



12<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2025

ISSUE NUMBER 116



# Sevenoaks Newsletter

THE NORTH WEST KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, SEVENOAKS, KENT  
[www.nwkhfs.org.uk](http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk)

## Welcome to NWKFHS Sevenoaks Branch

Our meetings are held at Otford Memorial Hall, 28A High Street, Otford, TN14 5PQ.

**Doors open at 10:45 am, meeting starts at 11am - Nominal parking fee.**

**We welcome visitors and new members, and we aspire to offer all the helpful advice that you might need.**

**If you are a guest we appreciate a donation to the society's funds.**

**We hope you enjoy your visit.**

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**Sanitiser and masks available and chairs placed at a friendly distance for those concerned about Covid.**  
**We are pleased to inform you that we now have a hearing system at this event to enhance the audio experience for attendees who may need it.**

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## TODAYS TALK : The Tidal Thames: It's Folklore & Traditions

This is an interactive exploration of 'Six Degrees of Separation' - an interactive experiment to find family history links between members and to verify if the 'six degrees of separation' has any relationship to Family History Research.

It will explore the connections members have to each other and how they may be related by genes, place or event. The Laboratory may stimulate members' research and breakdown those brick walls to that elusive ancestor. Serendipity and Kismet are important research tools of family historians and are little used and explored, this laboratory will try to highlight their use.

Please can you refresh your memories of your families especially in regard their research surnames, places of birth and residence and occupations.

**Speaker : David Cufley**

## NEXT SEVENOAKS BRANCH MEETING

### **10th May 2025: The History of TB (Tuberculosis)**

In 1818 the poet John Keats coughed up blood, and stated "*It is my death warrant*".

Come and hear how tuberculosis, sometimes called "*The White Death*", became more prevalent in the 19th Century and remained one of the major infectious killers in to the 20th century.

Charles Shee, a retired chest physician, will be talking about the impact of the disease on individuals and society, including the rise of the sanatorium movement, how treatments were discovered, and does tuberculosis still pose a threat?

**Speaker : Dr Charles Shee**

## DARTFORD BRANCH MEETING

### **7<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025: My Ancestor, the Arctic Explorer**

Clare began her career as a journalist, went into publishing, and then qualified as a pilot aged 50, excelling at each challenge. Since retiring she has co-founded the Dockland Sinfonia.

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.

**Speaker : Clare Walker**

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## Bring Your Own Mug



Let's make our meetings a little eco-friendly! Please where possible BYOM to help us to save a little cost, reduce waste and make a positive impact on the environment. If this is difficult or you forget don't worry, we do have a small supply of mugs to ensure you can enjoy a drink. We thank you for your cooperation.

## UP AND COMING LIBRARY WORKSHOPS

DNA & General Family History Discussion Group with Pam Goddard 14-05-2025 10:30 am

## ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUPS

Zoom DNA Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln 16-04-2025 10:30 am

Zoom Talk: Hextable Manor House with David Cufley 23-04-2025 7:30 pm

Zoom Workshop: Scottish Interest Discussion Group with Pam Goddard 30-04-2025 10:30 am

Zoom Discussion Group: Desertions from marriages or the services with Ann Clarke 07-05-2025 10:30 am

Zoom Talk: Using a Research Methodology for Family History with Phil Isherwood 08-05-2025 7:30 pm

**Please log in 15 minutes before each online event and enjoy chatting amongst participants before it starts.**

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**How to get the Zoom Link - Booking is no longer required for individual Zoom Workshops and Discussion Groups.**

A Zoom Register has been created to cover all attendance to any of the zoom groups. Any society member who would like to be added to the register needs to submit their name, email address and membership number to [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk). You only need to register once. Once a month the zoom links for the discussion groups and workshops will be sent by email to those members on the register. Members who have registered can then attend as many of the Zoom groups as they wish with no need to make a specific booking for each one.

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

Workshop leaders freely give their time, but a donation via the web shop is appreciated:

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services/society-donation>

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Participating in a North West Kent Family History workshop or discussion offers numerous benefits. It provides valuable skills for research, enhances your understanding of historical contexts, and fosters a sense of connection with your ancestry. We warmly welcome both familiar faces and new friends.

