THE BIRMINGHAM & MIDLAND INSTITUTE

What's On January - June 2019

SCIENCE ARTS LITERATURE
Join the BMI

The Institute offers a range of facilities and events for its Members including:

- Access to the Members’ Room (inc. periodicals and newspapers)
- Use of the Library
- Discount in the BMI Coffee Lounge
- Discount on BMI lectures and events
- Vote at the AGM

Membership is open to anyone who finds the Institute's activities and facilities of interest; there is a range of membership subscriptions available dependent on your circumstances. To join, simply fill in the application form and send it along with your payment, to the Institute (address below).

Payment can be made via cash, cheque or credit/debit card. Card payments can be made over the telephone on 0121 236 3591. Please make cheques payable to ‘Birmingham and Midland Institute’ and send to: The Birmingham and Midland Institute, 9 Margaret Street, Birmingham, B3 3BS.

Here at The Birmingham & Midland Institute we take your privacy seriously and will only use your personal information to administer your account and to provide the products and services you have requested from us. However, from time to time we would like to contact you with details of other events and offers that we provide. If you consent to us contacting you for this purpose please tick to say how you would like us to contact you:

We will never pass your details onto a third party. A copy of our data protection policy is available upon request.

INCLUDE A DONATION

Membership fees only contribute a little to the upkeep of our Grade II* listed building which is now nearly 120 years old. Your generosity will ensure its legacy for the Institute and future users.

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate! Gift Aid is reclaimed by the BMI from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed (above) to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

I want to Gift Aid my donation of (please circle) to the Birmingham & Midland Institute:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>£5</th>
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Other amount: ______________

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

To apply for Membership or to renew your existing subscription, please fill in the following details:

☐ New Membership  ☐ Membership renewal

Member no.: ______________

Full name: ______________

Address: ______________

Telephone: ______________

Email: ______________

☐ Tick if you would like to subscribe to our e-newsletter

How did you hear about us?

______________

Select Membership type:

☐ £40 Full Membership

☐ £60 Joint Membership*

Name of additional Member: ______________

☐ £23.50 Country Membership**

☐ £16.50 Student/Unwaged Membership (Valid Student Card/proof required)

☐ £31 Retired Membership

☐ Corporate Membership 75% of the rates above (min. 4 persons)

*Note that both Members must be registered under the one address only.

**Where a Member is resident 15 miles or more from Birmingham and not commuting daily to the city on business.

Signature: _________________________  Date: _____________________
About the BMI

The Birmingham & Midland Institute has been at the heart of Birmingham’s cultural life for over 150 years. It was originally founded by Act of Parliament in 1854 for the 'Diffusion and Advancement of Science, Literature and Art amongst all Classes of Persons resident in Birmingham and Midland Counties'. Charles Dickens was one of its early Presidents.

During the late nineteenth century, the BMI played a leading role in the introduction of scientific and technical education in Birmingham until the state gradually took over its functions. It was thus the forerunner of many educational bodies such as the Birmingham Conservatoire.

Located in a Grade II* listed building, the BMI has a thriving programme of cultural and educational activities, which includes a wide spectrum of arts and science lectures, exhibitions and concerts. The building is also a venue for many externally-organised events and can be booked for conferences and meetings.

The BMI has longstanding associations with a number of independent societies who use the premises for their activities and meetings. Affiliated societies have kindred interests and include the Birmingham Philatelic Society and the Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry.

The BMI receives no public subsidy or direct revenue funding; it depends entirely on income generated through the support of members, visitors, donors, and volunteers.

Visit our website, Facebook and Twitter pages for the latest updates on events and activities!
SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

DRAWING ON RUSKIN
FREE ENTRY
DROP-IN, NO NEED TO BOOK

Keep an eye out for an exciting, long term drawing project starting in the spring and leading to an exhibition in the autumn. As part of the commemorations of the 200th anniversary of the great John Ruskin, the BMI is creating a community art project. Based on Ruskin principles, it will include tutelage in drawing, opportunities to capture little-known and important places, links with the Birmingham School of Art and excuses for cups of tea, cake and chats. See Art at the BMI on page 13 for more information about Ruskin projects this year.

Don’t Go Into The Cellar presents...

