



Registered Charity No.282627

# DARTBOARD

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

JANUARY 2026

ISSUE 363

## MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS & GROUPS

### LIBRARY DNA & GENERAL DISCUSSION GROUP

Discussion on any topic relating to family history including DNA

Start - 10.30am  
Leader - Pam Goddard

14th  
January

### ZOOMWORKSHOP

How do you start? Are there new things to learn if you have been doing this for a while?

Start - 7.30pm  
Leader - David Cufley

14th  
January

### ZOOM DNA DISCUSSION GROUP

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

Start - 10.30am  
Leader - Laura Lincoln

21st  
January

### SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING

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

28th  
January

### ZOOM SCOTTISH INTERESTS DISCUSSION GROUP

For members with Scottish Family History

Start - 10.30am  
Leader - Pam Goddard

28th  
January

### ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUP

Have you found an interesting property your family has lived in?

Start - 10.30am  
Speaker - Ann Clarke

4th  
February

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.

### OUR TALK TODAY, THE 10th JANUARY, IS THAMES SAILING BARGES

John Rayment

John Rayment will tell us about 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.

John is a member of the Thames Sailing Barge Trust, 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.

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 JANUARY, IS ISLANDS OF THE MEDWAY

Adam Taylor

Using animation, sound & images, this PowerPoint presentation draws on many sources; census records, photos, Victorian technical plans, personal experience & several trips to the National Archives - to bring to life the people who lived on these islands, unlock the secret of how the twin forts of Hoo & Darnet were built. There is also the story of the pub which stood on an island in the middle of the estuary, how a WW1 German submarine ended up where it is now & the story of the infamous Deadmans island. The presentation also takes a close look at some of the flora & fauna of this huge, beautiful wilderness that is the Medway estuary.

Adam is a keen canoeist with fifteen years' experience of paddling a fourteen-foot, Canadian (open) canoe. He has canoeed in many places including the dramatic wilds of Ontario, pristine lakes of Finland, stunning rivers of Sweden & beautiful places here in the UK, but it is the islands & salt marshes of the Medway estuary where his heart is.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Renewals for 2026 can now be made here at this meeting, at Summerhouse Drive Library on a Wednesday or online via the website. If you wish to pay at this meeting or at the library please note that we can only accept cash & cheques but it must be accompanied by a completed Renewal form. Full details were given in December's Dartboard now on the website.

## 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.

## LIBRARY 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)

## THE TALK ON THE 7th FEBRUARY AT THE DARTFORD MEETING IS FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH AT THE METROPOLITAN POLICE MUSEUM

Clare Smith

The Metropolitan Police Museum is in Sidcup & holds archives, books, photographs, equipment, uniforms & other artefacts relating to the history of the Metropolitan Police since its inception in 1829.

If you have a police officer in your family tree the Museum has Police Orders (day-to-day updates) on joiners & leavers, promotions and dismissals & rewards and punishments.

The Curator & Archivist, Clare Smith, will explain how the museum collection can be used in your research.

## FROM JANET

- ★ Do you have any unwanted Christmas gifts? If so please consider passing them on to Janet for future raffle prizes.
- ★ The recently created 2nd hand book stall is proving successful so if you have any you would like to donate please bring them along to a Dartford meeting. Both of these contributions will directly benefit the Society.
- ★ Please remember that Janet would like all the used postage stamps from your Christmas cards & other postal items. Janet passes these on to a charity.
- ★ The Dartford Branch is currently operating without a permanent Branch Secretary. Lorraine King is acting in the post & doing a good job. It is not an onerous position, attending Branch Meetings once a month (on a Tuesday afternoon with tea/ coffee & cake supplied) & taking the minutes is the main one. If you want to find out more or wish to volunteer please speak to Janet.
- ★ A volunteer, or 2, is wanted to bring the new books for the stall at the Dartford meetings from the storage facility in Crayford & take them back. There are about 4 boxes so a car is necessary but it doesn't have to be a big one. A driver to take them to the Sevenoaks meeting is also wanted. This could be the same person or a different one but some liaison between them would be essential.

## ANCESTRY - WHAT'S NEW

Do you have Family History in Hampshire? If so you may be interested in 2 new & updated record collections regarding Cemetery Registers, 1840 - 1923 & Wills & probate 1398 - 1858. Yes!, 1398! That's not a typo. And remember that the Isle of Wight is included in some.

Or if you have postal workers then Ancestry have added 2 updated collections, UK, Royal Mail Pension & Gratuity Records, 1834 - 1970 & UK Postal Establishment Books, 1691 - 1979.

Another new collection is the London, England, University College London Student Records 1828 - 1954.

## 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 event 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.