FAMILY HISTORY

October – November 2023 Newsletter

In August a handful of members of the Family History group paid a visit to the South Yorkshire Aircraft Museum where they were given a short talk on the history of the museum and airfield. We got to see the Falklands War exhibit along with other exhibits in the hangar and outbuildings. The visit ended with reasonably priced drinks and cakes, sitting in the shadow of a Harrier Jet, in the warm sunshine.

Dawn Jarvis



August – September 2023 Newsletter

The Family History group has been slowly increasing in numbers to almost full, with an interesting mix of novices and the more experienced.

For the future, a trip to the South Yorkshire Aircraft Museum is in the planning for July. Because of the lack of internet facilities at Prego it is proposed that those who are interested attend a one hour Zoom meeting on the Monday evening prior to the usual meeting, with the subject being specifically centred on using the internet in family history research. This will be for members of the family history group only.

At the May meeting there was a brief presentation about the lesser known aspects of the Ancestry website, plus a presentation on Victorian Workhouses which prompted discussion and questions plus some sympathy for the plight of the inmates.

Topics for future meetings will include Show People, Old and New Poor Law and Overseas Research.

April – May 2023 Newsletter

The Family History group are looking at 2023 as being a year where new methods of research are explored, including gleaning more information from already obtained documents which will be of help to beginners to seasoned family historians. There is also the prospect of looking at sources from across the world that would be useful to those members who had ancestors transported to penal colonies in Australasia, child immigrants to Canada, USA and Australia along with European sources, to name just a couple.

Last year we visited the Wilderspin Victorian School and there has been a request for a return visit. There is also the re-opening of the Society of Genealogists library in their new premises this summer. The library is the largest family history archive and library outside of North America and holds sources from around the world including donated family histories. Our last visit to the library, pre Covid, was a great success and it's one we would like to repeat, which includes a tour.

In 2022 we had several new members with varying degrees of expertise which adds to the pool of knowledge and experience to the group, and we hope to expand further.

Dawn Jarvis & Sue Costin



August - September 2022 Newsletter

The Family History Group have been exploring in more depth, things like the Census and having 'breaking down brick wall' sessions. Recently a small number of members visited the Wilderspin & National School Museum in Barton upon Humber where we were given a tour and schoolroom

experience. During the experience, reprimands were made, and suitable punishment handed out in the form of sitting in the corner with the Dunce hat and having to stand with arms outstretched for some time because of dirty hands. In all it was a fun and also educational visit (no pun intended) and we finished in the lovely café. If you have never visited Barton, it is a village full of history and a guided walk sheet can be bought in the museum shop.

Dawn Jarvis





December 2021 – January 2022 Newsletter

The Family History group had it's first face-to-face meeting last month and was well attended along with 2 new members. We didn't have a subject, as such, but kept it very much a catch up with friends and discussed new discoveries, brick walls in research broken down and what we did during lockdown. Our focus for 2022 is very much on the 1921 Census which is said to be released in the early part of the year. For family

historians this is a very important census because with the 1931 census being destroyed and no census taken during 1941, it will be 30 years before the next one is released for 1951. So if you have a family historian in the family don't be surprised if the phrase 'sorry I can't I'm very busy' becomes the norm and if you are looking for the perfect Christmas present for them, a subscription to Find My Past will be much appreciated as they have sole rights to the census release.

We are also exploring venues for visits with the Wilderspin School in Barton upon Humber and The British Library in Boston Spa high on the agenda closely followed by trips to a cotton mill and workhouse.

Glæd Ġēol Eallum! (Happy Christmas in Anglo-Saxon)



Found in Sweetheart Abbey churchyard, Dumfries And Galloway

April – May 2021 Newsletter

Like many others the Family History Group has been 'confined to barracks', but that hasn't stopped us from getting together on Zoom every fortnight. The subjects discussed have ranged from parish registers to the transportation of criminals to faraway places.....oh to be there now! This year we are trying something new through Zoom and that is watching the original series of 'Who Do You Think You Are' then discussing the whys, wherefores and hows of the research and the subject of the episode and have so far had varying degrees of success, but like all good family historians we are not giving up. We are open to new members or anyone who is just thinking about it. We may enjoy 'digging up the dead' but we are harmless really.

