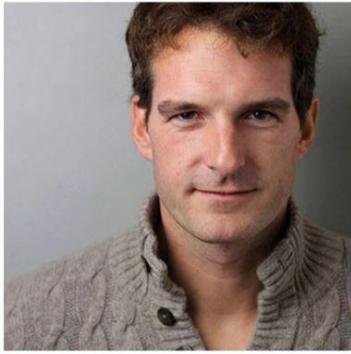


[View this email in your browser](#)

#### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**Dan Snow**

Historian, TV Personality



**Kadeena Cox**

British Paralympic Gold Medalist



**Donny Osmond**

Entertainer

**Welcome to the 1 November 2019 emailinfoservice, the NWKFS fortnightly information service, comprising the latest information about the Society and its events, and other items of interest for family historians.**

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#### RootsTech London 2019

I've just attended this fabulous 3 day conference at the London, England Excel Conference Centre.

This genealogy conference has been taking place at Salt Lake City in the US for several years but this was the first time it came to the UK. I made sure to make the absolute most of my time at RootsTech. As well as many exhibition stands, there were over 50 different speakers every day, so it was essential to plan my time. Plus as I had applied and been accepted to be an Ambassador, I was a kind of roving reporter on the day and got to speak to the three keynote speakers, after their talks, in the media hub

I had an amazing time; caught up with some long distance friends who had also travelled to RootsTech, met family historians from all over the world, attended many interesting talks and learned a massive amount. I do hope it comes to London again, but as yet this has not been announced.

These are my favourite photos: YESSSSSS ... I got to interview Donny Osmond!!!!





See more photos and videos of RootsTech London 2019  
here [https://www.facebook.com/pg/RootsTech/posts/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/RootsTech/posts/?ref=page_internal)

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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.*

**If I don't receive any I will have to use my own which may not be as interesting.**

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**Not joined yet? - don't dine in for £10 - join the Society for £10 instead.**

**Those who join now get over 2 months free as your membership will last til 31 December 2020. SO ITS A GREAT TIME TO JOIN.**

Those of you who are not members are missing a treat as the Society's Journal is packed with interesting stories thanks to its Editor Pauline Heathcote. The Journal, posted quarterly, is only available to members.

(NB Editors do need something to edit! So members please carry on sending in your interesting research stories to Pauline [editor@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:editor@nwkfhs.org.uk)).

**To join NWKFHS and receive the Journal and come to the library, all our meetings, house groups and workshops** please just click [here](#) or email Membership Secretary Mrs Christina Barnett, on [membership@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:membership@nwkfhs.org.uk) **Membership is only £10 per year or £12 for two people at the same address. Value of family history news and help you can receive .... priceless.**

**Membership benefits:** members get free access to all our meetings with speakers PLUS a quarterly journal packed full of articles and useful information, monthly workshops on topics requested by members and the benefits of our library and research centre, open Wednesdays. The website has a members - only area with back journals and other data.

**The Library** at 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joyden's Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE is open to members and visitors every Wednesday from 10am to 4pm. Our volunteers can help you with your research and you can use the library computers with free Find My Past and Ancestry access.

We welcome all new members whether experienced at family history or novices. Our library volunteers can help you get started or possibly overcome a brick wall. Come to the library on a Wednesday between 10am and 4pm, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joyden's Wood, DA5 2EE. You can join the Society at the library.

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## Easyfundraising

**You can raise money for NWKFHS while doing your usual online shopping.**

**It's completely painless.**

All you have to do is **sign up** to support North West Kent Family History Society - Bexley on **easyfundraising**.

Then online shops and sites - many of them also High Street retailers like Sainsburys - will donate a % of your spend every time you shop with them. And it costs you nothing, you still pay the same price.

