

North West Kent FHS October 2025 enews

Welcome to this month's edition of our enews. Thank you for reading, and if you are receiving this for the first time - welcome.

If you are not already a Society member now is a brilliant time to join because members joining after 1 October keep their membership until 31 December 2026. It is still only £10 (£12 joint members same address).

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/about/membership/our-membership>

Alongside details of October's in-person Talks in Sevenoaks and Dartford, our Zoom Talks, and the Library and Zoom Discussion Groups and Workshops, please also see further down this enews for:

- an offer of assistance with German documents, particularly those written in Sütterlin;
- a request for information about Petts Wood service personnel who lost their lives during World War II;
- a reminder about our AGM on 1 November;
- and news of a recent library donation concerning the families of John Henry **Henderson** and Ann Craggs **Silvester** of Gravesend, Milton, and Northfleet.

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Our amazing programme has events listed until 31 December; and 2026's programme of Talks, workshops and discussion groups has been arranged and is being added to the website events calendar as and when I have time.. <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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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 Pauline right now using <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/contact> Pauline will be delighted to hear from you and all such communications will receive a response.

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>

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Dartford Branch 4 October Talk: The History of Oxleas Woods with Tom Wareham

Doors Open 9.45am Meeting starts 10.30am

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

Tom Wareham lives within sight of Shooters Hill and Oxleas Woods.

Most of us will know of Oxleas Woods today but Tom will tell us the history of this ancient woodland and the people who have lived in it. Virtually all of the former residents interacted with the woodland in some way and what we see today is part of an historical process.

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/dartford-branch-meetings/dartford-branch-talk-the-history-of-oxleas-woods-with-tom-wareham>

Future Dartford Meetings:

1 November AGM and Family History Day. See further down this enews for the day's Agenda, Programme and Speakers.

6 December *Cribs, Cards and Christingles* with Mark Lewis

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Sevenoaks Branch 11 October A Spy for Love with Melanie Gibson-Barton (this talk will be preceded by the Branch Annual Meeting)

Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am

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

Hear the story of an honourable man who turned to espionage to win the heart of the woman he loved & learn how his actions affected us today.

Melanie is an entertaining speaker and has been a regular speaker to Sevenoaks over the years and it will be a pleasure to hear her once more.

She provides her audience with a professional, informative and entertaining presentation, accompanied by colourful PowerPoint slides.

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/sevenoaks-branch-meetings/sevenoaks-branch-talk-a-spy-for-love-with-melanie-gibson-barton>

Future Sevenoaks Meetings

8 November The life of Helen Thomas and Otford in the 1920s with Alan Williams

13 December Christmas in the Middle Ages with Toni Mount

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9th October Zoom Talk: Getting the most out of [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) with speaker Darris Williams 7.30pm

FamilySearch is a powerful FREE genealogical tool whose full range of resources is often overlooked by family historians. It provides access to records of the Family History Library which holds one of the world's largest collections of British and Irish published, microfilmed and digitised records.

The development of the FamilySearch Wiki and other recent technological advances are there for the taking. Learn how to navigate and make full use of all FamilySearch has to offer. Optimise your family history research by discovering the available resources.

Based in Utah, FamilySearch Wiki Co-founder and Manager, Darris Williams is one of the Trustees of the Society of Genealogists in London.

He began discovering his family history while working in England in the early 1980s and has a degree in Family and Community History.

With over 30 years professional genealogy research experience, mostly in the British Isles and Ireland, for 15 years Darris was the British reference consultant at the Family History Library.

He has been focused, for over a decade, on improving ways that research help is provided to family historians.

Darris is currently the FamilySearch Wiki & Community Trees Manager. He is a freelance genealogist, and family history instructor with a specialist interest in Welsh family history.

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

This talk will be recorded.

To Get the Zoom Link

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 Workshop links" . Then you will automatically be emailed monthly with the Zoom links for all the Zoom events during that month. You can then attend any Zoom event that you wish to without any booking.

All Zoom Talks, Workshops and Discussion Groups are members-only events.

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

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-talks/zoom-talk-getting-the-most-out-of-familysearch-org-with-speaker-darris-williams>

Future Zoom Talks

13 November Artificial Intelligence and Family History with speaker Andrew Redfern

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-talks/zoom-talk-artificial-intelligence-and-family-history-with-speaker-andrew-redfern>

11 December Unlocking Your DNA with speaker Donna Rutherford

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-talks/zoom-talk-unlocking-your-dna-with-speaker-donna-rutherford>

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 if joining AFTER 1 October lasts until 31 December 2026. <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.

October Workshops and Discussion Groups

1 October 10.30am ZOOM Discussion Group : Child Deaths, how did they affect your family? with Anne Clarke

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-with-ann-clarke-child-deaths-how-did-they-affect-your-family>

8 October 10.30am LIBRARY DNA and 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-9>

8 October 2.30pm 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-let-s-talk-family-history-with-david-cufley-2>

15 October 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-32>

22 October 7.30pm ZOOM Talk: The Weald and Downland Living Museum with David Cufley

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-talks/zoom-talk-weald-and-downland-living-museum-with-david-cufley>

29 October 10.30am ZOOM Scottish Interests Discussion Group with Pam Goddard

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-scottish-interest-group-with-pam-goddard-2>

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Were any of your World War II ancestors service personnel from Petts Wood (an area formerly in Kent, now a south east London suburb)?

Please read the message below from local resident Jennie Randall

On behalf of the Royal British Legion, Petts Wood, I am gathering information about service personnel from the Army, Navy & RAF from Petts Wood who lost their lives during the Second World War; with a view to creating a Roll of Honour.

I have already consulted records from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, but these are not fully comprehensive.

I was wondering if anyone in the NWKFHS had ancestors who were Petts Wood residents in the armed forces who lost their life during WWII, who might be able to kindly provide me with any information (names, copies of documents, photos etc.)

Please contact me, **Jennie Randall**

Jennie has provided her phone number and email address, but sadly we have had to stop publishing such information due to spammers. Please therefore simply reply to this enews and I will forward your email to Jennie so you are thereafter in direct contact - thank you, Stella Eames.

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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.

**Ancestors, Descendants, and Extended Families of
John Henry Henderson and Ann Craggs Silvester
of Gravesend, Milton, and Northfleet, Kent, England**

Volume 1

John Henry Henderson and Ann Craggs Silvester,
their first two children, Vernon and Annie,
and the descendants of these children

By Lorraine E. Schmidt



Published by Wynn Christensen, Yorba Linda, California
2021

The library has recently received a donation of volumes by Lorraine E. Schmidt, documenting her research on the John Henry **Henderson** and Ann Craggs **Silvester** families of **Gravesend, Milton, and Northfleet**.

These works are now available on the shelves for consultation.

On 26 November the room with maps and books cannot be accessed until after 1- 2pm as it is being used for a Committee Meeting.

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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.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/family-history-day-agm/annual-general-meeting>

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/agm>

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Society members - do you ever need help translating German Documents?

Many thanks to member Martin Magdziak who has offered help:

If another member has a German root or German hit during research and needs help - maybe for useful research sources in Germany or for translation/explanation of German papers - I could assist.

And a special thing I can do is reading the old German handwritten style (the so called Sütterlin).

Martin has provided his email address, but sadly we have had to stop publishing such information due to spammers. Please therefore simply reply to this enews and I will forward your email to Martin so you are thereafter in direct contact - thank you, Stella Eames.

Next Enews – Submissions Welcome

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

Or contact me via <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/contact>

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

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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