



10TH OCTOBER 2019

ISSUE NUMBER 72

Sevenoaks Newsletter

THE NORTH WEST KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, SEVENOAKS, KENT

www.nwkhfs.org.uk



NEXT BRANCH MEETING

10TH OCTOBER

"FROM CRADLE TO GRAVE - CREATING THE WELFARE STATE IN FORTIES BRITAIN"

Before WW2, Britain's welfare was extensively provided by private charity & voluntary organisations. After the war Britain was determined to move forward. The Labour Party envisaged a society in which the populace would be free from the fear of poverty and ill health. A comprehensive welfare system was provided to support everyone in their time of need and it remains largely in place today. So, how was it founded?

Speaker - Alan Williams

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 Otford Memorial Hall, High Street, Otford, TN14 5PQ. Doors open at 7.15pm, meeting starts at 8pm. There is free car parking after 6.30pm - 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 £2.00 donation to the society's funds.

OTHER BRANCH MEETINGS

BROMLEY - 19th OCTOBER - "An Enumerator's Tale"

Census returns are a vital resource for genealogists. But how reliable are they? Meryl and Maureen will tell us in a very amusing way of the difficulties encountered by enumerators.

Speakers - Meryl Catty & Maureen Binks

DARTFORD - 2nd NOVEMBER - "The Real Downton Abbey"

What it was really like to be in domestic service. The TV series paints a fairly rosy picture of service. This talk will tell you what servants' lives and jobs were really like!

Speaker - Ian Porter

10TH OCTOBER THIS EVENING'S TALK

DICKENS IN KENT

Our speaker this evening is a local historian, speaker, guide, author and Librarian of over 35 years experience who has entertained NWKFHS audiences many times.

He makes a welcome return in October to give us this illustrated talk.

Speaker Christoph Bull

KENT EVENTS

9TH OCTOBER - JUST HOW ACCURATE IS THE GRO INDEX?

KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH HALL, BOXLEY ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 2AN

A documents and sources talk by Celia Heritage - Open 7pm for 7.30 start. Non-members £2.00.

11TH OCTOBER - A SCHOOLGIRL'S WAR: THE STORY OF A KENT SCHOOL DURING WWII

ST ANDREWS UNITED REFORM CHURCH, WATLING STREET, CANTERBURY, CT1 2UA

Watling Street car park surrounds the church. Parking fees apply until 9.00pm

Speaker: Mary Smith. Open 6.30pm for a 7.30pm start. Non-members admission £2.00.

16TH OCTOBER - 'BLACK TRAVELLERS IN 19TH CENTURY AFRICA.

OTFORD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, OTFORD MEMORIAL HALL, HIGH STREET, OTFORD, TN14 5PQ

Speaker: Professor David Killingray. Open 7.30 pm start 8pm. Visitors £3.00 (there is no charge for students).

24th OCTOBER - 'THE WAR BEHIND THE LINES: ONE HUNDRED YEARS ON FROM THE FIRST WORLD WAR'.

SEVENOAKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, SEVENOAKS, TN13 1JA

Speaker Prof. John Beckett - Time 8pm - Non-Members £3.00

24TH OCTOBER - DO GREAT BRITISH PRIME MINISTERS NEED CHAOTIC PRIVATE LIVES? TALK BY DAVID LOUGH

LEIGH AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, SMALL VILLAGE HALL, HIGH STREET, LEIGH, NR TONBRIDGE, KENT TN11 8RL

Speaker: David Lough. 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Non-members are welcome, for a small charge of £3.00

25TH OCTOBER - 'CITY OF LONDON'

KEMSING HERITAGE CENTRE, ST EDITH HALL, KEMSING, KENT, TN15 6NA

Speaker: Stuart Robinson. Time 7.30pm, Visitors £2.50

29TH OCTOBER - WHEN IN WANT AND DISTRESS. RECORDS OF THE PARISH OVERSEER, A SOURCES TALK.

KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, WILLESBOROUGH WINDMILL, HYTHE ROAD, WILLESBOROUGH, ASHFORD, TN24 0QG

Speaker: Peter Ewart. 7.30pm - 9.30pm. Open from 6.45pm for a 7.30pm start - non members £2

The car park is accessible from Lees Road, the adjacent turning. Parking for Blue Badge holders at the Mill.

