



11 NOVEMBER 2021

ISSUE NUMBER 78

Sevenoaks Newsletter

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



Welcome to NWKFHS Sevenoaks Branch

We will be meeting at the Otford Village Memorial Hall, High Street, Otford TN14 5PQ.

Doors open at 7.15pm, meeting starts at 8pm. There is free car parking after 6.30 pm by the Memorial.

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-£2.00 donation to the society's funds.

NEXT SEVENOAKS BRANCH MEETING

9 DECEMBER 2021

THE STRING OF PEARLS

The String of Pearls is a 'Penny dreadful' story featuring the infamous Sweeney Todd. Penny Dreadfuls were cheap popular serial literature produced during the nineteenth century; first published in the 1830s. A story was published in weekly parts of 8 to 16 pages, for the price of one penny each. The subject matter of these stories was typically sensational, focusing on the exploits of detectives, criminals, or supernatural entities. Other renowned characters featured in these tales include Dick Turpin, Varney the Vampire and Spring-heeled Jack. The String of Pearls plot concerns the strange disappearance of a sailor, Lieutenant Thornhill, last seen entering Sweeney Todd's establishment on Fleet Street. The story is set in London in the year 1785 and is announced as Domestic Romance!

We are delighted to welcome Melanie back and to hear what is sure to be an entertaining mystery talk.

Speaker MELANIE GIBSON BARTON

OTHER BRANCH MEETINGS

DARTFORD - 4 DECEMBER 2021

" THE POLITENESS OF PRINCES "

The reality of medieval etiquette and table manners. Punctuality being the politeness of princes, this lecture examines the reality of manners and etiquette in later the Medieval period. A far cry from the popular image of appalling table manners, Medieval dining was a minefield of do's and don'ts, many of which were recorded in courtesy books (Teach Yourself How To Be A Gentleman texts). A rich vein of artistic evidence also survives, bearing out what is written. The lecture deals with the structure of formal banquets and the food eaten as well as how young gentlemen were trained and more everyday advice to women about hygiene and how to conduct themselves.

You can read more about Imogen here: <http://www.medieval-lecture.com>

Speaker IMOGEN CORRIGEN. M.PHIL FRSA

11 NOVEMBER - THIS EVENING'S TALK

OVERPAID, OVER SEXED AND OVER HERE – THE AMERICAN INVASION OF 1942-45"

This talk will explore the "invasion" of American Service personnel. Over two million American servicemen passed through Britain during the Second World War and over 60,000 British women married them and went to the United States. Many of the servicemen had never been abroad before, the War Department sent with them a pamphlet called *Instructions for American Servicemen in Britain*. This was designed to familiarise them with life in Britain, the history, culture, even the slang. The pamphlet also encouraged the men to get along with the British and it was filled with great advice like "Don't be a showoff," "NEVER criticize the King or Queen," and "The British don't know how to make a good cup of coffee. Prepare to be amused and perhaps shocked in equal measure.

Speaker ALAN WILLIAMS

KENT EVENTS

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

17 NOVEMBER Medway Prison Hulks Dr Jeremy Clarke

8 DECEMBER Annual General Meeting with wine and nibbles

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

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

19 NOVEMBER – Embroidery as a way of life

Time 7.30pm, Visitors £2.50

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

7 DECEMBER A Christmas Miscellany, a selection of poetry, prose and humorous stories from various centuries with Ian Bevan

Time 7.30 PM, (Doors open 7pm). Non- Members £2.00 - Subject to change at short notice should circumstances change.

The Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies
The School of Family History - www.ihgs.ac.uk

Ian Waller IHGS December Zoom Guest Speaker

In December we welcome Ian Waller, FSG, FGRA, as our guest speaker. Ian is an experienced genealogist who now concentrates on talks, lectures, and workshops. Ian's Zoom talk, "Bread, Gruel and Suet Dumplings – Workhouse Life" is in keeping with the festive season and will be presented on the following days:

- Thursday 2nd December at 10am
- Thursday 9th December at 2pm

To book <https://shop.ihgs.ac.uk/courses/online-tutorials-and-workshops>

DIAMOND ZOOM TUTORIAL - Sponsored by Pen & Sword Books

Local History: The Clues from Heraldic Pub Sign - Thursday 25th November 10am with Ann Ballard

This new tutorial will explore the clues to be found in heraldic pub signs and local churches, to unlock details of local families and landowners and to demonstrate their value in family and local history.

