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ISSUE NUMBER 120



Sevenoaks Newsletter

THE NORTH WEST KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, SEVENOAKS, KENT
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.

*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.*

TODAYS TALK : 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

NEXT SEVENOAKS BRANCH MEETING

13th September 2025: They dared to be Doctors: The story of women who struggled to survive in a man's world

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.

Speaker : Toni Mount

DARTFORD BRANCH MEETING

6th September 2025 : Suicide and its Records

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.

Speaker : Kathy Chater

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 Writing Group with Pauline Heathcote	03-09-2025 10:30 am
Library DNA and General Family History Discussion Group	10-09-2025 10:30 am

ZOOM GROUPS

Zoom Discussion Group: Let's talk Family History with David Cufley	13-08-2025 2:30 pm
Zoom DNA Discussion group with Laura Lincoln	20-08-2025 10:30 am
Zoom Discussion Workshop: Breaking down ancestral brick walls with David Cufley	27-08-2025 7:30 pm
Zoom Discussion Group : Do you have bonds to particular ancestors? Do you have favourites? with Ann Clarke	03-09-2025 10:30 am
Zoom Talk: Posted in the Past with speaker Helen Baggott	11-09-2025 7:30 pm
Zoom DNA Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln	17-09-2025 10:30 am

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

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. 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>

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

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 – word files or simply text in the body of an email is fine. We look forward to hearing from you.

ON THIS DAY

August 9 is the 221st day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 144 days remain until the end of the year.

1173 – Construction of the campanile of the Cathedral of Pisa (now known as the Leaning Tower of Pisa) begins; it will take two centuries to complete.

1892 – Thomas Edison receives a patent for a two-way telegraph.

1902 – Edward VII and Alexandra of Denmark are crowned King and Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland

1907 – The first Boy Scout encampment concludes at Brownsea Island in southern England.

1971 – The Troubles: In Northern Ireland, the British authorities launch Operation Demetrius. Mass riots follow, and thousands of people flee or are forced out of their homes.

Births

1757 – Thomas Telford, Scottish architect and engineer, designed the Menai Suspension Bridge (died 1834)

OLD OCCUPATIONS

LACE-DRAWER A child employed in lace work, drawing out threads

LANDWAITER Customs officer who checked landed goods

LEAVELOOKER A municipal inspector of markets in an English town (as in Lancashire) - an examiner of food on sale at market

LEGERDEMAINIST A person who practices or performs sleight of hand. Magician

LEGGER A man employed by the owners of a canal to push boats through narrow canal tunnels.

LEIGHTONWARD A gardener

LINKERBOY or LINKERMAN One who carried a link or torch to guide people through city streets at night for a small fee.

LOBLOLLY BOY or LOBLOLLY MAN In 18th and 19th century warships, a non-professional assistant to the ship's surgeon, or errand boy

LUMPER A laborer employed to load and unload vessels in port; a dock-hand; a longshoreman; a stevedore.

LUTHIER A maker and repairer of stringed musical instruments

KENT PLACE NAMES

Gillingham means a homestead of Gylla's family. First recorded in 10th century as Gyllingeham

Godmersham seems to recall *Godmæ's village*. It was first recorded in 822 as Godmeresham.

Goodnestone denotes Godwine's farmstead

Gore's indicating literally a place at the triangular plot of ground

Goudhurst is probably an eponym, indicating Gutha's wooded hill.

Grain The name represents the Old English greon, used for gravelly, sandy ground.

Gravesend has nothing to do with graves. It is a place 'at the end of the grove'

Greenhithe is an Old English hythe or landing-place

Groombridge literally a bridge where young men congregate, and it is first recorded in 1239 as Gromenebregge.

Guston describing an Old English tun 'village, farmstead'.

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.

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