

**BMSGH Bromsgrove**  
**Branch Briefing**  
**Editor: Mike Fisher**  
**Tuesday 13 May 2014 at 7.45 p.m.**

***“The History of Bromsgrove”***  
***by popular local speaker ~ Julian Hunt***

With over 11,000 acres spread over the town and a hinterland of 10 agricultural hamlets, Bromsgrove was large enough to support a weekly market and two annual fairs. Its long High Street had several maltings, tanneries, clothiers' workshops, dyehouses and linen manufactories.

During the 17th and 18th centuries these trades were overtaken by the manufacture of wrought nails, with many nailers building cottages and workshops on former common land like Bournheath and the Lickeys.

Julian will introduce the leading families of the town and concentrate on particular entrepreneurs like John Adams, whose monument in the Cemetery has recently been restored.

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***If your ancestors strayed*** over the border into Shropshire Find My Past now have the parish registers indexed and you can see page images.

***The Birmingham Pals Regiments*** on Find My Past.

The Birmingham Pals were three battalions raised from men volunteering in the city of Birmingham in September 1914. They became the 14th, 15th and 16th Service Battalions of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

These records contain details to company and platoon level and list just under 4,000 men.

Also on FMP - Salford, Liverpool, Glasgow, Edinburgh & Bradford Pals.

Also on Find My Past ***The Birmingham Employers' Roll of Honour 1914-1918*** is a roll of men employed by Birmingham firms who were serving with the colours.

Found out my wife's great-uncle worked at Cadburys as did a number of our relatives, no shortage paper bags of “waste” !!!!

***“The way we were”***

modern history From the back of a recent purchased local history postcard.

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1970

Dear Paulette

I'm staying with my cousin about 10 miles outside Birmingham.

The weather has been terrible for the last week but it hasn't rained today.

Last Monday night we went out to two clubs and didn't get home till 3.00am Last night we went to Wolverhampton to see Judas Jump. We couldn't get in as we were not members. We later found out they hadn't played. We went to see Pickety Witch instead. Then went to a club, got to bed at 4.00am

Love Gillian (posted to Jersey C.I.)

***The “New” searches*** on Family Search, Ancestry & Find My Past

Now all three have new searches which do you prefer ?

Now that Ancestry finds Family Search(IGI type) entries and Family Search finds BMD index and census entries and Find My Past does it's own thing what do you do. If I am searching parish registers available on Find My Past or Ancestry I search using Family Search where I can search just using surname, parents or spouse and then enter “exact” individuals details into whichever of the other two hold the parish records.

The only problem is that Family Search IGI type entries does not cover all parishes & counties for all periods !!!

Before the changes I loved Ancestry “old search” search, loathed Find My Past's and was frustrated by the pernickitiness of the IGI.

I've got used to Family Search but of the other two I find Find My past the easier.

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***For our June meeting on 10th we have  
“Worcestershire Murders and Retribution”  
by Don Cochrane.***

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*Regards*

*Mike Fisher*