



Registered Charity No.282627

DARTBOARD

MAY 2022
ISSUE 324



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

MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS & GROUPS

ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUP
Can we tell if our ancestors' typical?



10am start

Leader - Carolyn Barclay

SEVENOAKS BRANCH MEETING
He's Cast a Shoe



8.00pm start

Speaker - Alan Williamson

ZOOM TALK
A Prisoner of War - the case study of Private Mehet Habi



10.00am start

Speaker - Philip Mills

ZOOM DNA DISCUSSION GROUP



10.30am start

Leader - Laura Lincoln

DARTFORD BRANCH MEETING
Victorian London Street Life



10.30am start

Speaker - Delia Taylor

SEVENOAKS BRANCH MEETING
The Art of the Folly



8.00pm start

Speaker - Russell Bowes

DARTFORD BRANCH MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE DARTFORD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE, HEATH LANE, DARTFORD ON THE 1ST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH. DOORS OPEN AT 09.45 & MEETING COMMENCES AT 10.30.

OUR TALK TODAY, THE 7th MAY 2022

THE 1951 FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN

Alan Williams

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS A LATE CHANGE FROM THAT PREVIOUSLY ADVERTISED

Alan has very kindly stepped in as short notice to speak to us today on The 1951 Festival of Britain and its legacy. Alan last entertained us last October with his talk 'From Cradle To Grave - Creating the Welfare State in the 1940's Britain'. Unfortunately I could not make this meeting but it has made me all the more interested in hearing what he has to tell us about the Festival of Britain which some of you may remember.

BYGONE KENT - UPDATE

Although I have put out many feelers in various places I still have not been able to find a good home for the collection of Bygone Kent journals which, pre-Covid, formed part of the Exchange Journal stall at these meetings. I had said that if no home could be found for the complete collection I would put them in the recycling in April but so far my conscious has not allowed me to do this. I have however, come up with another plan which I hope you will think a better idea. In the next few weeks I will tie them up in their years & deposit them at a variety of charity shops within our geographic area. I am also thinking of including a short note about the NWKFHS to publicise our society.

FIND MY PAST & THE 1939 REGISTER

At the beginning of April Find My Past added nearly 120,000 new records to the 1939 Register. These were the details of persons who had previously been redacted due to privacy laws. So if you had family members who had had a thick black line through them it is now worth researching them through the latest edition. This only applies to searches through Find My Past.

Find My Past is available for free at Joydens Wood Library but this does not apply to accessing the 1921 Census as it has to be paid for in addition to a subscription.



CONGRATULATIONS TO HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II FOR 70 YEARS SERVICE TO THE COUNTRY & COMMONWEALTH: 1952 - 2022



MEETINGS

Meetings are either held at Dartford or Sevenoaks or on Zoom. They are open to all, but a donation towards the cost of the speaker is welcome from non-members.

WORKSHOPS & GROUPS

Workshops & Discussion Groups, currently held on Zoom, are for members only. Prior booking is essential as numbers are limited. To book a place please email: workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk

There is limited space here to include everything so it is important to regularly view the Society's website

To view a diary of all Society events please log in to the website, then click on Events, then Overview & All Upcoming Meetings

Master of Ceremonies	Janet Rose
Branch Secretary	Sheila Elisak
Branch Finance Officer	Maureen Griffiths
Logistics Manager	Lorraine King
Programme Secretary	Christine Hills
Pastoral Care	Janet Rose
Sound Technicians	Ian West Tony Lathey
Light refreshments	Sandra & Bob Shepherd
Raffle	Pat Cornelius
Reception	Sheila Elisak Pauline Heathcote
Ephemera	Frank Parsons Judith French
Notice board	Sylvia Hammond
Computer help desk	Allan Stapleton
Bookstall	Gillian Seager Tim Jacobs
Exchange Journals	Hilary Waters
Trips & outings	Hilary Waters
Dartboard editor	Hilary Waters
You can email the editor at: newsletters@nwkfhs.org.uk	

OH TO BE IN ENGLAND

Further details are available on both websites
Now that spring is definitely here more of us will be wanting to get out & about visiting places of interest or just seeing our countryside. Down here in the south east we are blessed to have some of the best in the country.

For my own interest I have checked the current Covid restrictions, or lack of, & thought I would share them with you.

The National Trust: www.nationaltrust.org.uk

You no longer need to pre-book your visit to many places in England, Wales & Northern Ireland. For some places where booking has been introduced for guided tours, to manage visitor numbers, or for other reasons (such as ferry capacity), booking is required. You can book your visit on our website or via the National Trust mobile app. Knole is 1 place where booking is required, even for the carpark. Wearing a face covering is a personal choice, although they are recommended in crowded & enclosed places.

English Heritage: www.english-heritage.org.uk

English Heritage will continue carrying out extra cleaning, using screens & making hand sanitiser available for everyone to use. You may still see many of their staff continuing to choose to wear a face covering in busy areas & indoor spaces, & you may wish to do the same. You don't need to book your ticket in advance, but you'll always get the best price & guaranteed entry by booking online ahead of your visit. They are unable to take bookings over the telephone at the moment. You can book online up to 9am on the day of your visit.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1538, in the reign of Henry VIII, Thomas Cromwell, the King's minister, ordered parish clergy to keep registers containing details of baptisms, marriages & burials. However in the following 300 years Parliament became increasingly concerned about the difficulties of proving a birth or a death because up to that point people had to rely on parish registers which only recorded christenings & burials. In 1833 an accurate general register was proposed & the Births and Deaths Registration Act in 1836 established a national network of registrars & centralised registration.

Although Parliament had taken this important step, the accuracy of registration remained well below what would be expected today. It was still fairly easy, for example, to conceal deaths in suspicious circumstances. The 1836 Act did not require the cause of death to be certified by a medical practitioner, & stillbirths often went unrecorded. This was because until the Medical Register Act of 1858, doctors' qualifications were not defined, & so proper medical certification was impossible. The Births & Deaths Registration Act of 1874 tightened these obvious loopholes. The doctor looking after someone during their last illness was required to certify the cause of death. All doubtful cases had to be referred to the coroner. However, burial could still take place before a death certificate had been issued, which meant that a case of poisoning might remain undiscovered.

The 1893 select committee on stillbirth registration revealed that because stillbirths did not have to be registered, it was possible to misrepresent how a baby had died. Eventually, in 1926, Parliament responded to the long-running campaign for stillbirth registration. The same Act also made it unlawful to dispose of a dead body before a registrar's certificate or a coroner's order had been issued.

Information from the UK Parliament website.