



12 MAY 2022

ISSUE NUMBER 82

Sevenoaks Newsletter

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

12 MAY - THIS EVENING'S TALK HE'S CAST A SHOE

"He's Cast a Shoe - featuring the Forge in Otford in Victorian times" - The story of (probably) the most well-known painting of Otford High Street. Once owned by the Royal Family and painted by Otto Weber a favourite of Queen Victoria. It was also a favourite of Prince George The Duke of Kent who visited Otford in 1936. He recalled he remembered it hanging on his bedroom wall when he stayed at Sandringham with his grandparents, The King and Queen.

Prince Edward, The Duke of Kent followed in his father's footsteps and also visited Otford in July 2006 where The Duke said, "As I walked through this most attractive of Kent's villages, I was reminded of the Painting of which my father was so fond at Sandringham"

Speaker ALAN WILLIAMS

NEXT SEVENOAKS BRANCH MEETING

9 JUNE 2022

THE ART OF THE FOLLY

Starting with a look at what a folly actually *is* (and what it isn't), **The Art of the Folly** looks at weird, wonderful and (generally) unexplained garden buildings of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Many have entertaining stories behind their creation - find out how to out-do the Bishop of Salisbury, what happens when you put an advert in the paper for a hermit and how to produce a 50-foot pineapple.

Outspeak Russell is a freelance garden historian and has been giving talks on the subject since 2000; and in 2003 he was awarded the University of London Diploma in Garden History.

Speaker RUSSELL BOWES

DARTFORD BRANCH MEETING

4 JUNE 2022

VICTORIAN LONDON STREET LIFE

This is a fascinating insight into how the poor people of London lived and survived in the late nineteenth century.

Covering: the fear of the Workhouse, including personal stories and details of popular foods and the plight of working children. We will follow them throughout a typical day, ending in a Music Hall. All of Delia's talks are comprehensively illustrated with audio and visual clips.

Speaker DELIA TAYLOR

Visit us @ www.nwkfhs.org.uk - sign up for our "FREE to ALL" twice monthly Society eNewsletter

NOT TO BE MISSED OUR NWKFS ZOOM TALK AND DISCUSSION GROUPS

14 MAY ZOOM TALK: A Prisoner Of War - The case study of private Mehmet Habi, Cyprus regiment during WW2

Speaker Philip Mills centres on the methods used to uncover the history of Mehmet Habi, serving in the Cyprus Regiment 1940-1946 with virtually no prior information beyond a basic service record. Research illuminated remarkable activities including action under fire, capture, five escapes, a love story and two near-death experiences whilst a POW.

A recording of the meeting will be available on the website for members only within a few days of the talk.

Start time is 10:00 for 10:30 am - The link to the zoom meeting will be posted on the website shortly before the meeting

A recording of the meeting may be made available on the website for members only at a later date, but this has not been confirmed.

17 JUNE - ZOOM TALK – CATCHING UP WITH FAMILY SEARCH SPEAKER SHARON HINTZE

Sharon Hintze will talk about how busy Family Search has been recently and has finished digitising its microfilm collection.

To find out what this and other developments mean to you, plan on attending this talk. A long to-do list will likely be the result. <https://www.familysearch.org/>

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Time 7.30 pm - Capacity 99. The link to the zoom meeting will be posted on the website shortly before the meeting.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

29TH May and 22ND June @ 10.30am DNA Family History Research Discussion Group Leader Laura Lincoln.

15TH June @ 10.30 am Zoom Scottish Research Discussion Group Led by Carolyn Barclay and Pam Goddard

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS OF FURTHER WORKSHOPS AND UPDATES

Events online

There are many talks, podcasts, and exhibitions available to us online, do take a look at some of the following sites:

<https://www.kfhs.org.uk/>

<https://www.esfh.org.uk/>

<http://folkfhs.org.uk/program.htm>

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>

<https://www.ihgs.ac.uk/>

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/online/family-history/> - This site is certainly worth a visit, there is a great deal of choice and variety, many free events, or a low cost – herewith an interesting up and coming event online at The National Archives through Eventbrite:

8 Jun 2022, 19:30 - The Poisonous Solicitor: The True Story of a 1920s Murder Mystery

This real-life murder mystery that inspired the likes of Agatha Christie and Dorothy L. Sayers in the Golden Age of Crime

On the 31st of May 1922 Major Herbert Armstrong was hanged for poisoning his wife, Katharine, with arsenic.

The only solicitor ever to be hanged in England, he was also accused of attempting to kill a rival solicitor with a poisoned box of chocolates and a scone allegedly laced with arsenic. The 1920s was rife with newspaper sensationalism, hypocrisy and sanctimonious morality, which leads us to ask the question: Was he really guilty as charged?

One hundred years on, Agatha Award-shortlisted author Stephen Bates revisits the real-life murder mystery in the light of new evidence – a case that inspired the likes of Agatha Christie and Dorothy L. Sayers in the Golden Age of Crime.

ON THIS DAY: MAY 12 is the 132ND day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 233 days left until the end of the year

1215 English barons serve ultimatum on King John which eventually leads to the creation and signing of the Magna Carta

1294 Construction of Santa Croce begins in Florence, the largest Franciscan church in the world (consecrated 1442)

1364 Jagiellonian University, the oldest university in Poland, is founded in Kraków

1459 Jodhpur, Sun City, founded by Rao Jodhpur in India

1593 London playwright Thomas Kyd is arrested and tortured by the Privy Council for libel

1551 National University of San Marcos, the oldest university in the Americas, is founded in Lima, Peru

1777 1st ice cream advertisement (Philip Lenzi in the NY Gazette)

1820 Born: Florence Nightingale, Italian-English nurse, social reformer, and statistician (d. 1910)

1889 Born: Otto Frank, German-Swiss businessman and Holocaust survivor; father of diarist Anne Frank (d. 1980)

1926 The Italian-built airship Norge becomes the first vessel to fly over the North Pole

1937 The Duke and Duchess of York are crowned as King George VI and Queen Elizabeth of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Westminster Abbey

1941 Konrad Zuse presents the Z3, the world's first working programmable, fully automatic computer, in Berlin

1965 The Soviet spacecraft Luna 5 crashes on the Moon

1994 Died: John Smith, Scottish-English lawyer and politician, Labour Party leader, Leader of the Opposition (b. 1938)

2008 An earthquake (measuring around 8.0 magnitude) occurs in Sichuan, China, killing over 69,000 people

The Sevenoaks Committee -

Branch Chair - Barbara Attwaters

Committee Members - Karina Jackson, Norma Holmden, Bernie Wilkins, Sandra Marchant, Bill Chopping