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Welcome to the December emailinfoservice, comprising the latest information about the Society and other items of interest for family historians.



What an interesting and challenging year we have had. Words we had never heard of last year - Coronavirus, Covid 19 and Zoom - are now part of everyday speech.

And the Society has adapted and flourished.

The quarterly Journals continued to be published, packed with interesting stories. The June Journal gave our Editor, Pauline, a headache as our usual printer experienced a temporary shutdown during the first weeks of the Covid 19 lockdown, but she managed to find another printer able to produce and post 1,000+ copies to her timescales. Please continue to contribute your articles and stories. Email Pauline on editor@nwkfhs.org.uk with your article or if you want to ask anything. An editor must have something to edit!

Our website was revamped during the year and many thanks go to the volunteers involved in that. If you are a Society member please do log in and see all the data that is held. www.nwkfhs.org.uk

From time to time, far flung members had asked if we could video our talks. We had started looking into that but were put off by the technology needed. But Zoom burst onto the scene at just the right time (let's all hope it has enough capacity not to crash on Christmas Day!)

Zoom workshops and talks were experimentally and successfully offered, and, from January, we are offering two talks from Guest Speakers every month via Zoom. These are open to members and non members alike. The workshops are only open to members as workshop numbers are restricted to allow all participants to join in and ask questions.

So there are many reasons to be optimistic about the future of the Society.

1 January 2021 marks the start of the new year and renewal of membership subscriptions. At still only £10 it is excellent value for money. If you can, please do renew online or set up a standing order online. This really helps our volunteers who this year may have to queue at the bank to pay cheques in. Please also remember to tick the appropriate box if you are a British income tax payer. Our Treasurer can claim an extra £2.50 tax refund per subscription from the Government.

Wishing all our 852 emailinfo readers all over the world, health, happiness and a fast internet connection for Christmas and in the New Year.

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The headline photo today is of a double wedding at St Mary's Church, London Road, Greenhithe, Kent on Christmas day 25 December 1910. It is from a booklet "St Mary's Church, Greenhithe 1856 - 2006 celebrating 150 years".

The wedded couples are:

May **STONEHAM** marrying Walter James **FINCH-TURNER**

Edward **STONEHAM** marrying Emily Ellen **HALL**.

Information about Greenhithe

The small Thameside town of Greenhithe is east of Dartford, Kent but within Dartford for administrative purposes.

St Mary the Virgin (as the church was originally known) opened its doors on 26 August 1856 when there were 1,700 residents in Greenhithe.

In the past, Greenhithe's waterfront on the estuary of the river Thames was used to build wharves for transhipping corn, wood and other commodities; its largest cargoes were chalk and lime. This led in turn to the development of the cement industry at nearby Swanscombe.

Greenhithe itself enjoyed a brief period of popularity during Victorian times as a tourist resort with the coming of the railway in 1849 and to enjoy Greenhithe Pier (now lost) built in 1842.

The Stoneham, Finch-Turner and Hall families and their neighbours would be astonished to know that in the future Ebbsfleet International station (Eurostar trains via the Channel Tunnel) and the huge Bluewater shopping centre would be on their doorstep.

St Mary's Greenhithe, where many Stoneham marriages took place, is still flourishing, but subject to Covid restrictions.

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ZOOM Talks

All are welcome to the Talks - Society members and non members alike. We would be very pleased if you could join us. No booking, just use the link in good time on the day.

Speaker Gill Blanchard " Working on Who Do You Think You Are"

Thursday 7 January 7.00pm for 7.30pm, finishes 8.30pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87890396208?pwd=MVdPQ3dER2t2REFRMmRUUThJZHRGZz09>

Meeting ID: 878 9039 6208

Passcode: 150856

Speaker: Joanna Friel " Chislehurst Characters"

Saturday 16 January 10.00am for 10.30am finishes 11.30am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88916137399?pwd=UkZMY3NmMzlaUTY0YmNTEVBTSE5YUT09>

Meeting ID: 889 1613 7399

Passcode: 277800

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ZOOM Workshops

As we can't hold face to face workshops, **NWKFHS members** are invited to the following online Zoom workshops: we would be very pleased if you can join us.

