

DU Learning Guide

Finding Friends

"It's great to talk about old times."

What's it all about?

The Internet has become a very useful tool for finding old friends – and new ones too. Lots of websites have been set up to help you contact people you knew at school, or college, or in the Armed Forces, or at work – even in prison!

There are also sites where you can find new friends; many of them are online versions of marriage bureaux, but others simply enable you to get in touch with people who share your interests or hobbies.

Try this

The best known website for finding old friends is Friends Reunited, www.friendsreunited.co.uk which claims to have 19 million members. Like all such sites, you have to register to use it. To find out more:

- Type www.friendsreunited.co.uk into your browser's address bar
- Press **Enter** to display the Friends Reunited home page
- Scroll down to read more about Friends Reunited
- Note their statements on privacy; their business depends on their reputation so you should be able to trust their assurances
- If you think you would like to explore further, you will need to click the **Register Here free** button and follow the instructions to register.

Important note: It is essential to be very careful when contacting people that you have found through a website. This applies particularly to people that you have not met before, but someone you knew many years ago may also be very different.

Look at the advice about "Safe online dating" on www.getsafeonline.org.

More websites to explore

look4them

www.look4them.org.uk

Links to organisations that trace missing persons.

Match.com

uk.match.com/help/aboutus.aspx

A major dating site.

Service Pals

www.servicepals.com

To find old comrades from the Armed Forces.