

5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025

# Dartford Newsletter

THE NORTH WEST KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, DARTFORD, KENT  
[www.nwkhfs.org.uk](http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk)

## **Welcome to NWKFHS Dartford Branch**

**Our meetings are held at Heath Ln, Dartford, Kent, DA1 2LY**

**10:30 till 12:30**

***We welcome visitors and new members, and we aspire to offer all the helpful advice that you might need.***

***If you are a guest we appreciate a donation to the society's funds.***

***We hope you enjoy your visit.***

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## **TODAYS TALK : My Ancestor: Victorian Shipbuilder & Lothario**

Rebecca's talk is about a great-great uncle, Sir William Pearce, a Victorian shipbuilder and rake who tried his hardest to hide all his shady relationships only to have them unearthed by Rebecca over 100 years later.

She will explain her research methods and how she contacted distant family members.

Rebecca is an Australian teacher who now lives in West London. She is an author, researcher and volunteer with interests in music and history. The inspiration for her research has been an extensive archive of material kept by her husband's family.

**Speaker : Rebecca Clarke**

## **SEVENOAKS BRANCH MEETING**

### **12th April 2025: Kevin Bacon Family History Laboratory**

This is an interactive exploration of 'Six Degrees of Separation' - an interactive experiment to find family history links between members and to verify if the 'six degrees of separation' has any relationship to Family History Research.

It will explore the connections members have to each other and how they may be related by genes, place or event. The Laboratory may stimulate members' research and breakdown those brick walls to that elusive ancestor. Serendipity and Kismet are important research tools of family historians and are little used and explored, this laboratory will try to highlight their use.

Please can you refresh your memories of your families especially in regard their research surnames, places of birth and residence and occupations.

**Speaker : David Cufley**

## **NEXT DARTFORD BRANCH MEETING**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> May 2025: The History of Blackfen**

Penny has been interested in the history of Blackfen for many years and has written a book about it.

This illustrated talk on Woodmen and Fenmen, Blackfen's Story, documents the area and the people who have lived there.

Penny was brought up in Blackfen. She works in archive management and is well-known in the local history community.

She was recently recognised by Bexley Council for her "Devoted Service to the Community".

**Speaker : Penny Duggan**

## UP AND COMING LIBRARY WORKSHOPS

DNA & General Family History Discussion Group with Pam Goddard 09-04-2025 10:30 am

### ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUPS

Zoom Discussion Group: Let's Talk Family History with David Cufley 09-04-2025 10:30 am

Zoom Talk: The Hidden Secrets of the 1939 Register with Linda Hammond 10-04-2025 7:30 pm

Zoom DNA Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln 16-04-2025 10:30 am

Zoom Talk: Hextable Manor House with David Cufley 23-04-2025 7:30 pm

Zoom Workshop: Scottish Interest Discussion Group with Pam Goddard 30-04-2025 10:30 am

**Please log in 15 minutes before each online event and enjoy chatting amongst participants before it starts.**

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**How to get the Zoom Link - Booking is no longer required for individual Zoom Workshops and Discussion Groups.**

A Zoom Register has been created to cover all attendance to any of the zoom groups. Any society member who would like to be added to the register needs to submit their name, email address and membership number to [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk). You only need to register once. Once a month the zoom links for the discussion groups and workshops will be sent by email to those members on the register. Members who have registered can then attend as many of the Zoom groups as they wish with no need to make a specific booking for each one.

**All Zoom Workshops and Discussion Groups are members only-events.**

Workshop leaders freely give their time, but a donation via the web shop is appreciated:

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services/society-donation>

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Participating in a North West Kent Family History workshop or discussion offers numerous benefits. It provides valuable skills for research, enhances your understanding of historical contexts, and fosters a sense of connection with your ancestry. We warmly welcome both familiar faces and new friends.

***Calling all volunteers with fresh ideas!*** *If you have a new topic of interest you'd like to see covered in our workshops, or you wish to be involved with our workshops, we want to hear from you.*

*Contact us through bookings and enquiries by e-mail [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk)*

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### **An Invitation from the Editor**

As a member of our esteemed Family History Society, we invite you to contribute to our upcoming journals in the next few months. At NWKFHS, we value the rich tapestry of family narratives and historical insights that our members bring to the table. Your unique perspective and expertise would undoubtedly enrich our journal. Whether you have a captivating family story, compelling research, or an enlightening exploration of historical records, we warmly welcome your submissions. This is a terrific opportunity to share your knowledge and passion with fellow members. If you are interested in contributing, please feel free to reach out to us with your proposed topic or submission. Our editor Pauline will be delighted to hear from you and will respond to every proposal. Please email [theeditor@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:theeditor@nwkfhs.org.uk) – word files or simply text in the body of an email is fine. We look forward to hearing from you.

## ON THIS DAY

### April 5 is the 95th day of the year

1614 – In Virginia, Native American Pocahontas marries English colonist John Rolfe.

1621 – The *Mayflower* sets sail from Plymouth, Massachusetts on a return trip to England.

