



Welcome to the 1 December 2021 email newsletter.

Today's photo has been kindly sent in by member Marion McHardy. It is her grandmother Mary Ann WELCH nee GARD with her daughter Primrose (Doll) (1915-2005) and grandson Georgie (George Arthur SPOONER 1918 - 1996. George was the son of Priscilla Spooner nee Welch, Mary Ann's second daughter.(1896 - 1966)

Marion writes:

The Welches Together Again By Marion McHardy (Nee Welch)

*I am a new member of NWKFHS, living in Bromley where I grew up. My research includes the **Welch, Gard, and Woolledge** families. My grandmother was from the Gard family who lived and worked in three areas of London, Poplar, Bermondsey and finally Deptford always relying on the Thames for work. The family has a fascinating history going back to Stepney, Limehouse and Poplar.*

Forest Hill, 16 November 1996: the Welch family gathered for another reunion at the Constitution Club, almost all of them were from Deptford where their Nan, Mary Ann Welch, (known as Poll), brought up eleven children between 1895 to 1920. Two of her children were there that evening, Mary Ann b. 1910 (called Edie) and Primrose b.1915 (called Doll).

Sadly, all her eleven children have now passed away, but her memory lives on with her fifty-three grandchildren. I am her very last grandchild born seven years after she died.

At every reunion there would be a table in the middle of the room with a photograph of my grandmother and handwritten family tree from some of her Grandchildren. Even a beautiful long poem about Granny Poll as she was affectionately known by all the family.

That evening I met my cousin Billy who was in his 70s at that time and I was only in my 30s, showing the remarkable age range of the grandchildren. Sadly, over time, there was less interest in the reunions, but I have been able to reconnect with some of my cousins who are also discovering their own family trees.

Mary Ann was devoted to all her children and grandchildren and at age seventy-five she told a local newspaper she wanted to take them all to the seaside in a charabanc. Her final days were spent at her home in Deptford where she passed away in 1954.

I am very proud of my grandmother, and I will write her story as a tribute to her in a future journal edition.

Many thanks to Marion for sending in this interesting article. As someone from a small family - whose grandmothers only had four children, five grandchildren and six great grandchildren between them - I can't imagine the numbers involved in Marion's research! Do look out for a longer article in a future Journal. Stella

Good news - the library at Joyden's Wood has re-opened for members to do their research on Wednesdays. Our Society Librarian, Janet, has further info and asks those who want to come to book a time slot to prevent overcrowding. Janet's phone number is 01322 384836.

Library at: 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Kent DA5 2EE

Parking in nearby roads.

Those of you who have been to the library will know that space can be tight and this is the best way of controlling it and being fair to everyone.

Talks are now either in person at our Dartford and Sevenoaks venues or by *Zoom*. The combined details of *Zoom* and in person talks are in one chronological list below.

The description for each event states clearly whether it is via *Zoom* or an in person talk.

Currently all Workshops remain *Zoom*.

ZOOM Talks

Zoom Talks are free and open to all. They cannot be booked but please log on via the link in good time.

All times given are UK time.

NWKFHS members who missed a talk, perhaps because you are not in our timezone, note that **some** speakers have allowed their talks to be recorded and recorded talks are saved here - <https://nwkfhs.org.uk/resources/all-other/zoom-talk-videos> note this link only works for paid up members logged into the website. Sometimes speakers have given permission for their talks only to be recorded for a specified amount of time, so members please do check the link.

I am delighted to tell you that recordings of Donna Rutherford's two DNA talks are now on the website with no time limits for watching.

Saturday 4 December Doors Open 9.45am meeting starts at 10.30am at Dartford Branch.

Location: Dartford Science and Technology College, Heath Lane, Dartford Kent DA1 2LY

Guest speaker Imogen Corrigan will talk about The Politeness of Princes

The reality of medieval etiquette and table manners.

Punctuality being the politeness of princes, this lecture examines the reality of manners and etiquette in the Medieval period. A far cry from the popular image of appalling table manners, Medieval dining was a minefield of dos and don'ts, many of which were recorded in courtesy books (Teach Yourself How To Be A Gentleman texts).

A rich vein of artistic evidence also survives, bearing out what is written. The lecture deals with the structure of formal banquets and the food eaten as well as how young gentlemen were trained and more everyday advice to women about hygiene and how to conduct themselves.

You can read more about Imogen here: <http://www.medieval-lecture.com>

The meeting will be led by Janet Rose.

Free to NWKFHS members; non members are asked to make a donation towards costs of hall hire and speaker.

There is a large, free car park but it is shared with other users and can be busy at times.

No booking, just turn up.

In view of the latest Covid strain please wear a mask inside the building unless you are exempt.

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Thursday 9 December Doors Open 7.15pm Meeting starts 8.00pm talk at Sevenoaks Branch.

Location: Otford Village Memorial Hall, High Street, Otford TN14 5PQ (adjacent car park is free in the evening).

Guest Speaker Melanie Gibson Barton will give us an entertaining mystery talk entitled "The String of Pearls".

In the spirit of the Mousetrap, before commencing her mystery talk '*Three Women One Man – glamour, wealth and heartbreak*', speaker Melanie Gibson-Barton will swear us all to keep secret the names of the intriguing participants - even from members not attending the meeting! Audience members are asked to not speculate on the identities prior to the commencement of the talk.

