



# 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

February 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.

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

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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.

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

4 Apr 2020 – 'Dartford Hospitals during World War 1'  
by Francine Payne

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**Sevenoaks** \*\*\* Please note that due to the Otford Village Memorial Hall not being available on the 12<sup>th</sup> fo March, the March meeting will be held at

**Otford Methodist Church Hall, High Street Otford  
TN14 5PH.**

**This venue is very close to a car park which is free after 6.30pm**

Doors open 7.30 pm meeting starts 8pm

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

#### Branch Programme Secretary & Chairman Vacancies

Our wide, intensive search for a replacement for Lynne our Programme Secretary has now run for some 9 months without any success. The Bromley Branch Annual Meeting, at which we are required to nominate and reconstitute our committee, will take place during our next meeting on the 21 March. To date no one has come forward to Chair the Branch and after that meeting we shall also be without a fully functioning Programme Secretary. A programme of speakers has been fixed up to and including November 2020. However the Branch cannot continue without a nominated Programme Secretary and is unconstitutional without a nominated Chairman.

The Branch Annual Meeting at which the committee is elected takes place at our March meeting.

Members who wish to volunteer to sit on the Bromley branch committee are required to be nominated and seconded for presentation at the Branch Annual Meeting next month. Please make yourself known to a member of the committee today, so that the relevant papers may be drawn up, if you are considering standing for the committee.

#### 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](mailto:bromley@nwkfhs.org.uk)

The basis for our House Group meeting on Thursday 13 February was "Was my family's neighbour, relatives or friends a spy for Special Operations Executive (SOE)?". This subject was prompted by our member Judith's wish to find out more about a Dartford woman who had come to her notice and who had died in

Auschwitz. Judith and Lynne filled us in on the research they had carried out and an interesting brainstorming session followed.

Our next meeting is on Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> of March when we shall continue with our search to break down 'brick walls'

### **The Bromley Branch Winter Lunch**

Our winter lunch held at the Bromley Court Hotel on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020 was a great success. Over 20 members attended and chatted happily throughout our meal.

### **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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

#### **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

"St Mary Cray Manor House" Uncovering its hidden history.

Janet Clayton (ODAS)

### **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-Thursdays & Saturdays) 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, 7 March 10:30-13:00 - Understanding & Using the Findmypast Website**

Learn more than just how to search for a name on the Findmypast website.

John Hanson offers an in-depth look that covers:

- How to explore the website;
- How to find all the types of records held;
- Tips on the best way to search.

A half-day course with John Hanson, cost 20.00/16.00 SoG members

#### **Wednesday, 11 March 12:00 - Searching for Your Alien Ancestors**

If you are based in the UK, it can be quite challenging to search for your ancestors in other countries.

In this talk, Robert Parker aims to help you get your head around the key tips and techniques for successful research and start locating your ancestors abroad. He covers:

- Where to start your research;
- How the recent history of many European countries makes for challenging research;
- Records that may not be written in English;
- What to do if you don't know which part of a country your ancestors came from.

A one-hour talk with Robert Parker, cost 8.00/6.40 SoG members

#### **Wednesday, 18 March 14:00 - Choosing a Genealogy Program**

Choosing a genealogy program to record your family history is very much down to your personal preferences and requirements. Each program has strengths and weaknesses. In fact, some family historians use more than one program.

In this talk, Charlie Mead won't be making any recommendations for choosing specific software. But he does want to help you know what to look for when you make your choice.

A one-hour talk with Charlie Mead, cost 8.00/6.40 SoG members

#### **Bromley NWFHS Branch Committee and Task holders**

<b>Isabel Leslie*</b>	<b>– Chairman/Newsletter/EC rep</b>
<b>Helen Daniels</b>	<b>– Refreshments</b>
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