

## North West Kent FHS June 2026 enews

<https://www.nwkfhs.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 June, a reminder about the AGM and voting, and requests for short articles, especially about some local churches for the Journal; and some items the Society Library needs to dispose of, to gain space.

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

If you missed listening live to Dr Nick Barratt's zoom talk on *Family History in the Digital Age on 12 March*, time is running out - this is only online in the members only area until 12 June. <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/resources/all-other/zoom-talk-videos>

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**Location, Location, Location**

If you missed Sophie Kay's excellent talk on Mapping Alchemy on 14 May - well worth watching - the recording for the talk is on the website in the members only area. It will be removed on June 14th. It's an excellent presentation. Log in and go to: <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/resources/all-other/zoom-talk-videos> (under the RESOURCES menu heading).

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

Devised to help you investigate places associated with your ancestors through

- gaining 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.

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## **Putting Your Ancestors in Their Place: ten steps to a One Place Study with Dr Janet Few** **Zoom Talk: 11 June 7.30pm**

**Janet Few will be talking about One Place Studies as part 2 of our Locations trilogy. Please note that while this will be recorded, it will only be available for 2 weeks.**

**This talk will encourage more extensive use of local records to dig deeper into revealing the context of our ancestors' lives.**

More details:

Family historians normally focus on their own direct ancestors but these ancestors did not live in isolation. They had neighbours and workplaces, they lived in villages with churches, schools, shops and institutions.

In order to understand families of the past, they need to be 'put in their place' by investigating the localities of which they were a part. One-Place Studies differ from traditional local histories in that they focus on people, their relationship to their communities and to each other; bringing family and local history together, to the benefit of both fields.

A One-Place Study involves dissecting a small, definable, geographical area, to examine the individuals, buildings and processes of the past in as much detail as possible. These studies are undertaken by individuals, or groups, who have an interest in the history of a particular community, be it a parish, town, hamlet, or a single street. This talk describes ten steps that you might take in pursuit of this exciting branch of historical research.

There is a handout and the talk will be recorded and in the Members Area for two weeks.

Janet Few is an experienced and well-known British family, social and community historian who has lectured at conferences across the English-speaking world and at sea. She is an author of both historical fiction and non-fiction, as well as many magazine articles. In addition, she has worked with the UK *Who Do You Think You Are?* television programme.

As an educator, Janet runs online genealogy and social history courses for Pharos Tutoring and Teaching. She is currently serving as the President of the Family History Federation and is actively involved in several other family history organisations.

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.

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-talks/zoom-talk-one-place-study-with-janet-few>

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## **Dartford Branch Talk 6 June: Eltham Palace and the Courtauld Family with David Sleep Doors open 9.45am meeting starts at 10.30am**

The manor of Eltham was mentioned in the Domesday survey and David will explain its fascinating and chequered career from manor house to royal palace to ruin and its eventual rescue by the Courtauld family in 1931.

David is an expert on Eltham Palace. He started volunteering there in 1995, progressing to paid roles as an Event Steward and an Historic Property Steward.

No booking, just turn up.

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/dartford-branch-meetings/dartford-branch-talk-eltham-palace-and-the-courtauld-family-with-david-sleep>

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## **Sevenoaks Branch Talk 13 June: Rod Shelton on *Well I Never*, the surprising stories of the villages of the Darent from Westerham to Dartford Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am**

Rod Shelton describes himself as an author, artist and model-maker. He has lived in Otford for 25 years and is active in village matters. He is the local historian and chairs the Otford Society. He was a London advertising copy writer; then ran his own commercial film company.

Rod is also a model builder. He specialises in reproducing homes of historical interest back to the period in which they were first built. This takes much research and reference as well as a fair amount of calculation. His particular interest is in the life of the people who lived there at that time. A large selection of his models of featured places and homes in the Darent Valley are on permanent display at Lullingstone Castle.

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/sevenoaks-branch-meetings/sevenoaks-branch-talk-rod-shelton-on-well-i-never-the-surprising-stories-of-the-villages-of-the-darent-from-westerham-to-dartford>

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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.**

## **June Workshops and Discussion Groups**

3 June 10.30am Zoom Discussion Group with Ann Clarke: What records or databases have you found best for storing your family trees and the details you have discovered about your ancestors?

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-with-ann-clarke-what-records-or-databases-have-you-found-best-for-storing-your-family-trees-and-the-details-you-discovered-about-them>

10 June 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-6>

10 June 7.30pm Zoom Discussion Group *Let's Talk Family History* with Dee Johnson

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-lets-talk-family-history-with-dee-johnson>

17 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-37>

24 June 7.30pm Zoom Talk with Michele Jeannotte 'They Sailed the Seas' Tracing your Merchant Marine ancestors and looking at the types of records available

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-talks/zoom-talk-with-michele-jeannotte-they-sailed-the-seas>

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**NWKFHS 48th AGM 4 July 2026**

An insert giving full details and timings of the AGM Day was enclosed with the June Journal which should be available on line for all members by 1st June. The hard copies were circulated and delivered to some addresses extremely rapidly by the Royal Mail, many arriving at UK addresses by 22nd May.

Included were voting papers for election of trustees and booking forms for your lunch at the AGM.

It really helps the volunteers who run the Society if you respond as soon as possible and vote on line.

Thank you.

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/family-history-day-agm/annual-general-meeting-2>

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**Request from the Journal Editor: short items needed about some local churches**

The Society has been offered some images of local churches Including interiors.

