

Welcome to the North West Kent FHS 1 April 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.

Please note the Society Library is closed on 2 April due to refurbishment works..

.....

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.

.....

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.

.....

Message from the Editor of our Journal

Has your family history story been told and shared with many people?

Have you hit a brickwall and would enjoy comments and perhaps help from a wide readership?

Have you found an incongruity in your research? Would you like to share and perhaps enjoy some feedback from readers?

Want to share your thoughts and experience with AI?

Do you have a family photo you would like to know more about?

Now is the time to tidy up that Word file and send it to the Journal Editor Pauline Heathcote for publication in the next available issue of the Journal.

Or, if you enjoy seeing your research and writing in print NOW is the time to send copy to the Journal.

SEND your message to our Journal Editor Pauline right now using <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact> .Pauline will be delighted to hear from you and all such communications will receive a response within a week.

You will then have her email address to submit your photo and/or research story.

The Journal is sent to all members, and is available online to logged-in Society members here <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/community/nwkhfs-quarterly-back-journals/past-quarterly-back-journals>

.....

Dartford Branch April Talk: *Sir William Pearce - Victorian Shipbuilder and Lothario with guest speaker Rebecca Clarke*

Saturday 5 April: Doors Open 9.45am Meeting starts 10.30am

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

Rebecca's talk is about her great-great uncle, Sir William Pearce, a Victorian shipbuilder and rake who tried his hardest to hide all his shady relationships only to have them unearthed by Rebecca over 100 years later. She will explain her research methods and how she contacted distant family members.

Rebecca is an Australian teacher who now lives in West London. She is an author, researcher and volunteer with interests in music and history. The inspiration for her research has been an extensive archive of material kept by her husband's family.

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-talk-sir-william-pearce-victorian-shipbuilder-and-lothario-by-rebecca-clarke>

.....

Sevenoaks Branch April Talk: *The Kevin Bacon Family History Laboratory: An Interactive Exploration of 'Six Degrees of Separation'* with David Cufley

Saturday 12 April Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am

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

This is an interactive exploration of 'Six Degrees of Separation' - an interactive experiment to find family history links between members and to verify if the 'six degrees of separation' has any relationship to family history research.

It will explore the connections members have to each other and how they may be related by genes, place or event. The Laboratory may stimulate members' research and breakdown those brick walls to that elusive ancestor. Serendipity and Kismet are important research tools of family historians and are little used and explored, this laboratory will try to highlight their use.

Please can you refresh your memories of your families especially in regard their research surnames, places of birth and residence and occupations.

The chairs in the hall will be arranged in a horseshow shape with David in the centre.

About the Speaker:

David is former President of North West Kent Family History Society. He is a member of a number of family history societies and the British Brick Society.

His main interests include building history and he compiles a Brickmakers' Index. This index of brickfield workers started life to help family historians to trace their itinerant brickmaking ancestors but has expanded to provide local and industrial history information.

David has spoken to family history societies and other organisations on family, building and industrial history subjects. He is an advocate of communicating and connecting family historians with their family's history and place.

David is a retired Chartered Structural Engineer and has a BA (Hons) Open degree and an MSc degree in building conservation.

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-kevin-bacon-family-history-laboratory-an-interactive-exploration-of-six-degrees-of-separation-with-david-cufley>

.....

Zoom Talks in April

Thursday 10 April 7.30pm *The Hidden Secrets of the 1939 Register* with Linda Hammond

The 1939 Register is often compared to an extra census for England and Wales, but it's much more.

Although assembled in 1939, the Government continuously updated it with changes in names, deaths, and other key details until about 1990. Some updates are visible, while others are hidden in annotations and codes next to entries. This presentation will show how to decode these markings, offering deeper insights.

Learn how to search the register and uncover its hidden secrets to enhance your family history research.

Linda Hammond is a professional genealogist who has been active in genealogy for over 35 years as both a researcher and a lecturer. She is a tutor at the University of Strathclyde and, in addition to her teaching role, Linda frequently speaks at conferences and family history fairs, where she shares her knowledge and expertise.

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

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" .

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>
<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-talks/zoom-talk-the-hidden-secrets-of-the-1939-register-with-linda-hammond>

Wednesday 23 April 7.30pm Hextable Manor House with David Cufley

A talk to explore who built and altered Hextable House from its Tudor beginnings to its demise from damage by a V2 in WW2.

The history and details are based on the excavations by E O Thomas in 1982 and other research by local historians.

Log in from 7.15pm and enjoy chat with other attendees before the talk starts.

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" .

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-talks/zoom-talk-hex-table-manor-house-with-david-cufley>

.....

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.

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.

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

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

16 April 10.30am Zoom Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-dna-discussion-group-with-laura-lincoln-27>

30 April 10.30am Zoom Workshop: Scottish Interests Discussion Group with Pam Goddard Today the group will look at resources found abroad

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

7 May 10.30am Zoom Discussion Group: Desertions from marriages or the services with Ann Clarke

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-desertion-stories-from-marriages-or-the-services-with-ann-clarke>

Just look here for workshops and discussions groups further

ahead: **<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings>**

.....

Our Library at Summerhouse Drive

On 2 April 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 and a memory stick can be very useful.

.....

The next enews will be mid April and items should please reach me as soon as possible, and by 13 April latest. Please just reply to this enews email.

.....

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. Just reply to this enews.

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

North West Kent Family History Society Registered Charity No 282627