



14 JANUARY 2023

ISSUE NUMBER 89

# Sevenoaks Newsletter

THE NORTH WEST KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, SEVENOAKS, KENT  
[www.nwkhfs.org.uk](http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk)



## Welcome to NWKFHS Sevenoaks Branch

Our meetings are held at Otford Memorial Hall, 28A High Street, Otford, TN14 5PQ

*Doors open at 1045 am, meeting starts at 11am - Nominal parking fee*

*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.*

***Sanitiser and masks available and chairs placed at a friendly distance for those concerned about Covid***

## Today's talk

14 JANUARY 2023

### Oh No It Isn't! A history of pantomime

What is it about Pantomime that attracts us to this strange concoction of fairy tales, dance, jokes, songs and cross-dressing? And what is it really like to play the back end of a Pantomime Cow?

All this, and the answer to whether something really is behind you will be answered in this festive talk about one of the great British Christmas traditions.

Pete works extensively as a professional theatre director and filmmaker and all his talks are accompanied by visuals and include time for questions and answers.

**Speaker PETE ALLEN**

## NEXT SEVENOAKS BRANCH MEETING

**11 FEBRUARY 2023 - DNA for Family Historians**

You may consider using a DNA test to learn more about yourself and your family. Whether that's because you're looking for more information about unknown family members, your ethnic background, or to verify family tales, a DNA test can be an option for helping you learn more about your family tree, but where to start and what to consider. What benefits can be achieved by DNA testing for genealogy. Can DNA testing help with brickwalls and reunite long lost family members. You may wish to test beyond yourself to find missing fragments of your ancestors that weren't passed on to you which may require testing of siblings, parents, and other relatives. There are so many questions.

Dr Geoff Swinfield has lectured widely on all aspects of genealogy, its sources and research techniques including the use and application of DNA testing to Genetic Genealogy. He graduated from Nottingham University with a PhD in genetics and began training as a professional genealogist in 1979 at the IHGS in Canterbury. Whilst at IHGS, as its Director, he headed a team which, in conjunction with hospital research departments, used genealogical research to trace the inheritance of genetic abnormalities to identify those who may be at risk. Geoff is also a past Chair of AGRA's Board of Assessors and a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists, we could not be in better hands to help us understand DNA for our Family History research.

**Speaker DR GEOFF SWINFIELD**

## DARTFORD BRANCH MEETING

**4 FEBRUARY 2023 - Farewell to Kent: supported emigration in the 19th century**

Born in Bromley when Bromley was in Kent, Helen has lived in Sittingbourne since 1974 and worked as a primary school teacher. She has always been interested in history and has authored several local history books including 'Farewell To Kent' upon which this talk is based. It is the story of poor people from all over Kent whose passage was paid, often by Poor Law Guardians, to assist them to emigrate. This system was country wide and so the talk will be of interest even if your ancestors did not come from Kent.

**Speaker HELEN ALLINSON**

## 23 FEBRUARY - ZOOM TALK – UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS - FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO THE AMERICAN DREAM WITH JACKIE DEPELLE

This story takes us from Norfolk to New York with an upwardly mobile gentleman.

However, whether he spends his life upstairs or downstairs you will have to listen to Jackie's talk to find out.

### About the Speaker

From film and fiche to the virtual world, Jackie teaches Family History and presents at major international events including RootsTech, The Genealogy Show and The Family History Show. Thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to meet people from across the country via zoom as well as listening and learning from colleagues at online shows and tutorials. Jackie also keeps in touch with volunteers through membership of the Guild of One Name Studies, British Association for Local History, various Family History Societies across the UK and Historians Collaborate.

North West Kent FHS is a charity and membership fees and donations are an important part of our income. If you are not a NWKFHS member, please consider making a donation via our web shop towards the cost of our Zoom licence & speaker's fee

Link to meeting to be advised, check our website for updates: [www.nwkhfs.org.uk](http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk)

Time 19:00 for 19:30 start - Capacity 100

**Please visit our website for details of further workshops and updates *and sign up for our free twice monthly Society eNewsletter***

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**The Society Library** is open on Wednesdays from 10am to 4pm, there is no need for booking. Address: 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Kent DA5 2EE (On the corner of Summerhouse Drive & Eden Rd.) Parking in Eden Rd. or other nearby roads.

