

FRIENDS OF THE CENTRE FOR WEST MIDLANDS HISTORY

SHARING THE PAST WITH THE FUTURE

LAUNCH OF THE BASKERVILLE SOCIETY



Over 70 guests attended the launch of the Baskerville Society at Birmingham University on 7 November 2012. The evening opened with a reading of *Hic Jacet, or The Corpse in the Crescent the story of John Baskerville thrice-buried printer*, written for the BBC by Neville Brandon Watts in 1947 and on this occasion performed by the Birmingham School of Acting. This was followed by talks from both Dr Malcolm Dick (Centre for West Midlands History, Birmingham University) and Dr Caroline Archer (The Typographic Hub, Birmingham City University) and the premier of a new film, *Industry and Genius: John Baskerville and the beauty of letter*, released by History West Midlands.

Applications for membership to the Baskerville Society are available with this newsletter. For more information on the Society please visit: www.typographicHub.org/baskerville-society/

Caroline Archer

A full report of the event will be published in the next newsletter.

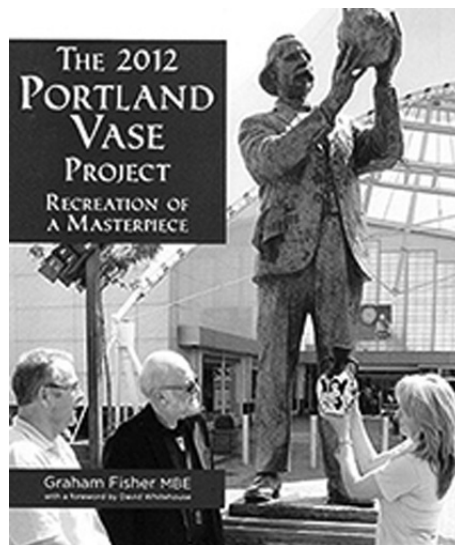
CALL FOR PAPERS Resurrecting the Book a 3-day Conference 15-17 November 2013

To celebrate the re-opening of the largest public library in Europe and its outstanding special collections the Typographic Hub at Birmingham City University, the Library of Birmingham, Newman University College and the Library of Lost Books have united to host a three-day conference on the theme of 'Resurrecting the book.' Further details are available at: www.typographicHub.org/diary/entry/ressurecting-the-book/

Talk, Book and DVD Launch

Graham Fisher MBE

*The 2012 Portland Vase Project:
Recreation of a Masterpiece*



Tuesday 27 November 2012, 6.30pm- 8.30pm
Lecture Room 3, Arts Building (first floor)
University of Birmingham

Graham Fisher's new well-illustrated book and accompanying DVD explore the work of the Portland Vase Project in Stourbridge to recreate the famous cameo vase. They also present a picture of the principles of glassmaking, the 400-year-old Stourbridge Glass industry and the development of cameo glass from Roman times to the present.

