

## Report on the meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021

At our November meeting we welcomed Alan and Joyce to the group.

**Douglas Rigby:** a local lad, an accomplished artist, his letters home, his brief life (1891 – 1917), presented by Mary Gracie of Knutsford Heritage Centre. We saw a six minute excerpt from a DVD compiled by Douglas' great nephew Richard Elsner. Mary made available free leaflets from the Knutsford Remembrance Discovery Trail, as well as copies of Richard Elsner's DVD and biography of Douglas Rigby.

**Granny Brown:** her odyssey with Mrs Reynard from Starbeck to visit the graves of their sons near Arras, 1920, and the photo album she compiled, presented by Roger Brown, in memory of his father's eldest brother, Lance Corporal Norman Brown (1893-1916). Norman's sister Gertrude had kept the album safe and bequeathed it to a niece, my cousin Lois, who in turn presented it to me, along with the family Bible, in 'Auntie Gertie's biscuit tin' in 1995. To tie up loose ends - when he died, Norman was engaged to Irene Robinson. Irene later married Norman's younger brother, Tom. My Uncle Tom and Auntie Rene had one child, Lois.

**Commonwealth War Graves:** Margaret Gott was able to trace the Tobruk grave where her grandfather's nephew Walter Elliott was laid to rest, killed 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1941. Through the **War Graves Photographic Project**, Margaret showed how to obtain a photograph of any CWG from any theatre of war (1914 onwards) for a contribution to that charity. Search for websites: [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org) and try contacting [casualty.eng@cwgc.org](mailto:casualty.eng@cwgc.org). Also [www.twgpp.org](http://www.twgpp.org) Enquiries to: [steve@twgpp.org](mailto:steve@twgpp.org)

**Website Listings and Commentaries:** Tricia Pepper presented and led a very helpful Q & A session, followed up by a detailed document, a *tour de force*, that has been circulated to all group members.

**Luftwaffe records:** illness prevented Terry Griffiths from presenting personally, so it was shared on her behalf. She had been researching a Polish RAF pilot, who was named in a regular report sent to the Reich Minister of Aviation on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1941 entitled 'Advance Notifications from English (sic) Pilots'. It accounts for 13 aircraft shot down between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> November, giving aircraft type, where the crew survived, names and service numbers, sometimes with crash details. Terry comments 'it makes sobering reading'.

At this point Time was called.

**UPDATE:** Contact details for the **Family History Society of Cheshire Resource Centre** in Mobberley (01565 872210) open Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm volunteers permitting. **CLOSED WEDNESDAYS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE** due to shortage of volunteers. Appointment essential.

Our thanks to Mary, Margaret, Tricia and Terry for making these interesting and well documented contributions. If any member in the wider u3a audience would like to receive a copy of Tricia Pepper's well researched document on family history online (and other) sources, do let me know and I will forward her extensive paper to you.

*Roger Brown*

25<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**Our meetings** will continue to be held in the Main Hall of Knutsford Methodist church, starting at 2.00 pm, duration one hour. The cost of attending is just £2.00 per person. Membership of Knutsford & District u3a is a prerequisite to attending these group meetings.

### Coming Soon....

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**British Newspaper Archives** – examples of obituaries, notices etc. Please bring – or send me, for showing on screen - your personal finds in this general area of interest. In addition to these archives, there are other sources such as insolvency records to be found in The Gentleman's Magazine and The London Gazette.

**Phillimore's Atlas & Index** of PRs England & Wales pre-1832. Identify neighbouring parishes to widen the search and assess migration.

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022

We intend to develop themes covering wider social history topics, the first of which *may* be about the **Knutsford Workhouse**. It is a suggestion. Members, please put forward future subject matter, it doesn't have to be local, we have very diverse backgrounds. Better still, as we are a self-help organisation, prepare a presentation, a ten to fifteen minute talk will be sufficient, unless you have more to offer. Contact details at the foot of the page.

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022

**The Three Brown Brothers – Allan Jones** will have the chance to deliver this talk, deferred from March 2020 for obvious reasons. Allan writes "Three Victorian entrepreneurs, to whom I am distantly related through marriage to George Edward Brown. He and two of his brothers became very wealthy through running three completely different businesses. Look out for the dancing bear, and the hydroelectric plant!"

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022

**The 1939 Register and Evacuation** – a presentation by **Tricia Pepper**. Tricia has found this register to be useful in her research and will provide us with a brief guide. Also, in 1939 many young children were evacuated from large cities. **Margaret Gott** was one of them. She will share with us her memories of this extraordinary time.

*Roger Brown*

25<sup>th</sup> November 2021

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