

Oast Houses, Sissinghurst, Kent

Image courtesy of Derek Winterburn via Flickr- <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/2.0/>

## Welcome to the April news

Today's headline photo illustrates a website I only discovered just recently.

Judith Batchelor, aka *GenealogyJude*, has created a website called *Ancestors in Kent - A Guide* dedicated to information about The Garden of England, our glorious county of Kent.

<https://genealogyjude.com/2022/03/13/ancestors-in-kent-a-guide/>

I thoroughly enjoyed reading her account about the history and geography of Kent and references to where parish records can be found. And I've lived here all my life!

So whether you live here - or further afield but have ancestors here - you will find a wealth of useful and interesting information.

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### Society Library: opening hours and booking

**At present the library is open and staffed by library volunteers on Wednesdays from midday to 4pm.**

**To prevent overcrowding users must, please, phone our Librarian Janet on 01322 384836 in advance to check there is space for the time period you would like to come.**

Janet has told me that most people come about midday and stay til 3.30pm or so. At the moment there is plenty of space for everyone who has booked.

There are three PCs for research; or you can use your own device - but if using your own device you need to join Kent Libraries to be able to log in to the library edition of Ancestry, FindmyPast and other resources.

If you cannot get there in the afternoon but can make the morning, please phone Janet to discuss as a library Volunteer may be able to open up early for you.

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

Parking in nearby roads.

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**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 Talk states clearly whether it is via *Zoom* or an in person talk.

Currently all Workshops remain *Zoom*.

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**ZOOM Talks**

**Zoom Talks are open to all.** They cannot be pre booked - please just 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.

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**Coroners' Inquests with Guest Speaker Kathy Chater**

**Saturday 2 April Doors Open 9.45am meeting starts 10.30am  
At Dartford Science and Technology College, Heath Lane, Dartford, Kent DA1 2LY**

Coroners' inquests produce a wealth of information for family historians. Ancestors might have been involved in a number of ways, such as jurors, court officials or witnesses.

Inquests don't just reveal how people died – they also show how, where and with whom the deceased lived and how they got on with family, friends and neighbours.

Kathy Chater has been tracing her own ancestry for over forty years. She is the author of *Tracing Your Huguenot Ancestors; The Reformation in 100 Facts; My Ancestor Was A Lunatic* and *Tracing Your Family Tree in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales*. She also contributes articles and reviews on social and family history to magazines and websites.

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.

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**There is no April Meeting at Sevenoaks Branch**

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**Breaking Down Ancestral Brick Walls with Guest Speaker Ian Waller**

**Zoom Talk Thursday 21 April. Log in from 7pm (and enjoy an informal chat among attendees) for 7.30pm start of the talk.**

Ian Waller knows that every family historian has hit a brick wall at some stage in their research, and this talk examines ways of demolishing those brick walls, breaking down barriers and overcoming challenges posed by documents that were not generated with the family historian in mind.

Zoom host: Pat Gooding

The Zoom link will be published on the website [www.nwkfhs.org.uk](http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk) nearer the date.

This talk will be recorded and placed on the Members Only Area of the website - probably within a few days afterwards - for up to two weeks.

If you listen to a talk, especially if you are a non-member of the Society, please consider making a donation to the Society through our eshop <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services/society-donation>

The Society is a registered charity, and membership fees and donations are an important part of our income. Even though we don't need to hire a hall for our virtual talks, we pay the speaker and have bought Zoom licenses.

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**Thames Mudlarking with Guest speaker Nicola White**

**Saturday 7 May Doors Open 9.45am meeting starts 10.30am  
At Dartford Science and Technology College, Heath Lane, Dartford Kent DA1 2LY**

Would you like to find out about mudlarking along the River Thames? Are you curious about what can be found in the Thames mud? One of the magical things about this pastime is that a muddy old object which has been languishing in the mud for centuries can make history come alive. It's always fun to unlock long lost history.

Nicola White moved to London some years ago and started mudlarking on the Thames foreshore. She has found many pieces of discarded history, some of which she has made into art and many of which are pointers to the everyday lives of our ancestors.

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.

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***He's Cast A Shoe with Guest Speaker Alan Williamson***

**Thursday 12 May Doors Open 7.15pm meeting starts 8.00pm and will finish by 9.30pm**

**At Otford Village Memorial Hall, High Street, Otford TN14 5PQ**

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.

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***A Prisoner of War - The case study of Private Mehmet Habi, Cyprus Regiment during WWII with Guest Speaker Philip Mills***

**Zoom Talk Saturday 14 May Log in from 10.am (and enjoy an informal chat between attendees) for 10.30am start of the talk.**

Philip Mills describes the methods used to uncover the history of Mehmet Habi - who served in the Cyprus Regiment 1940 to 1946 - with virtually no starting information beyond a basic service record.

