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This veteran hornbeam is in the grounds of Scotney Castle, Kent and dates back to the 1400s. It was planted as part of a wood pasture and it forms a major part of the history, ecology and culture of the Scotney Castle estate.

The hornbeam would have been harvested on an annual basis with the stems being removed at around 8ft, bundled up and then used by the local community as household fuel.

The appeal of the Scotney Castle hornbeam is related to its age. The parkland where it sits first appeared on a map as early as 1597 but the tree may well have witnessed the old castle's construction in 1378.

Where does your 'family tree' get back to?

Welcome to the 16 January 2019 emailinfoservice, the NWKFHS fortnightly information service, comprising the latest information about the Society and its events, and other items of interest for family historians.

I (Stella Eames) would welcome photos of people or places (specially historical or family history) in the North West Kent area with a story about them as I want to start each newsletter with a photo and story. Please email me at emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk. with your contributions.

Any photos must be your own copyright. If I don't receive any I will have to use my own which may not be as interesting.

[The latest branch newsletters and back issues of this e-newsletter can be found HERE You will be taken to a screen where you can then click on the newsletter you want to read.](#)

Click on our other links [Blog](#) [Facebook](#) [Flickr](#)

What's On - A reminder of NWKFHS Events during the next few weeks

[\(Click here to see the entire Talks, Workshops and Events programme so you can book your diaries well ahead\)](#)

Our meetings are interesting mix of speakers and workshops. The Branch meetings with speakers are held at venues in Bromley, Dartford and Sevenoaks and the workshops are in the Society Library in Joyden's Wood, which we have sole use of on Wednesdays.

Branch meetings are free to NWKFHS members and no booking is required. Guests are welcome but we appreciate a donation of eg £1 - £2 to the Society's funds to help cover the costs of hall hire and the speaker. Please join the Society if you want to come to more than one meeting - only £10 a year or £12 total for two members at the same address <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/about/our-membership>

The 2-hour workshops are limited to 10 members and have proved very popular. Several are full already - however don't let that stop you booking them as reserve lists are kept and a second workshop on the same topic is arranged if there is demand. Sometimes reserves are invited to join the workshop at short notice. Please note that **booking is essential for workshops** and we invite a donation eg £5 towards the costs of maintaining the library.

Go to the Society website and you can see all the workshops for the next 12 months. Just hover your cursor over the event entry for further info. Workshops do fill up quickly and are only open to members. Not joined yet? - don't dine in for £10 - join the Society for a whole year for £10 instead.

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

To join NWKFHS and come to the library, all our meetings, house groups and workshops please just click [here](#) or email Membership Secretary Mrs Christina Barnett, on membership@nwkhfs.org.uk **Membership is only £10 per year or £12 for two people at the same address. Value of family history news and help you can receive priceless.**

Membership benefits: members get access to all our meetings with speakers PLUS a quarterly journal packed full of articles and useful information, monthly workshops on topics requested by members and the benefits of our library and research centre, open Wednesdays. The website has a members - only area with back journals and other data.

The Library at 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joyden's Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE is open to members and visitors every Wednesday from 10am to 4pm. Our volunteers can help you with your research and you can use the library computers with free Find My Past and Ancestry access.

If you are already a member and have not renewed, please help our volunteer membership and renewal secretaries and renew now. Membership renewal was due on 1 January. You can pay by standing order; or by cash or cheque at one of our meetings; or by post - and a renewal form was in the centre of the December Journal (yellow pages). If you pay basic rate UK income tax please gift aid. This costs you nothing and boosts the value of your membership by 25% to the Society.

If the renewal form is not to hand (or you are abroad and find it easier to pay online), you can renew online here <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/shop/nwkhfs-shop/membership/individual-membership-renewal>

**January 16 - Wednesday 10.30am - 12.30pm Workshop at the Library
1939 Register led by Christine Hills**

The 1939 Register can be used as a census substitute, but, unlike other censuses, it is not a snapshot in time but an evolving document which continued to be updated for some years after WWII. The workshop will examine what it contains and discuss any problems you may have encountered when using it.

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact Victor on workshop.booking@nwkhfs.org.uk

£5 donation requested towards library running costs.

