



14 OCTOBER 2021

ISSUE NUMBER 77

# Sevenoaks Newsletter

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



## Welcome to NWKFHS Sevenoaks Branch

We will be meeting at the Otford Village Memorial Hall, High Street, Otford TN14 5PQ.

Doors open at 7.15pm, meeting starts at 8pm. There is free car parking after 6.30 pm by the Memorial.

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 £1.00-£2.00 donation to the society's funds.

### NEXT SEVENOAKS BRANCH MEETING

11 NOVEMBER 2021

OVERPAID, OVER SEXED AND OVER HERE –  
THE AMERICAN INVASION OF 1942-45"

This talk will explore the "invasion" of American Service personnel. Over two million American servicemen passed through Britain during the Second World War and over 60,000 British women married them and went to the United States. Many of the servicemen had never been abroad before, the War Department sent with them a pamphlet called *Instructions for American Servicemen in Britain*. This was designed to familiarise them with life in Britain, the history, culture, even the slang. The pamphlet also encouraged the men to get along with the British and it was filled with great advice like "Don't be a showoff," "NEVER criticize the King or Queen," and "The British don't know how to make a good cup of coffee."

Prepare to be amused and perhaps shocked in equal measure

Speaker ALAN WILLIAMS

### OTHER BRANCH MEETINGS

DARTFORD - 6 NOVEMBER 2021

"A SCHOOLGIRLS 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. This story evolved from two amazing discoveries made at the school. The first was an underground purpose-built shelter situated at the rear of the school. The shelter was a time capsule, a classroom used during air raids, with the original school benches either side of the long and narrow structure. The second was a large and comprehensive diary of wartime school life, handsomely illustrated by the then Art teacher, Helen Keen. The diary has been complemented by Mary Smith through interviewing 53 former schoolgirls about their experiences of school during the war. A talk not to be missed.

Speaker MARY SMITH

### 14 OCTOBER - THIS EVENING'S TALK

#### The lady code breakers of Bletchley Park

Over nine thousand women called Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire home during WW2. Daily, they decoded messages about upcoming attacks, learned about the Nazis' plans and ultimately read the communiqués that revealed the Germans' fear of defeat. Yet these unsung heroines - who included Kate Middleton's grandmother - couldn't tell anyone about their critical contribution to the war effort.

Speaker - Ian Thompson

## KENT EVENTS

20 OCTOBER The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

The amusing story of Kentish Public Libraries – Speaker Christoph Bull

OTFORD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, OTFORD MEMORIAL HALL, HIGH STREET, OTFORD, TN14 5PQ

Open 7.30 pm start 8pm. Visitors £3.00 (there is no charge for students).

29 OCTOBER – How Charing Cross got its cross

KEMSING HERITAGE CENTRE, ST EDITH HALL, KEMSING, KENT, TN15 6NA

Time 7.30pm, Visitors £2.50

2 NOVEMBER – A Look Back in Time

Photographs and tales about our local area presented by SHG Members

SWANLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ALEXANDRA SUITE ST MARY'S ROAD SWANLEY BR8 7BU

Time 7.30 PM, (Doors open 7pm). Non- Members £2.00

Subject to change at short notice should circumstances change.

**The Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies**  
**The School of Family History**  
[www.ihgs.ac.uk](http://www.ihgs.ac.uk)

**IHGS Diamond Event October 18 – 21 sponsored by THE GENEALOGIST**

Online talks covering a wide range of topics, presented by IHGS tutors, graduates and students. They include, research analysis, investigative research, technical matters, case studies, Irish research, the workhouse, life during World War I and a famous naval battle. The event is sponsored by The Genealogist and one lucky attendee will receive a one year's Diamond Subscription to the Genealogist, [www.thegenealogist.co.uk](http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk)

You will need to reserve your place on the following talks:

- Monday 18 October at 10am - Genealogical Marshmallows: Biases and Willpower in Family History Research, by IHGS Student Dr. Sophie Kay
- Monday 18 October at 2pm - How to be a genealogy sleuth, by IHGS Tutor Judith Batchelor
- Tuesday 19 October at 10am - Managing your family history digital records, by IHGS web designer Paul Carter
- Tuesday 19 October at 2pm - Mummy, what did you do in the Great War? By IHGS Graduate Emma Jolly
- Wednesday 20 October at 2pm - Looking at life, by IHGS Student Sarah Bryant
- Wednesday 20 October at 5pm - Family History, why it matters, by IHGS Tutor Chris Broom
- Thursday 21 October at 10am - Finding your family's footprint in Ireland, by IHGS Graduate Margaret Gaffney
- Thursday 21 October at 2pm - The English Workhouse from the 18th to the 20th century, by IHGS Student Wendy Tait Mayfield
- Thursday 21 October at 5pm - Trafalgar, by IHGS Director of Education Les Mitchinson.

The cost of each Talk is £10.

