



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

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

**OUR TALK TODAY**  
**VICKERS - CRAYFORD**  
PETER DANIEL

In October last year Peter gave us an interesting talk about the history of Crayford's textile printers & this month he is back to tell us about another Crayford industry, Vickers Engineering. Peter is a family man who lives in Crayford. He has been Education Officer at Westminster Archives for twelve years & before that worked six years as a primary school teacher at Oakfield & West Hill primary schools in Dartford. He studied Economic History at the University of Sussex after spending four years working in the city at the Bank of England & the London International Financial Futures Exchange (which he absolutely hated!!). As a local boy, his parents lived near Crayford Corner & he attended Wentworth & Wilmington Grammar schools, since when he has always been interested in local history. Since 2008 he has worked closely with his friend Simon McKEON at Bexley Local Studies & the Crayford Town Archive to create the Crayford History website as a platform for local schools to discover the rich history of our corner of Kent.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**  
**SEVENOAKS BRANCH**

**WW2 escape lines - the routes that criss-crossed Europe**

Geoff Cowling: 8th September 2016

**BROMLEY BRANCH**

**Shopkeeper Ancestor\***

Sue Gibbons: 24th September 2016

\*PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

**DARTFORD BRANCH**

**How to research house history**

Melanie Backe-Hansen: 1st October 2016

**NWKFHS WORKSHOPS**

**An Introduction to Family Historian - A genealogy & family Tree software computer program**

Brian Kirk: 28th: September 2016

**Writing Family Histories**

Pauline Heathcote: 19th October 2016

**Brick Walls - Thinking outside the box**

David Cufley: 16th November 2016

**For further details please see the website**

**IMPORTANT REMINDER**

**Due to circumstances beyond our control next month's meeting will be at the same time & same venue, Dartford Technical College, but not in the usual hall. Instead it will be in the sports hall. Entrance to this hall is situated to the left of the entrance to our normal venue. There is no change to parking.**

This year's December meeting will be followed by Christmas Lunch. The 2 course lunch which includes soft drinks will cost £13.50p per person & tickets will be available from September.

**OTHER SOURCES & SOCIETIES**

Swanley History Group is a Community Organisation run by & for anyone interested in preserving the history & heritage of Swanley & it's surrounding area. Their aim to collect & preserve photos, books, newspaper cuttings, postcards & other ephemera which relate to the history of the area & it's people as well as documenting personal stories & memories.

The group offers monthly meetings & is fortunate to have very talented members & supporters who share their resources & knowledge via excellent presentations. The highlights this year have included "The History of Parkwood Hall, Swanley", "The Ruxley to White Oak areas of Swanley", "Sutton at Hone & Hawley during WW1" & "Stories about some Darent Villages". As well as informing us about the changes in our locality, these presentations also give us glimpses into the lives & times of our forebears & the situations they faced. See their website, '[www.swanleyhistorygroup.weebly.com](http://www.swanleyhistorygroup.weebly.com)' for photographs, news & comments. They are also on Facebook & Twitter details of which are on the website. Monthly meetings start at 7.30 on the first Tuesday of each month at White Oak Indoor Bowls Centre, Garrolds Close, off Hilda May Avenue. Membership to the society is £5 per year with the benefits of a monthly newsletter & reduced admission to the talks. Visitors are always welcome to the friendly atmosphere & you could even meet old friends there. Tea & Coffee are available at the Bar.

## OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

### **Bromley:**

The St Christopher's Classic Car Show on the 18th September at Tripes Farm, Chelsfield Lane, Orpington will be a nostalgic day out for those car buffs among you, & the rest of the family of course. Although it costs £5 per person entry, reduced for family tickets & under 12's & parking free, there will be much more to entertain everyone than the internal combustion engine. There is no pre-booking so just turn up on the day. All proceeds will go to St Christopher's Hospice, Bromley.

Keston Roman Tombs open day is on Sunday the 25th September at Brambletye, Westerham Road, Keston between 11.00 & 16.00. There will be guided site talks, displays & bookstalls. Entry is free, no booking is needed & refreshments will be available most of the time. Unfortunately it is pedestrian access only with parking at Keston Ponds & Heathfield Road car parks advised. See the Council for Kent Archaeology website, '[www.cka.moon-demon.co.uk](http://www.cka.moon-demon.co.uk)' for further details & a map of the area.

### **Bexley:**

Once again, on Sunday the 4th of September, The Crossness Pumping Station will be open to the public. It is one of only 2 Grade I industrial buildings in London & is the most extravagant of the great Victorian steam powered pumping stations. For further details go to their website, [www.crossness.org.uk](http://www.crossness.org.uk).

After satisfying the petrol-heads among you it is now time for the train enthusiasts with a model railway exhibition on the 17th & 18th (Saturday & Sunday) of September. It will be at the Leigh Academy, Green Street Green Road, Dartford commencing at 10.00 on both days. An adult ticket will cost £5 with concessions & refreshments will be available. Further details can be obtained from the Erith Model Railway website, [www.ukmodelshops.co.uk/erithmrs/](http://www.ukmodelshops.co.uk/erithmrs/).

### **Gravesend:**

As part of the Pocahontas 400 celebrations various events are taking place in Gravesend. These include a repeat of the walk with Christoph Bull on Saturday the 17th of September at 2.30pm & an evening walk with Sandra Soder at 6.30pm on Wednesday the 8th of September. Both walks start from the Gravesend Visitor Centre where more information can be obtained & cost £4 each.

### **Greenwich:**

After cars & trains how about a bit of sail? This year's 'Sail Greenwich' is on from the 15th to 18th of September & as well as seeing the majestic Tall Ships on the Thames there will be the opportunity of sailing on one of them. Not cheap option but a spectacular one if you decide to break the bank. Go to [www.sailroyalgreenwich.co.uk](http://www.sailroyalgreenwich.co.uk) for further details.

And don't forget the Battle of Jutland exhibition, details in July's Dartboard or at the Royal Maritime Museum website.

### **Sevenoaks:**

On Saturday the 10th of September Emmetts Garden & Chartwell are having Heritage Open Days. Entry to both the gardens will be free & entry into Chartwell House will be half price. A bonus is that both properties allow dogs on short leads in the grounds.

## 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](mailto:hilarywaters@me.com))

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