Melanie has been giving talks for several years to the National Trust, U3A, history groups, church groups, Oddfellows, Women's Institutes, Soroptimists and retirement social groups such as Rotary, CSMA, ARAs and PROBUS – 'live' and in recent months via Zoom.us - and tells us she has the privilege of meeting new audiences to entertain and inform every day.

Her range of currently seventeen talks can be viewed at www.toonstelling.com

Free to NWKFHS members; non members are asked to make a donation towards costs of hall hire and speaker.

No booking, just turn up.

Free parking in the evenings at the adjacent large car park.

In view of the latest Covid strain please wear a mask inside the building unless you are exempt.

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Zoom Talk Tuesday 14 December, log on from 7pm for 7.30pm

Guest Speaker Delia Taylor will take us on a trip down memory lane with

ENSA - Every night, something awful

This *Zoom* talk will be hosted by Pat Gooding at 7:00pm for 7:30pm. It's free to members and non members alike and there is no pre booking. Having seen this talk live I do highly recommend it.

The *Zoom* host will admit participants up to 30 minutes before the start time so they may chat among themselves until the start time.

Zoom etiquette means that once the talk commences and until questions at the end, you should mute and un-video yourself to ensure all participants are able to concentrate on the speaker.

The *Zoom* link will be put on the website www.nwkhfs.org.uk nearer the date.

Delia has advised the Society that some of the material is copyright and she is only allowed to use it to deliver the talk to live audiences (including by *Zoom*); therefore it must not be recorded.

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ZOOM Workshops, Special Interest and Discussion groups

Zoom Workshops (including Discussion Groups and Writing Groups) have a maximum number to allow all attendees to participate, and are restricted to paid up North West Kent FHS members only. Workshops last for 2 hours.

If any Society members missed a workshop which they would have liked to attend, or it filled up, see here for videos of some past workshops:

<https://nwkhfs.org.uk/events/workshops/past-zoom-workshop-videos>

Note the above link will only work for Society members logged into the website.

1 December 10am Carolyn's discussion group : attendees to choose discussion topics

8 December 10.30am-12.30 Searching Newspapers - Leader David Cufley

Newspapers were the way that local and national news was disseminated. Before radio and television there were newspapers that gave you information about people and events in your ancestor's community.

Before computers and scanners, you had to read every page of the paper archived copies. Now digital images that have done an OCR (optical character recognition) scan allows quick searches web sites like the British Newspaper Archives and London Gazette provide us with papers we may not have previously found.

There are also trade journals and magazines that also give details that may help family and local historians.

The old papers record among their columns, births, marriages, deaths, funerals, coroner's courts, adverts, criminal acts and gossip. This workshop will discuss what is available and how you may find it and hopefully a mention of your ancestors, whether in good or bad news.

15 December 2.30pm Do You Believe Everything Your Family Told You? - Leader Pam Goddard

22 December DNA 10.30am Discussion Group - Leader Laura Lincoln.

Many, many thanks to workshop coordinator Carolyn Sekulowicz-Barclay (taking over from Pam Goddard) for arranging our exciting programme of workshops, and to the workshop leaders.

Society members please email Carolyn for the link / code to enable you to attend any of the above Workshops and Discussion Groups. workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk

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

If you participate in a workshop, please consider making a donation to the Society through our eshop
<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services> and scroll down for 'Society Donation'.

See <https://nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings> for topics and dates / times of Workshops and Talks further ahead.



Society Membership still only £10

This runs to 31 December annually. To be fair to those joining later in the year, anyone joining after 1 October receives membership until 31 December the following year.

Why not buy someone membership as a Christmas present? It's only £10 and members get four journals a year, full of interesting information; and access to all the data in the Members Only Area of the website plus access to workshops.

Members, unless you pay by standing order, please think about your membership renewal.

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

(this enews is free to members and non members alike).

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The Society via its volunteer transcribers has now submitted over 300,000 burials to Find My Past (FMP) for the National Burial Index.

These are burials from our area but the site has other Family History Societies submissions.

NWKFHS Members can also find details on our web pages such as the Ladywell and Brockley Cemetery list.

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Easyfundraising

[Click here](#) to raise donations for North West Kent Family History Society whenever you shop online. Turn your everyday online shopping into FREE donations.

So far the Society has 40 *easyfundraising* supporters who have raised over £700.

I am one of them and, although the Society receives donations from retailers whenever I buy online or click and collect, it does not cost me any extra.



NWK 2022 Calendar £2.50 for UK Delivery
Price includes 2nd class postage to your address
£2.50

See the link below to see all the wonderful local photos on the calendar and the prices for posting abroad, and to order your calendar. This would be a lovely, cheerful gift for someone you are unable to meet with this Christmas.

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/society-calendar-2022>

<https://one-name.org/guild-resources/>



The Guild of One Name Studies has some resources which are available to non members. In particular a Global Marriages Index (all more than 60 years ago) contributed by members.

Currently, there are 1,525,272 marriages of which 806,787 are available for public viewing.

*(This photo is from my own collection and is Gertrude Margaret **DURBIN** (1881-1933) and Edgar Charles William **LOWE** (1882-1949) who married 8 April 1916 at St John's Church, Deptford, Greater London, England. Gertrude is my first cousin 3 X removed).*

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 enews@nwkhfs.org.uk with your contributions. Any photos must be your own copyright.

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

I am a volunteer creating this e-news in my 'spare time' but, if you do notice any errors, please tell me, so that they are not carried forward to the next edition.

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 enews 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

enews@nwkfhs.org.uk

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