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ISSUE NUMBER 92

# Sevenoaks Newsletter

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

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**Sanitiser and masks available and chairs placed at a friendly distance for those concerned about Covid**

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### Today's talk      **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**

### **NEXT SEVENOAKS BRANCH MEETING**

**13 MAY 2023 - The History and Mystery of Funerals**

Death, and the funeral rites which follow it, have always reflected the culture of the time; and what we consider 'normal' comes from thousands of years of changing beliefs and traditions. Our ancestors had practices that seem strange – even bizarre – to 21st century minds yet we can often see how they leave their mark even now. The talk looks at funeral and death rites over the last thousand years and across the world, considering how they reflect the way our ancestors lived in successive generations.

This evening's speaker Susan is an independent wedding, naming and funeral celebrant but has been fortunate to have had many other amazing jobs including radio journalist, published author, lecturer, and event's organiser. She has spent much of her working life in front of an audience of one kind or another, sharing her enthusiasm and knowledge.

**Speaker SUSAN FLIPPING**

### **DARTFORD BRANCH MEETING**

**29 APRIL 2023 - The Normandy D-Day Landings**

**This talk is in place of the usual date, 6th May, as that is the Coronation date.**

This fascinating talk is not about the fighting; Ian will reveal the intelligence war behind the Operations and how the allies fooled the Germans.

**Speaker IAN THOMPSON**

## HIGHLIGHTING OUR WORKSHOPS AT NWKFHS – MEMBERS ONLY

The Society runs workshops to help members with their research, covering many varied subjects and topics.

What are the challenges facing you in your research? Do the subjects list interest you? Workshop topic suggestions are needed. Leaders are needed, do you have an expertise in some aspect of FH research that you could share with members?

### Library Workshops

They have already proved popular and booking well in advance is essential. All workshops are held on a Wednesday from 10.30 to 12.30 at the Society Library and Resource Centre, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley, Kent DA5 2EE.

Numbers are limited to 10 members per workshop. Booking can be done by email, please send your details with the workshop title you'd like to attend, to Workshop Booking, or ask either Carolyn Barclay or a library volunteer for a form; or contact Janet Rose on 01322-384836.

You'll need to book a place in advance, they are not open to members who just turn up at the library. If you cannot get on the list, we take names for reserves; and another workshop will be organised if there is enough demand.

A £5 donation per workshop would be appreciated, which includes refreshments.

### Zoom Workshops and Discussion Groups

Following the corona virus pandemic shutdown, the Society has commenced running Zoom Workshops and Discussion Groups. Email [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk) to request an invitation to one of these zoom meetings stating the subject you want or in the case of discussion groups the topic for the theme of the meeting.

A donation for the zoom workshop would be appreciated, given through the EShop.

### UP AND COMING LIBRARY WORKSHOPS

New to Writing Up your Family History? With Pauline Heathcote	26 April 10:30
Writing Group with Pauline Heathcote	21 June 10:30
Workshop for Family History beginners Fran Rogers	21 June 10:30
Workshop for Family History beginners Fran Rogers	28 June 10:30
Workshop for Family History beginners Fran Rogers	28 June 13:00
New to Writing Up your Family History? With Pauline Heathcote	19 July 10:30
New to Writing Up your Family History? With Pauline Heathcote	16 August 10:30
New to Writing Up your Family History? With Pauline Heathcote	25 October 10:30
Family History Writing Group with Pauline Heathcote	29 November 10:30

The beginner's workshop will cover Birth, Marriages and Death Certificates, Census Records, Parish Registers, Wills and Directories as well as Family Charts and Trees.

### UP AND COMING ZOOM WORKSHOPS

Breaking Down Family History Brick Walls with David Cufley	12 April 14:30
Royal Arsenal Documents with David Cufley	13 April 14:30
Basic Excel Spreadsheets with David Cufley	26 April 19:30
How to Draw a Pedigree Chart Using Software with David Cufley	10 May 19:30
How to Draw a Calligraphic Family Tree with David Cufley	14 June 19:30
Heralds Visitations with David Cufley	12 July 19:30
Breaking Down Family History Brick Walls with David Cufley	9 August 19:30
The Rat Catchers with David Cufley	11 October 19:30
Breaking Down Family History Brick Walls with David Cufley	8 November 19:30

### DISCUSSION GROUPS AT THE LIBRARY

**DNA Discussion Group for those who are either new to DNA or want to discuss particular aspects of DNA** Monthly Event

**Library Scottish Interests Discussion Group with Pam Goddard and Carolyn Barclay** May and September Events

Numbers are restricted to enable all participants to ask questions, share knowledge and engage with other members.