At the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE
Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

January 18 - Friday 2.00pm - 4.00pm New DNA shared-help Group at the Library

This DNA Group is intended to continue on the 3rd Friday of each month.

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact Victor on workshop.booking@nwkhfs.org.uk

£5 donation requested towards library running costs.

At the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE
Park in nearby side roads. .

January 19 Saturday 10.30am - Speaker at Bromley on Imperial Chislehurst

Joanna Friel, Heritage Rep of The Chislehurst Society, is our Guest Speaker today. Her illustrated talk is about the impact on Chislehurst when Napoleon III sought refuge there.

When Napoleon III and his family were expelled from France in 1871 after the country's defeat in the Franco-Prussian War, the imperial family moved to Camden Place, Chislehurst. Napoleon died in 1873 and was buried at the Roman Catholic church in Chislehurst until the Empress Eugenie removed his body to Farnborough, Hampshire.

Doors open 9.45am, meeting starts 10.30am. The venue, Bromley Methodist Church, College Road, Bromley

BR1 3NS has a free car park (although this can fill up) and is close to Bromley North Station and is on or near many bus routes.

Free to all NWKFHS members. No booking - just turn up. Guests are welcome but we appreciate a £1.00 donation to the Society's funds. More info from bromley@nwkfhs.org.uk

January 23 - Wednesday 10.30am - 12.30 Discussion Group at the Library Led by Victor Nutt

We discuss topical matters connected with Family History, suggested by attendees.

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact Victor on workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk

£5 donation requested towards library running costs.

At the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE

Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

February 2 - Saturday 10.30am - Speaker at Dartford The Inns of Court

The Inns of Court form the heart of legal London.

Guest Speaker Ian Bevan said: "This is one of my most popular talks probably because people think of it as a secret part of London. The Inns are guarded by large gates and look as though they should be private, but anyone can wander round.

Many of the buildings were originally constructed in the 15th century. The Temple, for example, owes its existence to the Knights Templar who occupied the site for two centuries.

A lot of the buildings were destroyed or badly damaged by the Fire of London in 1666 or more recently in the London Blitz. The Inns have, however, been sensitively restored, so much so that it is often difficult to distinguish the new from the old.

All of the Inns have five features in common, namely a library, a treasury, a chapel, a hall and gardens."

Free to all NWKFHS members. No booking - just turn up. Guests are welcome but we appreciate a £1.00 donation to the Society's funds. More info from dartford@nwkfhs.org.uk

Doors open 9.45am, meeting starts 10.30am. The venue, Dartford Science and Technology College, Heath Lane, Dartford DA1 2LY, has a large, free car park via the Heath Lane entrance.

Dartford Science and Technology College asks: due to having a pupil with a severe allergic reaction to nuts and aerosols, we have had to ban these two items to ensure the pupil's safety. Please do not bring any products that are aerosol based, or foods which may contain nuts, onto site. I do hope that you all will understand the importance of this request, and we thank you for your understanding.

February 13 - Wednesday 10.30am - 12.30 Workshop at the Library Self help computer group

Please note change of date for this new group. The second Wednesday in the month has proved to be more convenient going forward.

A regular monthly group to discuss computer problems and other IT matters of mutual interest. It will continue on the second Wednesday every month. Book to join this exciting group.

Self help with input from library 'experts'

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact Victor on workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk

£5 donation requested towards library running costs.

At the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE
Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

February 14 - Thursday 8pm - Speaker at Sevenoaks Underground Britain

Guest speaker Geoff Beer is now retired after a very interesting work history which has included Toll Road management in the UK, South Africa, and the Republic of Ireland, Information Technology implementation, and various Directorships.

Geoff will explore interesting things beneath the ground from war time factories to Cold War bunkers, mines, underground pipelines of all sorts, geology, catacombs and crypts, dumping, and of course pavement markings. His talk is illustrated with text, pictures and videos.

Free to all NWKFHS members. No booking - just turn up. Guests are welcome but we appreciate a £1.00 donation to the Society's funds. More info from sevenoaks@nwkfhs.org.uk

Venue: Sevenoaks Community Centre, Cramptons Road, off Otford Road, Sevenoaks TN14 5DN
Doors open 7.15pm, meeting starts 8pm. Finishes by 9.30pm. There is a large free car park.

