



Registered Charity No.282627

DARTBOARD

DECEMBER 2025

ISSUE 362

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

MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS & GROUPS

ZOOM DNA DISCUSSION GROUP

Discussion on various aspects of DNA for all levels of experience

Start -10.30am

Leader - Laura Lincoln

10th
December

LIBRARY DNA & GENERAL DISCUSSION GROUP

Discussion on any topic relating to family history including DNA

Start - 10.30am

Leader - Pam Goddard

10th
December

ZOOM TALK

Unlocking your DNA, how to maximise your DNA test results

Start - 7.30pm

Speaker -Donna Rutherford

11th
December

ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUP

Let's talk about Christmas Family Traditions

Start - 7.30pm

Leader - David Cufley

17th
December

ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUP

Do you feel a bond to any particular ancestor?

Start - 10.30am

Leader - Ann Clarke

7th
January

ZOOM TALK

He's not missing, he is here. Tracing the missing of World War 1

Start - 7.30pm

Speaker - Mel Donnelly

8th
January

**ALL ZOOM TALKS WORKSHOPS,&
DISCUSSION GROUPS ARE MEMBER-
ONLY EVENTS.**

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.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE

OUR TALK TODAY, THE 6th DECEMBER, 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 & Wassailing.

Mark is a freelance artist, designer-silversmith, semi-retired university lecturer & public speaker. He is a member of the Folklore Society with a particular interest in unusual local customs & rituals & 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.

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 DECEMBER 2025, CHRISTMAS IN THE MIDDLE AGES

Toni Mount

Christmas without turkey, roast potatoes, crackers, cards & Father Christmas!

But for those of you coming to listen to Toni, there will be sausage rolls, mince pies, tea & coffee.

Toni is a regular & popular speaker for the Society. She earned her Research Master's degree from the University of Kent in 2009 through study of a medieval medical manuscript held at the Wellcome Library in London.

She is a well-known lecturer, historian & author whose books are based on her research into the lives of ordinary & sometimes extra-ordinary people through history. She lives in Gravesend.

IMPORTANT LIBRARY INFORMATION

Please be aware that the Society Library in Summerhouse Drive will be closed on the 24th & 31st December, Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve respectfully.

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

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	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

You can email the editor at:
newsletters@nwkfhs.org.uk

THE TALK ON THE 10th JANUARY 2026 AT THE DARTFORD MEETING IS THAMES SAILING BARGES

John Rayment

This is the history of the Thames Barges, whose red sails were once a common sight on the London River & Thames Estuary, & of the men who worked on them.

Our speaker John, is a member of the Thames Sailing Barge Trust. This is a charity whose volunteers have undertaken to preserve these vessels for future generations. You may have seen the results of their endeavours at events on the river such as the Gravesend Festival.

VERY 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.

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

All annual membership renewals can now be paid, you don't have to wait until January the 1st. There are various payment options, by cash or cheque here at the meetings, either Dartford or Sevenoaks, or at the Library on Wednesdays. Whichever of these options you choose you will need to have a completed Renewal form which can be found either in December's paper Journal or on the website. At the moment we are unable to accept card payments. Or if you prefer you can pay online through the website.

Please be aware that if you do not renew by the 31st March 2026 your membership will automatically be cancelled & you will not receive future editions of the Journal or the other benefits of being a Society member. If you renew after the 31st March you will be issued with a new membership number.

WANT TO JOIN IN ZOOM TALKS, WORKSHOPS OR DISCUSSION GROUPS

These do not have to be booked individually but you do need to register in order to be sent the Zoom links. The website link for each Zoom group explains how you register. I would also suggest you look at Events from the Main Menu & then Workshops & then All Workshops where there is more information.

**THE LIBRARY TEAM OF GRAHAM, LORRAINE, CLIFF & MYSELF
WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS**