



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

www.nwkhfs.org.uk

2ND SEPTEMBER 2017 (DOORS OPEN 9.45, STARTS 10.30)

**OUR TALK TODAY
CALL THE MIDWIFE
IAN PORTER**

Ian is an expert on the Jack the Ripper case. He has written a highly acclaimed novel, *Whitechapel*, set amidst the 1888 murders & is a highly regarded public speaker & writer on the Victorian East End in general & Jack the Ripper in particular. He has also appeared recently as a panellist on a special Jack the Ripper Question Time from Whitechapel. His particular expertise is women's history in the 19th and early 20th century & last year gave us a very enjoyable talk about the Suffragettes. He also gives guided tours around London.

Ian studied 19th Century Urban Poverty in England at the University of Birmingham & was awarded the Chancellor's Prize for outstanding achievement.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
SEVENOAKS BRANCH**

Victorian Doctors - The story of women who struggled to survive in a man's world

Toni Mount: 14th September 2017

BROMLEY BRANCH

***Heir Hunters - taking part in a TV series**

Lady Teviot: 23rd September 2017*

DARTFORD BRANCH

Sir Cloudsley Shovell & Longitude

Peter Daniel: 7th October 2017

NWKFHS WORKSHOPS

Below Stairs & Outdoors: Manorial Court Revelations
Jean Stirk: 20th September

How to use The Discovery Catalogue on the TNA website effectively

Joyce Hoad: 27th September 2017

The History of Education

Janet Rose: 18th October 2017

Society Quarterly Discussion Group

27th October 2017

For further details please see the website

SEPTEMBER'S BROMLEY MEETING

Please note the change of date of this meeting from it's normal date

WANTING HELP AT THE LIBRARY?

As we often mention any society member can drop in at the Joydens Wood Library on a Wednesday, from 10am to about 3pm (the library closes at 4pm), where they will be warmly welcomed with a cup of tea or coffee from Janet & the offer of help from a volunteer. In order to for the volunteers to give you the best service it is important to bring with you all of the information & papers you have on the side of the family you want to research. **Not just the person.** Questions are often answered by looking outside the box of the individual & visiting other members of the family even from other generations.

If you have a laptop please bring it with you as the library's 3 computers are often very busy. You will, however, need a Kent Library Card & a 4 digit PIN number, available from a librarian at any Kent library, to access the wi-fi.

It is also a great help if before you come you have your papers organised in order in a file/folder & not folded up. All certificates should be kept in archival quality plastic sleeves to protect them as they are easily damaged by constant handling, especially folding, & replacing them can be expensive.

DUNKIRK

Have you been to see the new film about this 2nd World War event? I haven't so I don't know how much of it is fact & how much fiction but the National Archives Bookshop have a number of books on sale so you can discover the real story. They can be bought online at hello@nationalarchives.gov.uk & most have discounted prices.

MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Are you all aware that at the back of the hall at every Dartford meeting is a card file of Members' Interests? If you are please don't forget to check it regularly. If you don't know it is simply a card index of surnames, dates & places that other members are researching. It is an easy way to discover a member who may be able to help you or you them & who knows, you may even be related & didn't know it!

Beside the box are blank forms to fill in & leave & Sylvia Hammond will collate these & create a card to go into the file. It has been duplicated on the website but hasn't been updated for some months now as the site is being upgraded.

If you have had a success through using this system please let me know. It is good to know things work.

RECOMMENDED READING

While writing this edition I have been reminded of 2 books I read some years ago but which have always stuck in my mind.

The first, brought to mind by the next Sevenoaks speaker on Victorian women doctors, was a biography of Elizabeth Blackwell. Born in 1821 in Bristol but taken to the USA as a child, Elizabeth became a physician, notable as the first woman to receive a medical degree in the States, as well as the first woman on the UK Medical Register. She was the first woman to graduate from medical school, a pioneer in promoting the education of women in medicine in the United States, & a social & moral reformer in both the United States & in the United Kingdom where she later returned & worked. She died in Hastings in 1910.

Next month's speaker Peter Daniel is giving a talk about the man who, in my opinion, has the best name ever, Sir Cloudsley Shovell, & who's untimely death in 1707 sparked the race to find an accurate way of calculating longitude while at sea. Somewhere on my bookshelves is a paperback copy of Dava Sobel's book 'Longitude' which I have just decided to re-read. It tells the story of why finding longitude was so important, the people who tried to solve the puzzle in various different ways & the discrimination against John Harrison who as a self taught carpenter & watchmaker from Yorkshire was able to do.

A number of Harrison's watches & chronometers are housed in the Royal Observatory at Greenwich as some of their most important & prized exhibits & are well worth a visit to see. Dava Sobel's book has become an authority on the subject & has been adapted into films & television documentaries. Well worth a read.

SOME FORTHCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

Here are a couple of local events I have been given the details of that you might be interested in.

Eynsford Shop Exhibition: 9th September from 11am to 4 pm in The Library, Castle Hotel, Eynsford. This is a display of photographs & memorabilia related to the many local shops that have operated in the area over the years. Maybe one was in your family or you have childhood memories of buying your sweets from one.

Charles Darwin: 22nd September 7.30pm for an 8pm start at Eynsford Village Hall. This is a talk by Toni Mount, one of our regular speakers, about this famous Victorian scientist who's writings revolutionised the world of evolution.

Unfortunately I will be on holiday on this day otherwise you would find me first in the queue as the biggest discovery I have come across in my family history is that my X2 Great Grandfather, John Horwood, worked for Darwin & receives several mentions in his papers & letters now housed in the Darwin Correspondence Project at Cambridge University & accessible online.

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)	