5th NOVEMBER - A BRIEF HISTORY OF ROADS AND THEIR USES

SWANLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ALEXANDRA SUITE ST MARY'S ROAD SWANLEY BR8 7BU

Speaker: Mike Bundock. Time 7.30 PM, (Doors open 7pm). Non- Members £2.00 (*Note this is a new venue*)

Some interesting facts about Halloween:



- Samhain phobia is the fear of Halloween!
- During medieval times in Ireland and Scotland, the Samhain (meaning 'summer's end') festival was held at sunset on October 31st and lasted through daylight on November 1st. It marked the ending of the harvest season and the beginning of winter of the 'dark season'...
- The word witch comes from the old English word 'wicce' meaning 'wise woman'. According to popular belief, witches held one of their eight meetings, or sabbats, on Halloween night.
- The magician Harry Houdini (1847-1926), died on Halloween night.
- It is thought people in Ireland, the United Kingdom, and Northern France would ward off ghosts by lighting sacrificial bonfires, and, wearing costumes.
- Trick-or-treating has existed since medieval times. Back then, it was known as "guising" in Scotland and Ireland. Young people dressed up in costumes and asked for food or money in exchange for songs, poems, or other "tricks."
- Immigrants helped popularise the holiday in the U.S. When the Irish fled their country in the 1840s due to the potato famine they brought their Halloween traditions with them
- The Irish also brought us jack-o'-lanterns. As the story goes, an Irish man named 'Stingy Jack' tricked the devil and therefore was not allowed into heaven or hell — so he spent his days roaming the Earth, carrying a lantern, and went by "Jack of the Lantern." They used to be carved out of turnips, potatoes, and beets. Once Halloween became popular in America, people used pumpkins instead.
- There's also traditional Halloween bread in Ireland. It's called barmbrack or just "brack." The sweet loaf typically contains dark and golden raisins. If you are lucky enough, you might be able to try a piece with your cup of tea or coffee this evening...

AGM and Family History Day 2020 Announced - Thursday 9 April 2020 - Add it to your diary now...

Venue: West Heath School, Ashgrove Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1SR (same venue as 2017) more details will follow.

IS THIS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU?

The society has an opening for Bromley Branch Programme Secretary

Bromley Branch need a programme secretary; this is a great opportunity for someone to be involved in selecting the talks/speakers at Bromley. Lynne Overton would like to tell you what this would involve. So if you are an interested party to take on this appointment please get in touch with her, so that she can outline exactly what is involved.

She has been asked if someone who is not a regular Bromley attendee could organise the programme, and the answer to that is, "Of course", as the Bromley Committee would undertake to help set up equipment, greet the speaker, offer the introduction, and give the vote of thanks. Another approach would be that two friends could work together on the programme, talking over likely speakers, and co-ordinating their efforts so that the onus of sourcing, contacting, confirming etc. would be shared between them.

Lynne has built up a file of contacts, lists of sources for discovering likely speakers, spreadsheets of past speakers to Bromley Branch, and blank spreadsheets to be filled in for the Executive Committee and the Journal, and all this information, including a file of past correspondence will be handed over to the new incumbent(s). If you know Lynne, you will know that she is always willing to support anyone who needs it, and will make herself available for assistance and advice if required.

Please contact her, either at a Bromley meeting, or by e-mail: programme.nwkfhsbromley@virginmedia.com

She is looking forward to hearing from you.

REMINDER: ROOTSTECH 24-26 OCTOBER | ExCel London - Claimed to be London's biggest Family History Conference this year!

Keynote speakers: Dan Snow Thursday 24th | Kadeena Cox Friday 25th | Donny Osmond Saturday 26th

A gathering of DNA exports, photo organisers, storytellers and genealogists from around the globe.

You can get £25 off your registration using code 25DONNY

Visit https://www.rootstech.org/london?et_cid=1488804&et rid=136141944&linkid=button&cid=em-rt-9086

ON THIS DAY: Oct. 10th is the 283rd day of 2019 in the Gregorian calendar; 82 days left until the end of the year

1780 The Great Hurricane of 1780 kills 20,000–30,000 in the Caribbean.

1871 Chicago burns after a barn accident. The fire lasts from October 8–10

1903 The Women's Social and Political Union is founded in support of the enfranchisement of British women

1923 Nicholas Parsons, English actor and game show host is born

1923 Murray Walker, English journalist and sports-caster is born

1957 The Windscale fire results in Britain's worst nuclear accident

1964 The Tokyo Summer Olympics opening ceremony is the first to be relayed live by satellites

2009 Stephen Gately, Irish singer-songwriter, dancer, and actor (b.1976)

Welcome to our new venue NWKFHS Sevenoaks Branch moves to:

Otford Memorial Hall,

High Street, Otford, TN14 5PQ

Parking free after 6.30 pm



The Sevenoaks Committee
Branch Chair - Barbara Attwaters
Committee Members

Karina Jackson, Norma Holmden,
Bernie Wilkins, Barbara Stead,
Sandra Marchant, Bill Chopping