LOVECRAFT AFTER DARK
TUESDAY 30 APRIL
£10/£8 FOR MEMBERS OF THE BMI

Allow the cosmic horror of Howard Philip Lovecraft to envelop your senses and blast your imagination! At any moment, the terrors of the Ancient Ones may be unleashed upon the world. The Elder Gods scrutinise our every deed, awaiting their opportunity to reclaim what was once theirs. Madness will be a blessing to those mere mortals who witness the crawling chaos soon to be released upon mankind!

Jonathan Goodwin plays Cornelius Pike in Lovecraft After Dark. The show is scripted by Goodwin, and co-directed by Goodwin and Gary Archer.
Look out for exciting work from the BMI's new Young Creators Group! The group will devise and produce a live literature show that is held in and inspired by our building. The production will blend responses to our space, history and resources including rare collections of classic poetry with contemporary spoken word. Our current President Simon Callow and Poet in Residence Roy McFarlane will serve as mentors and champions for the project, with Roy acting as artistic director for the final show.

By capturing the imaginations of a fresh, eclectic group of people, connecting them with outstanding artists and supporting them to make an innovative performance we will reinvigorate our cultural offering and bring great art to audiences from across Birmingham and beyond.

Supported by Beatfreeks and Arts Council England.
Monday Lectures

£5/FREE for Members of the BMI - drop in, no need to book
Lunchtime Lectures 1pm - 2pm, Evening Lectures 6.30pm - 7.30pm

Stanley Baldwin with Roger Ward
18 February, 1pm - 2pm
The new Baldwin statue in Bewdley indicates a revival of interest in a man three times Prime Minister between 1923 and 1937 and arguably the most significant figure in inter-war politics. Was he, as critics have suggested, a quiescent throwback to a nostalgic rural past or the shrewdest of operators with a relevant vision for the times? Roger Ward will offer an assessment.

George Bernard Shaw and the Suffrage Movement with Dr Soudabeh Ananisarab
25 February, 1pm - 2pm
In this talk Dr Soudabeh Ananisarab will explore the significant contributions made by George Bernard Shaw to the suffrage movement. In addition to exploring Shaw's relationships with key suffragettes, this talk will also examine the controversial and often contradictory female characters in Shaw's plays.

Birmingham and the Spanish Civil War with Peter Drake
4 March, 1pm - 2pm
Peter Drake's talk will try to show how the issues around the events of the Spanish Civil War of 1936 to 1939 affected politics and public opinion in the city of Birmingham including attitudes to non intervention, aid and relief work, pacifism versus rearmament and the controversies surrounding the United and Popular Front movements. Peter will also look at those who went from Birmingham and the West Midlands to fight with the International Brigades.

The Great Newhall Meeting of 1819 with Sue Thomas
11 March, 1pm - 2pm
In this lecture to commemorate the July 1819 Great Newhall Hill Meeting, Sue Thomas will discuss the meeting in favour of Parliamentary Reform chaired by George Edmonds. This lecture will be followed by a guided walk with Sue Thomas in July 2019.

Dr Gregory Leadbetter
18 March, 6.30pm - 7.30pm
Details to be confirmed.

Victorian Scientists and Scandals: True Stories Behind The Conviction of Cora Burns with Carolyn Kirby
25 March, 6.30pm - 7.30pm
Carolyn Kirby's debut novel The Conviction of Cora Burns (previously titled Half of You) was begun in 2013 on a writing course at Faber Academy in London and will launch at the

Don't miss our NEW Monday Evening lectures at the BMI! Look out for the symbol
BMI. “Born in a gaol and raised in a workhouse, Cora Burns has always struggled to control the violence inside her. Haunted by memories of a terrible crime, she seeks a new life working as a servant in the house of scientist Thomas Jerwood. Here, Cora befriends a young girl, Violet, who seems to be the subject of a living experiment. But is Jerwood also secretly studying Cora…?”

Carolyn's talk will give an insight into the research that underlies the fictional narrative of her novel and will focus on three controversial Victorians: Arthur Munby, W. T. Stead and Francis Galton.

