



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

www.nwkhfs.org.uk

OUR TALK TODAY
HOW TO RESEARCH A HOUSE HISTORY
MELANIE BACKE-HANSEN

Have you ever wondered about the history of your home or been curious about the stories of people who have crossed the threshold before you? House historian, Melanie Backe-Hansen, author of *House Histories & Historic Streets and Squares*, will be speaking about researching the history of houses. She will be discussing some tips for researching the history of your own home, with advice on the key tools & sources, as well as revealing some of the fascinating stories of houses she has researched in the past.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
SEVENOAKS BRANCH

**'The Searchlight Girls' & the '93rd (Searchlight)
Regiment Royal Artillery'**

Imogen Corrigan: 13th October 2016

BROMLEY BRANCH

Penge, the making of a London suburb

Martin Spence: 15th October 2016

DARTFORD BRANCH

The 3rd Afghan War 1919

Glen Jones: 5th November 2016

NWKFHS WORKSHOPS

Writing Family Histories

Pauline Heathcote: 19th October 2016

Brick Walls - Thinking outside the box

David Cufley: 16th November 2016

Please note:

There will not be any workshops in December.

For further details please see the website

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

As usual a traditional Christmas Lunch consisting of 2 courses will be available after December's Dartford Branch meeting on the 3rd. It consists of roast turkey with all the trimmings followed by a choice of deserts including Christmas pudding. Vegetarian & gluten free (for celiacs) options will be available but must be ordered at the time of purchasing tickets. The price is £13.50p per person & includes soft drinks. It is a ticket only event. Tickets can now be bought at this & November's meetings & also from the Society Library at Joydens Wood every Wednesday.

OTHER SOURCES & SOCIETIES

This coming Monday, 3rd of October, Bromley Local Studies & Archives Centre re-opens after a short closure for refurbishment. This new-look centre is being combined with historic artefacts previously housed at The Bromley Museum, The Priory, Orpington which closed earlier in the summer. The new centre is still on the 2nd floor of Bromley Central Library, next door to The Churchill Theatre in the High Street. If you don't know the area this is in the pedestrianised section of the High Street & about a 5 minute walk from bus stops at either Bromley South Station or The Market Square/Bromley North. The nearest parking is in the multi-storey Intu shopping centre (used to be The Glades) which although is very convenient is expensive at £1 per hour.

If like me you have roots in the Bromley area the archives could be a very valuable source for family history research & if after today's talk you want to rush out & find out more about your house this could be a good starting place. The archives hold many of the area's parish registers together with easily accessible transcripts, a large selection of local newspapers & periodicals are available to view on microfilm. They have a many maps & an extensive collection of photographs & much more. The new centre will also house & display collections from the old museum including The Lubbock Collection.

Access to the museum & the research material will continue to be free but if you want to look at original archive documents you need to be a member of either Bromley or Bexley Libraries & the required material needs to be ordered at least 24 hours in advance. This can be done by phone (020 8461 7170) or email (localstudies.library@bromley.gov.uk). Photography is permitted providing a daily pass is purchased at about £7 per day.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

Bexley:

The Crossness Engines Trust are having an open days on Sundays the 9th & 23rd of October. This historic industrial site is situated in Bazelgette Way, Abbey Wood, SE2 & are open between 10.30 & 16.00. Admission for adults is £6 with reduced or free access for children. Information about public transport is on the website www.crossness.org.uk & visitors are advised to wear trousers & flat shoes. There is a new exhibition & a cafe on site.

Greenwich:

On the 6th October, 11.00 to 12.30, at The National Maritime Museum is a lecture on Roman and Medieval Waterfronts. Calling on recent excavations at Sugar Quay, London, Sadie Watson of the Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) will talk about how the quay has been at the centre of the port of London since the late 1st century AD. From Roman beginnings, the site later became the location of a custom house in the medieval period & major excavations by MOLA on the Thames waterfront have revealed new information about this multi-phase site. The cost is £6 or £6 for members.

Here is one for the men & boys On Sunday the 29th of October the Eltham United Reform Church, 1 Court Road, Eltham is hosting the 38th Meccano show. As well as working models there will be the latest voice-controlled motion-capture robots & dealers selling this famous construction toy. So it's one for the techies as well as those seeking a bit of nostalgia. More information is available at www.selmec.org.uk or londonmeccanoclub.org.uk for details of other Meccano events in & around London.

Sevenoaks:

In & around the Sevenoaks area are a number of gardens that are well worth a visit at this time of year when the autumn colours are at their best. Many of these are National Trust properties such as Emmetts, which describes itself as 'A garden for all seasons', & it is dog friendly. At 6 acres it is not very big but is situated at Ide Hill on one of the highest points in Kent & offers expansive views over the surrounding countryside. Laid out in the 1890's around a house (not open to the public) bought by Frederic Lubbock, a passionate plantsman, it was bequeathed to the National Trust 1964.

Close by is the Toys Hill Estate, also owned by the National Trust. This is much larger than Emmetts at just over 200 acres & at a slightly higher elevation but with similar views across Kent & into Sussex. Originally donated to the Trust by Octavia Hill it consists of extensive woodlands much of which has been designated a 'Site of Special Scientific Interest'.

Further away & out of our area & indeed Kent, but again owned by the National Trust, is Sheffield Park, East Sussex, just south of Ashdown Forest. I mention this garden as unlike the others it is not on the top of a hill but offers visitors a flat easy walk around 2 lakes & is wheelchair friendly. There is an extension to this walk for the more active but you won't see any more than you will around the 2 lakes. The only drawback is that it is very popular in the autumn so get there early.

While in this area consider a visit to The Bluebell Railway whose southern terminus is at Sheffield Park Station very close to the gardens. The station was built to serve the Sheffield Park Estate in 1882 & cricket's Sheffield Cup is named after Lord Sheffield a previous owner of the estate.

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

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

Transport, events & outings: Hilary Waters

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

Miscellaneous: Various information lists & borrowing of fiche.

Computer help desk: Allan Stapleton

Raffle: Pat Cornelius

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

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

Logistics Manager: Lorraine King

Sound Technicians: John Muskett & Ian West

Dartboard editor: Hilary Waters (hilarywaters@me.com)

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