

Welcome to the North West Kent FHS mid-February 2024 enews

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.

Join Zoom Meeting from 7.15pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83205156796?pwd=N1g0VVFPRGh0NUk4emRhZEZvQk1kZz09>

Meeting ID: 832 0515 6796 Passcode: 660953

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Dartford Branch March Talk: *Spitalfields Through the Ages* with John Halligan

Saturday 2 March 2024: Doors Open 9.45am Talk starts 10.30am

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

John Halligan is a Freeman of the City of London and a Qualified City Guide.

He will describe the history and development of this historic area known for its Huguenot connections. With the aid of a colourful presentation, he will explore the fascinating story of the various migrant groups who have settled in Spitalfields including the legacy left by the Huguenot silk weavers.

From 1960s onwards there has been a campaign to save many of the original properties, including the Old Spitalfields Market, which John will show us.

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 March Talk: *The Medieval Housewife with Toni Mount*

Saturday 16 March 2024 Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am

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

Note that this meeting is one week later than its usual date of 2nd Saturday of the month

About the speaker:

Toni earned her Research Master's degree from the University of Kent in 2009 through study of a medieval medical manuscript held at the Wellcome Library in London. She is a well-known lecturer, historian and author whose books are based on her research into the lives of ordinary and sometimes extra-ordinary people through history. Toni has spoken to us many times before and it will be a pleasure to hear her again. She lives in Gravesend.

About the talk:

Have you ever wondered what life was like for the ordinary housewife in the Middle Ages? Or how much power a medieval lady really had? Find out all about medieval housewives, peasant women, grand ladies, women in trade and women in the church. More has been written about medieval women in the last twenty years than in the two whole centuries before that. Female authors of the medieval period have been rediscovered and translated; queens are no longer thought of as merely decorative brood mares for their royal husbands and have merited their own biographies.

In the past, historians have tended to look at what women could not do. We will look at the lives of medieval women in a more positive light, finding out what rights and opportunities they enjoyed and attempting to uncover the real women beneath the layers of dust accumulated over the centuries

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

27 March 7.30pm

The Royal Dockyards, Deptford and Woolwich and their workers

This talk explores the two Dockyard sites and the people that were employed on them - from the Police at the gate to the workers keeping the Dockyards and ships maintained.

The Dockyards provided an industrial history which is now being lost by the conversion to community residential and retail areas

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

Zoom link will be published on the website and in enews nearer the date.

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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 admission 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

In Person 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 links. 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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21 February 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-with-laura-lincoln-15>

28 February 10.30am LIBRARY Writing Group with Pauline Heathcote

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

28 February 2.30pm ZOOM Discussion Group - Let's Talk Family History - with David Cufley

<https://www.nwkfhs.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-jacki-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>

20 March 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-16>

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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 everything she receives.

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 1 March 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 (especially 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.nwkfhs.org.uk/community/news-journals/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

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