



North West Kent

Family History Society

(Covering N W Kent and ancient Kent parishes now in S E London)

[BROMLEY BRANCH NEWSLETTER](#)

www.nwkfhs.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 282627

January 2020

Forthcoming Meetings

Bromley Branch meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month at Bromley Methodist Church, College Road, Bromley, BR1 3NS.

Doors are open 9.45am and, prior to the meeting starting at 10.30am, members have an opportunity to browse and shop at the bookstall. Advice is available on problems regarding research, including computing. Tea and Coffee is available before the meeting. Visitors are welcome, but if they wish to attend further meetings, we request that they apply for membership.

18 Jan 2020 – ‘Catching up with Family Search’ by Sharon Hintze

15 Feb 2020 – ‘Dig for Victory’ by Russell Bowes

21 Mar 2020 + Annual Meeting
‘Women at Sea – Surviving in a man’s world’
by Eleanor Monk

Dartford Branch meetings are held at Dartford Technology College, Heath Lane, Dartford, DA1 2LY on the first Saturday of the month. Doors are open from 9.45am; the meeting starts at 10.30am.

1 Feb 2020 – ‘The Cemeteries of South London’ by Brian Parsons

7 Mar 2020 – ‘The history of Dartford Grammar School’ by Dr David Lepine

Sevenoaks Branch meetings are now held at held at the Offord Village Memorial Hall, 28a High St, Offord, TN14 5PQ.

The meeting will still start at 20.00. End by 9.30 pm.

Parking at the hall is free after 6.30pm

January 2020 – No Meeting

13 Feb 2020 – ‘The Apothecary’s Garden’ by Toni Mount

12 Mar 2020 + Annual Meeting
‘Women and the official war artists scheme of WW1& WW2’ by Carol Harris

Branch Support ****URGENTLY**** Required

Last month we reported that “The Society Constitution requires that the Branch Committee is formed of up to 9 members which include a nominated

- Chairman
- Representative to the Society Committee
- Branch Finance Officer
- Programme Secretary

In our July 2019 newsletter we first advised that Lynne our Programme Secretary would stand down at the 2020 Branch Annual Meeting in March.” Since this time the post has been widely advertised throughout the whole Society – so far no one has come forward to take on these duties. Without a Programme Secretary the Branch cannot continue.

The Branch Annual Meeting at which the committee is elected takes place at our March meeting. **If you wish to consider volunteering to sit on the Bromley branch committee** please see Isabel Leslie at the Help Desk today or at our February meeting. Alternatively you can email us at

bromley@nwkfhs.org.uk

Shortlands House Group

The Shortlands House group meetings are generally held at 97 Hayes Lane, Beckenham, BR3 6RN which can be reached directly via the 162 bus or with a short walk via the 358 bus. However as we have ventured into ‘Away Days’; members wishing to attend for the first time are asked to advise us beforehand on email

bromley@nwkfhs.org.uk

Our guest this month was Chrissie Hudson who brought along a fascinating selection of original WW2 documents belonging to her father, Gordon McKenner. Gordon served in 47 (Royal Marine) Commando, having been selected from Royal Marine recruits on the day that the Brigade was formed. He landed on Gold Beach, in France, on D- Day, and subsequently was awarded the Croix de Guerre by General de

Gaulle for an act of bravery on the following day. We used his story to investigate our own WW2 family army members.

Our House Group meeting on Thursday 13 February will be "Notes, Queries and Brickwalls", when we try to answer such questions as "Was my family's neighbour, relatives or friends a spy for Special Operations Executive (SOE)?"

The Bromley Branch Winter Lunch

Our winter lunch is to be held at the Bromley Court Hotel on Tuesday 4th February 2020. The menu is available at today. If you are attending please see Janet at the bookstall today to choose your courses.

'News Flashes'

Wills & Probate service - It appears that this service has again run into severe delays because of the high demand.

National Archives – It has caused a storm of protests by announcing that they will introduce a six month trial to restrict the number of documents that readers can view per day to twelve, from April this year. This is a problem that especially affects visitors who have to travel a long distance to visit the Archive.

Bromley Borough Local History Society

Website <http://www.bblhs.org.uk/>

Meet on the 1st Tuesday of each month (**except in August**) at the United Reform Church, Freelands Road, Bromley. Talks start at 7.45pm.

Before most meetings you can visit the book stall and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee. Non members are very welcome and are invited to make a contribution of £1 towards the cost of the meeting.

Tuesday 4th February 2020 'From the Vestry to the Palace'

The story of local government over the years in Bromley and the future of some of the buildings involved.

Peter Martin

Tuesday 3rd March 2020 'Eltham Palace'

A home to Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, this hidden gem lurking in the south east suburbs of London'

David Sleep

Society of Genealogists Courses/Events

The Society of Genealogists in London hosts a number of lectures/workshops and visits each month and organises visits to archives and the like. The events are available to members and non-members of the Society of Genealogists. Events can be booked through their website or by telephone (Tuesday-Thursday & Saturday) listed below. Events take place at:

The Society of Genealogists
14 Charterhouse Buildings
Goswell Road
London EC1M 7BA
<http://www.sog.org.uk>
Tel: 020 7553 3290

Saturday, 1 February 10:30-13:00 - My Ancestor Came from Suffolk A half-day course with Gill Blanchard, cost 20.00/16.00

Saturday, 1 February 14:00-17:00 - My Ancestor Came from Norfolk half-day course with Gill Blanchard, cost 20.00/16.00

Wednesday, 5 February 14:00 - Discovering Discovery: Using the National Archives' Website & Catalogue A one-hour talk with Guy Grannum, Discovery Product Manager at The National Archives. Free of charge but you must book your seat.

Saturday, 8 February 10:30-13:00 - Self-Publishing for Family Historians A half-day course, cost 20.00/16.00

Saturday, 8 February 14:00-17:00 - Tracing your Italian Ancestry A half-day course with Lynn Serafinn, cost 20.00/16.00

Wednesday, 19 February 14:00 - Census Substitutes
In this talk John Hanson looks at the reasons for people being missing from a census. Then he explores the pros and cons of other options. A one-hour practical talk with John Hanson, cost 8.00/6.40

Thursday, 20 February 14:00 - Parish Registers Online A one-hour talk with Peter Christian, cost 8.00/6.40

Bromley NWKFHS Branch Committee and Task holders

Isabel Leslie*	– Chairman/Newsletter/EC rep
Helen Daniels	– Refreshments
Mavis Braithwaite	– Refreshments
Pete Crawley*	– Finance Officer
David Carter*	– Genealogy Advice/Problems
Caroline Blackett*	– Minutes/Projects
Janet Akehurst*	– Secretary/Bookstall
Lynn Overton*	– Programme Secretary
Carol Clayton*	– Signing in Desk

*Committee members