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Sevenoaks Newsletter

THE NORTH WEST KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, SEVENOAKS, KENT
www.nwkhfs.org.uk



NEXT BRANCH MEETING

NO AUGUST MEETING
8th SEPTEMBER

WW2 Escape Lines - the routes that criss-crossed Europe
Speaker: GEOFF COWLING

OTHER BRANCH MEETINGS

BROMLEY

16th JULY - The Somme - Speaker - Graham Bandy
20th AUGUST - How to research your house history -
Speaker - Melanie Backe-Hansen

DARTFORD

6th AUGUST - Records of Vagrants, gypsies, travellers and
strangers in Kent - Speaker Gillian Rickard
3rd SEPTEMBER - Vickers at Crayford - Speaker Peter Daniel

Welcome to NWKFHS Sevenoaks Branch. In addition to the talks, we have a number of interesting tables for you to browse. These include a bookstall, old magazines and journals, exchange journals and a reference book library. Plus don't forget to take a look at our notice board.

The books from our library may be borrowed at no charge and the magazines are a snip at 20 pence each. You might just find the publication or book you are looking for.

Do visit our computer help desk where Karina will make every effort to assist with your family history brick wall.

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at Sevenoaks Community Centre, Otford Road Sevenoaks, TN14 5DN. Doors open at 7.15pm, meeting starts at 8pm. There is free car parking - and refreshments are available.

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 donation to the society's funds.

THIS EVENING'S TALK - "Well I never knew that!"

Speaker Rod Shelton: A light hearted tour through the villages of the Darenth, and we don't have to leave our chair.

NEWS ITEM

TheGenealogist has released over 6.23 million fully searchable records for the registers of baptisms, marriages, marriage banns and burials for Norfolk with images of the original registers. This includes more than 276,000 records relating to the boundary areas of Suffolk, bringing the total to over 9.8 million records for our project in partnership with The Norfolk Record Office. Some of the surviving records reaching back as far as the early 1500s. Released in partnership with The Norfolk Record Office, the registers of baptisms, marriages, burials and banns of marriage cover the majority of parishes in the Diocese of Norwich. This also includes a number of Suffolk parishes in and near Lowestoft that make up the deanery of Lothingland. Also covered by this release are the parishes in the deanery of Fincham & Feltwell that were part of the Diocese of Ely in south-west Norfolk. www.thegenealogist.co.uk

Imperial War Museum have a new exhibition to mark the 100th anniversary of the release of the original blockbuster, *The Battle of the Somme*, which explores how film-makers have found inspiration from war's inherent drama to translate stories of love and loss, fear and courage, triumph and tragedy into movies for the big screen. Discover personal stories and surviving wartime artefacts alongside film industry props, scripts and set designs from classics including *The Dam Busters*, *Where Eagles Dare*, *Apocalypse Now*, *Battle of Britain*, *Das Boot*, *Casablanca*, *Jarhead*, *Saving Private Ryan*, *Atonement* and *War Horse*, among many more, to reveal how box-office hits can offer surprising perspectives on war. Exhibit runs until 8th January 2017. See <http://www.iwm.org.uk>

EVENTS

Society of Genealogists, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Rd. EC1M 7BA :

16th July Lost in London: Solving your London Family History Problems - Tracing your ancestors back to the period before civil registration and the Victorian census returns can present a genuine challenge to most family historians. But if your family came from London, the problems that you're likely to face can be even harder to overcome. The population of London doubled between 1801 and 1841 making it the most populated city in the world. Outlying villages were swallowed up as London spread ever outwards - the boundaries of what constituted London was constantly being redrawn. The administration of the area was enormously complicated - the City of London alone comprised over 100 parishes - and the records of the various authorities responsible for running London are now spread around a number of different record offices. This talk will explain how to access and make the most of the capital's diverse collection of records and will give some useful tips on tracking down those elusive London ancestors. Speaker David Annal
Time 1030 - 1300 - Price £20.00 - Website: www.sog.org.uk

