

North West Kent FHS March 2026 enews

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

A warm welcome to everyone who has recently signed up to this e-news.

- Scroll down for our online and in person events in March.
- Can you help find and photograph a memorial to an 11 year old girl in Brockley and Ladywell Cemetery?
- Don't forget to sign up for RootsTech 2026

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

Did you know you can join the North West Kent Family History Society for as little as £10 a year? Membership offers a wide range of benefits, including online and in-person talks and meetings, a quarterly journal, access to the Society library on Wednesdays and the society's databases of members' interests.

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Take a look at our website to see our extensive programme of events - dozens of in-person and Zoom talks, discussion groups, and workshops running through to the end of 2026. <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings>

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Zoom Talk: 12 March The Future of Family History research in the digital age with Nick Barrett

In this talk, Nick explores some of the technologies that are changing the way we research, share and create our stories – and some of the implications for working in an increasingly digital world. He will use some case studies to show the dangers and delights that our future might hold...

Broadcaster, historian, and author, Dr Nick Barratt is best known for his work on the BBC's 'Who Do You Think You Are'. A very early interest in history led to him obtaining a PhD in History, editing 13th century Exchequer documents.

His published works include the *Who Do You Think You Are* Encyclopaedia of Genealogy, and *Tracing the History of Your House*, beside many journal articles.

Alongside his academic roles, additionally Nick is President of the Hampshire Genealogical Society, and was previously President of the Family History Federation and committee member for the Community Archive and Heritage Group.

Nick lectures on a range of subjects from house history to Medieval history. Tonight's focus will instead be on the future – the future of family history in the digital age.

Please log in from 7.15pm and enjoy chat with the other participants before the talk starts.

Please ensure you use your real name when joining our Zoom events. Participants appearing as 'Zoom User' or similar will not be admitted, as this helps us prevent scammers from joining.

This talk will be recorded and in the Members Only Area for three months and there will be a handout.

To Get the Zoom Link

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-talks/zoom-talk-the-future-of-family-history-research-in-the-digital-age-with-nick-barratt>

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Dartford Branch Talk 7 March Ernest Shackleton and the Endurance Expedition with Carol Harris

Doors open 9.45am meeting starts at 10.30am

Shackleton was the great Irish explorer of the Polar regions but since the Poles had already been conquered by others he decided that he should attempt a sledge crossing of the Antarctic continent.

However, his ship the Endurance was soon caught in the ice. Carol will tell of the crew's incredible survival against all odds and their eventual rescue, illustrated by photographs and contemporary reports and artifacts.

Carol has visited the Society on several occasions. She lives in Brockley and is an experienced speaker and co-author with her husband Mike Brown.

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

No booking, just turn up.

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/dartford-branch-meetings/dartford-branch-talk-ernest-shackleton-and-the-endurance-expedition-with-carol-harris>

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Sevenoaks Branch Talk 28 March How to survive in Anglo Saxon England with Toni Mount **Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am**

(Please note - not our usual Saturday date)

If you are planning to travel back to the England of Anglo-Saxon times and begin a new life without technology, how will you manage? If you were a king, a thegn or even a slave, what rights do you have under the law?

Are women treated well by their husbands, and if you become sick, what are your chances of recovery? How might you earn your living, and the biggest worry: what to do about those fearsome Vikings?

All these questions and more are answered in this self-help guide for time-travellers.

It explores the difficulties you may encounter and the problems that might occur, especially as you are a newcomer in this very different world. Fear not: keep this talk will help you find your place in society, learn the language and make friends. You will also meet some of the celebrities of the day, from Alfred the Great to the Venerable Bede, and more humble folk such as Tatberht of Lundenwic and Ardithe the local baxter.

Learn how to make bread and tell a great story; enjoy the mead, and the beauties of Anglo-Saxon art and jewellery. And if you do find yourself involved in a Viking attack, at least you will know your assailants are well groomed - and afterwards, both sides know how to have a great time in the mead-hall!

About the Speaker: Toni is very well known to us, researches her talks impeccably and knows her subject.

Toni earned her Research Master's degree from the University of Kent in 2009 through study of a medieval medical manuscript held at the Wellcome Library in London. She is a well-known lecturer, historian and author whose books are based on her research into the lives of ordinary and sometimes extra-ordinary people through history. Toni has spoken to us many times before and it will be a pleasure to hear her again. She lives in Gravesend.

