



Welcome to the mid March 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.

Postponement of NWKFHS AGM and Family History Day on 9 April and suspension of branch meetings

The government has advised that the spread of coronavirus is increased by proximity to other people and attendance at large meetings. Reducing the number of contacts we have in a day slows down the spread of the virus.

So far, although the UK seems to have fewer cases than some other countries, we have been warned to expect a rapid, substantial increase over the next weeks. Should that occur, it appears that there is likely to be a significant shortage of appropriate hospital treatment.

Every day seems to bring news of events cancelled and to adapt a phrase 'a week is a long time in coronavirus'. Today it was announced in the UK that over 70s will be asked to self isolate at some point in the near future. And there is unlikely to be any improvement in the situation over the next few weeks.

Therefore, to follow government advice, and minimise inconvenience caused to members by not knowing whether meetings will go ahead, the Trustees have decided to postpone the AGM and suspend branch meetings.

Whilst this is disappointing for all concerned, it is considered to be the correct action, as our events are an enjoyable hobby and not essential.

We are liaising with the venue for the AGM to see if it can be rescheduled.

We realise many members have paid in advance for lunch and tea at the AGM. Please could I

ask you not to start making enquiries just yet about a refund as our volunteer Treasurer already has a lot on her plate. We have your booking forms and so know the name and address and amount paid for everyone.

It is not known when we can resume branch meetings. Trustees will follow government advice. Every effort will be made to keep the website up to date, post information on Facebook and in this fortnightly email information newsletter.

We are liaising with Joydens Wood Library as to whether we will be able to continue to use it on Wednesdays during the crisis period.

If you are booked onto a workshop you will be notified whether this is going ahead by the workshop coordinator.

Diana McGreachan supplied today's headline photo and writes about her local family below: dianamcgreachan@gmail.com

The attached photo is of my great grandfather Alfred **RICHARDS** together with his wife Sarah Ann nee **TIPPING** and two of his five daughters.

Taken outside their cottage called The Bird House in Bird House Lane Down(e), Kent although Granny always said the district was called Luxsted.

The cottage today is on the Scout's camping property and I believe is used as an office. My grandmother Ellen Susan was one of the five daughters born in the Bird House in 1880. Her sisters were Elizabeth, Louise, Mabel and Dorothy, there were two brothers who did not survive.

Alfred RICHARDS was born in 1844, his mothers name was Ann nee GREEN married to George **RITCHARDS**. However on his marriage to Sarah Ann Tipping on 18th October 1873 Alfred's fathers name is stated as George **RELPH** not George Ritchards Granny always said they were cousins of Little Tich, the Victorian Entertainer, whose father was the publican of the Blacksmiths Arms in Cudham. Great grandfather stayed with the name Richards but altered the spelling.

Alfred became a gamekeeper on one of the nearby estates which entitled him to housing accommodation in the Bird House cottage.

Ellen Susan was by far the most successful of the sisters. Leaving school at 12 yrs old to become a kitchen maid at the vicarage she was clever and aspirational. Two of the sisters went to London to become dressmakers, later Ellen Susan followed and an enlightened employer sent her to Kensington Cookery School.

She was entrepreneurial, creative and hardworking and between the two World Wars opened two successful Haberdashery Shops, and bought her first house in Hither Green Lane calling it "Luxstead". She married my grandfather Henry Harwood **GALE** and had three girls of her own. Her eldest daughter is Florence Isabella my mother.

Diana says: sometimes I drive down Bird House Lane and park outside that really small cottage. Thinking of that large, but close loving family in such a small space-no wonder they ran away to London!

Do contact Diana on the email address above if you have information to share as she would love to hear from interested readers.

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.

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

Although all meetings are suspended, whilst preparing this newsletter, I noticed that Francine Payne, who had been due to speak to the Dartford Branch on 4 April about the history of Dartford Hospitals, has a very interesting and informative web site.

