

# E Newsletter



Welcome to the NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY (MIDLAND ANCESTORS)

Meetings : 1st Monday of the month at 7:30 pm unless First Monday is a Bank Holiday, then second Monday

There is a free car park at the side of the centre and ample on street parking in Harpfields Road and Flash Lane.

We are asked though to avoid parking in Vicarage Lane which is adjacent to the building since it is narrow & difficult for residents

Dates for  
the diary  
2019

**1st April**

Staffordshire Curious  
Discoveries

Shawn Farrelly

**13th May**

Research Evening

**3rd June**

Research Using  
DNA

John Titterton

The newsletter will be added to the web page on the following dates for you to view:

30th June 2019

30th September 2019

31st December 2019

31st March 2020

# AGM

1st April 2019

## AGENDA

1. Minutes of last meeting.

2. Chairman's Report.

3. Secretary's Report

4. Treasurer's Report,

5. Election of Officers and committee members *(All current members of the committee are willing to continue but if there are other nominations we will have a vote. If no other nominations it goes through unopposed)*

Chairperson:- Bill Harrison

Vice Chairperson:- Derek Cliff

Correspondence & Minutes:- Caroline Elson

Treasurer:-Derek Cliff

Programme Secretary:- Brian Wilson

Head Librarian:- Dianne Shenton

MI's Co-Ordinator:- Rob Carter

Fiche Librarian:- Mike Griffin

Computer Liaison:- Bill Harrison

Newsletter Editor:- Rob Carter

Reception:- Joan Cartlidge

Branch Webmaster:- Bill Harrison

Projects Co-Ordinator:- **VACANT**

Book Sales Officer:- **VACANT**

6. Proposal to downsize or re-locate the library *Since moving from Epworth Street and having access to wi-fi the use of the library has diminished to practically zero. Especially as most of the census and PR are on Find My Past. Many items have now been digitised and are available on the branch hard drives.*

*As the metal cupboards housing the library are lining the wall between the router and the hall this is restricting the wi-fi access but we unable to place the cupboards anywhere else. Therefore the suggestion is to downsize or re-locate the library to im prove wi-fi which is what most members appear to require.*

*I would like to see the library re-located but still available for members to consult if required. Suggested options are to approach Hanley library, William salt library or possibly Keele university local studies library.*

7. Any Other Business.

# LOST MEMORIALS

More and more churches and chapels are being lost or turned into restaurants or residential properties so this begs the question where do the memorials go?

Are they taken to the mother church?

Are they left with the property ?

Are they dumped into a skip?

Can you spare a little time to photograph the memorial located inside churches, chapels etc.

If you feel you can help please email me and I will let you know which churches/chapels need to have their memorials photographed near you.



[robecarter@hotmail.com](mailto:robecarter@hotmail.com)



WHO

DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?.

## 7th & 8th June 2019 - Birmingham, England

The demise of the Who Do You Think You Are? Live show has left a hole in the genealogy calendar of UK-based events with many attendees commenting on the loss of a 'big' annual gathering.

An international group of genealogists, led by Kirsty Gray and Sylvia Valentine (Show Directors), have been diligently working since the US-based RootsTech Conference, to get THE Genealogy Show on the road.

This two-day event will take place at the NEC (National Exhibition Centre) in Birmingham, in the same hall as in previous years. The Board members are dedicated to providing outstanding educational opportunities through talks and stands, as well as creating an environment where family historians from beginner to expert can network together. Even at this early planning stage, many international genealogists are making travel plans to attend the event.

More information will be released on the website over the next month, though you can register your interest as an exhibitor, speaker or sponsor on the website right now - <http://www.thegenealogyshow.uk>.

Follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/THEGenShow2019>

Like the event Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/THEGenShow/>

## Staffordshire History Day 2019

This study day is presented by the Staffordshire Archive and Heritage Service in collaboration with Keele University and the Centre for West Midlands History (University of Birmingham). Please see links below for programme and booking form.

### Keynote speakers

Dr Nigel Tringham (Staffordshire VCH, Keele University): A History of Tamworth

Ruth Singer: Criminal Quilts

There will be updates from Staffordshire Archives and Heritage, County Archaeologist, Keele University and the VCH, and the Centre for West Midlands History, as well as reports on research activity from MA and PhD students.

