

Welcome to the North West Kent FHS August enews

Thank you for reading our enews.

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

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Requesting Members to Amend their Membership Standing Orders

This has been mentioned previously, but I do get that if something isn't addressed immediately, it can easily be missed. So here's a friendly reminder to any Society members who have overlooked it, that will be a great help to our volunteer Treasurer and Membership Secretary

For many years, the North West Kent Family History Society has been using its Santander Bank account as the recipient of annual membership fees paid by bank standing order.

However, there are some operating issues with that account which make it difficult to run the Society on a day-to-day basis. This can be resolved by having membership fees paid into the Society's Barclays Bank account instead.

Therefore, the Society is now requesting that **all members who pay by bank standing order**, should please amend their Standing Order Payee Bank Account details to the following:

Name: North West Kent Family History Society

Sort Code: 20-57-76

Account Number: 23339416

This change is to take effect from your renewal in January 2026.

If you have to create a new standing order (rather than amend the existing one), please do not forget to cancel the existing standing order to the Santander account.

The Society Trustees thank you for your help with this change.

Note from Stella Eames (enews Editor): I did this via internet banking which I suspect a lot of UK members use. I am with Lloyds and I had to cancel my existing standing order and set up a new one.

Renewal standing orders are due on 1 January. If by chance yours has been set up for a later date please at the same time amend it to 1 January from Jan 2026 as this will greatly help our Membership Secretary.

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Our amazing events programme has events planned throughout

2025. <https://www.nwkfhs.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.

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Dartford Branch August Talk: Islands of the Medway Estuary with Adam Taylor

Saturday 2 August: Doors Open 9.45am Meeting starts 10.30am

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

Adam is a keen canoeist and has explored the islands and salt marshes of the Medway estuary, a huge and beautiful wilderness.

In this illustrated talk Adam draws on a variety of historical sources to bring to life the people who lived on these islands and unlock the secret of how the twin forts of Hoo and Darnet were built and explain the stories of the pub on an island and of the infamous Deadman's Island amongst others.

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/dartford-branch-meetings/dartford-branch-talk-islands-of-the-medway-estuary-by-adam-taylor>

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Sevenoaks Branch August Talk: The Fabulous 50s. Do You Remember? with Delia Taylor

Saturday 9 August Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am

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

A fun look back at the decade of the 1950s.

We take a look at how we lived during this period in the UK, including the fashions, wireless, television, films and of course the music - the birth of Rock & Roll, which gave us stars such as Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly and Bill Haley.

About the speaker:

Delia is very well known to us as an entertaining and informative speaker. She has been an experienced speaker for over 15 years and has spoken to a wide range of organisations. All her talks are PowerPoint presentations with video, music and up to 65 slides. They are very well researched.

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 road will be totally closed from 21 July for 5-6 weeks which means the Sevenoaks August 9th meeting will be affected, depending on which way one comes into Otford. I am told that those who come from the Dartford Area would be best placed to go to Shoreham, turn left which would bring one to the other side of Otford.

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/sevenoaks-branch-meetings/sevenoaks-branch-talk-the-fabulous-50s-do-you-remember-with-delia-taylor>

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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.

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.

6 August 10.30am Zoom Discussion Group: More Heroes and Villains, have you found them in your family? with Ann Clarke

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-with-ann-clarke-more-heroes-and-villains-have-you-found-them-in-your-family>

13 August 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-general-family-history-discussion-group-with-pam-goddard-7>

13 August 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-let-s-talk-family-history-with-david-cufley>

20 August 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-31>

27 August 7.30pm Zoom Discussion 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-brick-walls-with-david-cufley-4>

Just look here for workshops and discussions groups further

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

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Members' Interests: <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/resources/members-interests/surnames-interests>

By submitting the surnames you're researching, you can connect with fellow members exploring the same family lines. This is especially helpful when investigating rare surnames or when you've hit a "brick wall" in your genealogical research.

Sharing your research interests can open up valuable opportunities—such as discovering new information, previously unknown relatives, old family photographs, and historical records. These connections can significantly enrich your family history research and lead you down new paths of discovery.

Members are encouraged to log in and explore the Surname, Place, and Subject Interests pages, all available under the *Resources* menu on our website.

If you need to update an existing entry or would like to submit a new one, please use the contact form at <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/contact> and include "Members Interests" as the first line of your message. This greatly helps our volunteer team to handle your request efficiently and forward it to the appropriate person.

If you're updating or adding to a previous submission, please make this clear to avoid duplicating entries. Not sure whether a surname is already listed? Please check before submitting.

If you ask us to include your interests, you are consenting to have your name and email address visible in the Members Only Area of the website. If your membership lapses the interest details will in due course be removed.

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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.

..... Meopham Windmill South Street, Meopham Green, DA13 0QA

Member Graham Jansen writes:

"Members might be interested in knowing Meopham windmill is now open to the public every Sunday afternoon 1-4pm until late September. Entry is free but donations are gratefully received and souvenirs are available to purchase.

There is no parking available at the windmill but visitors can either park around the cricket green and cross the road; or if they choose to park in The Cricketers they need to ensure they register their car inside the pub first.

Meopham windmill was built in 1819. Lots of history to research, which I am currently working on. "

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/history-and-heritage/kent-windmills/meopham-windmill>

(but ignore statement that windmill is closed).

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Robert CHURCHWARD Papers

Graham Jansen writes: A large A3 ring binder containing a comprehensive history of Robert **Churchward**, born about 1807, who died in Bromley in 1887, has recently been donated to the Society.

There are Dartford, Woolwich and Orpington connections.

The collection includes photographs, a family tree - which shows the Churchwards originated from Buckfastleigh in Devon, BMD certificates, a Will and various other papers, much of it relating to Churchward's grandson, **Daniel**

MCDOWELL who died at Orpington in 1949, and his descendants.

Note: If you wish to know more please reply to this enews and I will forward your message to Graham so that he has your reply plus email address and you can correspond direct..

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Ancestors in Cambridgeshire?

Reader Alice Richardson thought some readers with ancestors in Cambridgeshire might be interested in this <https://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/news/history/millions-historic-cambridgeshire-records-released-32070871>

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Peter COCKER asks:

I would be pleased to hear from anybody in your organisation who has an interest in the **Cocker** family or associated families, as I am collating a family history and any information they can provide would be greatly appreciated.

I should therefore be most grateful if you would kindly mention this to all your members at any appropriate moment.

I am always happy to correspond with relatives however distant in a mutual understanding of the family history and how we have spread ourselves within Britain and across the globe.

With kind regards

Peter Cocker

Note: If you wish to respond to Peter please reply to this enews and I will forward your message so that he has your reply plus email address and you can correspond direct.

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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.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/family-history-day-agm/annual-general-meeting>

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Next Enews – Submissions Welcome

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

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.

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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>

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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