

Dear Black Country Society Member,

Welcome to the latest edition of the Black Country Bulletin. We hope you will find something of interest in our monthly newsletter, which contains details of this society's events along with nineteen events arranged by other local organisations - see below.

I look forward to seeing you at a BCS event in the near future.

Please note that following the AGM resolution on 26th March last, a £3.00 charge will be payable by members for attendance at live events.

All the best,

Michael Thompson

Secretary: The Black Country Society

- **The BCS Virtual Heritage Group**

A New Home; a tale of efforts to secure a permanent and suitable facility for the internationally-renowned Stourbridge Glass collection. - A talk by Graham Fisher

Monday April 28th at 7.30pm via Zoom

email societyblackcountry@gmail.com for link

- **The April BCS Live Presentation**

The West Midlands, the Slave Trade & Anti-slavery. Presented by Malcolm Dick.

Bilston Town Hall. Wednesday 30th April 2025 – 7.30pm (£3.00 for member and £5 non-members)

Black Country Noticeboard

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| Event Subject | The Great Exhibition of 1851. Presented by Alan Hill |
| Host | Hagley Historical and Field Society |
| Location | St Saviour's Church Hall, West Hagley DY9 0NS |
| Date/ Time | April 1 st ; 20:00 hrs |
| Admission | Visitors are most welcome at all our events – £2 including refreshments. |
| Requirements | |
| Source | https://hhfs.org.uk/hhfs/ |
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| Event Subject | Medieval Hospitals, Medicines & Monastic Life – Presented by Anne McWhirter |
| Host | West Bromwich Local History Society |
| Location | All Saints Church All Saints Way, West Bromwich, West Midlands, United Kingdom |
| Date/ Time | April 4th; 19.30 – 21.30 hrs |
| Admission | Visitors are welcome to the monthly presentations at £2.50 per person which includes refreshments |
| Requirements | |
| Source | https://www.westbromwichhistory.com/event/ |
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| Event Subject | Birmingham: How We Got Here – the story of back to back housing in Birmingham. Presented by David and Pam Humphries |
| Host | Midland Ancestors – The Birmingham Group |
| Location | Birmingham & Midland Institute, 9 Margaret Street Birmingham, West Midlands B3 3BS |
| Date/ Time | April 5th; 14.00 – 16.00 hrs |
| Admission | Free Event. |
| Requirements | |
| Source | https://midland-ancestors.uk/event/birmingham-how-we-got-here-the-story-of-back-to-back-housing-in-birmingham/ |
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| Event Subject | The History of Surnames. Presented by Robin Bird |
| Host | Quinton Local History Society |
| Location | Quinton Methodist Church Hall, Ridgeway Avenue, Halesowen, West Midlands, B62 9AU (Opposite the Fitness Centre) |
| Date/ Time | April 8 th ; Doors open 19.00 hrs for a start at 19.30 hrs |
| Admission | £2 for visitors |
| Requirements | |
| Source | https://qlhs.org.uk/ |

Event Subject Sex and the Ancestors. Presented by Pamela Manning.
Host Willenhall History and Heritage Society
Location CHART Centre, Gomer Street, Willenhall, WV13 2NS
Date/ Time April 8th; 19.15 hrs
Admission Requirements Visitors welcome, £2.50 on the door. This talk is described as "Historical, hysterical and interactive". This talk is not for the easily offended!
Source <https://willenhallhistorysociety.com/>

Event Subject Bridges of the Severn Gorge. Presented by Steve Dewhirst
Host Friends of the Ironbridge Gorge Museums
Location Glass Classroom at Coalbrookdale
Date/ Time April 9th; 19.30 hrs
Admission Requirements £1 for non-members. Please be aware that this event is preceded by the organiser's AGM.
Source <https://www.ironbridge.org.uk/events/friends-events/friends-talk-bridges-of-the-severn-gorge/>

Event Subject "The Island by Francis Brett Young". Presented by Mike Hall
Host Smethwick Local History Association
Location Lightwoods House, Lightwoods Park, B67 5DP, just off the A456 near the Kings Head crossroads
Date/ Time April 10th; 14.00 hrs for a 14.30 hrs start
Admission Requirements A cover charge of £3 per head is made at meetings to cover the cost of room hire and speaker charges
Source https://smethwicklocalhistory.co.uk/?page_id=22

Event Subject A Monk's Life – The Benedictines at Worcester Cathedral.
Host Presented by Howard Robinson
Location Stourport Civic Society
Elizabeth Mills Centre in New Street, Stourport
Date/ Time April 10th ; 19.30 hrs
Admission Requirements Everybody is welcome – Admission £4.00. Members £2.50. Light refreshments included.
Source <https://stourporttown.co.uk/organisation/stourport-civic-society/>

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| Event Subject | A "des res" in Sutton Coldfield: the history of Bishop Vesey's stone houses. Presented by Stella Thebridge MBE |
| Host | Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society |
| Location | The Guildhall, Lichfield. |
| Date/ Time | April 11 th ; 20.00 hrs to 21.30 hrs. |
| Admission Requirements | Visitors welcome - £3.00 charge. Allow sufficient time for parking. Advisable to use the University West car park WS13 6 QG. |
| Source | https://www.sahs.uk.net/event-sahs-stella-thebridge-mbe-a-des-res-in-sutton-coldfield-the-history-of-bishop-vesey-s-stone-houses-2025-04-11 |

