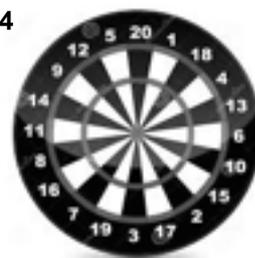




August 2016

DARTBOARD

Issue 274



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

www.nwkfhs.org.uk

OUR TALK TODAY

RECORDS OF VAGRANTS, GYPSIES, TRAVELLERS & STRANGERS IN KENT

GILLIAN RICKARD

Gillian has been a professional family and local history researcher in Kent since 1978. She has compiled various indexes of Kent records of use to family historians & researchers, and has had numerous books of transcripts and guides to Kent records published.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SEVENOAKS BRANCH

There is no meeting this month

BROMLEY BRANCH

'Uncovering the secrets behind your front door'

Melanie Backe-Hansen: 20th August 2016

DARTFORD BRANCH

'Vickers of Crayford'

Peter Daniel: 3rd September 2016

NWKFHS WORKSHOPS

'Your Family in History'

Hilary Waters: 17th August 2016

'An Introduction to Family Historian - A genealogy & family Tree software computer program'

Brian Kirk: 28th: September 2016

'Writing Family Histories'

Pauline Heathcote: 19th October 2016

For further details please see the website

AND A VERY IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR 2017 DIARY

The 2017 North West Kent Family History Society Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday the 22nd of April & will be held at West Heath School, Ashgrove Road, Sevenoaks. The 18th century house, formally called Ashgrove House & home to the Elliot family, became a girl's school which had previously been sited in Ham, Surrey, in 1932. As a boarding school it was where Diana, Princess of Wales, & her two sisters were educated. In September 1998 the school was re-founded as The New School at West Heath & now caters for many children for whom mainstream schooling has become insufficient due to physical or mental disabilities or who have suffered from mental trauma. It is currently run as a charitable trust.

Further details will be given near the date.

WORLD WAR I RESEARCH

If you, like me, found that the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War kick-started research into this era of family history you may be interested in a website I have recently come across. Produced by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) it contains details of both military & civilian personnel who were taken prisoner during the war. On 21st August 1914, the ICRC established the International Prisoners-of-War Agency in Geneva, to which the warring States submitted, more or less regularly, lists of prisoners. The Agency received 400,000 pages of documents: lists of prisoners' names and records of capture, of transfers between camps and of deaths in detention. For each name listed, the Agency made out an index card. The cards were then classified by nationality and the detainee's military or civilian status and filed alphabetically in 29 different card indexes. These indexes also contain enquiry cards, drawn up on the basis of data taken from the thousands of written requests for information submitted daily by relatives of the missing, which the Agency indexed before destroying the correspondence. The Agency's archives hold 5 million index cards, containing data on 2 million prisoners, primarily from the Western, Romanian and Serbian Fronts. Indexes relating to the vast Russian Front are kept in the archives of the Danish Red Cross in Copenhagen, as Denmark was a neutral State during the First World War. It is not the easiest site to navigate but I am getting there & will update you when I feel confident. Go to <http://grandeguerre.icrc.org> to search for a family member but a word of warning, many of the documents are not in English. Do we have any German speakers who could help me?

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

Bromley:

Throughout August The Kent Archaeological Unit are organising some events at the Crofton Roman Villa, Crofton Road, Orpington, introducing fun & games into Roman history for children. So if you are at a loss as to what to do with the grandchildren in the holidays have a look at www.the-cka.fnet.co.uk website & see what is on. Perhaps you might learn something new yourself.

Bexley:

On Sunday the 14th of August The Crossness Pumping Station will be open to the public. It is one of only 2 Grade I industrial buildings in London & is the most extravagant of the grand Victorian steam powered pumping stations. For further details go to their website, www.crossness.org.uk.

At the Red House, Red House Lane, Bexleyheath, a series of 1 hour 'Behind the wallpaper tours' are taking place on Tuesdays between now & the end of September. Being held when the house is normally closed to the public it will give the opportunity to learn about Morris' intended decorative scheme & the conservation work undertaken by the National Trust. Booking is essential on 020 8304 9878 or more details can be obtained on 020 8303 6359.

Gravesend:

A number of events are taking place as part of the Pocahontas 400 celebrations. These include a walk with our friend Christoph Bull on Saturday the 13th of August at 2.30pm & an evening walk with Sandra Soder at 6.30pm on Wednesday the 17th of August. Both walks start from the Gravesend Visitor Centre where more information can be obtained & cost £4 each.

Greenwich:

At this time of year many venues hold events aimed at children & Eltham Palace is no exception. Check the English Heritage website, <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk> for further details.

Don't forget the 2 exhibitions on at the National Maritime Museum highlighted in last month's Dartboard. The Battle of Jutland is a free exhibition & will run until the end of May next year. The other one, 'Above & Beyond' is an interactive exhibition in collaboration with NASA & takes visitors on an exciting journey through the past, present & future of aerospace. Only on until the end of August tickets cost £9 for adults (£7 for concessions & £6 for children) & can be booked online through the museum's website, www.rmg.co.uk.

Sevenoaks:

On Wednesday the 17th of August the Pantaloons outdoor theatre company are performing their version of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. With just a cast of 5 this is a fast-paced & funny productions suitable for all the family. The Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks offers a unique setting in a beautiful landscape. Bring something to sit on & a picnic, or purchase drinks & light refreshments at the visitor centre which will be open. Booking is essential on www.thepantaloons.co.uk while more information can be obtained from www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk.

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 10.30 to 12.30pm, doors open at 09.45

Master of Ceremonies: Janet Rose

Branch Secretary: Sheila Elisak

Reception: Sheila Elisak & Pauline Heathcote

Old magazines & journals: Joyce Bullard

Refreshments: Sandra & Bob Shepherd (tea, coffee, squash, biscuits)

Computer help desk: Allan Stapleton

Genealogical problems table: Experienced family history researchers to help you when you are stuck

Logistics Manager: Lorraine King

Exchange journals: Stella Nicholls

Bookstall: Gillian Seager & Tim Jacobs

Notice board & members Interests: Sylvia Hammond

Transport, events & outings: Hilary Waters

Miscellaneous: Various information lists & borrowing of fiche.

Raffle: Pat Cornelius

Reference book library: Hilary Waters (reference books may be borrowed at no charge)

Sound Technicians: John Muskett & Ian West

Dartboard editor: Hilary Waters (hilarywaters@me.com)

All details in this newsletter are checked before going to press. The Editor is not responsible for subsequent changes.