

April 2023 Newsletter

Happy Easter



Family and Local History group went to Manchester Art Gallery in March. Although they meet at the Community Centre, every alternate month they visit other places. Next month it will be a tour of Manchester Library.



New Group Starting:

The new Singing for Pleasure group will hold its inauguration meeting on Friday afternoon, 21st April 2023 at the Main Hall. We hope to see most, if not all those members who have signed up to join this group will attend on the day. You will

hear and see useful introductions about how this group will be run in this first meeting.

National u3a

Pilot Session – Family Photos and Family Histories

Wednesday 14th June 10.30 am

On Zoom

Most of us have collections of photos, however small, that show our families' lives in the past. Photos are often the most common and sometimes the only record we have. This pilot session will explore how to make the most of family photograph collections. The session is led by social historians Laura King (University of Leeds) and Jane Hamlett (Royal Holloway, University of London). Both specialise in the history of the family in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The pilot session is a part of a new project that Laura and Jane are developing that explores the way families document their lives and experiences through personal photography. The session will provide an initial toolkit for exploring the meanings of personal photo collections. Laura and Jane will give a short talk about the topic before there's some time for discussion and sharing a photo.

Themes will include:

- Thinking about the choices people made about which photographs to keep and how to preserve them – how do the ways our relatives assembled their photos affect how we understand them today?
- Interpreting relationships and reading emotional meaning in family photographs –how can we interpret pose and facial expression? Who is included in family photos and why?
- Understanding the social context of family photos – what can photos tell us about how our relatives experienced home life, work, and leisure?

If you would like to, please do bring a family photo to share with us online for discussion.

Click here to enrol: <https://forms.gle/ink1DMdjLCRXEReb6> or email Maggy Simms at

slp@u3a.org.uk

World War 2 Memories

Share your family memories of WW2 You are invited to take part in 'Their Finest Hour', a Heritage Lottery-funded nationwide campaign organised by the University of Oxford to collect and preserve the everyday stories and objects of

the Second World War. As these personal stories are fast fading from living memory, it is vital to preserve them and the wartime objects that often accompany them. As well as artefacts from the front, there are the experiences of those at home, including women and children. How can you help?

- Subscribe to a national email group where u3a members can share views, air your Q&As with 'Their Finest Hour', and generally keep in the loop at <https://forms.office.com/e/ctt2eu6v2c>
- Attend the u3a Online Learning Event, date tbc.
- Share this message in your u3a, on Facebook, and in your newsletters. • Go to a 'Digital Collection Day' to bring your stories or volunteer at it.
- Run a collection in your activity group over several meetings.
- Go online and upload your war-related stories and materials at <https://theirfinesthour.english.ox.ac.uk/> 'Digital Collection Days' are being run at a host of museums, libraries, services charities, and schools across the country, from Belfast, Cumbria, and Edinburgh down to Essex, London, Oxfordshire, and South Wales. u3a members volunteered at one of the first 'Days' in Oxford: "It's like 'Flog It!' or 'Antiques Roadshow' without the valuation! There's so much you can do, from meet-and-greet to what I enjoyed the most, showing someone their husband's war record online - he flew Lancasters - helping them understand more about their family story." Ally Edwards, u3a Evesham and District, 10 March There are connections between 'Their Finest Hour' and u3a groups, for example, genealogy, local history, creative writing, photography, storytelling, getting our members confident in using technology, and combating loneliness. Find out more on <https://theirfinesthour.english.ox.ac.uk/>

Events

Friday April 14th Film Easter Holiday with Judy Garland and Fred Astaire

Friday April 28th Frank Pleszak: The Little-known History of the Poles from Eastern Poland

May 5th Visit to Castlefield Urban Garden at 10 am. This is a free event but please can you let judithlloyd@rocketmail.com know or sign the sheet in the Community Centre