<https://dartfordhospitalhistories.org.uk/>

On the website Francine writes:

This website is devoted to the history of Dartford's hospitals. I have always been interested in history and my interest in the hospitals came as I was working in the library at Joyce Green; the hospital was due to close and there was a huge amass of archive material collected by Dr John Burne.

As I sorted through the collection I made notes, took a few photocopies and eventually had enough material to write my first book 'A History of the Darenth Hospitals' which covered the smallpox camps, the Southern, Darenth Park and the Mabledon.

I then wrote 'Joyce Green and the River Hospitals', covering the hospital ships, Long Reach, the Orchard and Joyce Green and lastly 'Stone House: the City of London Asylum' was written after the Trust contacted me and asked me to write their history. All three books are available on Amazon.

Is social distancing making you stay at home?

Why not write a note or article for the NWKFHS Journal... you know the one you have always thought about but never had the time (or had better things to do!).

Try these prompts

- *a family myth*
- *the missing fortune*
- *the curious inheritance*
- *the missing relative ...*

Pauline , the editor, is always happy to advise\chat. Please use editor@nwkfhs.org.uk

Douglas Campbell ANSET of Sydenham

Timothy McCracken writes: <mccrackenlangholm@gmail.com>

I am currently researching a Roll of Honour for Langholm, Dumfriesshire.

The Roll of Honour will be privately printed with any profits, after printing costs, donated to the Royal British Legion.

I am trying to locate a photo of Douglas Campbell ANSET of Sydenham, reported missing in the same aircraft as Walter Alexander Graham Clark, from Langholm, 22/11/1943

I am also trying to locate a crew photo of the aircraft.

I wonder, if by chance, a photo may have been included in local newspapers or may be in your archives. Also, if you may know of any family members in the area.

Any assistance would be most appreciated.

Kind Regards, Timothy

I (Stella) know some of you are bloodhounds and so to save any duplication of effort, I have pasted below my response to Timothy.

Hi Timothy

Using freebmd.org.uk I found Douglas's birth in Lewisham in 1920, mother Elizabeth nee CAMPBELL, father Ernest Anset.

I could not find any other children of the marriage on freebmd so the usual route of contacting nieces or nephews, or their descendants, for a photo is not open to us.

I did find these online references, which you might already know about.

<http://lewishamwarmemorials.wikidot.com/person:anset-douglas-campbell>

<https://sydenham.org.uk/forum/viewtopic.php?t=15873>

You will have to register to communicate in the group Sydenham Town Forum but probably worth your while.

https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1CHZL_enGB679GB679&sxsrf=ALeKk03gQaepAsRlvaOCodyhwUNxg6K_Zw:1583859882977&q=%22douglas+campbell+anset%22&tbm=isch&source=univ&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewiF9MrtsZDoAhUQSxUIHee5Ce8QsAR6BAgHEAE&biw=1379&bih=724

has photos of Ernest and a family photo

<https://livesofthefirstworldwar.iwm.org.uk/lifestory/645752> which looks like Ernest, Elizabeth and Douglas.

Other sundry refs

<https://losses.internationalbcc.co.uk/loss/200533>

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/1082862/anset,-douglas-campbell/>

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@nwkfhs.org.uk

North West Kent Family History Society Registered Charity No 282627

*Copyright © 2020 North West Kent Family History Society All rights reserved.
You are receiving this email as you have given permission for the society to send you
email newsletters*

The emailinfoservice uses MailChimp to bulk send the e-newsletters. Therefore we supply MailChimp with your firstname, surname and email address. Click on this link to view MailChimp's privacy policy:

https://mailchimp.com/legal/privacy/?_ga=2.96984220.2058400163.1524684902-1180422693.1512585308

Our mailing address is:

North West Kent Family History Society
Society Library 80 Summerhouse Drive
Bexley Kent DA5 2EE

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [unsubscribe from this list](#)