



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

www.nwkhfs.org.uk

5TH AUGUST 2017 (DOORS OPEN 9.45, STARTS 10.30)

OUR TALK TODAY

**STONE HOUSE - THE CITY OF LONDON PAUPER ASYLUM
FRANCINE PAYNE**

Today's Guest Speaker, Francine Payne, has always been interested in history & her interest in the history of hospitals developed when she was sorting through the the Joyce Green Archives. The City of London, as opposed to the rest of London, needed an asylum & purchased 33 acres of land at Stone, Dartford at the cost of £100 per acre & built 'The City of London Asylum' which opened in 1866.

Built on a hilltop with panoramic views to the river Thames, architect, James Bunstone Bunning, was employed & drew the plans for accommodating 250 patients in separate male & female wings & also workshops for employment of the patients, a coach house with stables, & staff accommodation. The first stone was laid on 19 July 1862 by the Chairman of the Committee Sir Thomas Dakin.

Currently 2 of Francine's books, one on Stone House & the other on Joyce Green & the River Hospitals are available on Amazon. She has also contributed to a website 'Dartford Hospital Histories' <http://dartfordhospitalhistories.org.uk>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SEVENOAKS BRANCH

THERE IS NO MEETING IN AUGUST

BROMLEY BRANCH

The sad & Mysterious life of Amelia Dolding

Stuart Valentine: 19th August 2017

DARTFORD BRANCH

Call the Midwife

Ian Porter: 2nd September 2017

NWKFHS WORKSHOPS

Your Family in Time

Hilary Waters: 16th August 2017

Society Writing Group

Pauline Heathcote: 23rd August 2017

Below Stairs & Outdoors: Manorial Court Revelations

Jean Stirk: 20th September

**How to use The Discovery Catalogue on the TNA
website effectively**

Joyce Hoad: 27th September 2017

For further details please see the website

BLOWING OUR OWN TRUMPET

The talk last month, July, was about the Sutton at Hone & Hawley war memorial. A new publication, 'Never Such Innocence', tells the story of the War Memorial, the people listed on it & the villages of Sutton at Hone & Hawley. Among the statistics Sarah Lewis gave was that they were unable to discover the details of only one person out of the 50 men who are remembered on it. David Turner, one of our tenacious research team, took up the challenge. The missing man's name was W. J. Wood & from this meagre information David was able to find WALTER ISAAC JOSEPH WOOD a private in the Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment) who was baptised at Holy Trinity, Dartford in 1893. He died on 25th September 1915 and is recorded on the Loos Memorial, panel 99-101, see Commonwealth Graves Commission's web site. More information will be published in the next edition of the Society's journal.

So the moral of this tale for family historians hit with 'brick walls' is to visit the Society Library & talk to the volunteers.

Contributed by David Cufley

LAST CHANCE

Just to remind everyone that the free exhibition at The Museum of London, Docklands, on the archaeology found while tunnelling the Crossrail route ends on the 3rd of September so if you are interested you only have a few weeks left. As well as the exhibition there are galleries which display all aspects of living & working in the docklands area of London over the centuries & one given over to the slave trade.

FURTHER TO LAST MONTH'S DARTBOARD

In the last edition of the Dartboard details of a new exhibition on Sir John Franklin's disastrous expedition to find the North West Passage was advertised. After the meeting I was approached by a society member who told me that there is a public house in Greenhithe called the Sir John Franklin & local stories say that the expedition left England from here. This was news to me so I decided to investigate further.

A quick google search lead me to a wikipedia site called 'Frankin's lost expedition' which briefly confirms that 'The expedition set sail from Greenhithe, England, on the morning of 19 May 1845, with a crew of 24 officers and 110 men' (this was on 2 ships, the Erebus & the Terror). If anyone can add any more details to this local story I would love to hear from them.

Also in last month's Dartboard I mentioned the National Library of Scotland's map collection so I looked to see what old maps of Greenhithe they held. My initial intention was to reproduce an appropriate one here but their copyright conditions rule that out so instead I will give you 4 links to some OS maps so you can go on their website & see them for yourself.

- OS Six-inch England & Wales, 1842-1952, Surveyed 1863 & published 1872. <http://maps.nls.uk/view/102342050>
- OS Six-inch England & Wales, 1842-1952, Revised 1895 & published 1898. <http://maps.nls.uk/view/101428086>
- OS Six-inch England & Wales, 1842-1952, Revised 1907 & published 1910. <http://maps.nls.uk/view/101428083>
- OS Six-inch England & Wales, 1842-1952, Revised 1940 & published 1952. <http://maps.nls.uk/view/101428077>

The Sir John Franklin used to be The White Hart which is named on some of these maps.

TILBURY FORT

For those of you who live in the Gravesend area have you had an afternoon out crossing the Thames on the Gravesend to Tilbury ferry? The reason I mention it is that close to the northern pier is Tilbury Fort. This fort on the Thames estuary has protected London's seaward approach from the 16th century through to the Second World War. Henry VIII built the first fort here, & Queen Elizabeth I famously rallied her army nearby to face the threat of the Armada. The present fort is much the best example of its type in England, with its circuit of moats & bastioned outworks. Explore the magazine houses used to store vast quantities of gunpowder or enter the bastion magazine passages & feel what it was like for the soldiers who lived here. There is an exhibition which traces the role of the fort in the defence of London.

Although I am suggesting this English Heritage property is well worth a visit by ferry the bad news is it has just closed to the public until the 16th of September for the filming of a new Mike Leigh film based on the Peterloo Massacre of 1819.

AUDLEY END HOUSE & GARDENS

While we are on the subject of filming at historic sites Audley End, also run by English Heritage, near Saffron Walden in Essex has just re-opened to the public after being closed for the filming of a ten part drama series directed by Danny Boyle. Largely an early 17th century house it was at it's height renowned as one of the finest Jacobean houses in the country, large enough to be a palace & where it regularly entertained royalty. Although now only about one third of it's original size there is still much to see & enjoy. There are extensive gardens & parklands which Capability Brown had a hand in developing.

For more details on both Tilbury & Audley End please see English Heritage's website, <http://www.english-heritage.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 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)	