

Welcome to the North West Kent FHS mid October 2024 enews

Thank you for reading our enews.

If you are receiving this for the first time, because you are a new member or signed up at one of our recent Drop-Ins, - welcome.

The enews is usually circulated fortnightly so you won't be bombarded and you can unsubscribe any time.

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If you aren't a Society member yet, please do take a look at our amazing events programme. <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings>

**We have many in person and Zoom talks and workshops already arranged for 2025. So you don't have to live locally to take advantage of all we have to offer.
Plus all members receive a really interesting Journal every quarter.**

Now is the best time to join because your £10 annual membership (£12 joint members) lasts until 31 December 2025.

If you are wondering what to get someone for Christmas who doesn't need more 'stuff' why not buy a Gift membership of our Society. Same low price as normal membership.
<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/about/membership/our-membership/#options>

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/about/membership/our-membership/#gift-membership>

If you need help with membership, contact our Membership Secretary via <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact> **mentioning Membership.**

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Society Vacancies

Many hands make light work. That is certainly true when it comes to sharing the tasks that keep our Society operating smoothly. Please review these volunteer opportunities. This list will be updated monthly on the Society website. If you can help, please email <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact> marked for the attention of the Society secretary.

Job Role Descriptions

URGENT Society Treasurer

The Society has struggled this year to fill this post. The current person can only continue until the end of October 2024. So, the Society URGENTLY needs someone to volunteer for this role longer-term. The job is not onerous and full support will be available from the other Committee members. A job description is available if you are interested.

Society Chair

The Society has struggled this year to fill this post. Nigel Durrant has kindly agreed to stand-in until someone can volunteer for this role longer-term. The job is not onerous and full support will be available from the other Committee members. A job description is available if you are interested

Chair - Sevenoaks Branch Meetings

Barbara Phillips is currently acting Chair but would like to relinquish this post as she is also programme secretary for the branch and has other responsibilities within the Society. The chair does not have as many responsibilities as previously as others have taken on some of the tasks. If the Branch Chair is away for a meeting, this can be managed. The job is not onerous, but needs commitment.

IT Support - Dartford Branch Meetings

Branch (x2) We need additional help with setting up speakers with 'sound' equipment and computer connections at Dartford Branch Meetings. We only have one person to do this at the moment, who needs assistance and someone to take over when he is away. It is all very straightforward and training will be given.

Bought-in-Books Transporter - Dartford & Sevenoaks Branch Meetings

Dartford & Sevenoaks need someone to bring the Bought -in-Books to the meetings. When not required they can be housed in the Society's lock-up off of Thames Road, Dartford. One does not need a big car boot. Any monies involved are the responsibility of the individual branch and do not concern the person who brings them. The job is not onerous, but does need commitment.

Librarian Assistant

The Society Librarian urgently needs volunteers to help with running the Library in Joyden's Wood and to help fellow members with their research. The situation is about to become worse, as one of the current volunteers is moving away soon. We must have at least two volunteers on site for the Library to be able to open on Wednesdays. Good IT skills and knowledge of Microsoft Windows would be helpful, but are not essential.

Are you free on Wednesdays and could offer help on one or more Wednesdays a month?

If you can help with any of these please email <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact> marked for the attention of the Society secretary.

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Dartford Branch November Talk: *Postman's Park* with Dr John Price

Saturday 2 November: Doors Open 9.45am Meeting starts 10.30am Dartford Science and Technology College, Heath Lane, Dartford Kent DA1 2LY

Postman's Park, so called because of its proximity to London's main Post Office and popularity with the postal workers who came here to eat their lunchtime sandwiches, was opened in 1880.

In 1887 G.F. Watts, the artist, put forward the idea of a national memorial to heroic men and women. A wall in the Park was dedicated to this cause in 1900.

Dr Price is a Senior Lecturer in Modern British History at Goldsmiths and is an expert in civilian heroism and self-sacrifice in the 19th and early 20th centuries and has made a study of those commemorated in Postman's Park. Their stories are fascinating and Dr Price is an accomplished speaker.

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 November Talk: *And So To Ted* with Melanie Gibson-Barton Saturday 9 November Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am

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

A wide-ranging fun talk of Bear Essentials to appeal to arctophiles and bear lovers.

Be sure to bring your bears along to hear the talk. It adds to the fun and it's amazing what people have in the back of cupboards.

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 if you join after 1 October membership lasts until 31 December 2025. <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 talks, discussion group and workshops

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 coordinators 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.

16 October 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-22>

23 October 2.30pm Zoom Workshop: Punters' Choice with David Cufley

This workshop is a miscellany of family history sources, facts, stories and methods. It may even cover gambling habits of one's ancestors.

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-workshop/zoom-workshop-punters-choice-with-david-cufley>

30 October 7.30pm Zoom Workshop: Writing up family history, inclusion of pictures and charts with David Cufley

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-workshop/zoom-workshop-writing-up-family-history-inclusion-of-pictures-and-charts-with-david-cufley>

6 November 10.30am Zoom Discussion Group with Ann Clarke. If our ancestors had known about our lives what would they like or dislike?

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-if-our-ancestors-had-known-about-our-lives-what-would-they-like-or-dislike-with-ann-clarke>

13 November 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-family-history-discussion-group-with-jacki-ellis-and-pam-goddard-2>

13 November 2.30pm Zoom Discussion group *Let's Talk Family History* with David Cufley

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

20 November 10.20am 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-23>

27 November 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-6>

27 November 7.30pm Zoom Record Closure Rules and How We Can Find Sources to Compensate with David Cufley

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-workshop/zoom-workshop-record-closure-rules-and-how-we-can-find-sources-to-compensate-with-david-cufley>

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Society Library

The Society Library is open every Wednesday 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 does NOT include access to the 1921 census, something we are investigating with the library). 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.

The library is open from 10am to 4pm but it greatly helps the volunteers if visitors with research queries call in earlier in the day rather than later. Please also bring as much information as you already have about the ancestor you are researching.

Advance Notice for Library Visitors: on Wednesday 27 November between 10am and 2pm it will not be possible to access the books held by the Society as they are stored in a room which will be in use for a meeting.

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Penny Duggan writes:

Metropolitan Police Museum Marlowe House 109 Station Road Sidcup DA15 7ES

At the recent NWKFHS drop-in session at Bexley Local Studies and Archive Centre, someone mentioned that they hadn't heard of the Metropolitan Police Museum's move to Sidcup, and so perhaps other members would like to hear about it, as they do have a 'family history' section on their website. Here is some information:

The Metropolitan Police Museum has relocated from central London to Marlowe House in Station Road, Sidcup.

The museum holds archives, books, photographs, equipment, uniforms and other artefacts relating to the history of the Metropolitan Police Service since 1829.

The archive includes Police Orders (day-by-day updates) which contain information about rewards and punishments, joiners and leavers, promotions and dismissals.

Visits for a gallery tour or research visit are by appointment only.

More information on what the museum holds, including a research guide for family history, and how to book a visit, can be seen at <https://www.met.police.uk/police-forces/metropolitan-police/areas/about-us/about-the-met/met-museums-archives>

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/metropolitan-police-museum-gallery-tour-tickets-837305532387?aff=oddtcreator>

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The next enews will be 1 November and articles should please reach me as soon as possible, and by 28 October latest. For those who don't already have my email address please use this contact

form: <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact>

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

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 contact me if there's anything you want to say about enews. Use the contact form here: <https://nwkhfs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact>

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

<https://nwkhfs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact>

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