

NW AGM Research and Shared Learning Update session

Maggy Simms slp@u3a.org.uk

In this session we'll have 3 questions

- **Have you got a 'wartime story' from your family tales?** We'll briefly share them if so. Happy, sad, from home, work or the forces.....something you were told or something you experienced
- **Is there a family photo that always evokes that time when.....** Take a quick photo of your treasured family item if you want to share it - DO NOT bring original items with you! You can send a copy of your treasured photo in advance of the AGM. Details of how will be provided after you enrol.
- **Has your bank closed its local branch?** Well mine has....a u3a member from Bristol has come up with an idea to demonstrate how these closures affect us, and suggest better planning using our local knowledge. Want to learn more?

These are the three topics we'll work on in our 40 minutes together. All of them are linked to projects that you can either join right now, or are in the planning. You can read longer descriptions below.

Their Finest Hour is a nationwide project organised by Oxford University. It aims to record for posterity those memories handed down in families, of life during and after the events of 1939-1945. You don't need to have been there, but maybe your family talked about 'the war'. Maybe you have snapshots, or objects, that have significance in your family. Your family memories may be from military life, or may be based in home life or in working life, but all are valued.

The best way to take part in 'Their Finest Hour' is to sign up to the mailing list at <https://forms.office.com/e/ctt2eu6v2c> so you get to know what's happening near you. In particular, on 25th May in the afternoon there will be a zoom session for all those on the mailing list to explain more about the project and ask questions.

Family Photos and Family Histories

This project is led jointly by Leeds and Royal Holloway universities and explores the way families document their lives and experiences through personal photography. On Wednesday 14th June there is an introductory pilot session where project

leaders Jane Hamlett and Laura King will explain more. Sign up here to reserve a place at this Zoom session: <https://forms.gle/ink1DMdjLCRXEReb6>

Click here for a printable flyer which can be displayed or recirculated
<https://tinyurl.com/rvw66uwm>

Jane and Laura will be hoping to identify a small number of keen u3a members to work more closely with during this year

Inheriting the Family (2024) is another proposal, following on from Family Histories and Family Photos, and it will start in 2024. It is at the early stages of planning right now, and will involve gathering and creatively interpreting those tales handed down in our families, from all aspects of daily life. See Leigh u3a member Jennifer Simpson's example, below, based on a photo of her mother cycling, using fabrics embroidered or worn by her mother. More news of this project will be circulated as it becomes available.



Cash on the High Street seems to be disappearing! Many bank branches have closed down, leaving us with the need to travel to reach them, and many ATMs charge for withdrawals.

Bristol u3a member John Alwyne-Mosely has suggested mapping cash machines and banks in our localities, and also spotting potential sites for planning back in

these essential services, based on everyone having no more than a fifteen minute walk to get to them.

It's the sort of task that requires local knowledge, and preferably a dry sunny day. Still at the planning stage, but if you're interested in this then keep in touch on the Research and Shared Learning mailing list.

To make sure you get information straight to your inbox join the Research & Shared Learning mailing list by emailing Maggy Simms at slp@u3a.org.uk