



Registered Charity No.282627

DARTBOARD

JUNE 2024

ISSUE 345

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

MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS & GROUPS

ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUP

Family History software, do you have any recommendations?

10.30am start
Leader - Ann Clarke

5th
June

LIBRARY DNA & GENERAL FAMILY HISTORY DISCUSSION

A discussion on topics relating to family history & aspects of DNA

10.30am start
Leader - Jacki Ellis

12th
June

ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUP

Let's talk Family History, an informal session for all things Family History

2.30pm start
Leader - David Cufley

12th
June

ZOOM DNA DISCUSSION GROUP

Discussions on various aspects of DNA

10.30am start
Leader - Laura Lincoln

19th
June

ZOOM WORKSHOP

Using Archives - our library, County Record Offices & National Archives

7.30pm start
Leader - David Cufley

26th
June

ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUP

We're in a multitude of records but will our descendants be able to trace us?

10.30am start
Leader - Ann Clarke

3rd
July

REMINDER - Booking is no longer required for individual Zoom Workshops & Discussion Groups. For 2024 a Zoom Register has been created to cover all attendance to any of the zoom groups. Any society member who would like to be added to the register needs to submit their name, email address and membership number to workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk

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 1st JUNE 2024, HOW TO WRITE YOUR LIFE STORY

Jo Livingston

Jo is an experienced speaker who lives locally & has been giving talks in Kent & SE London for the last 15 years. As family historians we are so busy researching our ancestors that we often forget to record our own lives. Jo will give practical advice on ways to record your life. Some ideas to pursue include books, music, places to visit & people to talk to, as well as how to produce your book when it is written.

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 8th JUNE 2024, POSTMAN'S PARK: THE ARMY POSTAL SERVICE IN WW1

Dr John Price

John is a social & cultural historian who takes a 'People's History' approach to nineteenth & twentieth-century British history & the history of London.

On the eve of war the Post Office not only handled a yearly total 5.9 billion items of post but was responsible for the nation's telegraph & telephone systems, as well as providing savings bank & other municipal facilities at thousands of branch post offices. Many of these services changed as a result of the First World War & the Post Office was crucial to both Britain's communications & war effort during this great conflict.

THE TALK ON THE 6th JULY 2024 AT THE DARTFORD MEETING IS, WHO ARE TRAVELLERS?

Carol Mellors

Carol trained as a teacher and for 20 years was responsible for Traveller Education in West Kent. She advised schools on the inclusion of Roma children newly arrived from Eastern Europe.

With her team she set up projects to link English Gypsies with their Roma cousins and trained Police, NHS and Social Service personnel in how to liaise with these communities.

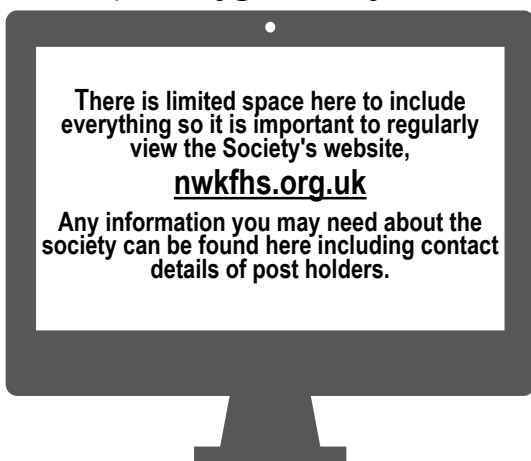
Her talk will include the background of travellers and how to identify and research them. She will also cover New Age and Irish Travellers, Circus and Fairground folk who are separate ethnic groups.

MEETINGS

Meetings are either held at Dartford or Sevenoaks. They are open to all, but a donation towards the cost of the speaker is welcome from non-members.

WORKSHOPS & GROUPS

Workshops & Discussion Groups at the library are for members only. Prior booking is essential as numbers are limited. To book a place please email: workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk



Master of Ceremonies	Janet Rose
Branch Secretary	Lorraine King
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	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	

VOLUNTEERS

I am happy to announce that a few members have come forward to offers their help at the Dartford meetings. We could still do with more, especially to help Ian with the sound system. Please see Janet if you are interested. Unfortunately, with my Librarian's hat on, the situation is becoming increasingly worrying with volunteers at the library on Wednesdays. One of the current regulars is due to be moving out of the area sometime in the summer so it will leave only myself with 1 full time & 1 part time assistants. It has been agreed by the Society's Trustees that Health & Safety demand a minimum of 2 on site if the premises are to open or remain open. If you can give some time at the library to help myself in the maintenance & running of it & to help fellow members with their research please come & see me either at a meeting or at the library. A volunteer with good I T skills & knowledge of Microsoft Windows would be especially welcome as I am a Mac user & have not used Windows for over 15 years. With all the other tasks I do for the Society, not to mention commitments at home, I do not have the time or brain power to focus on learning it myself.

DNA MYSTERY SOLVED?

I hope everyone enjoyed last month's talk by Geoff Swinfield on DNA. A few days after his talk I took another look at my DNA results, especially the 'Through Lines' which track other people you are related to but not necessarily by direct decent. One of my great x 3 grandfathers was John who I know married a Mary, surname unknown. Both very common names for the time. He was from Bromley but the nearest Mary which roughly fitted time wise lived in Woolwich & had the surname Bowdon. I could not be certain she was my 3 x great grandmother.

On the 'Through Lines' I found 2 small DNA matches to 2 children from 2 of her other children siblings to William, my 2 x great-grandfather. With my current knowledge I feel this is probably enough to say she was my ancestor. Another mystery solved, I hope.

NEW RECORDS TO SEARCH

There have been some recent updates & new record sets added to Ancestry which I know some of you will find interesting. New record sets include:

UK & US Blacksmiths & Related Trades Index, 1720 - 1940.

Uk Battle of Jutland Crew Lists, 1916.

England medieval Soldiers Database, 1368 - 1374.

In addition there have been updates to the 1939 Register & the Global Find a Grave Index for Burials at Sea & other Select Burial Locations, 1300 to present & the UK, Red Cross Volunteers during WW1, 1914 - 1918.

Find my Past have also added thousands of baptism, marriage & burial records from Kent, very useful to most of us. They span several location across the county back to 1558. Baptisms are from the parishes of Charlton, Greenwich, Hadlow, Ightham, Woolwich & more. The marriages & banns, more than 10,000 added, come from 4 Kent parishes & cover the years between 1558 - 1955. Unfortunately no further details are given regarding deaths & burials on the website.