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ISSUE NUMBER 110

# 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.*

*We are pleased to inform you that we now have a hearing system at this event to enhance the audio experience for attendees who may need it.*

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## TODAYS TALK:

### 80 Years of Desert Island Discs

Today's speaker, Delia, has been a speaker for over 15 years, and we welcome her back to the society today.

Desert Island Discs is the longest continuous programme on the BBC. Over 3000 people have been castaway on a Desert Island since Roy Plomley thought up the programme in 1941. During its run of 80 years some of the most famous people in the world have picked their favourite 8 records, books and luxury items they would like to take with them.

Delia will reveal to us the strange items that have been chosen, the most requested music and provide snippets of the most entertaining interviews over the years.

**Speaker Delia Taylor**

## NEXT SEVENOAKS BRANCH MEETING

### 9<sup>TH</sup> November - And so to Ted, the history of Teddies and other Bears

Melanie has been a speaker for over 10 years, and we welcome her back to the society next month.

A wide-ranging fun talk of Bear Essentials to appeal to arctophiles and bear lovers.

Be sure to bring your bears along to hear the talk. It adds to the fun and it's amazing what people have in the back of cupboards.

**Speaker Melanie Gibson -**

**Barton**

## DARTFORD BRANCH MEETING

### 2<sup>ND</sup> November - Postman's Park

Postman's Park, so called because of its proximity to London's main Post Office and popularity with the postal workers who came here to eat their lunchtime sandwiches, was opened in 1880.

In 1887 G.F. Watts, the artist, put forward the idea of a national memorial to heroic men and women. A wall in the park was dedicated to this cause in 1900.

Dr Price is a Senior Lecturer in Modern British History at Goldsmiths and is an expert in civilian heroism and self-sacrifice in the 19th and early 20th centuries and has made a study of those commemorated in Postman's Park.

**Speaker Dr John Price**



## Bring Your Own Mug (BYOM)

Let's make our meetings a little eco-friendly! Please where possible BYOM to help us to save a little cost, reduce waste and make a positive impact on the environment. If this is difficult or you forget don't worry, we do have a small supply of mugs to ensure you can enjoy a drink. We thank you for your cooperation.

## UP AND COMING LIBRARY WORKSHOPS

**DNA and General Family History Discussion Group with Jacki Ellis and Pam Goddard** **13 November 10:30**  
Booking essential - please email [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk) to reserve your place.

**Writing Group with Pauline Heathcote** – Booking essential **27 November 10:30**  
Please message via the contact form at <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact> to reserve your place.  
Numbers are restricted to enable all participants to ask questions, share knowledge and engage with other members.

## MONTHLY ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUPS

**If our ancestors had known about our lives, what would they like or dislike? with Ann Clarke** **6 November 10:30**

**DNA Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln** **20 November 10:30**

## ZOOM WORKSHOP

**Let's talk Family History with David Cufley** **13 November 14:30**

*This is a session when you can 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. The 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. Totally unscripted session and all attendees will have the opportunity to ask their 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.*

**Record closure rules and how we can find sources to compensate with David Cufley** **27 November 19:30**

*Why can't I find details of my recent ancestors and my cousins?  
This workshop will discuss why records are closed and what happens when the closure period expires.  
'Can you access closed records?' and 'who do you contact?' are two questions that will be discussed.*

**Please log in 15 minutes before each online event and enjoy chatting amongst participants before it 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>

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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. We warmly welcome both familiar faces and new friends.

**Calling all volunteers with fresh ideas!** *If you have a new topic of interest you'd like to see covered in our workshops, or you wish to be involved with our workshops, we want to hear from 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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## An Invitation from the Editor

As a member of our esteemed Family History Society, we invite you to contribute to our upcoming journals in the next few months. At NWKFHS, we value the rich tapestry of family narratives and historical insights that our members bring to the table. Your unique perspective and expertise would undoubtedly enrich our journal.

