

FRIENDS OF THE CENTRE FOR WEST MIDLANDS HISTORY

SHARING THE PAST WITH THE FUTURE

MADE IN BRITAIN: MAKING AND SELLING HOUSEHOLD GOODS IN BRITAIN, 1851-1914 by Sue Tungate

On Friday 2nd March 2012 a workshop was held at the University of Birmingham (UOB) to introduce the exciting new project 'Made in Britain', which is the subject of a bid to the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), to fund research into the design, manufacture and marketing of household goods in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and an exhibition in Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

The project was introduced by Dr Francesca Carnevali, (UOB), and Dr Lucy Newton, University of Reading, the lead investigators, who hope to get funding for two postgraduate students. They will be involved in examining and researching variety of artefacts and archival material, along with other researchers from heritage organisations. Presentations from representatives of various museums and archives followed. Martin Killeen, (UOB), detailed the variety of sources available from Special Collections, including books, directories, trade cards and catalogues. Participants were able to view these artefacts during the day.

The vast array of items held in the Applied Art Collection at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery (BMAG) was described by Martin Ellis. He pointed out that Birmingham in the late nineteenth century was a centre of manufacturing of household articles, ranging from toilets to laundry irons. The 1880 Industrial Collection was set up at BMAG to include items with special relevance to Birmingham, and was used as a design resource for local manufacturers and artisans. Henrietta Lockhart, also from BMAG, explored the importance of links between an artefact and its historical connection.

Other presenters discussed more specific household objects; for example, Christine Woods from the Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester, is researching into wallpaper, and

Charles Hajdamach, from Broadfield Glass Museum in Kingswinford, detailed the great collection from the Stourbridge glass industry held there. John Powell from the Ironbridge Institute reported that, despite its well-known status as the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution, the products of Coalbrookdale were not well documented, especially those from the nineteenth century. Richard Pugh Cook described a new project, a carpet museum at Kidderminster which is opening in the near future. Here the archives of around twelve different organisations will be available, including the Federation of British Carpet Manufacturers, and Carpet Dyers and Manufacturers. The collection also holds copies of the local newspaper, the 'Kidderminster Shuttle' from 1874 to recent times.

The day concluded with a round table discussion, led by Dr Malcolm Dick into the way forward. One problem discussed was the range of objects to be included. Participants thought that the project had huge potential, but there was a vast range of household goods, from toilets to ceramics, kitchen tools to laundry irons, pans to carpets. However, the research resulting from a range of expertise could be useful in informing isolated collections. Another problem highlighted was the use of household objects and how purchases were made, which might prove more difficult to investigate than finding out how and where a particular item was created.

Suggestions for possible outcomes of the project included a possible list of trade catalogues or a database of firms which could be useful to researchers. There might also be an exhibition of articles 'Made in Britain' which could include public involvement with schools and colleges. Further details will be given as the grant application progresses.

Church Stretton History Day 2012

by Guy Sjögren

Writing the foreword for the recently published book 'Church Stretton through the Ages', the town's mayor wrote:

'Church Stretton is a small market town near the Welsh border, located in a beautiful wooded valley beneath the Long Mynd. So it is perhaps not surprising that more attention has been paid in the past to the scenery rather than to the town itself.'

In a sense, the Church Stretton History Day that was held on 24 March was an attempt to redress the balance by concentrating on the history and development of the town.

The day was organised as a joint venture between the Friends of Shropshire Archives and the Church Stretton Area Local History Group. The programme took the form of a series of illustrated talks together with an opportunity to participate in a guided tour of the town; the latter made all the more enjoyable by glorious weather.

The day began with a scene-setting presentation by Birmingham University alumnus **Dr. Peter Toghill** on the geology of Church Stretton and the Stretton Hills. Even local historians in the 100-strong audience - themselves used to 'dates', 'periods' and 'eras' - might initially have been a bit daunted by the prospect of having to deal with the concept of geological eras. However, they need not have feared. As a former winner of the Geological Society of London's prize for the promotion of the public understanding of geology, Dr. Toghill was eminently capable of giving a stimulating and accessible talk on the geology of the area...even if his audience were a little concerned to know that the Church Stretton Fault would, in its heyday, have rivalled the San Andreas Fault in scale!

