



As Remembrance Day is soon I thought it was appropriate to use this photo which I took earlier this year in Antwerp Cathedral.

**"To the glory of God
And to the memory of one million dead
of the British Empire who fell in the Great War
1914 - 1918.
Many of whom rest in Belgium."**

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

Your Society Urgently Needs You



Back in 2018 we were a thriving Society, celebrating our 40th 'birthday' with cake.

We are still arguably thriving, with all the talks and workshops we put on, plus transcribing local parish

registers and other documents to make them widely available.

We have an amazing library of local history books and other titles relevant to genealogy in our library at Joydens Wood - which is open solely to Society members on Wednesdays by arrangement with Kent County Council which owns it.

We have a great website, which is continuously reviewed to make it as relevant and user friendly as possible. And a busy Facebook Group where contributors pass on useful information and help each other.

What you may not know is that these functions are being organised by fewer and fewer people.

North West Kent FHS is run entirely by volunteers and right now replacements for some roles are desperately needed.

This is now critical because, after many years of service, some of our post holders have retired from their roles or are not standing for re-election at the AGM on 4 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 and Vice Chair, these posts being currently vacant. These officers would also be Trustees of the Society.

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

There is a very real risk that the Society will have to be dissolved if key posts are not filled. If you can possibly help in any way please do so - don't just assume that others will come forward.

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Talks and workshops have been planned for the months ahead, see <http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings> to book your diary ahead of time.

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Society AGM Saturday 4 November 10.30am

The 45th AGM of North West Kent Family History Society will be held at 10.30am at Dartford Science and Technology College, Heath Lane, Dartford Kent DA1 2LY

(The same venue as is used for the Dartford Branch talks)

Registration starts 10am.

The AGM will be over by 11.30 and there will then be a rest break with tea and coffee available before the guest speaker at midday.

The venue has a large, free car park but it is shared with other users and can be busy at times. It is suggested you come early if possible.

No booking, just turn up.

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Dartford Branch Talk: *Name Lists 1500 - 1800 with Michael Gandy*

Saturday 4 November: Doors Open 9.45am Talk starts midday

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

(Please note this talk is preceded by the Society AGM which is estimated to finish by 11.30am and will be followed by a comfort break with tea and coffee available before the speaker).

Please arrive from 10am for the AGM and from 11.30/45am for the speaker (if not attending the AGM).

Our speaker after the AGM is to be Michael Gandy, a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists and the Editor of their prestigious journal, the Genealogists' Magazine.

Michael will be familiar to many of you as he has visited our Society several times in the past. He has been tracing his ancestry for 60 years, some of it in North West Kent. He was brought up in Sydenham, his mother was born in Eltham, his grandmother in Bexleyheath and his family were at Upton in the 18th century.

Michael will be talking on a topic which is new to us but comes highly recommended, "Name Lists 1500-1800", a non-parochial subject which will include some familiar sources but will also introduce you to others which you may have overlooked as they have not yet been indexed. (Wish they were, says Michael.) The AGM will start at 10.30am and be followed by a short break and then the speaker at midday.

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.

Advance Notice: we've had to change the date of the next Dartford Talk from 2 December to 25 November as the college needs the hall on our original date.

So please diarise 25 November 2023 instead of the original date. (The website has been updated).

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Sevenoaks Branch Talk: *Sir Cloudsley Shovell and Longitude with Peter Daniel*

Saturday 11 November Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am

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

The story of Crayford's famous admiral.

On 21 October 1707 a fleet of 21 ships, homeward-bound from the Mediterranean, entered the English Channel in stormy weather, led by their flagship *Association*, under Sir Cloudesley Shovell. Shovell conferred with his fleet about where they were longitudinally, and it was agreed that they had reached the French island of Ushant, off Brittany. In fact, they were much further north, near the Isles of Scilly, which mark the northern Channel approaches.

The following night, *Association* smashed into rocks west of Scilly, followed by the *Eagle*, *Romney* and *Firebrand*. All four - with over 2,000 men - were lost, and only 25 mariners survived.

The Scilly Naval Disaster provided the trigger for the Board of Longitude's quest to determine longitude at sea. The result was the Longitude Act 1714, which offered a reward of £20,000 to the first person to discover a reliable means of determining that measurement.

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 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 rest of 2023 and can be read about on the above link. Those during the next few weeks are listed below. Workshops are for Society Members only.

