

Feedback from our meeting Tuesday 19 September 2023

Thank you to everyone who paid their subs.

The meeting began by going around the table and everyone taking a few minutes to introduce themselves. There were three new members; Dennis Clap, Kay Markham, Gill Ovenden and returning member Lynda Ellis. A fourth new member, Judy Carlin will be joining us in October. Although Dianne Scullion is taking a break until January, she wishes to remain on our list and so our group now has 26 members.

Having collected £190 in subs, Jane did a quick run through of the group's accounts. The Treasurer, Chris Gotla, already has £200 of FSHG money towards the hire fees of the Cricket Club for 2023-2024. This takes us through to February even though the cost of hire for the venue is going up to £18 an hour. The level of subs paid in January will be discussed by the group later in the term.

Jane then clicked onto the National website checking for Online Events aimed at Family History – there were two; *'The Commonwealth War Graves Commission and its Archives'*, Monday 9th October and *'Family History: Why the whole family matters'*, Wednesday 18 October. Jane followed this with a quick introduction to the group's own website which can be found by [pressing/clicking here](#).

Roger took his customary look at the u3a national website which he felt was a bit limited this month. It had, as its main focus, 'Griffith's Primary Valuation' conducted between 1848 and 1864. In addition there was the usual list of records added to the various subscription sites.

Open discussion was followed by a break for refreshments and small group discussions.

This month's presentation, was a double bill by David Wooldridge relating more tales about his paternal grandfather, Walter Wooldridge. The first exploit took place February 1923 when Walter was Skipper of the S. T. Vidette and went to the aid of a Danish collier, the Hejmdal, during a storm. This eventually led to David being in touch with the museum in Marstal (home port of the Hejmdal) and sharing photos and records. The second exploit took place during WW2 when again Walter went to the aid of a ship in distress the French destroyer, *Maillé Brézé*. David also shared a photo of his grandfather's war medals which prompted an interesting discussion.

Under AOB Gill Snowden suggested it would be useful for the group to share their email addresses. Everyone agreed and a copy is attached.

Next meeting: 2pm Tuesday 17th October 2023