



MIDLAND ANCESTORS AT LARGE

Midland Ancestors Volunteers have been released into the community this summer!



As part of the Jewellery Quarter Festival 2023 Midland Ancestors volunteers mustered at Warstone Lane Cemetery on Saturday 22 July to talk to visitors about family history. Unfortunately the weather had other ideas.

Volunteers pictured below - left to right: Phil Lamb, Linda Beilby, Kim Walker, Gareth Pemberton and of course, Bernard McLean, who has allowed us to use his photo.

Local history is as much about people and families as it is about buildings and streets.

September is **Heritage Month**. Not only are Midland Ancestors volunteers getting out and about but there are also lots of opportunities for everyone to participate in fun activities indoors and out.



"It was very wet yesterday, we were all glad to get home" said Phil Lamb.

"We had almost no customers. We're hoping to be in the Cemetery again in September, and hopefully the weather will be better.

It certainly can't be worse."

However **"we entertained a couple from Oregon USA who also came into our Family History Centre the following Monday. They spent several hours there with positive results."**

Let's hope Phil wasn't tempting Fate with his comments about the weather!

Newsletter Editor Jacqui Kirk – email newsletter@mid-anc.uk

Other volunteers felt more positively about the day. Bernard McLean explains,

"there was continuous rain of varying degrees of severity. It was also windy. The gazebo was prevented from blowing away by several water containers totalling 30kg. The advertising banner was kept on the ground by six bricks..... Despite the difficult conditions, we were visited by quite a few hardy souls. We were able to offer them much advice on a variety of aspects of family history research....."

All in all, it was a successful day, but we are looking forward to some good summer weather next year."

HERITAGE WEEK

Friday 8 to Sunday 17 September



**Birmingham
Heritage
Week**

"Heritage Week is about discovering the city's cultural and industrial heritage, learning new skills in a workshop or getting active with a walking tour."

"This year's Heritage Week visitors will be spoilt for choice with locations in the city centre and across the suburbs."

Says Irene De Boo, Birmingham Heritage Week Co-ordinator

<https://birminghamheritageweek.co.uk/>

FAMILY HISTORY SURGERIES

Midland Ancestors are holding two Family History Surgeries on **16 September** as part of Heritage Week. One is again in Warstone Lane Cemetery and the other is at the British Midland Institute on Margaret Street.

Why not pop along to see them and chat and show your support for what they do? You might just find the answer to one of your problem areas by unwrapping their knowledge and creative thinking?

Let's hope for good weather for the Warstone Lane Cemetery volunteers – they deserve it!

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS



www.heritageopendays.org.uk

Check out the **Heritage Open Days** website for more information – not all the events listed are in person, some are online.

My eye was caught by an evening talk at the Birmingham Back to Backs with Findmypast, on **13 September** at 6pm, by the mention of the 1921 census.

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/birmingham-back-to-backs-research-event-in-collaboration-with-find-my-past>

*"Spend an evening learning about the lives of the people who lived and worked in the Back to Backs. Using new research undertaken by Find My Past, we will share stories of the residents of these houses from the **1921 census**. The event will include a talk from the staff involved in the project, alongside a short talk from one of our own volunteers who has uncovered a fascinating story hiding in their own family tree."*

WARWICK WORDS HISTORY FESTIVAL

2-8 October 2023

Tickets are selling quickly to the Warwick Words History Festival events so you will need to book soon. The programme is available at:
<https://warwickwords.co.uk/index.php/events/2023?s=03>

The wide-ranging programme of History Festival events is a rich mix of talks, walks and tours, featuring many of their favourite guests, with some speakers joining for the first time.

The popular **Tea Time Talks**, in association with the University of Warwick, will return in October and November.

"Come on a journey through 2,000 years of history, from the Romans to the Windsors: visit early medieval Britain, Warwick in the 11th century, Tudor England and war-torn Europe in the 20th century."

Please note that the main venue this year is again Castle Hill Baptist Church in Warwick.

