



Registered Charity No.282627

DARTBOARD

NOVEMBER 2025

ISSUE 361

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

MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS & GROUPS

ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUP

Do you have unusual occupations in your family?

Start -10.30am

Leader - Ann Clarke

5th
November

LIBRARY DNA & GENERAL DISCUSSION GROUP

Discussion on any topic relating to family history including DNA

10.30am start

Leader - Pam Goddard

12th
November

ZOOM TALK

Migration throughout the UK

Start - 10.30

Speaker - Debbie Bradley

12th
November

ZOOM TALK

Artificial Intelligence & Family History

10.30am start

Leader - Andrew Redfern

13th
November

ZOOM DNA DISCUSSION GROUP

Discussion on various aspects of DNA from beginners to more experienced

10.30am start

Leader - Laura Lincoln

19th
November

SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING

Important: the main library is open for members to do their own research, but access to most of our re-courses will be unavailable until 1.30pm approximately

26th
November

LIBRARY WRITING GROUP

While Pauline continues her recovery this group will continue as normal

10.30am

Leader - Victor Knott

26th
November

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 MEETING TODAY, THE 1st NOVEMBER 2025, IS THE SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND HISTORY DAY

PLEASE NOTE THAT TODAY'S PROGRAMME TIMINGS ARE DIFFERENT TO NORMAL

9.45am: Registration, tea/coffee, buy raffle tickets

10.15: Welcome

10.30: AGM

11.15: Comfort Break

11.30: Talk by Ian Waller on 'Sold, Separated and Divorced'

12.30: Comfort break, look at books for sale, raffle prizes

1pm: Buffet lunch if booked or your own lunch

2.15pm Talk by David Annal on 'Lying Bastards'; exploring the impact of illegitimacy on family history research
3.30pm End of AGM Day

So now a bit about our talks & the speakers:

Ian is a retired professional genealogist & highly respected teacher of family history. He is a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists & has written several books in their "My Ancestor" series.

Most of our ancestors were married only once, until death, but we all have discovered individuals whose lives did not fit that pattern. At a time when relationships outside marriage were unacceptable, what did they do when their marriages broke down & divorce was not an option? Ian will explain that there are records recording desertion, wife sales, separation & even divorce which needed an Act of Parliament.

Our second speaker of the day is the well known David Annal, an experienced lecturer & author who has been involved in family history for over 40 years & was the principal family history specialist at The National Archives. He is a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists & now runs his own research business & has a YouTube channel.

David will examine the social stigma that has been associated with illegitimacy until fairly recently & reveal how these unfortunate children & their parents went about concealing it in official documents, or just being economical with the truth, forcing us to take their information with a pinch of salt.

ZOOM DISCUSSION WORKSHOP

To help researchers overcome their research queries

7.30pm start

Leader David Cufley

26th
November

ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUP

What keeps me going? Should I leave that brick wall alone?

10.30am start

Leader Ann Clarke

3rd
December

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.

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 NOVEMBER 2025, THE LIFE OF HELEN THOMAS & OTFORD IN THE 1920's

Alan Williams

Helen Thomas (1877 - 1967) was the widow of poet & prose writer Edward Thomas who was killed at the Battle of Arras in 1917. For several years from 1917 Helen lived in Forge Cottage in Otford High Street, a few yards from where NWKFHS meet, & knew many local & other cultural figures, including author D.H. Lawrence & composer Peter Warlock.

Helen was also a mother of three children, an author in her own right and a staunch supporter of Edward's poetry. Alan will tell the story of Helen's life before & during her time in Otford, placing it in the context of Otford as a village a century ago.

THE TALK ON THE 6th DECEMBER 2025 AT THE DARTFORD MEETING IS CRIBS, CARDS & CHRISTINGLES

Mark Lewis

Mark's talk explores our colourful Christmas traditions & customs, how they came into being, & how they are celebrated today. Mark will also include some of the lesser known seasonal folklore including Jesse Trees, Chrismons, Mumming Plays and Wassailing.

Mark is a freelance artist, designer-silversmith, semi-retired university lecturer and public speaker. He is a member of the Folklore Society with a particular interest in unusual local customs & rituals and in 2013 he published a book on the folklore & popular customs of the church. Mark is also passionate about lighthouses & is currently the Education Officer of the Association of Lighthouse Keepers.

IMPORTANT REMINDER - LAST CALL

In the June journal the Society Secretary, Paul Merrington, informed the membership that there are going to be changes to the Society banking of membership fees. **It is most important if you pay by Standing Order.** With effect from the 1st January 2026 all membership fees will be deposited into the Society's Barclays Bank account & not the Santander account. As soon as possible please can you all set up a new standing order details to:

Name: North West Kent Family History Society

Sort Code: 20-57-76

Account Number: 23339416

& please remember to delete your current Standing Order, **DO NOT amend it.**

If you wish to make a donation to the Society you can also change the amount to reflect this.

The DARTFORD BRANCH COMMITTEE would like to take this opportunity to wish all Society members a very **HAPPY CHRISTMAS & HEALTHY & a SUCCESSFUL 2026**

Master of Ceremonies	Janet Rose
Branch Secretary	Vacancy
Branch Finance Officer	Janet Rose
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
Bookstall	Gillian Seager Tim Jacobs
Dartboard editor	Hilary Waters

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