



13<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024

ISSUE NUMBER 101

# 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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### Note a Change of Talk today:

**In for a penny, in for a pound.**

Do you still think in £ s d? - do you remember when postage was cheap and phone calls expensive? A light-hearted look at the changes in both coinage and prices over the last seventy years. Jo lives in Bexley and has been doing talks, mainly in Kent and SE London, for about 15 years to several historical societies.

This is an unavoidable change from the previously publicised speaker – we thank Jo for stepping in.

**Speaker**

**JO**

**LIVINGSTON**

## NEXT SEVENOAKS BRANCH MEETING

### **10<sup>th</sup> February - From Castle to Cardboard, Discovering the History of Eynsford Castle**

In this talk, Rod demonstrates and tells of the origins of the castle and how it then evolved over the period to reach its heyday in the 1100s. It tells the story of the influential de Eynsford family and their involvement in the Barons' revolt which led to the fall of Rochester Castle and the loss of Eynsford Castle to King John.

Rod Shelton describes himself as an author, artist and model-maker. He has lived in Otford for 25 years and is active in village matters. He is the local historian and chairs the Otford Society. He was a London advertising copy writer; then ran his own commercial film company.

Rod specialises in reproducing homes of historical interest back to the period in which they were first built. This takes much research and reference as well as a fair amount of calculation. His particular interest is in the life of the people who lived there at that time. A large selection of his models of featured places and homes in the Darent Valley are on permanent display at Lullingstone Castle.

**Speaker**

**ROD**

**SHELTON**

## DARTFORD BRANCH MEETING

### **3<sup>rd</sup> February - British Hospital for Mothers and Babies, Woolwich**

Sue Sauter, an ex-midwife, and Governor of the Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust will trace the history of the pre-NHS maternity home and midwifery school.

It started in 1905 with 8 beds and home visits, went through several moves, was bombed during the war, joined the NHS and established one of the Country's first premature baby units before closing in 1984.

At least one of our members was born there and there are surely some more.

**Speaker SUE SAUTER**

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***As we step into January, let's embrace the journey of tracing our family history. In the coming months, dive into archives, connect with relatives, and explore the rich tapestry of your heritage.***

***As 2024 unfolds, anticipate new discoveries, connections, and the unfolding chapters of your ancestral story.***

*Here's to a year filled with exciting revelations and a deeper understanding of where you come from.*

## UP AND COMING LIBRARY WORKSHOPS

- DNA and General Family History with Jack Ellis and Pam Goddard** 17 January 10:30
- Scottish Interests Discussion Group with Pam Goddard:** 7 February 10.30  
The group will look at the National Library of Scotland. What resources it holds and what is online?
- DNA and General Family History with Jack Ellis and Pam Goddard** 14 February 10.30  
Booking essential - please email [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk) to reserve your place.

## MONTHLY ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUPS

- ZOOM DNA Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln** 24 January 10:30
- ZOOM Discussion Group with Ann Clarke** 7 February 10.30  
Kismet, Serendipity or gut feel - how have they helped you find an ancestor.

## ZOOM WORKSHOPS

- Zoom Workshop – Settlement, Examinations and Removal Orders with David Cufley** 17 January at 7:30 pm
- Zoom Workshop – Breaking Down Brick Walls with David Cufley** 31 January at 7:30 pm  
(Please submit ancestral brick walls by 17 January to David Cufley via [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk))
- Please log in from 7.15pm for both events and enjoy chatting amongst participants before the discussion starts.
- As its on zoom you will need to bring your own coffee and biscuits! ☕ 🍪 🍪

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### How to get the Zoom Link

#### Booking is no longer required for individual Zoom Workshops and Discussion Groups.

For 2024 a Zoom Register has been created to cover all attendance to any of the zoom groups. Any society member who would like to be added to the register needs to submit their name, email address and membership number to [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk). You only need to register once.

Once a month the zoom links for the discussion groups and workshops will be sent by email to those members on the register. Members who have registered can then attend as many of the Zoom groups as they wish with no need to make a specific booking for each one.

