



13<sup>th</sup> June 2026

ISSUE NUMBER 130

# 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.*

*If you are a guest we appreciate a 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 : "Well I never" The surprising stories of the villages of the Darent

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. Rod is a local historian as well as model builder. He 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

## NEXT SEVENOAKS BRANCH MEETING

**11<sup>th</sup> July 2026:** History of Crayford's famous textile printers (at Swaisland & David Evans)

Peter attended Wentworth and Wilmington Grammar Schools. He worked for 4 years in finance in the City, which he hated, before studying Economic History at the University of Sussex. He then worked as a primary school teacher at Oakfield and West Hill schools for 6 years before becoming Education Officer at Westminster Archives for 14 years.

He has always been interested in local history and since 2008 worked closely with his friend Simon McKeon at Bexley Local Studies and the Crayford Town Archive to create the Crayford History website as a platform for local schools to discover "the rich history of our corner of Kent".

**Speaker :** Peter Daniel

## DARTFORD BRANCH MEETING

**1<sup>st</sup> August 2026 :** Some Lost Houses of Crayford

Who better to reveal the lost houses of Crayford ? Situated on the old Watling Street and not far from London, Crayford was a very pleasant location for country houses to be built, nearly all evidence of which has gone. Janet has been a keen local historian for over forty years, particularly focusing on Crayford. Together with her husband David Gillham, she has been involved with several Heritage Lottery Fund projects. Currently she is Chairman of Crayford Manor House Historical Society.

**Speaker :** Janet Hearn-Gillham

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## Bring Your Own Mug



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

Library DNA and General Family History Discussion Group with Pam Goddard 08-07-2026 10:30 am

## ZOOM GROUPS

Zoom DNA Discussion group with Laura Lincoln 17-06-2026 10:30 am

Zoom Talk with Michele Jeannotte: They Sailed The Seas 24-06-2026 7:30 pm

Zoom Discussion Group with Ann Clarke: How did our ancestors' childhoods compare with childhood now? 01-07-2026 10:30 am

Zoom Welsh Interest Group with David Cufley 08-07-2026 7:30 pm

Zoom Talk by Archives Officer Alice Imperatori about Family History research at Kent Archives in Maidstone 09-07-2026 7:30 pm

Zoom DNA Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln 15-07-2026 10:30 am

**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 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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## SOCIETY AGM

The 48th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the North West Kent Family History Society will be held at Dartford Science & Technology College, Heath Lane, Dartford, Kent DA1 2LY on **Saturday 4th July 2026 at 10:30.**

In addition to AGM business there will be two notable speakers on the day : Kathy Chater on Film & Sound Archives for Family Historians and David Annal on Understanding Death Duty Registers

## **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.

## **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.

### **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.

### **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?

### **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.

## ON THIS DAY

**July 15** is the 196th day of the year; 169 days remain until the end of the year.

### Events

1381 – John Ball, a leader in the Peasants' Revolt, is hanged, drawn and quartered in the presence of King Richard II of England.

1815 – Napoleonic Wars: Napoleon Bonaparte surrenders aboard HMS *Bellerophon*.

1834 – The Spanish Inquisition is officially disbanded after nearly 356 years.

1975 – Space Race: Apollo–Soyuz Test Project features the dual launch of an Apollo spacecraft and a Soyuz spacecraft on the first Soviet–United States human-crewed flight.

### Births

1858 – Emmeline Pankhurst, English political activist and suffragist (died 1928)

1913 – Hammond Innes, English journalist and author (died 1998)

### Deaths

1904 – Anton Chekhov, Russian playwright and short story writer (born 1860)

## OLD OCCUPATIONS

OAT HULLER A person who removed the hull from oats

ORDERLY A soldier who functioned as a servant for an officer

ORDINARY SEAMAN An ordinary Seaman was originally, a sailor of the Ordinary, or ships in reserve and not seagoing.

ORRA MAN Scottish and North of England term ; a skilled handyman on a farm who did odd jobs

ORRICE WEAVER A designer of lace patterns to be woven with silk thread and silk

OSIER PEELER Person who removed bark from willow rods which were used in basket weaving

OSTLER Originally applied to an innkeeper/taverner but later on it came to mean stableboy or a person who looked after horses

OUT CRIER An auctioneer

OUTWORKER A worker who carried on their occupation at home

OVERLOOKER A superintendent or overseer, especially in the textile mills

OVERMAN An official below Undermanager but above Deputy in mining

OWLER A sheep or wool smuggler

OYSTER DREDGER A member of the crew on board an oyster fishing boat

## KENT PLACE NAMES

**Ickham's** : name preserves the original size of the settlement – the village once comprised a yoke of land. It first appears in 785 as loccham.

**Ide Hill** : first shows up on record in 1250 as Edythehelle. It is an eponymic denoting *Edith's hill*, from the Old English hyll *hill*.

**Ightham** : was literally *Ehta's village*, from the Old English ham *village, homestead*.

**Ivychurch** : denotes an *ivy-covered church*.

**Iwade** : first appears on record in 1179 as Ywada. The roots are Old English iw *yew-tree* and wæd *ford*.

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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**