



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

www.nwkhfs.org.uk

1ST JULY 2017 (DOORS OPEN 9.45, STARTS 10.30)

**OUR TALK TODAY
SUTTON AT HONE - A PARISH AT WAR**

This month we are lucky to have 2 speakers delivering the talk. They are:

Stephen de Winton, a former teacher at Dartford Boys Grammar school & long time resident of Sutton at Hone. He was the former Chair of the local parish council & is a tour guide at the Palace of Westminster.

Sarah Lewis, is also a long term resident & native of Sutton at Hone. She is an active member and Secretary of Horton Kirby & South Darenth Local History Group, a supporter of the War Memorials Trust & a member of Twentieth Century Society.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SEVENOAKS BRANCH

The rise & fall of Lullingstone Roman Villa

Rod Shelton: 13th July 2017

BROMLEY BRANCH

A shopping trip to Downe in a bygone era

Barbara Stevens: 15th July 2017

DARTFORD BRANCH

Stone House - the City of London Pauper Assylum

Francine Payne: 5th August 2017

NWKFHS WORKSHOPS

Further Exploration into Family Historian

Brian Kirk: 28th June 2017

'The 1939 Register'

Christine Hills: 19th July 2017

Society Quarterly Discussion Group

26th July 2017

Your Family in Time

Hilary Waters: 16th August 2017

For further details please see the website

LAST MONTH'S TALK

Unfortunately I was unable to attend last months meeting but I now know that our expected speaker, Rupert Matthews, had to cancel at the last minute. Luckily he recommended a replacement, Geoff Beer, who gave a very entertaining, interesting & informative talk on the 7th Earl of Cardigan, the man & the society he lived in rather than the historical event he is most remembered for, The Charge of the Light Brigade. The Earl was used as the model for Flashman in the books by George MacDonald Fraser. Hopefully Geoff will come back & give us another talk on an equally enthralling topic.

MAPS

Some people only research their family trees to discover names & dates but others, like me, want to go further & explore all aspects of our ancestors lives. Where they lived is an obvious one & this is where I have found maps invaluable, especially when used in conjunction with street directories. A good starting place are the 19th century series of old Ordnance Survey maps published by Alan Godfrey Maps, see their website www.alangodfreymaps.co.uk where they can be purchased on-line. Alternatively, issues of these maps can be bought in local libraries for less than £3 each. There is good coverage of London but less so of more rural areas, some of the maps are for 1860's & some for the 1890's, they are very detailed down to individual houses. If you don't find what you want keep looking as more are coming on-line all the time.

If you don't want to invest in these or want maps for an area miles away, the National Library of Scotland hold many old maps, including these old O. S. maps, which can be viewed on-line at www.maps.nls.uk/geo/find/#. On opening this page a window overlaying the web page appears giving details of how to use the site. There are 2 ways to find the map(s) you are interested in but I have only used the 'Bounding Boxes' option. I am still new to accessing this useful site & haven't found a 'Download' button but I have successfully taken screen prints from maps of the areas where my ancestors lived.

**'IN HER OWN WORDS'
A TALK AT DARTFORD LIBRARY**

On Thursday the 13th July 2017 this talk is about Kentish women's voices of the First World War. Taken directly from original sources, letters & diaries you will discover fascinating stories from the half of the population that is often overlooked but who none the less played their part in this time of national crisis.

The talk starts at 6.30pm, tickets cost £2.50p each & are available from the library. For further information please call in at the library, email them at dartfordlibrary@kent.gov.uk or telephone 03000 413131.

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

For those of you who enjoy reading the classics the TNA is holding a free talk on Jane Austen's writings to commemorate the 200th anniversary of her death on the 18th July 1817. The talk will cover all her writings from her earliest teenage stories through her 6 great novels to her final unpublished works. Oxford's Professor Fiona Stafford will pay tribute to her genius & on her life as well as her writings. There will be an opportunity to see Jane's original will which is housed in the TNA's collection. This event is on Tuesday the 18th July between 2 & 3pm & although it is free booking is essential on-line at www.eventbrite.co.uk

The TNA also run frequent tours behind the scenes at Kew. Discover how they keep & maintain their records for future generations & explore some of their hidden gems. The next tour is on Saturday the 22nd of July between 1.30 & 5pm & although access to the TNA is free there is a small charge of £5 for this tour. Again places must be booked in advance through the same website as for Jane Austen's talk.

THE NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM - NEW EXHIBITION

From Friday the 14th July the National Maritime Museum have a new exhibition opening called 'Franklin: Death in the ice'. Discover more about the mystery of Sir John Franklin's fatal last journey into the arctic, a mystery that still remains unsolved today. Sir John Franklin & his crew were last seen by Europeans in 1845 as they sailed off in the ships HMS Erebus & Terror, to find & map the North-West Passage. Nothing more was heard from the men & despite a series of expeditions to find them, their disappearance has remained a mystery. In 2014, the wreck of HMS Erebus was discovered off the coast of Canada, followed by the discovery of HMS Terror in 2016. These are two of the most important archaeological finds in recent history.

As Parks Canada's Underwater Archaeology Team starts to bring to light the ships & their contents, Death in the ice will see some of their discoveries - including personal items, clothing and components of the ships - displayed in Britain for the first time. Explore the evidence with us as we piece together the mystery of what really happened to those men on their fateful journey. Scrutinise forensic research, inspect objects recovered from the sea & consider the significant Inuit oral testimonies, to draw your own conclusions as to what happened.

The exhibition will be on until the 7th January 2018 between 10am & 5pm daily. Like the TNA entrance to the museum is free but there is a charge for the exhibition, see www.rmg.co.uk/national-maritime-museum/exhibitions-events for further detail & to buy tickets where you will get a 20% discount for booking on-line.

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)	