



# North West Kent Family History Society

*The Journal*  
*A quarterly publication for members*



*Membership renewal form inside*

Volume 15 No 8

December 2020

Member of the Family History Federation

[www.nwkhfs.org.uk](http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk)

[View this email in your browser](#)

**Welcome to the late November emailinfo service, comprising the latest information about the Society and other items of interest for family historians.**

### **A message from our Chairman, Tony Codling**

I am delighted to inform you that the December journal (front cover above) is now available on the website for Society Members to download.

Just log in to the MOA (Members Only Area) of the website and, in the top menu, select "community"; go down to "Past Quarterly & Back Journals" ; click on Volume 15 then select No 8.

We hope you will enjoy reading it, and to those of you who have chosen not to receive a paper copy posted to you, thank you once again for helping the society reduce its P&P costs and go a little way towards saving a tree or two.

Have you logged into the website recently? [www.nwkhfs.org.uk](http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk)

Please check it out as a lot of new information has been added, particularly Zoom Workshops and Discussion Groups organised by Pam Goddard, Workshops Co-ordinator.

David Cufley, our President is leading the Zoom Workshops, giving us the benefit of his many decades of researching family history. See below for details of the Zoom Workshops.

We also have a guest speaker on 5 December, historian Imogen Corrigan, who many members will know from her in person talks to our Society.

Other Zoom speakers are planned for next year.

On behalf of the Trustees, please stay safe and have a nice Christmas, and we hope next year will be back to some sort of normal.

***Tony Codling***

**ZOOM Speaker: Imogen Corrigan: The Goose is Getting Fat - an insight into the history of Christmas traditions.**

**Saturday 5 December 10.45am, log in from 10.00am**

To join the talk, click here <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/> where there is a link to the Zoom code required on the day and, for non-zoomers, Imogen has written an explanation of how it will work.

The Zoom audience is limited to 100 devices so, as booking is not required, it's suggested you log in soon after 10am to secure your place.

Open to both members and non members of North West Kent FHS.

More info about Imogen here: <http://www.medieval-lecture.com/.../the-goose-is-getting.../>

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**Workshops**

As we can't hold hold face to face and workshops, NWKFHS members are invited to the following online Zoom workshops led by our President, David Cufley: we would be very pleased if you can join us.

**Wednesday 2 December 10.30am and Wednesday 9 December 2.30am**

Parts 1 and 2 of a workshop on 'Some online Medieval Records and other records after 1485'.

A look at some online sites with medieval records and information. Followed by the use of early Manorial records which overlap the start of Parish Registers post 1538, and a case study of methodology.

**Monday 14 December 2.30 - 4.00pm**

Discussion Group - topic for this session is Primary and Secondary Sources. Limited to 12 attendees.

**Wednesday 16 December 2.30pm**

Discussion Group - topic for this session is The Guild of One Name Studies and other groups useful to family historians. Limited to 12 attendees.

**Wednesday 23 December 2.30pm**

Workshop: How to use Excel to enter and manage data.

**Please contact workshop coordinator Pam Goddard for the link / code to enable you to attend and of the above Workshops and Discussion Groups. [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk)**

**Pam would also like to hear from you if you have topic requests for workshops or want to suggest different dates or times.**

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**Christmas Presents Online - some ideas -  
(while so called 'non-essential' shops are closed)**

**Idea 1**

Is there a dear friend or family  
you cannot meet up with this Christmas?

If so, why not remind them of you by  
sending them our 2021 calendar, filled  
with beautiful photos of scenes from the  
North West Kent area?



It only costs £2.50 including UK 2nd class postage to your UK address.

See: <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/society-calendar-2021>

To order click <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/shop/nwkhfs-shop/services> scroll down and order.

**Idea 2**

I have joined a couple of 'extra' family history societies this year, in areas where my ancestors came from. Why not give membership of North West Kent FHS or another family history society as a gift?

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/about/membership/our-membership>

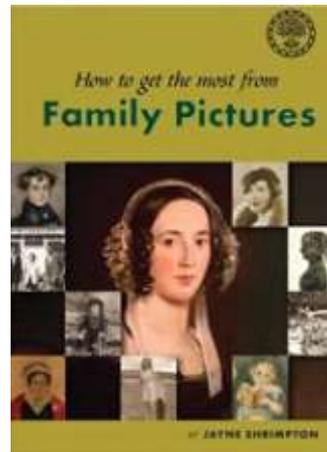
### Idea 3 - books

#### *How to get the most from family*

#### *Pictures by Jayne Shrimpton*

(Below I mention a masterclass of 30 photo tips from Jayne Shrimpton.)