20th July - Getting the Most from the Society Catalogue (SOGCAT) - With Tim Lawrence (must be pre-booked)
Time 1200 - 1300 - Free event - Website: www.sog.org.uk

27th July - New Members Orientation Tour - This tour of the society's building will provide you with a good overview of what the Society holds in its unique collections, to help you with your research, with Else Churchill (must be pre-booked)
Time 1200 - 1315 - Price Free - Website: www.sog.org.uk

17th and 18th September - Open House London - The Open House London event is fully inclusive and admission is free for all Open House London events each September. You will need to find out which buildings are opening / walks and talks planned in order to plan your visits. To pre-order a copy of the programme for this year's event, visit <http://www.openhouselondon.org.uk>.

Kent Events

29th JUNE - Chalk Mining in Kent - Kemsing Heritage Centre, St Edith Hall, High Street, Kemsing, Kent TN15 6NA
Speaker Rod LeGear - Time 7.30pm, non-members £2.50

Tunbridge Wells Family History Society, Groombridge Village Hall, Station Rd, Tunbridge Wells, TN3 9OX - 8pm start :

26th JULY - - An introduction to 'One Name Studies and the GOONS' - Speaker Ken Toll

23rd August - Underground Britain - Speaker Geoff Beer

The Matchgirls Strike

In June 1888, Clementina Black, a member of the Women's Trade Union Association (WTUA), gave a speech on Female Labour at a Fabian Society meeting in London. The Fabian Society was an organisation whose aim was to improve the social system. Annie Besant, a prominent British socialist, theosophist, women's rights activist, writer and orator and supporter of Irish and Indian self-rule, was a member of the audience. She was horrified when she heard about the pay and conditions of the women working at the Bryant & May match factory. The next day, Beasant went and interviewed some of the people who worked at Bryant & May. She discovered that the women worked fourteen hours a day for a wage of less than five shillings a week. However, they did not always receive their full wage because of a system of fines, ranging from three pence to one shilling, imposed by the Bryant & May management. Offences included talking, dropping matches or going to the toilet without permission. The women worked from 6.30 am in summer (8.00 am in winter) to 6.00 pm. If workers were late, they were fined a half-day's pay.

Annie Besant also discovered that the health of the women had been severely affected by the phosphorous that they used to make the matches. This caused yellowing of the skin and hair loss and phoshy jaw, a form of bone cancer. The whole side of the face turned green and then black, discharging foul-smelling pus and finally death. Although phosphorous was banned in Sweden and the USA, the British government had refused to follow their example, arguing that it would be a restraint of free trade.

On 23rd June 1888, Beasant wrote an article in her newspaper, *The Link; A Journal for the Servants of Man*, printed and published for the Proprietor by Annie Besant, 34 Bouverie Street, Fleet Street. The article, entitled 'White Slavery in London', complained about the way the women at Bryant & May were being treated. The company reacted by attempting to force their workers to sign a statement that they were happy with their working conditions. When a group of women refused to sign, the organisers of the group was sacked. The reaction was immediate and 1400 of the women at Bryant & May went on strike.

William Stead, the editor of the Pall Mall Gazette, Henry Hyde Champion of the *Labour Elector* and Catharine Booth of the Salvation Army joined Besant in her campaign for better working conditions in the factory. So did Hubert Llewellyn Smith, Sydney Oliver, Stewart Headlam, Hubert Bland Graham Wallas and George Bernard Shaw. Yet, other newspapers such as *The Times*, blamed Besant and other socialist agitators for the dispute.

Besant, Stead and Champion used their newspapers to call for a boycott of Bryant & May matches. The women at the company also decided to form a Matchgirls' Union and Besant agreed to become its leader. After three weeks the company announced that it was willing to re-employ the dismissed women and would also bring an end to the fines system. The women accepted the terms and returned in triumph. The Bryant & May dispute was the first strike by unorganized workers to gain national publicity. It was also successful as it helped to inspire the formation of unions all over the country.

