

## North West Kent FHS May 2026 enews

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/>

A warm welcome to everyone who has recently signed up to this e-news.

Please scroll down for our online and in person events in May.

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

Did you know you can join the North West Kent Family History Society for as little as £10 a year? Membership offers a wide range of benefits, including online and in-person talks and meetings, a quarterly journal, access to the Society library on Wednesdays and the society's databases of members' interests.

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Take a look at our website to see our extensive programme of events - dozens of in-person and Zoom talks, discussion groups, and workshops running through to the end of 2026. <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings>

### **Location, Location, Location**

The next three Thursday evening Zoom talks form a trilogy on the theme of Location:-

Devised to help you investigate places associated with your ancestors through

- the use of maps with Sophie Kay on 14 May
- gain a better understanding of your ancestors' homes through the techniques used in One Place Studies with Janet Few on 11 June, and finally
- a view of the holdings of Kent Archives and Local History Service with Alice Imperatori on 9 July.

We hope you can join us.

Talks are on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm; please ensure you have registered for the Zoom Links to attend.

### **To Get the Zoom Links**

A Zoom Register has been created to facilitate members' attendance at any and all of the zoom events. Any society member who would like to be added to the register needs to submit their name, email address and membership number via <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/contact>. You only need to register once. Please do this in plenty of time before the event.

Once a month the zoom links for the Zoom talks, discussion groups and workshops during that month will be sent by email to those members on the register. Members who have registered can then attend as many of the Zoom events as they wish with no need to make a specific booking for each one.

### **Mapping Alchemy for Genealogists with Sophie Kay**

#### **Zoom Talk: 14 May 7.30pm**

Where would we be without maps? But how often do you apply them to your family history research challenges?

In this session, prepare to be persuaded that maps really are genealogical gold!

Focusing on Sophie's Outlier Method and Ancestral Walks techniques, we'll unite historical maps with historical records in order to spot research errors, separate out namesakes, understand our ancestors and bring their worlds to life, all using freely available Ordnance Survey maps. Examples will focus on UK towns for the period 1800-1950 but these methods can be applied to any place or era where suitable maps and address data are available.

This is a practical and engaging introduction to using mapping methods in your family history research. From DNA to historical maps, from research methods to historical occupations, Dr. Sophie Kay, a trained geneticist, is a professional genealogist at Khronicle® ([www.khronicle.co.uk](http://www.khronicle.co.uk)) who loves all manner of family history research challenges.

Besides her presentations to family history societies worldwide, Sophie has delivered talks for RootsTech, the Society of Genealogists, the Federation of Family History Societies, and Family Tree Magazine (UK) for whom she wrote her Research Skills Workbook (2024), and to which magazine she is a frequent contributor.

Sophie is the Ancestry and Genealogy Expert for the archaeology programme, Time Team. She has previously taught courses in historical mapping techniques and research methodology at Pharos Tutors, and was the specialist DNA Tutor for the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies.

AGRA member Sophie has a family history blog at The Parchment Rustler ([www.parchmentrustler.com](http://www.parchmentrustler.com)), where she shares tips, tricks and strategies for making the most of your ancestral research journey.

There will be a handout and the talk will be recorded and in the members' area for one month.

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

Please ensure you use your real name when joining our Zoom events. Participants appearing as 'Zoom User' or similar will not be admitted, as this helps us prevent scammers from joining.

This talk will be recorded and in the Members Only Area for three months and there will be a handout.

#### **To Get the Zoom Link**

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-talks/zoom-talk-mapping-alchemy-for-genealogists-with-sophie-kay>

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#### **Dartford Branch Talk 2 May A Look at Crime in Victorian Kent with Helen Allinson Doors open 9.45am meeting starts at 10.30am**

This talk will give you a new insight into crime in Kent. Did the proximity of London have an effect on Kentish crime? How were London hop-pickers regarded? How were poachers dealt with and why did policemen find a wheelbarrow handy? Learn the answers to these questions and more from Helen's research.

Helen, a retired teacher, is an accomplished speaker who is a regular visitor at Dartford. She has written several local history books.

The 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.

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/dartford-branch-meetings/dartford-branch-talk-a-look-at-crime-in-victorian-kent-with-helen-allinson>

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## **Sevenoaks Branch Talk 9 May; Alan Williams on : Let's Go To The Pictures: The British Cinema of the 1930s**

**Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am**

'Going to the pictures' once (or even twice) a week was a major leisure activity in the pre-television age of the middle decades of the twentieth century. This was also the age of the 'super' art deco modernist cinemas.

