



THE CROOKED HOUSE REMEMBERED

“The *Crooked House* was the best, and virtually the last, example of a building seriously affected by coal-mining subsidence in the Black Country. Other examples include: the *Tilted Barrel* public house in Tipton, and *Jurushah Tilted Cottage*, at the Black Country Living Museum. Therefore, this building was architecturally significant and provided tangible evidence of the region’s proud industrial past....

The **Black Country Society** has established a project to capture the lasting legacy of this beloved landmark, provisionally entitled *The Crooked House Remembered*. This will include drawing together a wide range of written and visual material and also an oral history project that will enable memories and reminiscences of the building and all that took place there to be recorded and preserved. Further details will appear on the society’s website and social media in the near future.”

Quintin Watt, Secretary: **The Black Country Society**

www.blackcountrysociety.com

Staffordshire History Festival is very much to the fore this month.

Midland Ancestors volunteers are again out and about and I have included an appeal for volunteers to help give family history advice in a Supplementary Page at the end of this newsletter.

There have also been some last minute changes to previously published events so do check the **STOP PRESS**.



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

MIDLAND ANCESTORS VOLUNTEERS

Are at Perton Library and at the
Wolverhampton History Fair



PERTON LIBRARY – HISTORY AND HERITAGE FAIR

FREE

Perton Library is celebrating the Staffordshire History Festival with a fantastic family friendly open day on

Saturday 7th October from 10am until 3pm

As well as looking at what Staffordshire Libraries have to offer for those interested in local and family history there are lots of other exhibitors and plenty of drop-in craft activities and fun for families and children.

Meet the Vikings and explore their ship, Skidbladnir, try out some Escape Room activities – Explore Romans and the Second World War, meet historian Angus Dunphy, author of The Royal Dutch Forces at Wrottesley Park 1941-44, get arty and crafty with Arts and Crafts for Children with local artist Hannah Reynolds, and see the Shakespeare Man!

There will be displays and representatives from many History and Heritage groups but do come along to say hello to our hardworking Midland Ancestors volunteers who will be there giving family history help and advice.

Contact Perton Library on 01902 506050 for more details. Check out the Facebook page

<https://fb.me/e/2ntvYEARo>

WOLVERHAMPTON HISTORY FAIR

21 October 2023

Those hardworking volunteers will also be in action at Wolverhampton on 21 October.

As this newsletter went to press the other attendees include:

Friends of Wolverhampton Archives,
Birmingham Museums Trust
Western Front Association
Wednesfield History Society
Mines Rescue
Black Country Living Museum
West Midlands Police Museum
Moseley Old Hall

MIDLAND ANCESTORS FAMILY HISTORY WORKSHOP On Zoom To pre-register see:

<https://midland-ancestors.uk/event/on-line-members-self-help-workshop-4/>

Wednesday 18 October at 7pm

Coordinator: Phil Lamb

At the last workshop we talked about burial records and cemeteries and how to find them. This month by request one of the subjects is DNA and the many issues that arise from testing.

SHOW AND TELL – WW2 INCIDENT REPORTS

Wednesday 11 October 2023 1pm to 1.30pm

Venue: Warwickshire County Record Office
Priory Park, Cape Road, Warwick CV34 4JS

WCRO Volunteers John Willock and Peter Coulls have been working on the 'Incident Reports' (document series reference CR1499) for some time. The information contained within them provides an insight as to the development of WWII at a local level.

The details they contain relied upon a network of Control Rooms to which Police, Air Raid Wardens and others reported. The accuracy of their reports in some instances have expanded the knowledge of the researchers in certain aspects of WWII and the jargon they used.

<https://heritage.warwickshire.gov.uk/events/event/88/show-and-tell-incident-reports>

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 -

RESEARCHING BRITISH INDIA FAMILY HISTORY FOR FREE USING ONLINE SOURCES

Saturday 14 October at 10.30am

Speaker: Valmay Young of the *Families in British India Society*

Some three million Britons lived and served in India over the three and a half centuries of Britain's presence there. Discover the key resources freely available online for researching your family history in British India as she uses real case studies to demonstrate these online resources, and just how much you can actually find out – all without spending a penny!

