



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

www.nwkhfs.org.uk

6TH JANUARY 2018 (DOORS OPEN 9.45, STARTS 10.30)

**OUR TALK TODAY
OUR THAMES: DARTFORD TO GRAIN
CHRISTOPH BULL**

Chris is a friend of the society, a past speaker & in his own words says: 'I have been interested in local history, & history in general, all my life since I was a little boy. In my time I have been president of Gravesend Historical Society five times & I was chairman of Dartford Historical & Antiquarian Society for 3 years.

Professionally I worked for Kent Library services for over 35 years, retiring early. In that time I was Local Studies Librarian at both Gravesend & Dartford and I became District Manager of both places - to which Swale was added in 2010. In my time as librarian I served many of your members with their enquiries.

I undertake many guided tours of N W Kent & have around 30 talks covering NW Kent, Germany, Romania, and Africa'.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SEVENOAKS BRANCH

THERE IS NO MEETING IN JANUARY

BROMLEY BRANCH

Behind the Scenes of Television's Golden Years

Wilf Lower: 20th January 2018

DARTFORD BRANCH

The Story of the Metropolitan Police

Ken Chamberlain: 3rd February 2018

NWKFHS WORKSHOPS

Using Maps to Trace Your Ancestors

David Cufley: 17th January 2018

Discussion Group

Victor Nutt: 24th January 2018

The 1939 Register

Christine Hills: 21st February 2018

Writing Group

Pauline Heathcote: 28th February

For further details please see the website

2018 SUBSCRIPTIONS - LAST REMINDER

2018's annual subscriptions are being collected for the last time at this meeting by Maureen Griffiths a who is sitting at the Branch Library stall. Yet another year without any increases so it is still £10 per individual or £12 for 2 people at the same address. What a bargain! Maureen will accept both cash & cheques but why not consider setting up a standing order, as not only is it easier for Maureen & Pat our Treasurer, but also for you too. Maureen often has to carry large amounts of cash around & we wouldn't want her to get mugged would we! If you have any questions regarding membership renewals please email Maureen Griffiths at renewals@nwkhfs.org.uk

A NWKFHS Gift Membership is not just for Christmas but all year round so if you are stuck for a present, birthday or otherwise, please consider it. Details & application form can be found on our website at www.nwkhfs.org.uk/join.htm

If you have any question about either of these or other membership matters please email the society's Membership Secretary, Christina Barnett at membership@nwkhfs.org.uk.

HEADWAY CHARITY DONATION

Do you remember that before Christmas Janet Rose asked for money donations in lieu of sending cards to fellow society members? She is now pleased to announce that £80 was collected & this has been sent to Headway (Kent branch) & that it is in memory of John Muskett. If you haven't heard or seen December's Dartboard, John, an active member of the Dartford Branch & technician at the meetings, sadly passed away suddenly on the 22nd of November.

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERY ONE

DARTFORD BRANCH MEETINGS

Volunteers at our monthly meetings play an enormous part in making them the success they are, manning (not very P. C. I know) the various stalls, standing in for them when they are unable to attend or just generally helping where & when needed. Could you help in anyway? With John's sad loss this is one area where at least 1 volunteer is wanted. We can never have too many volunteers at each meeting. If you would like to volunteer please see Janet or Sheila, Branch Secretary.

YOUR SUGGESTIONS PLEASE

Over the last 2 years I have organised a couple of successful trips for members to Edenbridge & Tonbridge & am now thinking where we can go in 2018, probably in May. I have a couple of ideas but would be interested in hearing from any members with suggestions of where they would like to go, or if anyone knows a professional guide, walking, property or other, who could help us. If you have any suggestions please email me at hilarywaters@me.com sooner rather than later. I do not want to spend time & effort organising a trip that no one is interested in so now is your opportunity to come forward & let me know where you are interested in going.

I am forwarding this article to the editors of Bromley & Sevenoaks Branch Newsletters & to Stella Eames for the Society eNewsletter as these trips are a good opportunity to bring together members from the other branches of the Society who would not normally meet. If numbers allow friends will be most welcome.

CHANGES AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Please note that a number of important changes are taking place at TNA that affect all visitors.

- Large suitcases, bags & other items, too big to fit into our lockers, are no longer allowed into our building. This change is being introduced for safety & security reasons & is in line with arrangements at similar institutions across London. Lockers can accommodate items with a maximum size of 43 cm x 42 cm x 24 cm. Please make arrangements in advance of a visit to leave larger luggage elsewhere. This change does not include pushchairs or baby buggies, which are still welcome in our building.
- From 11th December 2017 we will no longer provide self-service printing facilities or camera stations for users on site. You will still be able to obtain copies of documents. For original documents you are welcome to bring your camera, phone or other device to take images, but please note that devices that illuminate (flash) or physically touch a document will not be permitted. Digital documents can be downloaded on site and sent via email free of charge. If you require high-quality paper copies of original records, our record copying service will be able to provide these for you at our standard advertised rates.
- From 1st January 2018 document ordering in our reading rooms will begin at 09:30 and finish at 16:00 every day we are open to the public. If you advance order documents before your visit, or if you have reserved documents from a previous visit, you will be able to access these documents when the reading rooms open at 09:00. Advance ordering will close at 16:00 on the working day before a visit. Our reading room opening times will remain unchanged.
- It would be advisable to refer to their website, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk, for these & more information before leaving home, & don't forget a large number of documents can be downloaded from the comfort of your own home at a small charge.

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: 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)	