



Over 100 members attended our AGM and Family History Day at Cobham Hall, near Rochester, Kent on Thursday 11 April. The day was very enjoyable and a credit to Barbara Attwaters and her organising team, and the many volunteers on duty to help it go smoothly.

An important part of the day is recognising members who wrote articles for the Journal in 2018. All Journal articles are considered for the Josephine Birchenough Awards. <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/community/memorial-award>

The photo shows (from left) NWKFHS Chairman Tony Codling; second place winner Pam Goddard for her articles on *Finding family and research in New Zealand* (pages 423 and 528); Nigel Durrant, commended for his article *Scene through the lens .. of time* page 466; and NWKFHS President David Cufley.

Other authors commended or awarded were Michael Austin, Linda Thomas, Carolyn Sekulowicz-Barclay, and first prize winner Barrie Kirk. They were not at Cobham so will be presented with their awards shortly.

Congratulations to them and all the members who made our Journal so interesting by submitting articles about their research.

There are some more photos from the AGM towards the end of this email.

Welcome to the 15 April 2019 emailinfoservice, the NWKFHS fortnightly information service, comprising the latest information about the Society and its events, and other items of interest for family historians.

I (Stella Eames) would welcome photos of people or places (specially historical or family history) in the North West Kent area with a story about them as I want to start each newsletter with a photo and story. Please email me at emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk, with your contributions. Any photos must be your own copyright. If I don't receive any I will have to use my own which may not be as interesting.

[The latest branch newsletters and back issues of this e-newsletter can be found HERE You will be taken to a screen where you can then click on the newsletter you want to read.](#)

Click on our other links [Blog](#) [Facebook](#) [Flickr](#)

What's On - A reminder of NWKFHS Events during the next few weeks

[\(Click here to see the entire Talks, Workshops and Events programme so you can book your diaries well ahead\)](#)

Our meetings are interesting mix of speakers and workshops. The Branch meetings with speakers are held at venues in Bromley, Dartford and Sevenoaks and the workshops are in the Society Library in Joyden's Wood, which we have sole use of on Wednesdays.

Branch meetings are free to NWKFHS members and no booking is required. *Visitors are welcome and are invited to make a contribution towards costs of hall hire and the speaker. Returning visitors are invited to join the Society only £10 a year or £12 total for two members at the same address.* <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/about/our-membership>

The 2-hour workshops are limited to 10 members and are very popular. Even if full, reserve lists are kept and a second workshop on the same topic is arranged if there is demand. Sometimes reserves are invited to join the workshop at short notice. Please note that **booking is essential for workshops** and we invite a donation eg £5 towards the costs of maintaining the library.

Go to the Society website and you can see all the workshops for the next 12 months. Just hover your cursor over the event entry for further info. Workshops do fill up quickly and are only open to members. Not joined yet? - don't dine in for £10 - join the Society until 31 December for £10 instead.

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/community/events>

To join NWKFHS and come to the library, all our meetings, house groups and workshops please just click [here](#) or email Membership Secretary Mrs Christina Barnett, on membership@nwkfhs.org.uk **Membership is only £10 per year or £12 for two people at the same address. Value of family history news and help you can receive priceless.**

Membership benefits: members get access to all our meetings with speakers PLUS a quarterly journal packed full of articles and useful information, monthly workshops on topics requested by members and the benefits of our library and research centre, open Wednesdays. The website has a members - only area with back journals and other data.

The Library at 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joyden's Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE is open to members and visitors every Wednesday from 10am to 4pm. Our volunteers can help you with your research and you can use the library computers with free Find My Past and Ancestry access.

April 17 - Wednesday 10.30am - 12.30 Workshop at the Library

Illegitimacy Led by Mari Alderman

Illegitimacy is a frequent stumbling block when researching your family tree. We shall look at the possible reasons for it, the surviving records and how such children were treated; touching on Poor Law, workhouses, orphans, fostering and adoption.

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact Victor on workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk

There is no charge for workshops but they are only open to Society members. Attendees are invited to make a contribution, suggested £5, towards costs.

Held at the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE

Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

April 24 - Wednesday 10.30am - 12.30 Discussion Group at the Library

Led by Victor Nutt

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact Victor on workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk

There is no charge for workshops but they are only open to Society members. Attendees are invited to make a contribution, suggested £5, towards costs.

