

Welcome to the 1 June 2023 enews and our programme of talks and workshops over the next several weeks.

Talks and workshops have been planned until the end of the year see <http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings> to book your diary ahead of time.

Dartford Branch June Talk: *Medicine in the Napoleonic War* with Dr John Reuther

Saturday 3 June: 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

This is a positive and much misunderstood field of medicine that did much to improve the state of the 19th Century soldier.

Dr Reuther will include the contrasting medical practices between the British and French which will give you a new insight into the lives of your military ancestors.

The talks 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.

Free to members. A donation towards hall hire and speaker fee is appreciated from visitors.

Sevenoaks Branch June Talk: *Tracing My Ancestors During Lockdown* with Clare Walker

Saturday 10 June Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am

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

When Clare Walker set out to research her husband's ancestors, she never imagined the astonishing stories she would unearth and the many frustrating mysteries that would both enthrall and frustrate her.

She also did not bargain on the shocks she would have to deliver to family: ancestors who were executed (they backed the wrong side); murdered in their bed by a best friend; a missing RAF crewman; a doctor who has left his young wife and two small daughters to travel to Australia where he drowned; and a Gaiety girl who voyaged to South Africa with her wedding dress in her suitcase to marry a 'stage-door Johnny'.

About the speaker:

Clare began her career as a journalist, went into publishing and then qualified as a pilot aged 50, excelling at each challenge. Since retiring she has co-founded the Dockland Sinfonia.

She came from a background of illustrious ancestry, had family memorabilia and the advantage of lots of contacts from her journalism, including photographers. However, when Clare decided to research her and her husband's ancestors during Lockdown, she never imagined the amazing stores that she would uncover.

No booking, just turn up.

Free to members. A donation towards hall hire and speaker fee is appreciated from visitors.

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

Dartford Branch July Talk: *Catching Up With FamilySearch* with Sharon Hintze

Saturday 1 July: 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

Sharon Hintze is the Director of the FamilySearch Centre and many of our older members will remember her from the LDS centre at Exhibition Road in the late 20th century.

She is a former member of the Board of Trustees of the Society of Genealogists, lecturer and author on family history topics and is a 5th generation family historian with ancestors in Denmark and the UK.

The FamilySearch website adds millions of records worldwide each year and has new initiatives planned for 2023. Sharon will bring us up to date on what is available and how best to access it.

The talks 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.

Free to members. A donation towards hall hire and speaker fee is appreciated from visitors.

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Sevenoaks Branch July Talk: *The Dartford Hospitals During WW1* with Francine Payne

Saturday 8 July Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am

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

<https://dartfordhospitalhistories.org.uk/>

Dartford has an interesting mix of hospitals, not all built for local people. West Hill has its origins from the workhouse.

The changes made to the poor laws in the 1800s compelled parishes to provide better care for their destitute, sick and insane. These people would have been nursed in the workhouse in sick wards, their care was poor and nursing often provided by other inmates. The lack of separation for infectious sick meant epidemics were hard to control.

It was these same problems to which Florence Nightingale was devoting her time to in London. She was campaigning for the removal of infectious, sick and the insane from the workhouses and for a single statutory body to oversee the care of these people so that care could be standardised. She wanted everyone looked after by trained nurses.

London was separated into 'the City' (the area covered by the Corporation of London) and the Metropolis (the area known as Greater London). The City needed an asylum and purchased land in Dartford at Stone, here it built 'The City of London Pauper Lunatic Asylum'. In the metropolis the Metropolitan Asylums Board (MAB) was formed and smallpox patients were removed, from London workhouses and homes, by River Ambulance to ships moored at Long Reach; and later Long Reach, Orchard and Joyce Green hospitals were built.

The MAB also built Gore Farm Hospital (later known as the Southern) for convalescence, smallpox and fevers next to its 'School for Imbecile Children' in Darenth, later to become Darenth Park. These hospitals were built for the people of London - although smallpox cases from Dartford were admitted, the Dartford authorities were charged for their care.

During the Wars the hospitals were used by American and Australian forces and the Lower Southern became a German POW hospital. After WW2 with the inception of the NHS the hospitals changed again and became general hospitals for the people of Dartford.

No booking, just turn up.

Free to members. A donation towards hall hire and speaker fee is appreciated from visitors.

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>

Whilst the next four weeks or so workshops are listed below, workshops have been planned for the whole of 2023 and can be read about on the above link.

7 June 10.30am Zoom Family History Discussion Group, today's topic: *Record Types* with Ann Clarke
<http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-family-history-discussion-grtoup-with-ann-clarke>

8 June 2.30pm Zoom Royal Arsenal Documents Workshop with David Cufley
<http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-workshop/zoom-workshop-royal-arsenal-documents-with-david-cufley-2>

14 June 10.30am Library DNA Discussion Group for those new or with experience of DNA
<http://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-5>

14 June 7.30pm Zoom Workshop: How to Draw a Calligraphic Family Tree with David Cufley
<http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-workshop/zoom-workshop-how-to-draw-a-calligraphic-family-trees-with-david-cufley>

21 June 10.30am Library Writing Group with Pauline Heathcote
<http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/future-workshops/library-writing-group-with-pauline-heathcote-3>

21 June 10.30am Zoom DNA Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln
<http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-dna-discussion-group-with-laura-lincoln-10>

28 June 10.30am Morning Library Workshop for Family History Beginners with Fran Rogers
<http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/future-workshops/library-workshop-for-family-history-beginners-morning-session-with-fran-rogers>

28 June 1pm Afternoon Library Workshop for Family History Beginners with Fran Rogers
<http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/future-workshops/library-workshop-for-family-history-beginners-afternoon-session-with-fran-rogers>

28 June Zoom 10.30am Scottish Interests Discussion Group with Pam Goddard
Today our topic is: Scottish Archives - what sorts of archives are there? Where are they? The types of information they may hold and access to them. Share your knowledge and experience of using archives in your research.

<http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-scottish-interests-discussion-with-carolyn-barclay-and-pam-goddard>

5 July 10.30am Zoom Family History Discussion Group with Ann Clarke. Today's Topic: Migration
<http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-with-ann-clarke-4>

12 July 10.30am Library DNA Discussion Group
<http://www.nwkhfs.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->

12 July 7.30pm Zoom Workshop on Heralds Visitations with David Cufley
<http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-workshop/zoom-workshop-heralds-visitations-with-david-cufley>

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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.

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[Last call for photos for the 2024 Calendar Competition](#)

The Society will be producing a calendar again, and we need members' photos for 2024.

The latest submission date for your photos to be considered for the calendar is as previous years:- 30 June.

We judge and select the winning photographs in July and get the proof calendar to the printers by the end of that month.

Photos which one would want to look at for a month and preferably of our area.

For inspiration, see here for the winning 2023 photos: <http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/society-calendar>

Send your photos to publications@nwkhfs.org.uk

Landscape images please with Name, Membership No, Place it was taken and preferably the Date it was taken.

It's not desirable to have people in the photos as their permission has to be obtained.

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Items for the mid June enews should please reach me as soon as possible, and by 12 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@nwkhfs.org.uk with your contributions. Any photos must be your own copyright.

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

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.

Please email me if there's anything you want to say about 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
enews@nwkhfs.org.uk

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