

Welcome to the North West Kent FHS 1 January 2025 enews

Thank you for reading our enews.

We wish all our readers a healthy and, above all, 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 planned throughout 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 2024 we offered an incredible 24 in person talks on Saturday mornings at our venues in Dartford and Otford; 17 in person writing and discussion groups at our library in Joyden's Wood, Bexley on Wednesdays; an incredible 49 Zoom Workshops and Discussion Groups mainly on Wednesday mornings and evenings, and volunteers staffed several drop in sessions mainly in Bexley and Sevenoaks.

Our Facebook group is thriving with 738 members and is incredibly useful for asking questions and spreading genealogy news.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/767236786758351/>

And finally ... this enews is now circulated to 927 recipients.

Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who arranged and hosted these events. The Zooms are especially welcomed by our members in other parts of the UK and abroad and those who find it harder to travel.

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New for 2025: Zoom Talks 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 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 a message mentioning Zoom Codes with your name, email address and membership number, asking to be sent the Zoom codes. The Zoom codes will then be emailed to you each 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.

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ZOOM TALK *All Drawn By Horses* with Ian Waller



Thursday 9 January 7.30pm

This is the first of our 2025 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>

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Dartford Branch January Talk: *Fire! A Century of the Volunteer Fire Brigade with Jo Livingston*

Saturday 11 January: Doors Open 9.45am Meeting starts 10.30am

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

Jo is an experienced speaker who lives locally and has been giving talks for the last 15 years.

She will tell us of the years when firefighting depended on local altruism, using photographs and other items from her family's long association with the Brigade, thereby enabling our members to relate this talk to their own research.

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

Our usual venue, the Dartford Science and Technology College, is not opening on 4 January, hence this talk will be a week later on 11 January.

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 January Talk: Mid 19th Century Merchant Shipping with William Lindsay

Saturday 11 January Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am

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

Bill will be drawing on his great-great-grandfather William Schaw Lindsay's journals. William Schaw Lindsay (1815 – 1877) left home at 16 and worked his way up from cabin boy to ship owner and also became a Liberal MP. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Schaw_Lindsay

The talk will cover;

William Schaw Lindsay's adventures on a Ocean-sailing vessel in the 1830s when he left home at 16.

The shift from sailing ships to ocean steamships. Transport ships during the Crimean War

Emigration to Australia and Canada. Building the Confederate Navy in the American Civil War

About the Speaker:

After 35 years in Pharmaceuticals, Bill has now focussed on maritime history. He is editor of the online magazine *Topmasts* for the Society for Nautical Research.

He wrote his forefather's biography *William Schaw Lindsay Victorian Entrepreneur* last year and has embarked on a nationwide lecture tour. This will be his 34th talk. He has published several merchant history articles in journals.

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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We apologise to anyone who likes to attend both venues but it was unavoidable that Dartford and

Sevenoaks talks are on the same date. This is due to the non availability of the usual Dartford venue on 4 January.

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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 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.

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.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/discussion-group/library-dna-general-family-history-discussion-group-with-pam-goddard>

15 January 10.30am Zoom DNA and General Family History Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln

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

22 January 7.30pm Zoom Workshop: Beginning Family History with David Cufley

How do you start? How can you record the information you find?

Do you need to use a computer? Are there new things to learn if you have been doing this for a while?

Even experienced family historians can learn from other members in the Society

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-workshop/zoom-workshop-beginning-family-history-with-david-cufley>

29 January 10.30am Zoom Scottish Interest Discussion Group with Pam Goddard

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

5 February 10.30am Zoom Discussion Group: Have you found remarkable women in your research? with Ann Clarke

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-have-you-found-remarkable-women-in-your-research-with-anne-clarke>

12 February 10.30am Library DNA & 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-2>

12 February 2.30pm Zoom Discussion Group: Let's Talk About Family History with David Cufley

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

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Our 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 share a cuppa and receive help from the library volunteers.

You can use the library's PCs and WiFi 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.

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North West Kent Family History Society is pleased to announce that we have migrated across to BlueSky as another way of communicating with fellow family historians and genealogists. We already have 244 followers.

Sign up to BlueSky and follow North West Kent Family History Society. <https://bsky.app/profile/nwkhfs.bsky.social>

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Are you new to family history research?

The National Archives has some free webinars about starting your research. Sign up using the link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/getting-started-with-family-history-3848353?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=creatorshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=odclsxcollection&utm-source=cp&aff=escb>

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In England and Wales old graves could be reused, and closed burial grounds reopened to help manage the shortage of burial space, under proposals made by the Law Commission.

The proposals form part of a consultation to bring the law on burial and cremation, which in parts is over 170 years old, up to date.

People are encouraged to give their views on the proposals here. <https://lawcom.gov.uk/project/burial-and-cremation/>

The consultation closes on 9 January 2025

<https://lawcom.gov.uk/law-commission-considers-changes-to-update-centuries-old-burial-laws/>

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120th Anniversary of Eltham Fire Station

December 8 marked the 120th birthday of Eltham Fire Station. The station was built to cover part of the rapidly expanding urban area of South East London and was officially opened on 8 December 1904.

The station had accommodation for the firefighters and their families. The Station Officer had quarters on the ground floor. The first and second floors had sets of quarters, with one shared bathroom on each floor.

It initially was described as a 'sub fire station' as it only housed one horse-drawn fire escape ladder. There was also a hand-drawn manual fire pump and a hose cart. The crew included a station officer, five firefighters, and a coachman who cared for a pair of horses.

The station building is noted on the Royal Borough of Greenwich's Local Heritage List as of 'local heritage significance'.

<https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/museum/london-fire-brigade-history-and-stories/the-history-of-londons-fire-stations/eltham-fire-station/>

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The next enews will be mid-January and articles should please reach me as soon as possible, and by 13 January latest. For those who don't already have my email address please use this contact

form: <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact>

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

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://nwkhfs.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://nwkhfs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact>

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