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Welcome to the June enews



Given the attention being paid to this in the UK at the moment, I make no apology for including not only my late mother's ticket to watch the Coronation Procession (£4 - and as a newly qualified 21 year old teacher her pay was about £10 a week), but also a photo kindly supplied by Richard Griffin when he gave a talk to our Sevenoaks Branch about his days as a royal bodyguard.

I was in Central London yesterday, and flags and bunting are everywhere already. I even saw a Queen lookalike walking down The Strand with 3 corgis in tow, graciously receiving curtsies.

Knitted and Crocheted Post Box Toppers ('yarn bombing') are also becoming very popular. I hope some will still be around in many years to come - perhaps for our descendants to find in the attic in 100 years time? But will we then still use Post Boxes?



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Talking of photos, Society Members, please take part in our annual photo competition to provide 12 monthly and 1 cover photos for our 2023 Calendar.

Full details are on page 59 of the June Journal. Closing date for entries is 30 June 2022 and winners - whose photos are chosen for inclusion - will be sent a free calendar.

Your digital, landscape photos should be emailed to publications@nwkfhs.org.uk

Need ideas? See here for the winning 2022 calendar

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

Calendars will be available to buy at branch meetings and via the website from September / October 2022.

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Victorian London Street Life with Guest Speaker Delia Taylor

Saturday 4 June: a Dartford Branch meeting

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

Doors Open 9.45am meeting starts 10.30am and will end by 12.30pm



This is a fascinating insight into how the poor people of London lived and survived in the late nineteenth century.

Covering: the fear of the Workhouse, including personal stories and details of popular foods and the plight of working children. We will follow them throughout a typical day, ending in a Music Hall.

All of Delia's talks are comprehensively illustrated with audio and visual clips.

The meeting will be led by Janet Rose.

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, 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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The Art of the Folly with Guest Speaker Russell Bowes

Thursday 9 June; a Sevenoaks Branch Meeting

Please note the different venue for this meeting - as we could not book our usual hall tonight: The Bat and Ball Community Centre, Crampton's Road, off Otford Road, Sevenoaks TN14 5DN. (This is the - now renovated - hall which was used for Sevenoaks Meetings until about 3 years ago).

Doors Open 7.15pm meeting starts 8.00pm and will finish by 9.30pm

Starting with a look at what a folly actually *is* (and what it isn't), **The Art of the Folly** looks at weird, wonderful and (generally) unexplained garden buildings of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Many have entertaining stories behind their creation - find out how to out-do the Bishop of Salisbury, what happens when you put an advert in the paper for a hermit and how to produce a 50 foot pineapple.

Russell is a freelance garden historian and has been giving talks on the subject since 2000; and in 2003 he was awarded the University of London Diploma in Garden History.

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.

No booking, just turn up. Free parking in the hall's large car park.

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Catching up with FamilySearch with Guest Speaker Sharon Hintze

Zoom Talk Tuesday 21 June; Log in from 7pm (and enjoy an informal chat between attendees) until 7.30pm start of the talk.

Sharon Hintze will talk about how busy Family Search has been recently and has finished digitising its microfilm collection.

To find out what this and other developments mean to you, plan on attending this talk. A long to-do list will likely be the result (!).

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

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

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

The Society 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.

Dartford Rural Rides - Darent Valley Delights with Guest Speaker Christoph Bull

Saturday 2 July: a Dartford Branch meeting

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

Doors Open 9.45am meeting starts 10.30am and will end by 12.30pm

Christoph is a local guide, historian and speaker who has entertained us many times with his light-hearted but informative talks on North West Kent.

This is one of two new talks about the villages surrounding Dartford. You will learn many new facts and hopefully it will inspire you to explore the "Delights" of the Darent Valley this summer.

<http://www.christophbull.co.uk/>

The meeting will be led by Janet Rose.

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, 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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The Shetland Bus WWII with Guest Speaker Gilly Halcrow

Thursday 14 July; a Sevenoaks Branch Meeting

at Otford Village Memorial Hall, 28a High Street, Otford TN14 5PQ

Doors Open 7.15pm meeting starts 8.00pm and will finish by 9.30pm

Gilly's talk tells the story of the brave Norwegian sailors in their fishing boats who kept links open between occupied Norway and Britain during WWII, taking agents in with supplies for the resistance and escaping refugees out.

Not only did they have to face sub-Arctic storms in the North Sea but also the might of the Nazi war machine searching for them.

This fascinating talk details the deeds of incredibly courageous and patriotic men. The seas between Norway and Scotland are the stormiest in the world. No other series of journeys in such bad weather, in such small boats and in darkness to an unlit coast had been undertaken.

The impact of the operation resulted in 400 tons of arms and explosives being delivered, 450 refugees rescued and many agents being delivered and recovered.

