



11 MARCH 2023

ISSUE NUMBER 91

Sevenoaks Newsletter

THE NORTH WEST KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, SEVENOAKS, KENT
www.nwkfhs.org.uk



Welcome to NWKFHS Sevenoaks Branch

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

Doors open at 1045 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.

Guests we appreciate a £1.00 - £2.00 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

Today's talk

11 MARCH 2023

11 MARCH 2023 – The Rise & Fall of Lullingstone Roman Villa

Nearby Lullingstone Roman Villa is a well-known local visitor attraction, and its story has been keenly researched by our speaker, Rod Shelton. In the talk, Rod reveals for the first time how its fate lay in the violent machinations of the Roman Emperors and the lust to gain Imperial power. Lullingstone, he suggests, was to become a pawn in this game of political ambitions.

Our speaker Rod Shelton is a local author, artist, and model-maker. Rod has lived in Otford for some 25 years. Active in village matters, he is the local historian and chairs the Otford Society. He was a London advertising copywriter and then ran his own commercial film company.

Speaker Rod Shelton

NEXT SEVENOAKS BRANCH MEETING

8 APRIL 2023 – Endell Street: The Women who Ran Britain's Trail-Blazing Military Hospital in World War 1

When the First World War broke out, the suffragettes suspended their campaigning and joined the war effort. For pioneering suffragette doctors (and life partners) Flora Murray and Louisa Garrett Anderson that meant moving to France, where they set up two small military hospitals amidst fierce opposition. Yet their medical and organisational skills were so impressive that in 1915 Flora and Louisa were asked by the War Ministry to return to London and establish a new military hospital in a vast and derelict old workhouse in Covent Garden's Endell Street. That they did, creating a 573-bed hospital staffed from top to bottom by female surgeons, doctors, and nurses, and developing entirely new techniques to deal with the horrific mortar and gas injuries suffered by British soldiers.

Receiving 26,000 wounded men over the next four years, Flora and Louisa created such a caring atmosphere that soldiers begged to be sent to Endell Street. And then, following the end of the war and the Spanish Flu outbreak, the hospital was closed and Flora, Louisa and their staff were once again side-lined in the medical profession.

The story of Endell Street provides both a keyhole view into the horrors and thrills of wartime London and a long-overdue tribute to the brilliance and bravery of an extraordinary group of women.

Speaker WENDY MOORE

DARTFORD BRANCH MEETING

1 APRIL 2023 - Thomas Coram and the Foundling Hospital

Carol Harris is a freelance journalist, speaker, and social historian. She is currently Social History Editor at Coram, the UK's oldest children's charity.

The Foundling Hospital was a children's home in London, founded in 1739 by the philanthropic sea captain Thomas Coram. It was established for the "education and maintenance of exposed and deserted young children". The word 'hospital' was used in a more general sense, simply indicating the institution's "hospitality" to those less fortunate.

Carol will explain the history of the hospital, the aims of its founder and what primary sources are still available.

Speaker CAROL HARRIS

17 MARCH - ZOOM TALK – LIFE OF THE POOR AND ASSISTED EMIGRATION AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 19TH CENTURY WITH DR JUDITH HILL

After the Swing Riots of 1830 -32, emigration was viewed favourably and many parishes in southern England saw it as a solution to remove surplus labour.

About the Speaker

Judith taught history at the University of Surrey and is now a freelance lecturer and researcher. She gives lectures to many groups including the Family History Federation, Institute of Genealogists, history societies, Probus, NT and university groups.

Please log in from 7pm and enjoy a chat amongst attendees beforehand.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2799524396?pwd=ZTM4V0E4R2ZqbTZubXpXZ1dDZGdRQT09>

Meeting ID: 279 952 4396 Passcode: 533032

North West Kent FHS is a charity and membership fees and donations are an important part of our income. If you are not a NWK FHS member, please consider making a donation via our web shop towards the cost of our Zoom licence & speaker's fee

Time 19:00 for 19:30 start - Capacity 100

[Please visit our website for details of further workshops and updates and sign up for our free twice monthly Society eNewsletter](#)

The Society Library is open on Wednesdays from 10am to 4pm, there is no need for booking. Address: 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Kent DA5 2EE (On the corner of Summerhouse Drive & Eden Rd.) Parking in Eden Rd. or other nearby roads.

