

## Feedback from our meeting Tuesday 21 February 2023

Yet again we enjoyed a good turn out with 19 members coming along to enjoy the warmth and welcome of The Cricket Club and of course, our own excellent company!

We now have a general format of business, breaktime and presentation. So, rather loosely following the agenda and using the smart tv, we;

- Reviewed the offering of free zoom events on the national u3a website <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>  
there were two presentations of interest to the group – which are free and easily bookable by following the links provided;
  - Genetic Genealogy: Making it work for you                      Wed 8<sup>th</sup> March
  - **Family History: Using Census Data**                                      **Wed 19<sup>th</sup> April (1<sup>st</sup> of 3)**
- Scanned the national u3a genealogy newsletter which had, as its focus, the new update Heredis 2023. The article suggested that files could be read in the new format GEDCOM 7 and that there was a free Heredis family tree software available to download. One of the members pointed out that GEDCOM 7 was not yet being used by the 'big' genealogy search sites. Also, by following the links provided, the 'free' software was actually only a free trial and after that would require a regular subscription. Heredis is certified by Family Search (owned by the The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) and some of our members already use this site and were happy to show it to anyone interested.
- Previewed our own microsite. Jane Osgood, Marion Sharp and Margaret French met before the meeting to set the website up although for the moment it is not 'visible' to anyone else. Jane has continued to 'pretty' it up whilst Margaret has written a lot of content for the various webpages. It received a positive reception from members and it was agreed to continue with its production. It was also agreed that some parts of it would be password protected, e.g. where members stories were included.

Derek updated us on the research for his book which led to a fascinating impromptu description as to how the boundaries/size of Odiham has changed over the centuries.

Offers for future presentations included;

- Family photos; looking at the clothes and hairstyles of the subjects can be useful in dating when a photo was taken.
- Clandestine marriages
- How do/did you get started – before IT!

Possible trips;

- The Archives Collection, Kew Gardens
- The Society of Genealogists Library, London
- Dorney Court, Windsor
- Watts Gallery, Compton, Surry

Our refreshment break was as lively as usual and a number of computers were set up with access to research sites such as Find My Past and Ancestry.

This month's presentation was by **Richard Pengelly: 'Bantham Bay Drowning Tragedy, Monday 9th August 1897, a very Victorian story'**.

This concerned the bravery of his grandmother, Louisa, who despite being a Victorian girl of 17 years, jumped into the sea and rescued a young boy from drowning. Sadly, three others were not so lucky. This tale was interesting not only because it was Richard's grandmother but also it covered the social history of the time particularly pertaining to the place/role of women.

*(presentation can be found on our webpage – [click here](#))*

The meeting finished with a quick discussion on sharing the 'hosting' of the meeting. The meeting format is now very straight forward;

- there is a presentation team of Steven H, Elise and Roger who make sure there is always a presentation each month;
- Jane sends out agenda/feedback and collects subs
- Gill S looks after newbies and acts as point of contact
- Margaret (as well as writing the website) and others bring along a laptop to support research during the break.
- There are IT-competent members apart from Jane who could go through the u3a Newsletter at the beginning of the meeting.

Consequently it was agreed that some members would be happy to act as Chair of a meeting by simply the agenda.

**Next meeting: 2pm Tuesday 21 March 2023**