Search+Brand&anced=tzyfpz5bwq&qad_source=1&qclid=CjwKCAiA9dGqBhAqEiwAmRpTC7Yfpqj60elsW4Oa9Lil4QJ8GOk_iK1yzrk0rl4cNQQIYrQ6oALBMRoCP6MQAvD_BwE&gclidsrc=aw.ds)

Autosomal DNA Kits reduced to £59 plus shipping from £79 plus shipping.

Or for £60 plus shipping also get a 3 month membership for yourself

<https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>

The 'Beta' reduction of only £2.50 per online digital image is to continue for: birth records from 1837 until 100 years ago and for death records from 1837 until 1957.

Personally I (Stella) prefer the digital image as it eliminates the risk of human error in copying the information onto a certificate.

If you haven't done so already you need to create a free account. Searching is free, you only pay for what you order.

**Professor Rebecca Probart Zoom Presentation - Free -Tuesday 21 November 5.15pm**

**[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_E6yHMml5SHmleLHSqyHUIw#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_E6yHMml5SHmleLHSqyHUIw#/registration)**

One of the last events I attended in person before Lockdown (23 March 2020) was a presentation by Rebecca Probert at the Society of Genealogists on 29 February 2020. She gave a very interesting and excellently researched talk on *Marriage Law for Genealogists*.

Today, I was reading Peter Calver's Lost Cousins e newsletter and he mentioned that Rebecca is giving a free talk (In Cambridge but it will also be on Zoom) ***Women and the Crime of Bigamy in English Law, 1603-2023***. Based on her last talk I went to, I would definitely recommend it.

**<https://www.lostcousins.com/>** To find out more about LostCousins.

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**Items for the 1 December enews should please reach me as soon as possible, and by 28 November latest. There won't be a mid December e news.**  
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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. 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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*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.*

*Please email me if there's anything you want to say about enews.*

*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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