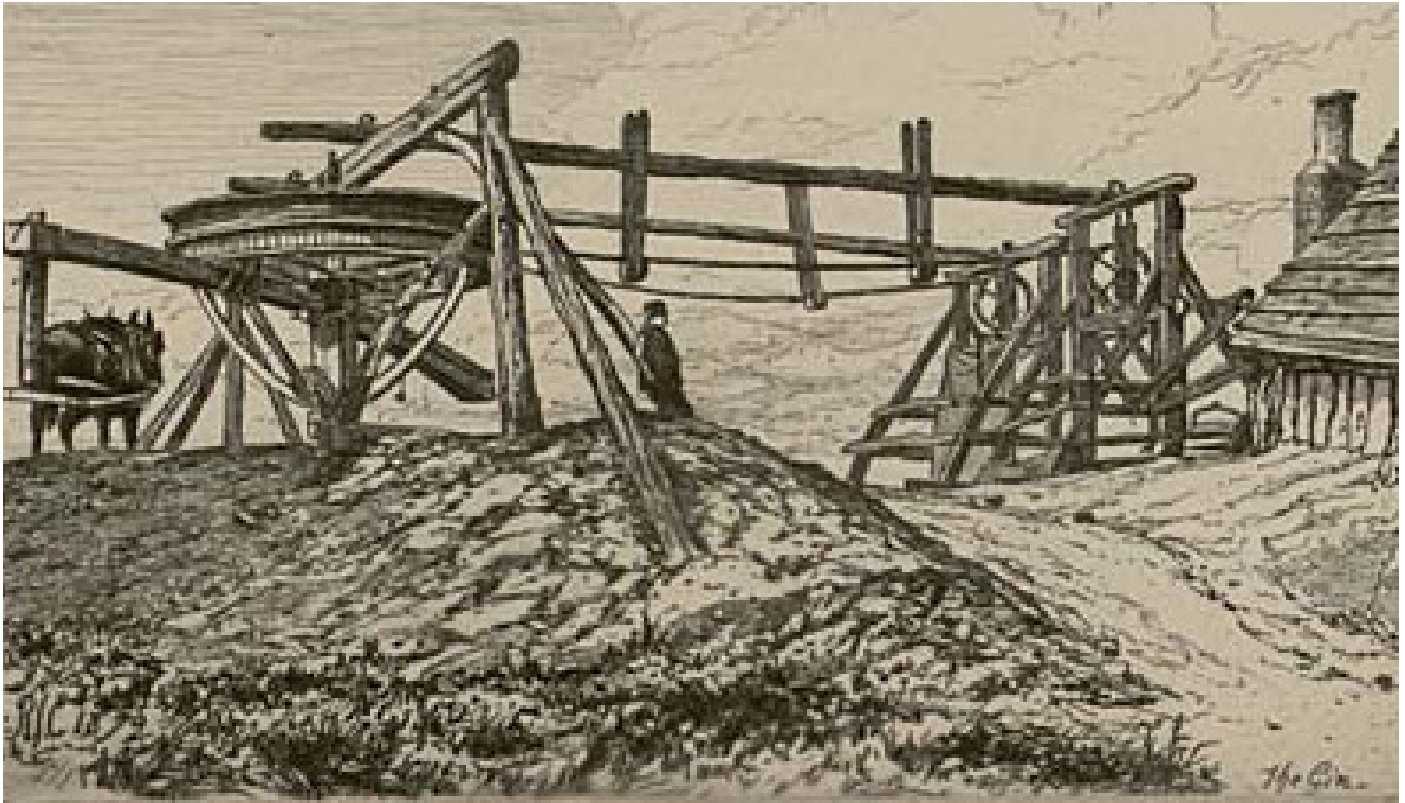
Graham reveals the artistic and industrial heritage of the West Midlands and the continuation of advanced technical skills in the area.

Graham Fisher is a well-known local author and broadcaster and an expert on the history of canals and the glass industry. He recently guided the two heavily oversubscribed canal trips organised by the Friends of the Centre for West Midlands History. He is a superb presenter and this event promises to be a very popular event.

To book a place, contact
Malcolm Dick on m.m.dick@bham.ac.uk or 0121 415 8253

BLACK COUNTRY HISTORY DAY 2012

by Judith Watkin



The Gin, Richard S. Chattock

A lively and enthusiastic audience of around 120 were treated to an excellent set of presentations at this year's Black Country History Day on Saturday 13 October, organised jointly by the Black Country Society and the Centre for West Midlands History at the University of Birmingham.

The event opened with **Guy Sjögren**, the descendant of a line of Birmingham nail manufacturers and Swedish metallurgists, looking at the history of the Black Country nail trade. Census returns show how important hand-nail making was to the West Midlands and large numbers of the working population were employed in the trade in the nineteenth century. However, by the last quarter of the century even the manufacture of machine-cut nails in the region was in decline and other centres became pre-eminent.

David Eveleigh, the Director of Collections, Learning and Research at the Black Country Living Museum began his talk with one of the Museum's artefacts, a Cannon 1927 gas cooker, last used in 1977, before going back in time to show how domestic technology developed, using illustrations of many of the fire grates and ranges in situ in the houses at the Museum. David's overview of the

development of gas lighting, both inside and outside the home, rounded off the morning session.

Andy Foster, author of the Pevsner Architectural Guide for Birmingham turned his attention to the Black Country architect, A.T. Butler, 1872-1952, who designed the Workers Institute at Cradley Heath, built with money left over from the 1910 women chainmakers' strike fund and now relocated to the Black Country Living Museum. Andy showed how Butler's quirky additions to his buildings, which included homes, chapels and public houses, contrasted with his conventional public image.

