



The above is from my vintage photo collection. The blank oval is perhaps for something personal to be inserted. The postcard hasn't been written on on the reverse but does say a penny (1d) stamp is required.

Welcome to the 1 December 2023 enews and our programme of talks and workshops over the next few weeks.

Do read to the end for other genealogy news.

(There won't be a Dartford Talk on 2 December; this had to be brought forward to 25 November due to the usual hall being unavailable to us on that date.)

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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Dartford Branch Talk: *Boxers, Bandits and a Blind Beggar* with Ian Bevan

Saturday 6 January 2024: Doors Open 9.45am Talk starts 10.30am

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

Bethnal Green was a medieval hamlet to the east of the City of London long before the term "East End" was invented.

It became popular with rich merchants in the 16th century but immigration began in the 18th century and Bethnal Green soon developed into one of the first manufacturing districts in the area.

By the end of the 19th century foreign immigration had turned Bethnal Green into the over-populated scene of poverty which we find in the census returns. Slum clearance and post war redevelopment swept away most of these communities.

Ian Bevan is an experienced speaker who has been a regular visitor to our Society over the years.

Many of us have ancestors who lived in or passed through the East End of London and his illustrated talk will explain the history of the area and the clues which are left to show how our families lived and worked there.

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 *1066 The Battles of Fulford Gate and Stamford Bridge* with David Clarke

Saturday 13 January 2024 Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am

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

About the speaker:

David lives in St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex and walks, talks and writes about walking, local history and all things 1066. David is an experienced and anecdotal speaker who brings the history, walks and talks to life whether a school talk, club meeting or group event.

He considers his membership of CAMRA, The Inn Sign Society, The Ramblers and the Long Distance Walkers Association to be a perfect match for walking and is the author and creator of 1066 Harold's Way, a 100 mile long distance walk inspired by King Harold's epic march to the Battle of Hastings, 1066.

His book list includes 1066 The Saxon Times, 1066 Harold's Way, Walking the High Weald and a series of Short Walks in 1066 Country details of which can be found on his website www.1066haroldsway.co.uk.

About the talk:

While King Harold is down on the South Coast, waiting for an expected invasion by Duke William of Normandy, the north lies unprotected and ripe for invasion by Harald Hardrada's Vikings. Such riches, such wealth, such land there for the taking and if the Norwegians get a foothold in England before William it will be much harder for the Duke to gain complete control over the Kingdom.

On September 9th the invasion fleet assembled at the River Tyne in Northumbria to sail down the coast to the Humber.

Any rumours of civilised Vikings are far from the truth it is revealed. It is as if the clock has been turned back nearly 300 hundred years as towns south along the Northumbrian coast are sacked and ravaged. Viking by name, Viking by nature as the old saying goes.

Battle lines are drawn, first at Fulford Gate and later at Stamford Bridge, battles that led to the death of Harald Hardrada and Tostig Godwinson and preceded the Battle of Hastings.

This talk reviews the battles and their unforeseen and devastating effect on the events of 1066.

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.

Now is a great time to join the Society - only £10 and membership will last until 31 December 2024. And gives you free access to our workshops. [North West Kent Family History Society Membership \(nwkhfs.org.uk\)](https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk)

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.

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@nwkhfs.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.nwkhfs.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.

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>

20 December 10.30am Zoom *Workshop on The National Archives website and digital collections and the use of its Discovery program* with David Cufley.

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-workshop/zoom-workshop-on-the-national-archives-discovery-program>

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Please note the library will not be open on Wednesday 27 December.

See the website for January workshops and onward

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

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

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

North West Kent Family History Society

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

Click above link to purchase online.

- **£2.50** including **UK** postage

- **£3.50** including **Europe** postage
- **£4.25** Including **Rest Of World** postage
- Price includes 2nd class postage to your address
- Order on-line [via the society shop](#)

Queries?

Contact 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.

Please note the library will not be open on Wednesday 27 December.

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

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Other Genealogy News

Ancestry DNA Discounts - now extended to 28 December

[AncestryDNA® | DNA Tests for Ethnicity & Genealogy DNA](#)

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

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Cyndi's List [Cyndi's List - United Kingdom & Ireland \(cyndislist.com\)](#)

Some of you may have heard of Cyndy's List, a resource for genealogists. Find out more here: [Best Websites - Cyndi's List - An Interview with Cyndi Ingle \(familytreemagazine.com\)](#)

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Items for the 1 January 2024 enews should please reach me as soon as possible, and by 27 December 2023 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 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.

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

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