Annie Beasant, William Stead, Catherine Booth, William Booth and Henry Hyde Champion continued to campaign against the use of yellow phosphorous. In 1891 the Salvation Army opened its own match-factory in Old Ford, East London. Only using harmless red phosphorus, the workers were soon producing six million boxes a year. Whereas Bryant & May paid their workers just over two pence a gross, the Salvation Army paid their employees twice this amount.

William Booth organised conducted tours of MPs and journalists round this 'model' factory. He also took them to the homes of those "sweated workers" who were working eleven and twelve hours a day producing matches for companies like Bryant & May. The bad publicity that the company received forced the company to reconsider its policy. In 1901, Gilbert Bartholomew, managing director of Bryant & May, announced it had stopped used yellow phosphorus.

Sources: <https://en.wikipedia.org>

<http://spartacus-educational.com/TUmatchgirls.htm>

12.07.2016

Did you know why April 5th is the end of the tax year? In the Middle Ages the English calendar ran from Lady Day, March 25th, chosen by the Church as the beginning of its year. All official years ran from the same New Year's Day. The financial year remained at that date, but by the eighteenth century, January 1st had become generally regarded as the beginning of the year. Time was measured by the Julian calendar which, since its inception in 46 BC, had 'lost' a number of days, when the country adopted the Gregorian Calendar in 1752, 11 lost days had to be found. So 2nd September 1752, was followed by 14th September. The authorities then thought that 11 days' revenue could be lost if nothing was done about the missing days. So 11 days were tacked on to the end of the financial year – the date was moved from March 25th to April 5. In 1854, the financial year was changed to 31st March, but for some reason the tax year continued to run from 6th April to 5th April. (Source Countryside Books – www.countrysidebooks.co.uk)

ON THIS DAY

JULY 14TH is the 195TH day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 170 days remain until the end of the year.

- 664** Death of Eorcenberht of Kent, king of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Kent from 640
 - 1099** Jerusalem captured in First Crusade
 - 1223** Louis VIII becomes King of France upon the death of his father, Philip II
 - 1430** Joan of Arc, taken prisoner by the Burgundians in May, is handed over to Pierre Cauchon, the bishop of Beauvais
 - 1536** France and Portugal sign the Treaty of Lyons, aligning themselves against Spain
 - 1789** French Revolution: Citizens of Paris storm the Bastille
 - 1791** The Priestley Riots drive Joseph Priestley, a supporter of the French Revolution, out of Birmingham, England
 - 1858** Emmeline Pankhurst is born, founder of the Women's Social and Political Union
 - 1865** First ascent of the Matterhorn by Edward Whymper and party, four of whom die on the descent
 - 1874** The Chicago Fire of 1874 burns down 47 acres of the city, destroying 812 buildings, killing 20, and resulting in the fire insurance industry demanding municipal reforms from Chicago's city council
 - 1881** Billy the Kid is shot and killed by Pat Garrett outside Fort Sumner
 - 1913** Future President Gerald R. Ford is born
 - 1976** Capital punishment is abolished in Canada
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A little reminder that there is no August meeting at Sevenoaks – the committee members would like to wish

you a  lovely summer and we look forward to seeing you in September (here's hoping we see some sunshine) 

NWKFHS WORKSHOPS - The two hour workshops are limited to 10 people, but are repeated if there is demand. Let us know if there is one you missed and would like it repeated. Workshops are held at the Library, Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley Contact Janet Rose (01322-384836). Bookings and enquiries please email workshops@nwkfhs.org. Also see our notice board or please ask a member at one of our meetings.

The Sevenoaks Committee – Branch Chair Barbara Attwaters

**Committee Members: Christina Barnett, Karina Jackson, Norma Holmden, Robert Barnett,
Bernie Wilkins, Barbara Stead, Sandra Marchant**