



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

www.nwkhfs.org.uk

6TH MAY 2017 (DOORS OPEN 9.45, STARTS 10.30)

**OUR TALK TODAY
VICTORIAN STREET LIFE
DELIA TAYLOR**

Delia has been a speaker for over 15 years and in the past four years has auditioned for both the West Kent and East Sussex Federations of Women's Institutes & has been approved by both. She has spoken at company AGMs, private clubs and numerous organisations.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SEVENOAKS BRANCH

The Suffragettes - women's right to vote

Ian Porter: 11th May 2017

BROMLEY BRANCH

What happened to Lucy? Adoption & what happened before 1927

Ian Waller: 20th May 2017

DARTFORD BRANCH

Battle of Waterloo

Rupert Matthews: 3rd June 2017

NWKFHS WORKSHOPS

Beginners Session

Fran Rogers: 17th May 2017

Society Writing Group

Pauline Heathcote: 17th May 2017

Reading Court Hand for Probate Records

Mari Alderman: 24th May 2017

Your Society Needs You

Barbara Phillips: 21st June 2017

For further details please see the website

JOYDENS WOOD LIBRARY - COMPUTER SOFTWARE

On Wednesdays at the North West Kent Family History Library & Resource Centre at Kent's Joydens Wood Library, Summerhouse Drive, there are 3 computers for society members to use, you do not have to be a member of the library, just a society member. Time is limited to 1 hour at busy times though. Free software available to access includes: British Library Newspapers, Ancestry (library/international edition), British History Online,, The British Newspaper Archive, Credo Reference, Find My Past, The Dictionary of National Biography, Gale News Vault, The Illustrated London News, John Johnson Collection, the Times Digital Archive, UK Press Online - South Eastern Gazette, Who's Who with Who was Who Online & finally The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain & Ireland. Alternatively if you are a member of Kent Libraries you can bring your own laptop & library card together with the 4 digit PIN (available through a Kent library) & log in to the library's wi-fi for access to all these sites.

KENT HISTORY & LIBRARY CENTRE

It doesn't seem possible that it is 5 years since the Kent History & Library Centre opened it's doors to it's purpose built building in James Whatman Way, Maidstone. At the time I remember there being a lot of disgruntled historians moaning at it's position & saying how awkward it was to get to. Despite having many Kent ancestors I had never been there & all this talk had discouraged me from ever going, until a couple of weeks ago when, being the proud owner of a new bus-pass, I decided to give it a go. Leaving my car at Bluewater I caught the 700 bus to Chatham Waterfront Bus Station where I changed to the 101 to Maidstone. So far everything easy with both bus routes running about every 15 minutes or so & the interchange meant walking about 20 yards with no steps except for getting on & off the busses. The nearest bus stop is about 50 yards before the centre on the other side of the road but there is a light controlled pedestrian crossing. I don't know when this crossing was put in but I was very pleasantly surprised how easy the journey had been. The return journey was the reverse but without the need to use the pedestrian crossing. I also caught a bus from Chatham to Gravesend & another to Bluewater just to vary the journey. I have written this to encourage anyone who wants to go there not to be put-off with what they heard 5 years ago & to try the journey by bus & take advantage of getting there for free, assuming you are old enough!

WALKING TOUR OF 'HISTORIC TONBRIDGE' - LAST CALL

For those of you who expressed a wish to join me on the walking tour of Historic Tonbridge I apologise for not contacting you sooner but there has not been any new information to give you. The date, as previously published, is Tuesday the 9th of May where we meet our guide at 11.30am at the north west corner of the bridge over the Medway, locally called the 'Big Bridge'. It is the corner nearest the castle. There is no charge for the tour but donations towards the Hospice in the Weald will be gratefully accepted. Please see April's edition of the Dartboard for further information & it is not too late to join in, just turn up on the day & please bring along any family or friends.

NEXT MONTH'S DARTBOARD

Normally each edition of the Dartboard is completed a week before each meeting to allow for printing the hard copies distributed at the meeting & for inclusion in the society's website. This month, as I am going on holiday, this completion date is earlier than usual & I am asking everyone who may wish to contribute an article or information for June's edition to let me have it by Friday the 19th of May at the latest. Anything received after this date will have to wait until July.

NWKFHS HOUSE GROUPS (FROM MAUREEN GRIFFITHS)

Many of you may have seen my appeal in the latest journal regarding House Groups within the Society. Unfortunately, some of the original groups have now closed and it would be nice to create some new ones within our area.

Are you interested in joining such a group? Do you think you could start a group? Meetings are a friendly and relaxed way of discussing family history, helping each other with research problems and other issues, or perhaps doing a project with fellow members. The size of the group would depend on the number the host could accommodate comfortably and the meeting would last for a couple of hours, either during the day or evening, whichever you prefer. All the host would need to do would be to provide a cup of tea and a warm welcome if you would like more information please have a word with me or email me at .

housegroups@nwkfhs.org.uk

PASTORAL CARE

The eagle-eyed amongst you may have noticed a few changes to the table below in last month's Dartboard, the addition of Raymer Lofts for Pastoral Care being one. What is this all about? And what does Raymer do?

The society has a 'Flower Fund' to which all members are encouraged to donate & it is now Raymer's responsibility to send cards, & sometimes flowers, for Special Birthdays, Anniversaries, Get Well cards when our members are sick or in hospital, and Sympathy cards in the case of bereavements. If any members know of another member who falls into one of these categories & wishes Raymer to send the appropriate card please see her in person at any Dartford meeting or email her at dartford@nwkfhs.org.uk with full details.

If you wish to donate to the 'Flower Fund' a collection box is on the platform at every Dartford meeting.

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)	