



9TH MAY 2019

ISSUE NUMBER 68

Sevenoaks Newsletter

THE NORTH WEST KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, SEVENOAKS, KENT

www.nwkhfs.org.uk



NEXT BRANCH MEETING

13TH JUNE

What the Battle of Jutland did for the Navy
(Part 2)

Speaker - Nick Fothergill

OTHER BRANCH MEETINGS

BROMLEY

18th MAY - "Gretna Green: Romance or Remorse?"

Speaker MELANIE WINTERBOTHAM

DARTFORD

1ST JUNE - "The secret Intelligence Services & Espionage"

Speaker DR HELEN FRY

Welcome to NWKFHS Sevenoaks Branch. In addition to the talks, we have a number of interesting tables for you to browse. These include a bookstall, old magazines and journals, exchange journals and a reference book library. Plus don't forget to take a look at our notice board.

The books from our library may be borrowed at no charge and the magazines are a snip at 20 pence each. You might just find the publication or book you are looking for.

Do visit our computer help desk where Karina will make every effort to assist with your family history brick wall.

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at Sevenoaks Community Centre, Otford Road Sevenoaks, TN14 5DN. Doors open at 7.15pm, meeting starts at 8pm. There is free car parking - and refreshments are available.

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

Guests we appreciate a £2.00 donation to the society's funds

9TH MAY THIS EVENING'S TALK

A School Girls War:

An evocative story of school life in WW2 and first-hand recollections of pupils who experienced the disrupted schooling, the air-raids, the doodlebugs and the lessons in underground shelters

Speaker MARY SMITH

KENT EVENTS

15th MAY - Radical voices in Sevenoaks since the mid-18th Century - Otford and District Historical Society, Otford Village Memorial Hall, High Street, TN14 5PQ - Speaker Professor David Killingray - Time 8 pm - Visitors £3.00

23rd MAY - 'Race, rank and commemoration of non-European soldiers in Britain after the First World - Sevenoaks Historical Society, the Undercroft, St Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks, TN13 1JA. Speaker John Siblon - Time 8pm - non-members £3.00

31st MAY - Disaster at Bethnal Green Tube Shelter, 3rd March 1943 - The 1940s SOCIETY, at Otford Village Memorial Hall, High Street, TN14 5PQ - Peter will explore one of the most tragic domestic disasters of the war in which 173 people died. The tragedy was 'hushed up' at the time.- Speaker Peter Nixon - Time 8 pm - Visitors £3.00

31st MAY- Kent in the 19th Century incorporating the Victorian years - Kemsing Heritage Centre, St Edith Hall, High Street, Kemsing, Kent TN15 6NA. Speaker: Bob Ogley. Time 7.30pm, non-members £2.50

4th JUNE - Pilotage on The River Thames - Swanley Historical Society, Alexandra Suite St Mary's Road Swanley BR8 7BU - Find out about the history and work of the Port of London Authority with Capt. J. Stafford - Time 7.30 pm, non-members £2.00 (Note this is a new venue)

9th JULY - Brick walls and lost ancestors - Kent Family History Society, Ashford Branch, Willesborough Windmill, Hythe Rd, Willesborough, Ashford (off A20 Hythe Road) TN24 0QG - Speaker David Annal Time 1930-2130 Visitors £2.00

EXHIBITION AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES, KEW, RICHMOND, SURREY, TW9 4DU

Protect and Survive: Britain's Cold War Revealed - Now until 9th November

This exhibition explores the impact of the Cold War on Britain, from the corridors of power and hidden government bunkers to daily life in the home. Discover the real evidence of what happened during this turbulent era of secrets and paranoia. Mark Dunton, Contemporary Records Specialist at The National Archives and Curator of the exhibition, said: 'The pervasive threat of nuclear war impacted everyday life for millions of people and this thought-provoking exhibition offers a unique look into political and ideological tensions between the East and West.'

An array of original documents are on display, including political memos, spy confessions, civil defence posters and even a letter from Winston Churchill to the Queen. These documents provide visitors with a rare glimpse into the complexities of government operations during this time of infiltration and betrayal.

The exhibition is accompanied by free highlights tours and a programme of high-profile events exploring the Cold War from a multitude of perspectives.