**Venue:** [Entrust HQ](#), The Riverway Centre, Riverway, Stafford, ST16 3TH.

- **Date:** Saturday 11 May 2019.
- **Time:** 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
- **Admission:** Tickets are £25 each, by advance booking only. Please telephone Staffordshire Record Office on 01785-278379 to reserve your ticket.
- **Code for online payments:** SHD19
- **Lunch and refreshments:** Included in the ticket price.
- **Parking:** Free onsite parking is provided.

For the full programme please email [staffordshire.record.office@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:staffordshire.record.office@staffordshire.gov.uk).

## Family history club

The Family History Club meets on the fourth Monday of each month at Staffordshire Record Office, from 2pm to 3.30pm (unless this coincides with a bank holiday, in which case it is held on the preceding Monday)

Some meetings will be a short talk on a family history resource by a member of Archive Service staff, followed by a question and answer session and then an open discussion/chat time. Other meetings provide opportunities for members to talk about their own research.

All are welcome!

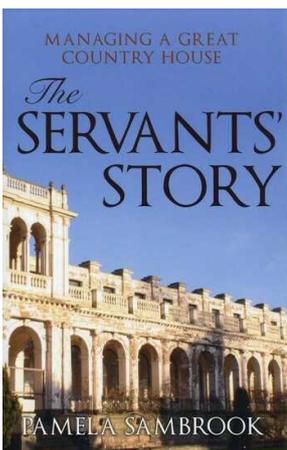
- 15 April 2019 - subject to be confirmed
  - 20 May 2019 - Spotlight on Members' Research
- 24 June 2019 - subject to be confirmed

Contact: Tim Groom, Senior Archivist

Email: [tim.groom@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:tim.groom@staffordshire.gov.uk)

Address: Staffordshire Record Office, Eastgate Street, Stafford ST16 2LZ.

## The Book Club



### The Servants' Story

**Managing a Great Country House**

[Pamela Sambrook](#)

[Amberley](#) 2016

Hardback 288pp Illustrated

9781445654201 Product Code: 224698

This recreation of what it was like to live and work as a servant in a grand household during the mid 19th century is based on the Sutherland Collection, the papers of the Leveson-Gowers family, once the largest private landlords in the United Kingdom. While Trentham, their house in Staffordshire, stands in ruins, the family archive is extraordinarily intact, affording a detailed picture of the social structure, administration and working conditions within the highly complex community of Trentham.



## ON THE WEB

### Tracing Irish ancestors

Irish Genealogy toolkit [www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com](http://www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com)

Griffith's valuation records [www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation](http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation)

Also

<http://registers.nil.ie>

[www.johngrenham.com](http://www.johngrenham.com)

### Map were your ancestors lived

[www.thegenealogist.co.uk](http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk) this site lets you search search addresses

[www.Googlemaps](http://www.Googlemaps)

[www.historypin.org](http://www.historypin.org)

<http://maps.nls.uk> to view arrange of historical maps

[www.maps.thehunthouse.com/London](http://www.maps.thehunthouse.com/London) search for lost London streets between 1857 and 1945



Has you lost a John Robinson alias Kent!!!

St Mary's Parish Records, Harrow on the Hill, Middlesex. Baptism

10 Jan 1702 Ye 10th day John son of Margart Robinson alias Kent of ye Parish and Town of Sambach in Cheshire. [Something unreadable which in other entries is an occupation] a traveller. Born Decemb. 25th last past.

from

Dianne Shenton

Wormley. 1702  
Ye 10th day John son of Margart Robinson alias  
Kent of ye Parish & Town of Sambach in Cheshire  
a traveller. Born Decemb. 25th last  
past. ... Katherine daughter of ...