February 16 Saturday 10.30am - Speaker at Bromley on Spitalfields through the ages

Guest speaker John Halligan, an accredited City of London Guide, will take us on a fascinating journey through the ever-changing culture of the area, from Roman times to the present day. Many of the Huguenots (French Protestants) who left France in 1685 were weavers - over the years 25,000 settled in Spitalfields. They brought their skills, new techniques, new ideas and the incomparable French style. The master weavers lived in large, elegant houses whilst the journeymen weavers lived in small houses north of Spitalfields and Bethnal Green.

Doors open 9.45am, meeting starts 10.30am. The venue, Bromley Methodist Church, College Road, Bromley BR1 3NS has a free car park (although this can fill up) and is close to Bromley North Station and is on or near many bus routes.

Free to all NWKFHS members. No booking - just turn up. Guests are welcome but we appreciate a £1.00 donation to the Society's funds. More info from bromley@nwkfhs.org.uk

February 20 - Wednesday 10.30am - 12.30pm Workshop at the Library Beginning your family history research led by Fran Rogers

Fran will assist you with your early stages of family history research. She will cover birth, marriage and death certificates, censuses, parish registers, wills, directories and websites.

If this workshop fills up, Fran will run a second group in the afternoon.

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact Victor on workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk
When you book, Victor will advise whether you are on the morning or afternoon one.

£5 donation requested towards library running costs.

At the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE
Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

February 27 - Wednesday 10.30am - 12.30pm
Quarterly Writing Group at the Library
Led by Pauline Heathcote

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact Victor on workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk

£5 donation requested towards library running costs.

At the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE

Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

Tuesday 2 April - advance notice of another history walk being organised by Hilary Waters.

The leader will be Chris Bull and it will be around Dartford. More details to follow.

For events further ahead just look at the website. The monthly Branch talks are listed til at least March 2019 and in many cases beyond, and workshops are booking even further ahead.

Anyone can attend a talk at the locations in Bromley, Dartford and Sevenoaks; but if you are a non member a donation is requested towards the cost of the hall and speaker. £1- £2 suggested.

As most workshops are over subscribed they are intended for members only and seen as a benefit of paid-up membership.

The exception is beginners' workshops - eg the one to be led by Fran Rogers on 20 February. These are aimed at new members and, if not full, free spaces are made available to non members joining on the day or before.

NWKFHS Membership is just £10 and lasts til 31 December 2019 and includes a free space (if not already full) at the beginners' workshop.

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/community/events>

Important Notice - AGM and Family History day on 11 April 2019

The 2019 AGM Booking form sent with the December Journal is incorrect.

If you have not already responded to book lunch please use the correct form https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/images/AGM_2019/BOOKING-FORM-2019.pdf

Family History Study Days at the Weald and Downland Living Museum

The Museum is located on Town Lane in Singleton, which is 7 miles north of Chichester, West Sussex.

Both these courses are led by our very own David Cufley, President of NWKFHS. Things about David which you may not know:

David Cufley BA (Hons), MSc, C.Eng., M.I.Struct. E. is President of North West Kent Family history Society. Leads workshops and gives talks to family history and local history societies. Is on the Federation of Family History list of speakers. A member of the Guide of One Name

Studies and a number of other Family history Societies. Compiler of the Brickmakers Index for the UK. Has researched his family since the late 1960s. David is a retired Structural Engineer who has worked on historic buildings.

Friday 8 March: Resources and Research Day: www.wealddown.co.uk/courses/family-history-resources-and-research-day/

This day is made up of four elements:

a. Basic sources for family history research.

b. Errors, lies and misinformation. A workshop discussing errors in Official Records and Commercial Search Engines and how to try to spot them. Case studies will be used as part of the discussions. Mark Twain said, "If you don't read the newspaper, you're uninformed. If you read the newspaper, you're misinformed." You could apply this to family history documents. This workshop will give you the tools to try to avoid researching someone else's family as yours.

c. Mapping for family history research. A workshop to explore how data in your research can be used to create a map of the counties and parishes where your ancestors have lived and worked. By producing a distribution map, you will have a visual image of their movements, which may help you solving some research queries.

d. Basic DNA for family historians. A presentation that will explore the DNA tests available and how they can help your documentary research.

