



As lockdown restrictions ease, the committee will continue to monitor advice on when we will be able to meet again, but in the meantime we are enjoying meeting via Zoom.

LAST MEETING

Our speaker in June was Paul Millington of Malvern Family History Society, who kindly stepped in when our scheduled speaker, John Berkeley, elected to defer his talk until he can give it in-person. The talk was called **My Criminal Past**, but Paul was keen for everyone to know it was not about him, but his ancestor, Edward Millington.

Edward Millington was indicted for stealing a sheep with another man in 1849, for which they were sentenced to be transported for seven years. He told us of his journey through the criminal justice system and transportation to Australia. Throughout this time he had a wife and children at home.

Paul used his talk to ask for watchers' thoughts about potential death dates and he left us all with some great tips, if we come across our own criminal ancestors, e.g. over years of incarceration the prisoner's age did not advance in documents, so a prisoner who was 24 at trial may still be written-up as 24 any number of years later, when transferred to another prison or released. He also pointed us in the direction of useful websites, one of which was The Digital Panopticon (<https://www.digitalpanopticon.org>), a brilliant project bringing together many references to criminal records, so it's easier to find things.

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Tonight is a Summer Get-Together via Zoom. The Committee came up with a theme to inspire contributions '**Artists & Entertainers**' – perhaps you have an anecdote from a musician or performer, a painting, book, craftwork or other heirloom created by a family member, professional or amateur. If you would like to make a presentation, please let us know so we have an idea of the structure of the meeting. Please don't be too strict, this is intended to be an inspiration for contributions and we are interested to hear where it leads you in your family.

A secondary discussion topic is to gauge the group's feelings about the return to in-person meetings. More about that overleaf.

Register at: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0kdOmurjwiHdwaY3AJxs_IlrwFQ5RJAzMw

NEXT MEETING

Our September meeting is scheduled as John Frearson, talking about '**Maundy Rodgers: A doctor abroad**'. The format of the evening will depend on the outcome of our discussion about the future of in-person meetings (see overleaf).

FACEBOOK

As you will no-doubt be aware, I update the number of Facebook Likes and Followers in every newsletter. Today, when I went to check, I was whisked away into the background statistics of our page and discovered that our audience of 'Likes' is made up of 66.3% women and 33.7% men. But what I found more interesting was that, while 66.4% are from the midlands area (Kenilworth, Coventry, Leamington, Warwick, Birmingham, Leicester and Rugby, we have 'Likers' in far-flung corners of the world including the 'usual suspects' like Australia, New Zealand, Canada, but also Egypt, France, Morocco and Portugal... interesting 😊

Facebook



 **113**
Likes

 **120**
Followers

THE FUTURE OF KENILWORTH MEETINGS

Jackie Cotterill of MA wrote to the Committee at the end of June as follows, *“Phil and I have been discussing resumption of meetings and as you know, the Government have put back the decision to ‘open up’ until 19 July... Phil and I feel that Groups need to gauge the feelings of their members as to whether they reopen and when. Ultimately that decision should lie with each Group.*

“I have suggested that it might be a good idea for each Group to run a poll of their members on when they would consider it was safe to hold an open meeting; Sept? Oct? Jan? etc. That way there would be a clear idea of members’ thoughts.

“These are only my suggestions, if Boris says we can open up after 19 July, the Executive Committee have no issues if you wish to reopen, you just need to comply with any local or national restrictions that might be imposed.”

The Committee would therefore be grateful for your thoughts and will dedicate some time on Wednesday evening to discussing the topic. IF YOU CANNOT/DO NOT ATTEND ONLINE, please send your feedback by email and it will be considered in the discussion.

Of course, if there is a general consensus that we do not wish to return to face-to-face meetings yet, this may affect our speakers, e.g. John Frearson, who is scheduled to speak in September chose to defer to a face-to-face meeting last year, so may not agree to deliver his talk via Zoom again.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We received news only recently that KFHS member, **Mark Barnard** died in August 2020. Latterly, he was more of an occasional attendee and also a former Chairman of *Kenilworth History & Archaeology Society*, U3A student, pétanque player and supporter of *Warwickshire Industrial Archaeology Society*, so would have been a familiar face to many. He had a career in the motor industry and is particularly remembered for his association with gas-turbine powered Rover cars. KHAS has published an obituary in its booklet, *Kenilworth History 2021: Research into Local History*, which is available from Kenilworth Books for £5 (delivery service available) and from Abbey Museum & Heritage Centre, when it re-opens.

We also received news that the Chair of Trustees for our meeting venue, **John Whitehouse**, died. the Kenilworth Centre (tKC) wrote, *“John had been Chair of tKC’s Trustee Board from when the charity was first set up in Abbey End until 2021. It is thanks to John’s vision and tireless commitment that the Centre has grown to become the leading venue in the town for a wide range of community activities, his legacy is that the Centre has become self-sustaining and is making a real difference to the lives of so many people.”*

Our condolences to all of Mark and John’s families and friends.

SHOWS

- 12-13 November 2021 (£)
FHF REALLY USEFUL Family History Show
go to: www.fhf-reallyuseful.com
- 3-5 March 2022 (FREE)
RootsTech Connect 2022
go to: www.rootstech.org

FOVANT BADGES - A FOLLOW-UP

As promised in past month’s newsletter, here is a follow-up to the Fovant Badges story:

By the beginning of the century 12 badges remained, including that for the **Royal Warwickshire Regiment** on Sutton Down, but the overall costs of restoration became so prohibitive that it was decided to restore only those on Fovant Down. However, I was able to capture this image of the Warwicks’ badge, which is on inaccessible private land.

Read more at www.fovantbadges.com

