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Ancient DNA and Genealogy

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Are you descended from Vikings, chariot warriors, Neanderthals? Genetics, genealogy and archaeology are coming together to shed light on our deep ancestry and providing surprising evidence of multiple past migrations. You can now explore this type of ancestry in your own DNA through several of the testing companies. This talk will look at the advent of ancient DNA studies, and cover the historical and archaeological timelines now linked to human genetics. Although largely looking at the period before surnames, this research combined with recent Y-DNA surname studies begins to show links of individual lineages to the ancient past. The tests and information offered by the genealogical DNA companies will be reviewed and results from the speaker's own ancestry used as examples. A handout with links will be provided.

Dr Diane Brook has been tracing her family, her husband's and many others for 50 years, as well as being qualified in archaeology. Genetics has also been a lifetime special interest. She has tested with all the available DNA testing companies as well as subscribing to Gedmatch. With the maiden surname of Smith, she includes surname origins and studies, combined with DNA, in her many genealogical interests.