Saturday 11 May Trades and Occupations Research

Day: www.wealddown.co.uk/courses/family-history-trades-and-occupation-research-for-family-historians/

During the day we will explore methods used for the selected trades that can be applied to other trades of your ancestors.

a. Brickmakers and other trades on the brickfields. Including walk around the pugmill and drying shed at the museum to discuss how bricks are made. This talk will explain and discuss brickmaking. Mainly in the 19th century, and how the workforce acts as teams, their wages and social conditions.

b. Trade sources. Methods to research trades using examples for brickmakers and calico printers. [The 'Brickmakers Index' for the UK will be available on the day.]

c. Ratcatchers. More than vermin destroyers ... 19th century ratcatchers and their trade, earnings, methods of trapping and the use of the rats.

d. Calico printers and printing. The trade and migration patterns around the Greater London areas. Location of the trade around London prior to 1840s. Method of printing, the location of the trade and how the workers moved from some centres to others.

New Family History Show at Alexandra Palace 26 and 27 April 2019



<https://www.family-tree.co.uk/ftre/show/family-tree-live/>

A jam-packed programme with more than 60 talks

With 63 different lecture topics there is so much to choose from. Talks range from those covering traditional resources, dilemmas that we all come across in our quest to do our family history, and specialist topics – from heraldry to Huguenots, smugglers to shellshock, Antipodean research to adoption, and so much more.

Hands-on workshops

Would you like to get practical experience, learning to decipher old handwriting or interpret records? Each day at Family Tree Live there will be a packed programme of workshops – giving you the chance take a seat at a workshop table (max 10 people per table) with a dedicated expert tutor.

Expert advice 1-to-1

While we all love researching our own family trees, there are definitely times when we get stuck and can do with a helping hand. If this is you, don't forget to pack your notes, and bring them along to the expert advice area. Here professional researchers from AGRA (the Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives) will be on hand to offer you advice, in a one-to-one session.

Join in!

- There will also be numerous stands covering all your family history needs – from books to websites, software to DNA tests, and more.

All-inclusive ticket

All this – the lectures, one-to-one advice, workshops – and more, are all included in your all-inclusive ticket. Tickets cost £12 per person pay day (for £10 for Family Tree subscribers; children aged 16 and under free).

The Society of Genealogists

The SoG runs lots of courses and, if you are in travelling distance of central London, it is worth keeping your eyes open. I did a very interesting seminar with Jayne Shrimpton on dating old pictures.

The Society also does free introductory tours of its library and about the SoG.

<http://www.sog.org.uk/>

<http://www.sog.org.uk/books-courses/events-courses/>

The National Archives is having a highly discounted January book sale:

http://bookshop.nationalarchives.gov.uk/11/Bargains-and-offers/?utm_campaign=852245_January%20sale%202019&utm_medium=email&utm_source=The%20National%20Archives

Bexley Bookbuzz

Some of these free (but must be booked) events are for children, but others are for adults, including a talk by Nick Barrett, President of the Federation of Family History Societies, on 20 February 'Researching and writing your family history'.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/bexley-libraries-7939598856>

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/researching-and-writing-your-family-history-with-author-dr-nick-barratt-tickets-53134537833>

Editor's note: I often get asked to publicise family history fairs, new books on genealogy and small genealogy businesses. I use my discretion in including ones which are local to our area or which I think may interest readers. It does not mean that I or NWKFHS has any personal knowledge, or makes any recommendation, about the event or business.

If there is anything else I should be aware of, to give you maximum benefit from this emailinfoservice, please let me know. I do receive many suggestions and requests for external events to be included, but there is only room for so much and I am conscious that the longer this email is, the less likely it is to be read. Some external events I publish on our Facebook page instead. But I'd welcome your opinions on the length and content and whether there is anything additional you'd like included.

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.

PS I am a volunteer creating this e-newsletter in my 'spare time' but, if you do notice any errors, please tell me, so that they are not carried forward to the next emailinfo.

Stella Eames, Editor

emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk

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