



11th July 2026

ISSUE NUMBER 131



Sevenoaks Newsletter

THE NORTH WEST KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, SEVENOAKS, KENT
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.

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.

TODAYS TALK : History of Crayford's famous textile printers

Crayford's famous textile printers (at Swaisland & David Evans) were at the forefront of the Chartist Campaign to win the vote for the working man. Peter Daniel lives in Crayford with his wife Julie and two daughters. 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

NEXT SEVENOAKS BRANCH MEETING

8th August 2026: Ship Towage & Salvage on the River Thames and at Sea.

Ex Captain Brian Biggs brings his experiences on tugboats, from Boy to Captain, on the Thames & at Sea to discuss how the Thames has changed over the years.

From coal steam to Diesel vessels powered vessels over the years via the East End of London to Oman, to the huge Tankers, Container Ships & Cruise Liners, Brian explains the changing life of London's Great River.

Speaker : Brian Biggs

DARTFORD BRANCH MEETING

1st 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

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

12-08-2026 10:30 am

ZOOM GROUPS

Zoom DNA Discussion group with Laura Lincoln

15-07-2026 10:30 am

Zoom Workshop: Adoption with Frances Lake

22-07-2026 7:30 pm

Scottish Interests Discussion Group with Pam Goddard
Scottish militia and military records - where to find them and how they may help with your research

29-07-2026 10:30 am

Zoom Discussion Group with Ann Clarke: Planning visits and road trips to your ancestors' homelands

05-08-2026 10:30 am

Zoom Discussion group: Let's talk family history with Linda Crisp

12-08-2026 2:30 pm

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

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. 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>

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

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 – 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 always needs volunteers to help with running the Library in Joyden's Wood and to help fellow members with their research. 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

Events

1708 – A coalition army of Dutch, English and German troops under the duke of Marlborough defeats a French army under the duke of Burgundy and the Marshal Vendome in the battle of Oudenarde.

1796 – The United States takes possession of Detroit from Great Britain under terms of the Jay Treaty.

1848 – Waterloo railway station in London opens.

1924 – Eric Liddell won the gold medal in 400m at the 1924 Paris Olympics, after refusing to run in the heats for 100m, his favoured distance, on a Sunday.

1977 – Martin Luther King Jr., assassinated in 1968, is posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Births

1274 – Robert the Bruce, Scottish king (died 1329)
1558 – Robert Greene, English author and playwright (died 1592)
1603 – Kenelm Digby, English astrologer, courtier, and diplomat (died 1665)
1849 – N. E. Brown, English plant taxonomist and authority on succulents (died 1934)
1875 – H. M. Brock, British painter and illustrator (died 1960)
1895 – Dorothy Wilde, English author and poet (died 1941)
1912 – Peta Taylor, English cricketer (died 1989)
1913 – Paul Gibb, English cricketer (died 1977)
1915 – Leonard Goodwin, British protozoologist (died 2008)
1916 – Reg Varney, English actor and screenwriter (died 2008)
1918 – Venetia Burney, English educator, who named Pluto (died 2009)
1930 – Trevor Storer, English businessman, founded Pukka Pies (died 2013)
1941 – Henry Lowther, English trumpet player
1953 – Paul Weiland, English director, producer, and screenwriter

OLD OCCUPATIONS

PAINT STAINER A person who hand-printed wallpaper and usually offered a paper-hanging service as well.
PAINTRESS A woman employed in the pottery industry to hand paint the finished articles
PANTLER The servant in charge of the bread and the pantry in a great house
PAPER IRONER or TIMES IRONER A servant responsible for ironing the daily newspaper
PARGETER One who pargets; a plasterer - walls, ornamental reliefs, chimneys
PARITOR A church officer who attended the magistrates and justices at court for the purpose of executing their orders
PASTELER A pastry chef
PEDASCULE A schoolmaster. One who educates, guides, or instructs
PEELER The first policemen in London
PHLEBOTOMIST A person who practices the opening of a vein for letting blood. (see bloodletter)

KENT PLACE NAMES

Did you know that there are no place names in Kent beginning with a “J”

Kemsing : associated with someone called Cymesa. It is first recorded in 822 as Cymesing.
Kenardington : *village* connected with a man called Cyneheard. It first shows up on record as Kynardington in the eleventh century.
Kennington : is literally a *royal manor*, from the Old English cyne ‘royal’ (from cyning *king*) and tun *estate, manor*. It first shows up in the Domesday Book as Chenetone.
Kingsdown : Old English cyning *king* and dun *hill*, and thus denote *the King’s hill*.
Kingsgate : it was at this gate, or gap in the cliffs, that Charles II landed in 1683.
Kingsnorth : The sense is of a *detached piece of land belonging to the King*, and it first shows up on record in 1226 as Kingesnade.
Knockholt : from the Old English ac ‘oak’ and holt *woodland*. It first appears as Ocholt in 1165.
Knowlton : is literally a *farmstead by a hillock*. Its first recorded form, from the Domesday Book, is Chenoltone.

The Sevenoaks Committee: Branch Chair – Vacant
Members: Barbara Phillips, Bernie Wilkins, Barbara Attwaters,
Maureen Berry, Jon Henderson, Janet Rose, Christine Hills