I have bought her book *How to get the most from family pictures* twice as gifts plus a copy for myself.



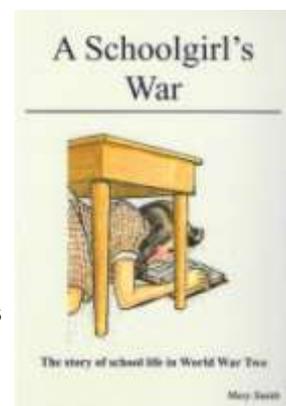
I think it makes an ideal gift for anyone interested in old photos..

#### *A Schoolgirl's War by Mary Smith*

In May 2019, Mary Smith gave a talk to our Society entitled *A Schoolgirl's War*.

At the time, several society members bought a copy of her book, at least one for a granddaughter.

The story of school life during WW2 in Kent is told through a unique combination of the testimonies of wartime pupils and a fascinating set of contemporary artworks. Helen Keen, a wartime art teacher in Maidstone, documented the lives of schoolgirls and their teachers in paint and pencil as the war unfolded.



The record provided by Helen's exquisite paintings and drawings is enhanced by the memories and anecdotes of those at school at the time.

Children in the last year of primary all study the home front in WW2 would enjoy this book, as would anyone age 10 and above from any part of the country.

Copies are available through the website of Maidstone Girls' Grammar School, <https://www.mggs.org/war> at a cost of £10 each plus p&p. The sale of the books is helping to fund the exploration of a second air-raid shelter uncovered at the school, and the development of a dedicated wartime classroom for educational visits.

#### Idea 4

Print an interesting old family photo onto proper photographic paper (I use a machine at Tesco, they are also in most Boots), label all the people in it and draw up a simplified family tree showing where they fit in.



Send it with a Christmas card to your living relatives.

I am going to do that with this photo of a several generations of Gratwicks, taken in the mid 1950s.

This is also in tune with my aim of dispersing copies of these interesting old photos so that, even if some recipients are not that interested, hopefully some, properly labelled photos will survive when 'we' are the ancestors. In this scan below, I have already enhanced it using MyHeritage when it had a free offer.

#### Idea 5

A DNA test. Ancestry's Autosomal test is only £49 plus postage (normally £79) until 30 November .

This might be a good Christmas gift for someone who enjoys Family History but hasn't yet tested. Discounted to only £49 plus shipping When you order the test you don't have to say who it's for.

[Click here for the link](#)

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#### Making the most of your photos

For Dress Historian Jayne Shrimpton's 30 professional tips for making the most of your old photographs:

click [here](#).

It doesn't take that long to read through Jayne's tips, which are well worth the time spent doing so. Jayne is a well known speaker on the subject and I have heard her speak in person a couple of times.



(This photo is of Lily Mabel **GRATWICK** nee **PULHAM** born 1903 outside

her home in Southover, Bromley in approx 1928 / 29 with son Gordon born 1927 and daughter Violet born 1924.)

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### Photo Colouring

In the last email newsletter, member Pam Goddard told us about the scanning software she used and recommended.



That prompted member Robert Sear to write in about a 'black and white to colour' program he has bought and uses called Pixbim. Pixbim colours photos using artificial intelligence.

Robert considers it easy to use. It costs about £30 but there is a free trial. On the negative side, it does struggle with group photos and some photos have better results than others. But after his free trial Robert was impressed and purchased it.

Pixbim example above.

If you have some time on your hands, why, not play around using the free trial of coloursurprise?

<https://pixbim.com/colorsurprise-ai-pixbim>

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<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/nwkhfs/>

Raise donations for North West Kent Family History Society whenever you shop online

Turn your everyday online shopping into FREE donations

This month so far I have raised 63p via easyfundraising (a £28 purchase at Glasses Direct) and in total £9.76 has been raised this month. It may not seem much, but my purchase would have cost £28 whether or not I had registered with easyfundraising, so please help the society.

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## Membership Renewal

Due 1 January, there is a reminder form inside the December journal. Or pay online which saves time for our volunteer Renewals Secretary and Treasurer. Paying by standing order is even more helpful.

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/about/membership/our-membership>

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### Free Desktop Microfiche Reader and set of LDS fiche

Member Patrick Leonard is pruning his research aids and has the above free for any interested reader. Patrick lives in Croydon, and if anyone interested is unable to collect, he'd be willing to deliver them both to one address up to about 15 miles away.

It might be of interest to someone who is not computerised.

Contact Patrick on [mayflairs@aol.com](mailto:mayflairs@aol.com)

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

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Click on our other links    [Blog](#)    [Facebook](#)    [Flickr](#)

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*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*

Stella Eames, Editor

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

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