



14<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2024

ISSUE NUMBER 112

# 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:**

### **The Vindication of Christmas**

The talk looks at how the Puritan clamp down on Christmas led to the end of Civil War in Kent.

**Speaker : Peter Daniel**

## **NEXT SEVENOAKS BRANCH MEETING**

### **11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025 : Mid 19th Century Merchant Shipping**

Bill will be drawing on his great-great-grandfather William Schaw Lindsay's journals. William Schaw Lindsay (1815 – 1877) left home at 16 and worked his way up from cabin boy to ship owner and also became a Liberal MP.

The talk will cover : William Schaw Lindsay's adventures on a Ocean-sailing vessel in the 1830s when he left home at 16. The shift from sailing ships to ocean steamships. Transport ships during the Crimean War Emigration to Australia and Canada. Building the Confederate Navy in the American Civil War

**Speaker : William Lindsay**

## **DARTFORD BRANCH MEETING**

### **11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025 : FIRE ! A Century of the Volunteer Fire Brigade**

Jo is an experienced speaker who lives locally and has been giving talks for the last 15 years.

She will tell us of the years when firefighting depended on local altruism, using photographs and other items from her family's long association with the Brigade, thereby enabling our members to relate this talk to their own research.

**Speaker : Jo Livingston**



## **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 & General Family History Discussion Group with Pam Goddard 8 January 2025 10:30

## MONTHLY ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUPS

My ancestors stayed in one place for generations - Discuss. with Ann Clark 8 January 2025 10:30

DNA and General Family History Discussion group with Laura Lincoln 15 January 2025 10:30

Scottish Interest Discussion Group with Pam Goddard 29 January 2025 10:30

## ZOOM WORKSHOP

All Drawn By Horses with Ian Waller 9 January 2025 19:30

Beginning Family History with David Cufley 22 January 2025 19:30

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

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### **How to get the Zoom Link - Booking is no longer required for individual Zoom Workshops and Discussion Groups.**

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

**December 14** is the 348th day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 17 days remain until the end of the year.

1542 – Princess Mary Stuart becomes Queen of Scots at the age of one week on the death of her father, James V of Scotland.

1782 – The Montgolfier brothers first test fly an unmanned hot air balloon in France; it floats nearly 2.5 km (1.6 mi).

1814 – War of 1812: The Royal Navy seizes control of Lake Borgne, Louisiana.

1896 – The Glasgow Underground Railway is opened by the Glasgow District Subway Company.

1900 – Quantum mechanics: Max Planck presents a theoretical derivation of his black-body radiation law (quantum theory) at the Physic Society in Berlin.

1903 – The Wright brothers make their first attempt to fly with the *Wright Flyer* at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

1918 – The 1918 United Kingdom general election occurs, the first where women were permitted to vote. In Ireland the Irish republican political party Sinn Féin wins a landslide victory with nearly 47% of the popular vote.

1940 – Plutonium (specifically Pu-238) is first isolated at Berkeley, California.

1962 – NASA's *Mariner 2* becomes the first spacecraft to fly by Venus.

1972 – Apollo program: Eugene Cernan is the most recent person to walk on the Moon, after he and Harrison Schmitt complete the third and final extravehicular activity (EVA) of the Apollo 17 mission.

2020 – A total solar eclipse is visible from parts of the South Pacific Ocean, southern South America, and the South Atlantic Ocean.

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### Old Occupations:

EARER A ploughman or tiller

EARTH STOPPER One who plugs up animal holes e.g. rabbits, badgers, foxes

ENGINE MAN Employed at a mine to be in charge of the machinery used to crush the ore

ENGINE TENTER or TENTER Someone who is in charge of machinery, usually in a factory. The word is closely related to the word "tend" so he is someone who "tends, or looks after" the engine.

ENUMERATOR One who collected the information for the census from the householder and recorded it

EQUERRY Officer of the royal household usually responsible for the royal horses

EREMITE or HERMIT A person who chooses to live a solitary life

ESTAFETTE Express courier - usually military. A special messenger who delivered goods quickly.

EWE HERD Shepherd

EWER Water carrier. Man who came round with water.

EYER or HOLER Maker of eyes in sewing needles

### Society Vacancies

Many hands make light work. That is certainly true when it comes to sharing the tasks that keep our Society operating smoothly. Please review these volunteer opportunities. This list will be updated monthly on the Society website. If you can help, please email <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact> marked for the attention of the Society secretary.

## **URGENT Society Treasurer**

The Society has struggled this year to fill this post. The current person can only continue until the end of October 2024. So the Society URGENTLY needs someone to volunteer for this role longer-term. The job is not onerous and full support will be available from the other Committee members. A job description is available if you are interested.

## **Society Chair**

The Society has struggled this year to fill this post. Nigel Durrant has kindly agreed to stand-in until someone can volunteer for this role longer-term. The job is not onerous and full support will be available from the other Committee members. A job description is available if you are interested

## **Chair - Sevenoaks Branch Meetings**

Barbara Phillips is currently acting Chair but would like to relinquish this post as she is also programme secretary for the branch and has other responsibilities within the Society. The chair does not have as many responsibilities as previously as others have taken on some of the tasks. If the Branch Chair is away for a meeting, this can be managed. The job is not onerous, but needs commitment.

## **Bought-in-Books Transporter - Dartford & Sevenoaks Branch Meetings**

Dartford & Sevenoaks need someone to bring the Bought -in-Books to the meetings. When not required they can be housed in the Society's lock-up off of Thames Road, Dartford. One does not need a big car boot. Any monies involved are the responsibility of the individual branch and do not concern the person who brings them. The job is not onerous, but does need commitment.

## **Librarian Assistant**

The Society Librarian urgently needs volunteers to help with running the Library in Joyden's Wood and to help fellow members with their research. The situation is about to become worse, as one of the current volunteers is moving away soon. We must have at least two volunteers on site for the Library to be able to open on Wednesdays. Good IT skills and knowledge of Microsoft Windows would be helpful, but are not essential. Are you free on Wednesdays and could offer help on one or more Wednesdays a month?

If you can help with any of these please email via <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact> marked for the attention of the Society Secretary.

## **Society Library**

The Society Library is open every Wednesday for members to do their own research, socialise, participate in library based workshops and discussion groups and receive help from the library volunteers. The library address is 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley Kent DA5 2EE Free parking in nearby side roads.

You can use the library's PCs to access Ancestry - and FindMyPast (which currently does NOT include access to the 1921 census, something we are investigating with the library). We suggest joining Kent Libraries as you can then access these websites from your own device whilst in the library which eases pressure on the demand for library PCs.

The library is open from 10am to 4pm but it greatly helps the volunteers if visitors with research queries call in earlier in the day rather than later. Please also bring as much information as you already have about the ancestor you are researching.

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### **The Sevenoaks Committee: Branch Chair – Vacant**

**Members: Barbara Phillips, Norma Holmden, Bernie Wilkins, Sandra Marchant, Barbara Attwaters, Maureen Berry, Jon Henderson, Janet Rose, Christine Hills**