



Registered Charity No.282627

# DARTBOARD

SEPTEMBER 2025

ISSUE 359

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

## MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS & GROUPS

### LIBRARY DNA & GENERAL DISCUSSION GROUP

Discussion on any topics relating to family history including DNA

10.30am start

Leader - Pam Goddard

10th  
September

### ZOOM TALK

Posted in the Past. This talk reveals the stories behind postcards sent in the early years of the 20th century.

7.30pm start

Speaker - Helen Baggott

11th  
September

### ZOOM DNA DISCUSSION GROUP

Discussion on various aspects of DNA, answering queries from beginners to more experienced family historians

10.30am start

Leader - Laura Lincoln

17th  
September

### SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING AT THE LIBRARY

Please see more information further on in this newsletter

24th  
September

### ZOOM WORKSHOP

Find out more about Parish Chests where there could be a wealth of information to aid your research

7.30pm start

Leader - David Cufley

24th  
September

### ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUP

Child deaths, how did they affect your family?

10.30am start

Leader - Ann Clarke

1st  
October

### DID YOU KNOW?

There are 3 types of DNA tests you can do, Y chromosome, for men only, Mitochondrial, for women only & autosomal for everyone. They will all test in a different way & give different results.

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 SEPTEMBER 2025, SUICIDE & IT'S RECORDS

Kathy Chater

Many of us have a suicide in our family but for some the subject is taboo. However, it may explain the disappearance of an ancestor. Kathy will explain how attitudes have changed over the centuries & where you can find the records.

Kathy has visited us before. She has been researching her family history for over 40 years. She worked as a researcher at the BBC & still advises on historical sources.

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 SEPTEMBER 2025, THEY DARED TO BE DOCTORS

Toni Mount

The fascinating story of the first Victorian ladies to succeed in a man's world. When Bristol born Elizabeth Blackwell decided she wanted to be a doctor the Universities in her adopted USA didn't want to know & in England Elizabeth Garrett faced a similar struggle. Despite endless rejection they went on to pioneer women's careers in the medical profession.

### THE TALK ON THE 4th OCTOBER 2025 AT THE DARTFORD MEETING IS, THE HISTORY OF OXLEAS WOODS

Tom Wareham

Most of us will know of Oxleas Woods today but Tom will tell us the history of this ancient woodland & the people who have lived in it. Virtually all of the former residents interacted with the woodland in some way & what we see today is part of an historical process.

Tom Wareham was born in Portsmouth, the son of a naval officer, & grew up in Dorset where he acquired his love of sailing & naval history. He is Curator of Community & Maritime History at the Museum of Docklands. He now lives within sight of Shooters Hill & Oxleas Woods.



## 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>Bookstall</b>	Gillian Seager Tim Jacobs
<b>Dartboard editor</b>	Hilary Waters

**You can email the editor at:  
[newsletters@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:newsletters@nwkfhs.org.uk)**

## THE SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING on the 24th SEPTEMBER

As usual this meeting of the Society Trustees takes place in the Society room at Summerhouse Drive Library from 10am to approximately 1pm. This means that the room will not be available to members & visitors. The main library will be open together with the library computer terminals. In last month's Dartboard I listed some hints & tips about attending the library if you haven't been for some time so you may want to refresh your memory by referring to it on the website.

## MORE SUMMERHOUSE DRIVE LIBRARY NEWS

While we are on the subject of the Society Library I want to update you on the situation regarding our resources. First of all the books. During the Covid years many of us took the opportunity to declutter & the Society received so many donations that it was overwhelmed with piles of books growing in our room until we could not sit at the tables because of the boxes underneath. Beginning with Pauline Heathcote & Pam Goddard, later joined by myself, we sorted them & managed to dispose of those we didn't want to keep to various charity shops. Richard Flynn also helped by advertising many of them on local social media groups which were exchanged for a financial donation. What was left was a large number of old, small paper booklets, tourist guide type that we all pick up on our days out, which went into the recycling bin.

We also had a small number of donations of CD/DVD's most of which were freebies from bought magazines & which were already in our resources.

Now as Librarian I do not want to get into that situation again & so there are now strict rules on what we will consider accepting. The NWKFHS Librarian is the person designated to make decisions as to what to keep or reject. The following will be considered for acceptance:

1. Only books directly concerned with Family History research or with a relevance to our area. This means NO biographies, No general history books & NO old documents.
2. Unwanted Birth, Marriage & Death certificates.
3. Old photographs of our area.
4. Old maps of the UK.

We would also like members to search the Library Master Catalogues online (go to website & click on Resources & then Library Catalogues towards the bottom of the right hand column) before considering donating. If we have a copy it will be in one of the catalogues depending on what it is & we will not accept any duplicate copies. As regarding CD/DVD's we will not accept any of these unless there is a very good reason. Any potential donation MUST NOT be handed to a KCC Librarian or left at the library without my prior knowledge. If you have any family or friends who are thinking of donating to us please help & advise them in accordance with the above information.

## PAULINE & LORRAINE

I expect you have all heard by now that Pauline Heathcote, Journal Editor & Writing Group leader, was recently injured in a car accident. She is now out of hospital & recuperating at home. This situation may cause September's journal to be delayed.

Also, Lorraine King, Dartford Branch's Acting Secretary & Logistics Manager at these meetings, has recently been in hospital for an operation. I understand she is also on the road to recovery at home now. I'm sure we all want to wish both of them well.