



PASSING THE BATON

Family history is generally thought of as a retiree's hobby so it is good to know that this will not always be the case - *Generation Z* is taking up the challenge.

PROJECT INFANT



Daniel Loftus is one such young genealogist who last year started an ambitious project to document the mothers and infants who died in Irish Mother and Baby Homes. This has now been expanded to include those who were born there called "No-one Left Behind".

Still in its early stages his website is worth a look and I am particularly impressed by his managing to link from the entry directly to the relevant page image on *irishgenealogy.ie*

<https://projectinfant.ie/>



November is the month of **Remembrance** made more poignant by the ongoing Ukraine War and that in Israel and Gaza.

NextGENeration Conference 2024

NextGENeration Call for presentations

Society of Genealogists and Family History Federation are jointly arranging an online conference to be held Saturday 5 October 2024.

Those aged 16 to 35 years of age on 5 October 2024 are invited to submit proposals for presentations by 15 January 2024.

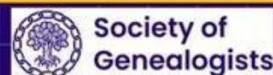
We are looking for a variety of genealogy and family history topics on the theme of "Discoveries". A focus on topics of interest to younger genealogist is preferred.

Email events@sog.org.uk with

- The presenters name(s), email address(es) and age(s)
- Brief bio (approx. 50 words)
- Draft title
- Short summary of presentation

We expect to be able to pay presenters through sponsorship, details to be confirmed.

- ✓ Between 10 and 30 minutes.
- ✓ Live or pre-recorded.
- ✓ Individual or joint by 2 or more presenters
- ✓ Talks, workshops, interviews, chaired discussions or other format.



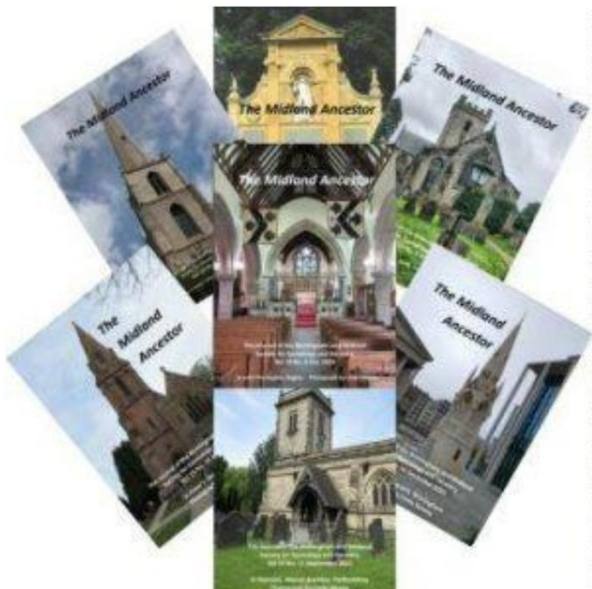
Newsletter Editor Jacqui Kirk – email newsletter@mid-anc.uk

FROM THE JOURNAL

Linda Newey Journal Editor

editor@mid-anc.uk

"Our scullery was housed with a black gas stove, a brown square ceramic sink and about 3 shelves for pots and pans. The steps leading to the cellar had a bucket of cold water on the first step. A jug of milk was placed in the water to keep cool during the hot weather. The milkman came by on a horse carrying milk churns and a tin jug with which he measured out a pint of milk."



So says the memoir of Joan Ellen Green (1926-2017) serialised in two parts. I always like to read memories and here we have a lovely picture of life before refrigerators. I can remember getting our first "fridge" in the 1960s - run on gas! It is a fascinating insight reminding us that medical treatment was not free before the War and that it was expensive to be ill, and of life with outside toilets and a coal fire. I remember my Dad telling us that it took my Grandad many years to pay for the birth of his last child.

I am really looking forward to the next instalment in *The Midland Ancestor* in December.

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

EVENTBRITE PICK



WOMEN DOCTORS AND THE GREAT WAR

Wed 8 November 2023 at 7pm **Online Free**

Speaker: Ann Robertson

(A joint event between the Antrim and Down branch of the Western Front Association and the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland.)