# AN EARLY CALENDAR FOR ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, IRELAND, AND WALES

\* The "old calendar" or "Old Style" as it's called, refers to the change from the Julian Calendar to the Gregorian Calendar. Pope Gregory modified the calendar in 1582 by ten days to adjust for a previously-too-long Leap Day; however, this style of dating was not adopted officially in (anti-Catholic) England until 1752. By that time, the difference amounted to 11 days, so in 1752, September 2 was immediately followed by September 14. Scholars who need precise dating for events during the Renaissance period must take this gap into account.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Ecclesiastical Rituals</b>	<b>Pagan and Folk Traditions</b>
November 1	All Hallows, All Saints	Samhain (pagan new year) - the gates of the otherworld open, allowing communion with ancestors and their wisdom.
November 2	All Souls - the church feast of the departed	Children beg for "soul-cakes" in villages and mumming or "souling" dances are performed with the hobby-horse, a symbol of the Cailleach, the earth Mother who governs death and rebirth
November 11	Martinmas - the feast of St. Martin	Traditional day for slaughtering livestock for winter storage
late November	Advent (ecclesiastical year begins; four weeks before Christmas; color: purple) - penance and preparation for Christmas	
Nov. 30	St. Andrew - patron of Scotland Feast of St. Nicholas, patron saint of children and thieves - on this day, the election of the Boy Bishop took place, who reigned until Holy Innocents or Childermas Day (Dec. 28)	
Dec. 6		
Dec. 13	St. Lucy's Day	In the old calendar*, the shortest day and longest night of the year.
Dec. 17-23		The Roman Saturnalia festival honored the Solstice by celebrating the home, friendship, gift-giving, and masked dancing. In Rome, masters and servants ate together, and the spirit of Misrule was welcomed. Both Saturn (god of Planting and Time) and Ops (goddess of Plenty) have their feasts in this period.
Dec. 21		Astronomical Winter Solstice - feasts with candles and bonfires call back the light of the sun, which is at its lowest point this day, creating the longest night in the year in the Northern Hemisphere.
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve -- the fasting and penance of Advent ends at the celebration of Midnight Mass, and the Christmas season begins.	Greens are put up around the house, especially holly and mistletoe, sacred to the Druids. Bells are rung, the Yule log is burned - Mummers dance in great halls, enacting the story of St. George and the Dragon by dancing with swords. Mock-beheadings represent the cycle of death and rebirth.
Dec. 25	Christmas (birth of Christ; moved to Dec. 25 in 336 A.D. to take advantage of the Roman festival of Saturnalia; color: white)	It was believed that the rooster crowed all night, beginning at midnight, preventing any evil spirits from walking the earth. After mass at midnight, the Lord of Misrule holds court for the 12 days of Christmas revels until Jan. 6 (Epiphany).
Dec. 26	St. Stephen, the Proto- (first) martyr	Boxing Day - the day in England for gifts to servants and service workers, and also the day on which the rich were obligated to feed the poor. This was also the day in Celtic tradition for the Hunting of the Wren, the King of Birds (called so by the Druids for his wisdom).
Dec. 27	St. John the Apostle	
Dec. 28	Holy Innocents or Childermas- Herod has all the children in Israel slaughtered in attempt to kill Christ	
Dec. 31	New Year's Eve	Hogmanay in Scotland - ritual eating and drinking and the ceremony of "first-footing" - it was believed that if the first person to enter and bless a house after midnight was a handsome young dark-haired man, good luck would come the rest of the year.
Jan. 1	Circumcision (of infant Jesus), New Year's Day	

