

## **Report from the Crouch Valley U3A Family History Group December 2023**

Over the last two years, since activities ceased because of the covid epidemic, the Family History Group have made the most of our learning opportunities, having devoured three books. 'Our Village Ancestors' and 'Genealogy, Essential Research Methods' both these books by Helen Osborn. The third smaller book was 'Marriage Law for Genealogists' by Rebecca Probert. By using the Crouch Valley U3A projector, the main points of the chapters are portrayed through the PowerPoint medium. Several members volunteered to present chapters from those books.

Our meetings take place in the upstairs back room of the SWF Village Hall from 10 to 12 on the fourth Thursday of the month. Any U3A member is welcome to come to a meeting for more information. Make contact with the group on the Crouch Valley U3A web site or at a main monthly U3A meeting. The usual program consists of a presentation for the first hour, we then break for refreshments. The second hour is taken up by informal discussions between small groups. We are able to connect to the internet through the hall system if required.

The knowledge of the membership as regards family history resources is diverse. Some members having been engaged in the interest for 10 or more years, while others have very little experience of knowing how to trace their ancestors. The rapid advance of resources available on the internet over recent years has enabled a lively discussion within the Group, with everyone continuing to learn and share their knowledge.

Membership is encouraged to place a composition of something of interest in what we call our 'Creative Writing Folder' which now contains 15 story's from members family histories. We have also produced two 'photo books' from members, with images from their own family histories.

Colin Martin

Family History Group coordinator