In a neat piece of programme planning, Peter Toghill was followed by **Dr. Ian Dormor**. With due deference to W.G. Hoskins and his disciples, Dr. Dormor's presentation linked the local landscape to the history of the town. Around Church Stretton there is visible evidence of Iron Age fortifications on the surrounding hills; the residential roads, Watling Street North and

Watling Street South signal the strategic corridor built by the Romans through the Stretton gap; and, while there is no evidence of an actual Roman settlement, the name 'Stretton' (a tun by the 'straet') indicates the presence of a Saxon settlement. And in 1186, Domesday records the presence of a church with a priest, a mill and a small population nestling by what is known today as the Town Brook, which runs down from the Long Mynd. In 1214, King John granted a charter for a market, and a weekly market is still held on the site of the old market hall. With the market came trade; and trade brought prosperity to the growing town.

The final speaker before lunch, **Tony Crowe**, developed this theme of prosperity when he talked about the coming of the railway to Church Stretton in 1852, when the line between Shrewsbury and Ludlow was opened. The coming of the railway encouraged visitors and the subsequent building in 1865 of The Hotel, described in a guidebook of the time as 'very commodious'.

After lunch, the participants broke into small groups and were taken on a guided tour of the town. Tea followed, after which members of the Local History Group spoke about education in the town. 2011 saw the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Endowed Free School and the Group spent several months researching the history of the school before putting on a public exhibition in the town's library which is housed in the original school building.

The day concluded with arch Stretton-enthusiast, **Alan Brisbourne**, talking about Edwardian Stretton. During the early years of the 20th Century an ambitious scheme was devised whereby Church Stretton would be developed into a spa town, with water from a saline spring some five miles away on the other side of the Long Mynd being pumped to a 'pump room' near The Hotel. The scheme came to nought, although Church Stretton continued to attract a 'great number of excursionists'. And, as these 'excursionists' might have remarked a century before, a great day was had by all.

CWMHRG RESEARCH SHOWCASE SEMINARS:

'MEDIEVAL SOURCES AS EVIDENCE: THE AFTERLIFE IN WORCESTERSHIRE AND ESSEX' WITH TIM O'MARA

Report by Sue Tungate

On Wednesday 25th April 2012 'Friends' of the Centre for West Midlands History were treated to something slightly different at the Research Group Seminar. Tim O'Mara gave a talk on 'Medieval Sources as Evidence: the Afterlife in Worcestershire and Essex' based on his research into the Vernon Manuscript, the biggest and most important surviving late medieval English manuscript. This highly decorated manuscript contains a collection of poetry and prose for the lay reader, written in the dialect spoken in the West Midlands around 1400. Tim's research has been carried out as part of a project in the English department at the University of Birmingham, which studies this lavishly illustrated medieval manuscript to find out its connections with present day spoken language in the West Midlands.

The talk attracted an audience of over 30 individuals, including several who had not previously attended. We hope that they will become members and will be able to attend the future events as listed in the latest newsletter.

For further information about the project and for a detailed illustration of the manuscript, visit: <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/edacs/departments/english/research/projects/vernon/index.aspx>

Have you got some interesting research that you would like to share? The Centre for West Midlands History Research Group is always looking for new speakers! If you're interested in giving a 20-45 minute talk about your research in an informal environment, get in touch with Connie Wan via CWMHRG@hotmail.com

NEXT EVENT:

RESEARCH SHOWCASE AN EVENING WITH...

JONATHAN ATHERTON

'SHATTERED, BROKEN AND MARGINALISED?: BIRMINGHAM NONCONFORMITY AND THE IMPACT OF THE PRIESTLEY RIOTS OF 1791'

WEDNESDAY 23 MAY 2012
6.30-8.30PM

LECTURE ROOM 3 (FIRST FLOOR),
THE ARTS BUILDING,
UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

TO CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE OR TO JOIN OUR MAILING LIST PLEASE CONTACT CONNIE WAN AT CWMHRG@HOTMAIL.COM