GETTING THE MOST FROM DNA

Thursday 26 October at 1pm

Speaker: Jonny Perl

DNA Painter is a website that aims to help people investigate and document their DNA matches. In this talk, site founder Jonny Perl, will talk through some different ways the site can help you, including:

- Visualizing and sharing your family line
- Tracking your matches in a chromosome map
- An overview of various other tools, including What are the Odds? (WATO)

Suggested previous experience/knowledge -

This talk is aimed at those who are working with their DNA match lists with the goal of identifying connections as well as discovering new relatives and validating existing research. They will probably already have transferred their DNA to multiple databases in order to access additional matches and tools (or if not, be planning to).

MIDLAND ANCESTORS NORTH STAFFS GROUP

Monday 2 October 2023 at 7.30pm

Venue St John's Centre, Newcastle Road, Trent Vale, Stoke on Trent ST4 6QD

RESEARCH EVENING

<http://www.northstaffsfamilyhistory.co.uk>

FROM THE JOURNAL

Linda Newey Journal Editor
editor@midanc.ukmail

In this quarter's Members' Journal **The Midland Ancestor** is a fascinating article about how DNA can help the search for illegitimate ancestors. In "**Filling in the Blank Spaces – How DNA Solved a 130 year old Mystery**" David Kerr tells of his wife's grandmother who was illegitimate and the second of

two girls with the middle name of Pye (which was possibly a clue to their father?).

One of the DNA matches had a grandmother with a surname of Pye and this started off his research - leading to a timber merchant in Suffolk as the possible father who probably had *three* different



families running in parallel with each other!

The story is a fascinating one and he has been fortunate to find a wealth of information in his research. He pays

particular tribute to the wills the family made - where wills exist they are often a very valuable source of information about relationships.

FULBOURN HOSPITAL CAMBRIDGE



What caught my eye however was a mention of the admission of one of the family members to **Fulbourn Hospital** in Cambridge as I worked there for a few years in the 1980s. (My office was on the left in the main part of the frontage - on the first floor half hidden by the conifer.)

This has re-ignited my interest in the hospital and who knows I may research the hospital in due course? I well remember the patient records found in the tower with the pigeons and the medical equipment for surgery in the basement. The records are now in the Cambridgeshire Archives in Ely so I will have to pay them a visit.

MIDLAND ANCESTORS LONDON GROUP

Saturday 7 October at 10.15am

Venue: Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission, 49 City Road, London, EC1Y 1AU

<https://midland-ancestors.uk/event/london-gypsy-ancestors-in-the-midlands/>

GYPSEY ANCESTORS IN THE MIDLANDS

Speaker: Beverley Walker, Chair and Secretary of the Romany and Traveller Family History Society <http://rtfhs.org.uk/>

This looks at people with Gypsy, Roma, Traveller and fairground roots. Beverley will draw examples from the lives of British Gypsy women. She will extend her talk to look at Midlands Gypsies so no doubt we will hear about the Black Patch in Handsworth. So was Charlie Chaplin born here? Will we discover more? If you have a Gypsy ancestor Beverley will be able to help you along the way with your research. And if you don't have a Gypsy ancestor Beverly will provide a fascinating talk on a topic that is totally new to the group.

