



Registered Charity No.282627

DARTBOARD

APRIL 2024

ISSUE 343

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

MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS & GROUPS

ZOOM WORKSHOP

Breaking down Brick Walls

7.30pm start

Leader - David Cufley

10th
April

ZOOM DNA DISCUSSION GROUP

A discussion group relating to family history & aspects of DNA

10.30 am start

Leader - Laura Lincoln

17th
April

LIBRARY DNA & GENERAL DISCUSSION GROUP

A group discussion on DNA & related aspects of family history

10.30am start

Leader - Jacki Ellis

24th
April

ZOOM TALK

Greenwich Park Wall history, 1609 - 2023

7.30pm start

Leader - David Cufley

24th
April

LIBRARY SCOTTISH INTERESTS DISCUSSION GROUP

The records held by Friends of Archives & Family History Societies

10.30am start

Leader - Pam Goddard

1st
May

ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUP

Stories told by ancestors, true or not & how do you prove it?

10.30am start

Leader - Ann Clarke

1st
May

LIBRARY DNA & GENERAL DISCUSSION GROUP

A group discussion on DNA & related aspects of family history

10.30am start

Leader - Jacki Ellis

8th
May

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 APRIL 2024, LADY CODEBREAKERS OF BLETCHLEY PARK

Ian Thomson

Ian is a former guide at Bletchley Park as well as a friend of our society. Through this illustrated talk he will reveal the complexity of the top-secret work there in WW2, describing the achievements of the many women transcribing data, translating & cracking cyphers. These unsung heroines couldn't tell anyone about their critical contribution to the war effort.

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 13th APRIL 2024, WHO ARE THE TRAVELLERS?

Carol Mellors

Carol trained as a teacher & for 20 years was responsible for Traveller Education in West Kent. She is also a member of our society, spending numerous hours researching her ancestry.

When the Roma arrived from Eastern Europe in the early 2000s she worked to advise schools on the inclusion of newly arrived Roma who could not speak English & had not been accessing schools in Eastern Europe. With her team of teachers and classroom assistants she set up projects to link English Gypsies with their distant cousins the Roma. She created culturally appropriate materials for schools & trained teachers, Police, Health Service personnel & Social Services in how to liaise with communities. She also worked with Irish Travellers, New Age Travellers & Circus & Fairground communities.

Her talk will include the background of travellers & how to identify & research them. She will also cover New Age & Irish Travellers, Circus & Fairground folk who are separate ethnic groups.

THE TALK ON THE 4th MAY 2024 AT THE DARTFORD MEETING IS DNA TESTS FOR FAMILY HISTORIANS

Geoff Swinfield

Geoff has taught widely on family history research techniques but has also used his training in genetics to help families who are at risk from inherited diseases. However, DNA testing can also break down brick walls, reveal unknown ancestors & verify family myths.

Continued overleaf

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

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

nwkfhs.org.uk

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

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
Light refreshments	Sandra & Bob Shepherd
Raffle	Pat Cornelius
Reception	Sheila Elisak Pauline Heathcote
Ephemera	Louise Scott
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	

Geoff is undoubtedly the best person to help us understand the relevance of DNA in our research. I have heard many of Geoff's talks, together with questions & answers, several times & can assure you he will not blind you with science.

CORRECTION ON ZOOM TALKS/GROUPS

In last month's Dartboard I mentioned that once a Zoom talk or workshop had started you would not be able to login. This was incorrect as now a 2nd host will be available to do this.

IMPORTANT

CAN YOU GIVE A FEW HOURS EACH MONTH?

Once again Dartford Branch is looking for volunteers to aid in the running of the monthly meetings. Ian West is again the soul sound technician & is in urgent need of a helper. No specialised knowledge or experience needed as training will be given. Due to domestic issues & Ian may not always be able to attend every meeting & without someone to set up the sound & projector systems we will not be able to do the speakers justice. If you want to see the stalls, the books, ephemera, exchange journals & even the refreshment stall at every meeting more volunteer helpers are urgently required to step in to help at times of holidays or illness.

And talking of refreshments don't forget to bring along your own mugs as the availability of disposable cups is an ongoing problem. It also reduces our carbon footprint too.

Janet is also looking for 2 volunteers to join the Dartford Branch Committee. There is a monthly meeting, a Tuesday afternoon, at Janet's house, not far from Bluewater. Age & poor health have created the vacancies & some younger new blood will be a great asset to this small but vital group. Tea/coffee & biscuits/cake supplied.

Please see Janet for more information if you are interested.

SOCIETY LIBRARY HELP - GETTING URGENT

In last month's Dartboard I also issued a plea for volunteers to help out the library on a Wednesday. Unfortunately this is now becoming an urgent issue as one of the current volunteers could soon be moving house out of the S E corner of England. So far nobody has come forward which could mean that there will be days when there is a shortage of volunteers the library will have to close early or remain unopened.

Library Assistants are there to help with the daily running & upkeep of the library resources as well as helping visitors. One skill we are looking for in volunteers is experience of using & knowledge of Microsoft Windows as this is used on the KCC library computers but more importantly on the Society computers. The Society computers are used for general background work in support of the Library & the Society.

If you can help please see me, Hilary, either at the end of the meeting or come to the library on a Wednesday where I will have more time to discuss it with you.

Also on the Library, please could you ensure you have your Membership Number with you & use it when you sign in. I would also encourage everyone, if they have not done so already, to join Kent Libraries & bring their cards with them for use on the computers. Although we have a group login facility Kent CC are not very happy with us having it as it complicates IT security matters & increases my admin duties.