Moseley History Society wins Lottery Grant

By Janet Berry

The Moseley Society Local History Group has a long and distinguished history and over the years has gathered a 'Collection' that comprises artefacts, historical documents, maps, books, photographs, postcards, research data and published booklets on the history of Moseley. We have recently received a Lottery Heritage Grant for a Project which aims to make these resources available more widely by digitizing appropriate materials and making them available on disc and on a website, which will include children's inter-active pages. Our overall aim is to involve more people and more people from a wider range of community and age groups in learning about and engaging in the history of the locality in which they live. Activities outlined in our Project Plan include monthly talks and workshops, a six-week computer course and research on the themes 'Moseley at War', 'Victorian Moseley' and 'New Communities,' which will be published as displays and booklets and taken out into the community. A part-time local historian and an assistant are being appointed to help volunteers with this project. Volunteers will be able to work alongside the local historian and assistant and be involved in every aspect of the Project. The current Moseley Local History Group meets monthly at the Moseley Exchange.

If you would like to be involved in any way please contact: Janet Berry on 0121 449 0727 or jan19berry@btinternet.com



THE MOSELEY SOCIETY

Formed to protect a unique area of Birmingham

Charity No. 512211

Birmingham & Midland Institute Monday Lectures

by Elaine Mitchell

Regular Monday lunchtime lectures are held at the BMI in Margaret Street every term. Starting at 1pm, admission is just £1 for non-BMI members and light lunches are available in the Coffee Lounge before the lecture. There are a number of lectures coming up in May and June that will be of interest to Friends:

> **May 28**

Professor Roger Ward analyses The Strange Death of Liberal Birmingham. The General Election of 1885, the first in which Birmingham was divided into constituencies, saw the Liberals win all 7 seats, despite determined Tory opposition. No Liberal subsequently represented Birmingham until 1969; what is the explanation for this change of course and whatever happened in the Birmingham Liberal Party?

> **June 11**

Elaine Mitchell, a recent graduate of the University of Birmingham's MA in West Midlands History, explores a little-known aspect of Birmingham's manufacturing history - the production of metal-framed glasshouses. 'A fine crop of peaches and several hundred geraniums' focuses on one of the earliest and most successful firms, Jones & Clark, from its founding in 1818 to the death of Thomas Clark in 1863.

Lectures take place at:

The Birmingham and Midland Institute,
Margaret Street,
Birmingham,
B3 3BS.

Tea, coffee and refreshments are available in the Coffee Lounge at the BMI.

FURTHER REFLECTIONS ON 'THE RIGHT KIND OF HISTORY', WITH SIR DAVID CANNADINE BY PETE BOUNOUS

Renowned historian Sir David Cannadine is intimately connected with the city of Birmingham, having been born there, and spent his formative school years attending King Edward's Five Ways. It is an association that, the readers of this newsletter in particular will be heartened to learn, stayed with him during his later studies, most notably during his doctoral years at St John's College, Oxford, where his thesis was written on the Calthorpe family as estate developers in Birmingham. His choice of the University of Birmingham as the venue at which to deliver a talk about his latest research on 19 March was, therefore, particularly poignant. That the subject of his lecture was state education was even more apt, given the central role played by the nineteenth-century Birmingham Education League in laying the foundations of a state education system.

In recent years, anyone with an interest in historical study cannot have failed to notice the growing apprehension expressed by a number of politicians, educationalists and scholars with regard to the standard of history teaching in English state schools. It is entirely apt then that Sir David's most recent work has been concerned with the formal teaching of the subject of history in English state schools since the early 1900s, the findings of which can be read in detail in his latest book, *The Right Kind of History*.

Sir David began his talk by displaying a series of conflicting quotes expressing support for either traditional or progressive teaching methods and curriculum content. So closely did these opinions reflect the current debate that it came as somewhat of a shock when Sir David revealed that many were almost 100 years old. This starkly illustrated the deceptively simple yet crucial discovery that lies at the

heart of his findings: these concerns are not new – they have always existed but, until now, no one has bothered to look. Thus, he argued, there has been no sudden deterioration in the quality of the standards of history, but simply a more public reiteration of a debate that has existed since the beginning of formal history teaching in English schools over 100 years ago. The desire to specify the cause of these concerns has instead created further ambiguity: 'The problem,' he maintains, 'is what is the problem?'.

The body of his talk provided an insight into his research principles and methodologies and the work of his two assistants, with whose support he was able to conduct the equivalent of five years worth of research in just two years. He discussed the various sources that he had utilised and the new material that he had compiled and presented his recommendations for securing the future of history in state schools, the most significant of which was the insistence that the subject should be compulsory until 16 years of age. A brief but convivial question and answer session concluded the event.