Dr Jennifer Davies completed an enjoyable event by considering the importance of Nonconformity in the Black Country 1750-1900, using statistical, visual and archival information to illustrate the changing religious landscape of the region. Based on her earlier research for a MA West Midlands History dissertation at the University of Birmingham, Jennifer revealed the ways in which the population of the Black Country was attracted to movements such as Unitarianism and Methodism.

The day school was chaired by **Dr Malcolm Dick, Director of the Centre for West Midlands History.**

CWMHRG RESEARCH SHOWCASE SEMINARS:
*'LEARNING TO BE A GENTLEMAN:
THE GALTON FAMILY OF BIRMINGHAM,
1780-1840'* WITH HARRY SMITH



The latest in the regular series of Friends research seminars took place on Thursday 25 October. The speaker, Harry Smith, is a third year doctoral student at the University of Oxford. Harry's thesis examines propertied society and public life in Birmingham between 1780 and 1832, and his talk provided an interesting snapshot of his research.

The seminar examined the Galton family of Birmingham. Harry began by discussing the significant role that the Galtons played in Birmingham public life during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The Galtons were noted industrialists and bankers and were prominent members of the Quaker meeting on Bull Street in Birmingham. Members of the family also occupied important positions within Birmingham's manorial offices as well as serving as street commissioners.

The primary focus of the seminar was to discuss how Samuel Galton Jnr tried to educate his son, John Howard Galton, to be a gentleman. Harry discussed at length the Galtons' attempts to instill John Howard with the values required to be a gentleman. John Howard was educated on social hierarchy, how he fitted into that hierarchy and the social utility of knowledge. He was also encouraged to dance and to pick his friends carefully. Harry noted that the family's efforts were not always successful. A relationship with Mary Freer was cited as one example where John Howard acted expressly against his family's wishes. It was suggested that the Galtons' attempts to teach John Howard how to manage his finances also appear to have failed.

The seminar attracted a large audience, with more than fifty people in attendance. Harry's scholarly and insightful talk was well received by all. A lengthy question and answer session followed and this provided further insight into the Galtons' attempts to educate John Howard. The diverse range of questions discussed why Mary Freer was considered appropriate, whether the Galtons taught the women in their family to be ladylike and whether the Galtons corresponded with other members of the Lunar Society on this subject. I would like to congratulate Harry for his fascinating talk and wish him all the best with the remainder of his PhD.

Jonathan Atherton

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.

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

People, Places and Things

Local and Regional History Seminar Series

Lecture Room 3, Arts Building
Mondays from 4-6pm

A multi-disciplinary seminar series for academics, students and heritage professionals, aimed at exploring aspects of local history from the ancient to the modern and from the Midlands to the wider world. Everybody is welcome.

Spring Term 2013

Monday 7 January

Professor Christopher Dyer (University of Leicester)
'Deserted villages visited - new interdisciplinary approaches';
Launch event with wine and nibbles.

Monday 21 January

Dr James Hamilton (Research and Cultural Collections, University of Birmingham)
'Brilliant with all colours': Vesuvius and the evolution of its image'

Monday 4 February

Jo-Ann Curtis, (Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery)
'The Bull Ring, an iconic Birmingham landmark:
the popularity of 19th century topographical views'

Monday 18 February

Sally Hoban (Birmingham Assay Office and University of Birmingham)
'Accomplished Ladies or Professional Women? Women in art and design in
Birmingham in the late 19th and early 20th centuries'

Monday 4 March

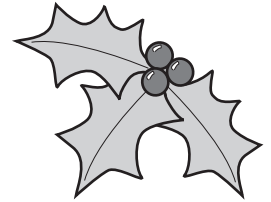
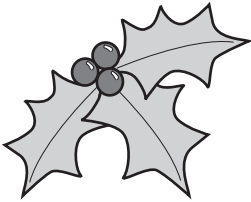
Dr Nicola Whyte (University of Exeter)
'The place of the dead: territory and identity in the early modern landscape'

Monday 18 March

David Eveleigh (Black Country Living Museum)
'It's all a Gas': the development and provision of household technology in the Black
Country 1800-1939'

Supported by the Centre for West Midlands History

Centre for West Midlands History Christmas Social 2012



Richard Churchley

“A Miscellany of West Midlands Folklore and Song”
- a personal selection of songs, tunes and lore from
the West Midlands counties

Tuesday 13 December 2012

6.30pm - 8.30pm

Lecture Room 3, Arts Building (first floor)

University of Birmingham

Richard is a local historian who recently completed a PhD at the University of Birmingham, but he is also a well-known singer and musician. He will be bringing various instruments to accompany his singing. As well as being enjoyable and entertaining, the event will shed light on aspects of local history such as enclosure, urban growth, etc. For more details see: www.churchley.org.uk

To book a place, contact Malcolm Dick on 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> To book a place on an event, contact Malcolm Dick on m.m.dick@bham.ac.uk or 0121 415 8253 unless stated otherwise.

