

Welcome to the North West Kent FHS 1 May 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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Please scroll down past the events to see an important message from Barbara Phillips about the need for more transcribers of local parish records.

These records, kept by churches across the country, dating back many centuries, are a goldmine of genealogical information. Transcribing them so they can be accessed online makes the valuable content accessible to people who cannot travel to the relevant archive.

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

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.nwkhfs.org.uk/about/membership/our-membership>

<https://www.nwkhfs.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.

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.

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>

May Zoom Talk

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

<https://www.nwkhfs.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.nwkhfs.org.uk/resources/all-other/zoom-talk-videos>

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.

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>

4 June 10.30am Zoom Discussion group with Ann Clarke: Goosebumps in my genealogy journey

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-with-ann-clarke-goosebumps-in-my-genealogy-journey>

11 June 10.30am Library DNA and General Family History 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-6>

11 June 7.30pm Zoom Discussion group: Let's 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-4>

Just look here for workshops and discussions groups further

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

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Transcribing Local Parish Baptisms / Births, Marriage and Death / Burials Records

Barbara Phillips writes: "NWKFHS has a team of volunteer transcribers for Kent and former Kent parishes. Over the last few weeks I have 'lost' 6 of them. One through demise, three through serious illness and two that now have other family commitments that demanded their attention although they hoped that they could return in the future. This has had a knock on effect that we have little work for the 'checkers' and so on.

We are looking for volunteers to do transcribing. We found it helps if we explain how the system works and how we operate. There is mostly transcribing and checking. Transcribing is inputting data using an Excel spreadsheet whereas checking is not computer based and requires the volunteer to check what has been typed against a copy of the original. In detail, this is what would happen:

Transcribing: A printed copy of the parish record etc. which needs transcribing is sent by post, along with a disc of the original images and a return stamped addressed envelope to me. The disc enables you to enhance an entry if it is unreadable on paper. If you are unhappy with the entry, just put the background in yellow so we will focus on it at a later date.

A blank data file is sent to you by email and I usually complete the first line or so to help visualise how the entries should look and the columns are formatted. To this end, we have produced some guidelines on how we would like the data typed (not attached here). When this is completed, the data file is sent to me by email and the paperwork and disc are returned to me in the stamped addressed envelope.

This enables checkers, then editors to complete the cycle. After that the work is sent to me for publication and/or to be put into a format suitable for Find My Past which generates a small income to the Society.

We would ask that you keep the transcription in case my computer goes wrong for a little while. Everything we have is backed up but it would be another source. I can give you the ok to delete it at a later date or ask me if it is ok to do this.

Checking: Very similar process to the above. The paperwork, disc and printed copy of the transcribing are sent by post along with a return stamped addressed envelope to me. The checker checks the typescript against the paperwork and makes any amendments in red biro or some other brightly coloured marker but not pencil. When completed everything is sent back to me in the above said mentioned envelope.

We ask you to complete a volunteer waiver (not attached here). It is self-explanatory but basically it just says the work you do, you do on behalf of North West Kent Family History Society and you have no right to it personally. We hope you will not be put off by this. We have worked for over 40 years on trust but a situation arose a few years back which now makes this essential. You can return the completed form when you send back the envelope on your first piece of work if you wish to go ahead or scan it in advance.

If you have any questions or need any help with **anything** please get in touch. These things are usually a learning curve and the more you do, the easier it gets and a lot depends on how good the writing is on the document! If you are left with any other queries, just let me know what they are when you send back the data (by email) and paperwork via post. I keep a copy of these with the work so we can refer to them later.

It all sounds very complicated but it isn't, so please don't let my explanations put you off! You can't mess it up! I look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes and many thanks."

Barbara

Chair: Publications & Projects

Contact Barbara via <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/contact> beginning your message with 'to Barbara Phillips'.

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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 bring as much information as you already have about the ancestor you are researching and a memory stick (for you to record your findings at the library) 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 mid May and items should please reach me as soon as possible, and by 12 May 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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