Perhaps the most notable and pleasing feature of Sir David's talk, and of his research in general, was the consideration of its practical applications. He expressed a hope that his work would encourage research into the history of the teaching of other subjects and that his own findings would be used to inform future education policy. Given that he has received a promising response from current Education Secretary, Michael Gove, he was cautiously optimistic about the latter. Indeed, I think it fitting, and amusingly self-fulfilling, that as a result of Sir David's work, the historical study of historical study may soon inform the future development of historical study.

History West Midlands Update

by Elaine Mitchell

Announced in the last issue of the newsletter, the new History West Midlands magazine and website has seen a number of developments over the last month. A prototype edition of the magazine was launched to great enthusiasm at the Centre's West Midlands History Conference at Woodbrooke; delegates universally acclaimed its high production values and contributed a wide range of suggestions for future content. The website was also previewed at the Conference and, whilst still under development, is now live at www.historywm.com. Do pay it a visit and register your details for a free copy of the first issue of the magazine which will be published at the end of November.

If you don't have access to the internet, call and register with History West Midlands' Managing Editor, Elaine Mitchell, on 07968 730121. Finally, if you belong to a local history society or other organisation concerned with the history of the West Midlands, let Elaine have contact details so that she can let them know about this new and exciting publishing venture. Elaine can be contacted by email at managing.editor@historywm.com



Studying at the Centre for West Midlands History

by Dr Malcolm Dick

The numbers of students studying at the Centre for West Midlands history is increasing. As well as the part-time MA in West Midlands History, which provides a thorough introduction to the last 1000 years of West Midlands history and the opportunity to do a dissertation, well-qualified students can study for a full or part-time MRes (one or two years) or full or part-time PhD (three or six years).

Visit the Centre's website for more information about the MA, student opinions and the types of research topics which students have explored: www.birmingham.ac.uk/cwmh



Please contact Dr Malcolm Dick at m.m.dick@bham.ac.uk or 0121 415 8253, if you want more information about one or more of these opportunities.

Friends of the Centre for West Midlands History Committee Members - Who Are We?

by Guy Sjögren



In preparing this short article I thought that it might be a good idea to see what other members of the Committee had written before me. I noticed that Connie Wan and Sue Tungate had recently completed their PhDs and that, at the time of writing, Jonathan Atherton was in the process of finishing off his doctorate. Unlike Jonathan, now on the threshold of his career, my own career is a gradually fading memory; and unlike all three, who have now reaped the rewards of several years of hard graft, there stretch before me five and a half years of doctoral research.

I started my part-time PhD in October 2011, having completed the MA in West Midland History the previous year. I had retired in 2008 and, as I placed the final full-stop on my dissertation in the summer of 2010, I really thought that I had reached the end of my formal education – an education that had begun at Exeter University, where I had studied Economic History and where I had been fortunate enough to be taught by W.G. Hoskins. But the ‘studying bug’ is hard to shake off and, several decades after graduating from Exeter, I now find myself immersed once again in economic history.

In the volume of the ‘Victoria County History’ dealing with the economic and industrial history of Birmingham, a contributor notes that ‘of the nail trade we have but few records’; and one or two other writers have noted the apparent lack of interest that historians have shown in the trade. That the latter may be a function of the former has not escaped my attention! It may seem a bit perverse, therefore, to embark upon a study of the West Midland nail trade. What has been written about this particular trade has focused almost entirely on the hand-made nail trade. My research, however, will use such studies only as a contextual backdrop, whilst the main thrust of my research will be directed towards an understanding of the rise and decline of that very nineteenth-century branch of the nail trade, the machine-cut nail trade.

I joined the Committee last autumn and have since been recruited to the editorial team of the new magazine, ‘History West Midlands’. As the magazine and the website prepare for their launch we, the Friends of the Centre for West Midlands History, are living in exciting times.

*The Emergence of the West Midlands:
Culture, Communities and Change 1779 - 1918*
Friday 30 March - Sunday 1 April 2012
CWMH Annual Conference Reports

Tristram Hunt MP



Tristram Hunt MP opens
Annual Conference
by Elaine Mitchell

It was perhaps no surprise that Dr Tristram Hunt, historian and now Member of Parliament for Stoke-on-Trent Central, chose to focus on the Potteries in his after-dinner lecture at the Centre's conference, 'The Emergence of the West Midlands: Culture, Communities and Change 1779 - 1918'.

