



Sevenoaks Newsletter

THE NORTH WEST KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, SEVENOAKS, KENT

www.nwkhfs.org.uk

NEXT BRANCH MEETING

14TH MARCH 2019

Underground Britain:

From factories to Military transport" -

An exploration of interesting things beneath the ground from war time factories to Cold War bunkers, mines, underground pipelines of all sorts, geology, catacombs and crypts, dumping, and of course pavement markings.

Speaker - GEOFFERY BEER

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

OTHER BRANCH MEETINGS

BROMLEY

16TH FEBRUARY - "Spitalfields through the ages"

Speaker John Halligan

DARTFORD

2ND MARCH - "The Siren Sea - Nations depend on it" -

Speaker Imogen Corrigan

14TH FEBRUARY THIS EVENING'S TALK

"My Life as a Personal Protection Office with H.M. The Queen"

This evening is an opportunity to hear first-hand from Richard Griffin, a retired Metropolitan police officer and former Royal Protection Officer to both The Queen and HRH Prince Philip, about his 14 years employment for Her Majesty. I know I am looking forward to this talk.

Speaker RICHARD GRIFFIN

Kent Events

16TH FEB - FARNINGHAM SHOPS EXHIBITION - Farningham Village Hall,

This is another chance to enjoy this popular exhibition in more spacious surrounds. The Farningham Scrapbooks can be browsed through in a seated area. Learn about shops and shopping in Farningham down the years, from the days when the village shops catered for most of villagers' needs to today, when only a few shops survive. 11am - 3pm - entry free, but donations welcomed. Refreshments available - Contact Vikki Saunders 01322 861931

20TH FEB - Cadbury, Fry and Rowntree - The chocolate Quakers - Otford & District Historical Society, Otford Village Memorial Hall, High St, TN14 5PQ - Speaker Fred Lemont - Time 8 pm - Visitors £3.00 . Fred Lemont

21ST FEB - Houses in Kent from Medieval Times to the Present - Leigh & District Historical Society, Small Village Hall, High Street, Leigh, Nr Tonbridge TN11 8RL - Speaker Sir Paul Britton - 8pm start, non-members £2.00

22ND FEB - 'Friday 13th February 1944' - Kemsing Heritage Centre, St Edith Hall, High Street, Kemsing, TN15 6NA. Speaker: Doug Parry. Time 7.30pm, non-members £2.50

4TH MARCH - Heraldry - The IHGS, 79-82 Northgate, Canterbury, CT1 1BA

Many genealogists and family historians turn aside from heraldry with the misconception that it is not for them but rather some medieval mystery. This course aims to show that the records of heraldry can be of great use to family historians and is suitable for absolute beginners and those with some experience. Practical guidance will be given on how to understand heraldry and how to identify coats of arms. Price: £55.00/Student Rate: £49.00 Lunch included. Call 01227 768664 or book in line www.ihgs.ac.uk

Schedule: 10.15 Registration
10.30 Introduction to Heraldry
11.00 Language and Colour
11.45 Practical Exercises
12.30 Buffet Luncheon
1.30 Marshalling and Cadency
2.15 How to identify an Armigerous Family
3.15 Tea
3.30 Practical Library Exercise
4.30 Assessment and depart

22ND MARCH - 'Sevenoaks - cradle of the Swing riots 1830-31' - Sevenoaks Historical Society, the Undercroft, St Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks, TN13 1JA. Speaker Dr Iain Taylor - Time 8pm - non-members £3.00 - Free parking

Family History Day & AGM -

Our Family History Day Incorporating the 41ST Society Annual General Meeting is taking place on Thursday 11th April 2019 at Cobham Hall, Brewers Road, Cobham, Kent, DA12 3BL - more details can be found on our website; and on the notice board at this evenings meeting.

Historic Pantiles, Royal Tunbridge Wells - The Pantiles is the centre of the spa town of Royal Tunbridge Wells. The Pantiles and the town owe their beginnings to the discovery of the Chalybeate Spring which is situated at the north-eastern end of The Pantiles. The spring is overlooked by the Dipper's Hall; and the waters are rich in iron giving them a unique taste. (Tourists can sample the spring water which is served by costumed 'Dippers' every summer).

The spring was founded in 1606 by Dudley Lord North, a distinguished courtier during the reign of King James I. After a fashionably excessive lifestyle, Lord North retired to Eridge to restore his health. On stumbling across the waters, while travelling through woodland on his return to London, he decided to try them: he found his health was completely restored and lived to the age of 80.

