

Family History Group – May 2025

There were just seven members present for the May meeting of the Family History Interest Group. FreeREG is an internet database comprising parish register entries which have been transcribed by volunteers – just like its stablemate FreeBMD. It is free to use and at present covers about 40% of parishes in England. New parishes are added every week. Most of the entries are prior to 1837 after when of course the civil registers can be used instead.

Pam Taylor guided the members on how to use FreeREG to push your family tree to earlier generations. The search facilities on FreeREG are in many respects more powerful than its competitors such as Family Search. After this introduction she passed out a worksheet with exercises for the members to practice on. – the room went surprisingly quiet!

The next meeting of the group will be held on the second Thursday of June, June 12th, at 13:30 in Enterprise House when the topic will be the realities of Domestic Service for our ancestors. Unfortunately, if attendance does not improve the Family History Interest Group will sink beneath the waves. Use it or lose it!

Alan Swindale