Held at the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE

Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.



SAVE THE DATE

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO
ALEXANDRA PALACE FOR

Family Tree
26TH & 27TH APRIL 2019 **LIVE**

Join us for a brand new UK family history show
Two days packed with lectures, workshops, stalls & genealogy fun.
Suitable for all levels of family history experience

Keep up with the latest about Family Tree Live by signing up to the newsletter
www.family-tree.co.uk



In partnership with  **FEDERATION OF
FAMILY
HISTORY
SOCIETIES**

If you are coming to Family Tree Live please stop by and say Hi at the NWKFHS stand.

Saturday May 4 Speaker at Dartford 10.30am

Alan Williams will be our guest speaker on Fir for Purpose? The interesting and unusual history of the London Underground.

Doors open 9.45am, meeting starts 10.30am. The venue, Dartford Science and Technology College, Heath Lane, Dartford DA1 2LY, has a large, free car park via the Heath Lane entrance.

Visitors are welcome and are invited to make a donation towards the hall and speaker costs. Returning visitors attending more than one meeting are asked to join the Society (£10 per calendar year).

Dartford Science and Technology College asks: due to having a pupil with a severe allergic reaction to nuts and aerosols, we have had to ban these two items to ensure the pupil's safety. Please do not bring any products that are aerosol based, or foods which may contain nuts, onto site. I do hope that you all will understand the importance of this request, and we thank you for your understanding.

May 8 - Wednesday 10.30am - 12.30 Computing Group at the Library
Self help with input from library 'experts'

A regular monthly group to discuss computer problems and other IT matters of mutual interest. It will continue on the second Wednesday every month. Book to join this exciting group.

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact Victor on workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk

There is no charge for workshops but they are only open to Society members. Attendees are invited to make a contribution, suggested £5, towards costs.

Held at the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE
Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

Thursday 9 May Speaker at Sevenoaks 8pm
Mary Smith will talk about A Schoolgirl's War

Mary Smith – ex-Headmistress - tells an evocative story of school life in WW2 with first-hand recollections of pupils who experienced the disrupted schooling, the air-raids, the doodlebugs and the lessons in underground shelters.

Doors open 7.15pm meeting starts 8pm. The venue, Sevenoaks Community Centre, Cramptons Road, Otford Road, Sevenoaks TN14 5DN has a large free car park.

(Please remember that this is the last meeting at this venue, future meetings will be at Otford Village Memorial Hall, 28a High Street Otford).

Visitors are welcome and are invited to make a donation towards the hall and speaker costs. Returning visitors attending more than one meeting are asked to join the Society (£10 per calendar year)

Wednesday 15 May 10.30am - 12.30 Workshop at the Library

Marriage, Divorce and Bigamy Led by Christine Hills

In the past, given the chance, most people would have got married rather than "live in sin."

Understanding the marriage laws of England and Wales over the last 400 years will enable you to understand why and thereby help you to find a "missing" marriage or even discover why your ancestor married the same person twice. Bring your ancestral marriage problems to the workshop and we can try to solve them together.

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact Victor on workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk

There is no charge for workshops but they are only open to Society members. Attendees are invited to make a contribution, suggested £5, towards costs.

Held at the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE

Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

Saturday 18 May Speaker at Bromley 10.30am

Melanie Winterbotham will talk about Gretna Green, romance or remorse

Couples have been fleeing to Scotland to marry in haste since the 18th century, but why?

In the mid 1700s English law tightened marriage arrangements. Couples had to be 21 before they could marry without their parents' consent and their marriage had to take place in a church.

But Scottish law allowed couples to marry on the spot, in a simple ceremony, merely requiring two witnesses and assurances from the couple that they were both free to marry.

Such a relaxed arrangement led to the inevitable influx of couples eloping to marry over the border. Gretna Green was the first village they would come to in Scotland and conveniently situated on the main route from London.

Did any of your ancestors have a runaway marriage?

Doors open 9.45am, meeting starts 10.30am. The venue, Bromley Methodist Church, College Road, Bromley BR1 3NS has a free car park (although this can fill up) and is close to Bromley North Station and is on or near many bus routes. Visitors are welcome and are invited to make a donation towards the hall and speaker costs. Returning visitors attending more than one meeting are asked to join the Society (£10 per calendar year)

June 30 - Society 2020 Calendar: closing date for photos and to be listed as a sponsor.