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| Event Subject | Why We Should go to the Pub – A South Staffs Pioneer and a Pint. Presented by Nick Baker |
| Host | The Western Front Association (Wolverhampton Branch) |
| Location | St Peter's Collegiate School, Compton Park, Compton Rd. West, Wolverhampton WV3 9DU |
| Date/ Time | April 12 th ; 14.30 hrs |
| Admission Requirements | Non-members are made most welcome. A small voluntary donation towards the expenses of the speaker and the venue would be appreciated. |
| Source | https://www.westernfrontassociation.com/branches/united-kingdom/wolverhampton/events/ |

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| Event Subject | The King's Loose Box. Presented by Mary Bodfish |
| Host | Codsall & Bilbrook History Society |
| Location | Codsall Village Hall, Wolverhampton Road, Codsall |
| Date/ Time | April 15 th ; 19.45 – 21.15 hrs |
| Admission Requirements | Admission is £4 on the night for non-members |
| Source | https://www.codsallhistory.org/events/ |

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| Event Subject | The Rise and Fall of Worcestershire's Witley Court. |
| Host | Presented by Ray Sturdy |
| Location | Midland Ancestors – Stourbridge Group |
| Date/ Time | St. Peter's Church Hall, Pedmore, West Midlands DY9 0SW |
| Admission Requirements | April 15 th ; 18.30 – 21.30 hrs |
| Source | Please refer to organiser regarding charges |
| | https://midland-ancestors.uk/event/stourbridge-group-witley-court/ |

Event Subject The Americans are Coming! Presented by Jono Oates
Host Friends of Erasmus Darwin House
Location Erasmus Darwin House Beacon St, Lichfield, Staffordshire
WS13 7AD
Date/ Time April 17th; 19.00 to 20.30 hrs
Admission Requirements Please contact the organiser to avoid disappointment. £10
charge
Source <https://erasmus-darwin-house.arttickets.org.uk/>

Event Subject The History of Chance Glass. Presented by Henry Chance
Host Stourbridge Historical Society
Location Wollaston Room at Stourbridge Library, Crown Centre,
Stourbridge, DY8 1YE
Date/ Time April 17th; 19.30 to 20.30 hrs
Admission Requirements Visitors are welcome to attend for £5. The host has
identified parking at Tesco, which gives direct indoor
access to Stourbridge Town Hall. Tesco car parking is free
in the evenings for 4 hours between 6pm and 11pm.
Source <https://stourbridgehistoricalsociety.com/meetings-2025/>

Event Subject The History of the Cock House Inn. Presented by Jackie
Harrison
Host The Wolverhampton Society
Location Penn Bowling and Social Club, 10 Manor Road, Penn,
Wolverhampton WV4 5PY
Date/ Time April 17th; 19.15 for a 19.30 hrs Start
Admission Requirements Individual talks, for non-members, are £5 on the night.
Source <https://wolverhamptionsociety.com/talks>

Event Subject The Victor and the Vanquished. Presented by Roger
Bragger
Host The Western Front Association
Location 12 Rectory Road, Sutton Coldfield, B75 7A
Date/ Time April 19th; 14.00 hrs
Admission Requirements Non-members are made most welcome and we
encourage their attendance. A small voluntary donation
towards the expenses of the speaker and the venue would
be appreciated.
Source <https://www.westernfrontassociation.com/branches/united-kingdom/birmingham/>

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| Event Subject | The Black Lake Colliery Disaster of 1871. Presented by Mauren Waldren |
| Host | Tipton Civic Society |
| Location | Tipton Green Methodist Church Hall, Park Lane West, Tipton, DY4 8LD |
| Date/ Time | April 22nd; 19.30 hrs |
| Admission Requirements | Non-members are welcome for an entry fee of £2. |
| Source | http://www.tiptoncivicsociety.co/p/forthcoming-events_15.html |

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| Event Subject | Origins of Pub Names. |
| Host | Friends of Erasmus Darwin House |
| Location | Erasmus Darwin House Beacon St, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS13 7AD |
| Date/ Time | April 23rd; 19.00 to 20.30 hrs |
| Admission Requirements | Please contact the organiser to avoid disappointment. £10 charge |
| Source | https://erasmus-darwin-house.arttickets.org.uk/ |

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| Event Subject | The Story of Caribbee Island. Presented by Simon Briercliffe |
| Host | Midland Ancestors – Wolverhampton |
| Location | The Terry Harding Room, Perton Civic Centre, Church Road, Perton, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire WV6 7PD |
| Date/ Time | April 30th; 19.15 for a 19.30 hrs start to 21.30 hrs |
| Admission Requirements | Please refer to organiser regarding charges |
| Source | https://midland-ancestors.uk/event/wolverhampton-the-story-of-caribbee-island/ |