There is a large public car park (payment required, 50p for 2 hours, £1 for 3 hours) adjacent to the hall but it can be busy.

No booking, just turn up.

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/sevenoaks-branch-meetings/sevenoaks-branch-talk-toni-mount-on-how-to-survive-in-anglo-saxon-england>

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Workshops, Special Interest and Discussion Groups - for Members Only

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

There are dozens of Workshops and Discussion Groups via Zoom to cater for members who cannot get to our Library - which is the venue, on Wednesdays, for our in person workshops.

The wealth of expertise amongst the Society members who volunteer to lead these groups is amazing. I wonder if other Societies put on this number of training sessions for their members.

Membership of our Society is only £10 a year and lasts until 31

December 2026. <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/about/membership/our-membership/#options>

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.

Attending Workshops and Discussion Groups

Groups meeting at the Library

These must be booked individually - the website link explains how to reserve your place. This is essential as numbers have to be kept to ten due to space restrictions.

Zoom talks, discussion group and workshops

These do not have to be booked individually, but you do need to register in order to be sent the Zoom links. The website link for each Zoom group explains how you register.

Many, many thanks to our volunteer workshop coordinators for arranging our exciting programme of workshops, and to the workshop leaders who all give their time freely.

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March Workshops and Discussion Groups

4 March 10.30am Zoom Discussion Group with Ann Clarke: Do you have a favourite website or hints and tips?

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-with-ann-clarke-do-you-have-a-favourite-website-or-hints-and-tips>

11 March 10.30am Library DNA & General Family History Discussion Group with Pam Goddard

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/discussion-group/library-dna-and-general-family-history-discussion-group-with-pam-goddard-3>

11 March 10.30am Zoom Discussion Group with Steve Maslin: My Ancestors in a Wiltshire Village and the surprises and shocks Steve discovered beyond the paperwork with Steve Maslin

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-my-ancestors-in-a-wiltshire-village-with-discussion-on-places-with-steve-maslin>

18 March 10.30am Zoom DNA Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-dna-discussion-group-with-laura-lincoln-34>

25 March 10.30am Zoom Workshop - Education during the 19th and 20th centuries with Linda Crisp

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-workshop/zoom-workshop-education-over-19th-and-20th-centuries-with-linda-crisp>

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Society Library – Wednesday Open Days 10am - 4pm

The Society Library is usually open every Wednesday for members to carry out their own research, enjoy a cuppa, socialise, and take part in workshops and discussion groups held at the library. Our team of volunteers is also on hand to offer help and guidance.

Members are welcome to use the library's PCs and WiFi to access both *Ancestry* and *FindMyPast*, which now include the 1921 census. We recommend joining **Kent Libraries**, as this allows you to access these websites on your own device while at the library—helping to reduce demand for the library's PCs.

Not yet a member? You're welcome to join the Society in person at the library on any Wednesday.

📍 **Address:** 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley, Kent DA5 2EE