PEPLOW MEMORIAL LECTURE

WILLIAM AUGUSTUS PEPLOW

Known as "Gus" William Peplow was a successful businessman from the Black Country descended from a long line of clockmakers. He had a keen interest in Heraldry, which he helped develop in the Society. He became President of the Worcester Archaeological Society and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. After his death in 1983 this annual lecture focused on Heraldry was set up in his memory.

Saturday 2 September at 2pm British Midland Institute Margaret St Birmingham

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH HERALDRY

Speaker: Adrian P S de Redman

Don't know your *Or* from your *Argent* or why a *Bend* is straight, and what is the difference between *passant* and *statant* ?

The Midland Ancestors Heraldry expert Adrian de Redman will tell all in this beginners' guide to armoury in England.

Adrian is the City of Birmingham Honorary Armorer, the Society's Vice Chair (Heraldry) and well qualified in his subject.

FAMILY HISTORY WORKSHOP On Zoom **To pre-register see:**

<https://midland-ancestors.uk/event/on-line-members-self-help-workshop-8/>

Wednesday 20 September at 7pm

Coordinator: Phil Lamb

Last time's discussion was mainly about the new General Register Office Online Images service. This month who knows? It depends on what the attendees want to talk about. Take your pick!



eventbrite listings

Midland Ancestors is on **Eventbrite** - Follow us!

This is a new publicity avenue for Midland Ancestors events.



Family History Surgery & Help Desk in
Warstone Lane Cemy, Vyse St.
entrance

Sat, Sep 16, 10:00 AM

Both these previously mentioned events are
FREE



THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES COACH TRIP



The National Archives (courtesy of Linda Newey)

Saturday 9 September starting at 7am

Getting to The National Archives at Kew can be a real pain for Midlands-based researchers. Either a two plus hours drive or a two plus hours trip by rail and Tube there is no easy way to get there.

So maybe a coach trip is the answer? Booking details at:

<https://midland-ancestors.uk/event/outing-to-the-national-archives-3/>

For those with partners or friends who want to come along but don't want to visit Kew Gardens (again) there are plenty of stately homes and gardens in the area and this trip takes place during the London **Open House Festival**.



<https://open-city.org.uk/open-house-festival-2023>

Why not give Syon House and Park near Isleworth, Chiswick House and Hogarth's House in Chiswick, or Marble Hill House in Richmond a visit instead? All are a short Tube and bus ride away. Sadly Strawberry Hill House via the R68

bus from Kew Retail Park is not open on Saturdays.

Or maybe *Time and Tide Willing* take a **Thames Riverboat** trip into Westminster or Hampton Court from Kew Bridge and return by land?

Or just pop into Town to eat and shop - West End or High Street Kensington - or just antique shopping in Chiswick?

STOURBRIDGE GROUP FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH EVENING

Tuesday 19 September at 7.30pm - Stourbridge and District Group St Peter's Church Centre, Pedmore DY9 0SW

WOLVERHAMPTON GROUP EVENT

THE DIGGUM UPPERS - GRAVE ROBBING IN THE BLACK COUNTRY

Wed 27 September at 7.30pm

Wolverhampton & District Group Perton Civic Centre Church Road Wolverhampton WV6 7PD

Speaker: Kevin Goodman

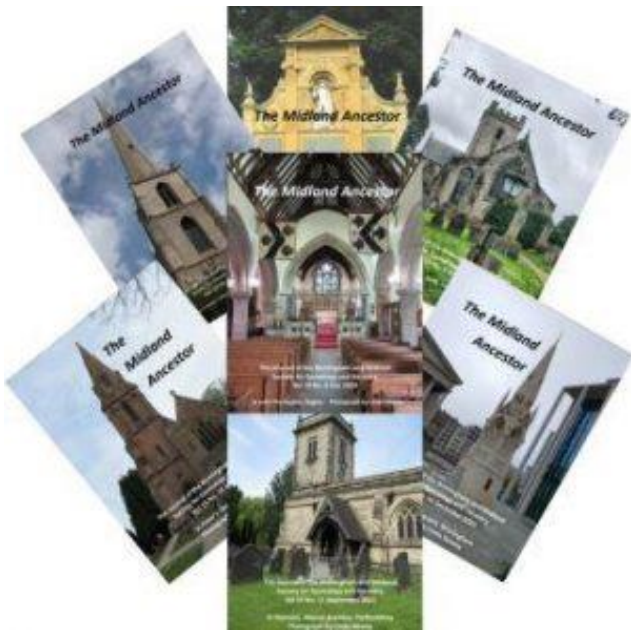
We may be aware of Burke and Hare, the body snatchers of the early 1800s in Edinburgh, but did you know that grave robbing and body snatching went on in many places around the UK, even in the Black Country?

