



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

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

**3RD FEBRUARY 2018 (DOORS OPEN 9.45, STARTS 10.30)**

**OUR TALK TODAY**

**THE STORY OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE**

Ken Chamberlain Ken is now retired after having worked for 30 years as a policeman, mainly in the South East London area. He has always been interested in history especially that of his local area of Erith & Belvedere & also in all forms of transport. Putting these two topics together he was quick to realise that there was a gap as he could find almost nothing on coaching & since then has taken it upon himself to fill this gap by researching & becoming very knowledgeable on the subject. In 2015 he gave us an interesting talk on coaching. Ken is currently Chairman of the Erith & Belvedere Local History Society.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**SEVENOAKS BRANCH**

**\* Kent in the 20th Century**

Bob Ogley: 8th February 2018

**BROMLEY BRANCH**

**Call the Midwife**

Ian Porter: 17th February 2018

**DARTFORD BRANCH**

**Lost Cousins**

Peter Calver: 3rd March 2018

\* Note: This is a change to the original talk planned

**NWKFHS WORKSHOPS**

**The 1939 Register**

Christine Hills: 21st February 2018

**Writing Group**

Pauline Heathcote: 28th February 2018

**Insights into Occupational Records**

Jean Stirk: 21st March 2018

**Beginners Guide to Researching Soldiers of WWI**

Fran Rogers: 28th March 2018

**For further details please see the website**

**DARTFORD MASONIC LODGE VISIT**

On the afternoon of Sunday the 28th January, just in time for inclusion in this Dartboard edition, nineteen Society members met Victor (Mr Workshop) Nutt at the Dartford Masonic Lodge at the top of West Hill. Joining us there was Victor's friend, co-Mason & lodge Secretary, Fred Halligan. On arrival we were guided through a maze of doors & corridors to the centre's Temple, the room where meetings take place, & took our seats, ex-Dartford cinema & very comfortable! Between Victor & Fred the symbolism of the room was explained along with the roles of the Masonic officers & general membership. Fred, with more than 30 years in the Masons, was able to give many examples of their procedures while Victor had brought along a number of example of Masonic accoutrements including several aprons, jewels (awards akin to medals) & books. There was plenty of time for questions & answers which ranged from fund raising & charitable donations, recruitment & record keeping to how the Masons can help in family history research. After more than 2 hours, & I think Fred was surprised we were still interested & had questions, the talk began to wind up. Both Victor & Fred took some photographs of the group so keep an eye out in a future journal. Many of those present today showed much interest in a visit to The Grand Lodge in London.

**NWKFHS NEWSLETTERS**

When you arrive at each Dartford Branch meeting I expect you automatically pick up a paper copy of the Dartboard but did you know that it can also be found on the Society's website? Click on 'Other Communications' in the column on the left hand side of the home page & choose the first drop-down option, 'Newsletters', where you will find 4 columns containing links to all the newsletters published by the Society in chronological order. The 1st column is the 'eNewsletter', currently edited by Stella Eames & now issued twice a month to all members who sign up for it. The 2nd column is Dartford Branch's newsletter, the 3rd is Bromley's & the 4th Sevenoaks' both of which, like the Dartboard, are available as hardcopies at their respective branch meetings. Each newsletter is edited by a different member of the respective branch & so has a different take on it's format & content. From my experience it is not always easy to find articles suitable for inclusion in the newsletters & all 4 of us would be grateful for any articles or suggestions of events etc. in their areas but inclusion in the finished newsletter is always at the editor's discretion of course. In next month's Dartboard I hope to give you more information so watch this space!

### 'A HOUSE THROUGH TIME'

I expect that many of you have recently watched this short BBC series, the story of an early Victorian house in Liverpool & it's occupiers up to the present day. Watching it I recalled a book I was given & subsequently read about 10 years ago, 'The House By The Thames', by Gillian Tindall. The review on the back cover reads:

"Just across the River Thames from St Paul's Cathedral stands an old & elegant house. Over the course of almost 450 years the dwelling on this site has witnessed many changes. From it's windows, people have watched the ferrymen carry Londoners to & from Shakespeare's Globe: they have gazed on the Great Fire: they have seen the countrified lanes of London's marshy south bank give way to a network of wharves, workshops & tenements - & then seen these, too, become dust & empty air.

Rich with anecdote & colour, this fascinating book breathes life into the forgotten inhabitants of the house - the prosperous traders; an early film star; & even some of London's numbsness poor. In doing so, it makes them stand for the legions of others & for whole worlds that we have lost through hundreds of years of London's history."

I think this sums the book up very nicely. When I first looked at it I questioned both how easy was it to read & how a book of it's size could find enough information to fill it. Despite being a normal size paperback, the 250 plus pages are filled with tightly spaced lines interspersed with black & white photographs & some line drawings & maps, but once I started reading I was fascinated & couldn't put it down. It is more than just the history of the house & it's occupants, it is also the history of this often forgotten area of London & the changes it has seen through the centuries. If you have ancestors who have lived at any time in the Bankside/Borough/London Bridge or surrounding areas I would certainly recommend this book as it will give you the backdrop to the important aspects their lives from occupations, education, health & many more.

### THE CREEKSIDE DISCOVERY CENTRE

I would just like to bring to your attention Cliff Scotto's article in the latest journal about this family orientated centre at Deptford. The journal article tells you so much more than I can put in here so I won't even attempt it, plus why spend valuable space just repeating it. So dig out the journal, read, or re-read, the article & bear it in mind for some where to go with or without the grandchildren when the weather improves.

### THE SOCIETY COFFERS

Having a steady & adequate financial income is essential to any society, the NWKFHS included. It enables us to produce the quarterly journal, to hire the hall for meetings, to pay for external speakers & most of all to run our resource centre at Joydens Wood Library. Our income comes from various sources such as annual subscriptions & donation & with smaller amounts from selling goods, CD's & books etc. Over the last few years this income now has to go a lot further so how can we increase it?

The annual subscriptions of this society are, in my opinion, too low. Looking on the websites of other family history & history societies £15 - £20 plus for single membership appears to be the norm, where as ours is still only £10. Speaking to the powers that be running our society I am told they are very afraid of loosing membership if we raise subscriptions. The last time this was done the membership numbers dropped dramatically. Instead they want to encourage members to make donations. This Dartford Branch meeting averages over 100 attendees every month so by my calculations if every one of you put just £1 in a donation box at the front of the hall that is at least £100 per month & over £1,200 per year. What a difference this could make! So please can I ask all of you to get into the habit of making this small, not enough to buy a coffee, donation at every meeting you attend & just remind yourselves what good value being a member of this society is.

### 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.

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