

Welcome to the mid September 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.

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

Saturday 7 October: 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

Rod Shelton describes himself as an author, artist and model-maker. He has lived in Otford for 25 years and is active in village matters. He is the local historian and chairs the Otford Society.

Most of us have visited Lullingstone; and Josephine Birchenough's husband was involved in the excavation of the villa.

Rod has researched the story of the villa and will reveal 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.

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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**Next Sevenoaks Branch Talk: *The 1951 Festival of Britain* with Alan Williams
Talk preceded by the Branch Annual Meeting**

Saturday 14 October Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am

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

Alan Williams is a member of the Otford 1940s Society.

The **Festival of Britain** was a national exhibition and fair that reached millions of visitors throughout the United Kingdom in the summer of 1951. The Festival was a triumphant success during which people flocked to the South Bank site, to wander around the Dome of Discovery, gaze at the Skylon, and generally enjoy a festival of national celebration.

The British public showed that it had not lost the capacity for enjoying itself....Above all, the Festival made a spectacular setting as a showpiece for the inventiveness and genius of British scientists and technologists.

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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Next Zoom Talk Wednesday 11 October 7.30pm

A talk on the 19th century profession of Ratcatchers with David Cufley

No booking necessary and this talk is open to Society members and non members alike.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87130743218?pwd=VjRlRjQ0VjVWndQcHRaa1BselVmNUJzUT09>

Meeting ID: 871 3074 3218 Passcode: 144824

David describes how his ancestors played a part in the trade and the sporting rat matches held in the pubs around London.

Information also taken from Henry Mayhew's book '*London Labour, London Poor*', but also other trade research sources that add to the understanding of the business and the Rat Matches.

Some references are to Ratcatchers in Manchester and Essex among the sources included in the Bibliography available.

Please log in from 7.15pm and enjoy chat amongst participants before the talk starts. Talk will be over by 9.15pm.

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.

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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 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>

Workshops have been planned for the whole of 2023 and can be read about on the above link. Those during the next few weeks are listed below.

20 September 10.30am Zoom DNA Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln.

We aim to help you learn about the wonders of DNA and to get the most from your DNA test

[Zoom DNA Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln-Zoom Discussion Group \(nwkfhs.org.uk\)](http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk)

27 September 2.30pm Zoom Discussion Group: Let's talk about family history with David Cufley

[Zoom Discussion Group: Let's Talk About Family History with David Cufley-Zoom Discussion Group \(nwkfhs.org.uk\)](http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk)

4 October 10.30am Zoom Family History Discussion Group with Ann Clarke

Come and enjoy lively discussions on different aspects of Family History

<http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-with-ann-clarke-7>

11 October 10.30am Library General Family History and DNA Discussion Group hosted by Jacki Ellis and Pam Goddard

<http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/discussion-group/library-general-family-history-and-dna-discussion-group-hosted-by-jacki-ellis-and-pam-goddard-2>

18 October 10.30am Zoom DNA Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln.

We aim to help you learn about the wonders of DNA and to get the most from your DNA test

<http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-dna-discussion-group-with-laura-lincoln-13>

18 October 10.30am Library NEW Scottish Interests Beginners Workshop with Pam Goddard

The workshop will cover birth, marriage and death certificates, census records, old parish records and wills using <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/> website and other useful websites.

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/future-workshops/library-new-scottish-discussion-group-with-pam-goddard>

25 October 10.30am Library New to Writing Your Family History? with Pauline Heathcote

If you are interested in attending this workshop, or want more information, please contact / book direct with Pauline on theeditor@nwkfhs.org.uk

<http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/future-workshops/library-new-to-writing-your-family-history-with-pauline-heathcote-3>

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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@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 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 our volunteer workshop coordinator for arranging our exciting programme of workshops, and to the workshop leaders who all give their time freely.

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Your Society Needs You

North West Kent FHS is run entirely by volunteers and more are always needed.

This has now become critical as, after many years of service, some of our post holders have retired or are not standing for re-election at the AGM in November. Vacancies in these posts affects the running of the Society.

In particular, and to comply with our Constitution, we urgently need a Secretary and Chair, these posts being currently vacant. In addition, the position of Vice Chair will become vacant in November. These officers would also be Trustees of the Society.

Any member who might be interested and would like to know more please contact Mike Weeks on publicity@nwkhfs.org.uk or approach any of the trustees. Training would then be given.

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Society Library: The Society Library has long been back to pre Covid opening arrangements, open every Wednesday from 10am to 4pm for members to do their own research, socialise, participate in library based workshops and discussion groups and receive help from the library volunteers.

There's no need to book just to use the library resources, but booking to attend workshops and other groups is essential for space reasons.

You can use the library's PCs to access Ancestry - and FindMyPast which currently includes access to the 1921 census. We suggest joining Kent Libraries as you can then access these websites from your own device whilst in the library which eases pressure on the library PCs.

Non members, on Wednesdays you can join the Society at the library.

80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley Kent DA5 2EE Free parking in nearby side roads.

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Items for the October enews should please reach me as soon as possible, and by 28 September 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.

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@nwkfhs.org.uk

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