- Tuesday 27 November 6.30 - 8.30pm
Talk, Book and DVD Launch: Graham Fisher MBE, The 2012 Portland Vase Project: Recreation of a Masterpiece
Lecture Room 3, Arts Building (first floor), University of Birmingham B15 2TT.
Advance booking is essential.
- Saturday 8 December 10.30am - 3.30pm
Joint event with the Cadbury Research Library on the history of the University of Birmingham.
This day school will include presentations on the history of the University and its collections and the ways in which a multi-media archive project is adding to our knowledge of the student experience. Advance booking is advised.
- Tuesday 11 December 6.30 - 8.30pm
Historical Association: Sally Hoban, 'The Birmingham Girls: Women Designers of the Arts and Crafts Movement'
The Open University, The Open University in the West Midlands, 66 High Street, Harborne, Birmingham B17 9NB. There is no need to book for this event.
- Thursday 13 December 6.30 - 8.30pm
Christmas Social: Richard Churchley, 'A Miscellany of West Midlands Folklore and Song' - a personal selection of songs, tunes and lore from the west midlands counties
Lecture Room 3, Arts Building (first floor), University of Birmingham. Advance booking is advised.
- Tuesday 15 January 2013 6.30pm
Historical Association: George Demidowicz, 'The Borough Rentals of 1296 and 1344-5. A revolution in our knowledge of medieval Birmingham'
The Open University, The Open University in the West Midlands, 66 High Street, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 9NB. There is no need to book for this event.
- Thursday 31 January 2013 6.30 - 8.00pm
Dr Malcolm Dick, 'The Industrial Enlightenment in the West Midlands: Some perspectives on eighteenth-century industrialization'
The Birmingham Metallurgical Association, Metals and Metallurgy Building, University of Birmingham, B15 2TT. Advance booking is advised.
- Tuesday 12 February 2013 6.30pm
Historical Association: Guy Sjögren, 'From Nails to Nebulae or from Hero to Zero? John Reynolds & Sons, 1849-1949 - three generations of a Birmingham family firm'
The Open University, The Open University in the West Midlands, 66 High Street, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 9NB. There is no need to book.
- Saturday 8 March 2013 10.00am - 4.30pm
Staffordshire History Day
Booking details will be provided in the next issue of the newsletter.
- Tuesday 12 March 2013 6.30pm
Historical Association: Dr Malcolm Dick, 'Birmingham, the Slave Trade and Anti-slavery'
The Open University, The Open University in the West Midlands, 66 High Street, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 9NB. There is no need to book for this event.
- Saturday 23 March 2013 10.30am - 4.00pm
Art and the Black Country Study Day at Wolverhampton Art Gallery
£25 per person (includes lunch and refreshments)
To book, telephone 01902 552195 or visit <https://bookwhen.com/hx49t>
- Saturday 6 April to Sunday 7 April 2013
A two-day conference: 'John Baskerville: Art, Industry and Technology in the Enlightenment'
Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre. Booking details will be provided in the next issue of the newsletter. More information: <http://www.typographicichub.org/diary>
- Saturday 20 April 2013 2.00 - 4.00pm
Guided tour of Stokesay Court, near Craven Arms, Shropshire. Cost £15 per head (including afternoon tea). An opportunity to visit the fortified manor house of Stokesay Castle in the morning and then Stokesay Court. Advance booking essential. Contact Guy Sjögren at gsjogren@btinternet.com or by telephone 01694 722291.
- Thursday February 28 2013 6.30pm
Lunar Society and CWMH Annual History Lecture, Dr Kate Iles, 'The Lunatics and their Wives' Lecture Room 3, Arts Building (first floor), University of Birmingham. Advance booking is essential.