Tracing Your Ancestors From 1066 - 1837 by Jonathan Oates will be the prize for one lucky attendee.

Looking ahead to Christmas, Les Mitchinson will be presenting a festive themed Tutorial - The Pedigree Christmas Tree on Thursday 16th December at 10am. The talk will show how to develop a research plan using a range of records that will usually be found at a county/local archive. The case study will demonstrate how to construct a pedigree of the Christmas family of Hampshire. One attendee will win a copy of Stuart Raymond's, Tracing Your Ancestors in County Records.

All Diamond talks may be booked through the IHGS shop - <https://shop.ihgs.ac.uk/courses/online-tutorials-and-workshops>

NOT TO BE MISSED OUR NWKFHS ZOOM TALK and Discussion groups:

CHRIS MCCOOEY WITH AN ENTERTAINING TALK - Tales of Scandals of Kent and Sussex, Sensational, Salacious and Sad, Including HG Wells, Noel Coward, grave robbers and prison hulks.

This zoom talk will be hosted by Pat Gooding at 7:00pm for 7:30pm.

The zoom host will admit registered members up to 30 minutes before the start time when the actual workshop will start.

Members may welcome each other and speak on any subject that interests them. Please do not talk over each other.

Normally workshops with questions and answers take over 60 minutes. The length of time depends on the workshop members participation. The session will not normally be muted. and you will not need to use the 'raised hand' icon.

Zoom etiquette means that during the workshop you may mute yourself and you should not talk over other attendees.

The **Zoom** link will be put on the website www.nwkfhs.org.uk nearer the date.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS:

17 November 10.30am Writing Group- Leader Pauline Heathcote

24 November 10.30am DNA Family History Research Discussion Group Leader Laura Lincoln.

For further details please visit our website www.nwkfhs.org.uk or Sign up for our "FREE to ALL" twice monthly Society eNewsletter

Event online

The Family History Federation Really Useful Show 12 and 13 November 2021

Friday 12th 6pm to 10pm online only – Free Friday ticket

Saturday 13th 10am to 6pm online only - £10.00

Visit <https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/>

1921 Census launch – In case you have not heard!

Findmypast have confirmed that the 1921 Census for England & Wales will launch on 6th January, and the further slightly good news is that they're going to be charging marginally less to view the 1921 Census images than they did the 1939 Register pages in 2015.

£3.50 to view each household schedule and note an additional £2.50 for a transcript –

At 11:00 am on 11 November 1919, the first Remembrance Day, originally called Armistice Day, and the first two minutes silence observed, was conducted throughout Britain and the Commonwealth. Coinciding with the time in 1918 at which the First World War came to an end with the cessation of hostilities. It came to symbolise the end of the war and provide an opportunity to remember those who had died.

The concept originated from Sir James Percy FitzPatrick, a South African author, politician, mining financier and pioneer of the fruit industry. He had a personal interest in the daily observance of silence, as his own son, Major Percy Nugent George Fitzpatrick, was killed in action in France in December 1917. He had originally been introduced to the notion of a two-minute pause to honour the dead when his local church adopted the idea, when details of losses at the Battle of the Somme first came through to Cape Town in July 1916.

In 1919, he approached Lord Northcliffe (the founder of both the *Daily Mirror* and the *Daily Mail*) with the intention of campaigning for it to be observed annually and Empire-wide, however the suggestion was not taken up. When writing to Lord Milner, then Colonial Secretary in September or October 1919, he described the silence that fell on the city during this embraced observance and proposed that this become an official part of the annual service on Armistice Day. He acknowledged that the idea came from the Cape Town pause, saying that other towns followed its example but "nothing was as dramatic as the Cape Town observation simply because of the midday gun". The meaning behind his proposal was stated to be:

- It is due to the women, who have lost and suffered and borne so much, with whom the thought is ever present.
- It is due to the children that they know to whom they owe their dear fought freedom.
- It is due to the men, and from them, as men.
- But far and away, above all else, it is due to those who gave their all, sought no recompense, and with whom we can never re-pay – our Glorious and Immortal Dead.