Alan will explore the history of the cinema in Britain, give a brief history of cinemas in Sevenoaks, and explain what 'going to the pictures' was like for its audience.

Alan lives locally with his wife and children near to Otford and is a Lecturer. He is a very active member of the 1940s Society, Otford, and many of his talks reflect his interest. Alan has been a regular speaker to Sevenoaks over the years and it will be a pleasure to hear him again.

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.

No booking, just turn up.

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/sevenoaks-branch-meetings/sevenoaks-branch-talk-alan-williams-on-lets-go-to-the-pictures-the-british-cinema-of-the-1930s>

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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.

It's great to have our own members leading so many Zooms. We are a friendly group so if you fancy joining us, please do. I think we all learn a lot from our discussions. As usual, just turn up when you can. There's no need to book but you do need to register (only once) to receive the zoom codes.

**Membership of our Society is only £10 a year and 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.

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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.**

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**May Workshops and Discussion Groups**

6 May 10.30am Zoom Discussion Group with Ann Clarke: What questions have you asked your living relatives?

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-with-ann-clarke-what-questions-have-you-asked-your-living-relatives>

13 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-and-general-family-history-discussion-group-with-pam-goddard-5>

13 May 7.30pm Zoom DNA Discussion group with David Cufley

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

20 May 10.30am Zoom Discussion Group with Carolyn Greenwood: 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-carolyn-greenwood>

27 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-13>

27 May 7.30pm Zoom Record Keeping Workshop with David Cufley

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-workshop/zoom-workshop-record-keeping-with-david-cufley-2>

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**Notice of the NWKFHS 48th AGM 2026**

The 48th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the  
NORTH WEST KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY  
will be held at

DARTFORD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE,  
Heath Lane, Dartford, Kent DA1 2LY  
ON SATURDAY 4TH JULY 2026 at 10:30

Online and postal voting will be available for those members who are unable to attend in person.

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## Society Library – Wednesday Open Days 10am - 4pm

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.

**Advance Notice** on 3 June a Trustees Meeting will be held in the room where all our books and some maps are stored. So unfortunately the room will not be accessible until the meeting ends, probably about 1pm/1.30pm. The main library and computers are in the main library room and will still be available.

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## The 1926 Irish Census Is Now Available at the National Archives of Ireland website

<https://nationalarchives.ie/collections/search-the-1926-census/>

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### Member Graham Jansen writes:

The London Ambulance Service NHS Trust Historic Collection and the Talbot Owners Club have celebrated a year of volunteer dedication. They have brought the wartime ambulance BXH 809 back to life after extensive restoration and repair work.

The vehicle, which has served London from 1935 to 1950, has become the last surviving example of a Clement Talbot ambulance that operated during the Blitz, and its revival has attracted considerable public interest. Volunteers have highlighted the ambulance's social-history significance, noting that it has been in continuous service during a pivotal era and has survived while its sister models have disappeared.

Members of the Talbot Owners Club volunteered their time and expertise to refresh the engine, and discovered no major faults, allowing them to adjust or replace only the worn components.

Neil Lucas, a long-standing Talbot enthusiast, took charge of a comprehensive check, and he has replaced or repaired every broken part relating to the engine, fitted new batteries and fuses, drained all fuel and oil, cleaned the tanks and replaced pipes and greased axle sipes, and then has refilled them. He has also set the tyres to the correct pressure and has installed a new electric fuel pump to assist with priming, ensuring the vehicle now operates safely.



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<https://www.sevenoaksmuseum.org.uk/>

Sevenoaks Museum, which was temporarily closed due to a storage improvement project has now reopened.

Sevenoaks Museum exists to enhance the cultural life of Sevenoaks District by highlighting its rich past. Through preservation, research, display and creative use of its historic collection, the museum aims to provide learning opportunities for all and improve community wellbeing, from within and beyond its physical space.

Established in 1929, the museum is managed by Kent County Council and free to visit.

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### **Next Enews – Submissions Welcome**

The next enews will be sent out on **1 June**. If you have any items you'd like included, please send them to me **as soon as possible**, and no later than 27 May. Simply reply to this email to submit your content.

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.

There is no need to reply this email unless you have noticed an error.

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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>

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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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