



The newsletter for the Dartford members of the North West Kent Family History Society

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

## OUR SPEAKER TODAY

### Christmases Past: Some Festive Customs and Traditions

*Dr Colin Chapman*

Today's speaker is Dr Colin Chapman PhD, CEng, CSci, CChem, FEI, FNUcl, FRSC, FRSH, FSG, Lord of Pattishall Manor, Northamptonshire, Freeman of the City of London and Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers.

Colin is the originator of the 3-letter Chapman Country Code, an international lecturer and author of 15 genealogy-related books. He has founded or co-founded six county-based family history societies, is the President of three and Patron of another, a life Vice President of the Federation of FH Societies, a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists and a former member of its Executive Committee.

He is by profession an Industrial Chemist and Engineer, now retired, but still active in the scientific world. He has lectured on British & Irish Genealogy across the United Kingdom, Western and Eastern Europe, North America and Australasia.



## TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF WEST SUSSEX RECORDS OFFICE

The West Sussex Record Office will be closed for stocktaking from Monday 3 December to Saturday 15 December inclusive, reopening on Monday 17 December 2012. Over Christmas and New Year, the Record Office will be closed on 25 and 26 December, reopening on Thursday 27 December. It will also be closed on Tuesday 1 January 2013, reopening on Wednesday 2 January.

Website: [www.westsussex.gov.uk/ro](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/ro)



## FFHS COMPETITION

Finished all the Christmas shopping? There's still time to write an account of a special sportsperson in your family tree who perhaps represented their county or country at the Olympics or other notable event. Your entry to the FFHS competition must be no more than 1,000 words and you must submit it by the 31 December closing date.

Put together your memories of a sporting ancestor. They don't have to have been an Olympian, even the most ordinary ancestor may have been a star in their local sports team.

First prize is one year's full subscription to FindMyPast, with other subscriptions for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> prizes. You can submit your entry electronically to [admin@ffhs.org.uk](mailto:admin@ffhs.org.uk) or by post to The Administrator, FFHS, PO Box 8857, Lutterworth LE17 9BJ. Full competition details at:

[www.ffhs.org.uk/tips/competition2012.php](http://www.ffhs.org.uk/tips/competition2012.php)

## LOCAL PANTOS

If a visit to the panto is one of your family traditions, this is a summary of what is on offer this year:

Dartford – Aladdin at the Orchard with Steve McFadden (Phil Mitchell from Eastenders) as Abanazar. Runs from 8 Dec. to 6 Jan. Box Office: 01322 220000

Bromley – Peter Pan at the Churchill with Jennifer Ellison as Peter Pan. Runs from 30 Nov. to 6 Jan. Box Office: 08448 717620

Greenwich – Aladdin at the O2 in a specially erected theatre seating 1900 and starring Paul O'Grady (alias Lily Savage) as Widow Twankee. Runs from 7 Dec. to 5 Jan. Tickets by phone – call Ticketmaster on 0871 984 0002

Sevenoaks – Aladdin at the Stag Theatre with Shane Lynch of Boyzone as Abanazar. Runs from 8 Dec to 6 Jan. Box Office: 01732 450175

## COMING NEXT TO DARTFORD

12 January

### "Of Princes and Palaces"

The residences of Sovereigns from Queen Victoria to the present, and the pattern of their year moving around those homes

*Peter Hartley*



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

13 December SEVENOAKS BRANCH

In the Wake of the Hurricane

*Bob Ogley*

December BROMLEY BRANCH

No meeting



## ANY AUSTRALIANS IN YOUR FAMILY?

Trove is a website run by the National Library of Australia offering free access to millions of pages from Australian newspapers as well as many other records. Go to [www.trove.nla.gov.au](http://www.trove.nla.gov.au)

## 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 9.45 am to 12.30 pm  
Who's Who and What's on the Tables

**Master of Ceremonies:** Janet Rose

**Branch Secretary:** Sheila Elisak

**Reception:** Sheila Elisak, Pauline Heathcote and Sylvia Carter  
Registration, membership information, newsletters, name badges

**Transport, events and outings:** Jean Carter

**Old magazines and journals:** Joyce Bullard

**Refreshments:** Sandra and Bob Shepherd  
Tea, coffee, squash, biscuits

**Computer help desk:** Allan Stapleton

**Sound Technicians:** John Muskett/Reg Eagles

**Exchange journals:** Pat Carey, Stella Nicholls and Jean Carter

**Bookstall:** Gillian Seager and Tim Jacob

**Sale of North West Kent Publications on CD:** Lorraine King

**Reference book library:** Alan and Maureen Griffiths  
Reference books may be borrowed at no charge

**Notice board and members' interests:** Sylvia Hammond

**Raffle:** Pat Cornelius and others

**Fiche readers:**

The International Genealogical Index (I.G.I.) and other fiche

**Genealogical problem table:**

Experienced family history researchers to help when you are stuck

**Information and miscellaneous:** Various information lists and borrowing of fiche

