

Family History Group – November 24 Report

The attendance at the November meeting was disappointing; just seven, which is not enough to make the group viable. It may be that the afternoon of the first Thursday of the month is not the best time to hold the meeting. A poll will be circulated to all Teesdale u3a members, and also Bishop Auckland members who have shown an interest, to try to establish the best time for meetings.

We started with three talks by speakers from the National Archives on 'Researching your Family History'. After an introduction the first main talk focused on the period after 1837 when official records of Birth, Marriage and Death and census records from 1841 to 1921 together with the 1939 Register will provide the required information for the vast majority of researchers to step back through the years. These sources are not available before 1837 and it is necessary to use church records of baptisms, marriages and burials. The second talk discussed where to find these records as well as other records such as Kelly's Street Directories and Wills. These presentations were followed by coffee and biscuits and a general discussion

Each of the above sources will be discussed in more detail at future meetings. 'Making Sense of the Census' will be the subject of the December and January meetings, the December meeting being on Thursday, December 5th, again at 13:30 in the Dales Room at Enterprise House.

Alan Swindale