To secure priority booking and be the first to obtain details of the Cold War season, sign up to The National Archives' mailing list at nationalarchives.gov.uk/coldwar

For more details visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/visit-us/whats-on/keepers-gallery/



Daniel Defoe

Daniel Defoe was an English trader, writer, journalist, pamphleteer, and spy, most famous for his novel *Robinson Crusoe*; he was born on 13 September 1660 in the parish of

St. Giles Cripplegate, London. Daniel Defoe is considered to be the founder of British journalism. During his life, he served as a trader, writer, journalist, pamphleteer, and spy. Initially training himself at the ministry, he opted to become a merchant and started several businesses. However, none of those flourished well as he was constantly under the realm of facing bankruptcy and aggressive creditors. It was his political interest and aspirations that led him to serve as a prolific political pamphleteer. He penned a number of political essays and works before finally turning to fiction to pen his most famous work, '*Robinson Crusoe*'. He is widely recalled as one of the earliest proponents of novel writing. He encouraged novel writing and reading and is said to have published over 560 books and pamphlets, on various topics including politics, crime, religion, marriage, psychology and supernatural.

His father James Foe was a prosperous tallow chandler and a member of the Butchers' Company. Later on, he changed his name to Daniel Defoe to sound aristocratic. Young Defoe had a first-hand experience of natural plights and disasters as he witnessed the Great Plague of London, the Great Fire of London and the Dutch attacks on Chatham. He completed his initial education from Rev. James Fisher's boarding school and continued his studies at the rebellious academy at Newington Green, London, due to his Presbyterian background.

Daniel changed his originally idea to become a dissenting minister, to follow a business career. He started as a general merchant selling hosiery stuffs, woollen goods and wine. His business was successfully, however, he was never out of debt. Meanwhile, keeping up with his interest in politics, he published his first literary piece in 1683, which was a political pamphlet. In 1685, he became one of the members of the Monmouth Rebellion but was pardoned. Three years later, when William III was appointed as the king, he served as his close ally and secret agent. Working as a journalist, he published several pieces which supported the King. In 1695, he returned to England and started serving as the commissioner of glass duty. His profile included collecting taxes on bottles. The following year, he commenced a tile and brick factory and started living in the parish of Chadwell St Mary. His first serious publication came in 1697 under the title, '*An Essay Upon Projects*'. The work gave a detailed analysis of proposals for economic and social improvement. Defending King William, he brought out several literary pieces, the most successful amongst which include '*The True-Born Englishman*' that defended the king against perceived xenophobia, thus giving a satire on the English claim to racial purity. In 1702 after the death of King William III, a political unrest clouded the entire place.

His publication of the 1702 released pamphlet, '*The Shortest Way with the Dissenters*' led to him becoming a natural target for the succeeding Queen Anne. In the work, he openly criticized the High church Tories and those Dissenters who practiced occasional traditionalism.

He was arrested in July 1703 and put in a pillory on charges of seditious libel. After hearing in the court, he was found guilty and sentenced to an unspecified term of imprisonment. Furthermore, he was charged of a disciplinary fine and public humiliation in the pillory. Following his three days of imprisonment, he was transferred to Newgate Prison. However, his stay was cut short as the 1st Earl of Oxford paid for his release in exchange of him serving as an intelligence agent for Tories.

Witness of the Great Storm of 1703, he penned his first non-fiction, '*The Storm*' in 1704. The book gave a detailed account of the havoc and destruction caused by the natural disaster and included viewpoints of other eyewitnesses. The same year, he commenced a periodical, '*A Review of the Affairs of France*'. A journal, which ran three times a week, gave an account of the events that led to Spanish Succession. The publication was a mouthpiece of the English government which promoted the Act of Union. Meanwhile, his writings weren't limited to penning political tales as he explored other genres as well.

In 1705, he came up with the anonymously written pamphlet, '*A True Relation of the Apparition of One Mrs. Veal the Next Day after her Death to One Mrs. Bargrave at Canterbury the 8th of September, 1705*' that gave an insight about the relationship between spiritual and physical realm. In 1709, he came up with his first lengthy work, '*The History of the Union of Great Britain*'. He was later given the responsibility of an adviser to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. In 1709, he came up with a massive history of the Union.