Whether you have a captivating family story, compelling research, or an enlightening exploration of historical records, we warmly welcome your submissions. This is a terrific opportunity to share your knowledge and passion with fellow members.

If you are interested in contributing, please feel free to reach out to us with your proposed topic or submission. Our editor Pauline will be delighted to hear from you and will respond to every proposal. Please email [theeditor@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:theeditor@nwkfhs.org.uk) – word files or simply text in the body of an email is fine. We look forward to hearing from you.

## ON THIS DAY

**October 12<sup>th</sup> is the 286<sup>th</sup> day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 80 days remain to the end of the year.**

October retained its name (from Latin and Greek *ôctō* meaning "eight") after January and February were inserted into the calendar

**539 BC** The army of Cyrus the Great of Persia takes Babylon, ending the Babylonian empire.

**1492** Christopher's first expedition makes landfall in the Caribbean, specifically on San Salvador Island.

**1692** The Salem witch trials are ended by a letter from Province of Massachusetts Bay Governor William Phips.

**1799** Jeanne Geneviève Labrosse, a French balloonist, becomes the first woman to jump from a balloon with a parachute.

**1810** The citizens of Munich hold the first Oktoberfest in celebration of the marriage of Crown Prince Louis of Bavaria and Princess Therese of Saxe-Hildburghausen.

**1845** Elizabeth Fry, English prison reformer, Quaker and philanthropist died (b. 1780)

**1901** President Theodore Roosevelt officially renames the "Executive Mansion" to the White House.

**1915** World War I: British nurse Edith Cavell is executed by a German firing squad for helping Allied soldiers escape from occupied Belgium.

**1944** Angela Rippon, English journalist and author is born.

**1977** Hua Guofeng succeeds Mao Zedong as paramount leader of China.

**1984** The Provisional Irish Republican Army fail to assassinate Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and her cabinet. The bomb kills five people and wounds 31.

**1986** Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, visit the People's Republic of China

**1999** The Day of Six Billion: the proclaimed 6 billionth living human in the world is born

**2019** Kenyan Eliud Kipchoge becomes the 1st person to run a marathon in less than 2 hours, the time of 1:59:40 in Vienna

**2023** Roman scrolls burnt in Mt Vesuvius eruption at Herculaneum read for the first time, after computer-science student develops machine-learning algorithm - first word deciphered is purple

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### Old Occupations:

- ❖ CHAMBER MASTER A small master who makes up material at home and sells goods to the shops. (e.g. Shoes, clothes, bric-a-brac)
- ❖ CHAPEL MASTER Head of a chapel of printers
- ❖ CHAPELER Made and sold hats
- ❖ CHARGER One employed in charging or discounting money
- ❖ CHARLEY or CHARLIE A night watchman
- ❖ CHAUNTER A street entertainer who sung ballads (Busker)
- ❖ CHECK-TAKER A taker of tickets

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### Strategies for Finding Maiden Names

Tracing women through their maiden names in the UK can be particularly challenging due to name changes after marriage and the sometimes-limited availability of records. However, there are several strategies and resources that can help family historians uncover a woman's maiden name and track her through the generations.

Here are some approaches:

- ❖ **Marriage Certificates (1837 onwards)** Since 1837, civil registration of marriages in the UK includes both the maiden and married names of women. Marriage certificates also provide the names and occupations of the bride's father, offering clues to earlier generations. Before 1837, look for parish marriage records, which may also list the woman's maiden name, though details vary.
- ❖ **Census Records (1841 onwards)** From 1841, UK census records can be valuable for tracing women. Though women are usually listed with their married names, earlier censuses may show them living with their birth families, revealing their maiden name. Check for patterns of women living near or with their parents, siblings, or extended family in the same household or nearby households.

- ❖ **Parish Registers (Before 1837)** Before civil registration, the most reliable source for a woman's maiden name are parish registers. Baptism, marriage, and burial records may provide clues to a woman's birth family. Baptism records of a woman's children in parish registers often list her maiden name. Searching for these across different parishes can sometimes uncover valuable information.
  