Bookings can be made through the online shop. To book <https://shop.ihgs.ac.uk/courses/online-tutorials-and-workshops>

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**NATIONAL TRUST –**

**Chartwell, Westerham, Kent**

16 OCTOBER - Wartime Gardens at Chartwell 10:00-16:30

**Scotney Castle Tunbridge Wells, Kent**

23 OCTOBER – Autumn trail at Scotney Castle 10:00-16:00

**Sissinghurst Castle Garden near Cranbrook, Kent**

25 OCTOBER – An introduction to the vegetable garden 14:00-14:15

28 OCTOBER – Seed planting family workshop 10:30-13:00

Link for further details:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/search?query=kent&lat=51.259187&lon=0.72614&type=event&view=list&fromDate=13%2F10%2F2021&toDate=13%2F11%2F2021>

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**NOT TO BE MISSED OUR NWKFS ZOOM TALK and Discussion groups:**

**LADY TEVIOT WILL EXPLORE THE PARISH CHEST**

Expert Guest Speaker Lady Teviot will explore the Parish Chest. A valuable resource to use in conjunction with parish registers and show how people lived, including overseers accounts, settlement and removal orders.

This zoom talk will be hosted by Mike Weeks on 19 October at 7:00 pm for 7:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83821309661?pwd=WU8vUE9iV29yYjZUUnVmVnhSVDRQZz09>

Meeting ID: 838 2130 9661

Passcode: 341114

**NEW - SCOTTISH RESEARCH DISCUSSION GROUP (SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP)**

The group will discuss starting your Scottish research along with details of essential websites to use. Tips and advice will be shared on the use of some of these websites. As it is a new group members can decide what aspects of Scottish research to discuss. Led by Carolyn Barclay and Pam Goddard.

This zoom discussion group will be hosted by Pam Goddard on 20 October at 10:30 am

Further details visit our website or look out for our email newsletter

**27 October 10.30am DNA Family History Discussion Group - Leader Victor Nutt**

Further details visit our website or look out for our email newsletter

## New collections

### MyHeritage

The Newspaper Name Index, USA and Canada constitutes an index of 982 million names mentioned in MyHeritage's existing U.S. and Canadian newspaper collections. Smart machine learning algorithm has been used to extract essential details from the free text of the newspapers — not only the first and last names of individuals mentioned, but also related details that may appear in the text, such as the name of a spouse or a place of residence. This index covers half of MyHeritage's newspaper collection, with the other half of the name index due to be published soon, adding almost one billion extra records.

The Scotland Census, 1841-1901 collection contains seven censuses from the second half of the 19th century in Scotland, with a total of 24 million records. This collection offers details about Scottish ancestors that often can't be found in other vital record collections, such as information about occupation and residential addresses.

### FamilySearch

FamilySearch expanded its free online archives in September of 2021 with over 26 million new indexed family history records from all over the world. New historical records were added from Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, El Salvador, England, Finland, France, French Polynesia, Germany, Guadelope, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Jamaica, Kiribati, Liberia, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tuvalu, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and the United States, which includes Alaska, California, Georgia, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, South Carolina, and Washington. Records from the United States Bureau of Land Management and Find A Grave were included as well.

### Ancestry UK

Shropshire, England, Church of England Deaths and Burials, 1813-1900  
Shropshire, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1901  
Shropshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1900  
Shropshire, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812

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**Who Do You Think You Are?** Series 18 started this week. New celebrities exploring their family histories across the UK, Ireland, Denmark and Jamaica. Exploring their ancestors' lives - from royal love triangles to labourers fighting for their rights, from Victorian child sweeps to battling fascists in London's East end.

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**ON THIS DAY: OCTOBER 14 is the 287<sup>TH</sup> day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 78 days left until the end of the year**

**1066** The Norman conquest of England begins with the Battle of Hastings  
**1322** Robert the Bruce of Scotland defeats King Edward II of England at the Battle of Old Byland, forcing Edward to accept Scotland's independence  
**1586** Mary, Queen of Scots, goes on trial for conspiracy against Queen Elizabeth I of England  
**1853** Irish nationalist Daniel O'Connell is arrested by the British on charges of criminal conspiracy  
**1898** The steam ship SS Mohegan sinks near the Lizard peninsula, Cornwall, killing 106  
**1910** English aviator Claude Grahame-White lands his aircraft on Executive Avenue near the White House in Washington, D.C.  
**1912** Former president Theodore Roosevelt is shot and mildly wounded by John Flammang Schrank. With the fresh wound in his chest, and the bullet still within it, Roosevelt delivers his scheduled speech.  
**1913** Senghenydd colliery disaster, the United Kingdom's worst coal mining accident, claims the lives of 439 miners  
**1964** Martin Luther King Jr. receives the Nobel Peace Prize for combating racial inequality through nonviolence  
**1968** The first live TV broadcast by American astronauts in orbit is performed by the Apollo 7 crew  
**2012** Felix Baumgartner successfully jumps to Earth from a balloon in the stratosphere

**The Sevenoaks Committee**  
**Branch Chair - Barbara Attwaters**  
**Committee Members**

**Karina Jackson, Norma Holmden, Bernie Wilkins, Barbara Stead, Sandra Marchant, Bill Chopping**