



12TH MARCH 2020

ISSUE NUMBER 76

Sevenoaks Newsletter

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



Welcome to NWKFHS Sevenoaks Branch

NOTE A CHANGE OF VENUE FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2020

We will be meeting at the Otford Methodist Hall, High Street, Otford, Sevenoaks, TN14 5PH.

Doors open at 7.15pm, meeting starts at 8pm, and refreshments are available There is free car parking after 6.30 pm by the Memorial Hall which is a short walk to Otford Methodist Hall. 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.

NEXT SEVENOAKS BRANCH MEETING

NO APRIL MEETING

14TH MAY

Elizabeth Barton of Aldington, The Holy Maid of Kent"
Speaker Melanie Gibson-Barton

Born in 1506 in Aldington, Elizabeth Barton appears to have come from a poor background and was working for a farmer in her parish when she first claimed to have received divine revelations.

Her visions led to her being known as the Nun of Kent and the Maid of London. But why did this young visionary become so dangerous to Henry VIII and two of his wives, Anne Boleyn and Catherine of Aragon, that she had to be executed?

We welcome back Melanie to tell us about this extraordinary Maid of Kent.

OTHER BRANCH MEETINGS

BROMLEY - 21st MARCH 2020 - Annual Meeting + Women at Sea - surviving in a man's world" - Speaker Eleanor Monk - Up until quite recently, women were by and large non-existent in maritime history. If women were mentioned, it was either because they were exceptional women in a man's world or they were incidental in the domestic lives of fishermen or seafarers. Among the thousands of shipwrecks recorded around the coast, are stories showing female involvement in wreck events. Women have taken on an active role at sea, including daring rescues and as shipboard nurses in the WWI. Eleanor joins us tonight to tell us more.

DARTFORD - 4th APRIL 2020

"Dartford Hospitals during World War 1" - Speaker Francine Payne - Dartford has an interesting mix of hospitals with an interesting history; and not all of them built for local people. During the Wars Dartford hospitals were used by American and Australian forces and the Lower Southern became a German POW hospital. This evening Francine tells us their story during WWI.

12TH MARCH - Annual Meeting + "Women and the Official War Artists' Scheme of WW1 and WW2"

British official war artists were a select group of artists employed to produce specific works, during WW1 and WW2, and select military actions in the post-war period. Appointed by governments for information or propaganda purposes and to record events on the battlefield. They will have depicted some aspect of war through art; this might be a pictorial record or it might commemorate how war shapes lives. They create a visual account of war by showing its impact as men and women are shown waiting, preparing, fighting, suffering and celebrating. They illustrate and record many aspects of war, and the individual's experience of war, whether allied or enemy, service or civilian, military or political, social or cultural.

Speaker - Carol Harris

**REMINDER - WE ARE BACK AT OTFORD MEMORIAL HALL, HIGH STREET, OTFORD, TN14 5PQ
FOR OUR MAY BRANCH MEETING**

KENT EVENTS

27TH MARCH - RECOLLECTIONS OF A D DAY VETERAN WITH LES FRYATT

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

Open 7.30 pm start 8pm. Visitors £3.00 (there is no charge for students).

26TH MARCH CHANCE ENCOUNTERS: A KENT METHODIST FARMER, CAPE MALAY PILGRIMS, AND AN IMPERIAL QUEEN, 1891

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

Speaker Prof. David Killingray – Time 8pm – Non-Members £3.00

27TH MARCH - THE SILK ROAD

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

Speaker: Carol Weiss. Time 7.30pm, Visitors £2.50

7TH APRIL – THE BRINK'S MAT GOLD BULLION ROBBERY -

Find out about this infamous crime and the characters involved

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

Speaker Ian Brown. Time 7.30 PM, (Doors open 7pm). Non- Members £2.00

1940s Society

**FRIDAY 8th May Bank Holiday. '!!! SPECIAL EVENT !!!' Organised by Otford Parish Council and the 1940s Society.
VE-75 Commemorative Events. Afternoon and evening events. Watch out for further details.**