Please reserve a place with [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk) including the event, title and date together with your name and membership number.

### MONTHLY ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUPS

**Zoom DNA Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln**

The topic for each meeting is agreed by the members by notifying the leader through [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk).

The topics can range from basic information to methods to how to link your matches to your family tree.

The autosomal test (eg by Ancestry or FamilyTreeDNA's Family Finder) is explored but both YDNA (paternal line) and mtDNA (maternal line) can be discussed.

## ZOOM FAMILY HISTORY DISCUSSION GROUP

### *Come and enjoy lively discussions on different aspects of Family History*

Each meeting the topic is agreed by the members at the previous group meeting. It can range from 'how do I do...?' to 'sources for finding family information'. Because this is an open discussion the subjects can lead to topics that the participants want to discuss or expand upon points raised during the session. The structure is very flexible.

**Please visit our website for further details, dates and times [www.nwkhfs.org.uk](http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk)**

**Changes and up-to-date details will be on the website and in the e-mail information service newsletter.**

*Since re-opening the library post Covid the number of attendees is noticeably down. There are many reasons for this but if it is safety fears, we would like to reassure you that we will do all we can to make you feel and be safe. The tables can be spaced further apart to usual, furthermore, we can seat you on your own table and nobody will object to you wearing a face covering.*

We would be pleased to hear from any volunteers who would like to be involved with any workshops, along with any new topics that interest you. Contact us through bookings and enquiries by e-mail [worshop.booking@nwkhfs.org.uk](mailto:worshop.booking@nwkhfs.org.uk)

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### 20 APRIL - ZOOM TALK – ANNIE BESANT AND THE MATCH GIRLS STRIKE WITH JEFFREY PAGE

Annie Besant was a British Socialist and a women's rights activist. She became involved in the Match Girls Strike in 1888. In 1888 the match girls employed by the company Bryant & May in the east end of London went on strike. On 23rd June 1888, Annie Besant (1847-1933), a campaigner for women's welfare and rights published an article called 'White Slavery in London' in her weekly paper, *The Link*. She revealed the terrible working conditions and low wages suffered by the young women and girls employed at the factory. Besant's article gained a great deal of publicity because the Victorians believed that only 'inferior races' engaged in the practice of slavery. In 1833 Britain abolished slavery in most parts of the Empire. To find out that women worked in such dreadful conditions in the match factories shocked many respectable Victorians.

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

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2799524396?pwd=ZTM4VOE4R2ZqbTZubXpXZ1dDZGdRQT09>

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 NWKFHS 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*

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**NWKFHS members** who missed a ZOOM talk: some speakers have allowed their talks to be recorded and recorded talks are saved here - <https://nwkhfs.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.

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### Society of Genealogists April Events

15 April 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm - 1 hour Zoom Talk - Traumatic Histories: When Family Research Becomes Difficult with Elise Bath

18 April 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm – 8 weeks Zoom course – What To Do With Your Family History with Expert Tutors

19 April 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm – 1.5 hour Zoom Talk - Timeline Tips and Tricks with Natalie Pithers

20 April 2:00 pm–4:00 pm - 2 hour Zoom Talk – Tracing Your European Ancestors with Julie Goucher

Visit the website for more information and events [www.sog.org.uk](http://www.sog.org.uk) / [events@sog.org.uk](mailto:events@sog.org.uk)

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**ON THIS DAY: April 8 is the 99<sup>th</sup> day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 267 days left until the end of the year.**

**April was associated by the Romans with the goddess Venus and the word April may be related to her Greek name, Aphrodite.**

**1820** The Venus de Milo is discovered on the Aegean island of Milos

**1886** William Ewart Gladstone introduces the first Irish Home Rule Bill into the British House of Commons

**1902** Andrew Irvine is born, English mountaineer and explorer (d. 1924)

**1906** Auguste Deter, the first person to be diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, dies (b. 1850)

**1941** Vivienne Westwood is born, English fashion designer (d. 2022)

**1968** BOAC Flight 712 catches fire shortly after take-off. As a result of her actions in the accident, Barbara Jane Harrison is awarded a posthumous George Cross, the only GC awarded to a woman in peacetime

**1993** The Space Shuttle Discovery is launched on mission STS-56

**2008** The construction of the world's first skyscraper to integrate wind turbines is completed in Bahrain

**2010** U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev sign the New START Treaty

**2013** Margaret Thatcher dies, English politician, first female Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (b. 1925)

**Oral History** - One of the first steps recommended to anyone setting out to trace their ancestors is to talk to all their relatives and find out what they know or remember about the family. However, memories at any age can be fallible, deliberately suppressed or falsified. People remember what they want to and forget the unpleasant episodes. Your great aunt may tell you scandalous tales about her sisters and their lives but will do all she can to prevent you finding out that her parents married only three months before, or six months after, she was born. She will go into minute detail about her respectable brothers and their descendants, but blank out the one who did not conform, and his existence will only come tonight when you find his name on a census and ask who he was. Be careful, touching a raw nerve may cause a previously rich vein of information to dry up completely. Legitimacy, suicide, and mental illnesses are among subjects which many older people still find it difficult to cope with, and some of them resent that we now find out via official records, facts which they have spent a lifetime concealing.