News of Lord North's recovery fuelled public interest. Lord Abergavenny, ancestor of the current Marquess of Abergavenny, cleared the area around the spring, sank wells and surrounded them with stone paving and railings. Taking the spa water became fashionable among the gentry and royalty of the period, who claimed their health to be restored, as had Dudley. The spring's popularity and reputation grew drawing visitors such as Henrietta Maria of France, wife of King Charles I, who visited six weeks after the birth of her son, later to become King Charles II. Due to the lack of nearby lodgings, their party camped in opulent tents erected at Bishops Down.

Originally referred to as Frant Wells, they were later renamed Queen Mary's Wells, in honour of Queen Mary II and were only later given the present name of Tunbridge Wells. The Upper and Lower Walks were created in 1638, when an existing bank of earth stretching south-west from the wells was levelled and planted with a double row of trees. Wooden buildings were constructed on both sides of the Walks.

The wells were neglected and almost forgotten during the English civil wars. Following the Restoration, several improvements were made to the area, including construction of an assembly room and bowling green. In

1664, following a dangerous illness, Queen Catherine of Braganza was ordered to drink the waters, increasing their popularity. In 1687, a fire destroyed the wooden buildings located on either side of the Walks. The buildings were later rebuilt with the colonnades which give the Pantiles its distinctive character today. By 1697, coffee houses had been developed in the area.

In its heyday in Georgian times, this colonnaded walkway was known as The Walks. It was the place to be seen for visitors to Tunbridge Wells. A strict protocol had to be followed: only the gentry were allowed to promenade on the Upper Walks - everyone else was restricted to the Lower Walks. This protocol was enforced by dandy Richard Beau Nash, a self-appointed Master of Ceremonies during 'the season' in Tunbridge Wells.

The Rusthall Manor Act, Signed in 1739, ensured that the Walks, the Wells and the Dipper's Hall would be freely accessible to the public. It also prevented the building of any further buildings on Tunbridge Wells Common.

The Walks were renamed The Pantiles after pantiles were laid in 1700. These one-inch thick square tiles were made from heavy Wealden clay and got their name as they were shaped in a wooden pan before being fired. In 1793 the pantiles were mostly removed and substituted with stone flagging - the region was then called The Parade. In 1887 the old name was revived.

Much of The Pantiles are listed, mostly built early to mid 19th century. No.7 is c.1660; 39-41 was formerly the Gloster Tavern; The Corn Exchange and Royal Victoria Hotel are both early 19th century.

The Pantiles today includes a variety of specialist shops, art galleries, cafés, restaurants and bars, and an outside Farmers market held every other Saturday. Throughout the summer, jazz bands play outside on the bandstand attracting hundreds of people. The Pantiles was used as a filming location for the 1967 musical 'Half a Sixpence' starring Tommy Steele and Julia Foster.

SOURCES: <https://eridgepark.co.uk/the-pantiles/the-pantiles-history/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Pantiles **11.02.19**

ON THIS DAY: Feb. 14TH is the 45th day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 320 days remain until the end of the year

- 1400** Richard II of England dies, most probably from starvation, in Pontefract Castle, on the orders of Henry Bolingbroke
- 1556** Thomas Cranmer, leader of the English Reformation and Archbishop of Canterbury during the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI and, for a short time Mary I, is declared a Heretic
- 1779** Captain James Cook is killed by Native Hawaiians near Kealahou on the Island of Hawaii
- 1852** Great Ormond St Hospital for Sick Children, the first hospital in England to provide in-patient beds specifically for children, is founded in London
- 1876** Alexander Graham Bell applies for a patent for the telephone, as does Elisha Gray
- 1918** The Soviet Union adopts the Gregorian calendar (on 1 February according to the Julian calendar)
- 1920** The League of Women Voters is founded in Chicago
- 1929** Saint Valentine's Day Massacre: Seven people, six of them gangster rivals of Al Capone's gang, are murdered in Chicago
- 1946** The Bank of England is nationalized
- 1975** P. G. Wodehouse, English novelist and playwright (b. 1881)
- 1990** The *Voyager 1* spacecraft takes the photograph of planet Earth that later become famous as *Pale Blue Dot*
- 2005** YouTube is launched by a group of college students, eventually becoming the largest video sharing website in the world

 **Happy Valentine's Day** 

If anyone has 5 minutes at the end of the evening to help put away the tables etc. it would be most helpful; many hands really do make light work and we would appreciate your help



The Sevenoaks Committee
Branch Chair - Barbara Attwaters
Committee Members
Karina Jackson, Norma Holmden,
Bernie Wilkins, Barbara Stead,
Sandra Marchant, Bill Chopping