MIDLAND ANCESTORS WOLVERHAMPTON GROUP

Wednesday 25 October 2023 at 7.30pm

Venue: The Terry Harding Room, Perton Civic Centre, Church Road, Perton, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire WV6 7PD

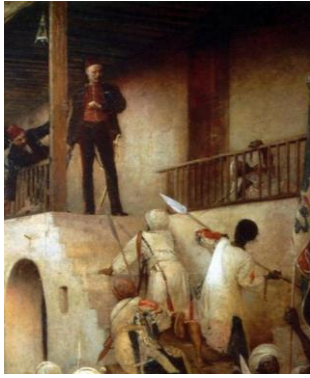
<https://midland-ancestors.uk/event/wolverhampton-clive-of-india/>

GORDON OF KHARTOUM

(This is a change to that previously advertised in the events programme - as you can see from the page url)

Speaker: Max Keen (in costume)

<https://www.keenhistorytalks.com/>



A detail from General Gordon's Last Stand by George William Joy (1844-1925)

Charles George Gordon – AKA Chinese Gordon, Gordon Pasha, Gordon of Khartoum – a Victorian hero prised from the true Victorian mould.

Why was it that a Royal Engineer General, who decided to take over a town in the middle of a desert, became a national hero and brought down a government?

“Max is the History teacher we all wished we’d had and as usual he had the audience eating out of his hand from the very first minute of his talk.”

said Lickey Hills Rotary Club president Jonathan Wilding in the Birmingham Standard on 17 December 2021.

OOPS SENIOR MOMENT!



Many thanks to eagle-eyed readers for noticing that I called the BMI the British Midland Institute in the last newsletter. I can’t even tell myself it was a typo – it was very definitely a

SENIOR MOMENT. Maybe I had the British Museum thefts on the brain?

Wrist duly smacked.

It is of course the **Birmingham and Midland Institute** <https://www.bmi.org.uk/> and Midland Ancestors is one of its affiliates.

MIDLAND ANCESTORS STOURBRIDGE GROUP

Tuesday 17 October 2023 at 7.30pm

Venue: St. Peter's Church Hall
Pedmore, West Midlands DY9 0SW

HOW WE LIVED THEN – LIFE IN A 17TH CENTURY FARMHOUSE

Speaker: Mary Bodfish

<https://midland-ancestors.uk/event/stourbridge-how-we-lived-then-life-in-a-17th-century-farmhouse/>

WARWICK WORDS HISTORY FESTIVAL

2-8 October 2023

WARWICK WORDS TEA- TIME TALK (in association with the University of Warwick)



Aquatint print of the Royal Pump Rooms in Leamington Spa - published by S. and J. Fuller on 1 August 1816

MIDDLE ENGLAND'S EMPIRE: The Colonial Links of Leamington Spa

Saturday 21 October at 4pm

Venue: Friends Meeting House, Warwick

It is tempting to locate British Imperialism in the territories under British rule and those cities such as London, Liverpool and Bristol, that sat at the centre of imperial trade routes. In so doing, provincial parts of the country tend to slip off the map, as if they were untouched by imperial history.

This talk by **Dr Ben Richardson** of Warwick University uncovers Middle England's empire. Taking Leamington Spa as a case study, he explores how people involved in transatlantic slavery, the East India Company and settler colonialism came to the town and shaped its development.

What have been the legacies of this history and how should we respond to them today?

FOLLOW MIDLAND ANCESTORS!

EVENTBRITE

Midland Ancestors is on **Eventbrite**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/midland-ancestors-31444754197>

X – THE SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNEL FORMERLY KNOWN AS TWITTER

Midlands Ancestors is still on **Twitter** as @BMGSH

FACEBOOK

Look for us on **Facebook** - Midland Ancestors has both a Facebook Page and a Facebook Group

VIKING DNA

As a result of my piece about the Viking Index on Living DNA a couple of issues ago I received an email:

DYS472	
DYS641	
DYS537	
DYS590	
DYS578	
DYS531	
DYS438	10
DYS442	12
CDY	37-37
DYS570	20
DYS576	18
DYS607	14
DYS456	14
YCAII	19-21
Y-GATA-H4	10
DYS460	10
DYS464	12-14+15-16
DYS449	29
DYS448	20
DYS437	16
DYS447	22
DYS454	11
DYS455	8
DYS459	8-9
DYS458	15
DYS389II	27
DYS392	11
DYS389I	12
DYS439	13
DYS388	14
DYS426	11
DYS385	14+15
DYS391	10
DYS19	15
DYS390	23
DYS393	13

This is Dr Bernard Juby's DNA haplotype Viking section which confirms that his ancestor was part of the Viking settlement in Normandy before coming over to settle in England after the Conquest.