During the first 10 years of the twentieth century the right of women to vote began to be fought for. Some women felt that in order to gain this right, women should prove themselves in a theatre of war. Thus, the first medical women to go to war set off to Bulgaria in 1912 with the Women's Sick and Wounded Convoy Corps.

Once WW1 broke out women doctors from across the Commonwealth were keen to work abroad with injured soldiers. They were refused by the British Authorities but the Red Crosses of Belgium, France and Serbia gladly accepted their offer of help. This talk aims to cover all their exploits initially in Belgium and then on both the Western and Eastern fronts and Russia.

Ann Robertson qualified from the University of Birmingham in 1975 and pursued a career in Anaesthesia from July 1976. She became a Consultant Anaesthetist in 1987 working at Hairmyres Hospital, East Kilbride before moving to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.

Her interest in WW1 came whilst working with Mr Tom Scotland, orthopaedic surgery. Ann wrote about anaesthesia in WW1 in Tom's book *"War Surgery 1914-18"* and, a prequel to that book, *"Wars, Pestilence and the Surgeon's Blade"* contains her chapter *"Development of Military Anaesthesia in the 19th century"*.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/women-doctors-and-the-great-war-tickets-546149837867>

MIDLAND ANCESTORS AT THE BMI

Saturday 4 November at 2pm

Venue: **Birmingham and Midland Institute**
Margaret Street Birmingham B3 3BS

RECORDS OF THE WEST MIDLANDS POLICE MUSEUM



Speaker: Corrine Brazier

Corinne is the Heritage Manager at the West Midlands Police Museum, now located at the former Central Custody Block, the Lock-Up, in Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham.

Working for West Midlands Police in a variety of roles since 2005, she has volunteered with the museum since 2014 and in 2017 was appointed to the force's Heritage Project to write a heritage lottery funding bid to relocate the museum. The bid was successful and in 2020 Corinne was formally appointed as the force's Heritage Manager.

In April 2022 the police museum re-opened in its new home, following extensive refurbishment of the Steelhouse Lane Lock-up. Policing heritage in the West Midlands is now more accessible than ever before, with the museum open to the general public Wednesday

to Sunday and any day of the week for group/school visits.

They also carry out genealogy enquiries on their extensive archive and Corinne will be sharing details of these in her talk.

With over 4,000 items relating to policing history in the West Midlands, including officer records, some of the world's oldest prisoner mug shots and their digitised personnel files, there is much of potential interest for family historians in the museum. Some items date back to the 1800s, demonstrating how the police force has evolved and developed over the last 200 years.

<https://midland-ancestors.uk/event/birmingham-west-midlands-police-museum/>

BIRMINGHAM AND WARWICKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

<https://bwas-online.co.uk/lecture-programme-2023-24/>

BIRMINGHAM'S BUILDINGS AT RISK



Tuesday 7 November 2023 at 7pm

Venue: **The Wellington, 37 Bennett's Hill, Birmingham B2 5SN**

Speaker: Chris Patrick

Birmingham has nearly 1800 listed buildings ranging from medieval churches to 1970s office blocks. While most historic buildings in the city are used and cared for, some do become 'at risk' of decay and dereliction due to a variety of factors. The talk will look at the reasons why buildings become at risk and what is being done to save them - looking at a range of cases from across the city.

MIDLAND ANCESTORS WOLVERHAMPTON GROUP

PRE-CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Wednesday 29 November 2023 at 7.30pm

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

The last Wolverhampton meeting of 2023. Details of the programme for 2024 will be shared. Members may wish to share their recent discoveries and there may be a quiz or a short presentation. Christmas nibbles and refreshments will be available and there will be time to chat with other members.

