



14<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023

ISSUE NUMBER 98

# 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 10:45 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.*

*Guests we appreciate a £1.00 - £2.00 donation to the society's funds.*

*We hope you enjoy your visit.*

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

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## Today's talk

## The 1951 Festival of Britain preceded by the Branch Annual Meeting

The Festival of Britain was a national exhibition and fair that reached millions of visitors throughout the United Kingdom in the summer of 1951. The festival was a triumphant success during which people flocked to the South Bank site, to wander around the Dome of Discovery, gaze at the Skylon, and generally enjoy a festival of national celebration.

The British public showed that it had not lost the capacity for enjoying itself.... Above all, the festival made a spectacular setting as a showpiece for the inventiveness and genius of British scientists and technologists.

**Speaker ALAN WILLIAMS**

## NEXT SEVENOAKS BRANCH MEETING

**11<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – Sir Cloudesley Shovell and Longitude**

### The Story of Crayford's Famous Admiral.

Sir Cloudesley Shovell was once one of the most famous men in the country, but if you mention his name now the chances are he's probably the most famous man that you've never heard of!

The admiral whose death helped to shape the modern world, is known to few people today, Shovell, of humble birth, entered the navy as a boy (1662) and came to national prominence in the wars against the Barbary pirates. Detested by Pepys, hated by James II, Shovell became the finest seaman of Queen Anne's age.

In 1695 he moved to Crayford after becoming the local M.P. and used his wealth to save the ancient church, St. Paulinus. The consequences of his tragic death had a profound effect on this country. Shovell, the Lord of the Manor of Crayford and Rear Admiral of England, whose death aboard his flagship Association in 1707 instigated the Longitude Act (1714) that established a prize for whoever could identify an accurate method for sailors to calculate their longitude. A story I am looking forward to.

(Source Crayford Town Archives - <https://www.crayfordhistory.org.uk/projects/shovell-and-the-longitude/gallery/events-shovells-life>)

**Speaker PETER DANIEL**

## DARTFORD BRANCH MEETING

**4<sup>th</sup> November 2023 - The 45<sup>th</sup> AGM of North West Kent Family History Society**

**Talk - Name Lists 1500-1800 by Michael Gandy**

(Please note this talk will be preceded by the Society AGM which is estimated to finish by 11.30am and will be followed by a comfort break with tea and coffee available before the speaker).

Please arrive from 10am for the AGM and from 11.30/45am for the speaker (if not attending the AGM).

Our speaker after the AGM is to be Michael Gandy, a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists and the Editor of their prestigious journal, the Genealogists' Magazine.

Michael will be familiar to many of you as he has visited our Society several times in the past. He has been tracing his ancestry for 60 years, some of it in North West Kent. He was brought up in Sydenham, his mother was born in Eltham, his grandmother in Bexleyheath and his family were at Upton in the 18th century.

Michael will be talking on a topic which is new to us but comes highly recommended, "Name Lists 1500-1800", a non-parochial subject which will include some familiar sources but will also introduce you to others which you may have overlooked as they have not yet been indexed. (Wish they were, says Michael.)

The AGM will start at 10.30am and be followed by a short break and then the speaker at midday.

## UP AND COMING LIBRARY WORKSHOPS

New to Writing Up your Family History? With Pauline Heathcote

25 October 10:30

Family History Writing Group with Pauline Heathcote

29 November 10:30

The beginner's workshop will cover Birth, Marriages and Death Certificates, Census Records, Parish Registers, Wills and Directories as well as Family Charts and Trees.

## UP AND COMING ZOOM WORKSHOPS

Breaking Down Family History Brick Walls with David Cufley

8 November 19:30

My Ancestor was a Liar with Dave Annal

17 November 19:30

## MONTHLY ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUPS

Zoom DNA Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln

The topic for each meeting is agreed by the members by notifying the leader through [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk).

## ZOOM FAMILY HISTORY DISCUSSION GROUP

*Come and enjoy lively discussions on different aspects of Family History*

Each meeting the topic is agreed by the members at the previous group meeting. It can range from 'how do I do...?' to: 'sources for finding family information.' Because this is an open discussion the subjects can lead to topics that the participants want to discuss or expand upon points raised during the session. The structure is very flexible.