**All Zoom Workshops and Discussion Groups are members only-events.**

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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Participating in a North West Kent Family History workshop or discussion offers numerous benefits. It provides valuable skills for research, enhances your understanding of historical contexts, and fosters a sense of connection with your ancestry. Additionally, these workshops and discussions help create a supportive community of fellow enthusiasts, encouraging collaboration and the sharing of insights. Ultimately, delving into your family history can be a fulfilling and enlightening journey, and a workshop serves as a guided path for this exploration.

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*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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**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. Why don't you log on now!**

## **Growing up in the late 1800s.**

Growing up in the UK during the late 1800s was profoundly shaped by the prevailing societal norms and the transformative impact of the industrial revolution. Family life during this era was marked by a combination of tradition and the rapid changes brought about by urbanisation. The late 1800s saw the consolidation of the Victorian era, characterised by a set of rigid societal expectations.

Class distinctions were stark, with the aristocracy, middle class, and working class each adhering to distinct roles. Family structures mirrored these class divisions, and children's upbringing was closely tied to the social standing of their families. The upper class enjoyed a life of privilege, often living in grand estates, while the working class faced challenging conditions in industrial urban areas. Education, though increasingly recognised as important, was not universally accessible. The Elementary Education Act of 1870 marked a step toward compulsory elementary schooling, yet the quality of education varied. Working-class children often faced the dual pressures of education and contributing to family income through labour, reflecting the economic realities of the time.

Family dynamics in the late 1800s were influenced by Victorian ideals of respectability, morality, and gender roles. Large families were common, and the extended family often played a significant role in providing support. Strict codes of conduct governed daily life, with clear expectations for the behaviour of both children and adults. Gender roles were rigidly defined, with distinct expectations for the roles of men and women within the family and society.

In conclusion, growing up in the UK during the late 1800s was a period of transition and social evolution. The family unit served as a microcosm of wider societal structures, with class distinctions, educational opportunities, and traditional values shaping the experiences of individuals coming of age during this transformative era.

### **A description of a country childhood in the 1870s**

'Boys fed poultry and pigs and soon were milking and cutting firewood. By eight years they could do much more than all that. Girls had to bath little brother and sister just a size smaller than themselves and stagger with pails of water from the tap 50 yards away when scarcely taller than the pails they carried between them. To "help" was the price of contact with beloved and admired parents; even tiny ones understood that our parents could not "manage" without us.

**Mabel, Ashby, Joseph, Ashby of Tysoe (Tysoe is a civil parish in the Stratford-on-Avon District of Warwickshire, England.)**

### **A working-class girl in the East End of London in the 1880s**

'At the open door sits a girl of eight... a typical "little mother" of the London doorstep... She is nursing a heavy baby who is perhaps a year older. She talks to it, soothes it, hushes it to sleep, rocks it, dangles it when it wakes up, and kisses its poor little face again, and again. But every other minute her attention is distracted by the conduct of a sister, aged four, and a brother, aged five, who are also under her guardianship... Because she is the oldest of all that have come, all that come after are hers to tend and hers to watch. By the time she marries and has children of her own she will be a woman weary of motherhood.'

**George Sims, How the Poor Live**

### **A young boys' duties**

'I could milk a cow by the time I was seven years old and when eight I earned six pence a day at harvest time for "stanarding" - that is holding the horse still by its head while sheaves of corn were loaded on the cart. I would walk on at a command, then on the word 'stand' I would stop. It meant 'stand hard' or still. Then at the end of the week I would lineup with the men to get my pay. Most I gave to Mum to help buy boots which wore away quickly on the gritty country roads.

**George Noakes, To be a Farmers Boy**

### **Children were expected to know their place.**

Parents may have been stricter with their daughters than with their sons:

'My father's slogan was that boys should go everywhere and know everything and that a girl should stay at home and know nothing. The boys used to go to the theatre and music halls. Mother explained that they were not dull, only not very nice. It made no difference to me what they were like since I was never allowed to even to a theatre.'

**Molly Hughes, A London Child of the 1870s**

### **Parents did the best for their children.**

'The children are more likely to suffer from spoiling than harshness, for they are made much of, being the pride of their mother who will sacrifice much to see them prettily dressed, and the delight of their father's heart. This makes the home and the happiness of the parents.