NWK FHS members who missed a *ZOOM* talk: some speakers have allowed their talks to be recorded and recorded talks are saved here - <https://nwkfhs.org.uk/resources/all-other/zoom-talk-videos> note this link only works for paid up members logged into the website. Sometimes speakers have given permission for their talks only to be recorded for a specified amount of time, so members please do check the link.

Civil Registration tip: In May and June 1837 in England and Wales, and in late 1854 in Scotland, (because many people misunderstood the purpose of civil registration which began on 1 July in the former and on 1 January 1855, in the latter), churches in some areas were deluged with requests for baptisms, both from those who had never been baptised and from those who had been but thought they needed a piece of paper to prove it. In England during the last week in June, for example, Sheffield Parish church saw 605 baptisms (out of the annual total of 3653); 900 people, mostly adolescents and adults, were baptised in Macclesfield, Cheshire, and 650 in Heanor and Ilkeston in Derbyshire. It is always worth further investigation of an IGI baptism reference from June 1837.

Source *Book Pitfalls and Possibilities in Family History Research* by

Pauline M. Litton page 116

ON THIS DAY: March 11 is the 70th day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 295 days left until the end of the year.

February takes its name from the Latin *Martius (Mars)*, the god of war.

In the early Roman calendar, it was the 1st month of the year.

1702 The Daily Courant, England's first national daily newspaper, is published for the first time

1708 Queen Anne withholds Royal Assent from the Scottish Militia Bill, the last time a British monarch vetoes legislation

1811 The Great Blizzard of 1888 begins along the eastern seaboard of the US, shutting down commerce and killing more than 400 people

1819 Henry Tate is born, English businessman and philanthropist, founded Tate & Lyle (d. 1899)

1864 The Great Sheffield Flood kills 238 people in Sheffield, England. The Dale Dike on Humber River crumbles, the largest man-made disaster ever to befall England.

1872 Construction of the Seven Sisters Colliery, South Wales, begins; it is located on one of the richest coal sources in Britain

1946 Rudolf Höss, the first commandant of Auschwitz concentration camp, is captured by British troops

1985 Mikhail Gorbachev is elected to the position of General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, making Gorbachev the USSR's de facto, and last, head of state

1990 Lithuania declares independence from the Soviet Union

2006 Michelle Bachelet is inaugurated as the first female president of Chile.

2011 An earthquake measuring 9.0 in magnitude strikes 130 km (81 mi) east of Sendai, Japan, triggering a tsunami killing thousands of people. This event also triggered the second largest nuclear accident in history, and one of only two events to be classified as a Level 7 on the International Nuclear Event Scale.

2018 Ken Dodd died, English comedian and singer (b. 1927)

2020 The World Health Organization (WHO) declares the COVID-19 virus epidemic a pandemic

Mothering Sunday, the 4th Sunday in Lent falling between 1 March and 4 April, depending on the date of Easter Day. Mothering Sunday was originally marked by processions to the mother church of the diocese. When these

were discontinued it became a day on which young people working away from home, notably those in domestic service, would return to visit their mothers.

Lost Voices of the Edwardians

Work



Mrs Brown

When I was twenty I left to be a nurse. I started at the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle, which was a new hospital in 1907. I was there until my feet let me down, I had terribly blistered feet. I worked sixty-five hours a week and I got no wages for three months. I had nothing except my keep, as I lived in. At night I used to be so tired I used to scream when I put my feet on the bed. It was exceptionally strict. You were never allowed to start a conversation, you were never allowed to speak unless you were spoken to, and you were never allowed to walk in front of a senior. You had to do exactly what you were told – you could never answer back. You had no social life at all. I remember saying to a sister that I had an appointment with my young man, and she said, ‘Nurses in training have no business to make appointments’. I wasn’t allowed to go.

