

## Welcome to the North West Kent FHS mid-May enews

Thank you for reading our enews.

If you are receiving this for the first time - welcome.

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.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 June Talk: My Ancestor the Arctic Explorer by Clare Walker**

**Saturday 7 June: Doors Open 9.45am Meeting starts 10.30am**

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

Clare's great-great grandfather was one of the crew on the historic 1875 expedition to search for the North Pole, during which the ships were trapped for months in the ice.

Her talk features more than 70 slides, including the first photographs ever taken on a British expedition.

Doors open 9.45am. The meeting / talk will start at 10.30am and end by 12.30pm.

For more info see <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/dartford-branch-meetings/dartford-branch-talk-my-ancestor-the-arctic-explorer-by-clare-walker>

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## **Sevenoaks Branch June Talk: The Archbishop's Palace at Otford with Rob Shelton**

**Saturday 14 June Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am**

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

This is the story of the Archbishop's Palace that once stood in Otford. It rivalled Hampton Court and was briefly home to Henry V111.

Today, just a tower remains. Yet through the detailed model of it when it was in its prime, we can visit the ghost of this one great Palace of Kent. Rod has written the detailed history of this heritage village and its famous palace.

For more info see <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/sevenoaks-branch-meetings/sevenoaks-branch-talk-the-archbishop-s-palace-at-otford-with-rod-shelton>

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### **June Zoom Talk**

**Thursday 12 June 7.30pm Genealogy in early British and Irish censuses 1086 - with Colin Chapman**

Long before 1841 throughout the British Isles national and local governments, the Established and Non-conformist Churches, military authorities and individuals have been compiling lists of names of individuals for various purposes: to raise funds (by imposing taxes, duties and levies), design infrastructure projects, confirm loyalties, discover population numbers or simply for academic interest.

Many surviving lists offer not only names, but ages, addresses, occupations and birthplaces of individuals, ideal data for family historians.

In this profusely illustrated lecture Dr Chapman gives many examples of such lists that were compiled between 1086 and 1841, including several, often overlooked, censuses of 1801, 1811, 1821 and 1831.

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/workshops/upcoming-zoom-workshops/zoom-talk-genealogy-in-early-british-and-irish-censuses-1086-1841>

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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://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.

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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.**

#### **21 May 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-28>

#### **21 May 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-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.nwkfhs.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.nwkfhs.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.nwkfhs.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.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom->

[discussion-group-lets-talk-family-history-with-david-cufley-4](#)

**18 June 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-29>

**25 June 7.30pm Zoom Workshop Thinking Outside The Box with David Cufley**

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-workshop/zoom-workshop-thinking-outside-the-box-with-david-cufley>

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**

In the last enews I explained how important the transcribing of parish records is - to benefit each other and the wider genealogy community. These records, kept by churches across the country, date back many centuries, and 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.

It is a volunteer role which can be done entirely from your own home. Photocopied parish records are sent to you.

Barbara Phillips would love to hear from you if you can help with this.

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 1 June and items should please reach me as soon as possible, and by 28 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>

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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. 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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