## The less ordinary life.

In the late 1800s, a wealthy child's life was markedly different from their less privileged counterparts. Raised in opulence, these children experienced a lavish lifestyle, often residing in spacious, well-appointed homes. Their education was typically provided by private tutors or prestigious schools. Extracurricular activities included formal dance lessons, horseback riding, and cultural pursuits. Social events played a crucial role, with elaborate gatherings and balls attended by families of similar status. Strict societal expectations shaped their behaviour, emphasising manners and etiquette. Clothing reflected their status, with tailored, fashionable attire. Family values were paramount, and lineage was carefully preserved. While material comforts surrounded them, societal norms restricted individual freedoms, particularly for girls. Despite the abundance, a wealthy child's life in the late 1800s was often constrained by societal expectations and a rigid class structure.

**Mary Curzon**, née Leiter, born in 1870, the daughter of the wealthy British aristocrat George Nathaniel Curzon, experienced an aristocratic childhood. Growing up in luxurious estates like Kedleston Hall, she enjoyed private tutors, elaborate gardens, and cultural pursuits. Social prominence dictated her life, with attendance at exclusive events and exposure to high society. Mary's upbringing reflected the Victorian ideals of refinement and decorum, but societal expectations limited her choices. She eventually married Lord Curzon, reinforcing aristocratic lineage. Mary's childhood exemplified the privileges and constraints of wealth within the stringent societal framework of the Victorian era in England.

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## ON THIS DAY

**January 13<sup>th</sup> is the 13<sup>th</sup> day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 353 days remain to the end of the year.**

January was named for the Roman god Janus, known as the protector of gates and doorways, who symbolize beginnings and endings. Janus is depicted with two faces, one looking into the past, the other with the ability to see into the future.

**27 BC** Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus transfers the state to the free disposal of the Roman Senate and the people. He receives Spain, Gaul, and Syria as his province for ten years.

**1547** Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, is sentenced to death for treason, on the grounds of having quartered his arms to make them similar to those of the King, Henry VIII of England!

**1797** French Revolutionary Wars: A naval battle between a French ship of the line and two British frigates off the coast of Brittany ends with the French vessel running aground, resulting in over 900 deaths.

**1822** The design of the Greek flag is adopted by the First National Assembly at Epidaurus.

**1842** Dr William Brydon, an assistant surgeon in the British East India Company Army during the First Anglo-Afghan War, becomes famous for being the sole survivor of an army of 4,500 men and 12,000 camp followers when he reaches the safety of a garrison in Jalalabad, Afghanistan.

**1888** The National Geographic Society is founded in Washington, D.C.

**1893** The Independent Labour Party of the United Kingdom holds its first meeting.

**1942** Henry Ford patents a soybean car, which is 30% lighter than a regular car.

**1966** Robert C. Weaver becomes the first African American Cabinet member when he is appointed United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

**1990** Douglas Wilder becomes the first elected African American governor as he takes office as Governor of Virginia in Richmond, Virginia.

**1993** Space Shuttle program: Endeavour heads for space for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time as STS-54 launches from Kennedy Space Centre.

**2020** The Thai Ministry of Public Health confirms the first case of COVID-19 outside China.

**2021** Outgoing U.S. President Donald Trump is impeached for a second time on a charge of incitement of insurrection following the January 6 United States Capitol attack one week prior.

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## Did you know?

- An Ashman was a refuse collector or street sweeper. May sometimes be a misspelling of Washman.
- A Washman plated metal items with tin in order to protect them from rust or improve their look or performance.
- An Aurifaber was a Goldsmith specialised in working gold and precious metals.
- A Back Tenter, often a small child, cleared away loose fibre / rubbish from behind the working weaving looms, this was a noisy and dangerous job.

- A Back Washer cleaned wool as part of worsted manufacture. Worsted cloth is made from yarn of the same name and is associated with the English village of Worstead in Norfolk.
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**The Sevenoaks Committee: Branch Chair – Vacant**  
**Committee Members: Karina Jackson, Norma Holmden, Bernie Wilkins, Sandra Marchant,**  
**Barbara Attwaters, Maureen Berry, Bill Chopping**