**Please visit our website for further details, dates and times** [www.nwkfhs.org.uk](http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk)

**Changes and up-to-date details will be on the website and in the e-mail information service newsletter.**

*Since re-opening the library post Covid the number of attendees is noticeably down. There are many reasons for this but if it is safety fears, we would like to reassure you that we will do all we can to make you feel and be safe. The tables can be spaced further apart to usual, furthermore, we can seat you on your own table and nobody will object to you wearing a face covering.*

We would be pleased to hear from any volunteers who would like to be involved with any workshops, along with any new topics that interest you. Contact us through bookings and enquiries by e-mail [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk)

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## 22<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER – ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUP – LET'S TALK ABOUT FAMILY HISTORY WITH DAVID CUFLEY

**A members-only event.**

In this session we'll talk about family history in a similar manner to the coffee breaks at the library.

It's a chance to ask about terms and words seen in documents or used by other historians and what they mean and how they influence your research. This session can also be used to ask, 'how do I do that?' and get tips from other members who have perhaps done similar research before.

It's a totally unscripted session, and all participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and contribute to helping each other. It's a free-flowing wander through aspects of family history research, so we have no idea where the discussions will lead.

As its on zoom you will need to bring your own coffee and biscuits!  

Please log in from 2.15pm and enjoy chat amongst participants before the workshop starts.

Numbers are restricted to enable all participants to ask questions, share knowledge and engage with other members.

Please reserve a place with [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk) including the event, title and date together with your name and membership number.

Workshop leaders freely give their time, but a donation via the web shop is appreciated:

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services/society-donation>

*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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## NWKFHS members – DID YOU KNOW?

**The society now has 25 recorded talks and 49 recorded workshop videos which members can view at any time. A wide variety of subjects are covered on family research, why not have a look to see what could help your research. You can find them on the website under RESOURCES / Zoom Talk or Zoom Workshops. Log on now!**

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### Did you know?

An Alley-Girl was a worker in soap manufactory who inspected tablets of soap leaving the stamping machine.

An Allsorts Stripper was a sugar confectionery worker who prepared the liquorice for rolling and cutting.

**ON THIS DAY: October 14<sup>th</sup> is the 287<sup>th</sup> day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 78 days remain to the end of the year.**

**October, the tenth month of the year, was the eighth month of the Roman Calendar and its name derives from the Latin *octo*, eight.**

**1066** The Norman conquest of England begins with the Battle of Hastings

**1322** Robert the Bruce of Scotland defeats King Edward II of England at the Battle of Old Byland, forcing Edward to accept Scotland's independence

**1586** Mary, Queen of Scots, goes on trial for conspiracy against Queen Elizabeth I of England

**1774** The First Continental Congress denounces the British Parliament's Intolerable Acts and demands British concessions

**1791** The revolutionary group the United Irishmen is formed in Belfast, Ireland leading to the Irish Rebellion of 1798

**1843** Irish nationalist Daniel O'Connell is arrested by the British on charges of criminal conspiracy.

**1898** The steam ship SS Mohegan sinks near the Lizard peninsula, Cornwall, killing 106

**1910** English aviator Claude Grahame-White lands his aircraft on Executive Avenue near the White House in Washington, D.C.

**1912** Former president Theodore Roosevelt is shot and mildly wounded by John Flammang Schrank. With the fresh wound in his chest, and the bullet still within it, Roosevelt delivers his scheduled speech.

**1913** Senghenydd colliery disaster, the United Kingdom's worst coal mining accident, claims the lives of 439 miners.

**1923** After the Irish Civil War the 1923 Irish hunger strikes were undertaken by thousands of Irish republican prisoners protesting the continuation of their internment without trial

**1964** Martin Luther King Jr. receives the Nobel Peace Prize for combating racial inequality through nonviolence.

**1968** Apollo program: The first live television broadcast by American astronauts in orbit is performed by the Apollo 7 crew.

**2022** Robbie Coltrane, Scottish actor, comedian and writer died (b. 1950)

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## New Records:

### Findmypast:

- Gloucestershire updated parish registers for baptism 1976, marriages 1982 and burials 1985
- Surrey, Southwark nonconformist baptisms 1801 to 1923, marriages 1867 to 1939 and burials 1781 to 1860
- Surrey, Southwark congregational records for Southwark 1804 to 1984

### RootsIreland

- County Kerry Annascaul Roman Catholic baptisms 1819–1899
- County Tipperary Boherlahan & Duall Roman Catholic marriages 1810-1900
- Kildare County Archive:  
<https://kildarecoco.ie/library/LocalStudiesGenealogyandArchives/Archives/OnlineArchives/GrandJury/>
- Grand Jury Presentments and Query Books

### TheGenealogist

- Roman Catholic parish registers covering County Laois, previously known as County Leix and as Queen's County from 1556 to 1922.