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**NWKFHS members** who missed a ZOOM talk: some speakers have allowed their talks to be recorded and recorded talks are saved here - <https://nwkhfs.org.uk/resources/all-other/zoom-talk-videos> note this link only works for paid up members logged into the website. Sometimes speakers have given permission for their talks only to be recorded for a specified amount of time, so members please do check the link.

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Visit the **Family History Federation** to find details about a new series of family history podcasts. They cover a range of topics and expert guests. Link <https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/podcast> - Topics covered include Talking to Relatives, Online Resources, Beginning Your Family History, Newspapers, One-Place Studies, Social Media, Online Events, Young People and Occupations. Hosted by Joe Saunders, an Associate of AGRA, Joe splits his time between academic research on the society, culture and economy of early modern England and working as a freelance historical researcher specialising on British genealogy and house history.

Also take a look at **The Family Histories Podcast** <https://familyhistoriespodcast.com/> which you can subscribe via a podcast feed, recordings are freely available, you can listen to many interesting episodes hosted by Andrew Martin. Author and Genealogist Andrew Martin interviews a fellow Genealogy addict about how they became hooked on researching family history. His guest will discuss the life story of their most fascinatingly good, bad or plain ugly relative. There is then 'The Brick Wall' where it is over to the listeners to see if they can help solve their family history puzzle.

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**ON THIS DAY: January 14 is the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 351 days left until the end of the year**

**In the 20th and 21st centuries the Julian calendar is 13 days behind the Gregorian calendar, thus January 14 is sometimes celebrated as New Year's Day (Old New Year) by religious groups who use the Julian calendar**

**83 BC** Mark Antony, Roman general and politician is born (d. 30 BCE)

**1236** King Henry III of England marries Eleanor of Provence

**1601** Church authorities in Rome burn Hebrew books

**1690** The musical instrument, the clarinet is invented in Nürnberg, Germany

**1699** Massachusetts holds day of fasting for wrongly persecuting "witches"

**1858** Napoleon III of France escapes an assassination attempt made by Felice Orsini and his accomplices in Paris

**1898** Lewis Carroll, English novelist, poet, and mathematician died (b. 1832)

**1900** Giacomo Puccini's *Tosca* opens in Rome

**1907** An earthquake in Kingston, Jamaica kills more than 1,000 people

**1911** Roald Amundsen's South Pole expedition makes landfall on the eastern edge of the Ross Ice Shelf

**1943** World War II: Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill begin the Casablanca Conference to discuss strategy and study the next phase of the war

**1972** Queen Margrethe II of Denmark ascends the throne, the first Queen of Denmark since 1412 and the first Danish monarch not named Frederick or Christian since 1513

**1973** Elvis Presley's concert Aloha from Hawaii is broadcast live via satellite, and sets the record as the most watched broadcast by an individual entertainer in television history

**1977** Anthony Eden, English soldier and politician, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom died (b. 1897)

## **WEIRD AND WONDERFUL NEW YEAR TRADITIONS**

### **Bleigiessen**

In Germany on New Year's Eve, you could take part in Bleigiessen or 'lead pouring'. Lead pouring is done while standing in a circle or a group and melting a small piece of lead on a spoon over a candle. Once the lead is melted, you drop it in a bowl or glass of cool water. This causes the lead to harden again into whatever shape it takes as it hits the water. The shape is said to predict what the new year holds in store for you.

For instance, if your blob of lead hardens in the shape of an eagle, you will fly and travel more in the upcoming year. If you find that the lead has taken the shape of a horse bit, you will soon have dental troubles. Should you be lucky enough to get the shape of a wheel, you will win the lottery, but if your lead takes on the shape of a cross it could mean death.