Hunt's examination of the place of the Potteries in J.B. Priestley's analysis of 1930's England, *English Journey*, formed an elegant, insightful and most engaging conclusion to the opening event of what proved to be a well-attended and successful weekend conference.

> Saturday 31st March
Landscapes and Identities
Report by Christine Mann

What defines a regional identity? Is it landscape and geology, agriculture or industry, cultural or religious affiliations, or just administrative expediency? **Peter Jones (University of Birmingham)** led us off in search of this amorphous entity, considering the history of the midlands of England, their flexible boundaries and the terminology used to describe them. Peter's research traced the more familiar 'West Midlands' and 'Black Country' to occasional references in the mid 19th century, which became more common as transport and communication links improved.

Paul Elliott (University of Derby) then considered the affiliations of scientific cultures in the Midlands. Provincial societies of professionals, like lawyers and doctors, were increasingly mirrored during the 19th century in urban culture, with its access to libraries, museums and art galleries. Whilst larger towns could support larger societies, market and county towns also boasted many smaller literary and scientific groups.

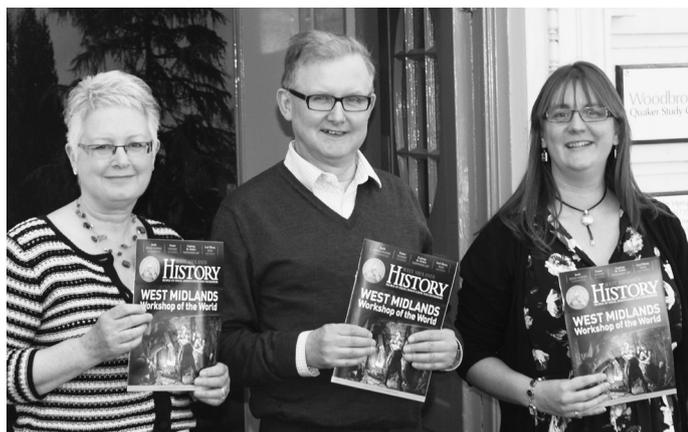
James Bowen (Lancaster University) focused on agrarian change in Shropshire, considering domestic specialisms and crafts and the effect of enclosure and agricultural improvement on the evolution of industry in the area, which subsequently reverted back to its agrarian base.

A very different culture evolved in those towns famed for their waters and **Jane Adams (University of Warwick)** related the history of the spa towns of Leamington, Malvern and Droitwich. Although recognised for centuries, they flourished in the early 1800s as water cure resorts, offering health benefits alongside a fashionable social setting. There was increased access for the poor and sick as the century progressed, but improved transport links carried well-to-do and fashionable society to the coast and beyond, causing the spas to decline to mere shadows.

In the run-up to the lunch break, **Malcolm Dick (Centre for West Midlands History)** introduced the audience to a new magazine, 'History West Midlands', which will be available by the end of this year. It will be produced under the auspices of the Centre for West Midlands History.

CWMH Annual Conference Reports *cont...*

From l to r: Elaine Mitchell, Malcolm Dick and Kate Iles.



Malcolm explained that the aim was to feature articles which would be well-researched, but accessible to a wide audience.

The afternoon session focused on 'the Black Country', a phrase **Chris Upton (Newman University College)** had tracked back to the 1840s. He considered artistic reactions to the area, offering examples of 'picturesque' views, 'sublime' and exciting depictions, and representations of moral parallels.

To the untrained eye, there is little today to indicate the past industrialisation of the Black Country. However, **Paul Quigley of Wolverhampton City Council** used a wide variety of sources to demonstrate how the area has experienced change and dereliction on a massive scale, as a result of the exploitation of its resources. A Victorian legacy of dereliction remained until reclamation and regeneration began in the early 1900s. What of the people living in this landscape? **Janet Sullivan (University of Birmingham)** investigated the experience of Oldbury, as it rapidly changed from a village to an industrial town in the early 1800s. The influx of workers disrupted the existing community, resulting in the forging of new affiliations and networks, creating a new unity and identity.