**A Dangerous Hobby? The West Midlands BDSM History Project with Lesley Gabriel**
8 April, 1pm - 2pm
This lecture will draw on Lesley Gabriel's PhD research into the BDSM (Bondage, discipline, sadism, and masochism) community in the West Midlands in order to explore the demonization of alternative sexualities via medicalisation and legal means.

**The Lost Art of Letter Writing and Where To Find It with Dr Tony Howe**
15 April, 6.30pm - 7.30pm
Dr Tony Howe will lecture on the history of letter writing, with a particular emphasis on the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries: the age of De Quincey's mail coach. He will offer a mixture of historical background and some analysis of letters written by noted literary figures.

**Real Birmingham Jewellery for the World and his Wife with Rupert Fisher**
29 April, 6.30pm - 7.30pm
Join heritage expert Rupert Fisher for this talk on the Birmingham Jewellery Quarter.

**Marie-Louise Taylor**
13 May, 1pm - 2pm
A lecture and recital by professional pianist and piano teacher Marie-Louise Taylor.

**Attwood: The Triumphs and the Tragedy with Roger Ward**
20 May, 1pm - 2pm
Born in 1783 in Halesowen, Thomas Attwood was partner in Attwood & Spooners Bank, appointed High Bailiff in 1812 and champion of the commercial community. A frustrated currency fanatic, he took up the cause of Parliamentary reform in 1830, founding and leading the Birmingham Political Union. Elected one of the town's first MPs in 1832, he became an early Chartist before resigning and going into obscurity in 1839. He died in Malvern in 1856, an almost forgotten figure.

**What Do You Get From Diversity? with Jacqui Francis**
3 June, 1pm - 2pm
Details to be confirmed.
Music at the BMI

The Midland Chamber Players
Live at Lunchtime
53rd Concert Season 2018/19
1.10pm - 2.10pm
£8.50/£7 Concessions/£3 Students with valid NUS card
Drop in, no booking required

Friday 25 January
Mozart Flute Quartet in C with Joanna Kirkwood flute
Donizetti Opera Arias with Hannah Littleton soprano 'Don Pasquale' and 'L'elisir d'amore'
Donizetti Aria 'Gratis agimus' for soprano and flute
Rossini Flute Quartet in G
Donizetti Piano Trio in E flat (1817)

Friday 22 February
'The Russian Connection' - 'B-la-F Composers'
Rimsky-Korsakov/Lyadov/Glazounov/Borodin
Borodin String Quartet No. 2 in D (incl. Celebrated Nocturne)
Shostakovich String Quartet No. 2 in A Op. 69 'Theme and Variations'

Friday 22 March
Beethoven Serenade in D Op. 25 for flute/violin/ viola
Piano Trio Op. 1 No. 1 in E flat

Friday 26 April
Mozart String Quintet in G minor K.516
Mendelssohn String Quintet in B flat Op. 87

Friday 24 May
Schubert 'The Trout' Quintet

Vinyl Singles Night

The Coffee Lounge
Thursday 7 March
7 - 9pm
FREE EVENT

Share your favourite vinyl singles with like-minded people at this informal social event. All genres of music are allowed - as long as the music is on vinyl! Our coffee lounge will be open to serve delicious refreshments.

N.B. In order to avoid embarrassment/disappointment/broken dreams or hearts, please note that this is not a dating event!
The Birmingham Library

Our library has a total holding of over 100,000 books including:

- 18th century volumes from the earliest years of the library
- 19th and 20th century purchases, including books on history, literature, natural history, science, travel and fiction, with a strong holding of late 19th and early 20th century novels
- Over 6000 biographies and autobiographies
- A music library with a remarkably comprehensive range of classical LPs and over 3000 classical CDs

The original Birmingham Library was founded in 1779 by John Lee, a button manufacturer who lived at 115 Snow Hill. This private lending library was reorganised in 1781 by Joseph Priestley, the pioneering chemist who discovered oxygen. The library moved into a purpose-built location on Union Street in 1797 where it remained for just over a century until it moved to its present location on Margaret Street in 1899. The Birmingham & Midland Institute joined the Library in 1955, having moved from its original Victorian premises in Paradise Street.

The library's holding is being steadily increased by the regular purchase of books, principally in the fields of the humanities and modern fiction. It continues, as it has in the past, to benefit from gifts and bequests made to it by generous members. Many of these acquisitions are of considerable value.

