

Welcome to the North West Kent FHS mid-January 2025 enews

Thank you for reading our enews.

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).

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.

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For those who wanted to listen to the zoom talk on 9 January

All Drawn by Horses with Ian Waller

It's on the Members Only Area of the website **for 2 weeks only - expiring 24 January.**

It was really good and I bet it would be relevant to lots of your ancestors (their jobs or how they travelled).

Click this link: <https://nwkfhs.org.uk/resources/all-other/zoom-talk-videos> (you will be asked to log in)

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Dartford Branch February Talk: *The 1921 Census in the News* with Judith Batchelor
Saturday 1 February: Doors Open 9.45am Meeting starts 10.30am
Dartford Science and Technology College, Heath Lane, Dartford Kent DA1 2LY

Judith lives in Sevenoaks. This is a new talk that she has researched to give us a different perspective on a source that we have all used and probably taken for granted by setting it into its social background.

She shows the contemporary reactions to the 1921 census based on newspaper reports.

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

The Talk 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.

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/dartford-branch-meetings/dartford-branch-talk-the-1921-census-in-the-news-by-judith-batchelor>

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Sevenoaks Branch February Talk: *Lost Sevenoaks* with Ed Thompson

Saturday 8 February Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am

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

The talk looks at the buildings and scenes of Sevenoaks that are lost to time but were captured in over 80 evocative photographs.

About the speaker:

Edwin Thompson was brought up in Otford. In the 1980s Ed began to collect old photographs and he started amassing pictures of Otford Village and then of Sevenoaks and the surrounding villages, eventually widening out to cover West Kent and East Sussex.

His collection continues to grow and many of his hundreds of photographs have been used in local history books.

Doors open 10.45am, meeting starts 11am. No booking, just turn up.

There is a large public car park (payment required, 50p for 2 hours, £1 for 3 hours) adjacent to the hall but it can be busy.

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/sevenoaks-branch-meetings/sevenoaks-talk-lost-sevenoaks-with-ed-thompson>

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Zoom Talk Thursday 13 February 7.30pm

***Breach of Promise to Marry - the Real Miss Havishams* with Denise Bates**



Courtship

The marriage day was fixed, the wedding dress bought, the wedding tour planned, the wedding guests invited. The day came but not the bridegroom...

However, the real Miss Havishams didn't mope in faded wedding finery - they hired lawyers and struck the first 'no win, no fee' deals to sue for breach of promise.

From the 1790s right up to the 1960s, jilted women (and sometimes rejected male suitors) employed a range of tactics to bring false lovers to book. Denise Bates' book uncovers over 1,000 forgotten cases of women who found very different endings to their fictional counterpart.

- Mary Elizabeth Smith forged evidence of a courtship to entrap an Earl
- Catherine Kempshall shot the man who denied their engagement
- Gladys Knowles was awarded a record £10,000 damages by a jury in 1890
- Daisy Mons discreetly negotiated a £50,000 settlement from a Lord

Based on original research, this social history of breach of promise shows that when men behaved badly, hell had no fury like a woman scorned.

Breach of Promise to Marry investigates the social and cultural history of broken engagements between 1780-1970 and why the law allowed the person who had been jilted to claim damages from the person who had broken the engagement.

Denise has written a book based on her original research in contemporary newspapers and literature, to discover who were the real Miss Havishams, why they found different endings to their fictional counterparts and what their experiences reveal about social attitudes to broken engagements.

<https://www.denisebates.co.uk/breach.html>

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

This talk will not be recorded.

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.

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

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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 lasts until 31

December 2025. <https://www.nwkhfs.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.

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.nwkfhs.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.nwkfhs.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.nwkfhs.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.nwkfhs.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.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-lets-talk-about-family-history-with-david-cufley>

19 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-25>

26 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-8>

26 February 10.30am Zoom Discussion Workshop: Breaking Down Brick Walls with David Cufley

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-workshop/zoom-workshop-breaking-down-brick-walls-with-david-cufley-3>

(Brick walls to be submitted to David two weeks before the workshop via <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact> marked attention of 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 both now include 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.

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.

On Wednesday 29 January the room used to store books and some maps will not be available until 1pm - 2pm as the room is being used for a meeting.

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Freebmd.org.uk

The FreeBMD Database was last updated on Sat 21 Dec 2024 and currently contains 295,548,396 distinct records (398,387,316 total records).

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Ancestry now includes the 2021 Census as part of its premium subscription plan.
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The next enews will be 1 February and items should please reach me as soon as possible, and by 28 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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