

## Welcome to the North West Kent FHS mid March 2024 enews

### **Important Members Only Discussion Zoom Sessions** **To discuss the future of our society**

The trustees would appreciate hearing our Members' opinions along with any fresh ideas to help us transition this difficult time for the society. Please join us at one of the following Zoom meetings:

21st March: A discussion about the future of our society.  
Time 10.30am – 12.30pm

25th March: A discussion about the future of our society.  
Time 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Society Members, please go to the website [www.nwkhfs.org.uk](http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk) and click on the home screen where it says "please log in or click here to see an important announcement" You will need to log in to see the Zoom link and password.

If any member would like to participate but is unsure how to use download and use Zoom and would like assistance please either click this link [https://support.zoom.com/hc/en/article?id=zm\\_kb&sysparm\\_article=KB0060732](https://support.zoom.com/hc/en/article?id=zm_kb&sysparm_article=KB0060732)

or email [enquiries@nwkhfs.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@nwkhfs.org.uk) or [treasurer@nwkhfs.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@nwkhfs.org.uk) well in advance of the Zoom meeting.

If a member cannot remember how to log in to [www.nwkhfs.org.uk](http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk) , see this YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYBG1RWufrU>

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### **Have you experience of working in the financial sector?**

North West Kent Family History Society [www.nwkhfs.org.uk](http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk) is a registered Charity which covers South East London and North West Kent; and is in urgent need of a Treasurer who would also be one of the Society's Trustees.

An accountant, book keeper, banker or retired from a similar background would be ideal.

The Society has been thriving for 45 years, has over 900 members and is well funded.

Although there are already a large number of volunteers working in various areas, our Treasurer is retiring soon and we are looking for a successor.

The candidate would ideally live in south London or Kent (or easy travelling distance) and be, or become, a Society Member (£10 a year).

Please consider whether you could help and contact:

Pam Goddard, Treasurer [treasurer@nwkhfs.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@nwkhfs.org.uk)

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## **Sevenoaks Branch March Talk: *The Medieval Housewife* with Toni Mount**

**Saturday 16 March 2024 Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am**

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

**Note that this meeting is one week later than its usual date of the 2nd Saturday of the month**

### **About the speaker:**

Toni earned her Research Master's degree from the University of Kent in 2009 through study of a medieval medical manuscript held at the Wellcome Library in London. She is a well-known lecturer, historian and author whose books are based on her research into the lives of ordinary and sometimes extra-ordinary people through history. Toni has spoken to us many times before and it will be a pleasure to hear her again. She lives in Gravesend.

### **About the talk:**

Have you ever wondered what life was like for the ordinary housewife in the Middle Ages? Or how much power a medieval lady really had? Find out all about medieval housewives, peasant women, grand ladies, women in trade and women in the church. More has been written about medieval women in the last twenty years than in the two whole centuries before that. Female authors of the medieval period have been rediscovered and translated; queens are no longer thought of as merely decorative brood mares for their royal husbands and have merited their own biographies.

In the past, historians have tended to look at what women could not do. We will look at the lives of medieval women in a more positive light, finding out what rights and opportunities they enjoyed and attempting to uncover the real women beneath the layers of dust accumulated over the centuries

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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### **ZOOM Talk with David Cufley**

**27 March 7.30pm**

***The Royal Dockyards, Deptford and Woolwich and their workers***

This talk explores the two Dockyard sites and the people that were employed on them - from the Police at the gate to the workers keeping the Dockyards and ships maintained.

The Dockyards provided an industrial history which is now being lost by the conversion to community residential and retail areas

No booking. Free to Society members and non members alike.

Join Zoom

Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87478101736?pwd=S0hSME00aHZ6NTdzcUE3bEVQV0F4QT09>

Meeting ID: 874 7810 1736 Passcode: 741026

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## **Dartford Branch April Talk: *The Codebreakers of Bletchley Park* with Ian Thomson**

**Saturday 6 April: Doors Open 9.45am Talk starts 10.30am**

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

Ian is a former guide at Bletchley Park.