The Library is a facility we provide for our members. Have you considered joining? Fees start at just £16.50 for the year. Worth it just to access this fantastic library...
Looking for an events venue?

The Birmingham & Midland Institute is located in the heart of Birmingham’s city centre and offers a variety of rooms and theatres for hire in its Grade II* listed building. Situated on Margaret Street beside the Birmingham School of Art and Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, we are within walking distance of local and national travel networks, including tram, bus and train; our building is conveniently located just 5 minutes from Snow Hill station. Each room in the BMI is fitted with AV equipment and there is free wi-fi throughout the building. We have spaces suitable for small and large scale events such as meetings, training days, conferences and performances. We also boast two large auditoria which seat up to 250 people. We also have in-house caterers who can provide delicious food and refreshments for your event. As always, our staff are on hand to offer help and support if needed. To enquire about hiring our spaces telephone 0121 236 3591 or email daniel@bmi.org.uk

ROOM HIRE RATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Whole Day</th>
<th>Part-Day Rate (9am - 1pm or 1.30pm - 5.30pm)</th>
<th>Evening Rate (price per hour, between 6pm and 9pm)</th>
<th>Capacity (theatre-style)</th>
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<td>Lyttelton Theatre</td>
<td>£300</td>
<td>£225 (9am - 1pm or 1.30pm - 5.30pm)</td>
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<td>John Lee Lecture Theatre</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Woodward Room</td>
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<td>Gallery Room</td>
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<td>Main Hall</td>
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<td>£40 per hour</td>
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Registered charities receive a discount of 10% on room hire only.
Literature at the BMI

Literature Study Days

Study Days run by Keith Parsons and Dr Pamela Mason
All courses run from 10.15am - 4pm
£18/£16 Members of the BMI (per day)

Right: “Maggie Tulliver in the boat,” a photo-etching from a drawing by F. S. Church

18 January
After identifying the merits of Angela Carter’s earliest fiction (Shadow Dance, Several Perceptions & Love), we shall make a giant leap to engage with the vigorous, life-affirming qualities of what was, sadly, her last novel.

Anton Chekhov, The Seagull (1896)
1 February
Chekhov’s first major play is explicitly theatrical. It gave the Moscow Art Theatre its emblem and is fairly credited with changing the course of world drama.

Rumer Godden, Black Narcissus (1939) & other novels
15 February
After establishing a context for approaching the work of a remarkably prolific and once-popular novelist, we shall revisit her best-known novel and pay tribute to the power of the Powell & Pressburger screen adaptation.

Euripides & Sophocles, Electra (c. 400 bc)
1 March
How do the early interpretations (not forgetting that by Aeschylus) of a character whose actions have resonated throughout the ages differ? Was she just ‘Daddy’s girl’?

Victor Hugo, Les Misérables (1862)
15 March
In taking the story of Jean Valjean and his ‘daughter’ forward we shall grapple with the Thénardier family and the different challenges they pose to society. And we must then join the students to mount the barricades!

J.B Priestley, They Came to a City (1943)
29 March
Priestley’s balanced view of British society’s post-war potential may have relevance for our post-Brexit future.

George Eliot, Adam Bede (1859), Silas Marner (1860) & The Mill on the Floss (1861)
12 April
Before we mark George Eliot’s 200th birthday in the autumn by revisiting Middlemarch, we shall explore the appeal and enduring value of her three early novels.

Émile Zola, Germinal (1884–5)
3 May
Zola’s uncompromising novel engages with the pressures within a divided society, as well as being a intensely gripping story. It deserves a wider readership.
The BMI Reading Group
Third Thursday of the month
2pm - 3.30pm
£2 (includes coffee and biscuits)
The BMI Coffee Lounge
If you are interested, in the first instance, please call
the BMI reception on 0121 236 3591

Living Shakespeare
with Shakespeare Birmingham
Tuesdays
6.30pm – 9pm
£5 per session
Want to learn more about the plays by the Bard?
These weekly play-reading sessions foster lively
discussion; all scripts are provided at the session,
just turn up with your interest in Shakespeare, a
willingness to discover and share insights with the
rest of the group.
Email shakespearebirmingham@gmail.com
if you’re coming for the first time.

