



As it's Valentine's Day I looked in my store of vintage postcards for a love-themed one and couldn't find an actual Valentine's card but I did find this.

Postmarked Rochester & Chatham on 22 March 1943 from 'EB' to Mrs Deacon (Deacon, Beacon?) of 27 Bush Lane, Newington, Kent. For out of town readers, Newington is a village between Rainham and Sittingbourne. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newington,_Swale

EB asks: *Hope you all are getting on alright. How is Vera, getting on I hope. My husband says the girls keep asking me if we know. Cheerio E.B.*

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Welcome to the mid-February 2023 enews

Since its inception, distribution of this Enews has been handled for North West Kent FHS by Mailchimp. A commercial company which provided the service free of charge.

However, Mailchimp has given 30 days' notice, which expires on 10 March that we will in future be charged as it will only offer the service free to distribution lists of 500 email addresses maximum. We have 871 currently and this number gradually increases.

There are some other free providers but I would have to research them, vet their Privacy Policies and learn their procedures for creating the email newsletter. This is not particularly welcome to me so I am going to experimentally try and handle the distribution in house. As a new provider could decide to charge in the future meaning another change forced on us. I know of a few other organisations which distribute in house and I am taking advice.

I am grateful to Mailchimp for handling the Enews free of charge so far, but the Society is dependent on membership fees, donations and royalties from our volunteers' transcriptions for income so I am not inclined to suggest we pay Mailchimp the £23 odd each month fee for continuing to use its services if we can do it free.

As the expiry is 10 March, the 1 March enews will be the last one you receive via Mailchimp.

After that it will come from me as blind (bcc) copies to you all - so your email addresses will remain confidential. Please bear with me in case of delays while I'm learning the process and remember that you can look up the workshops and events any time by clicking on <http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings> There is no need to log in.

Because this will be extra work for me I am going to change the Enews to monthly (from fortnightly) to be issued at the beginning of the month. The other change is it will have to be a PDF document to be opened by recipients.

If you don't get the email please check your spam or junk as the first email may be identified as such due to the volume of bcc email addresses flagging up a warning with your email provider.

If you want to ask me anything which I've not covered here please email me, Stella on enews@nwkhfs.org.uk

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Zoom Talk: Upstairs Downstairs - from humble beginnings to the American Dream with Jackie Depelle **23 February 7.30pm to 9pm**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2799524396?pwd=ZTM4V0E4R2ZqbTZubXpXZ1dDZGdRQT09>

Meeting ID: 279 952 4396 Passcode: 533032

About the Talk

This story takes us from Norfolk to New York with an upwardly mobile gentleman.

However whether he spends his life upstairs or downstairs you will have to listen to Jackie's talk to find out.

About the Speaker

From film and fiche to the virtual world, Jackie teaches Family History and presents at major international events including RootsTech, The Genealogy Show and The Family History Show and she thoroughly enjoys the opportunity to meet people from across the country via zoom as well as listening and learning from colleagues at online shows and tutorials.

North West Kent FHS is a charity and membership fees and donations are an important part of our income. So, if you are not a North West Kent FHS member, please consider making a donation via our [web shop](#) towards the cost of our Zoom licence and speaker's fee.

This talk won't be recorded.

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Dartford Branch Talk: *The Great Estates : Hall Place and Foots Cray Place* with Oliver Wooller

Saturday 4 March: Doors Open 9.45am meeting starts 10.30am and will end by 12.30pm

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

Oliver Wooller, who is archivist for Bexley borough, tells the fascinating story of the historic houses some of which no longer exist, in his book *The Great Estates*.

Oliver will talk about **Hall Place, in Bexley**, saying that there has been a house on the site for centuries, but the history of the present house only begins with the purchase of the estate by Sir John Champneys from the Shelley Family in 1537.

Sir John was an archetypal member of the new gentry which emerged under Henry VIII, and he became Lord Mayor of London in 1534. It is not inconceivable the King may have hunted on the estate.

Foots Cray Place, in Sidcup, had an equally fascinating history. But whereas Hall Place flourished into the 21st century, Foots Cray is mainly known now for its meadows; with most visitors unaware of the fine house which once stood there and its famous occupiers. The ancient Manor of Foots Cray is recorded in the Domesday Book.

Among its many famous inhabitants were the Walsingham family. Sir Francis was the man who set up an intelligence network, which uncovered the Babington plot, preserving Elizabeth I on her throne and bringing about the execution of Mary, Queen of Scots.

Tragically, a fire broke out on October 18, 1949, and the building was so badly damaged, it had to be demolished.

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.

The Society is a registered charity and membership fees and donations are an important part of our income. The Talk is free to members but guests and visitors are asked to make a donation towards hall hire and speaker's fee. There will be a donations box at the venue.

The meeting will be led by Janet Rose.

