



Registered Charity No.282627

DARTBOARD

APRIL 2026

ISSUE 365

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

8th
April

ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUP

Let's talk family history

Start - 7.30pm
Leader - Laura Lincoln

8th
April

ZOOM TALK

Getting to know your military ancestors from the 1850's to the 1920's

Start - 7.30pm
Speaker - Graham Bandy

9th
April

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

15th
April

ZOOM TALK

Parkwood Hall, Swanley. The history of a manor house which was a WW1 convalescent home & now a school

Start - 7.30pm
Speaker - David Cufley

22nd
April

ZOOM SCOTTISH INTERESTS GROUP

Sources for Crime & Criminals

Start 10.30am
Leader - Pam Goddard

29th
April

DID YOU KNOW

The new series of Who Do You Think You Are includes celebrities Toby Jones & Zoe Ball amongst others.

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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 APRIL, DARTFORD 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.

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.

OUR TALK TODAY, THE 11th APRIL, OUTSIDE THE LAW: KENT POACHERS, SMUGGLERS & HIGHWAYMEN

Dr Geoff Doel

An exploration of the anti-heroes in Kent traditional culture, such as outlaws, smugglers, poachers & highwaymen in historical accounts, legends & folksongs.

Dr Doel has a PhD on Thomas Hardy, is an Honorary Life Member of University of Kent & lectures for University of Canterbury Christ Church, WI & U3A. He is an Honorary Life Member of the Marlowe Society & the Thomas Hardy Society & is co-author with his wife Fran of 16 books; his several TV appearances include Time Team.

THE TALK ON THE 2nd MAY AT THE DARTFORD MEETING: A LOOK AT CRIME IN VICTORIAN KENT

Helen Allinson

This talk will give you a new insight into crime in Kent. Did the proximity of London have an effect on Kentish crime? How were London hop-pickers regarded? How were poachers dealt with & why did policemen find a wheelbarrow handy? Learn the answers to these questions & more from Helen's research.

Helen, a retired teacher, is an accomplished speaker who is a regular visitor at Dartford & has written several local history books.

cont. Also historian Lucy Worsley explores her family history in a new podcast.

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

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
Light refreshments	Sandra & Bob Shepherd
Raffle	Pat Cornelius
Reception	Pauline Heathcote
Ephemera	Louise Scott
Bookstall	Maureen Berry
Dartboard editor	Hilary Waters

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

DARTFORD BRANCH NEWS

If you look at the table at the bottom of the left hand column on this page you will notice a couple of changes. In last month's Dartboard I told you about the unexpected death of Tim Jacobs who, with Gillian Seager, ran the book stall at these meetings. I now have to tell you that Gillian also has health issues & has stepped down from this roll for the time being. Luckily Maureen Berry has offered her services.

Also Ian West has had to step down from being the sound technician, partly because of the health of his wife Bridget, but also his own health. Now that we have a new sound system that is working well this role is not so vital.

If you would like to help at the meetings more volunteers are always welcome, greeting guests & visitors at the door, helping Maureen Berry & Louise Scott on the stalls or standing in when regular helpers are on holiday or cannot make the meetings. The list is almost endless.

The Dartford Branch Committee also has a vacancy which they would like to fill. They have a Committee meeting once a month, at Janet's house in Greenhithe, on a Tuesday afternoon mid-month. It would be useful, but not essential, if volunteers had secretarial experience, shorthand, typing &/or I.T. skills for example. Tea/coffee & cake provided.

If you are interested in helping the Branch in any capacity, but especially the above roles, please see Janet.

NEW ON THE GENEALOGIST

If you subscribe to The Genealogist you will now find that a major update, an additional 185,000 plus new records have been added, to the 1939 Register. Most of these newly accessible records belong to people born in 1924 & 1925. Due to the strict privacy rules governing the register (records are generally closed for 100 years unless proof of death is provided), these records had, up until now, been redacted.

The 1939 Register is one of the most vital resources for 20th-century research. It captures a precise snapshot of the civilian population at a critical moment in modern history. For family historians, it serves as a crucial connection between the censuses and more recent records, helping to:

- Confirm dates of birth and occupations
- Locate families precisely on the eve of war
- Trace evacuees or those whose households changed dramatically during the conflict

It is more important as a substitute for the 1941 census that never took place because of the war.

LATEST UPDATE ON BROMLEY ARCHIVES

If you weren't aware Bromley Central Library, which includes Bromley Archives & Local Studies Centre, are soon moving out of their current home to a new library at 145 High Street. The current Library building was built in the 1960's & has now outgrown it's life.

The current facilities will be open as usual until after the 2026 summer school exams. The Archives (& Local Studies) come under the umbrella of Bromley Historic Collections & have now been moved to temporary storage & access to them is by appointment only on Tuesdays, Fridays & Saturdays at the current Library. To book an appointment email historic.collections@gll.org at least 7 working days in advance. In the meantime items on the open shelves continue to be accessible.

I will try to keep you updated as the latest news is publicised.