# AN EARLY CALENDAR FOR ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, IRELAND, AND WALES

Date	Ecclesiastical Rituals	Pagan and Folk Traditions
Jan. 6	Epiphany (12 days after Christmas, hence "The Twelve Days of Christmas," a season of gift-giving in honor of the Wise Men or Magi, who visited Jesus 12 days after his birth; symbolically, the "epiphany" or "appearance" and "manifestation" of Jesus to the Gentiles)	The eve of Epiphany (Jan. 5) marks the last of the Christmas feasts and the exchange of New-Year's gifts. In the English court, masques were often held on this night.
Jan. 13	St. Hilary	The beginning of Hilary Term runs from Jan. 11 to the Wednesday before Easter. This is one of the four "terms" for schools and law courts.
Jan. 20	St. Agnes' Eve	Young maids, by observing certain rituals before retiring on this night, ensure that (if they take care to sleep on their backs) they will dream of their future husbands.
Jan. 25	Conversion of St. Paul	The weather on this day was believed to predict the coming year: if fair, then the year would be prosperous; if snowy or rainy, an unfruitful year; if cloudy, a hard year for cattle; and if windy, it prophesied war.
Feb. 1		Imbolc - the Irish Goddess Brighid brings light and art to the people, along with the first intimations of spring - candles are lit.
Feb. 2	Candlemas - the feast of the purification of Mary (after the birth of Christ) - blessing of candles	All greenery from Christmas/Solstice celebrations is taken down. The weather on this day (sunny or rainy) is thought to predict the length of the remaining winter (the American Groundhog Day is related to this tradition).
mid-late February (movable)	Mardi Gras or Shrove Tuesday, the day before Lent starts-celebrations, and in England, traditionally pancakes for dinner, followed by Ash Wednesday, first day of Lent	Shrove Tuesday is also Apprentice's Day in London, when the boys in work and in school have a holiday.
mid-February late March (movable)	Lent (40 days before Easter; a period of penance; memorializes Christ's 40 days wandering in the wilderness, at the end of which time Satan appeared to tempt him; this event in Christ's life in turn symbolized by the 40 years the Israelites wander in the wilderness before God brings them to Israel, a penance for having worshipped false gods after God brought them out of Egypt) colors: black and purple	
Feb. 14	St. Valentine's Day	Letters and presents are exchanged by young and old alike. Tradition also has it that birds chose their mates on this day.
Mar. 1	Feast of St. David, patron of Wales	
mid-March (movable) Third Sunday of Lent	Mid-Lent or Mothering Sunday - the Sunday on which young men and women in service were allowed to go home to visit their mothers.	Gifts of sweets or cake were traditional, as was a sweetened, spiced oatmeal dish called frumenty - the original comfort food.
Mar. 17	St. Patrick's Day, the patron of Ireland	People of Irish descent wear the shamrock and the color green.
March 21		Astronomical Spring Equinox - the strengthening sun is welcomed with songs and chanting.

## AN EARLY CALENDAR FOR ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, IRELAND, AND WALES

Date	Ecclesiastical Rituals	Pagan and Folk Traditions
March 25	Annunciation (Lady Day) - The calendar year during the Middle Ages (and down to 1752) began on March 25, Ladyday, the date of the Annunciation (by Archangel Gabriel) to Mary that she would bear Christ.	
April 1	Pope Julian moves the New Year from this day to Jan. 1, confusing many for years to come.	All Fools' Day - practical jokes are played on the unsuspecting.
late March-early April (movable)	Palm Sunday (Sunday before Easter; memorializes Christ's entry into Jerusalem, riding on an ass, greeted as though in triumph by the people, who spread palm branches in his path)	Although Henry VIII abolished the traditional (Catholic) decoration of homes with palms on this day, young people would still surreptitiously go "a-palming" and find slips of willow in the woods to wear in their hats and on their clothes.
(movable)	Maundy Thursday (memorial of Last Supper, held on Passover Thursday before Crucifixion)	Baskets of food or <i>maunds</i> are distributed to the poor; the nobility perform ceremonies in which they also wash the feet of the poor.
(movable)	Good Friday (Crucifixion of Christ)	Monarchs bless rings which are distributed as cures for the cramp. Crumbs kept from bread baked on this day were thought to cure many ailments, including diarrhea. Hot-cross buns are sold and eaten.
(movable)	Easter (color: white; Christ rises from the dead)	This holiday may be named for the pagan goddess of fertility, Aestres; symbols of new life such as eggs are exchanged. Children in Ireland try to catch the sun's light in bowls of water placed on the floor.
(movable)		Easter Term, one of the four "term" days for schools and law courts, begins the Tuesday after Easter and ends in late May.
(movable)		Hock-Tide or Hock-Tuesday occurs two weeks after Easter; women would go out and tie themselves to men on the street, demanding a "hock" or payment of money to be released.
April 23	Feast of St. George - patron of England; The legends concerning his conquest of the Dragon (symbol of Satan) make him an analogue to Christ.	Bonfires and St. George-plays celebrate this day; Shakespeare's birthday has been assigned to this day as well.
April 25	Feast of St. Mark	On the eve of this day, it was believed that those who watched from the church porch from 11pm to 1am would see the shades of those who would be buried there in the coming year.
April 30		Bonfires are kindled on the eve of Beltane; the people and domestic animals of the village processed between two of these fires to purify them from winter diseases and ensure a healthy coming year. The fires were brought into households and used to kindle the hearths.
May 1		Beltane (May Day) celebrates the coming of summer, and is also a fertility festival - unmarried young people traditionally pair off and go into the woods and fields to court. Girls were encouraged to "receive a green-gown" - the grass-stains on skirts that were proof of amorous activity. Garlands of flowers are also collected on these outings to decorate people and houses. The fairest boy and girl of the village are crowned May King and Queen; feasting and dances around the May Pole are common. Other traditions include dancing around the Jack-in-the-green, a man dressed in an elaborate framework of greenery and flowers, referring to the Green Man - the ancient symbol of fertility - of pagan belief.
mid-late May	Ascension (Christ rises to Heaven, in sight of his disciples; 40 days after Easter, symmetrical with 40 days of Lent before Easter)	