### MyHeritage

- Hearth Tax, Cheshire, Durham, Essex, Gloucestershire, Kent, Middlesex (including London), Norfolk, Surrey, Sussex, Warwickshire, Westmorland, Yorkshire, and Pembrokeshire 1662-1674
- Lancashire, Manchester Burials 1850-

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## Marriage Duty Act 1695

This act imposed a duty on births, marriages and burials, and on bachelor's and childless widowers. Assessments were partly based on parish registers, and probably caused a reduction in the number of events they recorded. Assessment required a complete enumeration of the population. Unfortunately, few assessments and enumerations survive. The act was abolished in 1706.

Further Reading:

- GLASS, D.V., ed. London inhabitants within the walls, 1695  
London Record Society 2. 1966
- RALPH, ELIZABETH, & WILLIAMS, MARY E., eds. The inhabitants of Bristol in 1696. Bristol Record Society publications 25. 1968.

**Mayhew - London Labour & The London Poor****Crossing-sweepers**

Mayhew claimed that crossing-sweepers formed a large group among the London poor. A crossing-sweeper was normally an individual who regarded the 'calling' as 'the last chance left of obtaining an honest crust'. Little capital was involved to provide equipment; it was possible to solicit gratuities without being charged with begging; there was a possibility of establishing a regular clientele of sympathetic benefactors in a given location. Mayhew tried to discover what 'right' an individual crossing-sweeper had to his patch. Sometimes a sweeper obtained the permission of the nearby inhabitants. In some cases, such as the banks, crossing-sweepers were employed to serve the clientele. The police also protected the crossings against the encroachment of rivals. Crossing-sweepers were divided by Mayhew into various categories: casual, who did the job only on certain days of the week or who (like the boy sweepers) moved around from crossing to crossing, and regular, who had fixed positions on the corners of major streets and squares; male and female; able bodied and disabled; adult and juvenile. Many combined their callings with other casual jobs. Juveniles often worked in gangs.

Source: Book 'Mayhew - London Labour & The London Poor' A selection by Rosmary O'Day and David Englander,  
published 2008 by Wordsworth Editions Limited, page 227.

**Some useful Genealogical Abbreviations**

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Latin</b>	<b>English</b>
+	Defuncti	died
&c	et cætera	and also
aas	anno aetatis suae	died in the year of his age, i.e., a.a.s. 24
ar	anno regni	year of reign
at	ætatis	age
atq.	atque (variant of "ac")	and, and also
c	comitis	count
Ch	Confirmati	confirmed
civit	civitas	city
dsp	decessit sine prole	died without issue (children)
dspl	decessit sine prole legitima	died without legitimate issue (children)
dspm	decessit sine prole mascula	died without male issue (sons)
dspml	decessit sine prole mascula legitima	died without legitimate male issue (sons)
dspms	decessit sine prole mascula superstite	died without surviving male issue (living sons)
dsp	decessit sine prole superstite	died without surviving issue (living children)
dspv	decessit sine prole virilli	died without male issue (sons)
dvm	decessit vita matris	died in the lifetime of the mother
dvp	decessit vita patris	died in the lifetime of the father
J	Matrimonis Juncti	joined in marriage
msp	mortuus sine prole	died without offspring (children)
na	natus or nata	born
NB!	Nota bene	important note, please note
ob	obiit	died, followed by the date
osp or ob.s.p.	obiit (or obit) sine prole	died without issue (children)
PP	per procuracionem	by proxy
q.	quondam	deceased, the late
slp	sine legitima prole	died without legitimate issue (children)
smp	sine mascula prole	died without male issue (sons)
sp	sine prole	without issue (children)
spl	sine prole legitima	died without legitimate issue (children)
spm	sine prole mascula	died without male issue (sons)
sps	sine prole superstite	without surviving issue (children)
sp/ss	susceptores	sponsors (godparents)

**The Sevenoaks Committee: Branch Chair - Bill Chopping**  
**Committee Members: Karina Jackson, Norma Holmden, Bernie Wilkins,**

**Sandra Marchant, Barbara Attwaters, Maureen Berry.**