

## Welcome to the North West Kent FHS mid June 2024 enews

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Although the recent crisis when we had no Chairman, or Treasurer to take over from our retiring Treasurer, is thankfully behind us, we are still looking for volunteers in some areas. Society Members if you click on the link on the website home page you can see the roles which still need volunteers: <https://nwkfhs.org.uk/>

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### **Dartford Branch July Talk: *Who are the Travellers?* with Carol Mellors** **Saturday 6 July: Doors Open 9.45am Talk starts 10.30am** **Dartford Science and Technology College, Heath Lane, Dartford Kent DA1 2LY**

Carol trained as a teacher and for 20 years was responsible for Traveller Education in West Kent.

She advised schools on the inclusion of Roma children newly arrived from Eastern Europe.

With her team she set up projects to link English Gypsies with their Roma cousins and trained Police, NHS and Social Service personnel in how to liaise with these communities.

Her talk will include the background of travellers and how to identify and research them. She will also cover New Age and Irish Travellers, Circus and Fairground folk who are separate ethnic groups.

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: *Bailey: the Bridge and the Man* with Martin Stoneham** **Hon FInstRE MCIP**

#### **Saturday 13 July Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am** **Otford Village Memorial Hall 28A High Street, Otford, Kent TN14 5PQ**

The eponymous bridge, from its development at the start of World War 2, earlier military bridges, its successors and its current military and civilian use.

The story of the Bailey bridge and the man responsible for a wartime design that helped the allied armies surge through Europe - "the original flatpack"

Martin Stoneham is a military historian specialising in the work of the Corps of Royal Engineers and its predecessor Corps.

He served in the Corps of Royal Engineers from 1963 until 1970. His interest in military history was sparked by one of his GCE English Literature examination texts: Winston Churchill: *My Early Life*. On joining the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Engineers he was immersed in the history of the Corps.

On completion of his regular service engagement he joined the National Health Service taking early retirement from a senior management position in 1995. He then established his own business as a computer specialist working from his home.

He is now working solely on researching, writing and speaking about military history.

Martin is Chairman of the Friends of the Royal Engineers Museum and on the committees of the Royal Engineers Museum and the Royal Engineers Historical Society.

He is a member and Honorary Fellow of the Institution of Royal Engineers, a member of various military history associations and the Cuneo Society.

Until recently he was a Member of the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply, a Member of the Chartered Management Institute and a Companion of the Institute of Healthcare Management.

Martin is a regular visitor to the Western Front and the Normandy beaches; he has also visited almost all of the major Peninsular War battlefield sites.

He is actively involved with the Cuneo Society, ABF: The Soldiers' Charity and the Royal British Legion.

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 - 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.

**Membership of our Society is only £10 a year and expires 31**

**December.** <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**

### **Groups meeting 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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19 June 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-3> <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-dna-discussion-group-3>

26 June 7.30pm Zoom Workshop: *Using Archives - our Library and County Record Offices and The National Archives* with David Cufley <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-workshop/zoom-workshop-using-archives-our-library-county-record-offices-and-national-archives-with-david-cufley>

3 July 10.30am Zoom Discussion Group: *We're in a multitude of records but will our descendants be able to trace us?* with Ann Clarke

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-we-re-in-a-multitude-of-records-but-will-our-descendants-be-able-to-trace-us-with-ann-clarke>

10 July 7.30pm Zoom Workshop: *Breaking Down Ancestral Brick Walls* with David Cufley

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-workshop/zoom-workshop-breaking-down-ancestral-brick-walls-with-david-cufley-4>

Please submit your ancestral brick walls by 26 June to David Cufley via this contact form <https://nwkhfs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact> addressing your message to David Cufley.

(The 10 July library discussion group has had to be rescheduled for 31 July).

17 July 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-20>

24 July 7.30pm Zoom Workshop: *Using rate book and census enumerator perambulations to find buildings and people* with David Cufley

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-workshop/zoom-workshop-using-rate-book-and-census-enumerator-perambulations-to-find-buildings-and-people-with-david-cufley>

31 July 10.30am Library: *DNA and General Family History Discussion Group* with Jacki Ellis and Pam Goddard

Please note the 10 July face to face family history discussion group in the library has been changed from the 10th to the 31st.

This lively group discusses all aspects of family history, including DNA. All members are welcome to bring

their questions where everyone will brainstorm to give you suggestions of how to resolve the issue. It's amazing how attending a social group like this will give you a wealth of snippets of information you can squirrel away for future use in your research.

Hope to see a few new faces there. Light refreshments provided. Please confirm if you would like to attend via this contact form <https://nwkfhs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact> addressing your message to Workshop Booking.

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/discussion-group/library-dna-and-general-family-history-discussion-group-with-jacki-ellis-and-pam-goddard-5>

### **31 July 10.30am Zoom *Scottish Interests Discussion Group* with Pam Goddard**

Today's topic is Records held by Friends of Archives and Family History Societies.

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-scottish-interests-discussion-group-with-pam-goddard-2>

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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 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.

If you are a Society Member and are sometimes free on Wednesdays, would you consider helping in the library? At least two volunteers are needed on the premises for us to open securely. If you can help please use this contact form addressing your message to the NWKFHS

Library: <https://nwkfhs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact>

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**Please note that there will not be a 1 July issue of enews. The next issue will be mid July and articles should please reach me as soon as possible, and by 13 July latest. For those who don't already have my email address please use this contact form: <https://nwkfhs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact>**

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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 contact me if there's anything you want to say about enews. Use the contact form here: <https://nwkfhs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact>*

*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

<https://nwkfhs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact>

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