1902 – A stand box collapses at Ibrox Park in Glasgow, Scotland, which led to the deaths of 25 and injuries to more than 500 supporters during an association football match between Scotland and England.

1999 – Two Libyans suspected of bringing down Pan Am Flight 103 in 1988 are handed over for eventual trial in the Netherlands.

### BIRTHS

1769 – Sir Thomas Hardy, 1st Baronet, English admiral (d. 1839)

1912 – John Le Mesurier, English actor (d. 1983)

1922 – Tom Finney, English footballer (d. 2014)

1929 – Nigel Hawthorne, English actor and producer (d. 2001)

1945 – Tommy Smith, English footballer (d. 2019)

## OLD OCCUPATIONS

**HACK** A person who hires himself out for any sort of literary work

**HAND FLOWERER** Ladies living mainly in rural locations who embroidered flowers or similar designs on muslin or cambric

**HANDLE STICKER** Put handles on cast ceramic cups, pitchers, etc

**HANGER-ON** or **HOOKER-ON** or **ONSETTER** Mining industry. Hung corves (originally baskets) on rope at the pit-bottom

**HANKYMAN** A travelling magician in Victorian/Edwardian England

**HECK MAKER** A maker of a part of a spinning machine by which the yarn is guided to the reels

**HELLIER** or **HILLIER** or **HILLARD** A roofer; a tiler or slater.

**HIGGLER** A person who haggles or bargains or an itinerant dealer, similar to a cadger

**HOGGARD** Pig drover

**HOOKER** A worker that hooks or uses hooks e.g. In woolen, cotton industry

**HORSE LEECH** Veterinarian, farrier

**HOWDY** or **HOWDIE** A midwife (chiefly used in Scotland)

**HUSH SHOP KEEPER** Person who brewed and sold beer without a license

## KENT PLACE NAMES

**Capel le Ferne** indicates a chapel in a ferny place.

**Chart** takes its name from the Old English cert, meaning rough ground.

**Chevening** may indicate a settlement of 'the dwellers at the ridge',

**Chipstead** is a distortion of the Old English ceap-stede, literally a 'market-place'.

**Cobham** traces its name back to an Old English personal name, Cobba, in this case describing his ham, or homestead.

**Cowden** is literally a denn or pasture for cows, from the Old English cu 'cow'

**Cranbrook** meaning a 'brook frequented by cranes or herons'.

**Crundale** An Old English crundel was a chalk-pit or quarry,

**Cuxton** The X in Cuxton has slightly disguised its etymology, which would suggest a meaning along the lines of 'Cucola's stone'.

## SOCIETY VACANCIES

Many hands make light work. That is certainly true when it comes to sharing the tasks that keep our Society operating smoothly. Please review these volunteer opportunities. This list will be updated monthly on the Society website. If you can help, please email <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact> marked for the attention of the Society secretary.

### **Chair - Sevenoaks Branch Meetings**

Barbara Phillips is currently acting Chair but would like to relinquish this post as she is also programme secretary for the branch and has other responsibilities within the Society. The chair does not have as many responsibilities as previously as others have taken on some of the tasks. If the Branch Chair is away for a meeting, this can be managed. The job is not onerous, but needs commitment.

### **Bought-in-Books Transporter - Dartford & Sevenoaks Branch Meetings**

Dartford & Sevenoaks need someone to bring the Bought-in-Books to the meetings. When not required they can be housed in the Society's lock-up off of Thames Road, Dartford. One does not need a big car boot. Any monies involved are the responsibility of the individual branch and do not concern the person who brings them. The job is not onerous, but does need commitment.

### **Librarian Assistant**

The Society Librarian urgently needs volunteers to help with running the Library in Joyden's Wood and to help fellow members with their research. The situation is about to become worse, as one of the current volunteers is moving away soon. We must have at least two volunteers on site for the Library to be able to open on Wednesdays. Good IT skills and knowledge of Microsoft Windows would be helpful, but are not essential. Are you free on Wednesdays and could offer help on one or more Wednesdays a month?

If you can help with any of these please email via <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact> marked for the attention of the Society Secretary.

### **Society Library**

The Society Library is open every Wednesday for members to do their own research, socialise, participate in library based workshops and discussion groups and receive help from the library volunteers. The library address is 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley Kent DA5 2EE Free parking in nearby side roads.

You can use the library's PCs to access Ancestry - and FindMyPast (which currently does NOT include access to the 1921 census, something we are investigating with the library). We suggest joining Kent Libraries as you can then access these websites from your own device whilst in the library which eases pressure on the demand for library PCs.

The library is open from 10am to 4pm but it greatly helps the volunteers if visitors with research queries call in earlier in the day rather than later. Please also bring as much information as you already have about the ancestor you are researching.

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**The Dartford Committee: Branch Chair Janet Rose**  
**Members: Lorraine King, Christine Hills, Barbara Phillips, Barbara Attwaters,**  
**Maureen Griffiths, Maureen Berry & Pat Cornelius**

**Thanks to Jon Henderson in Hilary Waters absence**