Through his illustrated talk he will reveal the complexity of the top-secret work there in WW2, describing the achievements of the many women transcribing data, translating and cracking cyphers.

Yet these unsung heroines couldn't tell anyone about their critical contribution to the war effort.

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 April Talk: *Who are the Travellers* with Carol Mellors**

**Saturday 13 April Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am**

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

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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## **ZOOM Talk with David Cufley**

**24 April 7.30pm**

***Greenwich Park Wall History 1609 - 2023***

The Bricks and Brickwork of Greenwich Park Wall are normally not seen, as the viewer looks past and into the park and at its Observatory.

This talk explores the boundary wall and how it has been changed over its 400-year life. It discusses not only its construction and materials but also the buildings that were built onto or through it.

Built at the beginning of the 17th century, the wall is a listed building and its 1986 archaeological survey report says "that no record of the source for the bricks has been found".

The talk discusses the manufacture and laying of bricks in this period and seeks local brickmakers and their sites that may have contributed to its construction.

No booking. Free to Society members and non members alike.

The Zoom link will be published on the website and in enews nearer the time.

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## **Workshops, Special Interest and Discussion Groups - for Members Only**

<https://www.nwkfhs.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.

**And membership of our Society is only £10 a year and expires 31 December, so to benefit from admission to these workshops, buy soon!** <https://www.nwkfhs.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://nwkfhs.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**

#### **In Person Groups 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 Groups**

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

**Society Members, click on the workshop website links below which will explain how to join the workshop or discussion group.**

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**20 March 10.30am ZOOM DNA Discussion group with Laura Lincoln**

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-dna-discussion-group-with-laura-lincoln-16>

**3 April 10.30am ZOOM Discussion Group - Our Ancestors' Trades, Why and How did they change during their lifetime? with Ann Clarke**

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-our-ancestors-trades-how-and-why-did-they-change-during-their-lifetime-with-ann-clarke>

**10 April: the Library DNA and Family History Discussion group originally planned for today has been postponed until 24 April.**

**10 April 7.30pm ZOOM Workshop: Breaking Down Brick Walls with David**

**Cufley** <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-workshop/zoom-workshop-breaking-down-brick-walls-with-david-cufley-2>

**(Brick Walls to be submitted to David Cufley via email [workshop.booking@nwkhfs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkhfs.org.uk) by 27 March latest please).**

**17 April 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-17>

**24 April 10.30am Library: DNA and General Family History Discussion Group with Jacki Ellis and Pam Goddard**

**Postponed from previously advertised date of 10 April**

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/discussion-group/library-dna-and-general-family-history-discussion-group-with-jacki-ellis-and-pam-goddard-2>

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### **Society Library:**

The Society Library is 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.

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 demand for library PCs.

Non members, on Wednesdays 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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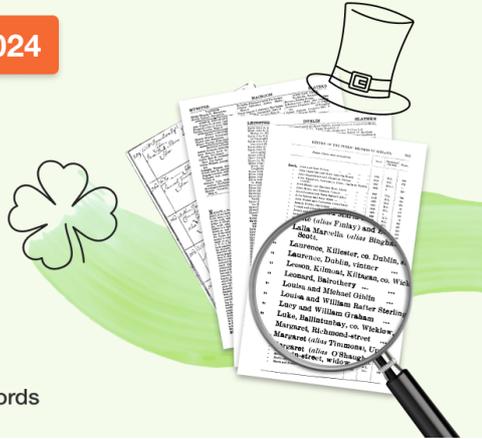
In honour of St. Patrick's Day, MyHeritage says it is making all Irish historical records available for free from March 14 to 18, 2024!

[Search all Irish records for free](#)

# Discover Your Irish Roots This St. Patrick's Day!

Enjoy free access to 14 million  
Irish records on MyHeritage

March 14–18, 2024



myheritage.com/irish-records

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**Items for the 1 April 2024 enews should please reach me as soon as possible, and by 28 March 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. Please email me at [enews@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto: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/community/news-journals/blog> [Facebook](#) [Flickr](#) <https://twitter.com/nwkfhs>

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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 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.*

Stella Eames, Editor

[enews@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:enews@nwkfhs.org.uk)

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