**So what is stopping you?**

Plus, if you sign up with the following link, easyfundraising will match the first £5 you raise. Visit: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/nwkhfs/?invite=WYSGS7&referral-campaign=s2s>

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**[The latest branch newsletters and back issues of this e-newsletter can be found HERE You will be taken to a screen where you can then click on the newsletter you want to read.](#)**

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

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### **What's On - A reminder of NWKFHS Events during the next few weeks**

**[\(Click here to see the entire Talks, Workshops and Events programme so you can book your diaries well ahead\)](#)**

Our meetings are interesting mix of speakers and workshops. The Branch meetings with speakers are held at venues in Bromley, Dartford and Sevenoaks and the workshops are in the Society Library in Joyden's Wood, which we have sole use of on Wednesdays. **Branch meetings are free to NWKFHS members and no booking is required.** *Visitors are welcome and are invited to make a contribution towards costs of hall hire and the speaker. Returning visitors are invited to join the Society only £10 a year or £12 total for two members at the same address.*    <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/about/our-membership>

**The 2-hour workshops** are limited to 10 members and are very popular. Even if full, reserve lists are kept and a second workshop on the same topic is arranged if there is demand. Sometimes reserves are invited to join the workshop at short notice. Please note that **booking is essential for workshops** and we invite a donation eg £5 towards the costs of maintaining the library.

2020 dates are already on our website for workshops

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/community/workshops>

If you've got your 2020 diary, why not browse the online calendar and see if any of the topics interest you? Booking is open but Workshops are for the benefit of for NWKFHS members only.

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**Saturday 2 November Speaker at Dartford 10.30am**  
**Guest speaker Ian Porter will talk about The Real Downton Abbey**

What it was really like to be in domestic service?

The TV series paints a fairly rosy picture of service. This tells you what servants' lives and jobs were really like.

Novelist, historian and London walks guide, Ian Porter, has his own walks company in London for which he guides all 35 walks. He does many talks, mostly specialising in 19th and early 20th century history.. He loves Downton Abbey and one of his great grandparents was a servant so he has done lots of research into the subject of servants.

Doors open 9.45am, meeting starts 10.30am. The venue, Dartford Science and Technology College, Heath Lane, Dartford DA1 2LY, has a large, free car park via the Heath Lane entrance.

Visitors are welcome and are invited to make a donation towards the hall and speaker costs. Returning visitors attending more than one meeting are asked to join the Society (£10 per calendar year).

Dartford Science and Technology College asks: due to having a pupil with a severe allergic reaction to nuts and aerosols, we have had to ban these two items to ensure the pupil's safety. Please do not bring any products that are aerosol based, or foods which may contain nuts, onto site. I do hope that you all will understand the importance of this request, and we thank you for your understanding.

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**Wednesday 13 November 10.30am - 12.30 Computing Group at the Library**  
**Self help with input from library experts.**

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact [workshop.booking@nwkfh.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfh.org.uk)  
*There is no charge for workshops but they are only open to Society members. Attendees are invited to make a contribution, suggested £5, towards costs.*

Held at the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE  
Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

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**Thursday 14 November Speaker at Sevenoaks 8pm**  
**Alan Williams will talk about 'cradle to grave - creating the welfare state in Forties Britain'**

Much of what we think of as the modern welfare state, for example the National Health Service, Social Security and a commitment to full employment, has its recent origins in World War Two and was created in the late 1940s.

In this talk Alan will explore the background to the creation of the welfare state and why the war acted as an agent of such significant policy change.

Doors open 7.30pm meeting starts 8pm. The new venue, Main Hall, Otford Village Memorial Hall, 28a High Street Otford TN14 5PQ is adjacent to a car park which is free after 6.30pm.

Visitors are welcome and are invited to make a donation towards the hall and speaker costs. Returning visitors attending more than one meeting are asked to join the Society (£10 per calendar year)

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## **Friday 15 November 2pm - 4pm DNA Group at the Library**

Meets every third Friday of the month. Self help.

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk)

*There is no charge for workshops but they are only open to Society members. Attendees are invited to make a contribution, suggested £5, towards costs.*

Held at the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE

Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

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## **Saturday 16 November Speaker at Bromley 10.30am**

### **Dean Caston will speak about the History of the Royal Variety Performance**

Dean will talk to us about the first Royal Command performance in 1912 through to the current day.

The first Royal Variety Show was instigated by Sir Edward Moss through correspondence with George V and was to be a royal variety show at the Empire theatre, Edinburgh, in 1911 to celebrate the King's coronation. Unfortunately, before this could happen the theatre caught fire and Sir Moss died.

