

## North West Kent FHS April 2026 enews

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/>

A warm welcome to everyone who has recently signed up to this e-news.

Please scroll down for our online and in person events in March.

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<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/about/membership/our-membership>

Did you know you can join the North West Kent Family History Society for as little as £10 a year? Membership offers a wide range of benefits, including online and in-person talks and meetings, a quarterly journal, access to the Society library on Wednesdays and the society's databases of members' interests.

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Take a look at our website to see our extensive programme of events - dozens of in-person and Zoom talks, discussion groups, and workshops running through to the end of 2026. <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings>

### **Getting to know Your Military Ancestors from the 1850s to the 1920s with speaker Graham Bandy**

#### **Zoom Talk: 9 April 7.30pm**

Graham will show you how to use your military family photos and memorabilia to enhance your family tree. You will learn how subtle changes in uniform, badges and other insignia help to date a photo and identify regiment or unit.

Graham spent his childhood listening to, and pestering, his relations and great uncles who were in WW1 for stories and memorabilia. He collected a mass of cap badges and other items (since added to by other military artifacts, particularly relating to army nursing and medicine) which formed the basis of his extensive collection of which he is this generation's custodian.

He served with the 2nd Bn the Royal Anglian Regiment in Northern Ireland, Germany, Europe, the US, and also with the United Nations before becoming a Registered Nurse.

Returning to the military in 1999, Graham was commissioned as a Captain in Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, where he served through the tail end of the Balkans conflict, the 2nd Gulf War, and Afghanistan.

His interest in military genealogy never wavered and he began to advise military and family history societies. Most notably he appeared on WDYT YA, and was a photographic expert for WDYT YA Live, and Family Tree Live.

A classically trained musician, Graham now spends his time writing books for Pen and Sword, appearing monthly in Family Tree Magazine, lecturing for the Society of Genealogists, The Genealogist, and family history societies.

Graham always says that his overcoat buttons up over many waistcoats, and the above is but a peek into his varied life!

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

Please ensure you use your real name when joining our Zoom events. Participants appearing as 'Zoom User' or similar will not be admitted, as this helps us prevent scammers from joining.

This talk will be recorded and in the Members Only Area for three months and there will be a handout.

## **To Get the Zoom Link**

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-talks/zoom-talk-military-talk-dating-photographs-with-graham-bandy>

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## **Dartford Branch Talk 4 April Dartford Rural Rides, Part 2, West Kingsdown to Southfleet with Christoph Bull**

**Doors open 9.45am meeting starts at 10.30am**

Christoph was a librarian by profession and is a local guide and speaker who has entertained us many times with his light-hearted but informative talks on North West Kent.

This is the second of two new talks about the villages surrounding Dartford and hopefully it will inspire you to explore the area from West Kingsdown to Southfleet this summer.

The 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-dartford-rural-rides-part-2-west-kingsdown-to-southfleet-with-christoph-bull>

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## **Sevenoaks Branch Talk 11 April Dr Geoff Doyle on Outside the Law:**

**Kent Poachers, Smugglers and Highwaymen**

**Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am**

An exploration of the anti-heroes in Kent traditional culture, such as outlaws, smugglers, poachers and highwaymen in historical accounts, legends. and folksongs.

Dr Doel has a PhD on Thomas Hardy, is an Honorary Life Member of The University of Kent and lectures for University of Canterbury Christ Church, WI and U3A. He is an Honorary Life Member of the Marlowe Society and the Thomas Hardy Society and is co-author with his wife Fran of 16 books; his several TV appearances include Time Team.

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.

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/sevenoaks-branch-meetings/sevenoaks-branch-talk-dr-geoff-doel-on-outside-the-law-kent-poachers-smugglers-highwaymen>

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## **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.

It's great to have our own members leading so many Zooms. We are a friendly group so if you fancy joining us, please do. I think we all learn a lot from our discussions. As usual, just turn up when you can.

There's no need to book but you do need to register (only once) to receive the zoom codes.

**Membership of our Society is only £10 a year and lasts until 31**

**December 2026.** <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.

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**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.**

### **April Workshops and Discussion Groups**

1 April 10.30am Zoom Discussion Group with Ann Clarke: Names which made you wonder what inspired the parents to burden their children with such choices

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-names-that-made-you-wonder-what-inspired-the-parents-to-burden-their-children-with-such-choices-with-ann-clarke>

8 April 10.30am Library DNA & General Family History Discussion Group with Pam Goddard

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/discussion-group/library-dna-and-general-family-history-discussion-group-with-pam-goddard-4>

8 April 7.30pm Zoom Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln: Let's Talk Family History

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

15 April 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-35>

22 April 7.30pm Zoom Talk with David Cufley: Parkwood Hall, Swanley  
History of a manor house which was a WW1 convalescent home, now a school.

<https://ezitis.myzen.co.uk/parkwood.html>

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-talks/zoom-talk-parkwood-hall-swanley-with-david-cufley>

29 April 10.30am Zoom Scottish Interests Discussion Group with Pam Goddard

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-scottish-interests-discussion-group-with-pam-goddard-3>

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**Notice of the NWKFHS 48th AGM 2026**

The 48th 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 4TH JULY 2026 at 10:30

Online and postal voting will be available for those members who are unable to attend in person.

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**Society Library – Wednesday Open Days 10am - 4pm**

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.

**Advance Notice** on 3 June a Trustees Meeting will be held in the room where all our books and some maps are stored. So unfortunately the room will not be accessible until the meeting ends, probably about 1pm/1.30pm. The main library and computers are in the main library room and will still be available.

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**The 1926 Irish Census Will Be Available from 18 April at the National Archives of  
Ireland website**

It will be indexed and searchable, with images.

<https://nationalarchives.ie/>

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**Member Graham Jansen writes:** Meopham Windmill will soon be opening for the Summer Season 1.30pm - 4.30pm on Sunday afternoons (entry is free). It is now included in the 'The Wheels of Time (Kent)', a Registered Charity, Patron: The Lady (Annabel) Colgrain, the Lord Lieutenant of Kent.

Visit <https://kent.wheelsofetime.uk/> We also have an Easter Bunny Hunt Sunday 5th and Monday 6th April 2026 1:30pm - 4:30pm (£5 per child).

**Meopham Windmill** <https://meophamwindmill.org.uk/>



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

The next enews will be sent out on **1 May**. If you have any items you'd like included, please send them to me **as soon as possible**, and no later than 27 April. Simply reply to this email to submit your content.

Going forward, the enews is 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.

There is no need to reply this email unless you have noticed an error.

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

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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 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

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