

**BMSGH Bromsgrove
Branch Briefing
Editor Mike Fisher**

Tuesday 11th October 2016 at 7.45 p.m.

“The Road to Bristol”

by Society Member Michael Fisher



An Illustrated Guided Tour by Charabanc from Birmingham to
Bromsgrove.

*We shall be leaving from outside the Compania Sansinena de Carenes Congeladas, meat importers at
No 1 Bromsgrove St Birmingham, Travel through the suburbs of south Birmingham, then following
the following the tram to the Lickeys and on to the Golden Cross Bromsgrove High St.*

Thanks to BMSGH website and the Bromsgrove Messenger uploads
Alvechurch Historical Society open days always bring with them requests
for information from those who visit - sometimes we can help and
sometimes we can't.

This year a young visitor and her brother came with the story of her
great great aunt who had been knocked over and killed by a vehicle
transporting equipment for the mop fair at the age of 16 on her first day
at work some time in the 1930s. I had not heard this story before but as
soon as I got home I began to do a bit of internet searching. With the
name Betty Williams and death in 1930s in Bromsgrove district I thought

I would get a number of hits on Freebmd but in fact there was just one - Betty D Williams aged 16 in the September quarter of 1937. A check on BMSGH monumental inscriptions didn't give a result but as I maintain the burial register for St Laurence Church I have the gravedigger's book dating from 1934 so a check in there found Betty Doris Williams buried 17 September 1937. Several of the burials in her row do not have stones but luckily the next burial does so I can be sure of the grave location.

I had done a newspaper search on Find My Past without success but a casual mention of this query to Mike Yegwart at the 14 September meeting resulted in him telling me that 1937 Messengers were on our branch website. A search in the edition for 18 September resulted in both a report of the accident and the inquest report. In summary Betty was one of a group of cyclists returning home from her work as a wages clerk at the English Needle and Fishing Tackle Co. at Studley. On a bend in Ipsley they passed a trailer and steam tractor belonging to Mr Frank Wilson, amusement caterer, some of the cyclists dismounted but Betty did not and when a car came towards her "she was stated to have lost her head and wobbled" and fell under the wheel which passed over her, she died almost immediately. The verdict was accidental death and both the drivers were exonerated.

A sad tale which has lived on in her family - the report does not state that it was her first day at work though that may have been so and it was unlikely that Wilson was making his way to Alvechurch as the mop here is always in October but, as usual with most family stories, much of what was remembered was accurate. Rather spookily the accident had taken place on 13 September so the anniversary was in the week in which I was doing the research.

Anne Humphries

*Next month's meeting on the 8th we have "Extending your Research before 1837"
by Mike Sharpe*

Mike Fisher