



# Kenilworth Family History Society



Midland Ancestors Kenilworth Branch

NEWSLETTER

## Last Meeting:

At our February meeting **Dr Mike Haynes** gave a fantastic 'Horrible Histories talk for grown-ups'. As family historians we are all aware that there are gaps in our knowledge of our ancestors' lives and Dr Haynes' talk brought together anecdotal descriptions of the 'smallest room' (or as Samuel Pepys described it the 'House of Office') and the serious repercussions of poor sewerage, causes of disease and how to identify epidemics, etc.

We learned so much: about the Bristol Stool Chart; the tonnage of sewerage produced per day (e.g. one horse = 40lb faeces + 2 gallons of urine or an elephant = 150lb); the safety of bottled water -v- tap water (tap water is tested every day, whilst bottled water is not required to be tested in the same way); and a timely reminder of the importance of hand-washing, which we have all heard so much about since with coverage of Coronavirus.

It was an entertaining and fascinating talk about a subject that we can all relate to and that is not often talked about.

## Tonight:

We are going to look at the next stage in our 'Sharing Our Stories' series of workshops, with Jacqui Kirk facilitating again. At our last session in December we discussed timelines and identifying gaps in our knowledge. This time members have been invited to bring either completed, in-progress pieces OR timelines plus documents.

## Next Meeting:

8 Apr: ~~My Churchley Family: From 1300-2019: A typical West Midlands Family~~ by ~~Richard Churchley~~ 

## Local Groups & Societies

- **Warwickshire Industrial Archaeology Society** [www.warwickshireias.org](http://www.warwickshireias.org)  
Meetings 7:30pm at The Halse Pavilion, Warwick School, CV34 6PP  
12 Mar: Ian Whittle: 'The Life and Work of Sir Frank Whittle'
- **Warwickshire Local History Society** [warwickshirehistory.org.uk](http://warwickshirehistory.org.uk)  
Meetings 7:30pm at Aylesford School, Tapping Way, Warwick, CV34 6XR  
17 Mar: AGM (7:15pm) followed by Professor Christopher Dyer, University of Leicester: 'Immigrants in Warwickshire: a mobile population 1200 – 1525'
- **Kenilworth History & Archaeology Society** [www.khas.co.uk](http://www.khas.co.uk)  
Meetings 7:45pm at Kenilworth Senior Citizens' Club, CV8 1QJ  
6 Apr: Nigel Page: 'Excavations Near the Lunt Fort'

## Facebook



79  
Likes



85  
Followers

## Midland Ancestors

[midland-ancestors.uk](http://midland-ancestors.uk)

### Society of Genealogists Offer

The SoG has very kindly offered members of Midland Ancestors discounts on talks and events, memberships and training courses. See the Midland Ancestors' Members pages for more information; when you get there, click on Members News in the sidebar menu.

### Web Tips

Australian Records: The Ryerson Index

[www.ryersonindex.org](http://www.ryersonindex.org)

In February we gave a list of official websites for Australian BMDs in the different states. We were given a tip, off the back of that article. As you will have noticed, the available BMDs are restricted to 100 years for births, 50 years for marriages and 30 years for deaths.

An alternative is The Ryerson Index, which is a free index to death notices appearing in Australian newspapers. The date range covered extends from the Sydney Gazette of 1803 up to newspapers published within the last week or so. The Index also includes many funeral notices, and some probate notices and obituaries.

### Research

Podcast: How to Argue with a Racist

[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

Committee Member, Lesley Plant has recommended a series of BBC podcasts by Adam Rutherford, a geneticist and broadcaster, because of its use of DNA evidence.

'How to Argue with a Racist' is a scientific toolkit to separate fact from myth in understanding how we are different and how we are the same and is available online at [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000f5g4/episodes/player](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000f5g4/episodes/player). One fact in episode 2 is that going back 500 years, we all have 1,048,576 18x great-grandparents (assuming a 25-year generational gap) and by 1,000 years back the generation exceeds the number of people that have ever existed, "*meaning we can be and indeed are descended from the same people many, many times over*". Adam Rutherford uses facts like this to argue against racism because "*no nation is static, no people are 'pure'*" in five short (circa 14 min) episodes.

Unfortunately the first episode only has 2 days left to listen as I write (on Monday, 9 March), so you will have to go straight home to listen tonight! However, I have been looking for more information and find that Adam Rutherford has published *How to Argue with a Racist: History, Science, Race and Reality* (2020) ISBN 9781474611244, as well as several other books on genetics.

### Events

Family Tree Live at Alexandra Palace, London, on Friday, 17 April - 18 April 2020

This events offers hands-on workshops, one-to-one advice, inspiring lectures and lots more.

Adults £13 per day, Children free—Tickets: [www.familytr.ee/live20](http://www.familytr.ee/live20)



@KenilworthFamilyHistorySociety



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