Though his work had an air of objectivity, it nevertheless ended with his take on the subject perceiving the dangers that were inherent in political commentary; he turned to writing fiction and in 1719, he came up with the novel, '*Robinson Crusoe*' that gave an account of the incidents faced by a true shipwrecked mariner. He followed this up by some more fiction novels such as '*The Farther Adventures of Robinson Crusoe*', '*Memoirs of a Cavalier*', '*Captain Singleton*', '*A Journal of the Plague Year*', '*Colonel Jack*', '*Moll Flanders*' and '*Roxana: The Fortunate Mistress*'. He also continued with non-fiction too and produced the works: '*The History of the Remarkable Life of John Sheppard*', '*A General History of the Pyrates*', '*A Tour Thro' The Whole Island of Great Britain, Divided into Circuits or Journies*' and '*The Political History of the Devil*'. In the later years of his life, he switched to writing travel books such as '*Tour Through the Whole Island of Great Britain*', '*The Complete English Tradesman*', '*London the Most Flourishing City in the Universe*'. He also penned editorial pieces, focusing on matters such as morality, politics and the breakdown of social order in England such as '*Everybody's Business is Nobody's Business*', '*Conjugal Lewdness*', '*A Plan for the English Commerce*'.

He married the daughter of a London merchant, Mary Tuffley in 1684. Though the marriage went through a troubled phase, due to his increasing debts and political difficulties, the two managed to stay together for 50 years. They were blessed with eight children, of which six survived to adulthood.

He died on April 24, 1731 and was interred in Bunhill Fields, London. In 1870, a monument was constructed in memory of him.

Source: <http://www.thefamouspeople.com/profiles/daniel-defoe-4717.php> 11.09.18

REMINDER:

**NWKFHS Sevenoaks Branch moves to Otford Memorial Hall,
High Street, Otford, TN14 5PQ**

**Our first meeting at this new site will be June 2019 –
Parking free after 6.30 pm.**

Message from Hilary Waters -

Last month Dartford Branch had a very informative and entertaining talk by Ian Bevan. Ian is an official London tour guide so I was wondering how many of you would like a **walking** tour around **Woolwich**? Many society members have family history from this fast changing area of South East London so why not look at Ian's website: www.ianswalksandtalks.co.uk/walks.html and then contact me, Hilary, at the newsletters@nwkfhs.org.uk address using **Woolwich Walk** as the subject. If I get a reasonable response I will see what I can do for September/October 2019.

ON THIS DAY:

MAY 9th is the 129th day of 2019 in the Gregorian calendar; 236 days left until the end of the year

1092 Lincoln Cathedral is consecrated

1386 England and Portugal formally ratify their alliance with the signing of the Treaty of Windsor, making it the oldest diplomatic alliance in the world which is still in force

1662 The figure who later became Mr. Punch made his first recorded appearance in England

1671 Thomas Blood, disguised as a clergyman, attempts to steal England's Jewels from the Tower of London

1877 A magnitude 8.8 earthquake off the coast of Peru kills 2,541, including some as far away as Hawaii and Japan

1877 Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show opens in London

1901 Australia opens its first parliament in Melbourne

1904 The steam locomotive *City of Truro* becomes the first steam engine in Europe to exceed 100 mph (160 km/h)

1926 Admiral Richard E. Byrd and Floyd Bennett claim to have flown over the North Pole (later discovery of Byrd's diary appears to cast some doubt on the claim.)

1936 Albert Finney, English actor is born (d. 2019)

1936 Glenda Jackson, English actress and politician is born

1974 Watergate scandal: The United States House Committee on the Judiciary opens formal and public impeachment hearings against President Richard Nixon

2012 Vidal Sassoon, English-American hairdresser and businessman died (b. 1928)

ROOTSTECH AT EXCEL CENTRE FROM 24 - 26 OCTOBER 2019

Rootstech has been running for several years in Salt Lake City and is coming to London for the first time in 2019. It's a conference with one upfront inclusive fee which gives you access to lots of talks and classes on all aspects of family history. At the moment it is offering early-bird tickets at a discount.

VISIT LINK: <https://www.rootstech.org/london>

If anyone has 5 minutes at the end of the evening to lend a hand put away the tables etc. it would be most helpful; many hands really do make light work and we would appreciate your help.



**The Sevenoaks Committee
Branch Chair - Barbara Attwaters
Committee Members
Karina Jackson, Norma Holmden,
Bernie Wilkins, Barbara Stead,
Sandra Marchant, Bill Chopping**