Gilly's talk is a moving account of what affectionately became known as 'The Shetland Bus'; helping Norway to bring back its peace and pride.

There were many acts of outstanding courage and incredible bravery performed during the Shetland Bus operation. To commemorate this, a wreath laying ceremony is held annually on 17th May in Shetland. Norway still send Christmas trees to London and Edinburgh in gratitude for our assistance.

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.

No booking, just turn up. Free parking in the evenings at the adjacent large car park.

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The 9 lives of Mina Jury with Guest Speaker Claire Moores

Zoom Talk Thursday 28 July; Log in from 7pm (and enjoy an informal chat between attendees) until 7.30pm start of the talk.

Claire Moores is an independent history researcher with over 20 years experience of genealogical and local historical research projects.

Mina Jury was transported to Van Dieman's land age 17 for stealing some jewellery from her employer. After she got her ticket of leave she married and had 11 children. However, after her husband's death she then returned to England to appear as a minor witness in the trial of the Tichborne Claimant in 1873. Uprooted from the stable life she had created in Australia, Mina went on to live a life of theft and fraud in England.

The Society 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 the speaker and our Zoom licence.

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

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

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Sevenoaks Branch Meetings - An Important Notice - Change of day and time

With effect from 10 September 2022 and thereafter, meetings will take place from 10.45am to 1.00pm on the second Saturday Morning of each month.

The venue remains the same: Otford Memorial Hall, 28A High Street, Otford TN14 5PQ

All members and guests very welcome.

It is hoped the change to Saturday mornings will make it easier to attend, especially during the winter months.

Meeting format remains the same with a speaker, raffle, bookstall and, of course, refreshments. The committee look forward to seeing you all.

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NWKfHS members who missed a ZOOM 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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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.

If you have booked a place on the *Breaking Down Ancestral Brick Walls* workshop on 29 June, please submit your brick wall problem by 15 June at the latest to workshop leader David Cufley on president@nwkfhs.org.uk

8 June ZOOM *Bring something an ancestor would have held* with Carolyn Barclay 10.00am – 11.45am

Attendees, please bring something which your ancestor would have held.

Capacity 12

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

Workshop leaders freely give their time, but a donation via the web shop is appreciated. <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services/society-donation>

15 June ZOOM *Scottish Interest Group* with Pam Goddard/Carolyn Barclay 10.30am - 12.30pm

Scottish Interest Group discussing aspects of Scottish genealogy and records which help to research Scottish ancestors.

At this session, wills and inheritance will be discussed.

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

Workshop leaders freely give their time, but a donation via the web shop is appreciated. <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services/society-donation>

22 June ZOOM DNA Discussion Group Leader Laura Lincoln 10.30am – 12.30pm

Discussions on various DNA topics.

Capacity 12

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

Workshop leaders freely give their time, but a donation via the web shop is appreciated. <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services/society-donation>

29 June ZOOM Breaking Down Ancestral Brick Walls with David Cufley 7.30pm – 9.30pm

A workshop to help researchers overcome research hurdles.

After you have booked a place on the workshop your 'Brick Wall' must be submitted to David Cufley by the 15th June using president@nwkfhs.org.uk

Capacity 15

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

Workshop leaders freely give their time, but a donation via the web shop is appreciated. <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services/society-donation>

6 July Zoom Workshop Kevin Bacon's 6 degrees of separation with David Cufley 2.30 - 4.30pm

An interactive experiment to make family history links between members and to verify if the, 'six degrees of separation' has any relationship to Family History Research. It will explore the connections members have to each other and how they may be related by genes, places or events.

The workshop may stimulate members research and break down those brick walls to that elusive ancestor. Serendipity and Kismet are important research tools of family historians and are little used and explored. This workshop will try to highlight their use.

Capacity 15

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

Workshop leaders freely give their time, but a donation via the web shop is appreciated. <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services/society-donation>

13 July Zoom Discussion Group Leader Carolyn Barclay 10am - 11.45am

Places. Attendees to talk about a place an ancestor was connected to.

Capacity 12

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

Workshop leaders freely give their time, but a donation via the web shop is appreciated. <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services/society-donation>

20 July ZOOM DNA Discussion Group 10.30am - 12.30pm

Discussion on various aspects of DNA

Event Start Date

Capacity 12

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

Workshop leaders freely give their time, but a donation via the web shop is appreciated. <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-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.

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 including your name and membership number.

Carolyn would like to hear from you if you have topic requests for workshops or want to suggest different dates or times. (Or have some expertise on a topic which you think

would interest others and would be willing to lead a workshop).

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

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.

Free access to newspapers on Findmypast until 6 June 2022. Go to <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/page/free-access> for full details.

There will be no mid June enews. Any items for the 1 July enews should please reach me by 29 June 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](#)
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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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