



THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE DARTFORD BRANCH OF THE
NORTH WEST KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.nwkhfs.org.uk

**OUR TALK TODAY
OLD SWANLEY (OR UP THE JUNCTION)
KEITH WHITMORE**

Keith Whitmore is a former resident of Swanley & Northfleet & belongs to the Swanley History Group, the Hextable Heritage Centre, & the North West Kent Family History Society where is he often seen on a Wednesday at the library. He has done an enormous amount of research on Swanley businesses and has amassed a fascinating collection of photographs of old Swanley.

Today is also the Dartford Branch Annual Meeting.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SEVENOAKS BRANCH

Commonwealth War Graves - visits & much more

Don Doncaster: 13th April 2017

BROMLEY BRANCH

Joint meeting with Bromley Borough Local History Society

8th April 2017 - please note change of date

DARTFORD BRANCH

Victorian London Street Life

Delia Taylor: 6th May 2017

NWKFHS WORKSHOPS

Some Early Pre 1700 Sources

Joyce Hoad: 19th April 2017

Quarterly Discussion Group - Morals & Ethics in Genealogy

Hilary Waters: 26th April 2017

Society Writing Group

Pauline Heathcote: 17th May 2017

Reading Court Hand for Probate Records

Mari Alderman: 24th May 2017

For further details please see the website

WALKING TOUR OF 'HISTORIC TONBRIDGE'

The date for this spring's walking tour of 'Historic Tonbridge' has now been confirmed as Tuesday the 9th of May. Our guide, Patricia Mortlock, has suggested that we meet on the 'Big Bridge' in the centre of the town in time to commence the tour at 11.30am. It will take about 1 hour 30 minutes & cover the old part of Tonbridge which is north of the River Medway & although we won't go into the castle on this occasion I have no doubt it will be mentioned on the tour.

You will be expected to make your own way to the meeting point. Tonbridge is well served by public transport, trains from London calling at Orpington & Sevenoaks, both of which have connecting services from Bromley South, Swanley & many other stations in-between. The station is about a 10 minute walk from the 'Big Bridge'. There are many local busses & even one from Gravesend to Sevenoaks for onward connections. If anyone wants advice on transport please contact me as I may be able to help. Pat has advised that there are 2 convenient car parks but more about those in the future.

The starting time of 11.30 should give enough time to use cheaper public transport after 9.30 if needed & with a finishing time of 1pm still allows time for lunch & a return to any sites you may wish to see again or to just browse the shops. The walk will be informal & friends will be welcome.

If you are interested, or only think you may be interested in joining in you **MUST** register your interest with me, Hilary, ASAP otherwise you will not be kept in the loop regarding future information. By registering your interest you are not committing yourself to anything.

To register you can either:

- email me at hilarywaters@me.com (the preferred option)
- Write to me care of NWKFHS at KCC Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Dartford, Kent DA5 2EE & please ensure you include your phone number so I can contact you.
- Telephone Janet Rose on 01322 384836, & again please let Janet have your phone number.

Please can you spread this message to other society members who may not attend branch meetings.

2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & FAMILY HISTORY DAY - LAST CALL

This is the last call for 2017's AGM & Family History Day.

My apologies if you think I gave wrong information last month, it was correct but just incomplete. This year it will be held on Saturday the 22nd April with the AGM commencing at 12 noon. However, the day begins at 09.30 with Registration & coffee followed by a talk by Imogen Corrigan & continues after the AGM with lunch & a talk by Melanie Gibson-Barton. This year's venue is West Heath School, Ashgrove Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1SR. It is now too late to order lunches & afternoon teas but you are welcome to bring your own food. If you intend to join us & haven't already done so you must let the organisers know otherwise there will not be enough seats for everyone. A detailed programme of the day & further information about the talks & the venue (including how to get there) are on the NWFHS website by following the links on the front page.

WEBINARS? WHAT ARE WEBINARS?

Webinar was a word I hadn't heard of until very recently but they now appear to be big at The National Archives. Simply explained they are seminars broadcast over the internet (web-seminars). Go to the TNA website & select 'Events' & they show as 'Online events'. Although they are free they do need to be pre-booked as numbers of places available appear to be limited but as I have yet to access them I cannot tell you any more.

This coming week there is one on Criminal Ancestors on Wednesday the 5th April at 13.00, another on Emigration Records the following day also at 13.00 with 2 more on aspects of the First World War later in the week. They are advertised well in advance so there are plenty to choose from & could be a good alternative to the trek to Kew & back just to find out more. If any of you are feeling adventurous & try one or more of them I would appreciate some feedback.

COMPETITION FOR YOUNG HISTORIANS

Do you have young (aged between 5 & 16) members of your family who are showing an interest in family history? If so the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) is launching a competition to encourage & develop this interest & also hope that you, the older generation, will get involved with them. For further details, rules & entry forms please go to the home page of the FFHS website, www.ffhs.org.uk & follow the links. The closing date is 13th July & although it seems a long way ahead we all know how quickly time flies.

THE HUGUENOT SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND

Have you come across Huguenot ancestors in your family? Do you want to find out more about Huguenots? If you have come across silk-weavers, bookbinders, clockmakers or other skilled tradespersons in your ancestral tree they could have been Huguenots. Many Huguenots, French-speaking Protestants who were being prosecuted for their religion, left France & moved to the British Isles & other northern European countries, in the 16th - 18th centuries. As well as London's East End they settled in cities such as Canterbury, Norwich, Bristol, Plymouth, Dublin & other smaller communities where they soon intermarried with the local populations. Today large numbers of British & Irish people have Huguenot blood in their veins & don't realise it.

This society, established in 1885, is open to everyone & although it is unable to undertake individual research but is able to assist research with its records & published works. Please go to www.huguenotsociety.org.uk for more information.

NORTH WEST KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, DARTFORD BRANCH

Meetings are held at the Dartford Science & Technology College, Heath Lane, Dartford on the 1st Saturday of the month from 9.45am to 12.30pm.

Master of Ceremonies: Janet Rose	Exchange journals: Stella Nicholls
Branch Secretary: Sheila Elisak	Bookstall: Gillian Seager & Tim Jacobs
Reception: Sheila Elisak & Pauline Heathcote	Notice board & members Interests: Sylvia Hammond
Old magazines & journals: Joyce Bullard	Trips & outings: Hilary Waters
Light refreshments : Sandra & Bob Shepherd	Free reference book library: Hilary Waters
Computer help desk: Allan Stapleton	Raffle: Pat Cornelius
Logistics Manager: Lorraine King	Sound Technicians: John Muskett & Ian West
Branch Finance Officer: Maureen Griffiths	Pastoral Care: Raymer Lofts
Programme Secretary: Barbara Phillips	Events Manager: Barbara Attwaters
Genealogical problems table: Experienced family history researchers to help you when you are stuck	
Dartboard editor: Hilary Waters (email: hilarywaters@me.com)	