Please send photos by email to Tony Codling chairman@nwkfhs.org.uk and donations to Pat Gooding, Treasurer marked 'calendar sponsorship' - using the library address on the inside cover of the Journal.

Advance Notice about Future Events

Sevenoaks Branch events from June 2019

Due to building work at Sevenoaks Community Centre, from June 2019 Sevenoaks Branch meetings will be in the Main Hall at Otford Village Memorial Hall, 28a High Street, Otford, Kent TN14 5PQ. There is an adjacent car park which is free after 6.30pm.

Dartford Branch January 2020 meeting - altered to 11 January

The College has informed the Society that it will not be possible for us to use the venue on 4 January; the meeting will therefore be on 11 January. Fortunately our speaker can come on the new date.

As most workshops are over subscribed they are intended for members only and seen as a benefit of paid-up membership.

Anyone can attend a talk at the locations in Bromley, Dartford and Sevenoaks; but if you are a non member a donation is requested towards the cost of the hall and speaker. £1-£2 suggested. Non members asked to join if attending more than one meeting.

For NWKFHS events further ahead just look at the website. The monthly Branch talks are listed til March 2020.

NWKFHS Membership is just £10 and lasts til 31 December 2019.

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/community/events>

A selection of photos from the AGM and Family History Day

See also <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/about/annual-reports>



The AGM and Family History Day is always an occasion when we celebrate some of our volunteers who have significantly contributed to the Society over a number of years (in some cases, decades).

Thank You Certificates were presented to (from left to right)

Tony and Rosemary Lathey who have both attended all the branch meetings over many years and help at all of them.

Barbara Attwaters who helped organise and run external Events and the AGM for the Society for many years and continues to Chair the Sevenoaks Branch.

Victor Nutt who has organised the programme of workshops and discussion groups which provide instruction and education into family history research.

Barbara Phillips who has helped organise and run Events to showcase the Society. She previously organised the bookstalls, purchases the stock, and continues to Chair the Publications and Projects team which has been responsible for a multitude of transcribed parish records over many years.

Tony Codling, Chairman is back row left and David Cufley, President is central.

Thank You Certificates were also awarded to:

Caroline Blackett who has been part of the Bromley meetings for many years and has

run the Queries section of the Journal, again for many years.

Stella Nicholls who has attended Dartford Meetings for many years and managed the exchange journals table and in the past the Tape Library.

Martin Dix - the first time a certificate has been awarded to a non member. Martin is the caretaker at the Sevenoaks Community Centre and has been a tremendous help to Sevenoaks Branch. On some occasions even coming back to the Centre in his own time if that has been an emergency with the audio equipment.



