

## Welcome to the North West Kent FHS 1 February 2024 enews

### WANTED URGENTLY

The Society Treasurer, Pam Goddard, is leaving at the end of May and we need a replacement treasurer as soon as possible. This role is essential to the survival of the society.

Some knowledge of bookkeeping software and financial management would be helpful but training would be provided.

Any experience with the Charity Commission and HMRC (Gift Aid) would also be beneficial, and where training is necessary for certain aspects of the job support would be given.

Attending approximately 6 trustee meetings per year is a requirement.

Good communications skills are necessary as the role entails dealing with various organisations, other trustees and volunteers.

Internet access is essential.

If anyone is interested please email the treasurer for a full job description. [treasurer@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@nwkfhs.org.uk)

We are also still looking for more volunteers to become trustees.

### Your NWKFHS is really struggling to survive!

The trustees don't want the society to close but we are having to look at our choices going forward. We would like the thoughts of our members, both near and far, on the future of the society.

We could potentially have to dissolve so we are already looking at other charitable societies as part of the process. We are organising a number of zoom meetings, dates to be confirmed and will be published in the next Enews in mid February.

We hope that many of you will come along for an informal chat and maybe give us some fresh ideas.

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**Dartford Branch February Talk: *British Hospital for Mothers and Babies, Woolwich* with Sue Sauter**

**Saturday 3 February 2024: Doors Open 9.45am Talk starts 10.30am  
Dartford Science and Technology College, Heath Lane, Dartford Kent DA1 2LY**

Sue Sauter, an ex-midwife and Governor of the Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust, will trace the history of the pre-NHS maternity home and midwifery school.

It started in 1905 with 8 beds and home visits, went through several moves, was bombed during the war, joined the NHS and established one of the country's first premature baby units before closing in 1984.

At least one of our members was born there and there are surely some more.

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 February Talk: *From Castle to Cardboard, Discovering the History of Eynsford Castle* with Rod Shelton**

**Saturday 10 February 2024 Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am  
Otford Village Memorial Hall 28A High Street, Otford, Kent TN14 5PQ**

**About the speaker:**

Rod Shelton is an author, artist and model-maker. He has lived in Otford for 25 years and is active in village matters. Rod is a local historian and chairs the Otford Society. He was a London advertising copy writer; then ran his own commercial film company.

Rod specialises in reproducing homes of historical interest back to the period in which they were first built. This takes much research and reference as well as a fair amount of calculation. His particular interest is in the life of the people who lived there at that time. A large selection of his models of featured places and homes in the Darent Valley are on permanent display at Lullingstone Castle.

**About the talk:**

In this talk, Rod demonstrates and tells of the origins of the castle and how it then evolved over the period to reach its heyday in the 1100s. It tells the story of the influential de Eynsford family and their involvement in the Barons' revolt which led to the fall of Rochester Castle and the loss of Eynsford Castle to King John.

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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## **ZOOM Talk with David Cufley**

**14 February 7.30pm**

***Sevenoaks to Swanley Railway and the Eynsford Viaduct. Includes navvies and railway worker families.***

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-talks/zoom-talk-sevenoaks-to-swanley-railway-and-the-eynsford-viaduct-with-david-cufley-includes-navvies-and-railway-worker-families>

The railway brickfield at Eynsford provided bricks for the Viaduct and other structures on the line to Sevenoaks.

Thomas Crampton, the railway contractor, became the master brickmaker at the brickfield near the Bat and Ball, Sevenoaks.

These brick railway structures changed the rural settings and provided employment for the labouring workers and their families. Temporary Huts and Shants were built for their accommodation during construction.

The landscape was changed by the embankments, tunnels and cuttings needed to form the railway.

After the completion of the railway, where a siding had been constructed for the railway brickfield it created a new manufactory.

The railway provided access to new markets more than the horse and cart of a rural brickfield could reach. Most of the Navvies and Labourers moved on and the temporary housing was removed in most cases.

No booking. Free to Society members and non members alike.

The Zoom link will be added to the weblink above, nearer the date. Log in from 7.15pm and enjoy chat with other participants before the talk starts.

