

U3A Family History Group Meeting held 17th February (web master publication)

We met at St Michael's Catholic Church Hall at 14.00 to 16.00. On this occasion disappointingly there were 5 group members in attendance. As usual we had a very friendly informative and lively discussion about various aspects of Family History research each member had progressed forward since we had last met in November last year. We are essentially a self-help group no gurus in this one.

Things Decided Going Forward

1. We decided to enlarge the group taking in the 5 new members who have been hanging in there by their toe nails so a big welcome to Helen, Pat, Janet and Robert. The decision was taken on the basis that there is a great deal of valued experience to be had from having input from a bigger audience. We would run this for a trial period and review again in September.
2. **Larger Group get together to now be held bimonthly next one set for Monday 11th April - nice and early start 10.00 am. Venue to be decided depending on response.** I will be going for RSVP next time. We could have a choice of venues dependent on numbers these are - St Michaels Catholic Church Hall - £8 per hour we supply beverages usually we charge around £5 pp WIFI hit and miss could do hot spot The Priory get room free providing we pay for coffee and teas otherwise £5 pp WIFI good – this is the deal is as I understand it as they now have new tenants, or a member's home WIFI good.
3. Smaller topic groups would be an added feature, the sole purpose of which was to add more practical sessions in between main meetings mainly in a member's house restricted numbers. Numbers would be restricted on a first come first served basis – a to be topic circulated.
4. 5 new members on the reserve list have been contacted and agreed to go on the internal Family History Members group e mailing listing. As a group we might even think about setting up a WhatsApp group – food for thought.

Summary of the Last get together

We had a very leisurely and friendly self-help meeting with the usual brain storming exchange of ideas and general discussion on family history research. I always think that this is a real bonus and invariably come away with a nugget or two. One of our members who has a good deal of knowledge of historical military research was able to offer help in clarifying details of another members father's regimental records. We also shared some recent individual historical and fascinating family finds. Bob told us of an amazing family find relating to the first world war where 7 of his ancestors from the same family went to the front line all survived and the mother received a signed letter of commendation from the King. We talked about some inventions which various group members had discovered about their ancestors. Ian spoke about the merits of using Family Tree Maker as a great piece of software one off cost of £80 which directly links into Ancestry. He gave some very practical tips and useful ideas when constructing his family tree.

Useful Tips

If you are thinking about taking a subscription for Ancestry cancel just before renewal and they sometimes come back with a special offer just for you as an incentive. Alternately subs for quarterly or half yearly. Or use the library access to Ancestry for free.

Look at Parish Registry details as a sub section in Ancestry.

Railway Records and Post Office Records are a good point of reference.

Find my Grave there are literally thousands of grave stones being digitised.

Or use The Family Search.co.uk web site