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Sevenoaks Branch Talk: *The Rise and Fall of Lullingstone Roman Villa* with Rod Shelton

Saturday 11 March Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am

Otford Village Memorial Hall 28A High Street, Otford, Kent TN14 5PQ

Author, artist and model-maker, Rod has lived in Otford for some 25 years. Active in village matters, he is the local historian and chairs the Otford Society. He was a London advertising copywriter, then ran his own commercial film company..

Rod has researched the story of the villa and reveals for the first time how its fate lay in the violent machinations of the Roman Emperors and the lust to gain Imperial power. Lullingstone, he suggests, was to become a pawn in this game of political ambitions.

No booking, just turn up.

The Society is a registered charity and membership fees and donations are an important part of our income. The Talk is free to members but guests and visitors are asked to make a donation towards hall hire and speaker's fee. There will be a donations box at the venue.

There is a large public car park (payment required) adjacent to the hall but it can be busy.

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Workshops, Special Interest and Discussion Groups

Workshops (including Discussion Groups and Writing Groups) whether in person or via Zoom have a maximum number to allow all participants to be involved, **and are restricted to paid up North West Kent FHS members only.** They generally last for about 2 hours.

Please note that booking is essential.

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://nwkfhs.org.uk/events/workshops/past-zoom-workshop-videos>

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

If you have a topic or subject you feel would interest other members and or / help with their research and is suitable material for a workshop, please do contact Carolyn Sekulowicz-Barclay on workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk who would very much like to hear from you. The workshops are all led by volunteers and very much depend on volunteers coming forward. Thank you

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings>

15 Feb 10.30am Zoom Workshop: Creating Family Trees from GEDcoms with David Cufley
<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-workshop/zoom-workshop-creating-trees-from-gedcoms-with-david-cufley>

22 Feb 10.30am Library Writing group with Pauline Heathcote
<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/future-workshops/library-writing-group-with-pauline-heathcote-2>

22 Feb 10.30am Zoom DNA Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln
<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-dna-discussion-group-with-laura-lincoln-7>

1 March Zoom Family History Discussion Group on backing up your research with Ann Clarke.
<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-with-ann-clarke-2>

8 March 10.30am Library DNA Discussion Group
<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/discussion-group/library-dna-discussion-group-for-those-who-are-either-new-to-dna-or-want-to-discuss-particular-aspects-of-dna>

8 March 7.30pm Zoom Scottish Interests Discussion Group with Pam Goddard and Carolyn Barclay
<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-scottish-interests-discussion-with-pam-goddard-and-carolyn-barclay>

9 March 2.30pm Zoom Royal Arsenal Workshop with David Cufley
<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-workshop/royal-arsenal-workshop-with-david-cufley>

15 March 10.30am Library Library Workshop Reading Court Hand for Probate Records with Mari Alderman
<http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/future-workshops/library-workshop-reading-court-hand-for-probate-records-with-mari-alderman>

15 March 7.30pm Zoom Workshop Drawing Charts and Trees By Hand as a Research Tool with David Cufley
<http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-workshop/zoom-workshop-drawing-charts-and-trees-by-hand-as-a-research-tool-with-david-cufley>

22 March 10.30am Library Zoom DNA Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln
<http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-dna-discussion-group-with-laura-lincoln>

29 March 2.30pm Zoom Discussion Group: Let's Talk About Family History with David Cufley
<http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-let-s-talk-about-family-history-with-david-cufley-2>

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For Zoom workshops, please log in from 15 minutes before the start time and enjoy chat amongst participants before the workshop starts.

For library workshops please arrive any time after the library opens at 10.am

Numbers are restricted to enable all participants to ask questions, share knowledge and engage with other members therefore booking is essential.

Please reserve a place with workshop.booking@nwkhfs.org.uk including the event, title and date together with your name and membership number.

Workshop leaders freely give their time, but a donation either at the library for in person workshops or via the web shop is appreciated. <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/shop/nwkhfs-shop/services/society-donation>

Many, many thanks to workshop coordinator Carolyn Sekulowicz-Barclay for arranging our exciting programme of workshops, and to the workshop leaders who all give their time freely.

Carolyn would like to hear from you if you have some expertise on a topic which you think would interest others and would be willing to lead a workshop.

[Free Marriage Records available from MyHeritage](#)

All marriage records on MyHeritage will be free to search and view during February 13–19, 2023. [Read more on our blog.](#)

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RootsTech 2 - 4 March 2023

Don't forget to sign up for free online access to Rootstech. <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/>

Virtual access to all their speakers and events is completely free. And a big bonus - if you have added yourself to FamilySearch's world Family Tree, RootsTech tells you of relatives who have also signed up even if you've never heard of them. I've already got a list of several people to message.

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Items for the 1 March enews should please reach me as soon as possible, and by 26 February latest.

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

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Click on our other links <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/blog> [Facebook](#) [Flickr](#) <https://twitter.com/nwkfhs>

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.
