



12<sup>th</sup> July 2025

ISSUE NUMBER 119



# 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 : Fort Amherst and the Napoleonic Wars

The history of the Napoleonic wars. The name, "Napoleon", was enough to strike terror in the hearts of children and adults alike in Britain in the nineteenth century. Find out why.

Our speaker will be an Officer from Fort Amherst Heritage Trust

## NEXT SEVENOAKS BRANCH MEETING

**9<sup>th</sup> August 2025:** The Fabulous 50s. Do You Remember?

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.

**Speaker :** Delia Taylor

## DARTFORD BRANCH MEETING

**2<sup>nd</sup> August 2025 :** Islands of the Medway Estuary

Adam Taylor 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.

**Speaker :** Adam Taylor

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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

Library DNA and General Family History Discussion Group with Pam Goddard 13-08-2025 10:30 am

### ZOOM GROUPS

Zoom DNA Discussion group with Laura Lincoln 16-07-2025 10:30 am

Zoom Workshop: Newspapers with David Cufley 23-07-2025 7:30 pm

Zoom Scottish Interests Discussion Group with Pam Goddard: Occupation Records 30-07-2025 10:30 am

Zoom Discussion Group : More Heroes and villains – have you found them in your family? with Ann Clarke  
06-08-2025 10:30 am

**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 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

**July 12** is the 193rd day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 172 days remain until the end of the year.

927 – King Constantine II of Scotland, King Hywel Dda of Deheubarth, Ealdred of Bamburgh and King Owain of the Cumbrians accepted the overlordship of King Æthelstan of England, leading to seven years of peace in the north.

1543 – King Henry VIII of England marries his sixth and last wife, Catherine Parr, at Hampton Court Palace.<sup>[5]</sup>

1691 – Battle of Aughrim (Julian calendar): The decisive victory of William III of England's forces in Ireland.<sup>[8]</sup>

1776 – Captain James Cook begins his third voyage.

1801 – British ships inflict heavy damage on Spanish and French ships in the Second Battle of Algeciras.

1963 – Pauline Reade, 16, disappears in Gorton, England, the first victim in the Moors murders.

### Births

1730 – Josiah Wedgwood, English potter, founded the Wedgwood Company (died 1795)

## OLD OCCUPATIONS

KEDGER Fisherman

KEEKER or WEIGHMAN A colliery official who checked quantity and quality of coal output

KEELER or KEELMAN Bargeman (from keel, a flat bottomed boat)

KEMPSTER Wool comber

KIDDER Skinner or dealer in young goats

KILNER Limeburner, in charge of a kiln

KISSER A person who made cuishes and high armour

KNACKER A harness maker, buyer of old horses and dead animals. 'Knacker's Yard'

KNAPPERS A person who dressed and shaped flints into required shape and size

KNOCKER-UPPER Person paid to wake up northern mill and factory workers on early shifts

KNOLLER Toller of bells

## KENT PLACE NAMES

**Farningham** The origins of Farningham are not entirely clear. One possibility is that it came from the Old English fearn 'fern', -ingas 'dwellers' and ham 'homestead, village'.. The town first appeared as Ferningeham in the Domesday Book.

**Faversham** Old English probably included a word fæfer which was used for a 'smith'. It first appears in 811 as Fefresham.

**Fawkham Green** The Green of Fawkham Green is a later addition, but the first word goes back as far as the tenth century, where it appears as Fealcnaham.

**Finglesham** is clearly an Old English ham, a village or homestead. It was first recorded in 832 as Thenglesham. By the time of the Domesday Book it appeared as Flengvessam.

**Folkestone** was first recorded as far back as the late seventh century in the guise of Folcanstan.

**Fordwich** seems to have started life as a 'trading settlement at the ford'. It first appears as long ago as 675 as Fordeuuicum.

**Frindsbury** takes its name from an association with a man called something like Freond. Its first recorded spelling of Freondesberiam, back in 764.

**Frinted** is literally a 'place of protection'. First seen on record in the Domesday Book as Fredenestede.

**Frittenden** is an Old English denn or 'woodland pasture', It first appeared in the ninth century as Friththingden.

## 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.nwkhfs.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.nwkhfs.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**