

Welcome to the North West Kent FHS July enews

Thank you for reading our enews.

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

Our AGM and Family History Day is scheduled for 1st November 2025 at the Dartford Branch venue. To help the organisers plan for the correct number of attendees, please confirm your attendance by booking as soon as possible using the form in the June Journal.

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/family-history-day-agm/annual-general-meeting>

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Our amazing events programme 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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Dartford Branch July Talk: Emigration to Australia in the Mid 19th Century by Bill Lindsay

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

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

Since his retirement from the pharmaceutical industry Bill has been researching Victorian merchant shipping and has written many articles on the subject and is the editor of the magazine *Topmasts* for the Society of Nautical Research.

Many of us have ancestors who went to Australia and his family's nautical connections will enable him to include details of the conditions aboard ship that were endured by them and what they experienced when they arrived at their destination.

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/dartford-branch-meetings/dartford-branch-talk-emigration-to-australia-in-the-mid-19th-century-by-bill-lindsay>

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Sevenoaks Branch July Talk: Fort Amherst and the Napoleonic Wars

Saturday 12 July Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am

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

The history of the Napoleonic wars. The name Napoleon was enough to strike terror in the hearts of children and adults alike in Britain in the nineteenth century. Find out why.

Our speaker will be an Officer from Fort Amhurst Heritage Trust

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/sevenoaks-branch-meetings/sevenoaks-branch-talk-fort-amherst-and-the-napoleonic-wars>

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July Zoom Talk - Members Only

Thursday 10 July 7.30pm Tracing Your Nonconformist Ancestors with Liz Yule

This talk will look at the legislation which affected how our nonconformist ancestors worshipped, what records can be found, and how to spot an ancestor who worshipped away from the Established church.

Liz Yule is the lead genealogist at Achievements, the research arm of the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies. She is a tutor for both the IHGS as well as the University of Strathclyde on their Masters programme.

A native of East Anglia but now living in Canterbury, nonconformity has been a particular area of interest within her own ancestry, but also because both of her parents-in-law served as United Reformed Church ministers.

Please log in from 7.15pm and enjoy chat with the 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, see <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-talks/zoom-talk-tracing-your-non-conformist-ancestors-with-liz-yule>

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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.

New this month is a workshop on 9 July - an introduction to Welsh surnames and Archives; and on 23 July, how to use newspaper reports to enhance your research.

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 July 10.30am Zoom Discussion Group: Childhood Then and Now with Ann Clarke

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-with-ann-clarke-childhood-then-and-now>

9 July 10.30am Library General Family History Discussion Group with Pam Goddard

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/discussion-group/library-dna-and-general-family-history-discussion-group-with-pam-goddard>

9 July 17.30pm Zoom Welsh Interest Discussion Group with David Cufley first dip for us into Welsh family history. Welsh surnames and an introduction to Welsh Record Archives and the areas they cover.

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-welsh-interest-discussion-group-with-david-cufley>

16 July 10.30am Zoom Discussion DNA Group with Laura Lincoln

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-dna-discussion-group-with-laura-lincoln-30>

23 July 7.30pm Zoom Newspapers Workshop with David Cufley

Where and how to access newspapers and how they can enhance your family history. As a secondary source how accurate do you believe they are? Details can be used to provide information which is closed on authority documents or details for destroyed documents ie Coroners' records

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

30 July 10.30am Library Scottish Interests Discussion Group with Pam Goddard

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-scottish-interests-group-with-pam-goddard-occupation-records>

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 Journals - Your Contributions Welcome

Your research and family stories are welcomed by the Journal Editor.

Message her via the contact button on the Society website <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/contact> . Please start your message '*For the Journal Editor*'.

Society Library – Wednesday Open Days

The Society Library is usually open every Wednesday for members to carry out their own research, enjoy a cuppa, socialise, and take part in workshops and discussion groups held at the library. Our team of volunteers is also on hand to offer help and guidance.

Members are welcome to use the library's PCs and WiFi to access both *Ancestry* and *FindMyPast*, which now include the 1921 census. We recommend joining **Kent Libraries**, as this allows you to access these websites on your own device while at the library—helping to reduce demand for the library's PCs.

Not yet a member? You're welcome to join the Society in person at the library on any Wednesday.

📍 **Address:** 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley, Kent DA5 2EE

🚗 **Parking:** Free in nearby side roads

🕒 **Opening hours:** 10am to 4pm

To assist our volunteers, we kindly ask that visitors with research queries aim to arrive earlier in the day if possible. Please bring along any existing information you have about the ancestor you're researching, and consider bringing a **USB memory stick** to save any discoveries you make during your visit.

Please note:

On **Wednesday 30 July**, the room that stores many of the Society's resources (including books, maps, and photos) will be **unavailable from 10am until approximately 1–2pm** due to a committee meeting.

Have you got Seafaring Ancestors?

Have you heard about this new database? <https://www.crewlist.org.uk/>

Member Jean Allen sent the information to me and it might be very useful to come of you. Produced by National Archive volunteers, the database covers the records of many seamen which have been gathered from a variety of different records into one website.

Next Enews – Submissions Welcome

The next enews will be sent out on **1 August**. If you have any items you'd like included, please send them to me **as soon as possible**, and no later than **28 July**. Simply reply to this email to submit your content.

You may have heard of a new database which would also interest others or have a question which one of our readers can answer. There are 932 of you!

Going forward, the enews will be circulated **monthly at the beginning of each month**. I may occasionally send a mid-month update as a reminder about our upcoming Zoom talk, as some other societies do.

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Click on our other links <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/community/news-journals/blog> [Facebook](#) [Flickr](#)
<https://bsky.app/profile/nwkfhs.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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