- ❖ **Wills and Probate Records** Wills and probate records are often excellent sources for identifying maiden names. In the UK, wills sometimes mention a woman's maiden name, especially when the testator leaves bequests to their daughters or mentions grandchildren. Check the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) wills and other local probate records for mentions of family members.
- ❖ **Birth and Baptism Records** Birth certificates (post-1837) list the mother's maiden name, so tracking a woman through her children's birth certificates is a reliable method. Parish baptism records often contain the mother's maiden name, particularly in cases where a child was illegitimate or where the family held land or wealth.
- ❖ **Newspaper Archives** British newspaper archives can be useful for tracing women, particularly in announcements of marriages, deaths, and births. These notices often include a woman's maiden name, as well as information about her parents and siblings. Newspapers can also contain social notices, obituaries, and reports of community events that provide clues about family relationships.
- ❖ **Cemetery Records and Memorial Inscriptions** Gravestones and memorial inscriptions sometimes include a woman's maiden name, especially if she was buried alongside her parents. Family plots may include other relatives, allowing you to piece together family connections. Many local family history societies have indexed gravestone inscriptions, which can help find details about women's maiden names.
- ❖ **Manorial Records and Land Records** Manorial records and other property-related documents can sometimes help trace women. If a woman inherited land from her family, her maiden name might appear in property records or marriage settlements. In the case of wealthy or landowning families, women's maiden names were often preserved in marriage contracts or dowry agreements.
- ❖ **Guild Records and Apprenticeship Bonds** If a woman's family was involved in a guild or trade, guild records or apprenticeship records may list her father or brothers, helping to confirm her maiden name. Some women were apprenticed to learn trades or craftwork, and their maiden names may appear in these records.
- ❖ **Poor Law and Workhouse Records** If a woman or her family fell on hard times, poor law records or workhouse records might mention her maiden name, especially if she applied for assistance as a widow or unmarried woman. These records can be found at local archives or through databases like The National Archives or Ancestry.
- ❖ **Taxation Records** Hearth tax records, poll books, and other taxation records can sometimes reveal the maiden names of women in wealthier families. They may also list women who were unmarried or widowed at the time of the tax assessment.
- ❖ **School and University Records** If the woman or her children attended elite schools or universities, the institution's records may mention her maiden name, especially if she was involved in donations or family legacies. Alumni records and school admission registers may list her maiden name and details of her family.
- ❖ **DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy** DNA testing is becoming increasingly popular in the UK for family history research. By matching with distant relatives through autosomal DNA tests, it's possible to uncover previously unknown family connections that may reveal a woman's maiden name. Focus on matrilineal DNA tests (mitochondrial DNA) to trace maternal lines specifically.
- ❖ **Apprenticeship and Bastardy Bonds** If a woman had an illegitimate child, bastardy bonds or affiliation orders may provide her maiden name and sometimes identify the child's father. These records were often kept in parish records or local archives. Apprenticeship bonds often list the parents of apprentices, which can sometimes help in tracing a woman's maiden name.
- ❖ **County and Local Archives** Many valuable local resources for women's genealogies are kept at county archives. These include parish registers, land records, school records, and estate papers, many of which may not be available online but can be accessed at the archives themselves. Family history societies often have localized resources and transcripts of records that are especially helpful for tracing women in rural areas.
- ❖ **Quaker Records** If the woman came from a Quaker family, you may be able to find excellent records. The Society of Friends kept detailed records of births, marriages, and deaths, and these often include maiden names and extended family connections.

By combining multiple sources and using these UK-specific records, family historians can significantly improve their chances of tracing female ancestors and uncovering their maiden names. Local history knowledge, combined with strategic record searching, can provide breakthroughs.

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**The Sevenoaks Committee: Branch Chair – Vacant**  
**Members: Norma Holmden, Bernie Wilkins, Sandra Marchant, Barbara Attwaters,**  
**Maureen Berry, Jon Henderson, Janet Rose**