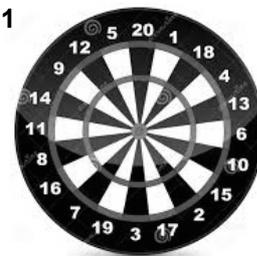




May 2016

DARTBOARD

Issue 271



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

www.nwkhfs.org.uk

OUR TALK TODAY

CURIOSITIES & RANDOM EVENTS OF THE CITY OF LONDON

STUART ROBINSON

There us no biographical information available.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SEVENOAKS BRANCH

Rudyard Kipling's life & verse (in costume)

Ken Hutchinson: 12th May 2016

BROMLEY BRANCH

Introduction to Caribbean Family History

Guy Grannum: 21st May 2016

DARTFORD BRANCH

Walking in Flanders Field

Melanie Gibson-Barton: 4th June 2016

NWKFHS WORKSHOPS

'The 1939 Register'

Christine Hills: 18 May 2016

'Your Society Needs YOU'

Barbara Phillips: 25 May 2016

'The Poor are always with us'

Jean Stirk: 15 June 2016

For further details please see the website

COBHAM HALL

The Society's recent Annual General Meeting at Cobham Hall was a successful event in lovely surroundings. The hall is currently an independent girl's day & boarding school but is open to the public on certain weekend afternoons throughout the summer where guided tours of the house are available, not to mention cream teas. So if you couldn't attend the AGM, or wish to return for a longer visit, please go on-line at www.cobhamhall.com/historic-house/open-to-the-public for full details. As well as the house the gardens look well worth a visit especially if the sun is shining

A small book, compiled by NWKFHS member Sylvia Hammond, has been published detailing the history of the house, the families who have lived there & gives a guided tour of the rooms open to the public. It is full of colour photographs & well worth the price. It is available from Society so can be read before visiting this historic house.

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

Please don't forget the challenge set to all Society members for them to recruit a new member during 2016.

Please note that potential members are most welcome to attend a branch meeting as guests & receive a free tea/coffee.

ANTIQUES ROADSHOW

This very popular BBC programme will be filming at Ightham Mote on Thursday the 16th of June. If you have any items you would like to get more information & a valuation on please go to www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/4BFprksgSjpvxsdCTwDFQIJ/roadshows-in-2016 & scroll down the page for further information. The programme will also be at Audley End House in Essex on Thursday the 26th of May & The Senate House, University of London on Sunday the 25th of September. So don't leave it until the last minute before going up into your lofts or digging about at the back of the garage for the family heirlooms.

OTHER SOURCES & SOCIETIES

With Cobham being in the news in this issue I thought I would guide you towards the Cobham & Sole Street Historical Society. Unlike any other society that has been previously highlighted in the Dartboard this appears to be only a website, 'www.cash.org.uk' & not a group with meetings & other events & therefore there is no joining fee.

The website has various sections on the history, past events & interesting buildings of both villages & allows visitors to contribute stories, photographs & documents. It is a simple & easy to negotiate website so if you have family connections to this area it could be well worth while visiting it.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

Bexley:

If you visit Bexley Central Library, Bexleyheath, for your own research in the local studies section, or just to borrow a book, you will be please to know that it is now open 6 days a week with no half-day on Fridays. New opening times also apply to all other libraries in the borough but it is recommended that as some of the smaller libraries are 'transferring to New Management Arrangements' it is advisable to visit '<https://arena.yourlondonlibrary.net/web/bexley/home>' for further details.

Dartford:

Don't forget that this weekend Dartford Borough Council is teaming up with Trevithick's Industrial Dartford to present a weekend of free activities celebrating Dartford's industrial heritage. A steam rally will take place in Central Park featuring steam & stationary engines, vintage vehicles, tractors & much more. A road run will also take place around the town & up East Hill to the grave site of Richard Trevithick (who died in 1833) at St Edmund's Pleasance. Further details can be found at www.trevithicksindustrialdartford.co.uk.

Gravesend:

In previous editions of the Dartboard I have mentioned various talks by Christoph Bull on places & events in the Gravesend area. He has his won website, 'www.christophbull.co.uk', where details of his talks & guided walks can be found many of which include food & drink of one sort or another.

From now & throughout the summer until the end of September Milton Chantry & New Tavern Fort, Commercial Place, Gravesend will be open to the public with guided tours available on Sunday afternoons from 12 noon. Further details can be obtained from Gravesend Visitor Centre or www.discovergravesham.co.uk.

Also, on selected Sunday afternoons throughout the summer tours are available of Gad's Hill Place, former home of Charles Dickens. Again further details can be obtained through Gravesend Visitor Centre as above.

Meopham Windmill, Wrotham Road, Meopham, will be open to the public between 14.30 & 16.30 on Sunday the 15th of May. It is a traditional 'smock' design windmill built in 1801 reputedly from old ship's timbers. Phone 01474 813779 if you require further details.

Greenwich:

On Friday the 13th of May Severndroog Castle, Castle Wood, Shooters Hill, Greenwich, is having a rare late night opening as part of the Museums at Night programme. As well as being able to explore the castle & learn of it's history & part of the local life of the area there will be local folk musicians & wine will be available. There will be the opportunity to go up to the viewing platform on the roof to see the panorama of London as twilight turns into night. Pre-booking is essential & the event is designed for those over 16 years of age. Go to www.visitgreenwich.org.uk/events/museums-at-night for further information.

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 10.30 to 12.30pm, doors open at 09.45

Master of Ceremonies: Janet Rose

Branch Secretary: Sheila Elisak

Reception: Sheila Elisak & Pauline Heathcote

Old magazines & journals: Joyce Bullard

Refreshments: Sandra & Bob Shepherd (tea, coffee, squash, biscuits)

Computer help desk: Allan Stapleton

Genealogical problems table: Experienced family history researchers to help you when you are stuck

Logistics Manager: Lorraine King

Exchange journals: Stella Nicholls

Bookstall: Gillian Seager & Tim Jacobs

Notice board & members Interests: Sylvia Hammond

Transport, events & outings: Hilary Waters

Miscellaneous: Various information lists & borrowing of fiche.

Raffle: Pat Cornelius

Reference book library: Hilary Waters (reference books may be borrowed at no charge)

Sound Technicians: John Muskett & Ian West

Dartboard editor: Hilary Waters

All details in this newsletter are checked before going to press. The Editor is not responsible for subsequent changes.