

## Welcome to the North West Kent FHS mid-February 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.nwkhfs.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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**Requesting Members to Amend their Membership Standing Orders**

For many years, the North West Kent Family History Society has been using its Santander Bank account as the recipient of annual membership fees paid by bank standing order.

However, there are some operating issues with that account which make it difficult to run the Society on a day-to-day basis. This can be resolved by having membership fees paid into the Society's Barclays Bank account instead.

Therefore, the Society is now requesting that **all members who pay by bank standing order**, should please amend their Standing Order Payee Bank Account details to the following:

Name: North West Kent Family History Society

Sort Code: 20-57-76

Account Number: 23339416

This change is to take effect from your renewal in January 2026.

If you have to create a new standing order (rather than amend the existing one), please do not forget to cancel the existing standing order to the Santander account.

The Society Trustees thank you for your help with this change.

Kind regards,

Paul Merrington (Secretary NWKFHS)

**Note from Stella Eames (enews Editor):** I have just done this via internet banking which I suspect a lot of UK members use. I am with Lloyds and I did have to cancel my existing standing order and set up a new one.

Renewal standing orders are due on 1 January. If by chance yours has been set up for a later date please also amend it to 1 January from Jan 2026 as this will greatly help our Membership Secretary.

And if you are a member not already paying by standing order it will also greatly help our administration if you set one up from 1 Jan 2026 (existing members) or if you would like to join the Society set one up using the account numbers above to pay now and on 1 Jan in future.

Quoting your membership number as the reference is essential for everyone (if joining the Society please obtain your number by emailing [membership@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:membership@nwkfhs.org.uk)) and please make sure you set any new s/o up for annually (Lloyds' online form is set to monthly unless you notice and alter it).

**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 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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**Dartford Branch March Talk: *A Family at War* with Peter Rudd**  
**Saturday 1 March: Doors Open 9.45am Meeting starts 10.30am**  
**Dartford Science and Technology College, Heath Lane, Dartford Kent DA1 2LY**

Peter is a Yorkshireman who worked for the NHS for 35 years as a medical physicist but has now retired and become a "Man of Kent".

His talk is part war story and part love story about his grandfather who was a reluctant soldier who went missing in March 1918 and suddenly reappeared in late 1918.

The talk includes the difficulties of creating a true historical account when photographs are faked and documents created to deceive.

**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-meeting-a-family-at-war-by-dr-peter-rudd>

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**Sevenoaks Branch March Talk: *The Tidal Thames and its Folklore Traditions* with Mark Lewis**

**Saturday 15 March Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am**

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

This talk explores the rich tradition of lore and legend around the tidal reaches of London's River, including pagan gods, riverside taverns, secret tunnels, ghosts, ceremonials, frost fairs, tales of smuggling and pirates.

**Note this month the talk is being held on the 3rd Saturday not the 2nd Saturday.**

### **About the Speaker:**

Mark is a freelance artist, designer-silversmith, semi-retired university lecturer and public speaker. He is also a folklorist and has been a member of the Folklore Society since 1987, speaking regularly at their conferences around the UK.

He has a particular interest in unusual local customs and rituals and in 2013 he published a book on the folklore and popular customs of the church. Furthermore, Mark is passionate about lighthouses, being an active member of the Association of Lighthouse Keepers and is currently their Education Officer.

**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.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/sevenoaks-branch-meetings/sevenoaks-branch-talk-the-tidal-thames-and-its-folklore-traditions-with-mark-lewis>

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### **13 March 7.30pm Zoom Talk: Tracing a House History in England and Wales with Gill Blanchard**

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/workshops/upcoming-zoom-workshops/zoom-talk-tracing-a-house-history-in-england-and-wales-with-gill-blanchard>



Discover the main resources to trace the history of your own home and where your ancestors lived in this talk by Gill Blanchard, a leading house historian and the author of *'Tracing Your House History'* (Pen and Sword Books).

Discover where to find records locally, nationally, and online. Find out which sources to use to place a building in time and place, uncover who lived in it, what else it was used for and when it was built.

Resources focused on in this talk will include census returns, tithe and enclosure maps, deeds, the inland revenue valuation survey and national farm survey, newspapers, and directories.

(The photo shown is my family's home in Bromley, (then in Kent) about 1928 - Stella Eames).

Gill has designed and run numerous family history and house history courses from beginners to post-graduate level and given talks on a wide range of related topics locally, nationally, and online. These include for record offices, major national family history shows, the Society of Genealogists; family history

and local history societies in the UK, Australia, and Canada; and her own online programme of courses on tracing a House History and Writing Your Family History.

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

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.

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

**But Society membership only costs £10 a year (£12 joint members).** <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/about/membership/our-membership/#options>

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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://nwkhfs.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.

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**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.**

**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).**

**5 March 10.30am Zoom Discussion group: What Killed Our Ancestors and Why Did They Die Too Young?**

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-with-ann-clarke-what-killed-our-ancestors-and-did-they-die-too-young>

**12 March 10.30am Zoom 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-3>

**12 March 7.30pm Zoom Discussion Group with David Cufley**

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-so-you-want-to-know-about-with-david-cufley>

**19 March 10.30am Zoom 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-26>

**26 March 7.30pm Zoom Workshop: Record keeping with David Cufley**

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-workshop-record-keeping-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 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.

**Wednesday 26 March is a Society Committee Meeting and means the room at the library which holds our books and some maps will not be accessible by members during the meeting from 10am to 1pm/2pm.**

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**STOP PRESS**

**Free Access to Newspapers.com until 17 March midnight 'Mountain Time'**

[https://www.newspapers.com/go/freeaccess/?xid=6066&cj\\_pub\\_cid=4327757&cj\\_pub\\_name=Your%20DNA%20Guide&cj\\_pub\\_site\\_id=100391728&cj\\_link\\_id=15749009&cj\\_pub\\_sid=&cjevent=6f337ec1eb8211ef81da011d0a18ba73](https://www.newspapers.com/go/freeaccess/?xid=6066&cj_pub_cid=4327757&cj_pub_name=Your%20DNA%20Guide&cj_pub_site_id=100391728&cj_link_id=15749009&cj_pub_sid=&cjevent=6f337ec1eb8211ef81da011d0a18ba73)

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**The next enews will be 1 March and items should please reach me as soon as possible, and by 26 February 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>

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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://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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