

Welcome to the North West Kent FHS 1 May 2024 enews



It is with sadness that we report the death on 22 April of Sheila Elisak after an illness. Sheila was a long-serving volunteer, and former Branch Secretary of our Dartford Branch.

Dartford Branch May Talk: *DNA Testing for Family Historians* with Geoff Swinfield

Saturday 4 May: Doors Open 9.45am Talk starts 10.30am

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

Geoff has taught widely on family history research techniques but has also used his training in genetics to help families who are at risk from inherited diseases.

However, DNA testing can also break down brick walls, reveal unknown ancestors and verify family myths.

Geoff is undoubtedly the best person to help us understand the relevance of DNA in our research.

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.

Sevenoaks Branch May Talk: *Alcock and Brown: The Epic Story of the First Flight Across the Atlantic* with Dave Gillham

Saturday 11 May Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am

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

David has been a keen local historian for many years, and has been involved with several Lottery funded projects regarding Crayford.

Alcock and Brown was a three year project culminating in many events in the centenary year (2019) of their flight.

The talk will tell the story of their meeting and the part Vickers Crayford played in the historic and remarkable achievement.

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 - 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.

Membership of our Society is only £10 a year and expires 31

December. <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

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 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.

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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8 May 10.30am Library *DNA and General Family History Discussion Group* with Jacki Ellis and Pam Goddard

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/discussion-group/library-dna-and-general-family-history-discussion-group-with-jacki-ellis-and-pam-goddard-3>

8 May 7.30pm Zoom Workshop: *Seasonal Migration eg fruit pickers, hop pickers and brickmakers* with David Cufley

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-workshop-seasonal-migration-eg-fruit-pickers-hop-pickers-and-brickmakers-with-david-cufley>

15 May 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-19>

22 May 10.30am Zoom Discussion Group: Let's Talk Family History with Laura Lincoln

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-lets-talk-family-history-with-laura-lincoln-2>

29 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-7>

29 May 10.30am Zoom Discussion Group: Finding Out The Past, does it make you appreciate the present? with Ann Clarke and Laura Lincoln

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-finding-out-about-the-past-does-it-make-you-appreciate-the-present-with-ann-clarke-and-laura-lincoln>

5 June 10.30am ZOOM Discussion Group with Ann Clarke: Family History software – which would you recommend and is it better than an online tree?

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-about-family-history-software-with-ann-clarke>

12 June 10.30am Library: DNA and Family History Discussion Group with Jacki Ellis and Pam Goddard

<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-4>

12 June 2.30pm Zoom Discussion Group with David Cufley: Let's Talk Family History

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-lets-talk-family-history-with-david-cufley-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 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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BRYAN and DREWELL Family History Data

A Society member has told us that In the process of decluttering she has re-found a large envelope which she acquired years ago - possibly from another (now deceased) Society member.

It contains correspondence, research results and photocopies of documents (wills, birth certs, service records) relating to members of the **BRYAN** and **DREWELL** families in different parts of London including North West Kent.

Please email library@nwkfhs.org.uk if you are researching these names and are interested in acquiring these papers.

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Sevenoaks - a past to treasure



A talk by Local Historian, Ed Thompson

Thursday 23rd May at 2.30pm

In Sevenoaks Library: Tickets £4 per person.

Please email or visit Sevenoaks library for more information. Sevenoaks.library@kent.gov.uk or telephone 03000 41 31 31

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Kent Archives Luchtime Talks Programme 2024 Kent History and Library Centre, 1.00pm - 2.00pm.

All talks are in-person, and held at Kent History and Library Centre, James Whatman Way, MAIDSTONE ME14 1LQ, on the following Mondays between 1.00pm. and 2.00pm. All talks are free. Booking is requested. To book, please email archives@kent.gov.uk or telephone 03000 420673.

13 May Sheila Sweetinburgh (Canterbury Christ Church University), 'Rethinking mayor-making and other civic rituals in medieval times at the Kentish Cinque Ports'.

The holding of civic elections, local courts and pilgrimages helped the ports to maintain and enhance their corporate identity.

10 June Alison Cable (Rochester Bridge Trust), 'Rochester Bridge Trust and its archives'.

The Trust's archivist traces the history of the Rochester Bridge Trust from beginnings to the present day

8 July Andrew Mayfield (Kent County Council Heritage Conservation), 'Community archaeology in a royal park'.

A talk about the history and archaeology of Greenwich Royal Park by Kent's award-winning community archaeologist.

9 Sep Diane Heath (Canterbury Christ Church University), 'Medieval Animals Heritage - sustainability, wellbeing and the odd Bonnacon'.

Some of the weird and wonderful creatures drawn in the manuscripts of the Middle Ages are far more than a footnote of history. They possess an enduring power to enhance lives today.

14 Oct Kara Greig (University of Kent), 'Kent Mental Deficiency Institutions during World War Two'.

A doctoral student looks at the impact of war on West View Institution, Tenterden and Leybourne Grange Colony, West Malling.

11 Nov Victoria Stevens (ACR, Library and archive conservator), 'The Clue is in the Title: ownership, fashion and society reflected in a Kent private library'.

The inventory of an enlightened family's book collection can shed light on so much more than their reading tastes.

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Items for the mid May 2024 enews should please reach me as soon as possible, and by 12 May latest.

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I (Stella Eames) welcome photos of people or places (specially historical or family history) in the North West Kent area with a story about them. 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/community/news-journals/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.

Stella Eames, Editor

enews@nwkfhs.org.uk

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