

LOST IN THE GOOD HOPE.



ALBERT VICTOR SHOVE.

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

As it's a busy time of year, I am not going to circulate a mid December email, so the next one will be beginning of January. So please let me take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Christmas and peaceful and enjoyable new year.

In particular I would like to thank our wonderful volunteers (who number over 100, about 10% of the membership) who freely give their time,energy and commitment to enable our Society to thrive.

Royal Navy First World War Lives at Sea

<https://royalnavyrecordsww1.rmg.co.uk/#advanced-search>

I only found out about this website a week ago, at a talk at The National Archives. There are about 25,000 servicemen's names already entered, with many thousands more to come. It's fully searchable using any of the search boxes. When you get a result line, click on it for all the information held including all ships crewed on.

Why not input your study surnames?

Or, just complete the birth town / village (leaving name blank) and see who comes up in the results?

I posted this new website on a our Facebook Group page as soon as I knew about it.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/767236786758351/>

That inspired member Ken Moore of Dartford to send me a story about his half great uncle Albert Victor SHOVE.

Ken's email address is kmoore9788@aol.com and he would be most happy to receive messages if anyone wants to contact him about the Shove family.

FAMILY STORY

Albert Victor (as he was originally baptised) was born 29 September 1885 to William and Minnie Shove. He was baptised on 15 November that year at Christ Church, Bexleyheath.

In 1891, at the age of 5, he lived in Lion Road, Bexleyheath. By 1901 they had moved to 208 Broadway, Bexleyheath, where he was apprenticed to his shoeing-smith father.

Having later moved to Portsmouth, Hampshire, he married May Lilian RHIND in 1907.

His mother, Anorra "Minnie" Shove, died in 1906, and was buried in Bexleyheath cemetery.

Meryl Irene Shove, his half-sister and my maternal grandmother, was born in 1908.

According to the 1911 census, he was a dairyman dealer living in Plymouth.

His father died in 1932, and is buried (with his two wives, daughter and granddaughter) in Bexleyheath cemetery.

NAVAL SERVICE

Victor started a naval career, signing up for 12 years continuous service in 1903 (aged 18). His service number was 227275, and his first ship was HMS Northampton, on which he started as Boy 2nd Class. He rose through the ranks to the rank of Able Bodied Seaman, and worked on a total of ten ships.

In 1909, after serving just 6 years, he bought himself out of the navy on condition that he immediately joined the RFR (Royal Fleet Reserve - a group of experienced former seamen who could be called up for service in an emergency).

His active service in the RFR started in July 1914 - at the outbreak of the 1st World War. He joined HMS Good Hope, which was despatched to the South Atlantic the following month.

The ship was under orders to block German attempts to move war ships from the Pacific to the Atlantic. They discovered the German squadron off the coast of Chile. The English force was outnumbered and, in the Battle of Coronel, the Good Hope was hit by enemy gunfire. The ship sank at 19:50 on 1 November 1914 with the loss of all 919 officers and crew.

The local area lost two other sons on board the Good Hope – Henry Tillet BAKER and William Henry WARNER, both from Erith.

Victor Albert Shove was just 29 years old, and left a widow and two sons.

RIP

Author: Ken Moore 22 November 2019

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 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.

Not joined yet? - don't dine in for £10 - join the Society for £10 instead. Those who join now get a month free as your membership will last til 31 December 2020. SO ITS A GREAT TIME TO JOIN. It's also a great Christmas present for people who don't want more 'stuff'.

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.

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 **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. (Unsurprisingly, the library will not be open on Wednesdays 25 December and 1 January).

Easyfundraising

If you are not signed up yet, please read this short article.

Just this week I have raised £1.89 through my usual shopping plus some Christmas gifts, and **£20.46** altogether.

This week I bought items online for 'click and collect' at John Lewis (£1.04 raised); Robert Dyas (8p raised), and Lakeland (77p raised). That is a donation to the Society equal to **twice** my annual subs which has costs me nothing.

You can see how small amounts add up and benefit Society income and help keep the subscription at the existing levels of £10 single, £12 joint.

Another member does her Sainsbury's shop online and, again, her easyfundraising donations add up to a good sum over the year.

Your shopping costs exactly the same and you'll still get any discounts and promotions on offer.

It's completely painless. So what is stopping you? Please sign up today if you haven't already.