Members perusing the new books stall

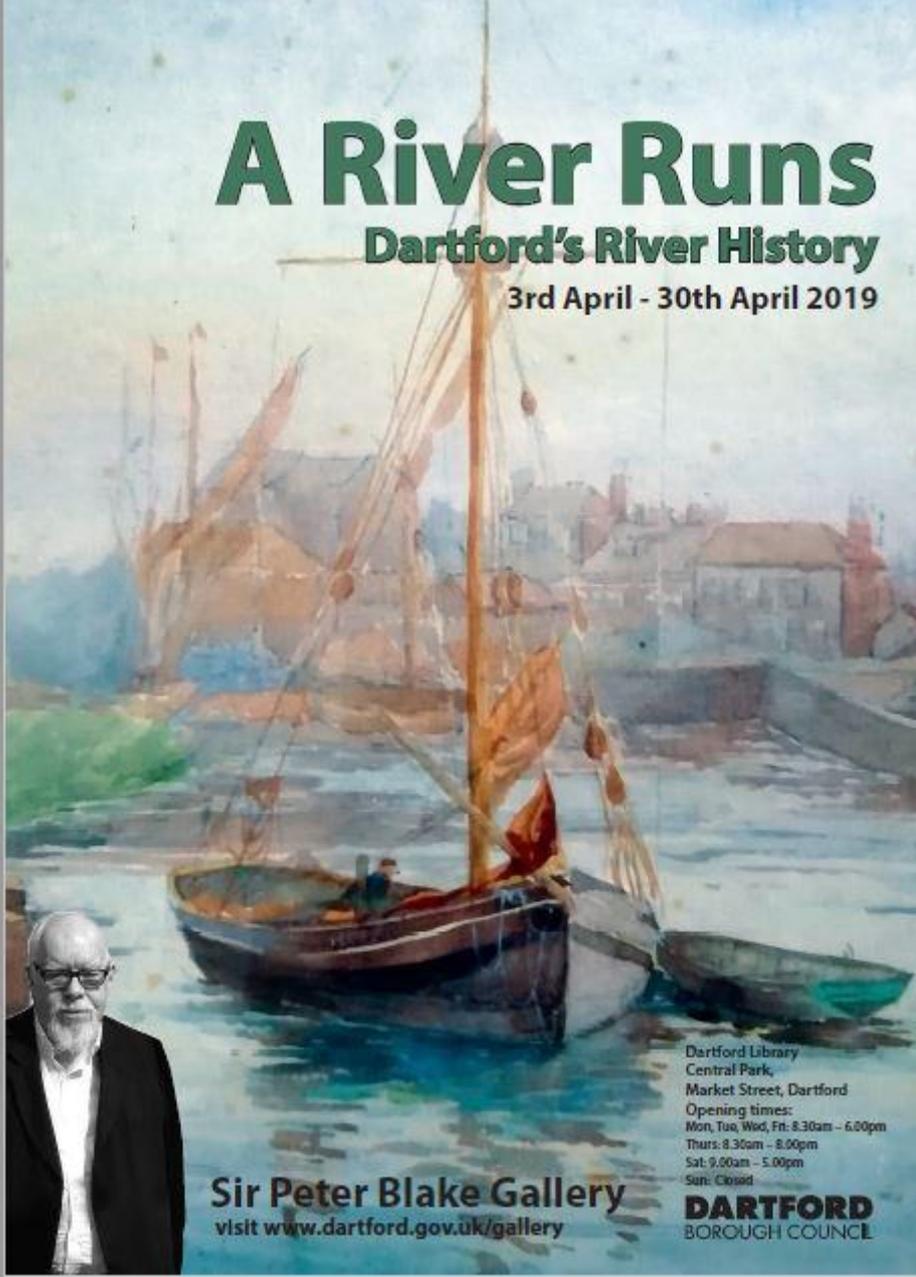


The popular vintage postcard stall



A general view of the hall.

Dartford Library has asked us to publicise two events:



A River Runs

Dartford's River History

3rd April - 30th April 2019



Sir Peter Blake Gallery
visit www.dartford.gov.uk/gallery

Dartford Library
Central Park,
Market Street, Dartford
Opening times:
Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri: 8.30am - 6.00pm
Thurs: 8.30am - 8.00pm
Sat: 9.00am - 5.00pm
Sun: Closed

DARTFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL



From Woolworths to Teashops

**Join bestselling "The Woolworths Girls" author
Elaine Everest for a talk at Dartford Library**

Tuesday 14 May 2019, 2pm

Tickets £3 each

**Elaine will be signing copies of her new novel
"The Teashop Girls"**

**Please speak to a member of staff for more
details and to purchase tickets**



Editor's note: I often get asked to publicise family history fairs, new books on genealogy and small genealogy businesses. I use my discretion in including ones which are local to our area or which I think may interest readers. It does not mean that I or NWKFHS has any personal knowledge, or makes any recommendation, about the event or business.

If there is anything else I should be aware of, to give you maximum benefit from this emailinfo service, please let me know. I do receive many suggestions and requests for external events to be included, but there is only room for so much and I am conscious that the longer this email is, the less likely it is to be read. Some external events I publish on our Facebook page instead. But I'd welcome your opinions on the length and content and whether there is anything additional you'd like included.

Please mention it to others and encourage them to sign up so that we can keep society members and anyone interested in family history informed of NWKFHS activities.

PS I am a volunteer creating this e-newsletter in my 'spare time' but, if you do notice any errors, please tell me, so that they are not carried forward to the next emailinfo.

Stella Eames, Editor

emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk

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