Philip's research uncovered Mehmet's remarkable activities including action under fire, capture, five escapes, a love story and two near-death experiences whilst a POW.

Zoom host: Victor Nutt

The Zoom link will be published on the website [www.nwkfhs.org.uk](http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk) nearer the date.

This talk will be recorded and placed on the Members Only Area of the website - probably within a few days afterwards.

If you listen to a talk, especially if you are a non-member of the Society, please consider making a donation to the Society through our eshop <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services/society-donation>

The Society is a registered charity and membership fees and donations are an important part of our income. Even though we don't need to hire a hall for our virtual talks, we pay the speaker and have bought Zoom licenses.

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**ZOOM Workshops, Special Interest and Discussion groups**

**Workshops (including Discussion Groups and Writing Groups)** 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.

**6 April Discussion Group *Should History be rewritten?* and *Members' Choice* (members to suggest discussion topics) with Carolyn Barclay 10.00am to 11.45am**

Free but a donation via the web shop is appreciated. <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services/society-donation>

Capacity 15

Spaces are limited. Please reserve a place with [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk) including the event title and date together with your name and membership number.

**6 April Workshop *Trade Sources* with David Cufley 7.30pm to 9.30pm**

This workshop explores the sources available for family historians to research ancestors' occupations and industries.

Free but a donation via the web shop is appreciated. <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services/society-donation>

Capacity 15

Spaces are limited. Please reserve a place with [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk) including the event title and date together with your name and membership number.

**13 April Workshop *Flickr for Family Historians* with Walter Eves 10.30am to 12.30**

This workshop explores how Flickr, a popular photo-sharing and hosting service, can be useful for Family and Local Historians.

Since 2013 the Society has been posting various documents, deeds, postcards, wills etc which were in private personal collections - and thus in the main part unavailable for anyone else to see - on Flickr.

So far there are about 3,500 items from the 1800s (some with content dating back to the 1700s) through to WW1 and into the 1920s and 1930s covering Kent and the rest of the country - creating a searchable name-rich

resource. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/nwkf/sets/>

Free but a donation via the web shop is appreciated. <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services/society-donation>

Capacity 15

Spaces are limited. Please reserve a place with [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk) including the event title and date together with your name and membership number.

**20 April *Scottish Interest Group* with Pam Goddard/Carolyn Barclay 2.30pm to 4.30pm**

This workshop explores the role of the Kirk Sessions as the Parish Courts, their function, and how accessing the records can give an insight into our ancestors' lives.

Free but a donation via the web shop is appreciated. <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services/society-donation>

Capacity 15

Spaces are limited. Please reserve a place with [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk) including the event title and date together with your name and membership number.

**27 April *DNA Discussion Group* with Laura Lincoln 10.30am to 12.30pm**

Free but a donation via the web shop is appreciated. <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services/society-donation>

Capacity 15

Spaces are limited. Please reserve a place with [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk) including the event title and date together with your name and membership number.

**4 May Workshop *Fluctuating Population Numbers* with David Cufley 2.30pm – 4.30**

A workshop discussing the life span of ancestors at different historical times.

Free but a donation via the web shop is appreciated. <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services/society-donation>

Capacity 15

Registration/Booking Spaces are limited. Please reserve a place with [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk) including the event, title and date together with your name and membership number.

**11 May *Discussion Group* with Carolyn Barclay 10.00am – 11.45am**

How can we tell if our ancestors' lives were typical?

Free but a donation via the web shop is appreciated. <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services/society-donation>

Capacity 12

Registration/Booking Spaces are limited. Please reserve a place with [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk) including the event, title and date together with your name and membership number.

**18 May *Writing Group* with Pauline Heathcote 10.30am – 12.30pm**

(A decision will be made nearer the date whether this will be Zoom or in the Society Library at 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Kent DA5 2EE Participants will be informed nearer the date.)

Free but a donation via the web shop <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services/society-donation> or in person if at the library is appreciated.

Registration/Booking Spaces are limited. Please reserve a place with [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk) including the event, title and date together with your name and membership number.

**25 May DNA Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln 10.30am – 12.30pm**

Discussions on various DNA topics.

Free but a donation via the web shop is appreciated. <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services/society-donation>

Capacity 12

Registration/Booking Spaces are limited. Please reserve a place with [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk) including the event, title and date together with your name and membership number.

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**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.**

**Society members please book by emailing Carolyn for the link / code to enable you to attend any of the above Workshops and Discussion Groups. [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto: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.**

**Workshops to the end of June are on page 8 of the March Journal.**

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See <https://nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings> for topics and dates / times of Workshops and Talks further ahead.  
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**All day history event in Otford Village Hall: Saturday 16 April 10am to 4pm**

North West Kent FHS has been asked to participate in the following indoor event by having a stall and possibly there will be time for one of our volunteers to give a talk:-

The Historiographers Heritage and the Otford Archbishop's Palace Community Trust are running an all-day event in the Players' Hall at Otford Village Memorial Hall, 28A High Street, Otford Kent TN14 5PQ on Easter Saturday.