### **Let it go**

In Argentina, it is customary to see shreds of paper raining down on the streets of Buenos Aires on the last day of the year. This is because office workers have a tradition of throwing out all old documents, calendars, and notepad paper in shredded format, to welcome the new year with a clean desk and less clutter. The act of shredding paper and letting it fly is also believed to symbolize the letting go of all negativities and allowing positivity to enter one's life. The sheer volume of the paper pieces that land in the city streets litters it for at least two days.

### **Grab your suitcase**

In Mexico, those who want to spend the upcoming new year travelling to exciting destinations might just try and increase their chances of seeing more of the world by grabbing a suitcase on New Years' Eve and running around their house while dragging it along. Some believe the suitcase must be packed, so if it becomes a tad heavy, people walk around the house instead of run.

Another quite common tradition in Mexico is the wearing of red or yellow underwear to bring love and money, respectively. As the new year approaches, family and friends gather to enjoy a big dinner after which toasts are made with champagne. People then eat 12 grapes in 12 seconds to ensure their New Years' wishes come true.

### **Twice the celebration**

Greenland is an autonomous country and part of Denmark, with Self Rule being inaugurated in 2009. Due to the link to Denmark, many Greenlanders celebrate New Year's twice. They wait for the clock to strike 8 pm (which is midnight in Denmark) and then celebrate with fireworks and toasts. Four hours later, they do it all again when midnight strikes in Greenland.

### **Eat a lot for good fortune**

In some parts of Poland, the tradition of eating a massive New Year's Eve dinner lives on. It is believed that eating a lot of food on the last night of the year will ensure that hunger never enters your home. Bread, meat, cake, and cabbage with peas are usually the staples of this special feast. For a truly traditional experience, you should have a bowl of ice-cold water poured over you before eating as it is customary in some regions to wash your whole body before dinner. A silver coin is placed at the bottom of the bowl and if it lands on the head of the person who took the ice shower, it must rest there untouched throughout the meal. This will ensure abundant riches in the coming year.

Source: [Top 10 Weird And Wonderful](#)

[New Year Traditions - Listverse](#)

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**The Genealogist** have released over 800 Square Miles of Land Tax records. More than 185,000 new Lloyd George Domesday land tax records have been added to the Landowner and Occupier records. Consisting of records from the counties of Berkshire and Buckinghamshire, this release provides researchers with the ability to discover owners and occupiers of property in the period 1910 to 1915. Covering an area of over 800 square miles, researchers can use these records to see the size, state of repair and value of the house in which their ancestors had lived in or had been the landlord of. They have linked all the records to the large scale Ordnance Survey maps that were used at the time. These detailed maps show each property plotted on detailed mapping that can be viewed on their Map Explorer™ tool. This interface will show the same coordinates on a variety of modern and historical maps. Using this allows house or family historians to see how the area they are researching may have changed over time and with it to then explore their ancestors' locality.

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**Did you know** on the 28 January 1896 Walter Arnold of East Peckham, near Tonbridge, became the first motorist ever to be convicted of speeding. On the 20 January he was spotted by the local police constable doing 8 mph in a built-up area of Paddock Wood, where the speed limit was 2 mph. The police constable, who was having his dinner at the time, selflessly abandoned his pork chop, grabbed his helmet, mounted his bicycle, and gave chase. He eventually managed to overtake and flag down the felon, after a breathless pursuit of some 5 miles. Arnold appeared before magistrates at Tonbridge Police Court and was charged one shilling, plus costs, for the outrage. Undeterred he went on to become the first man in Britain to Manufacture petrol engined motor cars. The Arnold Motor Carriage Company of East Peckham, Kent, salesmen for Benz cars since 1894, manufactured an Arnold motor, based on the Benz design but with many innovations, in August 1896, the first petrol driven car ever manufactured for sale in England. Called an Adam it was also the first car in the world to have an electric self-starter. The first customer was H.J. Dowsing of Ealing. In 1914 at Ashford, England's first white lines were painted on the London to Folkestone road at a series of dangerous bends. In 1928 Kent was the first county in England to try our

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**The Sevenoaks Committee: Branch Chair - Bill Chopping**

**Committee Members – Karina Jackson, Norma Holmden, Bernie Wilkins, Sandra Marchant, Barbara Attwaters**