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Welcome to the 1 January 2020 emailinfoservice, the NWKFHS fortnightly information service, comprising the latest information about the Society and its events, and other items of interest for family historians.

Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful 2020, and success with your research.

Especial wishes to our members, cousins and readers in Australia. I hope you and your loved ones are safe from fire and smoke.

If you want to make a New Year's Resolution, make it to always write names and the date on the back of photos.

The above precious photo in my possession MAY be my great grandfather Henry Laurence COLES born 1872; or may be his father, my great great grandfather Henry Edward COLES born 1852. Nothing is on the back of the photo. Grrrrhhhh..... They lived in Dunton Green, Sevenoaks and so I am sure this is in the back garden.

My immediate family took a family photo in November 2019, it was when we all had a get together on the occasion of my great nephew and great niece joint 1st and 3rd birthday parties. It was primarily to send to a newly discovered first cousin - we are both in our 60s and only met in 2018 for the first time. She has a sister who we'll meet in April 2020. But I printed about 8 copies and popped a print of the photo in with the Christmas cards sent to some other close family friends and relatives. I don't know where these photos will be in 50 years time but if they still exist at least they will have the date and the names of everyone written on the back.

Oh the irony of a photo printed in a machine at Tesco costing less then the 2nd class stamp used on the envelope.....

The Society relies completely on its volunteers. If you have few hours to spare and would like to be involved, please get in touch.

The most pressing need is for a Programme Organiser for Bromley Branch to take over from Lynne Overton. See the notice under the Bromley Meeting on 18 January, below. Lynne has already booked the speakers until March 2021 so the new volunteer can ease in gently.

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 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. **(The library will not be open on Wednesday 1 January).**

Society Journal

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

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.

So far, a dozen or so members have asked to opt out of the posted hard copy Journal. 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 electronic service as an option because we have some members who prefer to read electronically.

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

[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.nwkfhs.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.

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.

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 Computer 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.

Friday 17 January 2.00pm - 4.00pm Friday DNA Group at the Library
Led by Victor Nutt

A shared help group to discuss DNA topics requested by members and to share knowledge. Meets on the 3rd Friday afternoon each month.
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 roads.

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

Wednesday 22 January 10.30am - 12.30pm Discussion Group at the Library
Group Leader: Carolyn Barclay

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.

Wednesday 29 January 10.30am - 12.30pm Workshop at the Library
Mapping your Family Distributions and Movements
Led by David Cufley

Use maps to follow your ancestors.

A workshop exploring how your research data can be used to create a map of the counties and parishes where your ancestors have lived and worked.

By producing a distribution map, you will have a visual image of their movements, which may help solving some research queries.

The workshop will use timelines, spreadsheets and/or databases to create the information that can be used by hand or software i.e. GENMAP to create the map. Hand drawn maps can use any map background by marking locations and years of events. -

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 1 February Speaker at Dartford 10.30am
Guest speaker Brian Parsons will talk about The Cemeteries of South London

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 12 February 10.30am - 12.30pm Computer Group at the Library
Group Leader: Sue Brushett

Self-help with input from library 'experts'

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.

Thursday 13 February Speaker at Sevenoaks 8pm
**Toni Mount will talk about The Apothecary's Garden - the history of natural
remedies up to modern times**

Toni is a an author, history teacher, an experienced speaker and an historic interpreter,
based in south-east England. She enjoys sharing her enthusiasm for history and
has academic, research and teaching qualifications.

Early in the Middle Ages, an apothecary would have cultivated all the plants and herbs
needed for his medicines himself. Later, supplies became more organised, especially in
cities like London, York and Bristol, with individuals growing plants to order for the
apothecaries.

For a bit of background, read Toni's blog on apothecaries
here <https://englishhistoryauthors.blogspot.com/2016/04/apothecary.html>

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

Free to members and no booking is required. 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)

Saturday 15 February Speaker at Bromley 10.30am
Russell Bowes will speak about Dig for Victory

Russell is a local keen gardener and experienced writer and lecturer. In this talk, he looks
at the period when England's gardens took on the might of Hitler's armies.

Gardens great and small, public and private saw clematis give way to cabbages, and
roses replaced by radishes. This talk looks at the role of the "forgotten army" - the
Land Girls - who helped to put food on the tables of the nation, plus advice and
propaganda given to gardeners in print and over the airwaves, the unexpected
problems of putting an Anderson Shelter in your back garden and why Enid Blyton's
rabbit was called "Stew".

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)

Germans in WW1 in London and their experiences

Led by Zoe Brooks

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.

Friday 21 February 2.00pm - 4.00pm Friday DNA Group at the Library

Led by Victor Nutt

A shared help group to discuss DNA topics requested by members and to share knowledge. Meets on the 3rd Friday afternoon each month.

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 roads.

Wednesday 26 February 10.30am - 12.30pm Writing Group at the Library

Group Leader: Pauline Heathcote

Self-help with input from library 'experts'

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.

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)

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 many months ahead

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

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

Lost Cousins

If you aren't a member of Lost Cousins you are missing a free opportunity. It is for those with ancestors from England and Wales and who will therefore be listed on censuses. Peter Calver also sends out an interesting newsletter 2-3 times a month. Here is the most recent

one. <https://www.lostcousins.com/newsletters2/xmas19news.htm>

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 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@nwkhfs.org.uk

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