<https://midland-ancestors.uk/event/wolverhampton-pre-christmas-social/>

Society of Genealogists

See www.sog.org.uk/events for the full list but here is this month's random pick of its online events –

ANGLO-JEWISH COLLECTIONS AT THE LONDON METROPOLITAN ARCHIVES

Thursday 2 November 2023 at 2pm

Speakers from the LMA

For more than 25 years London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) has been a centre of excellence for the archives of Anglo-Jewry, holding one of the largest collections of Jewish archives in the country, amounting to over 1000 linear metres. Since the mid 17th century the majority of Jews in Britain have lived in London. Anglo-Jewish organisations of local, national and international importance are based in the capital and many of them have deposited their records at LMA. Anglo-Jewish collections at LMA are well used

by the Jewish community, academics and general researchers. Investigating the collections of Anglo-Jewish records at LMA is an exciting opportunity to learn about the varied lives of individuals, and the wider life of Jewish communities within London and the United Kingdom.

Records held cover both Sephardi and Ashkenazi branches of Judaism, and the Orthodox, Reform and Liberal traditions are all represented. Collections include the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the United Synagogue, Liberal Judaism and the Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation, alongside the Jews Free School (JFS) and other Jewish educational bodies, charities including the Soup Kitchen for the Jewish Poor and Nightingale, the Home for Aged Jews and many more secular and religious Jewish organisations. The LMA also holds photographs deposited by David Jacobs which provide a strong visual representation of the buildings and sites used by Jewish communities across London.

£10.00 for a 1 hour talk – to be recorded

<https://members.sog.org.uk/events/64a40f2790213d000848498c/description>

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR MILITARY ANCESTORS THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHS AND MEMORABILIA

Tuesday 14 November at 6pm

Speaker: Graham Bandy

Faced with random unnamed photos, odd looking medals and a family tale of "Uncle Fred in WW1" (which may or may not have a grain of truth attached to it), knowing where to look and whom to ask about these things can be difficult. How many times have you sought help from an online genealogy community only to get all sorts of different answers, none of which feel correct?

In this talk Graham will initiate you into the perplexing dark art of military uniform identification and dating. He will shine a light

into the dark corners of records, badges and the uniforms, including those that look like 1914, but actually date from 1955, helping you to see the difference.

He will also show you his methodology in how to accurately identify and date a cap badge, not only from the Army, but introducing you to Royal Navy and RAF badges too.

£10.00 for a 1 hour talk – to be recorded

<https://members.sog.org.uk/events/6464b5df4f22ce000af23ea9/description>

REALLY USEFUL FAMILY HISTORY SHOW

17 and 18 November 2023

ONLINE EVENT: Participate from Home - WORLDWIDE!

2023

FHF REALLY USEFUL
Family History Show

Explore Your
Genealogy



Friday 17th November 10 am - 10 pm GMT and
Saturday 18th November 10 am - 6 pm GMT

Organised by the Family History Federation and with FindmyPast as its data hosting partner the **Really Useful Family History Show** is back online this November.

<https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/>

Held on Friday 17 and Saturday 18 November 2023 tickets cost £15 and entitle you to full access to the Exhibition Hall on the Friday and Saturday and to all the talks, expert sessions and workshops on Saturday 18 November between 10am and 6pm.

FindmyPast has a booth in the Exhibition Hall along with a number of family history societies and related organisations all geared up to showcase what they can offer. Full updated details on the website above.

MIDLAND ANCESTORS STOURBRIDGE GROUP

Tuesday 21 November 2023 at 7.30pm

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

SOCIAL EVENING WITH REFRESHMENTS

<https://midland-ancestors.uk/event/stourbridge-social-evening-with-refreshments/>

MILITARY ARCHIVES OF IRELAND



<https://www.militaryarchives.ie/en/home/>

The Military Archives has been the official place of deposit for records of the Defence Forces, the Department of Defence and the Army Pensions Board since 1990, as defined in the National Archives Act, 1986. They collect material from the foundation of the State up until the present day, including records from overseas missions. From as early as 1924, the National Army, recognising the importance of the War of Independence, undertook to preserve historical documents from that time.

Some of the earliest collections preserved by the Historical Section include the Collins Papers, Civil War Operations and Intelligence files and Captured Documents (Civil War up to 1925), which continue to be made available today.

