

Welcome to the North West Kent FHS 1 March 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.

If you are thinking of attending the Society Library any Wednesday in March please scroll down to read about some restricted access and a closure.

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Somewhere out there is an amazing person who has been getting our Talks free publicity, mainly in *Who Do You Think You Are?* magazine's *What's On* page. Please make yourself known to us, by replying to this email, so we can thank you.

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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 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.

The talk is free to members but all attendees are requested to make donation towards the Society's running costs.

<https://www.nwkhfs.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.

The talk is free to members but all attendees are requested to make donation towards the Society's running costs.

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.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.

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>

2 April 10.30am Zoom Discussion group with Ann Clarke - Education in your family - was it as expected?

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-with-ann-clarke-education-in-your-family-was-it-as-expected>

9 April 10.30am Library DNA and General Family History 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-4>

9 April 10.30am Zoom Discussion Group : Lets talk Family History with David Cufley

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-lets-talk-family-history-with-david-cufley-3>

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Our Library at Summerhouse Drive

Important:

On 12 and 19 March meetings will be taking place at 10am in the room used to store our book collection. Therefore it will not be possible to access the books until the meetings finish at 1 or 2pm. It will still be possible to use the main library room and computers for research.

On 26 March the library will be closed (in fact closed all week) because Kent County Council contractors will be carrying out renovation work.

The Society Library is normally 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.

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VE Day 80th Anniversary

Society member Graham Jansen writes: I would like to draw your attention to the VE Day 80 anniversary celebrations on the 8th May. I think everyone is being encouraged to eat fish and chips that day and beacons are being lit in the evening etc. <https://www.veday80.org.uk/>

There is also a VE Day 80 Lapel Badge available via <https://www.empiremedals.com/products/ve-day-80-official-lapel-badge? pos=1& sid=646164396& ss=r& fid=cb92369e4> which can be purchased and worn by individuals during the build-up to 8th May, on the day itself, and many days thereafter if they so wish. It can also be used as a personal tribute to past family members involved throughout WWII, in helping to secure the peace that allows us all to celebrate this important anniversary.

The Liberation of WWII Prisoners of War

We have been asked by Tom Jeffers who works with this charity, to publicise an event in Manchester to commemorate the liberation of these prisoners.

<https://www.prisonersofwarmuseum.com/80th-anniversary-event-of-the-liberation-of-wwii-prisoners-of-war/>

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The next enews will be mid March and items should please reach me as soon as possible, and by 12 March latest. Please just reply to this enews email.

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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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