

Welcome to the North West Kent FHS December 2024 enews

Thank you for reading our enews.



We wish all our readers a Happy Christmas and above all a healthy and peaceful New Year.

If you are receiving this for the first time - welcome.

The enews is usually circulated fortnightly so you won't be bombarded. And you can unsubscribe at any time either by replying or by clicking on Unsubscribe at the foot of the email.

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Do take a look at our amazing events programme which has events running until December 2025. <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings>

And you have access to all this for just £10 a year (£12 joint members).

In 2025 our Zoom Talks are re-starting on the 2nd Thursday evening of each month. Speakers and topics on different aspects of family history are already booked for the first half of the year. These talks will be for paid up members only but now is the best time to join because your £10 annual membership (£12 joint members) lasts until 31 December 2025.

The Zoom talks will start at 7.30 p.m. promptly. Members will be able to join from 7.15 to chat before the talks start.

To get the zoom links use the contact form on the website <https://nwkfhs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact> and send an message mentioning Zoom Codes with your name, email address and membership number, requesting to be added to the register to receive an email at the beginning of each month giving you links for all the zoom events for that month.

There will be a question and answer session after each talk, which will not be recorded.

Any recordings will be available in the Members Only area of our website for a limited time afterwards.

The first one is on 9 January by Ian Waller. <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/workshops/upcoming-zoom-workshops/zoom-talk-all-drawn-by-horses-with-ian-waller>

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If you are wondering what to get someone for Christmas who doesn't want more 'stuff', why not buy a Gift membership of our Society? Same low price as normal membership.



Give them a year of access to family history related talks and workshops. Many events are on Zoom so they don't need to live near one of our centres to benefit.

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/about/membership/our-membership/#options>

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/about/membership/our-membership/#gift-membership>

If you need help with membership, contact our Membership Secretary via <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact> mentioning Membership.

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**Dartford Branch December Talk: *Oh No It Isn't - A History of Pantomime* with Pete Allen
Saturday 7 December: Doors Open 9.45am Meeting starts 10.30am
Dartford Science and Technology College, Heath Lane, Dartford Kent DA1 2LY**

Pete is the Director of the R.C. Sherriff Trust, an arts charity, and works extensively as a professional theatre director and film-maker.

What is it about Pantomime that attracts us to this strange concoction of fairy tales, dance, jokes, songs and cross-dressing? And what is it really like to play the back end of a Pantomime cow?

All this, and the answer to whether something really is behind you, will be answered in this festive talk about what has become one of the great British Christmas traditions.

This should be an enjoyable and appropriate start to our Christmas season.

Doors open 9.45am. The meeting / talk will start at 10.30am and end by 12.30pm.

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 December Talk: *The Vindication of Christmas, How the Puritan clamp down on Christmas caused the end of the Civil War in Kent* with Peter Daniel
Saturday 14 December Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am
Otford Village Memorial Hall 28A High Street, Otford, Kent TN14 5PQ**

This talk looks at how the Puritan clampdown on Christmas led to the end of Civil War in Kent.

Peter has lived most of his life in and around Crayford and is an experienced lecturer.

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.nwkhfs.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 if you join now membership lasts until 31 December 2025. <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 talks, discussion group and workshops

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.

Many, many thanks to our volunteer workshop coordinators 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.

4 December 10.30am Zoom Discussion Group: What do we wish we had asked our relatives? with Ann Clarke

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-what-do-we-wish-we-had-asked-our-relatives-with-ann-clarke>

11 December 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-24>

18 December 7.30pm ZOOM Discussion Group: Let's talk about Christmas Family Traditions with David Cufley

Perhaps your family had a tradition at Christmas for celebrating the holiday, the food they ate or how their home was decorated.

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

8 January 10.30am Zoom Discussion Group *My Ancestors Stayed in One Place for Generations - Discuss* with Anne Clarke

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-my-ancestors-stayed-in-one-place-discuss-with-anne-clarke>

8 January 10.30am Library DNA and General Family History Discussion Group with Pam Goddard

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

9 January ZOOM TALK 7.30pm *All Drawn By Horses* with Ian Waller



This is the first of our monthly zoom talks.

This talk looks at the horse drawn transport age from the mail coaching networks to transport on the estate or farm and how they influenced the lives of our ancestors.

A huge variety of carriages, omnibuses, trade vehicles, carts and wagons existed and we look at the regional differences, the types of transport and the horses which pulled them.

Please log in from 7.15pm to enjoy chat with other participants before the talk starts.

About the Speaker

Ian is a retired professional genealogist with considerable experience in English research. He currently serves as the vice chairman and education officer of the Family History Federation (Federation of Family History Societies). He is a Fellow of AGRA (The Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives) the body which represents professional genealogists throughout England and Wales and was a former Chairman.

Ian is also a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists and previously served as a trustee and chairman of the Society Education Committee. He has authored several books in the Society's *My Ancestor* series and has also written *Family History Research Challenges and how to solve them*, *Introducing Nonconformist Records* and *Introducing Manorial Records* published by Family History Books.

The talk will be recorded for the benefit of members not available that evening or in different time zones and will be available in the Members Only Area of the website for 2 weeks only. You need to log in and then go to this screen <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/resources/all-other/zoom-talk-videos>

To Get the Zoom Link

Any society member who would like to receive the Zoom link for this talk needs to submit their name, email address and membership number via <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact> stating "Please send me the Zoom links" . Then you will automatically be emailed monthly with the Zoom links for all the Zoom events during that month. You can then attend any Zoom event that you wish to without any booking.

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/workshops/upcoming-zoom-workshops/zoom-talk-all-drawn-by-horses-with-ian-waller>

All Zoom Talks, Workshops and Discussion Groups are members-only events.

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Society Library

The Society Library is open on Wednesdays 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 does NOT include access to the 1921 census, something we are investigating with the library). 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.

The library is open from 10am to 4pm but it greatly helps the volunteers if visitors with research queries call in earlier in the day rather than later. Please also bring as much information as you already have about the ancestor you are researching.

The Library will be closed on Public Holidays - Wednesdays 25 December and 1 January.

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Ancestry Discounts

There have been lots of discounted genealogy offers lately, but often only valid for a week or so. I can't always include them in enews because they may have expired before the next enews is issued.

This offer ends 3

December: https://www.ancestry.co.uk/c/dna/offer?o_iid=67547&o_lid=67547&o_sch=Web+Property&gl=1*1mvp8kj*_up*MQ..*_gs*MQ..&gclid=CjwKCAiAjKu6BhAMEiwAx4UsAiQwhJ6T5XcEpDz1YCOW48P63drieewbwZTSkpW1n-mLQgTwkflZeRoCSeUQAvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds

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The next enews will be 1 January and articles should please reach me as soon as possible, and by 28 December latest. For those who don't already have my email address please use this contact form: <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact>

There won't be a mid December enews.

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Click on our other links <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/community/news-journals/blog> [Facebook](#) [Flickr](#) <https://twitter.com/nwkhfs>

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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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