## AN EARLY CALENDAR FOR ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, IRELAND, AND WALES

Date	Ecclesiastical Rituals	Pagan and Folk Traditions
late May - June (movable)	Whitsunday or Pentecost (color: red; flames of fire appear over the heads of the Apostles while they are preaching, and they speak spontaneously in tongues-i.e., everything they say is miraculously understood by whoever hears it in his own language) - 10 days after Ascension	The Whitsun-ale or festival featured the Morris Dancers - men wearing ribbons and bells who performed dances with staves and sometimes swords. Such performances often took place in the local lord's hall. Robin-Hood games and dances are also traditional, as well as dances featuring the hobby-horse, a fertility symbol.
late May	Trinity Sunday - feast of the mystery of the Holy Trinity (color: green)	Trinity Term, one of the four "term" days for schools and law courts, begins in early June and ends July 31.
late May - mid-Jun	Feast of Corpus Christi (Thursday after Trinity Sunday)	The Corpus Christi play cycle dramatized the whole of the Old and New Testaments over three days. These plays were performed by craft guilds and combined sacred re-enactment with secular comedy.
June 11	St. Barnaby's Day	In the old calendar*, the shortest night and longest day of the year.
June 21		Astronomical Summer Solstice: the sun is at its highest point in the sky, making this the shortest night and longest day in the Northern Hemisphere.
June 23		Midsummer's Eve - young girls gather yarrow to place under their pillows and dream of their future husbands. Bonfires are lit and folk jump over them to purify themselves of illness and to ensure fertility.
June 24	St. John the Baptist	Midsummer's Day -- the traditional date for celebrating the Solstice. People collect branches and flowers from the wood and fields to deck their houses.
July 15	St. Swithin's Day	If it rains on this day, 40 days of wet weather will ensue. If it is fair, the next 40 days will be fair.
July 25	Feast of St. James, patron of Spain and of pilgrims, whose symbol is the shell	Shells are collected in memory of this saint; eating oysters on this day is supposed to guarantee wealth all year.
August 1		Lughnasadh begins, the season of harvest presided over by the sun-god Lugh. Marriages are often performed at this time of year, in homage to the marriage of the land and its people. A bull was often sacrificed by pagan peoples.
August 24	St. Bartholomew	The great St. Bartholomew's Fair in London was the occasion for feasting and street entertainment.
September 22		Autumnal Equinox - the feast of Ingathering or Harvest-Home is held around this time. Huge outdoor suppers are held for the field laborers. The last grain from the field is brought in on the Hock-Cart, which also carries the figure of a person made of wheat sheaves either the goddess Ceres or "John Barleycorn," whose death is celebrated in song. Local people entertain with morris-dances and songs, and ask the attending gentlefolk for "Largess" or gifts of money.
September 29	Feast of St. Michael and All Angels	Michaelmas Term, one of the four "term" days for schools and law courts, begins October 1 and ends December 21.
October 25	Sts. Crispin and Crispinian	Celebrations of England's 1415 victory at Agincourt and also of shoemakers and their craft occur on this day.
October 31	Halloween, i.e., Eve of All Hallows or All Saints	The Morrigan or Sheela-na-Gig is the Celtic Triple Goddess whose aspects are destruction, fertility, and rebirth. She is associated with battlefields but also with the preparation of the land for its winter sleep. Halloween is celebrated with both harvest- and death-related images. Nuts and apples are traditional foods. The tradition of disguising comes from the belief that malevolent spirits could be tricked if they couldn't recognize their prey; jack-o-lanterns are made from hollowed gourds to provide light to scare away evil spirits. Begging for treats by children is probably related to the tradition of begging for soul-cakes (see Nov. 2). The door between the worlds is open on this night, which makes it New Year's Eve in the pagan world.