



9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

ISSUE NUMBER 111

# 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.

---

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

**We are pleased to inform you that we now have a hearing system at this event to enhance the audio experience for attendees who may need it.**

---

## TODAYS TALK:

**And so to Ted, the history of Teddies and other Bears**

Today's speaker, Melanie has been a speaker for over 10 years, and we welcome her back to the society.

A wide-ranging fun talk of Bear Essentials to appeal to arctophiles and bear lovers.

We hope you have brought your bears along to hear the talk. It adds to the fun and it's amazing what people have in the back of cupboards.

**Speaker : Melanie Gibson - Barton**

## NEXT SEVENOAKS BRANCH MEETING

**14<sup>th</sup> December 2024: The Vindication of Christmas**

The talk looks at how the Puritan clamp down on Christmas led to the end of Civil War in Kent.

**Speaker : Peter Daniel**

## DARTFORD BRANCH MEETING

**7<sup>TH</sup> December: Oh No It Isn't : A History of Pantomime**

Pete is the Director of the R.C. Sherriff Trust, an arts charity, and works extensively as a professional theatre director and film-maker.

"What is it about Pantomime that attracts us to this strange concoction of fairy tales, dance, jokes, songs and cross-dressing? And what is it really like to play the back end of a Pantomime cow? All this, and the answer to whether something really is behind you, will be answered in this festive talk about what has become one of the great British Christmas traditions."

This should be an enjoyable and appropriate start to our Christmas season.

**Speaker : Pete Allen**



## **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.

## UP AND COMING LIBRARY WORKSHOPS

There are no library workshops scheduled for December

## MONTHLY ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUPS

What do we wish we had asked our relatives? with Ann Clarke	4 December 10:30
DNA Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln	11 December 10:30

## ZOOM WORKSHOP

Let's talk about Christmas Family Traditions with David Cufley	18 December 19:30
--	-------------------

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

---

### 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>

---

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)

---

### 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.

## ON THIS DAY

November 9<sup>th</sup> is the 313<sup>th</sup> day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 52 days remain until the end of the year.

- 1277 – The Treaty of Aberconwy, a humiliating settlement forced on Llywelyn ap Gruffudd by King Edward I of England, brings a temporary end to the Welsh Wars.
  - 1688 – Glorious Revolution: William of Orange captures Exeter.
  - 1729 – Spain, France and Great Britain sign the Treaty of Seville.
  - 1799 – Napoleon Bonaparte leads the Coup of 18 Brumaire ending the Directory government, and becoming First Consul of the successor Consulate Government.
  - 1872 – The Great Boston Fire of 1872.
  - 1888 – Jack the Ripper murders Mary Jane Kelly, becoming his final victim in the Whitechapel murders.
  - 1901 – The Prince George, Duke of Cornwall (later George V of the United Kingdom) becomes Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester.
  - 1907 – The Cullinan Diamond is presented to King Edward VII on his birthday.
  - 1918 – Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany abdicates after the German Revolution, and Germany is proclaimed a Republic.
  - 1953 – Cambodia gains independence from France.
  - 1967 – Apollo program: NASA launches the unmanned Apollo 4 test spacecraft, atop the first Saturn V rocket, from Florida's Cape Kennedy.
  - 1985 – Garry Kasparov, 22, of the Soviet Union, becomes the youngest World Chess Champion by beating fellow Soviet Anatoly Karpov.
  - 1989 – Cold War: Fall of the Berlin Wall: East Germany opens checkpoints in the Berlin Wall, allowing its citizens to travel to West Berlin.
  - 1994 – The chemical element darmstadtium is discovered.
  - 1998 – Capital punishment in the United Kingdom, already abolished for murder, is completely abolished for all remaining capital offences.
  - 2023 – U.S. surgeons at NYU Langone Health announce the world's first whole eye transplant.
- 

### **Old Occupations:**

- DANTER Female overseer in the winding rooms of a silk mill
- DEVILLER Operated the devil, a machine that tore rags used in the textile industry
- DEW POND MAKER A person who created ponds on the Downs for local famers to water their livestock.
- DEY WIFE Female dairy worker
- DOFFER Unloaded full bobbins from a spinning machine
- DOG LEECH Veterinarian
- DUBBERE A cloth dubber - , one who raises the nap of cloth
- DUFFER Peddler or hawker of cheap goods.
- DYER Employed in the textile mills to colour fabric prior to weaving

**If you are wondering what to get someone for Christmas who doesn't need more 'stuff' why not buy a Gift membership of our Society. Same low price as normal membership.**

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/about/membership/our-membership/#options>

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/about/membership/our-membership/#gift-membership>

**If you need help with membership, contact our Membership Secretary via <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact> mentioning Membership.**

.....

### **Society Vacancies**

Many hands make light work. That is certainly true when it comes to sharing the tasks that keep our Society operating smoothly. Please review these volunteer opportunities. This list will be updated monthly on the Society website. If you can help, please email <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact> marked for the attention of the Society secretary.

### **Job Role Descriptions**

### **URGENT Society Treasurer**

The Society has struggled this year to fill this post. The current person can only continue until the end of October 2024. So the Society URGENTLY needs someone to volunteer for this role longer-term. The job is not onerous and full support will be available from the other Committee members. A job description is available if you are interested.

### **Society Chair**

The Society has struggled this year to fill this post. Nigel Durrant has kindly agreed to stand-in until someone can volunteer for this role longer-term. The job is not onerous and full support will be available from the other Committee members. A job description is available if you are interested

### **Chair - Sevenoaks Branch Meetings**

Barbara Phillips is currently acting Chair but would like to relinquish this post as she is also programme secretary for the branch and has other responsibilities within the Society. The chair does not have as many responsibilities as previously as others have taken on some of the tasks. If the Branch Chair is away for a meeting, this can be managed. The job is not onerous, but needs commitment.

### **Bought-in-Books Transporter - Dartford & Sevenoaks Branch Meetings**

Dartford & Sevenoaks need someone to bring the Bought -in-Books to the meetings. When not required they can be housed in the Society's lock-up off of Thames Road, Dartford. One does not need a big car boot. Any monies involved are the responsibility of the individual branch and do not concern the person who brings them. The job is not onerous, but does need commitment.

### **Librarian Assistant**

The Society Librarian urgently needs volunteers to help with running the Library in Joyden's Wood and to help fellow members with their research. The situation is about to become worse, as one of the current volunteers is moving away soon. We must have at least two volunteers on site for the Library to be able to open on Wednesdays. Good IT skills and knowledge of Microsoft Windows would be helpful, but are not essential.

Are you free on Wednesdays and could offer help on one or more Wednesdays a month?

If you can help with any of these please email via <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact> marked for the attention of the Society Secretary.

### **Society Library**

The Society Library is open every Wednesday for members to do their own research, socialise, participate in library based workshops and discussion groups and receive help from the library volunteers. The library address is 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley Kent DA5 2EE Free parking in nearby side roads.

You can use the library's PCs to access Ancestry - and FindMyPast (which currently does NOT include access to the 1921 census, something we are investigating with the library). We suggest joining Kent Libraries as you can then access these websites from your own device whilst in the library which eases pressure on the demand for library PCs.

The library is open from 10am to 4pm but it greatly helps the volunteers if visitors with research queries call in earlier in the day rather than later. Please also bring as much information as you already have about the ancestor you are researching.

---

### **The Sevenoaks Committee: Branch Chair – Vacant**

**Members: Barbara Phillips, Norma Holmden, Bernie Wilkins, Sandra Marchant, Barbara Attwaters, Maureen Berry, Jon Henderson, Janet Rose, Christine Hills**