The idea was recommended to King George V who on hearing the proposal was enthusiastic and sought approval from the War Cabinet on 5 November. It was immediately approved and on 7 November 1919, the King issued a proclamation which called for a two-minute silence:

"All locomotion should cease, so that, in perfect stillness, the thoughts of everyone may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the glorious dead."

The first two-minute silence held in London (11 November 1919) was reported in the Manchester Guardian on 12 November 1919:

The first stroke of eleven produced a magical effect. The tram cars glided into stillness, motors ceased to cough and fume, and stopped dead, and the mighty-limbed dray horses hunched back upon their loads and stopped also, seeming to do it of their own volition. Someone took off his hat, and with a nervous hesitancy the rest of the men bowed their heads also. Here and there an old soldier could be detected slipping unconsciously into the posture of 'attention'. An elderly woman, not far away, wiped her eyes, and the man beside her looked white and stern. Everyone stood very still ... The hush deepened. It had spread over the whole city and become so pronounced as to impress one with a sense of audibility. It was a silence which was almost pain ... And the spirit of memory brooded over it all.

After the end of the Second World War in 1945 Armistice Day became Remembrance Day to include all those who had fallen in the two World Wars and other conflicts.

Sources <https://www.bbc.co.uk/remembrance/how/silence.shtml/> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Two-minute_silence#First_two-minute_silence_on_Armistice_Day_-_11_November_1919
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Remembrance_Day#United_Kingdom



New collections

MyHeritage

France, Naturalizations

1,749,377 records

This collection contains an index of French naturalization records from the twentieth century. Records typically contain the individual's name, date and place of birth, as well as the date of the decree of naturalization.

The decrees issued between 1900 and 1931 were published in the Bulletin des lois (Bulletin of the laws), and from 1924 onward, these were published in the Journal officiel de la République française (Official Journal of the French Republic).

This collection was added following MyHeritage's acquisition of Filae.

FamilySearch

FamilySearch expanded its free online archives in October of 2021 with almost 10 million new indexed family history records from all over the world. New historical records were added from **Anguilla, Argentina, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, England, Finland, France, French Polynesia, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Kiribati, Liberia, Martinique, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turks and Caicos, Tuvalu, the United Kingdom, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zambia, and the United States**, which includes **Arizona, California, Georgia, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia**. Records from the **United States Bureau of Land Management** and **GenealogyBank Obituaries** were included as well.

Ancestry UK

UK and Ireland, Obituary Index, 2004-2019

UK and Ireland, Find a Grave Index, 1300s-Current

1871 England Census

Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1813

Surrey, England, Regimental Rolls and Recruitment Registers, 1908-1947

London, England, Church of England Deaths and Burials, 1813-2003

London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1920

London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1936

ON THIS DAY: NOVEMBER 11 is the 315TH day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 50 days left until the end of the year

865 Petronas, Byzantine general died

1028 Constantine VIII died, ending his uninterrupted reign as emperor or co-emperor of the Byzantine Empire of 66 years

1100 Henry I of England marries Matilda of Scotland, the daughter of Malcolm III of Scotland and a direct descendant of the Saxon king Edmund Ironside; Matilda is crowned in the same day

1745 Bonnie Prince Charlie's army enters England

1831 Nat Turner, hanged at 31, a slave rebel who led a violent insurrection in Virginia, that resulted in 55 white deaths. Whites responded with at least 200 black deaths

1938 Mary Mallon, Irish-American patient best known as 'Typhoid Mary' and the first person in the United States known to be immune to typhoid, dies at 69

1974 Leonardo DiCaprio, American actor, born in Los Angeles, California

1992 The Church of England approves the ordination of female priests

1918 World War I: Germany signs an armistice agreement with the Allies in a railroad car in the forest of Compiègne

1923 Adolf Hitler was arrested in Munich for high treason for his role in the Beer Hall Putsch, a failed coup by the Nazi Party

The Sevenoaks Committee
Branch Chair - Barbara Attwaters
Committee Members

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

1930 Patent number US1781541 is awarded to Albert Einstein and Leó Szilárd for their invention, the Einstein refrigerator

1966 NASA launches Gemini 12, the final crewed Gemini flight