Wednesday 23 December 2.30pm - 4pm

Workshop: How to use Excel to enter and manage data. Led by David Cufley

Wednesday 6 January 10am - 12.30pm

Discussion Group 'Why do we research families and what do we want achieve?' - Led by Carolyn Barclay

Wednesday 13 January 10.30am - 1pm

Workshop - Trade sources - Led by David Cufley

Gives sources for researching occupations using mainly brickmaking but also rat catching and calico printing examples but is applicable to other trades

Wednesday 20 January 7.30pm - 9pm

Discussion Group - Writing up your Family History - Led by David Cufley

Using Word to write up your family history

Wednesday 27 January 2.30pm - 4.30pm

Workshop - Researching Naval Ancestors WW1-WW2 - Led by Pam Goddard

Help with finding and tracking your ancestors and learning about their lives in the Navy using service records, log books and other sources available on the internet.

Society members, please contact workshop coordinator Pam Goddard for the link / code to enable you to attend any of the above Workshops and Discussion Groups. workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk Discussion groups are limited to 12 attendees.

All times given are Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)

Please see <https://nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings#year=2020&month=12&day=12&view=month> for topics and dates / times of Workshops and Talks further ahead.

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

Horton Kirby (a village in the Sevenoaks district of Kent)



Kate Wollaston has supplied these photos and wonders if any reader can help with further information:

"I'm interested in knowing who the players might be and anything at all about either the Football Team or Bowls Club as I am trying to add some dimension to my grandparent/great grandparents' lives. I have tried contacting someone at the current Football Club but had no success.

The first photo is Horton Kirby Football Team in about 1890. This includes my great grandfather, Aaron **Mantell / Mantle** (1864-1998).

There is writing on the back which is not clear but I've transcribed it as far as I can below:

"Horton Kirby Football Team abt 1890".

" Aaron **Mantell** and Ted (Edward) **Barlow** (1867-1957)"

"Arsenal xxxxxxx (indecipherable)

"Woolwich Arsenal played HK"

I know both Aaron **Mantell** and Edward **Barlow** worked at **Horton Kirby Paper Mill**



Bowls Club Photo – my grandfather Ernest William **Mantell** (1894-1980) is on the extreme left. He also worked at Horton Kirby Paper Mill and lived at School House, Sutton-at-Hone. They also did maintenance and cleaning work at the school."

If you have any information to help Fiona please email her on fiona.wollaston@btinternet.com

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**Remembering a hero: A. R .P. (Air Raid Precautions)
Ambulance Driver Thomas Arthur HOUSE**

Member Graham Jansen writes:



"I just want to share with you a recent post on the Bexley Archives Facebook page regarding my Grandfather, Thomas Arthur House, whose name has now been added to the Bexley Borough WW2 Roll of Honour.

This is Thomas, who died 29 November 1940, 80 years ago, when a bomb hit the Running Horses pub in Erith, Kent.

I was recently contacted by a member of the House family who sent me photos of Thomas taken during the First World War and of his wedding to my Grandma, Flora McAlister Campbell McGregor, 1924 West Ham. "

Graham is writing an article about his Grandfather which will appear in our March Journal.

Journals are posted to Society members quarterly, and membership is only £10 per year. Memberships paid for now will last until 31 December 2021.

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

Membership Renewal

Due 1 January, there is a reminder form inside the December journal. Or pay online which saves time for our volunteer Renewals Secretary and Treasurer. Paying by standing order is even more helpful.

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

Family Search Photos

Something new, interesting and free came to my attention this week. In case you've not heard about it I am mentioning it here.

It is possible to upload photos to Family Search and likewise search its image collection for photos indexed with your surnames of interest. Apparently millions of photos and documents have already been unloaded. You don't need to have created a tree within Family Search to upload images.

If you have not already done so, you first need to create a free Family Search account.

Then use the **Memories** tab to look for images. Use **Gallery** to upload your own photos. I have become a little bit addicted to this as I see two great benefits:-

1. Precious old photos of mine have another home and are less likely to be lost forever even if subject to fire, flood, poor filing or (gulp) my own death should my family be less interested than me and not preserve them.
2. People searching the site who come across my uploads due to their own searches may be related to me, even if distantly, and may contact me for the purposes of collaboration and sharing memories. (Hurrah!)

<https://www.familysearch.org/>

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.

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

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

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