MIDLAND ANCESTORS KENILWORTH GROUP

Wednesday 8 November 2023 at 7.30pm

Venue: The Kenilworth Centre, Car Park, 65 Abbey End Kenilworth CV8 1QJ

THE ADVENTUROUS HISTORY OF SABRINA SIDNEY 1757-1843

Speaker: Dr Kate Croft, CWMH – University of Birmingham

In 1769, Thomas Day, a member of the eighteenth-century Lunar Society, visited the Shrewsbury branch of the Thomas Coram Foundling Hospital and acquired a twelve-year old girl. Day renamed the girl, Sabrina Sidney, and embarked on a unique experiment to educate her according to the theories of Jean-Jacques Rousseau. He hoped to marry her, and therefore to fashion for himself a new breed of Enlightenment wife. This talk will look at Day's unusual experiment in female education and marriage.



Shrewsbury School, which was built as the Shrewsbury Foundling Hospital, and where Sabrina Sidney lived as a child.

Dr Kate Croft is a freelance lecturer and researcher based in the West Midlands. In 2012 Kate completed a PhD on Lunar Society member, Thomas Day's educational experiment, entitled *Constructing the Eighteenth-Century Woman: The Adventurous History of Sabrina Sidney, 1757-1843*.

Kate has taught in the Further Education sector and worked both as an academic and public librarian. Currently, Kate is an Honorary Researcher at the University of Birmingham and continues her research on social and gender

history in the eighteenth-century West Midlands.

<https://midland-ancestors.uk/event/kenilworth-the-adventurous-history-of-sabrina-sidney-1757-1843/>

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE AND THE BRACEBRIDGES OF WARWICKSHIRE

Wednesday 8 November 2023 at 6.30pm

Venue: **St John's House, St Johns, Warwick CV34 4NF** Cost £8.50 inc refreshments

Spaces limited please book at:
<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/heritageboxoffice>

Speaker: Yvonne Stone, local historian



Charles and Selina Bracebridge were family friends of the Nightingales and knew Florence from her childhood. Florence's parents were rich and influential and wanted their daughter to live a normal Victorian life for a lady in her position. They did not support her nursing ambitions and were horrified at her career choice.

To rid her of her notions of nursing the Bracebridges were asked to take her on several extended trips abroad but instead they encouraged her, escorting her on limited training trips and eventually went to the Crimea with her. She regarded them as her surrogate mother and father and stated that without them supporting her, she would never have carried out her nursing career.

This talk covers many aspects of their time together throughout their lives, including Selina and Florence's encounter with Mary Seacole during the war and the lasting legacy of Florence which continues to this day.

MIDLAND ANCESTORS NORTH STAFFS GROUP

Monday 6 November 2023 at 7.30pm

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

THE HILL POTTERY BURSLEM AND THE ALCOCK FAMILY AFTER BANKRUPTCY 1859

Speaker: Dianne Shenton

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



The Hill Pottery - Rebuilt for Samuel Alcock in 1839 and described at the time as 'the most striking and ornamental object of its kind within the precincts of the borough' (from Ward 1843)

Consulting books about Potters, [and buying a piece of his china] Samuel Alcock appeared to be up there with Spode, Wedgwood and Worcester so after finding the photo it was surprising to learn that the Hill pottery went bankrupt in 1849. Before the bankruptcy the family appeared to be one of the leading lights of local Society so the question is "what happened to the family afterwards" as they couldn't go and sign on at the Job Centre. The answer is very mixed with some going into the medical professions and several had a travel gene with one ending up in Cuba.

Dianne Shenton is a retired Podiatrist now living in Stone, Staffordshire who started researching her family after the death of her Mother in 1997; trying to put names to old Victorian photos in an envelope just labelled as "Granny's Family". At the time she was living in Edinburgh and by co-incidence the local school started an evening class on family history which she attended. She also runs the Malbon one-name study.

After returning to live in Stone she volunteered at Stafford Record Office and has been helping research Poor Law Vouchers and Pauper's Letters for Professor Alannah Tomkins which has the added benefit of cataloguing them for the Record Office so others can find them by pauper's name.

