

Monthly Meeting 27th January 2017

Tessa Spencer: Genealogist – 'Time Detective' Finding out about your Past

Most of Tessa's working life has been spent teaching reception-age children. After living in England, Germany, Cyprus and France and bringing up a family, she and her husband finally fulfilled their plan to retire to Devon. Her brother started her interest in the family tree and she spent two years on it. When it was complete she did the same for many friends.

Most people know about their parents and grandparents but what about further back? Where did your ancestors live and what were their occupations? All this information is now widely available on the internet and we can go back as far as the 1841 census. Parish records go even further back. It is a fascinating and sometimes addictive hobby to pursue.



Tessa is happy to help any of our members with their genealogical research.

Please contact her on: tessndave@hotmail.com

Below is a copy of the advice sheet Tessa handed out after her presentation

Useful websites

Genes Reunited

I started my searches on this site. It is quite cheap to join, just £20 a year. I haven't used it for some time so I don't know what refinements they might now have. If you enter the name of the person you are interested in, you will be given the names of other people researching that person and are able to contact them directly.

Ancestry.com

Costs about £120 for a year. If you are serious about researching, this is the one I would recommend. You can access all the censuses records as well as records of wills, military service, births, marriages and deaths. They are constantly adding new sources of data.

Free BMD

A free site for finding records of births, marriages and deaths, starting at 1837 and going up to 1984.

Find My Past

Costs about £120 for a year. Another good site. The bonus is getting into the 1939 Register. You can also join for just a month

Family Search, the Mormon site

This site is free and has records of christenings in UK and America. It has started including records of some English censuses.

Scotland's People

You can find information by buying credits. If you have Scottish ancestors, this is an important site. 30 credits cost £7.50, but for some information you will need to use several credits.

Roots Chat

This is a Forum and is free. If you have a problem, there are many people out there who are ready to help and will look for the person you can't find.