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## **Zoom Talk Saturday 19 February log in from 10am for a 10.30 start**

### **Guest Speaker Dr. Penny Walters *Searching for ancestors when adopted***

Have you found your 'real' family? This talk discusses the excitement, pain and problems for an adoptee looking for relatives and researching ancestors. Collaborating with DNA matches can be a key solution.

The talk will discuss the practical realities, excitement and pain of researching a "new" family, also looking at information revealed through DNA testing.

Penny will also reflect on her own adoption story.

No pre booking, simply log in from 10am in good time. Free to members and non members alike.

Zoom host: Pat Gooding

This talk will be recorded and placed on the website Members Only Area probably within a few days afterwards.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89102402793?pwd=WFdRWtBxLzlrbkxHSzlsY3NQNTNTdz09>

Meeting ID: 891 0240 2793

Passcode: 066632

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### **Welcome to the mid February 2022 enews**



### **Society Library: opening hours and booking**

**At present the library is open and staffed by library volunteers on Wednesdays from midday to 4pm.**

**To prevent overcrowding users must, please, phone our Librarian Janet on 01322 384836 in advance to check there is space for the time period you would like to come.**

Janet has told me that most people come about midday and stay til 3.30pm or so. At the moment there is plenty of space for everyone who has booked.

There are three PCs for research; or you can use your own device - but if using your own device you need to join Kent Libraries to be able to log in to the library edition of Ancestry, FindmyPast and other resources.

If you cannot get there in the afternoon but can make the morning, please phone Janet to discuss as a library Volunteer may be able to open up early for you.

**Library at: 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Kent DA5 2EE**

Parking in nearby roads.

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## **Society Membership 2022 Renewal was due 1 January and still only £10**

**Members should all have renewed by now for 2022.**

**2021 was an unusual year, but we hope you still felt your £10 subs was a bargain and will continue to be so, given our programme of talks and workshops, whether in person or *Zoom*, and our four quarterly journals.**

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

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

(this enews is free to members and non members alike).

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## **The Society Website - a Wealth of Information for Society Members**

### **Logging on to the Website as a Member**

Did you know that the members' only area of our website is full of valuable resources such as past issues of our quarterly journals (all the way back to 1978), recorded zoom talks, surnames members are researching, and much, much more.

All you need to do is visit the members' only area of the website (<http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/members-login>) and log in with the details we have given you. (Look for your user name and first password on the Welcome Letter you received when you joined.)

Not sure how? We've prepared a video which will show you exactly what to do, step by step. Why not take a look today and see what more you can add to your family tree research?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYBG1RWufrU>

Haven't you joined our society yet? Please do consider becoming a member as it's only £10 for individuals and £12 for joint members, per year. Click on the link below to see more.

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

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**Talks** are now either in person at our Dartford and Sevenoaks venues or by *Zoom*. The combined details of *Zoom* and in person talks are in one chronological list below.

The description for each event states clearly whether it is via *Zoom* or an in person talk.

Currently all Workshops remain *Zoom*.

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## **ZOOM Talks**

**Zoom Talks are free and open to all.** They cannot be pre booked - please just log on via the link in good time.

All times given are UK time.

NWKFHS members who missed a talk, perhaps because you are not in our timezone, note that **some** speakers have allowed their talks to be recorded and recorded talks are saved here - <https://nwkfhs.org.uk/resources/all-other/zoom-talk-videos> note this link only works for paid up members logged into the website. Sometimes speakers have given permission for their talks only to be recorded for a specified amount of time, so members please do check the link.

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**Saturday 5 March Doors Open 9.45am meeting starts at 10.30am at Dartford Branch.  
Location: Dartford Science and Technology College, Heath Lane, Dartford Kent DA1 2LY**

**Guest speaker Russell Bowes will give a talk entitled Dig For Victory -  
Background information to ancestors' lives during world war II.**

Few of us are old enough to have memories of life during World War II but most are familiar with the expression "Dig for Victory" and know its war time origin. Russell Bowes has a diploma in garden history, and is well qualified to explain how the Dig for Victory campaign was implemented.

In 1939 the UK was importing 70% of its food, as it was government policy to prioritise the export of manufactured goods over the importance of producing food at home. This resulted in there only being 7 weeks food supply in store at the outbreak of the war. As male agricultural workers were conscripted, women (the Land Army) had to work on the land and vegetables had to be grown instead of flowers.

Russell talks with humour and authority and has some fascinating facts for us.

The meeting will be led by Janet Rose.

Free to NWKFHS members; non members are asked to make a donation towards costs of hall hire and speaker.

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.

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**Thursday 10 March Doors Open 7.15pm Meeting starts 8.00pm talk at Sevenoaks Branch.  
Location: Otford Village Memorial Hall, High Street, Otford TN14 5PQ (adjacent car park is free in the evening).**

**Guest Speaker Dr John Reuther will give us a very informative talk entitled "*The Lives and Deaths of the Hanovers*".**

The House of Hanover were of German descent who succeeded the House of Stuart as kings of Great Britain in 1714. The first Hanoverian King of England was only 52nd in line to the throne, but, thanks to the Act of Settlement, George was the nearest **Protestant** eligible to take the crown.

Free to NWKFHS members; non members are asked to make a donation towards costs of hall hire and speaker.

No booking, just turn up. Free parking in the evenings at the adjacent large car park.

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## **Zoom Talk Tuesday 22 March log in from 7pm for a 7.30 start**

**“The Life & Legacy of George Bradshaw”**

**Dr David Turner will examine how Bradshaw’s company produced guides and handbooks that were considered indispensable for Victorian and Edwardian railway travellers and reveals how they were seen by the public.**

Zoom host: Mike Weeks

This talk will be recorded and placed on the website probably within a few days afterwards.

