



Registered Charity No.282627

# DARTBOARD

MAY 2025  
ISSUE 355

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

## MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS & GROUPS

### ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUP

Desertions from marriages or the services

10.30am start

Leader - Ann Clarke

7th  
May

### ZOOM TALK

Using a research methodology for Family History

7.30pm start

Leader - Phil Isherwood

8th  
May

### LIBRARY DNA & GENERAL DISCUSSION GROUP

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

10.30am start

Leader - Pam Goddard

14th  
May

### ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUP

Who or what were your influences when starting your Family History research?

10.30am start

Leader - Laura Lincoln

14th  
May

### ZOOM DNA & GENERAL DISCUSSION GROUP

Answering queries

10.30am start

Leader - Laura Lincoln

21st  
May

### LIBRARY WRITING GROUP

Numbers are restricted so please book your place at [nwkfhs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact](http://nwkfhs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact)

10.30am start

Leader Pauline Heathcote

21st  
May

### ZOOM DISCUSSION WORKSHOP

Breaking down Ancestral Brick Walls

2.30pm start

Leader - David Cufley

28th  
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 3rd MAY 2025, THE HISTORY OF BLACKFEN Penny Duggan

Penny has been interested in the history of Blackfen for many years & has written a book about it. This illustrated talk on Woodmen & Fenmen, Blackfen's Story, documents the area & the people who have lived there. Penny was brought up in Blackfen & currently works in archive management & is well-known in the local history community. She was recently recognised by Bexley Council for her "Devoted Service to the Community".

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 10th MAY 2025, THE HISTORY OF TUBERCULOSIS

Dr Charles Shee

In 1818 the poet John Keats coughed up blood, & stated "*It is my death warrant*". Come & hear how tuberculosis, sometimes called "*The White Death*", became more prevalent in the 19th Century & remained one of the major infectious killers in to the 20th century.

Charles Shee, a retired chest physician, will be talking about the impact of the disease on individuals & society, including the rise of the sanatorium movement, how treatments were discovered, & does tuberculosis still pose a threat?

### THE TALK ON THE 7th JUNE 2025 AT THE DARTFORD MEETING IS, MY ANCESTOR, THE ARCTIC EXPLORER

Clare Walker

Clare began her career as a journalist, went into publishing, & then qualified as a pilot aged 50, excelling at each challenge. Since retiring she has co-founded the Dockland Sinfonia. Clare's great-great grandfather was one of the crew on the historic 1875 expedition to search for the North Pole, during which the ships were trapped for months in the ice. Her talk features more than 70 slides, including the first photographs ever taken on a British expedition.

## 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>	

## WORKSHOPS, GROUPS & TALKS - IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR NEW SOCIETY MEMBERS OR REMINDERS FOR EXISTING MEMBERS

- All workshops & Discussion Groups are for members only.
- Talks are open to members & visitors.
- To participate in any ZOOM event you must register at [nwkfhs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact](http://nwkfhs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact) beforehand after which you will be sent links to the forthcoming month's events. You only need to register once & do not need to make specific booking once you have registered.
- Events at the Library do require prior booking as seats are limited & we may not be able to accommodate members who turn up on the day.

## TRUSTEES MEETING - IMPORTANT LIBRARY INFORMATION

On Wednesday 28th May the Trustees will be holding one of their regular meetings in the Society Room at Summerhouse Drive Library. It will commence at 10am & is scheduled to finish by 1am or shortly afterwards. The library is open as usual for members to do their own research but access to the books & some other document collections will not be possible until the meeting is finished. After that it is business as usual.

## USEFUL INFORMATION FOR SEARCHING THE CENSUSES

Earlier this year I subscribed (free) to a website which is proving interesting & useful, [www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com](http://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com). It is a regular publication & contains selected shortened articles from their latest magazines.

A recent article is called 'How to search the UK census by address', a question frequently asked at the library.

I have done this before on Ancestry but was successful because the address I wanted was in a small Sussex village with only 2 enumeration districts so I was able to browse through both. If you are looking for an address in a larger village, town or city it could take you hours.

There is not enough space here to go into too many details so here are the basics of the article.

Ancestry. Not very good with the exception of the 1881 & 1911 censuses. I suggest you investigate further if you need to.

Findmypast. Is simpler & better as by selecting 'Search' on the home page & then 'Addresses' in the bottom right hand corner it will take you to the page where you enter the address. It works across all the censuses & the 1939 Register.

The Genealogist. The article recommends this as the best as it has the search facility on the main search page. I subscribe to this site so can verify it works but as with trying to search on any of these you have to be aware of historic changes of geographic boundaries. For example Bexley borough should be assumed to be in Kent & not Greater London but if in doubt try both. Good luck in your searching.

Please note: I have taken this straight from the article & not tried it myself.

## FINDMYPAST, EXCLUSIVE NEW COLLECTION

No room to say much, but 1.7 million searchable records have been added as The Guernsey Collection. So if you have Channel Island ancestors you now know where to go.