

**Welcome to the August emailinfoservice, the NWKFHS fortnightly information service, comprising the latest information about the Society and other items of interest for family historians.**

**After a few weeks break from creating emailinfoservice, there are a few things to tell you.**

**The 2021 calendar is now available** (hooray, as I for one have many cancelled events which should have taken place over the last few months which have been rescheduled for 2021) so I need to record the new dates.

Our Chairman, Tony Codling, sends the following message:

*Please see the photo above with this year's photographic competition winners and pictures.*

*Once again the choice of images was very difficult for the publicity committee due to the high quality of pictures submitted.*

*This year because, we have been unable to meet in person and have our monthly talks, the calendar format has been changed.*

*It is A4 size when open but can fold to A5 size which allows us to be able to post it as a standard letter and include the second class postage cost in the selling price.*

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services> scroll down and order here

We hope you are all safe and well and we are looking forward to meetings up again as soon as it is possible to do so.

## Workshops

**News for all members who use Zoom:** on 13 August we ran our first workshop as a trial with a limited number of participants. The trial went well and soon we hope to announce the dates and times of further workshops.

We know that our far flung members have sometimes contacted us to ask how they can be included in the workshops, which were also limited by the library only having space for a maximum of 10 participants. Well it seems that Covid 19 has forced innovation upon us. If you are a paid up member and in a similar timezone there is nothing to stop you joining in. Future workshops will be listed on the website calendar or email the workshop booking email address below for more information.

We need your ideas of what workshops should be the first to be run. We would also like you to say what times and the day of the week the live presentations should be run. Please email [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk) with your thoughts.

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## September Journal now available on our website for members to read

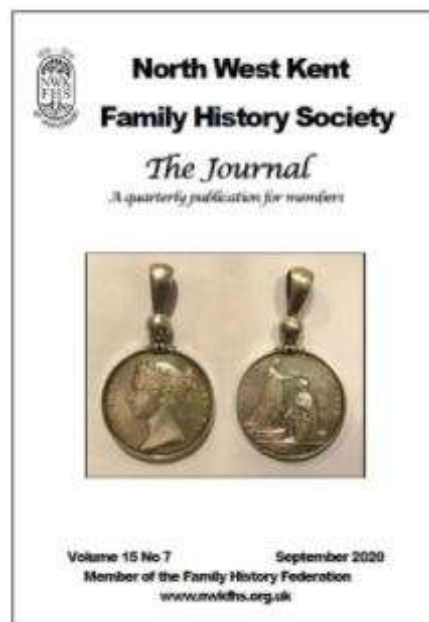
Have you had a look at the September issue of the Journal?

Paid up Society Members can read it on-line now and, unless they have opted for online - only, members will also receive a posted paper copy in early September. (Subscriptions from £10 pa).

*"It has been remarkable"* Pauline, the editor commented *"just how many family historians have put pen to paper during the challenging summer."*

*Can you join them? Articles long and short and images are needed for the December issue".*

Chat to Pauline using [editor@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:editor@nwkfhs.org.uk)



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## MyHeritage free photo enhancing and colouring

[MyHeritage Photo Enhancer](#) and [MyHeritage In Color™](#) —

This is free to use until 10 September 2020.

Normally, these features can be used by non-subscribers on up to 10 photos each, while users with a Complete plan enjoy unlimited use. But until 10 September, anyone can enhance and colorize as many photos as they'd like for free

I have recently whiled away a wet afternoon playing with this. You start by uploading scan of your photo, so the original photo or copy is unharmed and unchanged from its original state.

Here are before and after shots of a photo taken in August 1955 of my parents Gordon Dennis GRATWICK and Sheila Audrey GRATWICK nee COLES.

They are on honeymoon in St Peter Port, Guernsey.

I am sure they would have loved to see this colour version if they were still alive - and could say how accurate the colours are.



Why not have a play around with some of your old black and white photos whilst it's free?

**Warning about buying certificates from sites other than [www.gro.gov.uk](http://www.gro.gov.uk)**

There are several sites which publicise that they act as an intermediary for the purchase of certificates.

But beware, they charge a handling fee and there is absolutely no reason to pay this.

To purchase certificates from gro.gov.uk you will need to create a free account at <https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/Login.asp> after which you can search for free and order certificates. NOTE: there is some scheduled maintenance of the site today (20 August) so there may be delay before you can log in.

Look at <https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/faq.asp> and scroll down for the price list. I buy the cheapest which is fine for Family History purposes and costs £7 for a downloadable PDF. Here is an example of what a PDF birth certificate looks like.

Registration District WYCOMBE.									
1916. BIRTHS in the Sub-District of PRINCES RISBOROUGH in the County of BUCKINGHAM.									
Date	Name and Surname of Child	Sex	Name and Surname of Father	Name and Surname of Mother	Rank or Profession of Father	Signature, Printed Name, and Address of Registrar	Signature of Registrar	Signature of Registrar	Signature of Registrar
20 August 1916	Rebecca Thompson	Female	Ludwig Thompson	Elizabeth Thompson	Engineer	L.R. Thompson	John	John	John
20 August 1916	Raymond Thompson	Male	Ludwig Thompson	Elizabeth Thompson	Engineer	L.R. Thompson	John	John	John

**On the subject of buying information, UK wills were reduced to £1.50 per will last year.** This makes it incredibly cheap to access all the family information which might be included in a will.

<https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#wills> Wills available on this site go back to 1858.

**The National Archives Discovery catalogue also holds old wills.** I downloaded many from there for free as the normal charge of £3.50 per download was waived while the building was closed. And the good news is, although the building has re-opened in a limited way, the website still says "We will continue to provide free downloads of digital records on our website for the time being, as we are initially only able to re-open for a very limited number of researchers. We will keep this, and all of our opening arrangements, under constant review." There is a maximum number of free downloads per month.

You have to create a free account, but the good news, unlike the Gov.uk sites for certificates (where there are currently delays), the TNI Discovery documents can be downloaded immediately you order them. <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/> Of course, only records actually held at TNI, and which they have scanned in, can be downloaded in this way.

The wills from TNI have not been transcribed, so you will find yourself looking at old handwriting. But my advice is to still download them now whilst free even though it will take you time to transcribe them later.

**If you are a member of Ancestry** (I have been since March 2019) you may find that other

subscribers with public trees have helpfully uploaded documents and certificates to their tree. If the tree is Public then you can simply download a copy of that certificate.

**The One Name Guild**, is a membership organisation, but it does have some information available to non members, eg its Marriages of the World index, where its members have uploaded basic data about marriages (where the wedding date is over 60 years ago) and this can be accessed free of charge.

<https://one-name.org/marriages-of-the-world-search/>

This database holds over 188,000 marriages and One Name Guild members are adding more daily.

I love old marriage photos. This is a 1933 photo of my Great Aunt Nellie Sarah COLES (21 May 1907 - 1993) marrying William N Wilson (1905 - 1988).



Why not look to see if any One Name Guild member is studying a surname you are interested in? <https://one-name.org/>

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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 [emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk) with your contributions. Any photos must be your own copyright.*

*I am a volunteer creating this e-newsletter in my 'spare time' but, if you do notice any errors, please tell me, so that they are not carried forward to the next emailinfo.*

*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 emailinfoservice, 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

[emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk)

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