



# 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](http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk)

Registered Charity No. 282627

October 2019

#### 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 meeting. Visitors are welcome, but if they wish to attend further meetings, we request that they apply for membership.

19 Oct 2019 – 'An Enumerator's Tale' by Meryl Catty & Maureen Binks

16 Nov 2019 – 'The History of the Royal Variety Performance' by Dean Caston

December 2020 – No Meeting

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**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.

2 Nov 2019 – 'The real Downtown Abbey' by Ian Porter

7 Dec 2019 – 'Christmas on the Home Front 1939-1945' by Mike Brown

11 Jan 2020 – 'History of Buttons' by Alison Ellman-Brown

\* Please note this is a change of Date

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

The meeting will still start at 20.00. End by 9.30 pm.  
**Parking at the hall is free after 6.30pm**

14 Nov 2019 – 'Cradle to Grave – Creating the Welfare State in Forties Britain' by Alan Williams

12 Dec 2019 – 'Christmas. A celebratory occasion' by Andy Thomas

January 2020 – No Meeting

#### The Bromley Branch Winter Lunch

The lunch is to be held at the Bromley Court Hotel on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Some 14 members have already signed up to attend. If you wish to join us please advise Janet Akhurst on the Book stall, today. The menu will be available at our November meeting – remember we do not meet in December.

#### Did Your Ancestor Leave a Will?

In Late July the Probate Office reduced the cost of obtaining a will from £10 to £1.50. If a will exists then a copy may be ordered and received on line in PDF format from :

<https://www.gov.uk/search-will-probate>

Wills are available within the following categories

- [Wills and Probate 1996 to present](#)
- [Wills and Probate 1858 – 1996](#)
- [Soldier's Wills](#) \*

\*Search for the will of a soldier who died while serving in the British armed forces between 1850 and 1986.

#### 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 [shortlandshg@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:shortlandshg@nwkfhs.org.uk)

or call 020 8650 7941

For our October meeting a small group of members decided to enjoy a last day trip before the clocks go back, managing to pack in visits to the Museum, the Guildhall, the Library and St Lawrence Jewry Church. We even managed to have lunch in a very busy Pret a Manger nearby.

The Police Museum was very interesting, showing the development of the modern police force through historic exhibits and helpful point and press audio guides. The City Police were involved in some famous events - the murder of one of the Ripper victims, the Houndsditch Murders and the Siege of Sidney Street,

as well as later events such as the Moorgate Crash and the IRA bombing campaign.

The Guildhall Library is well worth a visit, especially if you have London and Middlesex ancestors, with a comprehensive collection of books and multi-media material, and also allows free access to Ancestry, Find My Past, and the British Newspaper Archive.

We will continue our programme of occasional visits in the spring of next year, and Lynne is already compiling a list of places that the group want to visit.

## **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 the 5<sup>th</sup> November**

'The Names, the People and the Stories on a Beckenham War Memorial' by Bob Digby

### **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019**

'Humphrey Repton's Work in Bromley'

Our chairman, Tudor Davies, should need no introduction and as a long-time resident of the area, he has found out much about this famous landscape designer and his work at Sundridge and Holwood.

## **Genealogists Courses/Events to be held in November**

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 & Saturdays) listed below. All events take place at

Society of Genealogists,  
14 Charterhouse Buildings  
Goswell Road  
London EC1M 7BA

<http://www.sog.org.uk>  
Tel: 020 7553 3290

A copy of the full list of events offered in November 2019 is available for inspection on the Help Desk together with a few copies for Members who may have an interest in attending these events. A selection of these courses follows.

**\*\* Bromley members may be interested in the visit on Friday 15 November to the local Bethlem Museum\*\*.**

### **Saturday, 9 November 10:30 - 13:00 Research Techniques - How to be Confident in your Family Tree**

It is almost too easy to start researching your family tree nowadays. Commercial companies tell us "put in a name and see what you will uncover". Is it that easy? How do you know your family tree is correct, do you believe the family trees you find online, are there no other possibilities for the father of John Hopkins?

In this half day course Karen Cummings demonstrates how to research your family tree the way the professionals do, how to have confidence in your family tree. The first session will focus on getting organised from the outset and making good notes, and in particular noting when something is uncertain.

**The second session** will look at what to do when you run into problems, using examples from the records of civil registration and census records to demonstrate how to overcome perceived hurdles, what other records can be considered and thinking around the problem.

A half-day course with Karen Cummings. Cost 20.00/16.00 SoG Members

### **Wednesday, 13 November 14:00 – 15:00 Suicide in the Family?**

Attitudes to suicide have changed over the centuries, yet the subject is still surrounded by shame and guilt. A suicide is often hushed up in a family.

Kathy Chater examines the way suicide was perceived in the past and how this has affected what records were kept. Kathy also provides ways to find out whether an ancestor who disappeared in mysterious circumstances might have killed him or herself. In addition, Kathy shares some new insights that may cast light on why people in the past might have taken their own lives.

A one-hour talk with Kathy Chater. Cost 8.00/6.40 SoG Members

### **Friday, 15 November 11:00 - 14:00 Visit: Bethlem Museum of the Mind**

Bethlem Royal Hospital was founded in 1247 and was the first institution in the UK to specialise in the care of the mentally ill. The hospital continues to provide in-patient care as part of the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, and has been based in south London since 1930. Situated within the 270-acre hospital grounds, in a stunning Art Deco building shared with the Bethlem Gallery, Bethlem Museum of the Mind was formally opened by artist Grayson Perry in March 2015. The Museum cares for an internationally renowned collection of archives, art and historic objects, which together offer an unparalleled resource to support the history of mental healthcare and treatment.

Location: Bethlem Museum of the Mind, Beckenham BR3  
A special talk and tour. Cost 10.00/8.00 SoG Members

#### 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