Why did it happen?

What steps did our ancestors take to prevent their family members becoming a victim of this horrendous crime?

Kevin Goodman will talk about the facts behind the myths, explain the reasons for these crimes, and share examples of occurrences around the Black Country and its surrounds. As an interpreter of medical history he has appeared on television, and written many books on the history of medicine and dentistry.

THE MIDLAND ANCESTOR



The September edition of *The Midland Ancestor* is due this month and I, for one, am looking forward to seeing what its Editor, Linda Newey has in store for us. So I asked her.

She says,

“The colourful September edition of TMA continues with Dr Bernard Juby’s description of the heraldry available at All Saints Church, Claverley, Shropshire.

Other topics in this edition include love affairs, insanity, surname spelling, illegitimacy and even looking for a prostitute! If you have thought about using DNA, then you will be inspired by David Kerr’s piece ‘Filling in the Blank Spaces’ describing how DNA solved a 130-year-old mystery.

This edition also shares heartfelt thanks from members from far and wide, who have received invaluable advice from society members and the Midland Ancestors Family History Centre.”

Linda Newey Journal Editor
editor@midanc.ukmail

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE GROUP EVENT



Image Wellcome Images -
<https://wellcomecollection.org/search/works>

STAFFORD INFIRMARY AND ITS STAFF FROM ITS OPENING IN 1766 TO 1920

Tuesday 4 September at 7.30pm - North Staffordshire Group – St John’s Centre, Newcastle Road, Stoke on Trent ST4 6QD



Speaker: Prof Alannah Tomkins

Alannah Tomkins is **Professor of Early Modern History** at Keele University. She is currently researching aspects of the English social history of medicine, including the experiences of doctors who struggled to secure or maintain a professional identity c.1780-1880 as well as studying working-class autobiographies with particular reference to workhouse life.

In this talk she will cover the stereotype of the pre-Nightingale nurse, and the genealogical research problems with tracking down nurses in general in the years before the census. Moving on she will talk about Stafford Infirmary as a place where nurses worked and their experiences in that hospital, comparing them with nurses’ experiences in other hospitals such as St Bartholomew’s in London.

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS EVENTS

See www.sog.org.uk/events for the full list but here is this month's random pick of its online events – the normally members-only **Bookclub** meets online each month to discuss fiction with a genealogical theme.

Bookclub – Meet the Author – Alan Titchmarsh

Monday 25 September at 6pm

“For one session only we are throwing open the doors of our members only book club!”

The Haunting: A story of love, betrayal and intrigue from bestselling novelist and national treasure Alan Titchmarsh.

Family Photography: Past, Present and Future

Thursday 21 September at 2pm

Speaker: Stephen Gill

“The talk follows a timeline of photographic history and how it can relate to your own research. We look at examples where looking at details can help put a photo into a time, place or context.”



“ALL ABOUT THAT PLACE”

**The One-Place Study Challenge Event
22 September to 1 October 2023**

Just as Heritage Week ends the “All About That Place” Challenge begins. Last month we had a preview - now for the details:

“Delivered over the course of two weeks via recorded talks broadcast over social media, you’ll be able to watch talks as they are released or at times that work for you.

Inside a pop-up Facebook Group and on our YouTube channel, you’ll be able to enjoy a plethora of **free** online bite-sized recorded talks from a wide range of speakers (all of whom have kindly donated their time to celebrate One Place Studies). With event sponsors including eminent organisations like The Genealogist, Name and Place, University of Strathclyde, Pharos Tutors, and The Historic Towns Trust, you can be sure to enjoy a truly engaging educational opportunity like no other.

