

Welcome to the North West Kent FHS June enews

Thank you for reading our enews.

If you are receiving this for the first time - welcome.

Please scroll down to see two requests for local knowledge help from researchers in Canada and Australia.

.....

Our amazing events programme has events planned throughout 2025. <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings>

And you have access to all this for just £10 a year (£12 joint members).

Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who arranged and hosted these events. The Zooms are especially welcomed by our members in other parts of the UK and abroad and those who find it harder to travel.

.....

Dartford Branch June Talk: My Ancestor the Arctic Explorer by Clare Walker

Saturday 7 June: Doors Open 9.45am Meeting starts 10.30am

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

Clare's great-great grandfather was one of the crew on the historic 1875 expedition to search for the North Pole, during which the ships were trapped for months in the ice.

Her talk features more than 70 slides, including the first photographs ever taken on a British expedition.

Doors open 9.45am. The meeting / talk will start at 10.30am and end by 12.30pm.

For more info see <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/dartford-branch-meetings/dartford-branch-talk-my-ancestor-the-arctic-explorer-by-clare-walker>

.....

Sevenoaks Branch June Talk: The Archbishop's Palace at Otford with Rob Shelton

Saturday 14 June Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am

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

This is the story of the Archbishop's Palace that once stood in Otford. It rivalled Hampton Court and was briefly home to Henry V111.

Today, just a tower remains. Yet through the detailed model of it when it was in its prime, we can visit the ghost of this one great Palace of Kent. Rod has written the detailed history of this heritage village and its famous palace.

For more info see <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/sevenoaks-branch-meetings/sevenoaks-branch-talk-the-archbishop-s-palace-at-otford-with-rod-shelton>

.....

June Zoom Talk

Thursday 12 June 7.30pm Genealogy in early British and Irish censuses 1086 - with Colin Chapman

Long before 1841 throughout the British Isles national and local governments, the Established and Non-conformist Churches, military authorities and individuals have been compiling lists of names of individuals for various purposes: to raise funds (by imposing taxes, duties and levies), design infrastructure projects, confirm loyalties, discover population numbers or simply for academic interest.

Many surviving lists offer not only names, but ages, addresses, occupations and birthplaces of individuals, ideal data for family historians.

In this profusely illustrated lecture Dr Chapman gives many examples of such lists that were compiled between 1086 and 1841, including several, often overlooked, censuses of 1801, 1811, 1821 and 1831.

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/workshops/upcoming-zoom-workshops/zoom-talk-genealogy-in-early-british-and-irish-censuses-1086-1841>

.....

Workshops, Special Interest and Discussion Groups - for Members Only

<https://www.nwkhfs.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 lasts until 31

December 2025. <https://www.nwkhfs.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://nwkhfs.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.

4 June 10.30am Zoom Discussion group with Ann Clarke: Goosebumps in my genealogy journey

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-with-ann-clarke-goosebumps-in-my-genealogy-journey>

11 June 10.30am Library DNA and General Family History Group with Pam Goddard

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/discussion-group/library-dna-general-family-history-discussion-group-with-pam-goddard-6>

11 June 7.30pm 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-lets-talk-family-history-with-david-cufley-4>

18 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-with-laura-lincoln-29>

25 June 7.30pm Zoom Workshop: Thinking Outside The Box with David Cufley

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-workshop/zoom-workshop-thinking-outside-the-box-with-david-cufley>

2 July 10.30am Zoom Discussion Group: Childhood Then and Now with Ann Clarke

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-with-ann-clarke-childhood-then-and-now>

Just look here for workshops and discussions groups further

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

Our Quarterly Journals

Members, keep an eye on your letterbox - the June edition of the Society Journal was posted several days ago! As always, it's packed with interesting stories and articles.

This issue features intriguing contributions from our members, including '*Travels With My Family History Research*', '*Passed Down the Generations*' and '*A Bromley Stray in Herefordshire*'.

Thanks to our website volunteers, the online Journal **index** has now been updated up to and including Vol 16 No 10 June 2024. ... and the updating is on-going. Just go

to <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/community/nwkhfs-quarterly-back-journals/about-our-quarterly-back-journals> and scroll down for the journal contents index.

Is there a story about your ancestors? It is an amazing index covering nearly 200 issues of the Journal: each issue contains 6 -12 articles. Written by members, this wealth of genealogical information is focused on people, families and places with a connection to southeast London and North West Kent. You can consult the complete archive of Journals both on-line and as paper volumes housed in the the Society Library.

Anyone can search for for key words (such as names and places); and logged in members can read the articles on line, any time, any day of the week! (Non-members can **search** for free but will need to join the Society (only £10 pa) to be able to read articles on line.)