So far, 37 supporters of NWKFHS have signed up and together we've raised £299.78

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/nwkhfs/?invite=WYSGS7&referral-campaign=s2s>

Society December Journal

As you will have gathered from the easyfundraising article above, the Society Trustees are exploring all avenues to increase revenue and decrease outgoings, without putting up the subs.

A new venture is that, from March 2020, members can opt out of having the paper copy of the Journal posted to them. As well as saving the Society money, this is in tune with current thinking to reduce use of resources.

Any Society member can read the online version of the Journal by logging in to the website. If you have problems logging in contact webmaster@nwkfhs.org.uk

The online version is available a few days before the paper version.

So far, a dozen or so members have asked to opt out of the paper version. If you would like to as well please contact chairman@nwkfhs.org.uk For those who still want a journal posted to them, I stress that there is no intention to impose an online version only. The Society is offering the service as an option because we have some members who prefer to read electronically.

The December Journal is online now, see the contents page below for the interesting selection of articles. Whether online or by post, it is only available to paid up members.

NB Although there is a saving to the Society if members opt out of a paper journal, the membership subs will not be reduced. That it because we consider the subs are already a bargain compared to other societies.

If you are not a member and would like to read the Journal please join now. <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/>

NORTH WEST KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

The Journal

Volume 15 No 4 December 2019

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Front cover image: HMS Orion see Page 167

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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](#)

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.

Saturday 7 December Speaker at Dartford 10.30am

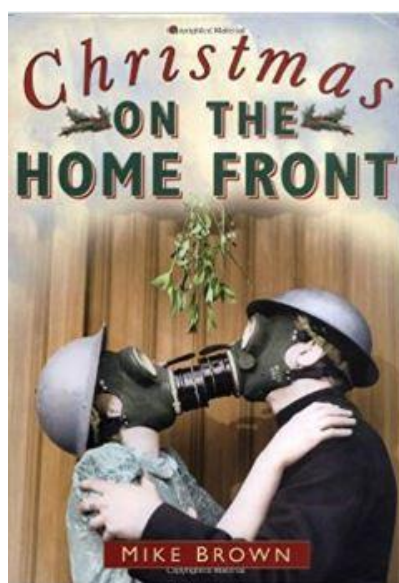
Guest speaker Mike Brown will talk about Christmas on the Home Front 1939 - 45

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.



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.

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.*

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.



This evening, Sevenoaks Branch will also be having its usual Christmas Buffet. This works brilliantly as everyone brings a small plate of savoury or sweet food (sausage rolls, sandwiches, mince pies, biscuits, your choice) and all the plates are placed on a central table for everyone to help themselves.

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)

**Friday 3 January 2.00pm - 4.00pm Writing Group at the Library
Led by Nigel Durrant**

Booking essential due to space limitations - please
contact 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.

**Saturday 11 January Speaker at Dartford 10.30am
Guest speaker Alison Ellman-Brown will talk about The History of Buttons**

PLEASE NOTE this is a change of date from 4 January



Buttons were first discovered around 2,000 BC in
bronze age sites in China and Ancient Rome. Often made from seashells, they were
used as an ornamentation rather than as a fastening. More functional use appeared
in Germany in the 13th century and soon became widespread throughout Europe.

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.*

**Wednesday 15 January 10.30am - 12.30pm Computing Group at the Library
Group Leader: Sue Brushett**

This month the topic is Heredis Genealogical Software - and the workshop will be led
by Richard Flynn.

Booking essential due to space limitations - please
contact 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.

Saturday 18 January Speaker at Bromley 10.30am
Sharon Hintze will speak about Catching up with Family Search

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/> is the largest family history website in the world, with billions of names across thousands of collections - and more added monthly. And it's free to use.

In this talk, Sharon Hintze tells us about:

- The latest major databases they have added;
- How to search them;
- How to best use the whole website

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)

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

AGM and Family History Day Thursday 9 April 2020

<https://www.nwkfhs.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)

Computer Group

The computer group is now a year old and things are looking positive. We have covered a varied range of topics in the past year all with a link in some way to family history.

Next year we have more sessions planned, including such items as how to use the Medway Archive site.

Further details of all next year's subjects are available on the website. <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/community/workshops>

The next Computer Group meeting is on 15 January.

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>

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.

If there is anything else I should be aware of, to give you maximum benefit from this emailinfo 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

emailinfo@nwkhfs.org.uk

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