



Registered Charity No.282627

# DARTBOARD

MARCH 2026

ISSUE 364

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

## MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS & GROUPS

### LIBRARY DNA & GENERAL DISCUSSION GROUP

Discussion on any topic relating to family history including DNA

Start - 10.30am  
Leader - Pam Goddard

11th  
March

### ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUP

My ancestors in a Wiltshire village, followed by a discussion on your ancestral places

Start - 10.30am  
Leader - Steve Maslin

11th  
March

### ZOOM TALK

The future of Family History research in the digital age

Start - 7.30pm  
Speaker - Nick Barratt

12th  
March

### ZOOM DNA DISCUSSION GROUP

Discussion on various aspects of DNA answering queries from researchers of all experiences

Start - 10.30am  
Leader - Laura Lincoln

18th  
March

### SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING

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

25th  
March

### ZOOM WORKSHOP

Education over the 18th & 19th centuries & how it affected our ancestors

Start - 7.30pm  
Leader - Linda Crisp

25th  
March

### ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUP

Names that inspired parents to burden their children with such choices

Start - 10.30am  
Leader - Ann Clarke

1st  
April

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 7th MARCH, IS ERNEST SHACKLETON & THE ENDURANCE EXPEDITION

Carol Harris

Shackleton was the great Irish explorer of the Polar regions but since the Poles had already been conquered by others he decided that he should attempt a sledge crossing of the Antarctic continent. However, his ship the Endurance was soon caught in the ice. Carol will tell of the crew's incredible survival against all odds & their eventual rescue, illustrated by photographs & contemporary reports and artefacts.

Carol has visited the Society on several occasions. She lives in Brockley and is an experienced speaker and co-author with her husband Mike Brown.

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.

### PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE

### THE TALK ON THE 28th MARCH, HOW TO SURVIVE IN ANGLO SAXON ENGLAND

Toni Mount

If you are planning to travel back to the England of Anglo-Saxon times & begin a new life without technology, how will you manage? If you were a king, a thegn or even a slave, what rights do you have under the law? Are women treated well by their husbands, & if you become sick, what are your chances of recovery? How might you earn your living, & the biggest worry: what to do about those fearsome Vikings?

All these questions & more are answered in this self-help guide for time-travellers.

### TIM JACOBS

With regret I have to let you know that Tim sadly passed away on Sunday 15th February. He had had a fall & was in hospital for 3 weeks before transferring to a nursing home shortly before he died.

Tim, a taskholder manning the bookstall at the Dartford meetings for many years, was a quiet man but was well known within the Society. He was a contributor to the book 'A History of the Homes for Boys in Hextable' by Greg Daxter. A copy of this book, ref: KEN1403, is available in the Society Library for any member who would like to borrow it.

## 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](http://nwkfhs.org.uk)**

Any information you may need about the society can be found here including contact details of post holders.

<b>Master of Ceremonies</b>	Janet Rose
<b>Branch Secretary</b>	Vacancy
<b>Branch Finance Officer</b>	Janet Rose
<b>Logistics Manager</b>	Lorraine King
<b>Programme Secretary</b>	Christine Hills
<b>Pastoral Care</b>	Janet Rose
<b>Sound Technicians</b>	Ian West
<b>Light refreshments</b>	Sandra & Bob Shepherd
<b>Raffle</b>	Pat Cornelius
<b>Reception</b>	Pauline Heathcote
<b>Ephemera</b>	Louise Scott
<b>Bookstall</b>	Gillian Seager Tim Jacobs
<b>Dartboard editor</b>	Hilary Waters

You can email the editor at:  
[newsletters@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:newsletters@nwkfhs.org.uk)

## THE TALK ON THE 4th APRIL AT THE DARTFORD MEETING IS RURAL RIDES, part 2, WEST KINGSDOWN TO SOUTHFLEET

Christoph Bull

This is the second of two new talks about the villages surrounding Dartford & hopefully it will inspire you to explore the area from West Kingsdown to Southfleet this summer.

Christoph, a popular & entertaining speaker, was a librarian by profession & is a local guide & speaker who has entertained us many times with his lighthearted but informative talks on North West Kent. He has been a friend & regular speaker for the Society for many years & has guided society members on various walks in our area.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS - LAST CALL

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 or cheques but these must be accompanied by completed renewal forms. Full details were given in December's Dartboard now on the website.

## IF YOU HAVE IRISH ANCESTORS ...

On the 18th April the Irish 1926 Census will be released & you can search it for free. If you would like more information open this link:

<https://nationalarchives.ie/engage-and-learn/census-1926-public-programme/>

This then brings you to a site created by the Irish National Archives & gives a lot of help & information about this census, including videos. At the moment I am not sure if searching the census after the 18th April will be through this site but time will soon tell.

Another site on Irish history, family or otherwise, I have recently come across & which you may find interesting & useful is: [www.letterfromireland.com](http://www.letterfromireland.com).

This site does not appear to be just an Irish genealogy site but also includes categories such as Irish Surnames, Culture & Customs & Travel within Ireland, in fact many things Irish. If you join this group there are more pages you can see such as maps, help on researching your ancestors & a video library.

On the front page you can sign up for a free Weekly Letter From Ireland & I understand they also run a weekly forum where you can ask questions. I first heard of this group when it appeared on Facebook, so if you use Facebook search for this site.

Please note: To items on Irish, Scottish or Welsh sites I always add that as I do not have any ancestors from these countries I have not used the site(s) mentioned although I have always called them up & checked the home page.

## APOLOGIES

Please accept my sincere my apologies for the absence of a DARTBOARD for the February meeting. Since before last Christmas I have experienced number of diverse family issues & just ran out of time. Hopefully everything is improving, albeit slowly, so it will not happen again, fingers crossed.