

## September enews

Welcome to this month's edition of our enews. Regular recipients may notice that this issue is a little different than usual. Due to circumstances beyond our control, the Society's quarterly journal will be issued later than usual this September.

So this month's enews is serving a dual role—bringing you not only our regular monthly highlights, but also the AGM Notices and information you will also find in the journal in due course.

Thank you for reading our enews and if you are receiving this for the first time - welcome.

.....

**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 September Talk: Suicide and its Records with Kathy Chater**

**Saturday 6 September Doors Open 9.45am Meeting starts 10.30am**

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

Kathy has visited us before. She has been researching her family history for over 40 years. She worked as a researcher at the BBC and still advises on historical sources.

Many of us have a suicide in our family but for some the subject is taboo. However, it may explain the disappearance of an ancestor.

Kathy will explain how attitudes have changed over the centuries and where you can find the records.

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

The Talk 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.

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/dartford-branch-meetings/dartford-branch-talk-suicide-and-its-records-by-kathy-chater>

**Future Dartford Meetings:**

**4 October** *The History of Oxleas Woods* with Tom Wareham

**1 November** AGM and Family History Day. [See further down this enews for the day's Agenda, Programme and Speakers.](#)

**6 December** *Cribs, Cards and Christingles* with Mark Lewis

.....

## **Sevenoaks Branch September Talk: They Dared to be Doctors: the story of women who struggled to survive in a man's world with Toni Mount**

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

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

The fascinating story of the first Victorian ladies to succeed in a man's world.

When Bristol born Elizabeth Blackwell decided she wanted to be a doctor, the universities in her adopted USA didn't want to know and in England Elizabeth Garrett faced a similar struggle. Despite endless rejection they went on to pioneer women's careers in the medical profession.

Toni is very well known to us, researches her talks impeccably, and knows her subject. She has very kindly stepped in the cover Peter Daniels at short notice who could not make this scheduled talk. Do not worry, he will give his talk on A History of Crayford's Famous Textile Printers in July of next year!

There is a large public car park (payment required, 50p for 2 hours, £1 for 3 hours) adjacent to the hall but it can be busy.

No booking, just turn up.

### **Car Drivers please read this**

<https://www.sgn.co.uk/our-gas-works/major-planned-projects/otford-a225-sevenoaks-road>

**There will be major road works between Otford Station and Otford Pond. The latest news is that it will not be completed until 14 September.** I am told that those who come from the Dartford Area would be best placed to go to Shoreham and turn left which would bring one to the other side of Otford.

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/sevenoaks-branch-meetings/sevenoaks-branch-talk-tba-with-toni-mount>

### **Future Sevenoaks Meetings**

**11 October** A Spy for Love with Melanie Gibson-Barton (this talk will be preceded by the Branch Annual Meeting)

**8 November** The life of Helen Thomas and Otford in the 1920s with Alan Williams

**13 December** Christmas in the Middle Ages with Toni Mount

.....

## **September's Zoom Talk: Posted in the Past with speaker Helen Baggott**

**Thursday 11 September 7.30pm**

Based on the books *Posted in the Past* and *Posted in the Past – Second Delivery*, this illustrated talk reveals the true stories behind postcards sent in the early years of the 20th century.

Using genealogy, Helen has researched the families to reveal their stories. Illustrated by images of some of the postcards, this talk shares some of those stories.

A 10-year-old servant working for a laundress in 19th-century Bath; the man who helped keep the doors to Great Ormond Street Hospital open for more than 30 years; a soldier killed in the First World War – all connected by messages sent using the first real social media phenomenon of the 20th century.

Helen Baggott is an editor, speaker and writer from Dorset. Her most recent project is researching the stories behind postcards sent more than 100 years ago. So far, three collections have been published

as *Posted in the Past*; *Posted in the Past – Second Delivery*, and *Posted in the Past – Hands Across the Sea*.

She has written for regional magazines and national magazines including *Who Do You Think You Are?*; *Discover Your Ancestors*; *Picture Postcard Monthly*; *This England*, and *The Card Scene*, and has also contributed to *Family Tree Magazine*'s blog. Through her work she has been recognised by national newspapers as both a Postcard and Heirloom Detective.

Helen has been a speaker at a number of online genealogy shows and a guest speaker for the Society of Genealogists. Her talk on post cards opens aspects of family history not often considered, and helps develop new ideas for researching your family.

She is a member of the Alliance of Independent Authors and the Society of Authors.

Please log in from 7.15pm and enjoy chat with the other participants before the talk starts.

This talk will be recorded.

### **To Get the Zoom Link**

Any society member who would like to receive the Zoom link for this talk needs to submit their name, email address and membership number via <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/contact> stating "Please send me the Zoom Workshop links". Then you will automatically be emailed monthly with the Zoom links for all the Zoom events during that month. You can then attend any Zoom event that you wish to without any booking.

**All Zoom Talks, Workshops and Discussion Groups are members-only events.**

**But Society membership only costs £10 a year (£12 joint members).** <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/about/membership/our-membership/#options>

### **Future Zoom Talks**

**9 October Getting the most out of [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) with speaker Darris Williams**

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-talks/zoom-talk-getting-the-most-out-of-familysearch-org-with-speaker-darris-williams>

**13 November Artificial Intelligence and Family History with speaker Andrew Redfern**

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-talks/zoom-talk-artificial-intelligence-and-family-history-with-speaker-andrew-redfern>

**11 December Unlocking Your DNA with speaker Donna Rutherford**

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-talks/zoom-talk-unlocking-your-dna-with-speaker-donna-rutherford>

### **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.**

**3 September 10.30am Zoom Discussion Group : Do you have bonds to particular ancestors? Do you have favourites? with Ann Clarke**

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-with-ann-clarke-do-you-have-bonds-do-you-have-favourites>

**3 September 10.30am Library Writing Group**

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/future-workshops/library-writing-group-with-pauline-heathcote-10>

**10 September 10.30am Library DNA and General Family History Discussion Group with Pam Goddard**

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

**17 September 10.30am Zoom DNA Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln**

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

**20 September 10am to 1pm Drop-In at Bexley Central Library**

### **Free Drop-In Family History Session**

Join volunteers from the **North West Kent Family History Society** at the **Bexley Local Studies and Archive Centre**.

