

Welcome to the mid July 2023 enews and our programme of talks and workshops over the next several weeks.

Your Society Needs You

North West Kent FHS is run entirely by volunteers and more are always needed.

This has now become critical as, after many years of service, some of our post holders have retired or are not standing for re-election at the AGM in November. Vacancies in these posts affects the running of the Society.

In particular, and to comply with our Constitution, we urgently need a Secretary and Chair, these posts being currently vacant. In addition, the position of Vice Chair will become vacant in November. These officers would also be Trustees of the Society.

Any member who might be interested and would like to know more please contact Mike Weeks on publicity@nwkfhs.org.uk or approach any of the trustees. Training would then be given.

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Society Library: The Society Library has long been back to pre Covid opening arrangements, open every Wednesday from 10am to 4pm for members to do their own research, socialise, participate in library based workshops and discussion groups and receive help from the library volunteers.

There's no need to book just to use the library resources, but booking to attend workshops and other groups is essential.

You can use the library's PCs to access Ancestry - and FindMyPast which currently includes access to the 1921 census. We suggest joining Kent Libraries as you can then access these websites from your own device whilst in the library which eases pressure on the library PCs.

We'd previously said it would have to open late on 26 July but I'm pleased to advise that is no longer the case, it will open at its usual time of 10am and library volunteers will be waiting to welcome members and assist with your research.

Non members, you can join the Society at the library.

80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley Kent DA5 2EE Free parking in nearby side roads.

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AGM: The AGM will be in person on Saturday 4 November 10.30am at the Dartford Branch venue, preceding the scheduled talk. Please book your diaries. <http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/dartford-branch-meetings/society-annual-general-meeting-agm>

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Talks and workshops have been planned until the end of the year
see <http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings> to book your diary ahead of time.

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Dartford Branch Talk: *Lost Rivers of London* with Roger Squires

Saturday 5 August: Doors Open 9.45am meeting starts 10.30am and will end by 12.30pm

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

Many members will have had family who lived in or passed through London in the past. They would have been familiar with the many rivers which are no longer visible above ground but which were part of daily life and often carried effluent into the River Thames.

Roger will tell us about these tributaries which still do flow but are now covered, hence the term "lost rivers". He will explain how there are still clues to following the routes of these rivers thereby enhancing our understanding of where and how our ancestors lived.

<https://inlandwaterwaysinternational.org/blog/roger-squires-awarded-bem/>

The talks 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.

Free to members. A donation towards hall hire and speaker fee is appreciated from visitors.

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Sevenoaks Branch Talk: *The Pre - Raphaelite Brotherhood* with Delia Taylor

Saturday 12 August Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am

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

Delia has been a public speaker for over 15 years and North West Kent FHS members have already enjoyed several of her talks.

This talk is a feast for the eyes. We look at the formation of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood and at the paintings which made them famous.

The brotherhood led to the Arts and Craft Movement in which William Morris, a great friend of the members, embraced their art through textiles and wallpaper. Eventually it became so popular that it was copied by architects, jewellers, interior and fashion designers and evolved into the style known as Art Nouveau.

Delia's talk is comprehensively illustrated with audio-visual clips.

No booking, just turn up. Free to members. A donation towards hall hire and speaker fee is appreciated from visitors.

There is a large public car park (payment required) adjacent to the hall but it can be busy.

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Workshops, Special Interest and Discussion Groups

Workshops (including Discussion Groups and Writing Groups) whether in person or via **Zoom** have a maximum number to allow all participants to be involved, **and are restricted to paid up North West Kent FHS members only**. They generally last for about 2 hours.

Please note that booking is essential.

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://nwkfhs.org.uk/events/workshops/past-zoom-workshop-videos>

Note the above link will only work for Society members logged into the website.

If you have a topic or subject you feel would interest other members and or / help with their research and is suitable material for a workshop, please do contact workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk who would very much like to hear from you. The workshops are all led by volunteers and very much depend on volunteers coming forward. Thank you

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

Whilst the next four weeks or so workshops are listed below, workshops have been planned for the whole of 2023 and can be read about on the above link.

19 July 10.30am Zoom DNA Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln: We aim to help you learn about the wonders of DNA and to get the most from your DNA test

<http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-dna-discussion-group-with-laura-lincoln-11>

26 July: 10am The Society Library will open at the usual time of 10am for members' research. (The previous information that it would not be able to open until 1pm today has been superseded).

<http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/dartford-branch-meetings/stella-eames/the-society-library-at-joyden-s-wood-is-open-to-members-from-10am-today>

26 July 2.30pm Zoom Discussion Group: Let's Talk About Family History with David Cufley

<http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-let-s-talk-about-family-history-with-david-cufley-4>

26 July: If you are attending the Breaking Down Brick Walls workshop on 9 August, please send your ancestral brick wall to David Cufley by today. See <http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-workshop/zoom-workshop-breaking-down-family-history-brick-walls-with-david-cufley>

2 August: 10.30am Library Workshop for Family History beginners with Fran Rogers

This workshop aims to assist in the early stages of Family History research. It will cover birth, marriage and death certificates, census, parish registers, wills, directories and websites.

<http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/future-workshops/library-workshop-for-family-history-beginners-morning-session-with-fran-rogers>

2 August 10.30am Zoom Family History Discussion Group with Ann Clarke

<http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-with-ann-clarke-5>

9 August 10.30am Library DNA Discussion Group

<http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/discussion-group/library-dna-discussion-group-with-victor-nutt-7>

9 August 7.30pm Zoom Workshop Breaking Down Brick Walls with David Cufley

<http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-workshop/zoom-workshop-breaking-down-family-history-brick-walls-with-david-cufley>

16 August 10.30am Library Writing Group. New to writing your family history? with Pauline Heathcote

<http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/future-workshops/library-new-to-writing-your-family-history-with-pauline-heathcote>

16 August 10.30am Zoom DNA Discussion group with Laura Lincoln. We aim to help you learn about the wonders of DNA and to get the most from your DNA test

<http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-dna-discussion-group-with-laura-lincoln-14>

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For Zoom workshops, please log in from 15 minutes before the start time and enjoy chat amongst participants before the workshop starts.

For library workshops please arrive any time after the library opens at 10.am

Numbers are restricted to enable all participants to ask questions, share knowledge and engage with other members therefore booking is essential.

Please reserve a place with workshop.booking@nwkhfs.org.uk including the event, title and date together with your name and membership number.

Workshop leaders freely give their time, but a donation either at the library for in person workshops or via the web shop is appreciated. <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/shop/nwkhfs-shop/services/society-donation>

Many, many thanks to our volunteer workshop coordinator for arranging our exciting programme of workshops, and to the workshop leaders who all give their time freely.

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Items for the August enews should please reach me as soon as possible, and by 28 July latest.

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I (Stella Eames) welcome photos of people or places (especially historical or family history) in the North West Kent area with a story about them as I like to start each newsletter with a photo and story. Please email me at enews@nwkfhs.org.uk with your contributions. Any photos must be your own copyright.

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Click on our other links <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/blog> [Facebook](#) [Flickr](#) <https://twitter.com/nwkfhs>

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 email me if there's anything you want to say about 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.