Edwardian Nurse
circa 1907



Ted Harrison

There were two doctors in Hoxton – Dr Sullivan and Dr Llewellyn. Some people favoured one, some favoured the other. Some people didn’t like Sullivan because he had no bedside manner. He was very abrupt. For the doctor to come round to your house, it was sixpence, and then you’d go back to the doctor’s place and he’d make up the medicine. If you couldn’t afford a doctor, you paid thruppence and went down the dispensary on Wilson Street. You’d sit in there, lined up for two or three hours. If you didn’t have a cold when you went in, you

Edwardian man

ruddy well did when you came out. They always used to give you cod liver oil. It was like eating raw fish. I didn’t like it. They held your nose and shoved it down. There was no option. If ever there was anything very wrong with you, you went ‘down the slope’ to the workhouse infirmary. If they thought you were going to die, they took you inside. You didn’t need a letter, they’d just take you in. I was taken there in a horse-drawn ambulance. Everyone used to call it the ‘fever cart’.

Daily Life



Ted Harrison

I’d just come out of hospital with double pneumonia and my mother took me to Holley’s, the photographers. This was about 1908. My picture was taken in a long room about twenty foot long and five foot wide with a lot of windows, and they used to rely on a lot of sunlight. They didn’t use gaslight to take photographs – they used a

‘Photoshopped’
Photograph
circa 1900

mirror to reflect the sun. All the pictures had backdrops like a garden gate, a fence, an aspidistra stand, the corner of a cottage roof – but you didn’t get to choose your background. You took what you were

given. Pictures were only taken on special occasions – when Dad joined the Army or Uncle Fred got married. Things like that. You’d pay sixpence to have the picture taken, then the next week you picked up the proof. The proof would be on paper that went dark red after two or three days, so it was no good to you. You had to decide if you liked the picture or not and whether you wanted postcard-sized prints or what. If you wanted them, you went back and ordered them for a shilling. (This photograph taken circa 1900 is said to be edited by painting over the sitter’s waist, in hopes it makes their waist appear smaller)

George Hewins - There were two years when the winters were terrible hard, terrible. The men had no work, and no dole. The women couldn’t go mangling, cos they couldn’t pull the mangles up, they was frozen in the ground. They got chilblains on their hands; those as went washing or charring like Widow Bayliss, they’d come home crying where the soda had got in the cracks. Old folks died of the cold. The young’uns like us with families growing had to scratch their heads to know how they was going to live.

Jane Long - Many a time in the night there’d be a knock on the door for my mum. ‘Please Mrs Wilkinson can you come now somebody has died’. But no trouble to her. She’d be out with her stretcher. Then they were laid out, either on the bed or on the stretcher – or on a big clotheshorse. The way the bed was draped, that was beautiful – a big bow of either mauve or white ribbon.

Mr Jordan - My father was much in demand. He was a big, strong chap, and he must have carried hundreds of bodies to the grave. He did that for years and years and years – and all he would get was a glass of whisky.

Source: Book – *Lost Voices of the Edwardians* by Max Arthur – pages 192, 193, 254, 256, 271

Society of Genealogists March Events

18 March 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm - 1 hour Zoom Talk Irish Collections and Resources at the Society of Genealogists with Else Churchill

25 March 10:30 am–11:30 am - 1 hour Zoom Talk Using DNA to Support Family History Research with Mia Bennett

30 March 2:00 pm–3:00 pm - 1 hour Zoom Talk UK Suffragettes with Penny Walters

30 March 2:00 pm–3:00 pm - 1 hour Visit of the library at the Wellcome Collection

Visit the website for more information and events www.sog.org.uk / events@sog.org.uk

**The Sevenoaks Committee: Branch Chair - Bill Chopping
Committee Members**

Karina Jackson, Norma Holmden, Bernie Wilkins, Sandra Marchant, Barbara Attwaters