



Registered Charity No.282627

DARTBOARD

FEBRUARY 2024

ISSUE 341

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

MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS & GROUPS

LIBRARY SCOTTISH INTERESTS DISCUSSION GROUP

The group will look at the National Library of Scotland & it's online resources

10.30am start

Leader - Pam Goddard

7th
February

ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUP

Kismet, serendipity or gut feeling? Have they helped you find an ancestor?

10.30 am start

Leader - Ann Clarke

7th
February

LIBRARY DNA & GENERAL DISCUSSION GROUP

This is a general & DNA Discussion Group

10.30am start

Leaders - Jacki Ellis & Pam Goddard

14th
February

ZOOM TALK

The railway brickfield at Eynsford provided bricks for the Viaduct & other structures on the line to Sevenoaks.

7.30pm start

Leader - David Cufley

14th
February

ZOOM DNA DISCUSSION GROUP

Discussion on various aspects of DNA

10.30am start

Leader - Laura Lincoln

21st
February

LIBRARY WRITING GROUP

Need confidence with your writing? Family History or otherwise

10.30am start

Leader - Pauline Heathcote

28th
February

ZOOM - IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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 & membership number to workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk You only need to register once.

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 FEBRUARY 2024, BRITISH HOSPITAL FOR MOTHERS & BABIES, WOOLWICH WITH SUE SAUTER.

Sue Souter

Sue Sauter is an ex-midwife with over 40 years service during which time she was employed by the Nursing & Midwifery Council & also a member, & latterly Chair, of their Professional Conduct Panels. She has experience of being an Expert Witness for medical negligence cases, which required reading & understanding complex matters. Currently she is the Lead Governor for Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust, Bexley.

Today she will trace the history of the pre-NHS maternity home & midwifery school. It started in 1905 with 8 beds & home visits, went through several moves, was bombed during the war, joined the NHS & established one of the Country's first premature baby units before closing in 1984.

At least one of our members was born there & there are surely some more.

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 FEBRUARY 2024, FROM CASTLE TO CARDBOARD, DISCOVERING THE HISTORY OF EYNSFORD CASTLE

Rod Shelton

Rod Shelton describes himself as an author, artist & model-maker. He has lived in Otford for 25 years & is active in village matters. He is the local historian & chairs the Otford Society. He was a London advertising copy writer; then ran his own commercial film company. Rod specialises in reproducing homes of historical interest back to the period in which they were first built. This takes much research & reference as well as a fair amount of calculation. In this talk, Rod demonstrates & tells of the origins of the castle & how it then evolved over the period to reach its heyday in the 1100s. It tells the story of the influential de Eynsford family & their involvement in the Barons' revolt which led to the fall of Rochester Castle & the loss of Eynsford Castle to King John.

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, & Brian Topliffe
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	

THE TALK ON 2nd MARCH 2024 AT THE DARTFORD MEETING IS SPITALFIELDS THROUGH THE AGES

John Halligan

John Halligan is a Freeman of the City of London & a Qualified City Guide. He will describe the history & development of this historic area known for its Huguenot connections. With the aid of a colourful presentation he will explore the fascinating story of the various migrant groups who have settled in Spitalfields including the legacy left by the Huguenot silk weavers. From 1960s onwards there has been a campaign to save many of the original properties, including the Old Spitalfields Market, which John will show us.

IMPORTANT - PROPOSED DESTRUCTION OF ORIGINAL WILLS

On 15 December 2023, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) published a consultation seeking views on the proposed destruction of post-1858 original wills & other documents. It appears that this will take place after digitalisation.

Digitisation should be welcomed as it is a means of access to original documents but it is NOT a method of preservation. Digital preservation is an entirely different matter & involves attempts to enable digital files to be available for as long as possible. The original documents cannot be preserved unless they are kept.

Those of us who use digital images of documents on a daily basis, for example via Ancestry or FindMyPast, know that digitisation projects are not infallible. Issues that we come across daily include pages or entire documents that have been missed, poor quality images and images that are incorrectly catalogued. This list is by no means exhaustive!

The reason? Money!

The Family History Federation are taking up the challenge to this important proposed change & are encouraging as many as possible to sign a petition. It is best if I point you in the direction of the Federation's Really Useful Bulletin article by Richard Holt where you will find how to sign the petition & much more information on the subject which I haven't room for here. The address is [2024RUBulletinNo41-January.pdf](#) (I am unable to copy the link).

The Federation website contains a wealth of information on all things family history & I would recommend exploring it further at

www.familyhistoryfederation.com

Happy reading & please sign the petition.

WANTED AT THE LIBRARY!

The Society library, housed within KCC Joydens Wood Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Dartford DA5 2EE, is open & staffed by library volunteers from 10am to 4pm on Wednesdays. You can use the library's computers to access Ancestry and FindMyPast which currently includes access to the 1921 census. More library volunteers are needed: call in and chat to Hilary Waters (librarian)* or use library@nwkfhs.org.uk. or Janet Rose on 01322 384836 can also advise. Free parking in nearby side roads. On the occasional days when the library has an unplanned shortage of volunteers the library may close early or remain unopened. Whenever possible this will be announced on social media.

***Please note:** In addition to the above I, Hilary, will be on holiday until Wednesday 22nd February so please call in after this date.