

Feedback from our meeting Tuesday 18 April 2023

Jane opened the meeting with the customary look at the u3a national website;

- The online Events presentations included '**Family History: Using Census Data**' and Jane demonstrated how to book a free zoom ticket. There were also a number of talks aligned with the 'Off the Wall' celebration of Hadrian's Wall on 10th May.
- The Genealogy News focused on 'Their Finest Hour', a Heritage Lottery-funded nationwide campaign organised by the University of Oxford. The aim of the project is to collect and preserve the everyday stories and objects associated with the Second World War.

<https://theirfinesthour.english.ox.ac.uk>

The latest records to be added included another 100,000 more Second World War service records available to order from The National Archives and 200,000 records of Second World War "Prisoners of War" (POWs) – also in The National Archives.

We then looked at the most recent additions to our website and by good fortune, Margaret had added webpages on researching 'Military Records' and using 'The National Archives'. The meetings page was also nearly up to date with members' presentations and YouTube clips added. Gill Harden proposed a formal vote of thanks to Margaret and Jane for their work on the website echoed by the rest of the group members.

Website link:

<https://sites.google.com/view/familysocialhistory/home?authuser=1>

During open discussion the following questions were posed;

- Were there any records of the names of evacuees and where were they sent during WW2?
- Was there a company that would take the research/family tree and bind it into a book?

A number of possible solutions were suggested but if anyone has had any further ideas, please bring them to the next meeting.

Tom mentioned Bard an AI chatbot developed by Google. It may be possible to enter key words to help with research.

There was also a query regarding who could send for war records; was it still only the oldest child? According to the Govt website, this has now been amended to 'next of kin'

<https://www.gov.uk/get-copy-military-service-records/apply-for-someone-elses-records>

Break for refreshments and small group discussions

Instead of having a presentation by a member the Presentations Team had lined up a webinar from The National Archives, "**Researching your family history: Military Sources**". It was presented by Will Butler, Head of Military Records and focused on army records prior to the Second World War.

Everyone agreed it was very good and this was a resource we could use again.

The meeting finished with Jane displaying a spreadsheet of the group's finances showing 'debits and credits' since September. She suggested that although there was a further payment to be made for the hire of the Cricket Club, and it was prudent to carry forward approximately £200 to cover next year's hire costs, the subs for next term could be reduced to £5. Agreed.

Next meeting: 2pm Tuesday 16th May 2023