I now need some short items about those churches ... one a quarter would be ideal for the Journal.

Can you do a report about any of these churches? Remember many of our members are not living locally but may have had family who lived locally to the church and may even have been baptised, married or had a funeral service at that church. This could be a unique source of information about the church and area.

The church images in need of text are:-

- St John's Erith
- Holy Trinity Dartford
- St John's Welling
- St Paulinus Crayford
- Christ Church Bexleyheath
- St John's Bexley
- St Mary's Bexley and
- St Mary's Chiddingstone

Let me know if you can help by using this contact form <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/contact> selecting 'All Other Enquiries' and starting your message with 'For the Journal'.

Long and short items of interest on any other family history topics are also needed for the remainder of the year, to keep our journal interesting. Please initially use the Contact Form detailed above to let the Editor know you have a submission.

Your reply will come from the editor. For online security reasons the direct email address to the editor is no longer published on line (and therefore no longer used in the paper journal). All messages will be acknowledged.

Many thanks, *Pauline Heathcote*, Journal Editor

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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

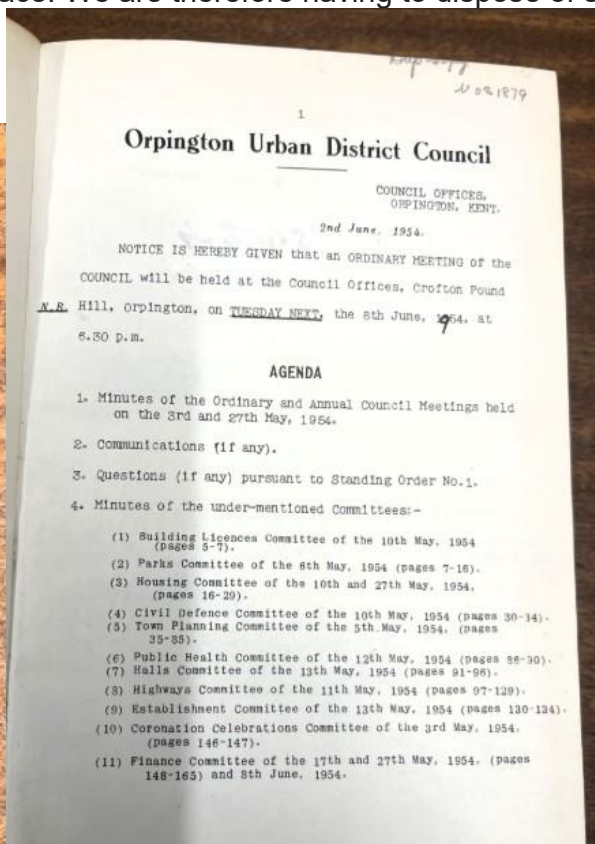
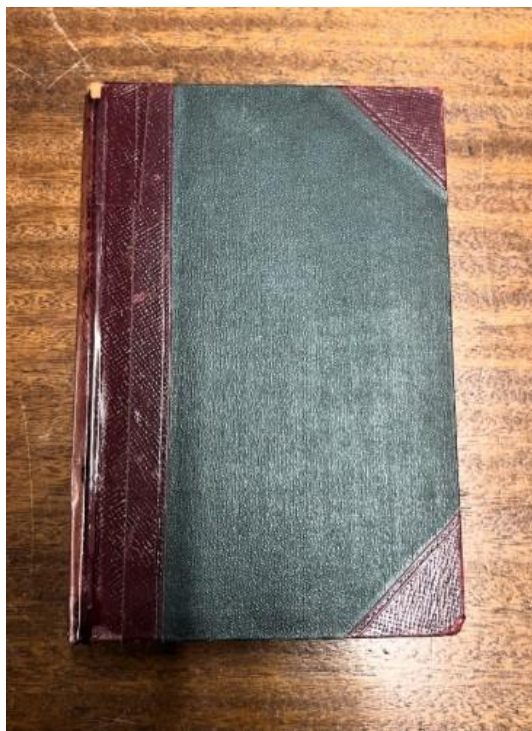
To assist our volunteers, we kindly ask that visitors with research queries aim to arrive earlier in the day if possible. Please bring along any existing information you have about the ancestor you're researching, and consider bringing a **USB memory stick** to save any discoveries you make during your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

The Society library is running out of space. We are therefore having to dispose of some items.



Please see the attached sample photos of the Orpington Urban District Council Index of Minutes Volumes 1949 - 1963 (21 volumes in total). The books vary in thickness. We no longer have space to store them.

Also, we have a vast collection of microfiche and CDs that might be of interest to someone for a small donation to the NWKFHS.

They include the 1841 - 1891 Census, 1538 - 1812 Sussex Parish Records, IGI's 1981 - 1988 Various Counties, Vital Records Index British Isles etc.

We have not been able to find any other society or authority which wants these.

They can all be collected by arrangement in person from the Society Library: Summerhouse Drive Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Bexley DA5 2EE 10-4pm Wednesdays (or on Fridays when NWKFHS members are on the premises).

If you are potentially interested in some or all of these, please reply to this email and I (Stella) will forward your email to Graham.

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**Next Enews - Submissions Welcome**

The next enews will be sent out on **1 July**. If you have any items you'd like included, please send them to me **as soon as possible**, and no later than 27 June. 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.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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