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ISSUE NUMBER 108

# 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 10:45 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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## TODAYS TALK:

### Bailey: Luddesdown Parish: The Secrets of a Remote Parish

Luddesdown is as remote as it is beautiful with a secret history that will surprise you. Christoph lived in Chalk most of his life and founded Chalk Parish History Group in 1973 whilst still at school.

In 2012 he was District Manager of Gravesham and Dartford and Swale Libraries. Has been President of Gravesend Historical Society and was President of Dartford Historical and Antiquarian Society for three years. He is also Municipal Mace Bearer for Gravesham Borough Council, Official Cobham Hall House & Garden guide, and historical advisor to Swanscombe & Greenhithe Town Council. He says he is a librarian by profession and a local historian by inclination.

Christoph is a local guide and speaker with over 35 years' experience who has entertained us many times with his light-hearted but informative talks on North West Kent.

**Speaker Christoph**

**Bull**

## NEXT SEVENOAKS BRANCH MEETING

**14<sup>TH</sup> September - Otford's Little Known Isolation Hospital Wickham Field**

Today's speaker, Alan, lives locally with his wife and children near to Otford and is a Lecturer.

He is a very active member of the 1940s Society, Otford, and many of his talks reflect his interest in the war years. He is also a member and editor of the Otford History Society newsletter.

**Speaker Alan Williams**

## DARTFORD BRANCH MEETING

**7th September - How English and Welsh Records Work: what is and what isn't there**

Michael is well known to our Society as a knowledgeable and entertaining speaker.

He is returning to give us a talk on how things work: and the origins and development of local and state governance, the better to understand the reasons why and for whom the records were made that we use in our research and why they don't always provide the answers that we expect.

**Speaker Michael Gandy**

Please visit our website for details of more workshops and updates and don't forget to sign up for our free twice monthly Society eNewsletter.

## UP AND COMING LIBRARY WORKSHOPS

Scottish Interests Discussion Group with Pam Goddard

4 September 10:30

DNA and General Family History Discussion Group with Jacki Ellis and Pam Goddard

11 September 10:30

Booking essential - please email [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk) to reserve your place.

## MONTHLY ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUPS

ZOOM Family History Soap Box - Get It Off Your Chest with Ann Clarke

4 September 10:30

ZOOM Let's Talk Family History with Laura Lincoln

11 September 10:30

*It's a chance to ask about terms and words seen in documents or used by other historians and what they mean and how they influence your research. The session can also be used to ask, 'how do I do that' and get tips from other members who have perhaps done similar research before.*

ZOOM DNA Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln

18 September 10:30

## ZOOM WORKSHOP

Researching agricultural ancestors with David Cufley

25 September 19:30

*Ag Labs are probably the most common occupation description in early records. What did they do for work and how to try to discover them in the records? This workshop will discover some records that may help find them.*

Please log in 15 minutes before each online event and enjoy chatting amongst participants before it starts.



As its on zoom you will need to bring your own coffee and biscuits!



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## How to get the Zoom Link - Booking is no longer required for individual Zoom Workshops and Discussion Groups.

For 2024 a Zoom Register has been created to cover all attendance to any of the zoom groups. Any society member who would like to be added to the register needs to submit their name, email address and membership number to [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk). You only need to register once.

Once a month the zoom links for the discussion groups and workshops will be sent by email to those members on the register. Members who have registered can then attend as many of the Zoom groups as they wish with no need to make a specific booking for each one.

**All Zoom Workshops and Discussion Groups are members only-events.**

Workshop leaders freely give their time, but a donation via the web shop is appreciated:

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services/society-donation>

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Participating in a North West Kent Family History workshop or discussion offers numerous benefits. It provides valuable skills for research, enhances your understanding of historical contexts, and fosters a sense of connection with your ancestry. We warmly welcome both familiar faces and new friends.

**Calling all volunteers with fresh ideas!** If you have a new topic of interest you'd like to see covered in our workshops, or you wish to be involved with our workshops, we want to hear from you.

Contact us through bookings and enquiries by e-mail [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk)



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## **Bring Your Own Mug (BYOM)**

Let's make our meetings a little eco-friendly! Please where possible BYOM to help us to save a little cost, reduce waste and make a positive impact on the environment. If this is difficult or you forget don't worry, we do have a small supply of mugs to ensure you can enjoy a drink. We thank you for your cooperation.