Sir Alfred Butt took over and the show took place at the Palace theatre in London during 1912. This was known as the Royal Command Performance and monies raised went to the Royal Variety charity. The charity still benefits from the show. George V became its patron – as has every subsequent monarch, although our present Queen hasn't attended since 2014, leaving it to other high-ranking members of the Royal family to stand in for her.

During the 107-year history of the Royal Variety Performance it has been held in seven cities, with the London Palladium hosting the event 42 times. There were several years when the show did not take place, mainly due to the World Wars. The show was first televised in 1960 with many watching it during those early years of its broadcast.

Doors open 9.45am, meeting starts 10.30am. The venue, Bromley Methodist Church, College Road, Bromley BR1 3NS has a free car park (although this can fill up) and is close to Bromley North Station and is on or near many bus routes.

Visitors are welcome and are invited to make a donation towards the hall and speaker costs. Returning visitors attending more than one meeting are asked to join the Society (£10 per calendar year)

Please note that Bromley Branch does not hold a meeting in December as the hall is not available.

### **Vacancy For Bromley Branch Programme Secretary**

Lynne Overton has, as yet, had no enquiries from people wanting to discuss what would be involved in taking over her role, nor from volunteers who would like to take it on. Accordingly, she is asking once again for any interested parties to get in touch with her, so that she can outline exactly what is involved.

She has been asked if someone who is not a regular Bromley attendee could organise the programme, and the answer to that is, "of course", as the Bromley Committee would undertake to help set up equipment, greet the speaker, offer the introduction, and give the vote of thanks.

Another approach would be that two friends could work together on the programme, talking over likely speakers, and co-ordinating their efforts so that the onus of sourcing, contacting, confirming etc would be shared between them.

Lynne has built up a file of contacts, lists of sources for discovering likely speakers, spreadsheets of past speakers to Bromley Branch, and blank spreadsheets to be filled in for the Executive Committee and the Journal, and all this information, including a file of past correspondence will be handed over to the new incumbent(s). If you know Lynne, you will know that she is always willing to support anyone who needs it, and will make herself available for assistance and advice if required.

Please contact her, either at a Bromley meeting, or by e-mail: [programme.nwkfhsbromley@virginmedia.com](mailto:programme.nwkfhsbromley@virginmedia.com)

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**Wednesday 20 November 10.30am - 12.30 Workshop at the Library**  
**Some online medieval records and records after 1485 led by David Cufley**

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

**Please note this is a late change to the advertised programme**

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk)  
*There is no charge for workshops but they are only open to Society members. Attendees are invited to make a contribution, suggested £5, towards costs.*

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**Wednesday 27 November 10.30am - 12.30 Writing Group at the Library**  
**Led by Pauline Heathcote**

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk)  
*There is no charge for workshops but they are only open to Society members. Attendees are invited to make a contribution, suggested £5, towards costs.*

Held at the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE  
Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

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**Saturday 7 December Speaker at Dartford 10.30am**  
**Guest speaker Mike Brown will talk about Christmas on the Home Front 1939 - 45**

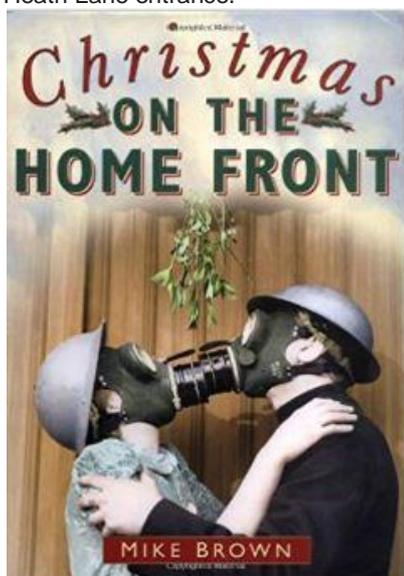
The outbreak of war in 1939 saw the disappearance of many traditional British celebrations. Guy Fawkes' Night went immediately – gunpowder production was needed for the war effort and bonfires contravened the blackout. Summer holidays became a thing of the past and Easter all but disappeared as chocolate – 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. He 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.

Doors open 9.45am, meeting starts 10.30am. The venue, Dartford Science and Technology College, Heath Lane, Dartford DA1 2LY, has a large, free car park via the Heath Lane entrance.