***Calling all volunteers with fresh ideas! If you have a new topic of interest you'd like to see covered in our workshops, or you wish to be involved with our workshops, we want to hear from you.***

Contact us through bookings and enquiries by e-mail [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk)

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## An Invitation from the Editor

As a member of our esteemed Family History Society, we invite you to contribute to our upcoming journals in the next few months. At NWKFHS, we value the rich tapestry of family narratives and historical insights that our members bring to the table. Your unique perspective and expertise would undoubtedly enrich our journal.

Whether you have a captivating family story, compelling research, or an enlightening exploration of historical records, we warmly welcome your submissions. This is a terrific opportunity to share your knowledge and passion with fellow members. If you are interested in contributing, please feel free to reach out to us with your proposed topic or submission. Our editor Pauline will be delighted to hear from you and will respond to every proposal. Please email [theeditor@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:theeditor@nwkfhs.org.uk) – word files or simply text in the body of an email is fine. We look forward to hearing from you.

## ON THIS DAY

### April 12 is the 102nd day of the year

627 – King Edwin of Northumbria is converted to Christianity by Paulinus, bishop of York.

1606 – The Union Flag is adopted as the flag of English and Scottish ships.

1831 – Soldiers marching on the Broughton Suspension Bridge in Manchester, England, cause it to collapse.

1937 – Sir Frank Whittle ground-tests the first jet engine designed to power an aircraft, at Rugby, England.

1961 – Space Race: The Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin becomes the first human to travel into outer space and perform the first crewed orbital flight, Vostok 1.

1981 – The first launch of a Space Shuttle (*Columbia*) takes place: The STS-1 mission.

### Births

1792 – John Lambton, 1st Earl of Durham, English soldier and politician, Lord Privy Seal (d. 1840)

1851 – Edward Walter Maunder, English astronomer and author (d. 1928)

1888 – Cecil Kimber, English automobile engineer (d. 1945)

1925 – Oliver Postgate, English animator, puppeteer, and screenwriter (d. 2008)

1930 – Bryan Magee, English philosopher and politician (d. 2019)

1941 – Bobby Moore, English footballer and manager (d. 1993)<sup>[65]</sup>

1942 – Bill Bryden, Scottish actor, director, and screenwriter (d. 2022)

## OLD OCCUPATIONS

**HACK** A person who hires himself out for any sort of literary work

**HAND FLOWERER** Ladies living mainly in rural locations who embroidered flowers or similar designs on muslin or cambric

**HANDLE STICKER** Put handles on cast ceramic cups, pitchers, etc

**HANGER-ON** or **HOOKER-ON** or **ONSETTER** Mining industry. Hung corves (originally baskets) on rope at the pit-bottom

**HANKYMAN** A travelling magician in Victorian/Edwardian England

**HECK MAKER** A maker of a part of a spinning machine by which the yarn is guided to the reels

**HELLIER** or **HILLIER** or **HILLARD** A roofer; a tiler or slater.

**HIGGLER** A person who haggles or bargains or an itinerant dealer, similar to a cadger

**HOGGARD** Pig drover

**HOOKER** A worker that hooks or uses hooks e.g. In woolen, cotton industry

**HORSE LEECH** Veterinarian, farrier

**HOWDY** or **HOWDIE** A midwife (chiefly used in Scotland)

**HUSH SHOP KEEPER** Person who brewed and sold beer without a license

## KENT PLACE NAMES

**Capel le Ferne** indicates a chapel in a ferny place.

**Chart** takes its name from the Old English cert, meaning rough ground.

**Chevening** may indicate a settlement of 'the dwellers at the ridge',

**Chipstead** is a distortion of the Old English ceap-stede, literally a 'market-place'.

**Cobham** traces its name back to an Old English personal name, Cobba, in this case describing his ham, or homestead.

**Cowden** is literally a denn or pasture for cows, from the Old English cu 'cow'

**Cranbrook** meaning a 'brook frequented by cranes or herons'.

**Crundale** An Old English crundel was a chalk-pit or quarry,

**Cuxton** The X in Cuxton has slightly disguised its etymology, which would suggest a meaning along the lines of 'Cucola's stone'.

## **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.

### **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.

### **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 via <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact> marked for the attention of the Society Secretary.

### **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. The library address is 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley Kent DA5 2EE Free parking in nearby side roads.

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.

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.

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**The Sevenoaks Committee: Branch Chair – Vacant**

**Members: Barbara Phillips, Norma Holmden, Bernie Wilkins, Sandra Marchant, Barbara Attwaters, Maureen Berry, Jon Henderson, Janet Rose, Christine Hills**