



Kenilworth Family History Society

Midland Ancestors Kenilworth Branch

NEWSLETTER

WEDNESDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 2021

As lockdown restrictions ease, the Committee will continue to monitor advice on when we will be able to meet again, but in the meantime we are enjoying meeting via Zoom.

LAST MEETING

In July we had our Summer Social via Zoom - everyone providing their own strawberries or snacks and drinks... much to Chris's relief, as this was his second year without having to hull strawberries for everyone!

Firstly there was a short discussion about the future of meetings, which gave the Committee food for thought.

Next were the members' contributions:

- Lynn Hockton talked about her talented artist grandfather and showed some of his work that hangs on her walls. Unfortunately, his illustration of two urchin children was entered for a competition, which he did not win, only to suspiciously reappear as the *Bisto* Kids with no acknowledgement or remuneration. Lynn also showed us a sculpture of a frog by her daughter, so the artistic gene continues.
- Norman Madden spoke about his German street musician ancestors, the Shimpfs and Demaskys, who appear on records variously as organists and musicians. One question that was raised was, "What is a French Piano?" Fred Shimpf appears on a School Admissions Register which shows he, "*Lives with grandmother who plays French piano in streets*" - is it an accordion?
- Lesley Eldridge gave an illustrated talk about her great-grand uncle, John Miller Nicholson, who was a highly regarded artist on the Isle of Man. Despite the efforts of John Ruskin to promote him on the mainland, he is not widely known of. Nick looked him up on the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, which reads, "*But for his aversion to public acclaim, and his non-commercial attitude, Nicholson would have ranked with the best of the Victorian painters.*"
- Chris Sykes showed a photograph in his family collection of his maternal Grandmother in pantomime costume and told of the investigations he has undertaken to find out more.
- Lesley Plant took us into her Ancestry tree to show her explorations that led her to a blind fiddler in her family and her mission-creep that led her to a convoluted story of inheritance

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Tonight we welcome back John Frearson, who has spoken to our group a number of times, this time to talk to us about **Maundy Rodgers: A Doctor Abroad**. Maundy was an Assistant Surgeon 4th Class from India, and with his hospital served in France in the seaside town of Wimereux in WWI from 1914 and later went Mesopotamia. He was mentioned in Dispatches. The talk gives a family and military history – and something of a wider view of WWI Hospitals, with additional illustrations from some of the 150 postcards that he sent home.

NEXT MEETING

Unfortunately, our scheduled speaker for October would prefer to give her talk live. This is our much-awaited Heir-Hunters talk which has already been postponed a couple of times. Lesley will reschedule this speaker for next Spring/Summer during the live talks and will be asking tonight for suggestions for a speaker next month... all suggestions gratefully received!

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BRANCH NEWS: CHANGE OF BANK

A bit of news to keep our Kenilworth members updated; our bank, ██████ announced in August that it would be stopping community accounts like ours. Chris investigated this further and found that charges are to be introduced to Charity Accounts, including a £5/month fee, 0.4% charges on cash deposited or withdrawn over the counter, £0.40 per cheque in or out, a 1.5% charge on cash supplied over the counter, plus other charges. The upshot was an estimated increase of £118/yr expenditure (based on 2018 accounts being an 'ordinary' year).

The Committee met on Monday to consider the Treasurer's recommendations and decided to switch to the ██████ Bank.

TALKS

- **Warwickshire Industrial Archaeology Society** www.warwickshireias.org
Thu 16 Sep AGM followed by a talk by Martin Green reflecting the diversity of Warwickshire's industrial heritage, "Chains, Caravans and Corsets". Online via ZOOM.
- **Leamington History Group** <https://leamingtonhistory.co.uk>
From 16 Aug **Life after Victoria**
The Leamington History Group presents a new film about the history of Leamington. *Life After Victoria* tells the story of the town in the early 20th century – its contribution to the First World War and the Votes for Women movement, the transformation in living conditions and workers' rights, and the birth of some of Leamington's most treasured cultural institutions. We also bring the long-lost Leamington and Warwick Tramway back to life! Available to view at: <https://youtu.be/tjOeOEyoR7U>
This is the third film by Leamington History Group, all of which can be viewed on the [Leamington History Group YouTube Channel](#)

TELEVISION

Tuesdays 9:00pm on BBC2: **A House Through Time**

A new series of *A House Through Time* started last night. The series sees historian David Olusoga once again traces the history of a house from its earliest occupants to the present day, this time at 5 Grosvenor Mount in Headingley, a suburb of Leeds.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS, 10-19 SEPTEMBER

WWW.HERITAGEOPENDAYS.ORG.UK

Some of the in-person HOD events in and around Kenilworth this year include:

KENILWORTH ALLOTMENTS

Manor Road, Kenilworth

An opportunity to visit Odibourne, one of the 3 allotment sites managed by the Kenilworth Allotment Tenants' Association.

LEAMINGTON SOCIETY HISTORY WALKS

Discover the history of the buildings and characters in Leamington Spa, take a tour of the multi-award-winning Jephson Gardens, or discover the associations of famous writers with Leamington Spa.

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION TOUR

Stratford-Upon-Avon Cemetery, 32 Evesham Road, Stratford-upon-Avon

Come along to find out more about the history and work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission whilst exploring the graves we care for in Stratford Upon Avon Cemetery.

There are also virtual events including: **BEHIND THE SCAFFOLDING AT LADBROKE CHURCH**. For more, check out the website.

FESTIVALS, SHOWS & EXHIBITIONS

- 11 & 18 September
Knowle Time Machine Festival
Celebrate Knowle's heritage with a series of events including history talks and a 'Start your family tree' workshop, as well as arts and crafts. Register online with [Eventbrite](#)
- 12-13 November 2021 (£)
FHF REALLY USEFUL Family History Show
go to: www.fhf-reallyuseful.com
- 3-5 March 2022 (FREE)
RootsTech Connect 2022
go to: www.rootstech.org