Dawn Jarvis



December 2020 – January 2021 Newsletter

A few of the Family History Group members have been meeting on Zoom and the subjects covered have been diverse, from the Workhouse to Criminal Transportation. One of the meetings was held in the evening where we explored the food our ancestors would have eaten with several members cooking meals from wartime recipes. The success of that meeting has spurred us on to decide on a WW2 themed Zoom Christmas meeting with one member volunteering to make a cake and I'm sure more ideas will come through as Christmas approaches.

New members are always welcome even if it's just 'to be nosey and see what we do'. Our meeting are held fortnightly on a Wednesday morning at 10.30 a.m. and posts are put on the DU3A Facebook page.



Spam Hash

Cheese and Potato dumplings

October – November 2020 Newsletter

The Family History Group have been busy digging up ancestors and aspects of their lives. I also held a meeting within the group just for beginners/novices. A couple of our meetings have diversified away from 'subjects' as such, to doing an exercise where everyone did a half hour's research on someone else's ancestor in the group which was a great success. Another exercise was to find an event that happened within the community of an ancestor to discover how it would have affected their life.

Finally, if you are one of those people that, during lockdown, had a sort out of 'family stuff', why not turn those old certificates, photographs, letters etc. into something interesting......a family history, an heirloom. Whether you have a suitcase full of archives or just a story handed down through the generations, novice or experienced, we would love to have you join our friendly group which meets on Zoom fortnightly on Wednesdays at 10.30 a.m. Call, text or email me for more details and to introduce yourself.





August – September 2020 Newsletter

Only at a Family History Group Zoom meeting is it compulsory to talk about family gossip such as great aunt Lucy's dalliance with an American G.I. and the consequences of it, the real reason why uncle Joe was never talked about at family gatherings, whatever happened to the family fortune. The meetings are not only about research, they help recall memories long forgotten, good and not so good times and any history shared is history not forgotten.

At one meeting each member talked about one ancestor and why they were researching that person, we heard about shipwrecks, murder, one mans' rise in social office, death during the 1918 flu pandemic, tragedy in WW1, ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances.

Our future meetings are sure to include occupations, crime and punishment, why and how our ancestors travelled. Even if you only want to know one thing about one ancestor you will be welcomed into the group.

Dawn Jarvis

June – July 2020 Newsletter

The Family History group held its third fortnightly meeting on Zoom with the latest subject being Death and Disease. Other topics have been Immigration and Emigration and Scottish and Irish Records but invariably we all get to discuss our own brick walls and discoveries with a bit of humorous banter thrown in. Attendees are a good mix of novice and experienced family historians who help each other and I'm sure in these times help to keep insanity at bay and since Chris Woolven put out an open invite to all DU3A members we've had a few attend who are curious. Any one who is interested is more than welcome to join to see what we do, just contact the group leader by email so she can give you the code.

Dawn Jarvis

April – May 2020 Newsletter

Genealogy Group Trip to London.

Thanks to the efforts of group leaders Dawn Jarvis and Val Bell, eight of our group members took a trip to the capital recently to conduct some indepth research into our ancestry.

We had a brilliant time at the "Society of Genealogists" having been given access to thousands of documents and records that would otherwise have been completely inaccessible, even online.

The only problem was that there is so much information available that our time there passed so very quickly.

I for one cannot wait to go again. London seems a long way away, but the train journey was so relaxing that we were there and back again in what seemed like no time at all.

Chris Woolven



October – November 2019 Newsletter

The Family History Group had its August meeting with the subject being about birth, marriage and death certificates. With a variety of certificates being brought to the meeting, including Gretna Green, military and still-birth, it proved to be very fruitful with both beginner's and experienced learning what information can be gleaned from these pieces of paper that we all possess. Our next meeting is about the Census Returns and the 1939 Register and we look forward to it being as lively as the last one.