Playreading at the BMI
Tuesdays
6.30pm - 9pm
£5 (£1 Members of the BMI)
As a drop-in group we read, workshop and
discuss plays. The main requirement is enthusiasm
for theatre and literature, especially the work of
William Shakespeare. Everyone is welcome to join!

NEW

Second-Hand Prose - The Birmingham Library
Bookshop
Located on the Second Floor
We are the most centrally located second hand
bookshop in the city, and the proceeds from the
sales come back into the Library to further the work
we do here, extending the collection or restoring
and protecting the books we have in
our care.

M&M CATERING
AT THE BMI COFFEE
LOUNGE

Come and join us for tea,
cake or lunch! We also
cater for conferences
and events.

Open Monday to Friday
9am - 3pm
(excluding Bank Holidays)

For catering enquiries, email
catering@bmi.org.uk
or telephone 0121 2361233.

Left image credit: Joanna Delyse Packwood
One-Day Short Course: Introduction to Self-Publishing with Heide Goody and Iain Grant
Saturday 2 February, 10am - 4pm
£45
This one-day course will answer your questions about self-publishing and help you to determine whether it’s for you. You will leave with a clear idea of what things you need to do and how to go about doing them.

We will cover the following topics:
• Myth-busting: the advantages and disadvantages of self-publishing.
• What have I written, and how will I describe it?
• Looking at book covers
• Editing: the different types of editing and why you might need them
• Your brand and how you will present it to the world
• Where will you find readers?
• Preparing the manuscript for publication
• Timetable for launch
• In order to complete the course, you will need to have a finished piece of work, or a work in progress.

One-Day Short Course: Writing Humour and Comedy with Naomi Paul
Saturday 6 April, 10am - 4pm
£45
What makes us smile or laugh? Humour is universal, but also context-specific and personal. Humour has a role to play in all kinds of writing, and this workshop will explore the use of humour in its various forms across genres. Via practical exercises and examples, we will find the source material, the humour within it and the best way to use it in writing.

Participants will be asked to bring one or more of the following:
• a joke that they like
• an amusing true-life event/incident/story that has happened to them or someone else
• a piece of writing by someone else that they find funny (any genre, fiction or non-fiction)
• a piece of writing of their own (in progress or complete) that contains humour
• Suitable for writers with all levels of experience, including beginners, writing in any genre

Photographs © Writing West Midlands

Literature at the BMI (cont.)
Poetry Reading with Liz Berry
DATE TO BE CONFIRMED
John Lee Theatre, £7/£5 for Members of the BMI
Liz Berry was born in the Black Country and now lives in Birmingham. Her first book of poems, Black Country (Chatto 2014), described as a ‘sooty, soaring hymn to her native West Midlands’ (Guardian) was a Poetry Book Society Recommendation, received a Somerset Maugham Award and won the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Award and Forward Prize for Best First Collection 2014. Her pamphlet The Republic of Motherhood (Chatto, 2018) was a Poetry Book Society Pamphlet choice and the title poem won the Forward Prize for Best Single Poem 2018. Join Liz for a reading of her celebrated poetry at the BMI.

When Paula Met Charlotte
Saturday 13 April, 10am - 1pm
John Lee Theatre, £12/£10 for Members of the BMI
How did one of the greatest artists of the 21st century respond to one of the greatest writers of the 19th? Writer Polly Wright and poet and artist Margaret Markworthy will present Paula Rego’s 25 extraordinary lithographs of Jane Eyre, and read extracts from the nation’s favourite novel. This will include a 45 minute dual presentation of pictures and words, including readings from Bronte’s Jane Eyre and an analysis of Rego’s illustrations and how they relate to the book. After a short break, the presentation will be followed by group activities in which participants will be given the opportunity to reflect on Rego’s bold and often outrageous take on Bronte’s much loved classic novel, which was also regarded as shocking in its time.

BMI Poet in Residence 2018
"... for imagination and inspiration the BMI has to be the place for writing, steeped in history with a handle on contemporary times." - Roy McFarlane

Take Four: Verve Poets
Wednesday 13 March, 7pm - 9pm
John Lee Theatre, £7/£5 for Members of the BMI (including refreshments)

Open-Mic Night
First Thursday of each month starting
Thursday 10 January, 6pm - 8pm
John Lee Theatre, £5/£3 for Members of the BMI
Join Roy McFarlane, Rick Sanders and Ken Calvert for this regular open-mic meeting!

