



Registered Charity No.282627

# DARTBOARD

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

OCTOBER 2025

ISSUE 360

## MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS & GROUPS

### LIBRARY DNA & GENERAL DISCUSSION GROUP

Discussion on any topic relating to family history including DNA

10.30am start

Leader - Pam Goddard

8th  
October

### ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUP

A group where you can talk all things family history

Start - 2.30pm

Leader - David Cufley

8th  
October

### ZOOM TALK

Getting the most out of [FamilySearch.org](#)

Start - 7.30pm

Speaker - Darris Williams

9th  
October

### 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

15th  
October

### ZOOM TALK

Weald & Downland Living Museum is a group of re-erected old buildings

7.30pm start

Leader - David Cufley

22nd  
October

### ZOOM SCOTTISH INTERESTS GROUP

The group will look at the recommended websites

Start - 10.30am

Leader - Pam Goddard

29th  
October

### DID YOU KNOW?

If you encourage a friend or relative to join the Society member they will get free membership until the 1st of January 2026. A very good deal!

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 4th OCTOBER 2025, 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.

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 11th OCTOBER 2025, A SPY FOR LOVE

Melanie Gibson-Barton

Hear the story of an honourable man who turned to espionage to win the heart of the woman he loved & learn how his actions affected us today.

Melanie is an entertaining speaker & has been a regular speaker to Sevenoaks over the years & it will be a pleasure to hear her once more. She provides her audience with a professional, informative & entertaining presentation, accompanied by colourful PowerPoint slides.

### DARTFORD'S NOVEMBER MEETING - 1st NOVEMBER 2025

#### THIS MEETING IS THE SOCIETY'S AGM & FAMILY HISTORY DAY.

Full details of this meeting were published in the June journal. Please refer to them or to the website as there are time changes to a normal meeting.

After an earlier than usual start at 9.45am the AGM will be held followed by a talk by one of our regular speakers, Ian Waller. An extended lunch will follow with plenty of time to eat, chat, buy raffle tickets & look at the book stall.

The afternoon's speaker is David Annal who will tell us about the impact of illegitimacy on family history research. The social stigma of the past, the parents who concealed it in official documents or who were just being economical with the truth.

Both Ian & David are experienced speakers & historians.

## 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**

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](mailto:newsletters@nwkfhs.org.uk)

## IMPORTANT - HAVE YOU REMEMBERED?

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.

## MORE MONEY NEWS

In the last few months Janet has been asking for a donation of at least £2 per person at the Dartford meetings & your are probably wondering why. For every meeting the Dartford Branch has to pay £175 for the rental of the hall & on top of this there are the fees for the speakers which range from about £70 - £120 per meeting. In total this means that the Society has to subsidise each meeting up to the tune of £300 or more, or £3,600 every year! This is not a sustainable situation for the long term.

The Sevenoaks Branch is in a similar position but is better off as the rental for their room at Otford is considerably less than ours here.

On top of this the Society membership has dropped by about 30% since Covid which means annual fees are down too but the Society is still having to pay for other services, the Library & the journal for example.

So what can you do about it?

- ▶ Please remember to donate at least £2 per person every time you attend a meeting.
- ▶ Please consider making an annual donation through your Standing Order.
- ▶ Please encourage your family & friends to join the Society if they regularly come to the meetings as guests (visitors).
- ▶ If you receive our journal as the paper version please consider changing to the electronic version as this will cut down on printing & postage costs.

The Society fees have not changed in over 15 years despite the levels of inflation we have seen. Our annual fees are at the lowest level of other similar societies & will eventually have to increase but for the time being the Society Committee is investigating creative ways to attract more income.

**IF YOU WANT THE SOCIETY TO SURVIVE & THRIVE DON'T BE PART OF THE PROBLEM, BE THE PART OF THE SOLUTION**

## THE 'C' (Christmas) WORD AGAIN

It's that time of year again! If you were at our last meeting you will have heard Janet ask for donations for her hampers which she produces for every Christmas raffle. She would warmly welcome any tinned, packet or bottled items in good condition & well within their 'Best Before' date if they have one.

If you can't donate any goods I'm sure she would welcome a financial donation instead.