



# DARTBOARD



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

## BRANCH MEETINGS

### SEVENOAKS

**OVERPAID, OVER  
SEXED & OVER  
HERE**

**Alan Williams**



### BROMLEY

**THERE ARE NO  
MEETINGS  
PLANNED FOR THE  
NEAR FUTURE**



### DARTFORD

**THE POLITENESS OF  
PRINCES**

**Imogen Corrigan**



## WORKSHOPS

Currently, for obvious reasons, Workshops & Discussion Groups (members only) are held on Zoom. Prior booking is essential as numbers are limited. To book a place please email:  
[workshop.booking@nwkhfs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkhfs.org.uk)

### Discussion Group

**Carolyn Barclay**



### Writing Group

**Pauline Heathcote**



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 6th NOVEMBER 2021 'SCHOOLGIRL'S WAR'

**MARY SMITH**

Mary Smith, former head of Maidstone Girls' Grammar School, retired in 2014 after eight years. As well as this talk, Mary produced a book with the same title, both having their origins in discoveries made at the school: the entrance to an underground shelter & the revelation of finding it was a time capsule of a classroom used during the air raids, & a comprehensive & beautifully illustrated diary by the then art teacher, Helen Keen.

This talk includes fascinating & often surprising recollections from past pupils, now in their 80s & 90s. Although it focuses on one school, the experiences were common to schools across Kent &, perhaps, the lives of some Friends. The reason this story is unique is the quality of the records, particularly these beautiful paintings, that have been preserved at the school.

### WELCOME BACK

I was on holiday last month so was unable to attend the meeting & this is the 1st edition of the Dartboard since that of February 2020. It is feeling strange to write it again, in some respects it seems a long time ago while in others the intervening time has flown by.

I hope you have all managed to keep well & have dodged the dreaded virus. I did, but the rest of my family were not so lucky & Christmas 2020 was a non-existent event. My biggest hope at the moment is that this coming Christmas will be as much like that of 2019 as possible.

The enforced lockdowns & additional time spent at home should have meant a lot more time for family history, either research or writing it up in my case, but it didn't quite go to plan. I did, however, make one big discovery, a maternal great uncle's sister-in-law was convicted for murdering her baby. I also found out that I am related to another of her sisters, through my father's side, a bit confusing, so it has taken me some time to get my head around it & also make a long list of research needed further afield. Keep an eye out in future editions of the Journal as I may submit an article to explain in more detail.

**STOP PRESS:** It has just been announced that the 1921 Census will be released on Find My Past on the 6th January 2022.

## Zoom Talk Scandals of Kent Sussex

Chris McCooey -

please see website for more  
information & details



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

## DARTFORD BRANCH CHANGES

If you were not at October's meeting you will not know that Raymer Lofts has resigned from the Dartford Branch Committee Branch for family reasons. Raymer was one of the 1st members I met when I joined the NWKFHS 11 years ago. & Christine Hills has taken her place on the Branch Committee.

Because of storage reductions enforced on us by the college there are changes to some of the stalls. The Branch Library stall is not open at this meeting as I am still getting my head straight as to what it means for this stall & the others affected.

Please also be aware that because of an increase in events held at the college on Saturday mornings parking may be a problem, or more of a problem than it was pre-Covid. There is some street parking available but other than that, at the moment all I can advise is to arrive earlier than normal & keep your fingers crossed.

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The society, & the branches, are still desperate for volunteers in many areas, especially the tasks undertaken by Barbara Phillips. Although only one person may be named as a task holder, it is more than likely that a couple or small group of friends could split it between them. Many tasks only involve a few hours of time a month & a suitable handover will be given.

Volunteers are the backbone of any club or society & it's success is dependant on them so if you want to see the NWKFHS grow & prosper your help is needed.

## CHRISTMAS

Unfortunately we cannot have our usual Christmas Lunch this year, the college will not let us use the canteen, but other traditions will be go ahead. Janet is asking for donations for the Christmas hampers, food/drink or money. If you want to donate something please contact her by phone, number below, to arrange handover. The Charity Christmas card will be available for signing at today's meeting, with donations going to support the East Wickham & Welling War Memorial Trust who in turn will add it to their donation to their local branch of the British Legion.

## JOYDENS WOOD LIBRARY

The Society's Library & Resource Centre at Joydens Wood is now open. I have been informed that this information was not updated on the website until recently & again, changes have had to be introduced. Because of Covid the numbers of visitors will be restricted, so for the time being it will be by prior booking only, **there will be NO WALK-INS**.

Each Wednesday there will be 3 sessions:- 10am - 12am, 12 am - 2pm & 2 - 4pm. Drinks will be available & donations warmly welcomed. Two of the library computers will be available but must be requested when booking your time slot, you are free to bring your own laptop. Only the main library room will be accessible but a designated person will be able to get items from the society's room on request.

To book a session please phone Janet Rose, Librarian, **01322 384836** by 6pm on the previous day.

**Note: FACE COVERINGS MUST BE WORN WHEN MOVING AROUND.**