Left: Jane (2002), Paula Rego
Art at the BMI

Exhibitions in the Reception Foyer

BIRMINGHAM PRINTMAKERS
Monday 26 January - Friday 29 March
The Birmingham Printmakers are an artist-led non-profit organisation providing printmaking facilities for members. Birmingham Printmakers run workshops for adults and deliver bespoke courses off-site for the wider community, schools and businesses. The organisation has a broad and varied membership that includes professional printmakers, as well as those who want to extend their artistic practice and those who want to print for pleasure. Birmingham Printmakers have exhibited locally and nationally and believe art should be for all, whatever their ability.

ART AFTER NATURE: DAYS OF FUTURE PAST
Monday 29 April - Monday 20 May
Marking this year’s Ruskin bicentenary, this project focuses on bringing the School of Art’s Victorian past into the here and now. The School’s architecture and inaugural artistic mission will form an opportune springboard for interested staff and students to explore a range of Ruskin themes including: Art, Nature and Science; Art, Nature and gender; Art, Nature and Architecture. Coordinated by Franziska Shenk, participating staff and students will display the outcomes of this project at a range of Ruskin-related institutions across the city including the Birmingham and Midland Institute. This project will conclude with a Ruskin conference at the School of Art on 17th May 2019.

Top to bottom: ‘House with Topiary’, Christine Bradshaw; Erubus Obscura’, Franziska Shenk.
COLIN MONK
Monday 27 May - Friday 28 June
The main themes in Monk’s work are the effects of time and memories. He uses photography as both primary and secondary medium, as a way of illuminating an idea as well as defining it. This collection, titled Pier and Sea, includes Paintings of Hastings Pier before and after the fire of 2010, along with other related images. Three of the large canvases are of a sculpture of Marilyn Monroe which once stood outside the ice cream parlour in summer and inside out of season. Aberystwyth pictures show the promenade on a stormy day in August and a figure walking across the rocks which are exposed when the tide is out.

MIDLAND PAINTING GROUP
Monday 1 July - Friday 30 August
The group was established in the 1940s with the aim to generate a wider interest in the visual arts, share interest and expertise, and offer guidance via appraisals by professional artists. Their members range from those with art training through to accomplished amateurs and keen ‘leisure’ painters. The composition of MPG’s membership reflects their belief in art’s ability to cross age and social boundaries.

JOIN >>
LIFE DRAWING CLASSES
Monday evenings
6pm - 8.45pm
The Institute runs a life drawing and painting class on Monday evenings under the tutorship of Terry Mullett. Contact Terry on 0121 358 1159 for further details.

Above, from top: From the ‘Life Past’ series, Colin Monk; Danuta Grey; Photograph © Joanna Delyse Packwood
Affiliated Societies and Joint Events

Tuesday 8 January
Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society Lecture Series
'Digging HS2': Annual Lunchtime Lecture with speaker Robert Early
1pm - 2pm
John Peek Room
£3 (Non-Members welcome)
The north section of HS2 spans 87 km, and forks into Birmingham. The whole project is the largest historic environment project undertaken in the UK, and as such represents a huge challenge to the professional archaeological community. This talk will highlight how the teams of archaeologists are undertaking the works, focussing on new discoveries and the excavation of known sites such as Park Street Burial ground where 19,000 post-medieval burials are currently being excavated; the largest archaeological project to date in Birmingham. Rob will provide a resume of research undertaken and the results to date highlighting some of the challenges ahead.

Saturday 12 January
Midland Ancestors
From Chisel to Cloud, The Past and Future of Family History with Sharon Hintze
2.30pm - 4pm
A thought-provoking journey through thousands of years of development of family history record keeping and record preservation. Not all technology over the millennia has changed and, surprisingly, the future is not entirely digital. You’ll see your own family history research and documentation in a new light. A presentation by Sharon Hintze, late Director of the London Family History Centre, currently based at The National Archives at Kew. She is a frequent speaker and occasional writer on family history and a fifth generation family historian.