1 November 10.30am Zoom Family History Discussion Group with Ann Clarke

Online sources that are free or low cost - What can you recommend?

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-with-ann-clarke-8>

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

<https://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-3>

8 November 7.30pm Zoom Workshop *Breaking Down Brick Walls* with David Cufley

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-workshop/zoom-workshop-breaking-down-family-history-brick-walls-with-david-cufley-2>

15 November 10.30am Zoom DNA Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-dna-discussion-group-2>

22 November 2.30pm ZOOM Discussion Group *Let's Talk About Family History* with David Cufley

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-let-s-talk-about-family-history-with-david-cufley>

29 November 10.30am Library *Family History Writing Group* with Pauline Heathcote

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/future-workshops/library-family-history-writing-group-with-pauline-heathcote>

6 December 10.30am Zoom *Family History Discussion Group* with Ann Clarke

The group will discuss: How did historical events shape the lives of our ancestors?

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

13 December 7.30pm Zoom Discussion Group *Let's Talk About Christmas Family History Traditions* with David Cufley

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-lets-talk-about-christmas-family-history-traditions>

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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.

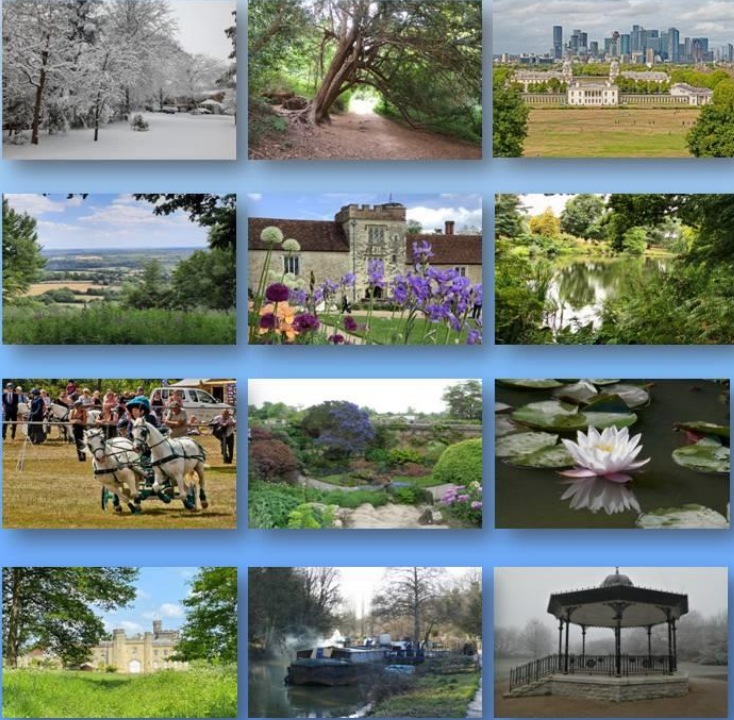
Workshop leaders freely give their time, but a donation either at the library for in person workshops or via the web shop is appreciated. <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services/society-donation>

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.

Society 2024 Calendar Available NOW



Online Website shop
Postal sales 01322 278646
Email: shop@nwkfhs.org.uk



<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/society-calendar>

Click above link to purchase online.

- **£2.50** including **UK** postage
- **£3.50** including **Europe** postage
- **£4.25** Including **Rest Of World** postage
- Price includes 2nd class postage to your address
- Order on-line [via the society shop](#)

Queries?

Contact shop@nwkfhs.org.uk

With 2nd class stamps now costing 75p this price is an absolute bargain.

Why not give the postal address of one of your long distance friends when you purchase - and a calendar with photos of our area will be posted straight to them. You can let them know via email that it's from you. It's little more than the cost of a Christmas card plus postage.

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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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Free websites useful for finding graves:

(You can find clues to burial places by knowing where the person died. For England and Wales use <https://www.gro.gov.uk/> (need to create a free account) and <https://www.freebmd.org.uk/>. These free sites don't have exactly the same information and sometimes it's worth looking the death up in both places. For Scotland use <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>)

<https://www.findagrave.com/>

<https://billiongraves.com/>

<https://www.deceasedonline.com/> (Note - this is a commercial site and to see details you have to pay. But register for free and you can search and see where the grave is).

<https://www.familysearch.org/> completely free and has lots of free information

Don't forget googling the deceased's name - some cemeteries and funeral directors, especially in the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, have data online.

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Items for the mid November enews should please reach me as soon as possible, and by 12 November 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. 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.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.

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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