Her family proved more complicated than some as it eventually turned out that she was descended on both her Maternal and Paternal side from the Alcock Family with her parents being 5th cousins which of course complicates the DNA - but that is another story.

SHOW AND TELL

CATALOGUING THE GREVILLE FAMILY OF WARWICK CASTLE COLLECTION

Thursday 16 November 2023 1pm – 1.30pm

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



How do archivists catalogue large collections?

Take a glimpse behind the scenes at the Warwickshire County Record Office to hear about the work archivists Laura and Amanda are doing to catalogue the largest landed family estate collection it holds.

FREE Donations welcomed Drop in – no need to book.

MIDLAND ANCESTORS FAMILY HISTORY MONTHLY WORKSHOP/DISCUSSION

On **Zoom** To pre-register see:

<https://midland-ancestors.uk/event/on-line-members-self-help-workshop-9/>

Wednesday 15 November at 7pm Online

Coordinator: Phil Lamb

Subject : Depends on what the attendees want to talk about. Take your pick!



TRACING MILITARY RECORDS

Saturday 4 November 2023 11am Tickets £12

Venue: **Worcestershire Archives, The Hive, Worcester WR1 3PD** <https://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/LibraryEvents/EventDetails.aspx?id=5827>

Members of **Worcestershire Archive Service** will guide you through useful resources for tracing military records and explain how to access them. The focus of the session will be on WWI and WWII military records covering key resources available to guide you in your research, whether that be tracing military personnel or better understanding wartime experiences.

MIDLAND ANCESTORS REMEMBERS

TRACING YOUR MILITARY ANCESTORS

Saturday 11 November from 10am – 4pm FREE

Venue: **Family History Centre, Birmingham & Midland Institute Margaret Street Birmingham B3 3BS**

The knowledgeable **Midland Ancestors Team** of volunteer genealogists will be available to provide assistance, answer questions, and help you navigate through our numerous resources and databases.

Whether you're just starting out or need help overcoming a 'brick wall', our experts are here to support you.

The session will pause at 11am for reflection and remembrance – Please wear your poppy.

During the event, you'll have the chance to learn valuable tips and tricks, discover new research methods, and connect with fellow enthusiasts.

With access to all our records and documents, you'll be able to piece together your family's story and gain a deeper understanding of your heritage.

Booking required. See Eventbrite to book for **ONE of the three 2 hour sessions**

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

THE CROOKED HOUSE REMEMBERED

PROJECT UPDATE



In response to the shocking destruction of *The Crooked House* pub, the **Black Country Society** has established an oral history project, and invites you to submit your memories of this iconic local building.

Please access the project at <https://www.blackcountryandsociety.com/post/the-crooked-house-remembered>



**CONTACT the E-Newsletter
EDITOR Jacqui Kirk**

newsletter@mid-anc.uk

NEWS DEADLINE 19th Of the month



FREE EVENT

Venue: **Chasewater Innovation Centre, Chasewater Country Park, Pool Lane, Burntwood WS8 7NL**

Speakers will include Dr Mike Rogers from The National Archives, the Finds Liaison Team from Birmingham Museums Trust and Chris Welch from Historic England.

The day will include workshops supporting family history research and we will be joined by local history societies, museums and the Staffordshire Library Service who will all be on hand to chat and advise.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/local-history-study-day-tickets-677958972537>

And also check out:

A CASE FOR THE ORDINARY: STAFFORDSHIRE'S ASYLUMS AND THE PATIENT EXPERIENCE

<https://staffordshirehistorycentre.blog/2023/09/13/asylums-exhibition/>

A touring exhibition of letters, documents, photographs and objects from the Staffordshire Archive and Heritage Service collections which explores the treatments, daily routine, social life, staff and asylum buildings in Staffordshire.

It will be at the **Ancient High House, Greengate Street Stafford ST16 2LA** until Tuesday 12 December 2023.

THE LONDON HISTORY FESTIVAL 13 TO 30 NOVEMBER 2023

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-london-history-festival-2023-online-tickets-recordings-tickets-737841903997> for link to bookings for **online** access/recordings **Free but donations welcome**