Tuesday 5 February
Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society Lecture Series
'The Lunar Society’s Welcome to a Scottish Inventor' with speaker Dr Jim Andrew
7pm - 8pm
John Peek Room
£3 (Non-Members welcome)
In 2019 we shall be commemorating the life of James Watt, who died in Birmingham 200 years ago on 25th August 1819. Watt was born in 1736 and grew up in Greenock, west of Glasgow where instrument maker. In about 1763 he was asked to repair a small Newcomen steam engine. He did and eventually went on to become the greatest steam engineer of his time. In 1774, Watt arrived in Birmingham where in partnership with Matthew Boulton, he dominated the designing of powerful steam engines for some twenty years. But why was Watt attracted to Birmingham, the town and its folks? We shall find out about the advantages offered to Watt by Birmingham Society and the many innovations that brought him lasting fame.

Wednesday 6 February
Midland Ancestors
Birchfield Harriers – The first 50 years 1877 – 1927 with Ruth Lockley and Stuart Paul
6pm - 7.30pm
Since 1877 Birchfield Harriers, the club “of the people, for the people” has been the home of thousands of aspiring athletes, with almost 100 Harriers having represented their countries at the Olympic Games. Stuart and Ruth are part of a team gradually documenting the histories of not
only some of the greatest athletes but also of those who have served in the wars of the 20th century and those whose contribution to club teams, coaching and administration is documented in the club archives.

Saturday 9 February
The Victorian Society
AGM and Casework Update
10.30am
John Peek Room
FREE
Sandwiches may be ordered on arrival at your own cost. Non-members are welcome if you are considering joining the Society.

Tuesday 12 February
Making ‘Women Power Protest’ with Emalee Beddoes-Davis, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, Birmingham Museums
6.30pm - 8.30pm
John Lee Theatre
£12/£9 for Members of the BMI and Friends of Birmingham Museums (glass of wine and a slice of pizza included)
Marking a century since the first women won the right to vote, Women Power Protest brings together modern and contemporary artworks from the Arts Council Collection and Birmingham’s to celebrate female artists who have explored protest, social commentary and identity in their work. Find out how this exhibition came together, the history of key pieces and how the people of Birmingham contributed to the curatorial process. Women Power Protest is part of the Arts Council Collection National Partnership Programme.

Saturday 2 March
Midland Ancestors
The Curious Case of Mr. Herbert Mowle Kendal with Paul Handford MBE
2.30pm - 4pm
This talk, snowed off from last year, is about a Mr Kendal, a civilian volunteer ambulance driver who was killed in Action in May 1918 whilst driving his ambulance in support of the French Army. Paul discovered Mr Kendal’s death was not recorded or indeed recognised by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Thereby commenced a five year journey of research, which included translating French War Diaries, examining records contained at the International Red Cross (Geneva) and other research material. His findings were submitted to the CWGC for scrutiny and accepted. Mr. Kendal will now be the first ever civilian casualty to be commemorated on a CWGC War Memorial.

Tuesday 5 March
Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society Lecture Series
'When is a Hillfort not a Hillfort? Marsh-forts in North Shropshire' with speaker Shelagh Norton
7pm - 8pm
£3 (Non-Members welcome)
When is a hillfort not a hillfort? These iconic Iron Age monuments are characterised by their monumentality and prominent visibility. However, a small number of contemporary fortifications share elements of size and monumentality but are found in low-lying, wetland settings. They are increasingly referred to as ‘marsh-forts’ – so far, Sutton Common near Doncaster is the most researched site of this type. Questions abound – do they share characteristics of chronology and function? How do they reference the wider environment? Does the term ‘marsh-fort’ add value? A group of potential ‘marsh-forts’ exist around the wetlands of North Shropshire’s meres and mosses. Lying on the fringe of the hillfort zone of the Welsh Marches, this landscape has a rich archaeological heritage, evinced through early lithic assemblages, funerary monuments, metalwork deposition, bog bodies and

Left: ‘Four Figures’ (1951) Barbara Hepworth © Bowness. Photo by Birmingham Museums Trust
enclosure. Initial palaeoenvironmental and landscape research has already identified peculiarities associated with the very large, low-lying wetland fortification of Wall Camp on the Weald Moors near Telford, which has similarities with Sutton Common. Further research is ongoing to investigate, again through landscape (including GIS and LiDAR) and palaeoenvironmental study (plant macrofossils and fossilised insect remains), other similar monuments in the wider area, notably the fortifications at the Berth near Baschurch.

