

Welcome to the North West Kent FHS mid 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.

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STOP PRESS

Ancestry has a DNA sale which ends at midnight 17 April. £29 plus postage. Click on the link and scroll to top of

page. https://www.ancestry.co.uk/c/dna/pulse?o_xid=81657&o_lid=81657&o_sch=Paid+Search+Brand&ancid=ejewz8cncg&gad_source=1&gbraid=0AAAAADrxON1s0hyvgV0b7heo06lFCALsy&gclid=Cj0KCQjwnuiBhDIARIsAEo9GuvKWWr29SKWyx9RjnVZWKOcfK3X3bUlq0yQiiDvMARicO1si5QfNsaAp-eEALw_wcB&gclsrc=aw.ds&fbclid=IwY2xjawJnpKJleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHndMryLteWoprU2yPD89M013Kn0hqEwdknid2YUI-KT9ocCPe2qU1DtH-vMs_aem_ICq88R1DH-LVPS1ApIgAxA#accordion-container

FindMyPast is advertising free entry to the 1921 census until 10 May.

This may be of particular interest to those of us who listened to Linda Hammond's interesting and useful Zoom talk on 10 April.

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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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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 whole year. These talks are 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://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/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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Don't forget, our Journal Editor Pauline would love to hear your stories and receive your images for inclusion in the Journal.

SEND a brief message to our Journal Editor Pauline right now using <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/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.nwkfhs.org.uk/community/nwkfhs-quarterly-back-journals/past-quarterly-back-journals>

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Dartford Branch May Talk: The History of Blackfen by Penny Duggan

Saturday 3 May: Doors Open 9.45am Meeting starts 10.30am

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

Penny has been interested in the history of Blackfen for many years and has written a book about it.

This illustrated talk on Woodmen and Fenmen, Blackfen's Story, documents the area and the people who have lived there.

Penny was brought up in Blackfen. She works in archive management and is well-known in the local history community.

She was recently recognised by Bexley Council for her "Devoted Service to the Community".

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 Society is a registered charity and membership fees and donations are an important part of our income. The Talk is free to members but guests and visitors are asked to make a donation towards hall hire and speaker's fee. There will be a donations box at the venue.

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

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/dartford-branch-meetings/dartford-branch-talk-the-history-of-blackfen-by-penny-duggan>

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Sevenoaks Branch May Talk: The History of TB (Tuberculosis) with Dr Charles Shee

Saturday 10 May Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am

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

In 1818 the poet John Keats coughed up blood, and stated "*It is my death warrant*".

Come and hear how tuberculosis, sometimes called "*The White Death*", became more prevalent in the 19th Century and remained one of the major infectious killers in to the 20th century.

Charles Shee, a retired chest physician, will be talking about the impact of the disease on individuals and society, including the rise of the sanatorium movement, how treatments were discovered, and does tuberculosis still pose a threat?

About the speaker:

Dr Charles Shee is a retired chest physician who lives in Otford.

He is on the committee of the Otford and District Historical Society and is currently supervising a group of volunteers reorganising their archives. Post retirement he has become interested in archaeology and spends much time cataloguing artefacts and helping on excavations, including that of the Roman villa in Otford.

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-history-of-tb-tuberculosis-with-dr-charles-shee>

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Zoom Talks in April and May

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/contact> stating "Please send me the Zoom links" .

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

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Thursday 8 May 7.30pm Using a Research Methodology for Family History with Phil Isherwood

The sources we rely on for our family histories provide information, but the analysis of that information and formulation into proof requires a structured method. Currently there is little guidance on this for beginning and intermediate family historians, especially in the UK.

This talk will discuss methodologies, what they are and why they are useful. It will introduce an effective, easy-to-follow research methodology and show how it can be used to successfully solve complex cases.

What will people learn?

- What a research methodology is

- Why it's important
- Six Steps to solving difficult genealogy problems
- How to use the Six Steps to be more successful in your research

Phil Isherwood is a family history speaker and writer. He has worked in the software industry for over 30 years and brings a passion for best-practice methods and innovative technology to his genealogical research.

Phil is a contributor to *Family Tree* magazine, a Family History Advisor for Oxfordshire Family History Society and co-founder of Pro-Am Genies, a networking group for professional and aspiring professional genealogists.

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.nwkfhs.org.uk/contact> stating "Please send me the Zoom links" .

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/workshops/upcoming-zoom-workshops/zoom-talk-using-a-research-methodology-for-family-history-with-phil-isherwood>

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.nwkfhs.org.uk/resources/all-other/zoom-talk-videos>

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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://www.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.

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>

14 May 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-5>

14 May 10.30am Zoom Discussion group with Laura Lincoln - Why Did You Start Researching Your Family History?

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-with-laura-lincoln-why-did-you-start-your-family-history>

21 May 10.30am Zoom DNA 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-28>

21 May 10.30am Library Writing group with Pauline Heathcote

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/future-workshops/library-writing-group-with-pauline-heathcote-9>

28 May 7.30pm Zoom Discussion Workshop Breaking Down Ancestral Brick Walls with David Cufley. See link below and note how queries for David to include need to be submitted in advance.

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-workshop/zoom-workshop-breaking-down-ancestral-brick-walls-with-david-cufley-5>

Just look here for workshops and discussions groups further

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

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Our Library at Summerhouse Drive

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.

On 28 May the room used to store many of the Society's resources - books and some maps and photos - will be unavailable until 1pm-2pm due being used for a committee meeting.

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The next enews will be 1 May and items should please reach me as soon as possible, and by 28 April latest. Please just reply to this enews email.

Advance Notice: I will not be able to circulate an enews in mid June or mid July.

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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. 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

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