

**BMSGH Bromsgrove  
Branch Briefing  
Editor: Mike Fisher September 2013**

**Tuesday 10th September 2013 at 7.45 p.m.**

***“The History of Romsley and Hunnington”***

***By Julian Hunt, Popular Local Historian***

Julian was born in Romsley and is President of the Romsley and Hunnington History Society.

Romsley and Hunnington were hamlets of the extensive parish of Halesowen until the 19<sup>th</sup> century boundary changes, a detached part of Shropshire. From 1215 the Manor of Halesowen belonged to Halesowen Abbey. Its Court Rolls start in 1270 and are one of the best sources for the Black Death in the Midlands. The Abbot held a separate manor court for the hamlet of Romsley. These Court Rolls are soon to be published by the Society and record all the names of the tenant farmers from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The names of Brettell, Cooke, Harris, Partridge, Smith and Underhill recur and the Society has over 120 wills and inventories on its website. There was an iron furnace at Halesowen by 1600 and a slitting mill by 1750, most of the iron being used by local nailmakers. The Bissell family of nail masters lived at Horse Pool Farm, Hunnington and John Byng, the last nailmaker in Romsley was still working opposite the Sun Inn in the 1920s. Many Black Country businessmen built houses in Romsley and Hunnington during the 1930s and the Society has documented every house built in this period.

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**Soldiers' wills and last letters home**

The Probate Service is for the first time making available the wills and last letters home of 280,000 soldiers who died in the Great War, including my great uncle Herbert. There is a charge of £6 to download a document, which is the same as the standard charge for a will.

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**Did your ancestor help to found the Football Association?**

The Football Association will celebrate its 150th Anniversary this year with a special ceremony at Wembley Stadium - and they're inviting the descendants of the association's founders.

## Prince George's birth certificate.

What information would you like to see on the birth, marriage, and death certificates of the future? And did you know that from 1938 onwards registrars asked supplemental questions which don't appear on the form, such as the age of the mother, the parents' date of marriage, and the number of previous children. From 1960 onwards the age of the father was also noted.

BIRTH		Entry No. 207
Registration district	Westminster	Administrative area
Sub-district	Westminster	City of Westminster
1. Date and place of birth	CHILD Twenty second July 2013 St Mary's Hospital Praed Street Westminster	
2. Name and surname	His Royal Highness Prince George	3. Sex Male
4. Name and surname	FATHER His Royal Highness Prince William Arthur Philip Louis Duke of Cambridge	
5. Place of birth	Paddington Westminster	6. Occupation Prince of the United Kingdom
7. Name and surname	MOTHER Catherine Elizabeth Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cambridge	
8. (a) Place of birth	Reading	8. (b) Occupation Princess of the United Kingdom
9. (a) Maiden surname	MIDDLETON	9. (b) Surname at marriage if different from maiden surname —
10. Usual address (if different from place of child's birth)	Kensington Palace London W8 4PU	
11. Name and surname (if not the mother or father)	INFORMANT —	12. Qualification Father
13. Usual address (if different from that in 10 above)	—	
14. I certify that the particulars entered above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief		Signature of informant Lilly
15. Date of registration	Second August 2013	16. Signature of registrar Susan Colucci Deputy Registrar
17. Name given after registration, and surname		

The Chancellor of the Exchequer was originally named Gideon Oliver Osborne but put George in front when he was 13, cruelly neglecting Oliver Osborne, which has a fine ring to it.

Politicians, for some reason, seem more chary of the parental choice than most, as you can see with Maurice Harold Macmillan, James Harold Wilson, Leonard James Callaghan and several other prime ministers last century, including Arthur Neville Chamberlain.

William Somerset Maugham and Joseph Rudyard Kipling both made sensible choices, as did Adeline Virginia Woolf. George Bernard Shaw hated his first name, but soldiered on. Others have retreated into initials - Clive Staples Lewis, for example, sounds more like a firm of chartered accountants than CS Lewis (who, even more confusingly, was known as Jack). The Kathleen in Joanne Kathleen Rowling is adopted. As for actors, Eldred Gregory Peck and Walter Bruce Willis.

***October Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> will be "An Extraordinary Victorian Funeral in Worcester Cathedral" by Diana Clutterbuck.***

Regards Mike Fisher