Very intrigued I asked him for more information and he replied,

"Many decades ago Leicester University were looking for people with rare surnames to undertake a DNA test.

This was part of my result. I presumed that it was a Y 32 DNA which only looks at male relatives. I was impressed by how many wives had remained faithful over the centuries and having the Viking section confirmed the family history.

I now run a Juby Y DNA study as part of GOONS to try & link all of the various known branches of the family now worldwide.

Unfortunately many are in France where having your DNA tested is controlled by the police so is technically illegal."

LICHFIELD HISTORY ACCESS POINT

Nestled in the heart of Lichfield, Staffordshire Archives and Heritage Service's **History Access Point** brings together historical resources from across the county to illuminate the histories of Staffordshire and the county's residents.

Located on the first floor of St Mary's Church, Market Square, Lichfield, the History Access Point is designed to support those interested in,

and researching, local and family history.



Combining physical resources, such as trade directories, parish records, and electoral registers, with free access to a wealth of digital material, including Ancestry, FindMyPast, and the British Newspaper Archive, the History Access Point is the perfect place for those starting out on their research journey as well as those well-established in their work. If you would like to access online resources, computers can be booked via Staffordshire libraries.

<https://staffordshirehistorycentre.blog/lichfield-history-access-point/>



ST MARYS CHURCH LICHFIELD

The above image is of St Marys Church in Lichfield, in the Neoclassical form of the early 19th century, in a watercolour by W G Herdman.

Originally medieval, the old church was demolished and this was built in 1721 and designed by Francis Smith of Warwick. This was just one of the many transformations that the church building has experienced over the years.

WHO WERE YOUR ANCESTORS?

Family History Sleuthing - 6 week course at Wolverhampton Archives with *Penny Smith*

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"!



Find out how to.....

- get started in researching your family history and learn about the records which will help you
- find the records and interpret them
- discover the heroes and rogues in your family
- reveal the truth behind your family tales

Handouts, charts, guidance, advice, tips, and all you need to get started. (Covers UK records not just local area.)

Starts Friday 3rd November 10.30 a.m.

At Wolverhampton Archives, Whitmore Hill,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1SF

Cost: £30 per person for course

To book: Call 01902 552480

STOP PRESS – last minute changes to the Events programme

Sadly, we have missed out on two talks by Keith Robinson this month who has had to cancel due to ill-health. On 7 October he was to be at the Birmingham and Midland Institute talking about Wednesbury Workhouse and at Kenilworth on 11 October talking about the Rose family of Ironmasters. We hope he recovers speedily!

Whilst a replacement has not been confirmed as yet for the **Kenilworth** event – **watch the Midland Ancestors event calendar for details**

<https://midland-ancestors.uk/events/category/public/2023-10/>

and indeed always check before you set out!

We have managed to find a new talk for the Birmingham Event:

Speakers: A joint presentation by Jacqui Fielding and Matt Felkin

BIRMINGHAM IN THE BLITZ – AND SOME FAMILIES AFFECTED BY IT

Saturday 7 October 2023 at 2pm

Venue: Birmingham and Midland Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham at 2pm

Jacqui Fielding is a Midland Ancestors member, one of the first members of the Birmingham Air Raids Remembrance Society and also a Friend of the Key Hill and Warstone Lane cemeteries.
<https://www.fkwc.org/>

Matt Felkin is also a member of the Birmingham Air Raids Remembrance Society with a wealth of knowledge about the Birmingham Blitz.
<https://www.birminghamairraids.co.uk/>

They have teamed up in a personal capacity to give this talk on the history of the Birmingham