Whether you're just beginning your family history journey, looking for fresh ideas after years of research, or somewhere in between—you'll be warmly welcomed.

Our volunteers can help with:

- Tracing ancestors in the North West Kent area (using our unique records)
- DNA testing for genealogy
- Sign up for our free monthly newsletter about our events and other genealogy news

No need to book—simply drop in and chat with us about any aspect of family history and how to track down records.

📍 **Venue:** Bexley Local Studies and Archive Centre (First floor, Central Library, Townley Road, Bexleyheath, DA6 7HJ)

### **24 September 7.30am Zoom Workshop: Parish Chest with David Cufley**

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

**Here's what Dee Johnson had to say about the Anne Clarke's Zoom Discussion Group on 6 August which discussed *More Heroes and villains – have you found them in your family?***

"Thanks for a lovely zoom discussion yesterday. Wide ranging and thought provoking.

I was only there for the last half and we covered:-

- checking places (is it really Christchurch in England or was it Christchurch in New Zealand?);
- do you try to get other people on Ancestry to change the inaccuracies they have on their tree about your grandparent;
- various views on some controversial matters regarding how our country's history is being erased or manipulated (Clive of India and the Maskelyne connection);
- the history, art and architecture of Bluewater;
- family history diverging from a place,
- how interesting it would be for 2 family historians to show how they traced back to that place; and
- whether local history has a place in family history - amongst others.

If you don't join us regularly, you are missing out on a chance to hear about aspects of history you might not ordinarily research, or you haven't got to yet, and learn new things, all wrapped up in a good old friendly natter! We are all life long learners. It's what keeps life interesting!"

All Zoom talks, workshops and discussion groups are free for Society members - and membership is only £10 until 31 December each year. If you are already a Society member and wish to be sent the Zoom codes each month please contact Laura Lincoln via <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/contact> using Workshops/Zoom Register from the drop down topic menu.

Non members please join us, click here <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/about/membership/our-membership> and scroll down.

.....

## 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:

Advance Warning: **Wednesday 24 September**, 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.

.....

**Our AGM and Family History Day is scheduled for 1st November 2025 at the Dartford Branch venue.** To help the organisers plan for the correct number of attendees, please confirm your attendance by booking as soon as possible using the form in the June Journal.

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/family-history-day-agm/annual-general-meeting>

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/agm>

**Notice is hereby given that the 47th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the  
NORTH WEST KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY  
will be held at  
DARTFORD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE,  
Heath Lane, Dartford, Kent DA1 2LY  
ON SATURDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2025 at 10:30  
DRAFT Agenda**

1. Notice convening the Meeting
2. Apologies for absence

3. The 2024 General Meeting Voting Report\* (copy now available on our web site, members will need to log in to see it <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/agm>)
4. Matters arising from the Voting Report of the 2024 AGM
5. Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024
6. Report of the Committee for 2024 (circulated with the June 2025 Journal)
7. Honorary Members
8. Motions to be Approved
9. President and Vice Presidents
10. Election of Chair
11. Election of Vice Chair
12. Election of Secretary
13. Election of Treasurer
14. Election of other Committee Members
15. Election of Independent Examiner
16. Any other business

\*NB. A copy of the 2024 AGM Voting Report may also be obtained by members from the Secretary by sending an sae or by email request.

Visitors are welcome to observe the AGM, but only members may speak or vote.

.....

There is a large car park and also on street parking.

There is easy access to the main hall and toilet which are situated on the ground floor. A lift is available to the lower ground floor where there are additional toilets.

### **PROGRAMME FOR THE AGM DAY**

09.45 Registration, time for tea/coffee, buying raffle tickets

10.15 Welcome

**10.30 AGM (separate Agenda available on the day)**

11.15 Comfort Break, time for buying raffle tickets if you have not already done so.

**11.30 Ian Waller on 'Sold, Separated & Divorced'**

Our morning speaker, Ian Waller, is a retired professional genealogist and highly respected teacher of family history. He is a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists and has written several books in their "My Ancestor" series. Most of our ancestors were married only once, until death, but we all have discovered individuals whose lives did not fit that pattern. At a time when relationships outside marriage were unacceptable, what did they do when their marriages



broke down and divorce was not an option? Ian will explain that there are records recording desertion, wife sales, separation and even divorce which needed an Act of Parliament.

12.30 Comfort break & time to look at books etc. while hall is set up for lunch. Look at the board to see if your raffle ticket has been drawn!

1.00pm Buffet Lunch in the Hall or eat your own lunch

2.15pm David Annal on '*Lying Bastards*': Exploring the impact of illegitimacy on family history research. David Annal an experienced lecturer and author who has been involved in family history for over 40 years and was the principal family history specialist at The National Archives. He is a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists and now runs his own research business and has a YouTube channel. David will examine the social stigma that has been associated with illegitimacy until fairly recently and reveal how these unfortunate children and their parents went about concealing it in official documents; or, just being economical with the truth, forcing us to take their information with a pinch of salt.

3.30pm End of AGM day

### **Next Enews – Submissions Welcome**

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

Or contact me via <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/contact>

You may have heard of new genealogy information which would interest readers or have a question which one of our readers can answer. There are 935 of you!

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 an upcoming Zoom talk, as some other societies do.

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