And remember you can contribute to forthcoming Journals by writing to the Editor via the contact button on the Society website <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/contact> . Please start your message 'For the Journal Editor'.

Contributions welcome.

The Editor
.....

A request for local assistance - visit from an Australian family historian to explore Deptford in July

"I'm Australian and will be in Greenwich from Wednesday 23rd July to Sunday 27th July 2025.

I have arranged local hotel accommodation and during this time I will be exploring the Deptford area where my grandmother was born in 1883 and lived until she emigrated to Australia in 1914. My great grandparents were Thomas Jones and Esther Ann Keeys. They lived in the parish of St Nicholas, Deptford. I have quite a bit of information and a number of relevant addresses.

I would love to meet someone who knows the area and walk around Deptford with a local and discuss the history of the area. This will help me understand my grandmother's background.

Looking forward to a favourable response from your Family History Society.

By the way, I'm a member of our local Redlands Genealogical Society near Brisbane, Queensland.

Rosemary"

If you know the Deptford area well and are willing to share your time and knowledge with Rosemary please reply to this enews and I will gladly forward your email to her. Thank you. Stella
.....

A request for local knowledge from a Canadian researcher about the Quatuor Masonic Lodge in Tunbridge Wells and Martin O'Connor

I am writing a book about Martin O'Connor (d.1776).

In 1729, O'Connor helped found a Lodge of Freemasons of England at Tunbridge Wells (Songhurst, W.S. ed. The Minutes of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons of England 1723-1739. London: Quatuor Coronati Lodge No 2076, 1913. p.99).

I would like to learn more about this lodge. This also implies that O'Connor lived in Tunbridge Wells at least part of the year.

In 1732 O'Connor moved to France under a cloud of scandal. Are any of your members familiar with the O'Connors of Tunbridge Wells? Are any of your members familiar with a Freemason's Lodge in 1729 Tunbridge Wells?

I have come across at least one "O'Connor" in Tunbridge Wells in the 1720s-30s--and a prominent one! Maurice O'Connor, also known as Maurice Conyers, the Lord of the Manor of Rusthall.

I have not been able to establish a blood relationship with my Martin O'Connor. Their life stories have some parallels: both left Ireland to seek their fortune in England, and both return to Ireland after some successes.

In the case of Maurice, he was very successful and was able to reacquire some of the lands that had been confiscated from his Jacobite father, as well as buy an estate in county Roscommon (see the Dictionary of Irish Biography).

Maurice had a son named John O'Connor, who appeared to continue to live in Tunbridge Wells. Some information about the Conyers/O'Connors must appear in the court records of the Manor of Rusthall and perhaps in the Parish Register.

Yours

Dr. Richard VandeWetering, Politics, Univ of Western Ontario;"

I have Richard's consent to forward his email address to anyone who is able offer information. If you know anything about these topics please reply to this enews and I will gladly forward your email to him. Thank you. Stella

.....

Society Library – Wednesday Open Days

The Society Library is usually open every Wednesday for members to carry out their own research, enjoy a cuppa, socialise, and take part in workshops and discussion groups held at the library. Our team of volunteers is also on hand to offer help and guidance.

Members are welcome to use the library's PCs and WiFi to access both *Ancestry* and *FindMyPast*, which now include the 1921 census. We recommend joining **Kent Libraries**, as this allows you to access these websites on your own device while at the library—helping to reduce demand for the library's PCs.

Not yet a member? You're welcome to join the Society in person at the library on any Wednesday.

📍 **Address:** 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley, Kent DA5 2EE

🚗 **Parking:** Free in nearby side roads

🕒 **Opening hours:** 10am to 4pm

To assist our volunteers, we kindly ask that visitors with research queries aim to arrive earlier in the day if possible. Please bring along any existing information you have about the ancestor you're researching, and consider bringing a **USB memory stick** to save any discoveries you make during your visit.

Please note:

On **Wednesday 30 July**, the room that stores many of the Society's resources (including books, maps, and photos) will be **unavailable from 10am until approximately 1–2pm** due to a committee meeting.

Next Enews – Submissions Welcome

The next enews will be sent out on **1 July**. If you have any items you'd like included, please send them to me **as soon as possible**, and no later than **28 June**. Simply reply to this email to submit your content.

Going forward, the enews will be circulated **monthly at the beginning of each month**. I may occasionally send a mid-month update as a reminder about our upcoming Zoom talk, as some other societies do.

Click on our other links <https://www.nwKFHS.org.uk/community/news-journals/blog> [Facebook](#) [Flickr](#) <https://bsky.app/profile/nwKFHS.bsky.social>

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. Just reply to this 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

North West Kent Family History Society Registered Charity No 282627