



Registered Charity No.282627

# DARTBOARD

DECEMBER 2023

ISSUE 339

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

### MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS & GROUPS

#### LIBRARY FAMILY HISTORY WRITING GROUP

For members who want to start, or, continue writing their family history

10.30 am start

Leader - Pauline Heathcote

29th  
November

#### ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUP

Come & enjoy lively discussions on all aspects of Family History

10.30am start

Leader - Ann Clarke

6th  
December

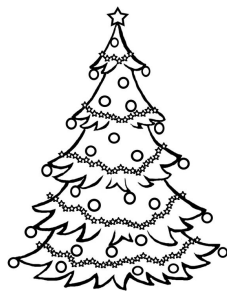
#### ZOOM DNA DISCUSSION GROUP

Let's talk about Christmas Family History traditions. What did your family do?

7.30pm start

Leader - David Cufley

13th  
December



THE DARTFORD BRANCH  
COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH WEST  
KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY  
SEND ALL MEMBERS THEIR BEST  
WISHES FOR A HAPPY & PEACEFUL  
CHRISTMAS & A HEALTHY &  
PROSPEROUS 2024

Janet Rose  
Maureen Griffiths  
Barbara Phillips  
Barbara Attwater  
Lorraine King  
Christine Hill

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.

**TODAY'S MEETING IS THE REARRANGED MEETING DUE TO HAVE BEEN HELD ON THE 4TH DECEMBER**  
**OUR TALK TODAY, THE 25th NOVEMBER 2023, MRS BEETON'S VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS**

Toni Mount

Toni is a well-known lecturer, historian, author & friend of the Society whose books are based on her research into the lives of ordinary & sometimes extra-ordinary people through history. We welcome back Toni to start our Christmas Season with her talk on "Mrs Beeton's Victorian Christmas" based on her book of the same name which contains a selection of recipes that your ancestors may have tried & also explains how they celebrated Christmas.

SEVENOAKS BRANCH MEETINGS ARE HELD AT OTFORD VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL, HIGH STREET, OTFORD ON THE 2ND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH. DOORS OPEN AT 10.45 & MEETING COMMENCES AT 11.00.

**THE TALK ON THE 9th DECEMBER 2023, CHRISTMAS ON THE HOME FRONT**

Mike Brown

The outbreak of war in 1939 saw the disappearance of many traditional British celebrations. Guy Fawkes' Night went immediately – gunpowder production was needed for the war effort & bonfires contravened the blackout. Summer holidays became a thing of the past & Easter all but disappeared as chocolate & even real eggs went 'on the ration'. In spite of this, the nation remained determined to celebrate Christmas as a time of family & community; a time when war could be set aside, if only for a day. Mike Brown is an experienced speaker whose TV credits include Time Team & Timewatch. His entertaining, seasonal talk will be enhanced by a collection of artefacts such as ration books, uniforms & toys.

**THEN SOCIETY LIBRARY, SUMMERHOUSE DRIVE, WILL BE CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY THE 27th DECEMBER. NORMAL SERVICE WILL RESUME ON THE 3rd JANUARY 2024**

**2024 SOCIETY CALENDARS ARE STILL AVAILABLE**

## 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, both at the library or 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](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk)

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

[nwkfhs.org.uk](http://nwkfhs.org.uk)

Any information you may need about the society can be found here including contact details of post holders.

<b>Master of Ceremonies</b>	Janet Rose
<b>Branch Secretary</b>	Sheila Elisak
<b>Branch Finance Officer</b>	Maureen Griffiths
<b>Logistics Manager</b>	Lorraine King
<b>Programme Secretary</b>	Christine Hills
<b>Pastoral Care</b>	Janet Rose
<b>Sound Technicians</b>	Ian West, & Brian Topliffe
<b>Light refreshments</b>	Sandra & Bob Shepherd
<b>Raffle</b>	Pat Cornelius
<b>Reception</b>	Sheila Elisak Pauline Heathcote
<b>Ephemera</b>	Louise Scott
<b>Notice board</b>	Sylvia Hammond
<b>Computer help desk</b>	Allan Stapleton
<b>Bookstall</b>	Gillian Seager Tim Jacobs
<b>Exchange Journals</b>	Hilary Waters
<b>Trips &amp; outings</b>	Hilary Waters
<b>Dartboard editor</b>	Hilary Waters
<b>You can email the editor at:</b> <a href="mailto:newsletters@nwkfhs.org.uk">newsletters@nwkfhs.org.uk</a>	

## THE TALK ON JANUARY 6th JANUARY 2024 AT THE DARTFORD MEETING IS BOXERS, BANDITS & A BLIND BEGGAR

Bethnal Green was a medieval hamlet to the east of the City of London long before the term "East End" was invented.

It became popular with rich merchants in the 16th century but immigration began in the 18th century & Bethnal Green soon developed into one of the first manufacturing districts in the area.

By the end of the 19th century foreign immigration had turned Bethnal Green into the over-populated scene of poverty which we find in the census returns. Slum clearance & post war redevelopment swept away most of these communities.

Many of us have ancestors who lived in or passed through the East End of London & his illustrated talk will explain the history of the area and the clues which are left to show how our families lived & worked there.

Ian Bevan is an experienced speaker who has been a regular visitor to our Society over the years.

## NORTH WEST KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY WEBSITE

I regularly advise members to refer to the Society's website ([nwkfhs.org.uk](http://nwkfhs.org.uk)) to get further details of articles in editions of the Dartboard. Other than this there is much more information very useful to family historians & to help in your research, many of which are for members only.

On the website's Home page there are links to a selection Zoom Workshops Videos. Although I attended many of these workshops when they were face to face at the library pre-Covid, I have decided to revisit some of them to refresh my memory. I picked out David Cufley's Talk of the 18th January 2023 called 'What Makes A Good Family Tree'. I think this could be a good starter for members new to family history & those more experienced who are getting a bit bogged down in paperwork.

I won't go into further details of others as I think is best to login to the website & have a look for yourself.

Providing you are a current society member but don't know how to login, also on the Home page is a button, just under the main photograph, which will take you to a short video explaining how to.

## MORE TALKS & WALKS

One of our most popular speakers at meetings is Chris Bull. He is an experience led tour guide & speaker & is a wealth of knowledge of the Gravesend area & a little further afield. Before retiring he was head of Gravesham Libraries & is historical advisor to Swanscombe & Greenhithe Town Council.

His website ([christophbull.co.uk](http://christophbull.co.uk)) lists the titles of his talks, including some new ones, & his guided walks. I have been on about 4 of his walks which, like his talks, are always very entertaining. Pre-Covid Chris was a regular speaker at society meetings.

On a Monday evening most months Chris also entertains us with a talk at the Reliance Fish Restaurant, Queen Street, Gravesend, where after a fish & chip meal, sausage, pies & chicken etc are also available, he will give a talk. The 11th December's talk is Gravesend in the 1880's, How the modern town we know now began, expanded & developed & is full of details about the buildings we take for granted. I have been many times & can highly recommend both the food & Chris's entertaining talks.