There will be displays by local history groups (including North West Kent FHS) and a series of talks through the day including:

- Hever Castle and Anne Boleyn
- The Archbishop's Palace in Otford.
- The work of local history and heritage groups

Admission is free but donations to the Palace Trust will be greatly appreciated. This will support the essential repair work on the Tower that is taking place this spring and summer.

There is a large car park adjacent to the Hall (parking fees apply).

Further details from Tom Hudson: [thehud1989@hotmail.com](mailto:thehud1989@hotmail.com) tel: 07711260989

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**New Promotional Leaflet**

The Society has recently created a new promotional leaflet, below, on recyclable paper.

It is double-sided 'DL' size. DL means each leaflet is one third of landscape A4. This is a standard size which will fit most display stands and can also be used as a bookmark (so we can pop one inside any books we sell).

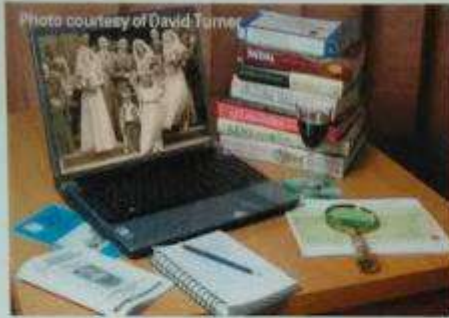
We deliberately didn't include specific events as we don't want the leaflet to become dated before supplies have been used up. We have bought 2,000 at a net cost to the Society of just under £34.

**If you know of locations where any leaflets could be displayed - perhaps in a public library or archive near you - and you could place them there, please contact Mike Weeks on [publicity@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:publicity@nwkfhs.org.uk) for a supply.**

**Please also contact Mike if you have any ideas for publicising the Society and / or would consider joining the Publicity Team in order to contribute to publicity and marketing ideas.**



## North West Kent Family History Society



Are you interested in your family's history?

Do you have any precious old photographs of your family - and wish you knew more about them? Do you know your great grandparents' names?

Would you like to start researching your ancestors - and spend time with people who enjoy doing the same?

Our area includes South East London and North West Kent plus adjacent Sussex parishes.

But you don't have to have ancestors in our area to benefit from membership.

We run workshop training sessions for members and put on talks by Zoom and in person - in person talks are at venues in Dartford and Sevenoaks.

[www.nwkhfs.org.uk](http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk)

We also have discussion groups and house groups for chatting about family history matters including DNA, and we enjoy helping each other.

Members receive a quarterly Journal full of interesting articles and have access to our library in Joyden's Wood, near Bexley, Kent.

If you are wondering how DNA testing can help you research your ancestors and connect with living relatives, we have videos explaining this in the Members' Area of our website.

Facebook Group: Search for us or type <https://www.facebook.com/groups/767236788758351>

It's just £10 (£12 for joint members) for membership expiring on 31 December (if joining after 1 October your membership will last til 31 December the following year).

We circulate a free fortnightly e-news about Society events and genealogy topics. To receive it email [enews@nwkhfs.org.uk](mailto:enews@nwkhfs.org.uk)

Any questions not answered by this leaflet or the website?

Contact enquiries@nwkhfs.org.uk

Our QR code



NWKFHS Promo Leaflet ref 18 March 2022

### Family Tree Identifies Nearly 27 Million Ancestors

[Researchers create massive genealogical network dating back 100,000 years](#)

Click on the link above to read more.

"This study is laying the groundwork for the next generation of DNA sequencing," says Yan Wong, one of the study's principal authors and an evolutionary geneticist. "As the quality of genome sequences from modern and ancient DNA samples improves ..... we will eventually be able to generate a single, unified map that explains the descent of all the human genetic variation we see today."

The research study helps show the scope of human genetic diversity and establishes how people around the world are related to each other. Researchers have confirmed that the human species started in Africa before migrating to other parts of the globe.

"The very earliest ancestors we identify trace back in time to a geographic location that is in modern Sudan," said Anthony Wilder Wohns "These ancestors lived up to and over 1 million years ago — which is much older than current estimates for the age of Homo sapiens — 250,000 to 300,000 years ago. So bits of our genome have been inherited from individuals who we wouldn't recognize as modern humans."

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](mailto:enews@nwkhfs.org.uk), with your contributions. Any photos must be your own copyright.

Click on our other links <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/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.*

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*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](mailto:enews@nwkfhs.org.uk)

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**Our mailing address is:**

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

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