Ruth Watts (University of Birmingham) rounded off the day by describing the lives of three women, Alice Cooper, Mary Sturge and Julia Lloyd, and the contributions they made to education and health in Victorian and Edwardian Birmingham. Her exploration illustrated the pioneering spirit of many women during this dynamic period as they made the transition from voluntary work in the community to professional participation in social reform.

The next edition of the newsletter will carry a report on the presentations which were made on Sunday 1st April.

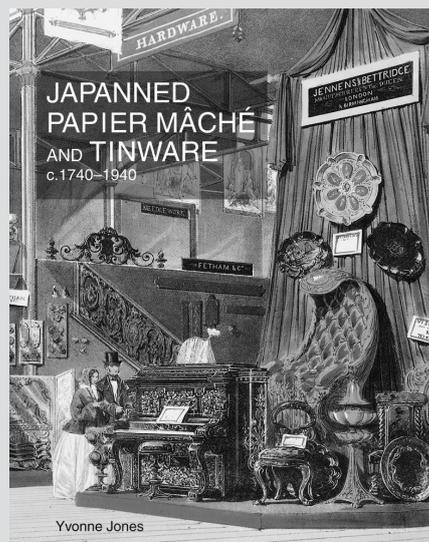
Japanned Papier Mâché and Tinware c.1740-1940

by Yvonne Jones

A book launch and presentation
Wednesday 6 June 2012

6.30 to 8.30pm

Lecture Room 3, Arts Building,
University of Birmingham, B15 2TT.



This beautifully illustrated and well-researched book is a history of a very important but neglected West Midlands trade, the Japanware industry which flourished in Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Bilston. The publication is as much about workers, their skills, and the factories and workshops in which they laboured, as it is about the products they made and changing patterns of taste. It explores how an industry which continued to rely heavily upon hand labour in the machine age declined in the late nineteenth century and came to an end in the 1930s. The book includes photographs of examples of japanned tin and papier mâché. It is a hardback publication and contains 336 pages and 360 illustrations in colour.

Light refreshments will be available and copies of the book will be on sale below the normal published price.

If you would like to attend this free event, please contact Malcolm Dick at m.m.dick@bham.ac.uk or 0121 415 8253.

CWMH Forthcoming Events

Friends of the Centre for West Midlands History will be informed of further details when they are available. The best way of keeping in touch with events is via the Centre's website: <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/cwmh/index.aspx>

➤ Wednesday 23 May
6.30 - 8.30pm
Shattered, Broken and Marginalised?: Birmingham Nonconformity and the Impact of the Priestley Riots of 1791
Friends of the Centre for West Midlands History Research Seminar with Jonathan Atherton
Lecture Room 3, First Floor Arts Building, University of Birmingham, B15 2TT.
To confirm your attendance email
Connie Wan: cwmhrg@hotmail.com

➤ Saturday 26 May
11am – 12.30pm
Guided tour of Bantock House, Wolverhampton
Approximate cost (with morning coffee) £3.75
Numbers limited to 20. Advance booking essential. More details on reverse of this page.
Contact Elaine Mitchell on 0121 427 8163 or elaineamitchell@btinternet.com

➤ Wednesday 6 June
6.30- 8.00pm
Book Launch
Japanned Papier Mâché and Tinware c.1740-1940 by Yvonne Jones
Lecture Room 3, First Floor Arts Building, University of Birmingham, B15 2TT.
A book launch of new well-illustrated book on West Midlands industrial, social and art history followed by a presentation by Yvonne Jones
Copies of the book will be available for sale at less than the published price.
To confirm your attendance contact Malcolm Dick on m.m.dick@bham.ac.uk or 0121 415 8253

➤ Saturday 23 June
10.00am - 4.00pm
The Birmingham Jewellery Quarter: Past Present and Future
Lecture Room 1, First Floor Arts Building, University of Birmingham, B15 2TT.
Advance booking is essential.
See www.cwmh.bham.ac.uk (events section) for more details or contact Malcolm Dick: m.m.dick@bham.ac.uk or telephone 0121 415 8253.