Link: <http://otford.co.uk/historicalsociety/programme/>

Society of Genealogists Talk - Wednesday 1 April 14:00 - History of Kentish Town

Kentish Town is not where it should be! The original village was clustered around St Pancras Old Church, a mile or so further south. However, around the 13th century St Pancras village re-sited itself on the confluence of two branches of the River Fleet, known as 'the Ken Ditch'. Fine gentlemen's houses were built amid the fields but the village was snubbed again when St Pancras New Church was built in Euston Road. Various railway companies driving their tracks and goods yards through the area should have finished the village off. But Kentish Town has survived.

Join Joe Studman for a talk to learn more about Kentish Town's story. A one-hour talk with Joe Studman, cost £8.00

New collections

FindMyPast

Hampshire added baptism, marriages and burials

Surrey added baptisms, marriages and burials

TheGenealogist

AIR 27 RAF Operations Records Books Lloyd George

Domesday Survey Greenwich

FamilySearch

Essex Non-Conformist Church Records, 1613-1971

Gloucestershire Non-Conformist Church Records, 1642-

1996 Northumberland Non-Conformist Church Records,

1613-1920 Isle of Wight Parish Registers, 1538-1983

Ireland, Thom's Irish Almanac & Official Directory 1884

The Family History Federation publishes an information leaflet providing useful resources to aid family history research.

Federation FIST - This provides researchers with roots in the British Isles useful information needed to grow their family tree.

Link: <https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/resources-fist>

RootsTech LONDON 5-7 NOVEMBER 2020. The announcement was made last week that RootsTech will return to London on the 5th-7th November and will be held at the ExCel Centre, London.

For more information go to: <https://www.rootstech.org/london>

The National Archives and the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) are cooperating to improve the contents and accuracy of the Manorial Documents Register and make all of it accessible to the world at large.

Funding from The Federation has helped bring forward four additional county projects. As a result, Wiltshire and Northumberland are already completed and launched online. Work on Northamptonshire and Kent is currently in progress.

Manorial documents have huge potential for family and local historians because they contain information about the lives of ordinary people going back to a period when few other sources may be available. They also add richness and detail to the information researchers can obtain from parish registers and wills. We are therefore very pleased to support the revision of the register and improve access to these important records.

Links: <https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/projects-manorial-documents-register>

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/manor-search>

Source: Family History Federation - 10.03.20

Family Tree Live 2020 - The show has a WW2 focus this year, in honour of the VE Day 75th anniversary.

Organised by UK Family History Magazine Family Tree in partnership with genealogy experts from the Family History Federation, Family Tree Live takes place at London's Alexandra Palace on 17 and 18 April 2020.

The show boasts family and military history lectures, workshops, one to-one advice sessions, exhibition stands, living history and family fun, all included in the price of your ticket.

Exhibitors also include the British Library, the National Library of Wales, Royal British Legion, Jersey Heritage, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain, families in British India Society (FIBIS), and a wonderful array of other family history organisations to help visitors trace their roots.

The association of Genealogists and researchers in archives (AGRA) will be running bookable advice sessions while show sponsors FamilySearch and FamilyTreeDna (look out for the special DNA lectures and workshops if this is your interest area) will have plenty to offer family history enthusiasts of all levels of experience.

Tickets to the event that celebrates all things family history cost only £13 a day (children free), including all lectures, workshops, one-to-one advice sessions, exhibitions and living history entertainment. It is ideal for everyone interested in their heritage, so head to Family Tree Live this April to learn and treasure your family's story.

Find out more information and book tickets at www.Familytreelive.co.uk

Source: SOG newsletter - 10.03.20

What are "Systematic" Indexes?