🚗 **Parking:** Free in nearby side roads

🕒 **Opening hours:** 10am to 4pm

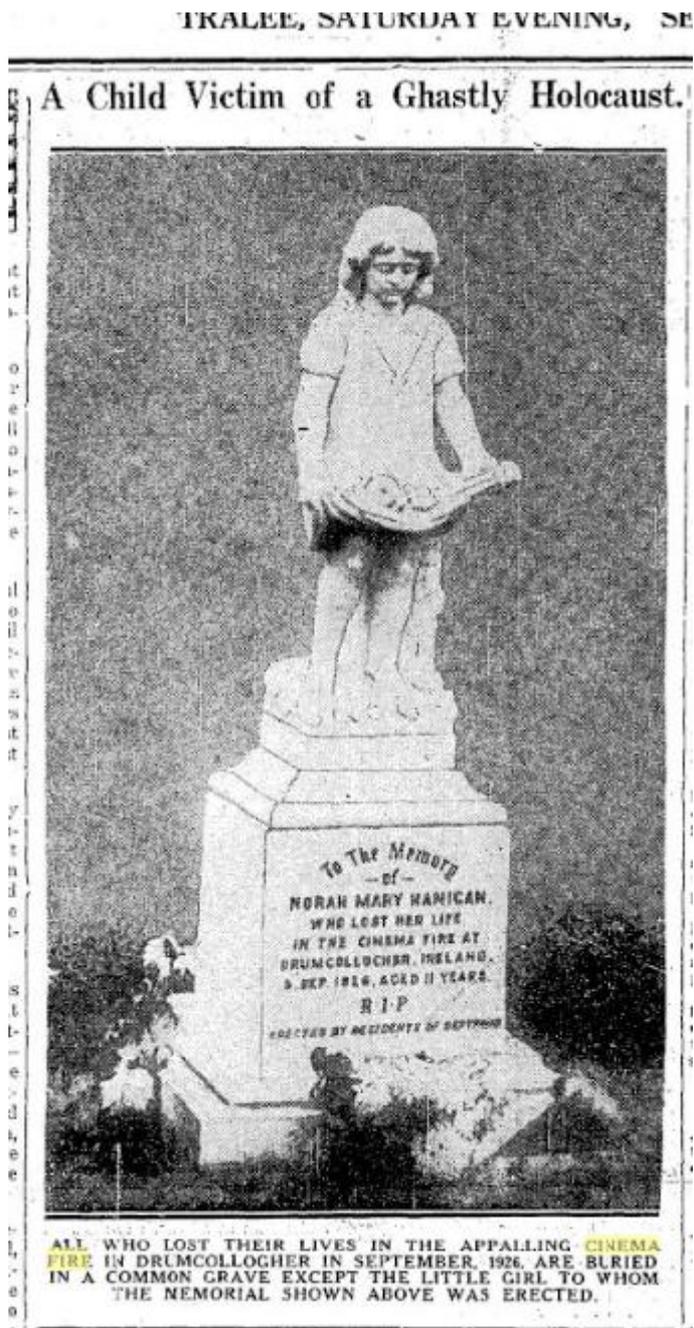
To assist our volunteers, we kindly ask that visitors with research queries aim to arrive earlier in the day if possible. Please bring along any existing information you have about the ancestor you're researching, and consider bringing a **USB memory stick** to save any discoveries you make during your visit.

Advance Notice on 25 March a Trustees Meeting is being held in the room where all our books and some maps are stored. So unfortunately the room will not be accessible until the meeting ends, probably about 1pm/1.30pm.

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Norah Mary HANIGAN and the Drumcollogher, Limerick Cinema Fire of 1926

Can you help?



Maureen, our Enquiries Coordinator, is in correspondence with Gerard in Ireland who is a member of a team researching a cinema fire in 1926 in Drumcollogher, Limerick which resulted in multiple deaths.

An eleven year old girl from Deptford (on the south bank of the Thames, in south east London), Norah Mary Hanigan, died in that catastrophic fire. The residents of Deptford erected a beautiful monument to her in Brockley and Ladywell cemetery. I have attached a 1936 newspaper photograph of the memorial. Unfortunately this photograph is of very poor quality.

Do any of our enews readers have any information about the location of the memorial? Would someone who lives locally be able to take a new photograph for the team in Ireland, which they could use for publication purposes? Please contact Maureen via <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/contact> and she will put you in touch with Gerard and the research team in Ireland.

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RootsTech

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

March 5th - 8th 1926 in Salt Lake City.

Free online registration.

Relatives at RootsTech? I (Stella) have 67! So far, none nearer than a 5th cousin though. Why don't you sign up?

Dozens of free to listen speakers. Listen and watch from your own home, free of charge. Here is the schedule for just one day <https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/schedule?day=2026-03-05&type=online>

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Next Enews – Submissions Welcome

The next enews will be sent out on **1 April**. If you have any items you'd like included, please send them to me **as soon as possible**, and no later than 27 March. Simply reply to this email to submit your content.

Going forward, the enews is circulated **monthly at the beginning of each month**. I may occasionally send a mid-month update as a reminder about an upcoming Zoom talk, as some other societies do.

There is no need to reply this email unless you have noticed an error.

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Click on our other links <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/community/news-journals/blog> [Facebook](#) [Flickr](#) <https://bsky.app/profile/nwkhfs.bsky.social>

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.

Please contact me if there's anything you want to say about enews. Just reply to this enews.

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

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