➤ Thursday 28 June
6.30 - 8.30pm
The Influence of the Gardening Style of William Shenstone
Friends of the Centre for West Midlands History Research Seminar with John Hemingway
Lecture Room 3, First Floor Arts Building, University of Birmingham, B15 2TT.
To confirm your attendance email
Connie Wan: cwmhrg@hotmail.com

➤ Saturday 30 June
10.00am – 4.00pm
Birmingham and Smethwick Canal Boat trip £20 per ticket (See last page for booking form)
Join us for a guided tour of Birmingham's canals, by local canal expert, Graham Fisher MBE and a buffet lunch. Places are limited so book early to ensure your place (tickets are restricted to two per person)
To book a place complete the booking form inside the newsletter and send it to Kate Iles or contact Kate on 01952 254897 or kate_iles@hotmail.com

Other dates for your diary

➤ Saturday 13 October
Black Country History Day
Further details will be provided in August or September.

➤ Saturday 24 November
Birmingham History Day
Further details will be provided in August or September.

If you would like to contribute to our next newsletter, please send editorial and news items to Connie Wan via cwmhrg@hotmail.com. Please note we do reserve the right to edit material.

Friends of the Centre for West Midlands History Guided Tour of Bantock House, Wolverhampton

Saturday 26 May

11am to 12.30pm

Approximate cost (with coffee/tea & biscuits)

£3.75 payable on the day

Numbers limited to 20 and advance booking essential

Contact Elaine Mitchell at elainemitchell@btinternet.com

or telephone 0121 427 8163



Bantock House Museum is one of the many surprises of Wolverhampton; come and discover its collections that reflect not only the Arts & Crafts interests of its owners, the Bantocks, but also the skills, trades and people that made Wolverhampton famous. Inside, room settings include displays of locally made japanned ware, enamels and steel jewellery, whilst outside the gardens have been restored to Baldwin Bantock's original Arts & Crafts designs. Beyond the house gardens, the 43 acres of Park, once home to the Bantocks' herd of highland cattle, is now home to mature trees, wild flowers and wildlife on a rather smaller scale!

Our visit starts with refreshments at 11am, followed by a guided tour from 11.30am to 12.30pm. There is a café offering a wide selection of drinks, lunches and cakes for those wanting to stay on after the tour, as well as a shop with cards, gifts, jewellery and enamels for sale.

Bantock House is approximately one mile from Wolverhampton city centre. Buses 3 and 4 from Wolverhampton stop close to Bantock Park and run regularly throughout the day. Journey time from the city centre is about 7 minutes. If coming by car, follow signs for Wolverhampton from the M5, M6 and M54. Bantock House is signposted off the city ring road. There is free parking on site. Further information can be found at <http://www.wolverhamptonart.org.uk/bantock>.

FRIENDS OF THE CENTRE FOR WEST MIDLANDS HISTORY
BIRMINGHAM CANAL DAY TRIP

SATURDAY 30 JUNE 2012

10AM – 4PM

£20 PER TICKET (RESTRICTED TO TWO PER PERSON)

Join us for a guided tour of Birmingham's canals, by local canal expert,
Graham Fisher MBE.

Starting and ending at the ICC and travelling to Smethwick with a buffet lunch provided.

Places are limited so book early to ensure your place!

<http://www.sherbornewharf.co.uk/index.htm>

BIRMINGHAM CANAL DAY TRIP BOOKING FORM

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS

No of Places: (limited to two per person) Fee: £20 Amount payable:

(Delete as appropriate) Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Dr Surname: Forename:

Address.....

.....Postcode:

Tel (day): Tel (evening):

Please tick here if you require the vegetarian option for the buffet

PLEASE DO NOT SEND MONEY WITH THIS FORM.
PAYMENT WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE DAY BY CASH OR BY CHEQUE.

PAYMENT DETAILS (please indicate how you wish to pay)

Cash (Payable on 30th June 2012)

Cheque (Payable to Malcolm Dick on 30th June 2012)

Please return completed booking forms to:

Kate Iles, 64 Haygate Road, Wellington, Telford, TF1 1QN.

Telephone contact: 01952 254897 E-mail contact: kate_iles@hotmail.com.

Please enclose a stamped address envelope if you require a receipt.

Data Protection Act: The names and addresses of people attending our events are held on a computerised mailing list which will be used to send information. Please let us know if you wish your name to be removed or to change your name and address (please remember to quote your previous name/address)