



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

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

**3RD JUNE 2017 (DOORS OPEN 9.45, STARTS 10.30)**

**OUR TALK TODAY  
BATTLE OF WATERLOO  
RUPERT MATTHEWS**

Rupert Matthews is an historian & author of non-fiction books, magazine articles & newspaper columns. His work has been translated into 28 languages (including Sioux).

Rupert has appeared on television & radio for over 20 years as presenter, interviewer & expert witness. He has an authoritative presence that works well on screen whether he is acting as expert witness or presenter. He has the knack of being able to impart historical information in an engaging manner, allowing even complex information to be accessible to the general public.

As well as appearing on screen, Rupert has acted as consultant to a number of television, theatre & movie projects to ensure historical accuracy.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**SEVENOAKS BRANCH**

**The Inns of Court - it's history & characters**

Ian Bevan: 8th June 2017

**BROMLEY BRANCH**

**Poppy Fields & Ebay**

Geraldine Charles: 17th June 2017

**DARTFORD BRANCH**

**Sutton at Hone - A Parish at War**

Stephen de Winton & Sarah Lewis: 1st July 2017

**NWKFHS WORKSHOPS**

**Your Society Needs You**

Barbara Phillips: 21st June 2017

**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

**For further details please see the website**

**SANDRA & ROBERT SHEPHERD, BY DAVID CUFLEY**

At this year's AGM the Society was pleased to award Sandra & Robert certificates of appreciation for their invaluable service towards the successful organisation of the North West Kent Family History Society & of an outstanding contribution to the Society to meet its object to advance education in the study of Family History, Genealogy & Heraldry. They have worked together at the Dartford Branch as task holders staffing the tea table for over 25 years & have been stalwarts in the Branch since the early Misken Road venue through the changes to the current Heath Lane venue.

Unfortunately, they could not attend the AGM as they were away celebrating Bob's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, which was the same day, so the presentation was made at the May Dartford meeting instead.

Janet Rose and Sheila Elisak expressed their regrets at not being able to attend the presentation & help celebrate their award, Janet was on holiday & Sheila was ill. It was decided not to delay the presentation for another month just in case someone who had attended the AGM inadvertently let them know they had been given the award. The surprise on Sandra & Bob's face at getting the award made the occasion worth the effort to keep the secrecy.

**ESSEX RECORD OFFICE**

Chelmsford City Council have announced that Wharf Road Surface Car Park (the one next door to Essex Record Office) will close permanently on Sunday 28 May 2017. The site has been sold and will be redeveloped as housing.

To find out more about alternative parking please go to their website, [essexrecordoffice.co.uk](http://essexrecordoffice.co.uk) & scroll down the 'Visit Us' page where full details are given of other car parks in the city.

## WALKING TOUR OF 'HISTORIC TONBRIDGE'

The small group of NWKFHS members & friends who met Pat Mortlock in Tonbridge for the walking tour on the 9th of May all agreed how interesting it was. Tonbridge, a town that most of us drive through or round but rarely stop in, has over 1,000 years of history of which the ruined castle is the obvious visual centre. However, the brick facades of most of the buildings in the northern section of the High Street hide many fascinating stories & facts about characters & events that you will only learn about on a walk such as this one. Pat really knows her subject & is well known in Tonbridge historical circles. Rather than charge for her services she asked for donations to The Hospice in the Weald & £60 was collected for this charitable cause.

## KENT HISTORY & LIBRARY CENTRE - PART 2

In last month's Dartboard I gave you the lowdown on travelling to the Centre in Maidstone by bus but when you arrive what to you see? On walking through the main doors it is just like any other library, shelves of books, but to the left hand side is where you will find the paper transcripts, microfilm/fiche readers etc that are available to use by anyone. The Archives themselves are behind a glass wall at the back of this section & access can only be gained with a Kent Library card that has been activated (see a librarian who will do this for you).

If you have never been here or to any other archives before you may find joining one of their tours beneficial where you will go behind the scenes & meet some of the staff. These take place on the 1st Wednesday of each month between 2 & 3pm. Pre-booking is a must as numbers are limited & this can be done by email to [archives@kent.gov.uk](mailto:archives@kent.gov.uk) or by phone on 03000 42 06 73. This is a good opportunity to ask questions. There is also an online catalogue accessible through their website [www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/history-and-heritage/kent-history-and-library-centre](http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/history-and-heritage/kent-history-and-library-centre)

## MUSEUM OF LONDON, DOCKLANDS, - NEW EXHIBITION

A new exhibition, 'Tunnel, the archaeology of Crossrail' has now opened at the Museum of London, Docklands, & will be on until the 3rd of September. This new railway line, due to open at the end of 2018 as the Elizabeth Line, has involved tunnelling under parts of London never before excavated & has amassed a huge collection of finds, some of the oldest at 8,000 years old are from the Abbey Wood area. With exhibits right up to modern times & covering all intervening periods those on display are only a small percentage of those found. Since 2009, when work began, over 200 archaeologists have worked up to 9 meters below the current ground level & in shifts alongside construction workers to complete the task on time.

In researching this article I have become interested in the Crosse & Blackwell history & the finds found on the site of their Victorian factory near Tottenham Court Road tube station where archaeologists excavated over 13,000 well-preserved 19th and 20th century pickle pots, glass bottles and jam jars. The discovery offers a peek into the past and the development of products which still sit within kitchen cupboards around the world today.

As well as the archaeology of Crossrail, the largest infrastructure project in Europe, the exhibition also includes information about the engineering & problems involved. There is something for all the family whatever their age or interests.

The exhibition is free & is open from 10am to 6pm daily. The museum, formally a sugar warehouse, is fully accessible for the elderly, the disabled & buggies but some floors & the cobbles outside the entrance are uneven. The museum is a few minutes walk from West India Quay DLR station & not far from Canary Wharf tube station on the Jubilee 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.

<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> John Muskett & 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> )	