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## **Workshops, Special Interest and Discussion Groups - for Members Only**

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings>

There are dozens of Workshops and Discussion Groups via Zoom to cater for members who cannot get to our Library - which is the venue, on Wednesdays, for our in person workshops.

The wealth of expertise amongst the Society members who volunteer to lead these groups is amazing. I wonder if other Societies put on this number of training sessions for their members.

**And membership of our Society is only £10 a year and expires 31 December, so to benefit from a full year of membership and access to these workshops, buy soon!** <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/about/membership/our-membership/#options>

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.

## **Attending Workshops and Discussion Groups**

### **Face to face Groups at the Library**

These must be booked individually - the website link explains how to reserve your place. This is essential as numbers have to be kept to ten due to space restrictions.

### **Zoom Groups**

These do not have to be booked individually, but you do need to register in order to be sent the Zoom link. The website link for each Zoom group explains how you register.

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**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 Members, click on the workshop website links below which will explain how to join the workshop or discussion group.**

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**31 January 7.30pm ZOOM Workshop: Breaking Down Brick Walls with David Cufley**

**(If you will be attending, please submit ancestral brick walls by 17 January to David Cufley via [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk) )**

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

**7 February 10.30am LIBRARY Scottish Interests Discussion Group with Pam Goddard: Topic: The Scottish Diaspora and its impact on our families.**

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

**7 February 10.30am ZOOM Discussion Group with Ann Clarke: Topic: Kismet, Serendipity or gut feel - how have they helped you find an ancestor.**

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-with-ann-clarke-kismet-serendipity-or-gut-feel-how-have-they-helped-you-find-an-ancestor>

**14 February 10.30am LIBRARY DNA and General Family History Discussion Group with Jacki Ellis and Pam Goddard**

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/discussion-group/library-dna-and-general-family-history-discussion-group-with-jacki-ellis-and-pam-goddard>

**21 February 10.30am ZOOM DNA Discussion group with Laura Lincoln**

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-dna-discussion-group-with-laura-lincoln-15>

**28 February 10.30am LIBRARY Writing Group with Pauline Heathcote**

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/future-workshops/library-writing-group-with-pauline-heathcote-4>

**28 February 2.30pm ZOOM Discussion Group with David Cufley**

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-lets-talk-family-history-with-david-cufley-this-is-a-session-when-you-can-talk-about-family-history-in-a-similar-manner-to-the-coffee-breaks-at-the-library>

This is a chance to ask about terms and words seen in documents or used by other historians and what they mean and how they influence your research.

The session can also be used to ask '*how do I do that?*' and get tips from other members who have perhaps done similar research before.

A totally unscripted session and all attendees will have the opportunity to ask their questions and contribute to helping each other. It's a free-flowing wander through aspects of family history research, so we have no idea where the discussions will lead.

**6 March 10.30am ZOOM Discussion Group with Ann Clarke: Are census records accurate and how can you tell?**

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-with-ann-clarke-are-census-records-accurate-and-how-can-you-tell>

**13 March 10.30am LIBRARY DNA and General Family History Discussion Group with Jacki Ellis**

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/discussion->

[group/library-dna-and-general-family-history-discussion-group-with-jackie-ellis](https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/library-dna-and-general-family-history-discussion-group-with-jackie-ellis)

**13 March 10.30am ZOOM Scottish Interests Discussion Group with Pam Goddard: Topic: The National Library of Scotland. What resources it holds and what is online?**

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

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**From The Journal Editor**

Our Editor, Pauline Heathcote, welcomes all contributions of articles for our quarterly Journal. Articles can be about how you researched your own family history and hurdles overcome; or simply an account of your early life and the changes you have lived through.

Word files or text in the body of an email is fine. Pauline will respond to every thing she receives.

[theeditor@nwkhfs.org.uk](mailto:theeditor@nwkhfs.org.uk)  
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**Society Library:** The Society Library is 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.

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 demand for 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 mid February 2024 enews should please reach me as soon as possible, and by 13 February 2024 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](mailto: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>  
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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.*

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

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