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## **An Invitation from the Editor**

As a member of our esteemed Family History Society, we invite you to contribute to our upcoming journals in the next few months. At NWKFHS, we value the rich tapestry of family narratives and historical insights that our members bring to the table. Your unique perspective and expertise would undoubtedly enrich our journal.

Whether you have a captivating family story, compelling research, or an enlightening exploration of historical records, we warmly welcome your submissions. This is a terrific opportunity to share your knowledge and passion with fellow members.

If you are interested in contributing, please feel free to reach out to us with your proposed topic or submission. Our editor Pauline will be delighted to hear from you and will respond to every proposal. Please email [theeditor@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:theeditor@nwkfhs.org.uk) – word files or simply text in the body of an email is fine. We look forward to hearing from you.

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### **ON THIS DAY**

**August 10<sup>th</sup> is the 222<sup>nd</sup> day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 143 days remain to the end of the year.**

August means “inspiring reverence or admiration,” it is the name of the eighth month of the year in our Gregorian calendar. It’s the sixth month of the ancient Roman calendar and was known as *Sextilis*, Latin for “sixth month.”

In 8 BCE, the month was named in honour of Augustus Caesar, the first Roman emperor.

**30 BC** Cleopatra, queen of Egypt and lover of Julius Caesar and Mark Antony, takes her life following the defeat of her forces against Octavian, the future first emperor of Rome.

**654** Pope Eugene I elected to succeed Martinus I.

**991** Battle of Maldon: The English, led by Byrhtnoth, Ealdorman of Essex, are defeated by a band of inland raiding Vikings near Maldon, Essex

**1316** The Second Battle of Athenry, Galway, Ireland, takes place near Athenry during the Bruce campaign in Ireland.

**1519** Ferdinand Magellan's five ships set sail from Seville to circumnavigate the globe. The Basque second-in-command Juan Sebastián Elcano will complete the expedition after Magellan's death in the Philippines.

**1628** The Swedish warship Vasa sinks on her maiden voyage off Stockholm

**1641** The Treaty of London between England and Scotland, ending the Bishops' Wars, is signed.

**1776** London learns of American independence; news reaches London that the Americans had drafted the Declaration of Independence.

**1793** Louvre Museum opens.

**1835** P. T. Barnum begins his career as a showman and circus entrepreneur by exhibiting Joice Heth, an octogenarian African slave whom he claims was George Washington's nursemaid.

**1932** Rin Tin Tin, American acting dog died (b. 1918)

**1939** “The Wizard of Oz” movie premieres in Green Bay, Wisconsin

**1948** Candid Camera makes its television debut after being on radio for a year as The Candid Microphone.

**1990** The Magellan space probe reaches Venus

**2003** Temperatures in U.K. top 100 F for first time during European heat wave.

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### **Old Occupations:**

- ❖ CADGER A market man, peddler or huckster. Beggar
  - ❖ CAIRD Another term for a tinker
  - ❖ CALCINER Burnt bones to make powdered lime (Reduced by heat)
  - ❖ CAMBIST A banker specialising in exchange rates
  - ❖ CANTING CALLER Auctioneer
  - ❖ CANVAS CLIMBER A sailor
  - ❖ CANVASER A person whose job is to solicit people’s opinions, votes or orders
  - ❖ CARMAN Drove a vehicle used to transport goods
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### **What Historical Events Your Ancestors Were Involved In?**

Your ancestors were likely involved in several historical events, but you may not know what they are. Here are some things to look for when researching your family history:

- Wars – Many families have members who served in various wars throughout history. This is especially true if you have ancestry from Europe or America. Look for military records and stories passed down through the generations to learn more about your ancestor’s role in these conflicts.
  - Mass Migrations – Migrations can be large-scale, like the Irish Potato Famine or small-scale, like moving west during America’s frontier days. Either way, research how and why your ancestors decided to move to get a better understanding of their lives at that time period.
  - Religious persecution - In many parts of the world, people have faced religious persecution because of their beliefs. If you come from one of these families, learning about how they coped with this hardship can provide insight into their strengths and character.
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**The Sevenoaks Committee: Branch Chair – Vacant**

**Committee Members: Norma Holmden, Bernie Wilkins, Sandra Marchant,  
Barbara Attwaters, Maureen Berry, Jon Henderson**

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