Whilst researching Mike's talk to write something about it here, I found that he has written a book on the subject which might make an excellent Christmas present. Perhaps an interesting contrast to today's excesses. In fact, especially as I cannot get to the Dartford meeting, I am thinking of buying the book anyway.

Visitors are welcome and are invited to make a donation towards the hall and speaker costs. Returning visitors attending more than one meeting are asked to join the Society (£10 per calendar year).

Dartford Science and Technology College asks: *due to having a pupil with a severe allergic reaction to nuts and aerosols, we have had to ban these two items to ensure the pupil's safety. Please do not bring any products that are aerosol based, or foods which may contain nuts, onto site. I do hope that you all will understand the importance of this request, and we thank you for your understanding.*

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**Thursday 12 December Speaker at Sevenoaks 8pm**  
**Andy Thomas will talk about Christmas - a celebratory occasion**

From mid-December (or much earlier!) each year, normality ceases and everything starts to orbit around the colourful, joyous and magical festival we know as Christmas. We decorate homes and shops with beautiful decorations, plan elaborate meals and find gifts for loved ones in a spirit of goodwill. But why, and where did all this come from?

In an intriguing and entertaining journey, Andy Thomas uncovers the fascinating background to the festive season.

From the ancient ceremonies of light in the darkness, to the marking of the birth of a messiah: from medieval 'misrule' to Santas and sleighs, the time around the winter solstice has long been an occasion for rejoicing.

Yet Christmas traditions have splintered into many guises and seasonal celebration was even banned in Puritan times. Behind the sparkle and merriment and despite all the modern commercialism, Christmas has survived and still has meaning for us today.

Doors open 7.30pm meeting starts 8pm. The new venue, Main Hall, Otford Village Memorial Hall, 28a High Street Otford TN14 5PQ is adjacent to a car park which is free after 6.30pm.

Visitors are welcome and are invited to make a donation towards the hall and speaker costs. Returning visitors attending more than one meeting are asked to join the Society (£10 per calendar year)

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### **AGM and Family History Day Thursday 9 April 2020**

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/community/meetings-house-groups/family-history-day-agm-2020>

Venue: West Heath School, Ashgrove Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1SR (same venue as 2017)

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*Anyone can attend a talk at the locations in Bromley, Dartford and Sevenoaks; but if you are a non member a donation is requested towards the cost of the hall and speaker. £1-£2 suggested. Non members asked to join if attending more than one meeting.*

**For NWKFHS events further ahead just look at the website, events are listed til March 2020.**

*NWKFHS Membership is just £10 and lasts til 31 December 2020.*

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/community/events>

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#### **External events which may interest you if you are in travelling distance**

**The National Archives at Kew** has an ongoing events programme and, thrifty genealogist that I am, I have noticed two interesting ones which are free: There were places left this morning (1 November) which is when I booked.

**13 November midday - 5pm:** workshop on poor law and workhouses. For a full description and to book click the link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tracing-19th-century-paupers-and-poverty-through-archive-collections-tickets-70256993559?aff=ebapi>

**22 November 10am - 3.45pm:** a day of presentations about TNI collections being cataloged and digitised. For more info about the programme for the day and to book see this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/catalogue-day-tickets-70260594329>

**The Family History Federation is running its annual Beyond the Census IV Conference on Saturday 23 November.** There are several of us from North West Kent FHS already going. We have been before and it's a very good day. Also good to make new friends from other FHSs and catch up with old ones. £19.50 including lunch.

The Speakers are:

**Adrian Stone** talking about 'Finding Your Windrush Roots'. Prepare to be enthralled!

**Dr Penny Walters** - lecturer and author - talking about, 'Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy'. An engaging speaker, you'll stand no chance of falling asleep during Penny's session!

**Francis Howcutt** will introduce us to the "Hearth Tax and other 17th Century Sources"

**Anthony Marr** will review "Hatch, Match and Despatch - A Few Lessons from Civil Registration"

It is being held at Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission, 49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU and is £19.50 but will include a buffet lunch and starts at 9.30am and finishes at 5.00pm.

There are currently 42 tickets left, book here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fhf-beyond-the-census-conference-4-central-london-tickets-62446396854>

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*PS 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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