



Registered Charity No.282627

# DARTBOARD

DECEMBER 2024

ISSUE 351

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

### MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS & GROUPS

#### ZOOM DNA DISCUSSION GROUP

Discussions on various aspects of DNA

10.30 am start  
Leader - Laura Lincoln

11th  
December

#### ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUP

Let's talk about Christmas Family Traditions

7.30pm start  
Leader - David Cufley

18th  
December

THE SOCIETY LIBRARY WILL BE  
CLOSED TODAY

25th  
December

THE SOCIETY LIBRARY WILL BE  
CLOSED TODAY

1st  
January

#### ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUP

My ancestors stayed in one place for generations

10.30am start  
Leader Ann Clarke

8th  
January

#### LIBRARY DNA & GENERAL DISCUSSION GROUP

The group will discuss topics relating to family history & aspects of DNA

10.30am start  
Leader Pam Goddard

8th  
January

#### ZOOM TALK

All drawn by horses. This talk will look at the horse drawn transport age

7.30pm start  
Speaker Ian Waller

9th  
January

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 7th DECEMBER 2024, OH NO IT ISN'T - A HISTORY OF PANTOMIME

Peter Allen

What is it about Pantomime that attracts us to this strange concoction of fairy tales, dance, jokes, songs & cross-dressing? What is it really like to play the back end of a Pantomime cow? All this, & the answer to whether something really is behind you, will be answered in this festive talk about what has become one of the great British Christmas traditions.

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 14th FEBRUARY 2024, THE VINDICATION OF CHRISTMAS

Peter Daniel

This talk looks at how the Puritan clampdown on Christmas led to the end of Civil War in Kent.

Peter has lived most of his life in & around Crayford & is an experienced lecturer.

#### IMPORTANT CHANGE OF DATE

#### THE TALK ON THE 11TH JANUARY 2025 AT THE DARTFORD MEETING IS, A CENTURY OF THE VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

Jo Livingstone

Jo is an experienced speaker who lives locally & has been giving talks for the last 15 years, including for our society. She will tell us of the years when firefighting depended on local altruism, using photographs & other items from her family's long association with the Brigade, thereby enabling our members to relate this talk to their own research.



THE DARTFORD BRANCH COMMITTEE WANT TO THANK

ALL SOCIETY MEMBERS & VISITORS A VERY HAPPY

CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY & HEALTHY 2025

## 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](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>	Vacancy
<b>Branch Finance Officer</b>	Janet Rose
<b>Logistics Manager</b>	Lorraine King
<b>Programme Secretary</b>	Christine Hills
<b>Pastoral Care</b>	Janet Rose
<b>Sound Technicians</b>	Ian West
<b>Light refreshments</b>	Sandra & Bob Shepherd
<b>Raffle</b>	Pat Cornelius
<b>Reception</b>	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>Dartboard editor</b>	Hilary Waters
<b>You can email the editor at: <a href="mailto:newsletters@nwkfhs.org.uk">newsletters@nwkfhs.org.uk</a></b>	

## IMPORTANT CHANGE OF DATE

If you haven't already noticed January's meeting, originally scheduled for the 4th January, is now on the 2nd Saturday of the month, the 11th. This is because the college will be closed, not opening up again on the 6th January.

Unfortunately it clashes with the Sevenoaks Meeting but this change was imposed on us & there was nothing we could do.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewals for 2025 are now due. You can pay today with cash or cheque or, if you haven't already done so, you can set up a Standing Order with your bank. It is your choice, but please remember that if you haven't renewed by the 31st March you will be deemed to have left the Society & all the benefits it brings. Also after this date you will have to re-join & receive a new membership number.

You can also renew at the next 2 meetings, both at Dartford & Sevenoaks.

The annual subscriptions of either £10 (for a single person) or £12 (for a couple at the same address) has not been increased in many years & is exceptional value.

## MONEY MATTERS

While on the subject of money please could you consider making donations to help the running costs to the Society. This can be done in various ways, in the Donation Tins at each meeting or at the Library, added on to your annual Standing Order or just by slipping a cheque in an envelope & sending it to the Library. If you come in person to the Library we will gratefully accept cash. PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH THROUGH THE POST. Donations are a vital part of our income & will help to postpone any increase in subscriptions which will inevitably become necessary.

Like everyone else the Society's costs of hall hire & speakers, to name just 2, have increased noticeably recently. Although we are doing our best to minimise them this is not easy or quick.

## THE FUTURE OF THE SOCIETY

2023 was difficult year with a number of Society Officers resigning & volunteers hard to find to fulfil the number of tasks which make or break a society. We are not the only Family History Society with this problem!

2024 has been marginally better but more help will always be welcome.

So if you can spare a few hours a month to help there will be something there for you. For example, at this meeting Ian West is still looking for help setting up the new sound system, less complicated than the old one. Sandra & Bob on refreshments, would dearly love to have the occasional Saturday off.

Very few tasks need specialist skills but if you have any you would be most valuable society asset. And who knows, you could learn things that will help you with your personal research. If you would like to volunteer please speak to Janet after the meeting or come along to The Society Library on a Wednesday between 10am & 3pm & see me, Hilary.

I know this subject is repeated almost every month, & you must be tired of hearing it, but it is so important to keep the Society viable & successful.

I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas & hope 2025 is better than 2024.