This one-of-a-kind event isn’t just about idly watching though! It’s specially designed to help you to take part and start diving into local history. Alongside the wide collection of talks on research tools, analytical techniques, and place history, you’ll be provided with motivating challenge instructions created to help you to begin exploring place history. You’ll be able to download a free challenge workbook to record your learning activity and complete challenge tasks.

Plus, to celebrate your amazing progress you’ll be offered the opportunity to enter a prize draw consisting of a wide range of history goodies (such as 1-year membership to the SoG, the Curious Descendants Club, BALH, Name and Place, a discount on The Genealogist’s Diamond subscription, and more)!”

Keep in Touch

To keep up to date on the challenge event join the Facebook Group or <https://www.subscribepage.com/allaboutthatplace>

Excited about the event? Share the joy on social media using #AllAboutThatPlace and #OnePlace.



MIDLAND ANCESTORS COURSES

INTRODUCTION TO FAMILY HISTORY

Penny Smith is an experienced family historian who began researching her own family history over forty years ago after learning from her father that a family member went to prison “for a long time”! She set out to find the reason for this, discovering more criminals and a few heroes along the way, and that has developed into a passion for family history.

As a member of Midland Ancestors Penny started to run “Introduction to Family History” courses in 2017 and these courses have proved to be very popular around the Wolverhampton and South Staffordshire area, often with waiting lists to join. Penny also runs the Midland Ancestors Wolverhampton Group.

AT CODSALL LIBRARY, STAFFS

Starting Monday 18 September 2023

(Monday mornings from 10.30am)

Book direct with the library

Tel 01902 506060

FREE

AT PERTON LIBRARY, STAFFS

Starting Tuesday 7 November 2023

(Tuesday afternoons from 2.15pm)

Book direct with the library

Tel 01902 506050

FREE

KENILWORTH GROUP EVENT

UNBOXING THE FAMILY ARCHIVE – An Interactive Workshop

Wed 13th September at 7.30pm - Kenilworth & District Group – The Kenilworth Centre CV8 1QJ

Facilitator: Dr Imogen Peck, FRHistS, FHEA

Bring along/be willing to discuss material from your own family collections, what your family has chosen to keep, how and why.

On the University of Birmingham website Dr Peck says about herself:

“I am a historian of memory and communities, with research expertise in local and family history, the social history of archives, and the mental afterlife of conflict.

I am especially interested in the ways memory and the representation of the past shapes individual and collective identities, with a particular emphasis on the experiences of non-elite men and women.”

She is Assistant Professor in British History at the University of Birmingham. Her listed area of expertise is in the British Civil Wars, memory and commemoration (especially of war and conflict) the history of the Midlands and family and local history.

*“History is like a patchwork of different perspectives, techniques, and resources. Local history helps us to weave together the past and present, families and communities, big and small histories. It helps us to understand places in the present and connects us to the past”
– Joe Saunders, BALH.*



The British Association for Local History's first Local History Photographer of the Year competition was held last year and was a great success.

This year's theme is **"Up My Street"** and is about street images in your area with a context of local history. These could include a street view, a building, some street furniture or a little detail on a wall or the pavement. There are two categories for entries - Under 18 and Adult and there is a £150 cash prize.

You do not need to be a BALH member to take part – the competition is open to all.

For more details see <https://www.balh.org.uk/resources-local-history-photographer-of-the-year>

Closing date for entries is Midnight on Monday 11 September 2023

CONTACT the E-Newsletter EDITOR

An E-Newsletter is only as good as the news it contains.

Email me, Jacqui Kirk, at: **newsletter@mid-anc.uk**

if you have any news or articles or photographs (particularly photographs) to brighten up the pages!

NEWS DEADLINE 19th Of the month

STOP PRESS: Dr Turi King is coming to the Royal Spa Centre in Leamington on 30 October

https://www.whatsonstage.com/shows/leamington-spa-theatre/turi-kingfamily-history-with-dna-detective-professor-turi-king_1951813195/

Dr King is "Professor of Public Engagement and Genetics at the University of Leicester.

Join Professor Turi King, co-presenter of the BBC Two series **'DNA Family Secrets'**, as she uncovers how DNA has revolutionised genealogy and forensics, helping us trace long lost family members, catch criminals and make remarkable historical discoveries."