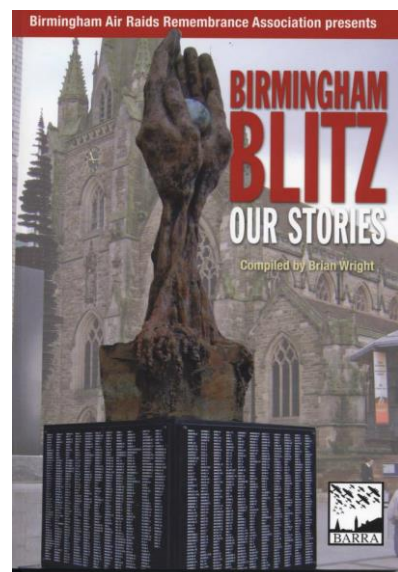
Blitz with reference to a few families affected by it.

Do you know who the first person to be killed in the Blitz was? About the Air Raid Precautions? About Morrison and Anderson shelters? Bomb maps and excavation zones? The talk reminds us of bombed buildings – St Martins Church, the Market Hall and others and goes on to explore the story of Alfred and Mabel Wakeling – Mabel died once but was buried twice due to mistaken identity.

The mother and sister of author Kathleen Dayus were killed by enemy action.

And do you know that sandbags can kill? – three people were killed by sandbags whilst sheltering in an air raid shelter.

Midland Ancestors burial records will feature of course and copies of the book



Will be on sale at the event.

CONTACT the E-Newsletter EDITOR

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

NEWS DEADLINE 19th Of the month

VOLUNTEER WITH US

Family History Help and Advice Volunteers needed

“To be a volunteer, one doesn’t need to be a professional genealogist or a great expert. Someone with a broad knowledge of family history would be suitable. Many of the visitors seeking help are novices and are just getting started with their own research. Sometimes people have done some research but got stuck in a particular area. Just having another pair of eyes looking at things can help make a breakthrough. For example, often people aren’t aware that you can use wildcard characters such as ‘’ and ‘?’ in Ancestry searches.” Mick Downes, Volunteer*

In Warwick

MIDLAND ANCESTORS FAMILY HISTORY HELPDESK AT THE WCRO

Did you know that Midland Ancestors runs a Family history helpdesk at the **Warwickshire Record Office**?

This is situated at Priory Park, Cape Road, Warwick CV34 4JS

We have “an excellent team of six who run the helpdesk on **Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday**.....*Chris Davis, Mick Downes, Martin Harrison, Lesley Plant, Liz Vick and Steve Freeman.*

We run the helpdesk from **11am to 2.30pm** and are there to help with any Family History queries, whether they be someone who wants to start their family history and just needs to know how, or a more experienced researcher who has hit a brick wall, we cannot always help with brick walls though, but we will try!

Currently, each of the team does approximately two shifts a month, but we really need more volunteers as we get a bit thin on the ground during holiday season, so if anyone is interested, please get in touch for more information.”

email Steve Freeman at : s.freeman@mid-anc.uk

In Birmingham

MIDLAND ANCESTORS LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

Finding genealogy sites too expensive, but want to continue your research for free while helping others?

Think about helping out at the Midland Ancestors Family History Centre at the **Birmingham and Midland Institute**, Margaret Street, Birmingham B3 3BS **10am to 3pm Monday to Friday.**

We're looking for couples (or two family history friends) who can help other members with researching our databases and Familysearch (we have full access to the immense online library of records on Family Search - this isn't all available to the general public) and Find My Past - the home of the 1921 census.

Friendly, experienced staff will be on hand to train you and answer any questions you may have.

Our Help and Advice Volunteers work in pairs so you are not on your own.

So (with no commitment) pop into the family History Centre Monday to Friday between 10am-3pm and meet the team. You never know you might just enjoy it!

You can always call the General Secretary Kim Walker- 0121-236 8977 (option 2) or email her at k.walker@mid-anc.uk to find out more.