Wednesday 27 March
Royal Geological Society
'Who Governs Britain? Lessons From the Nuclear Industry' with Dr Stephen Haraldsen
6.30pm
John Peek Room
£5/FREE for Members of the RGS and BMI
As arguments about nationalisation versus privatisation for the utilities in the UK re-emerge, the rescaling of the governance of the nuclear industry is explored to draw wider lessons for the way in which we are governed in contemporary Britain.

Tuesday 2 April
Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society Lecture Series
'Excavations of an Anglo Saxon Hall site at Atcham, Shropshire' with Dr Roger White
7pm - 8pm
£3 (Non-Members welcome)
Details TBC

Wednesday 3 April
Midland Ancestors
Getting Rid of the Stink with Dr. Mike Haynes
6pm - 7.30pm
Emeritus professor Mike, discusses with some humour, how the introduction of clean water helped rid us of some unpleasant diseases, so improving the lives of our ancestors. The works of the great engineers of the 19th century and how their efforts effectively eliminated death by typhoid, cholera and diphtheria, from the exploding urban population. These diseases were all great killers of the time, seen by our ancestors close up and rightly feared.
Saturday 6 April
The Victorian Society
Edward Burne-Jones Day School to support Birmingham Cathedral’s Divine Beauty Appeal
John Peek Room
£45 including lunch and refreshments
Details TBC

Wednesday 1 May
Midland Ancestors
AGM and Corals Birmingham Photo Archive with Matthew Jelfs
6pm - 7.30pm
The Library of Birmingham is developing Corals – a service that adds enhanced metadata to photographic archives. What does this mean for you the researcher? Image search online relies on powerful, robust and relevant metadata, using keywords to describe exactly what is in an image. This enhanced metadata is essential to help users find what they are looking for. The Library of Birmingham aims to make thousands of photos accessible and searchable on-line.

Do not be put off by the AGM also being at the time of this meeting. At Midland Ancestors, the record time for the AGM is about 7 minutes. It is hoped this will be broken this evening!

Saturday 5 June
Midland Ancestors
Winterbourne House Archives with Henrietta Lockhart
2.30pm - 4pm
An Edwardian historic house and garden nestled in a leafy corner of Birmingham, just minutes from the city centre, Winterbourne House was built as the family home for John and Margaret Nettlefold. It was inspired by the Arts and Crafts movement of Edwardian times. Under the ownership of a number of families and then the University of Birmingham since the Nettlefolds left in 1919, it was restored to its former glory in 2010.

Visit midland-ancestors.uk for more information about meetings and outings.

Friday Morning Club
11am - 12 noon
£1/FREE for Members of the BMI
The club offers a selection of musical, literary and video presentations. The second Friday of each month is reserved for informal poetry readings on subjects chosen by the group’s members. Drop in, no need to book

18 January - Social Coffee Morning
25 January – Lost Opportunities
1 February - Trevor Robinson Far Away Places
8 February - Open Meeting Midland Chamber Players
5 February - Mary Wheeler What Everyone Talks About
22 February - Great Composers (7) - Tchaikovsky
1 March - Thoughts for St David's Day
8 March - Open Meeting
15 March - Lynette Duggan The Village
22 March - Jenny Porter SPANA - An Update
5 April - Richard Hales - More From Wales
12 April - Open Meeting
19 April - Good Friday NO MEETING
26 April - John Smith A Transport of Delight

Next meeting 3 May 2019
Find us

We are located in the city centre, a 5-10 minute walk from Birmingham New St station and a 10-15 minute walk from Snow Hill and Moor Street stations. The nearest bus stops are located on Colmore Row and Newhall St.

All-day parking can be found just off Great Charles St Queensway.

THE BIRMINGHAM & MIDLAND INSTITUTE

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Opening hours:
Monday to Friday 9am - late
Most Saturdays 9am - 5pm (please call to check opening dates)
Please note that we are closed on Bank Holiday Mondays