

## Welcome to the North West Kent FHS 1 June 2024 enews

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### Dartford Branch June Talk: *How to Write Your Life Story* with Jo Livingston

Saturday 1 June: Doors Open 9.45am Talk starts 10.30am

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

Jo is an experienced speaker who lives locally and has been giving talks in Kent and SE London for the last 15 years.

As family historians we are so busy researching our ancestors that we often forget to record our own lives.

Jo will give practical advice on ways to record your life.

Some ideas to pursue include books, music, places to visit and people to talk to, as well as how to produce your book when it is written.

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 June Talk: *Postman's Park: The Army Postal Service in WW1* with Dr John Price

Saturday 8 June Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am

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

#### About the speaker:

John is a social and cultural historian who takes a 'People's History' approach to nineteenth and twentieth-century British history and the history of London.

John's primary area of research is 'everyday' heroism, acts of life-risking bravery, undertaken by civilians in commonplace surroundings. He is also interested in social movements and popular protest, in particular, how popular manifestations of contentious politics, such as marches, demonstrations, strikes and riots, can be better understood and analysed by historians. John also researches urban walking and, more specifically, the relationships between historians, urban walking and urban/metropolitan history.

Public Engagement and Knowledge Exchange are at the heart of John's work, including projects on the 1977 Battle of Lewisham and on the passengers who arrived on the Empire Windrush in 1948.

John is a Senior Lecturer in Modern British History at Goldsmiths, University of London.

#### About the Talk:

Postman's Park. On the eve of war the Post Office not only handled a yearly total 5.9 billion items of post but was responsible for the nation's telegraph and telephone systems, as well as providing savings bank and other municipal facilities at thousands of branch post offices. Many of these services changed as a result of the First World War and the Post Office was crucial to both Britain's communications and war effort during this great conflict.

When war was declared in 1914 an outbreak of national fervour saw huge numbers of men clamour to enlist with the armed forces, including 11,000 Post Office staff. By the end of the war the Post Office had released 75,000 staff for war services.

The Army Postal Service (APS) was set up responsible for army mails in all theatres of war, the APS not only handled mails between Britain and the forces abroad but coordinated communications between units at the front. With the onset of trench warfare, all mails bound for troops on the Western Front were sorted at the London Home Depot by the end of 1914. Covering five acres of Regents Park, this was said to be the largest wooden structure in the world employing over 2,500 mostly female staff by 1918. During the war the Home Depot handled a staggering 2 billion letters and 114 million parcels.

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://www.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.

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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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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>

19 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-3> <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-dna-discussion-group-3>

26 June 7.30pm Zoom Workshop: *Using Archives - our Library and County Record Offices and The National Archives* with David Cufley <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-workshop/zoom-workshop-using-archives-our-library-county-record-offices-and-national-archives-with-david-cufley>

3 July 10.30am Zoom Discussion Group: *We're in a multitude of records but will our descendants be able to trace us?* with Ann Clarke

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-we-re-in-a-multitude-of-records-but-will-our-descendants-be-able-to-trace-us-with-ann-clarke>

10 July 10.30am Library: *DNA and General 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-5>

10 July 7.30pm Zoom Workshop: *Breaking Down Ancestral Brick Walls* with David Cufley

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-workshop/zoom-workshop-breaking-down-ancestral-brick-walls-with-david-cufley-4>

Please submit your ancestral brick walls by 26 June to David Cufley via [workshop.booking@nwkhfs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkhfs.org.uk)

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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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## **Increased FamilySearch resources in central London**

<https://locations.familysearch.org/en/gb/england/london/64-68-princes-gate>

FamilySearch is pleased to announce expanded FamilySearch resources in central London. Since 22 April there are two locations with longer opening hours.

The London Hyde Park FamilySearch Centre at 64-48 Exhibition Road SW7 2PA will open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10-4 and the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month 10-4.

The London Wandsworth FamilySearch Centre at 149 Nightingale Lane, Balham, SW12 8NG will open Tuesdays 10-4 and the 2nd and 4th Saturdays 10-4. For the time being visitors who want to come on a Tuesday or Saturday are asked to send an email in advance giving the date and time they will arrive to [uk\\_londonwandsworth@familyhistorymail.org](mailto:uk_londonwandsworth@familyhistorymail.org). No emails will mean that the Centre will not be staffed.

Visitors to either location may bring a laptop and download a FamilySearch extension which will enable access to otherwise restricted databases from their laptop while in the Centre.

Both Centres are available for visits from public groups by prior arrangement, either to use a free room for holding a family history meeting or for having a FamilySearch talk. Because of limited space, group meetings may be outside of normal opening hours.

Both Centres can provide a free speaker on FamilySearch or a variety of family history topics for family history societies, archives, U3A groups, or libraries either by Zoom or in person. Please request a list of topics or let us know what you need.

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**Items for the mid June 2024 enews should please reach me as soon as possible, and by 13 June 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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*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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