Do not make the mistake of talking to one chatty relative and assume that you have learnt everything about the family. Question other relatives and you may well end up with additional information and a completely different view on the family situation. Remember, particular from the 18th to early 20th centuries, many children left home at an early age, particular girls who went 'into service'; so the eldest daughter may know less about family affairs than her younger siblings. If you find new information, be prepared to revisit a relative, providing they are willing - do not expect everyone to be as interested in family details as you. It is surprising what can suddenly be revealed from what you thought was an exhausted mine of information.

You will almost certainly be shown photographs, possibly dating as far back as the 1860s, many of them was no indication as to who they represent. Do not fall into the trap of assuming that because several relatives have shown you the same unlabelled photograph that this will be true of the next one you see and omit to turn it over. You may have six copies of a photograph of what was an unidentified couple until you find the answer scribbled on the back of photograph number six. If your family has a maiden aunt, often the unmarried daughter who remained at home to look after her parents, she is often the most fruitful source of labelling photographs and family stories.

**Relationships** - Was little *Cis* christened as Cecilia or Cecily? Was auntie Gladys really the speaker's true aunt? Was the uncle who lived in the big house with lots of furniture, ornaments, and clothes, and whom the elderly gentleman remembered visiting regularly with his mother truly his uncle? Can anyone correctly claim descent in the male line from *Captain Cook*, *Horatio Nelson* or *William Shakespeare*? The answer is no; relationships may not always be what they seem, and pitfalls abound.

Understanding relationships is something which many people find difficult. Most of them have no idea of the difference between a first cousin twice removed and third cousins, and do not care. However, the difference can be crucial to the family historian Do not fall into the very big pitfall of trying to construct a family tree based on perceived relationships after talking to friends and relatives. Anything we are told verbally or in writing should never be accepted as true before it has been confirmed from other sources.

**Terminology** - The definition of some relationships has changed over time and attaching the modern meaning to references found in records, particularly those dating from the 16th to mid-19th century it can cause you considerable difficulties.

**Adoption** officially began as a legal process on the 1st of January 1927, almost anyone 'adopted' before this was fostered or 'taken into' a family and it is unlikely that any documentation evidence will survive.

**Cousin** can be very widely interpreted and cover almost any degree of relationship either by blood or marriage. Historically it was frequently used for nephew or niece, and sometimes for next of kin.

**Godparents or sponsors** played a more prominent role in the past than they do in many families today. The purpose was to take on special responsibilities for the Christian upbringing of the gods children.

**Nephew** can mean nephew or nephew by marriage. It was also historically used for grandson and for the illegitimate son of a cleric, (primarily from the period when England was a RC country and clerics could not marry; sometimes found in early wills).

**Next of kin** historically meant the nearest blood relative. A wife in the eyes of the law was not her husband's next of kin. It can be difficult to understand the complications which could arise. For example, if her husband died intestate, or if the son or daughter of a first marriage, (the next of kin), disliked their stepmother.

**Nurse child** before adoption became illegal in 1927 this usually refers to a child being fostered by a relative or another family.

**Orphan** is usually taken to mean the loss of both parents but do not make this assumption without proof. Many an heiress who had lost her father was treated as an 'orphan' and 'adopted' by a family with eyes on her inheritance.

**Step** relationships resulted from the remarriage of a widowed parent (and originally came within the degrees of affinity of those forbidden to marry) but did not involve a blood relationship. Particularly in the 1851 and 1861 census returns, family members who we should today describe a *step* relative were most commonly listed as *in law*. Stepchild also meant orphan.

**Remember** not all relationships are blood relationships. They maybe relationships in law, step relationships or unofficial relationships.

Source Book Pitfalls and Possibilities in Family History Research by Pauline M. Litton pages 33, 34, 35, 37,

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Committee Members: Karina Jackson, Norma Holmden, Bernie Wilkins, Sandra Marchant, Barbara Attwaters

*Wishing you and yours peace this Easter season; may your basket be full of chocolate!* 