These are indexes that specify exactly which records are included and the timeframe covered. For example, "all the marriages between 1558 and 1837 in the parish register for the parish of Norton". Some indexes cover a very large range of records, such as those to national censuses or of all the marriages recorded in a particular county for a lengthy period.

Source: <https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/resources-original-records> - 10.03.20

Did you know... Directories of traders were originally compiled to assist businessmen and merchants. The earliest known is probably a list of London merchants published by Samuel Lee in 1677 and available for free from the Internet Archive. Go to following link: <https://archive.org/details/littlelondondire00lond/page/n5/mode/2up>

AGM and Family History Day 2020 - Thursday 9 April 2020 -

Venue: West Heath School, Ashgrove Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1SR (same venue as 2017)

The school is situated to the south and west of the A225 which runs through Sevenoaks from the A25 at Otford to The Weald roundabout on the A21. Access is via Weald Road which is a few hundred yards south, and on the opposite side to the entrance to Knole Park. Ashgrove Road is then a fork off to the right. Ample parking is available as well as facilities for the disabled. The nearest railway station is Sevenoaks in London Road. We look forward to seeing you there.

NWKFHS - NEW WORKSHOP FOR 2020

15 July 2020 – Drawing Charts and Trees by Hand as a Research Tool

This workshop will explain how to draw by hand a Family Group sheet (FGS) chart to understand the time line and relationships of a family. It will discuss the symbols and abbreviations used on charts and diagrams. Gaps on charts and re-occurring data may indicate trends that suggests future research needed. The workshop will also look at other types of charts including 'Drop Charts', 'Total Descent Charts', 'Birth Briefs' and 'Mind Maps'.

5 places left

David Cufley

Family History Day at Biggin Hill Memorial Museum, St George's RAF Chapel of Remembrance

30th May, 2020 from 10.30am – 4.30pm. Free with exhibition admission ticket

North West Kent Family History Society (NWKFHS) will be joining the museum to give talks and offer expert advice on researching family history. Programme for the day:

- 10:30 -11:30: NWKFHS volunteers on hand to answer questions
- 11:30: Talk on Family History Research, Fran Rogers (NWKFHS Trustee)
- 12:30 – 14:30: NWKFHS volunteers on hand to answer questions
- 14:30: Talk on Military Research for Family Historians, David Cufley (NWKFHS President)
- 15:30 – 16:30: NWKFHS volunteers on hand to answer questions

Entry is free but booking is required -

Visit <https://bhmm.org.uk/event/family-history-day/> for more information or call 01959 422414

ON THIS DAY: March 12th is the 72nd day of 2020 in the Gregorian calendar; 294 days left until the end of the year

1689 James II of England landed at Kinsale, starting the Williamite War in Ireland

1894 Coca-Cola is sold in bottles for the first time in a candy store in Vicksburg, Mississippi

1913 The future capital of Australia is officially named Canberra

1912 The Girl Guides (later renamed the Girl Scouts of the USA) are founded in the United States

1918 Moscow becomes the capital of Russia again after Saint Petersburg held this status for 215 years

1930 Mahatma Gandhi begins the Salt March, a 200-mile march to the sea to protest the British monopoly on salt in India

1938 Anschluss: German troops occupy and absorb Austria

1945 Anne Frank dies aged 15 (Born June 12, 1929)

1946 Liza Minnelli is born in Hollywood, California

1968 Mauritius achieves independence from the United Kingdom

1992 Mauritius becomes a republic while remaining a member of the Commonwealth of Nations

1969 Paul McCartney marries Linda Louise Eastman in London

1994 Church of England ordains 1st 33 women priests

Did you know the Society of Genealogist provide a telephone advice service. If you are unable to visit the Society's premises and require any genealogy advice, the Society runs a free telephone advice line to help you during the following times:

- Thursday: 6pm-7.45pm,
- Saturday 11am-1pm and 2pm-4pm

For this telephone advice, please phone 020 7490 8911

The Sevenoaks Committee
Branch Chair - Barbara Attwaters
Committee Members

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