

FASHG Meeting on 17th October 2023

1. Gill Harden opened the meeting with apologies from Jane Osgood and a warm welcome to the new member, Chris Thompson.

2. Roger Booth gave a short presentation on the National u3a October Genealogy Newsletter which had featured the new strategy to search FamilySearch Wiki:

(https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Main_Page)

This is a free online genealogical guide that lists websites and has over 100,000 articles in 11 languages. However, it has not always been easy to find what you are looking for. The new search strategy emphasises that one shouldn't search by NAME but start with the country, then go down through county to parish.

As a test, Roger had successfully followed the guidance for an ancestor born in Keighley in 1791 to find a baptismal entry in the parish register.

The Newsletter also contained the usual list of new and updated collections available online.

The last item was a note that there is a new guidance note for those who have taken a DNA test as an adoptee or to try to find an unknown parent. This led to quite an extensive discussion on the pros / cons and value of taking one of the DNA tests offered by, for example, Ancestry.

3. After a break for coffee, Simon Lloyd gave a very impressive presentation on the family history he has done on the Noakes family in Ticehurst, East Sussex, from 1444 to 2023, Before and After the Reformation. To go back earlier than Parish Records (which started after the Reformation of 1536) Simon has used Manorial Records, which can be accessed online via the National Archives Manorial Documents Register.

Simon set members of the group the task before the next meeting of searching for an ancestor on the Manorial Documents Register!

4. The main presentation for the November meeting will be a joint presentation by Margaret French and Derek Spruce on the work they have done on Odiham in 1881. It was agreed that rather than having a formal presentation at the meeting on 19th December, we would have a social event.

Next meeting: 21st November 2023