



# North West Kent Family History Society

(Covering N W Kent and ancient Kent parishes now in S E London)

## BROMLEY BRANCH NEWSLETTER

[www.nwkfhs.org.uk](http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk)

Registered Charity No. 282627

October 2017

### Forthcoming Meetings

**Bromley Branch** meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month, at Bromley Methodist Church, College Road, Bromley, BR1 3NS.

Doors are open 9.45am and, prior to the meeting starting at 10.30am, members have an opportunity to browse and shop at the bookstall. Advice is available on problems regarding research, including computing. Tea and Coffee is available before and after the meeting. Visitors are very welcome, but if they wish to attend further meetings, then we would request that they apply for membership.

21 Oct 2017 – 'The future of the internet for family historians' by Peter Christian

18 Nov 2017 – 'The goose is getting fat! The history of Christmas tradition' by Imogen Corrigan

### **December 2017 – 'No Meeting'**

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**Dartford Branch** meetings are held at Dartford Technology College, Heath Lane, Dartford, DA1 2LY on the first Saturday of the month. Doors are open from 9.45am; the meeting starts at 10.30am.

4 Nov 2017 – 'The Masons & 300 years of the Grand Lodge of England' by Peter Jones

2 Dec 2017 – 'The biography of Father Christmas' by Rupert Matthews

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**Sevenoaks Branch** meetings are held at Sevenoaks Community Centre, located in Otford Road, Sevenoaks, TN14 5DN Junction with Crampton Rd (close to the A25 Bat & Ball junction) on the second Thursday of the month. Doors are open at 7.15pm, meeting starts at 8.00pm.

9 Nov 2017 – 'Spooky Tales. The history of Halloween' by Geoff Hutchinson

14 Dec 2017 – 'A Celebration of Christmas' by Anne Carter

### **January 2018 – 'No Meeting'**

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### Society Event on Saturday 25 November between 10am and 3pm at Tesco Orpington

The Tesco Extra store in Orpington near the War Memorial Roundabout has given NWKFHS free use of its foyer. It is a lovely big light inside space with a guaranteed footfall of thousands of passers by. We hope to raise the profile of NWKFHS - engage with passing shoppers about family history, take email addresses to send further info, give out flyers and sell some calendars and hopefully sign up some new members. Tesco is providing two tables and some chairs. Stella Eames has organised the event and will bring the society stands, brochures and will be there to set up and attend throughout the day.

Stella is planning to staff our stall from 10am till 3pm. Please contact Stella if you are willing to give an hour or two on [interstellae@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:interstellae@hotmail.co.uk).

Many of the regular helpers who help staff these sort of events live in the Dartford direction, and do quite a lot anyway, so Stella is hoping to staff Tesco with help from local Bromley/Orpington members.

Alternatively local members are invited to drop in for a chat if they are in the vicinity.

### Society A.G.M 2018 – Call for Volunteers

Our 2018 AGM on 14th April will be held at Farringtons School, Chislehurst, which is a **Bromley venue**. Whilst it may seem early days yet this is one of the major events in our calendar which requires much planning by the Events Group and many willing volunteers leading up to the day and for the day itself. The following list gives a flavour of the tasks volunteers will have to undertake:-

- meet and greet at hall
- Car Calls to & from Local Station
- Distribute Lunch & Tea Tickets
- Serving Mid-Morning Refreshments
- Raffle: Set Up Table, Provide/Sell Tickets, monitor Draw
- Monitor/Collect Lunch Ticket
- Minding Society Bookstall
- Minding Excess Library stock Bookstall

Please register with Caroline if you can help with this event which will be special this year as we celebrate our 40 years anniversary.



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### PROJECTS-Cudham Marriage Register 1837-1900

We are still seeking volunteers to transcribe the hand written register entries on to a standard spreadsheet. The register entries have been sorted into manageable packages for distribution to individual volunteers and The tools to do this work together with full instructions can all be delivered to you by email. If you have an hour or so to spare, please talk to Caroline Blackett and/or Barbara Phillips.

### General Register Office (GRO) - Facilities for Family Historians

You can sign up to these services at

<https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/login.asp>

where you will find clear instructions and helpful explanatory notes

### GRO - Birth and Death Indexes

The GRO site now offers free searchable online indexes for birth and death records in England and Wales as follows:-

Births: 1837–1916      Deaths: 1837–1957

Wherever possible the birth index includes the mother's maiden name even from the very earliest records in 1837. The death records include the age at death even from the very earliest records in 1837.

This is a very welcome indexing tool as the inclusion of the mother's maiden name and the age at death takes much of the guess work out of deciding which record to call for and so materially reduces the chance of paying for incorrect certificates.

If you identify your desired ancestor within the results given by searching the index then should you choose to purchase a Certificate or PDF copy the index allows you seamless access to the ordering procedures.

### GRO - PDF records of Birth and Death records

The GRO is piloting a repeat of their trial whereby they will provide PDF copies of digitised historical birth and death records data via email. The pilot service started on the 12 October 2017 and is expected to run for a minimum of three months to enable GRO to assess the demand for this service over a prolonged period.

The PDF records are available for the period within the GRO Birth and death indexes.

You can see an example of what a PDF looks like by choosing the menu option 'About the PDF Pilot' on the sign up page.

### Opportunity for Beckenham House Group

Our March Journal printed an article by Maureen Griffiths our House Group Co-ordinator. These are small informal groups of members meeting monthly, usually in the leader's home, to discuss family history problems and developments. An opportunity has arisen to form a new House Group in the Beckenham area. The idea was floated in the September newsletter and it appears that the likely choice would be for an afternoon meeting on the third Thursday of the month from 2pm – 4pm. However in order for this to be a viable exercise two or three more members would be required to attend. Members attending would have access to various online access to genealogy sites should this be the direction the members decide to follow. If you are interested in following up this venture please leave your name and contact number on the sheet available at the signing in desk.

### Bromley Branch Christmas Lunch

We have booked at "The Crown" on Bromley Common for Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup> December at 12.30pm for 20 people. A list for people who are interested to sign up will be on Caroline's table. There will be a deposit of £5.00 and the meal will cost, for two courses £10.99 or three courses £14.99. We will need to know any special needs or diets. You can make your choice from the menu at this meeting. Parking is £1.00 for 3 Hours.

#### Bromley NWKFHS Branch Committee and Task holders

Clare Muscat*	– Chairman
Helen Daniels*	– Refreshments/E.C. Rep
Pete Crawley*	– Finance Officer
David Carter	– Genealogy Advice/Problems
Caroline Blackett*	– Minutes/Projects
Jennifer Peel	– Sign-in Desk
Janet Akehurst*	– Secretary/Bookstall
Lynn Overton*	– Programme Secretary.
Isabel Leslie*	– Newsletter
Carol Clayton*	

\*Committee members - Contact us on  
[Bromley@nwkhfs.org.uk](mailto:Bromley@nwkhfs.org.uk)