The Zoom link will be published on the website [www.nwkhfs.org.uk](http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk) nearer the date.

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## **ZOOM Workshops, Special Interest and Discussion groups**

**Zoom Workshops (including Discussion Groups and Writing Groups)** have a maximum number to allow all attendees to participate, and are restricted to paid up North West Kent FHS members only. Workshops last for 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://nwkhfs.org.uk/events/workshops/past-zoom-workshop-videos>

Note the above link will only work for Society members logged into the website.

**February 23 DNA Discussion Group      Laura Lincoln   10.30am-midday**

**March 2 Medieval Records Part 2 – The Manorial Documents Register   David Cufley  
7.30pm - 9.30**

The Manorial Documents Register (MDR) is an index of English and Welsh manorial records, providing brief descriptions of documents and details of their locations in public and private hands.

Manorial records include court rolls, surveys, maps, terriers and all other documents relating to the boundaries, franchises, wastes, customs or courts of a manor. This is a case study using the Hexton, Hertfordshire Manor court records to recreate a family mentioned in the records as tenants and as jurors. The method we have used to recreate a family line from the manor records.

Free but a donation via the web shop will be appreciated.

Capacity 15

Registration/Booking Spaces are limited. 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.

**9 March Discussion Group: Leader Carolyn Barclay  
Theme: Bring an Ancestor. 10am - 11.45am**

Members to introduce an ancestor of interest to the group.

Free but a donation via the web shop would be appreciated

Capacity 12

Registration/Booking Spaces are limited. 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.

**16 March Parish Chest : A workshop on the documents found in the parish archives. David Cufley 7.30pm - 9.30**

Free but a donation via the web shop will be appreciated.

Capacity 15

Registration/Booking Spaces are limited. Please reserve a place with [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk) including the event title and date together with your name and membership number.

**23 March Breaking Down Brickwalls David Cufley 10.30am - 12.30pm**

Discussion workshop to help researchers get over research hurdles (entries must be submitted by 9th March.) Please provide a name, topic and some background information

Free but a donation via the web shop will be appreciated.

Capacity 12

Registration/Booking Spaces are limited. Please reserve a place with [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk) including the event title and date together with your name and membership number.

**30 March DNA Discussion Group Laura Lincoln 10.30am - 12.30pm**

Free but a donation via the web shop will be appreciated.

Capacity 12

Registration/Booking Spaces are limited. Please reserve a place with [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk) including the event title and date together with your name and membership number

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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.**

**Society members please book by emailing Carolyn for the link / code to enable you to attend any of the above Workshops and Discussion Groups. [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk)**

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

If you participate in a workshop, please consider making a donation to the Society through our eshop <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services> and scroll down for 'Society Donation'.

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**See <https://nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings> for topics and dates / times of Workshops and Talks further ahead.**

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***Easyfundraising - a charity donation when you shop online***

***Click here*** to raise donations for North West Kent Family History Society whenever you shop online. Turn your everyday online shopping into FREE donations at no cost to you..

**So far the Society has 40 *easyfundraising* supporters who have raised over £773.**

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<https://www.gov.uk/search-will-probate>

I am a regular user of the Government website for finding Wills and Grants of Representation (England and Wales only). They only cost £1.50 - so much cheaper than the minimum of £7 for a Death Certificate. For deaths pre 1996 your search result gives you useful facts.

Eg, recently I wanted to find the marriage (to see if he had descendants) and / or death of my great great uncle William Thompson born 1871. A common name in the Lewisham area of South East London (then Kent) where the family lived. I did find on freebmd the death of a William Thompson in 1897 of the right age. But I didn't want to pay £7 for a death certificate - especially as it might be a coincidence of name and year of birth.

A search of the probate index gave me the following result:

As you can see it's not that readable, but when you are viewing it on the GRO website, you can enlarge the wording.

**THOMPSON** William of 15 Dermody-road College-park Lewisham Kent died 17 April 1897 Administration London 12 June to Mark Thompson greengrocer Effects £103 16s. 1d.

It says: "THOMPSON William of 15 Dermody-road College-park Lewisham Kent died 17 April 1897 Administration London 12 June to Mark Thompson greengrocer Effects £103 16s 1d."

As I knew the family lived at 15 Dermody Road, William's father was called Mark and was a greengrocer, I now have, for free, confirmation of death and the actual date. Sadly William was only 26.

However, the sting in the tail is that the Government has just recently badly revamped the site, names are difficult to find and are not always in alphabetical order.

In William's case he was near the bottom of a page and off screen until I reduced the size to near unreadable.

However Dave Annal, an Oxfordshire FHS member, has made a very helpful, short video - explaining how he has managed to circumvent some of the new problems. I have watched it and recommend it, it only lasts a few minutes.

Dave's short YouTube video is most helpful in showing that results pages are often not in alphabetical order; and how to order when there is no folio number but the order form won't let you proceed without one.

see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wvgExKFbNXQ&t=13s> -

Like all YouTube videos it's preceded by adverts but you can click to 'skip ads'.

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**Email I received about temporary free access to MyHeritage marriage records:**

In honor of Valentine's Day, we are offering FREE access to all marriage records for a limited time, from February 13-20!

Please let your followers/readers know that they can enjoy free access to all [600 million marriage records](#) on MyHeritage.

Daniel Horowitz  
Genealogy Expert

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

Click on our other links <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/blog> [Facebook](#) [Flickr](#)

*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

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

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