**South Staffordshire Newsletter article – October 2024**

**Discover the Staffordshire History Festival this Autumn**

September sees the start of the annual Staffordshire History Festival – Staffordshire Library and Arts’ and Archive and Heritage’s two-month celebration of our local history and cultural heritage in Staffordshire and beyond. We will be offering a wide selection of stock displays, events, talks and activities in our libraries as well as plenty of online content again via our social media. Search for all our online content and news about events on social media using the hashtag #StaffsHistFest

or view all events at <https://bit.ly/StaffordshireHistoryFestival2024>

To find out more about Library Service please visit: [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Libraries/](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Libraries/)

Go to [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/archives](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/archives) for information about the Archives Service’s in-depth collections and services.

**Perton Library – History and Heritage Fair**

Perton Library is celebrating the Staffordshire History Festival with a fantastic family friendly open day on

**Saturday 12th October from 10:00am until 3:00pm.**

As well as looking at what Staffordshire Libraries have to offer for those interested in local and family history there are lots of other exhibitors and plenty of drop-in activities, chances to get ‘hands on with history’ and fun for families and children.

* Explore the Stone Age with a re-enactor and activities for the children
* Meet the Medieval Wise Woman and herbalist – gruesome medicines and natural remedies
* Meet the team from English Heritage, Boscobel House
* Museum of Wolverhampton and South Staffordshire
* Museum of Cannock Chase
* Apedale Heritage Centre
* Community Forest Services – MathsMasters in History
* The Lace Guild
* Get family history advice from ‘Midland Ancestors’
* NT Moseley Old Hall
* Albrighton and District Historical Society
* South Staffordshire Tithe Map project (Nottingham University)
* Friends of Wolverhampton Archives
* ‘Hour Shakespeare’ will be performing!
* Wolverhampton Archaeology Group
* The Western Front Association
* Brewood Grammar School, Headmasters making history, 1547-1875 - Meet the Author - Margaret Heath
* And much more to be confirmed

All events are FREE to attend.

Please contact Perton Library on 01902 506050 or perton.library@staffordshire.gov.uk for more details.

**Ancestry 1-2-1s at Codsall Library**

Join us for one-to-one Ancestry taster sessions every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday throughout October with Brid.

Learn how to make the most of this fantastic family history resource that at completely free to use at the library.

Free (Booking essential)

Please contact Codsall Library on 01902 506060 for further details or to book.

**Spirit in the Sky – Spaceflight in the 1970s**

**A trippy presentation from Andrew Lound.**

The 1970s began with the understanding that spaceflight was a reality, and hopes were high that human exploration of the solar system was about to expand. In a truly far out presentation Andrew Lound will take us on an odyssey of the 1970s space programme in context with the period.

A wonderful soundtrack, stunning images, and amazing video. It will be a trip!

Perton Library

Thursday 24th October

7:15pm-9:00pm (arrive for 7pm to be seated)

£4.00 per person

Refreshments served during an intermission.

Please contact Perton Library on 01902 506050 or at perton.library@staffordshire.gov.uk to book your tickets.

**Ancestry 1-2-1 Sessions at Perton Library**

Do you want to discover your family history? Book onto one of our FREE hour long 1-2-1 sessions with Grace at Perton Library for a guide to the Ancestry Library Edition website and some help in getting started with census returns, Birth Marriage, and Death records and much more that’s available from Ancestry.

Thursday 3rd October

5.30-6.30pm

Tuesday 8th October

3-4pm

Thursday 17th October

5.30-6.30pm

Please contact Perton Library on 01902 506050 or at perton.library@staffordshire.gov.uk to book

**'Way Marker' – A Ghost Story**

A ghost story to chill the spine from the shelves of Weeping Bank Library, written by A.G. Smith and read by ‘The Librarian’

Thursday 7th November. 7.15pm arrival for a 7.30pm start (refreshments available during an interval)

Perton Library, Severn Drive, Perton, WV6 7QU

Weeping Bank brings engaging, candlelit performances of ghost stories to community spaces, creating intimate and unique experiences for both avid and reluctant readers, gothic horror fans and lovers of traditional storytelling.

Warning - Weeping Bank readings contain moments of heightened tension. The reading is unsuitable for anyone under the age of fifteen or of a nervous disposition.

Tickets are £5 and can be booked by telephone on 01902 506050 or by email at perton.library@staffordshire.gov.uk

For more about Weeping Bank, head over to [www.weepingbank.com.](http://www.weepingbank.com/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR2xC4E0vHK7VLrX1FMBguIoHpbAPh0PtWBOcbdsGk1vXkgHdaNamCjOoZQ_aem_Ey71rVQKs_wbuaLGlhJFfg)

**Join in the Fun at Family Drop-ins this October**

To celebrate the Staffordshire History Festival and the Family Learning Festival, Libraries and Community Learning have teamed up with our local Family Hubs and other great organisations to offer some fun activities for families this October at Perton Library.

We will be working with The Dragon Group and Chase Aqua Rural Enterprise, who will be offering tabletop interactive activities for all the family and sharing information about their family learning opportunities. You will also be able to meet members of the Community Learning and Family Hub teams who can tell you more about their offers and courses available.

**Perton Library**

Wednesday 23rd October 9:30am – 12:30pm (pre-school families)

Monday 28th October 9:30am – 12:30pm (All ages)

For more information, please contact Perton Library on 01902 506050 or by email at perton.library@staffordshire.gov.uk

**Stafford Riverway Link Exhibition – Wombourne Library**

Available to view until Saturday 9th November (during normal library opening hours)

The Exhibition is organised by the Stafford Riverway Link (SRL) and includes a selection of artefacts unearthed by SRL volunteers while clearing and excavating the site of the Stafford Branch Canal at Baswich where the navigation left the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal close to St Thomas Bridge (Bridge 101).

Many of the items can be attributed to the former inhabitants of the Lock House and others may have been discarded when the navigation was open.

The waterway, also known as the River Sow Navigation, was in use from 1816 until the 1920s, and the Lock House was occupied until 1956.  The group that was to become the SRL was founded in 1997 and aims to restore the 1½ mile navigation into Stafford.

The display also gives some information about the Lock Keepers and their wives and asks members of the public looking at the exhibition whether they are related to these folk.

Further information about the Stafford Riverway Link is to be found on their website:  [www.stafford-riverway-link.co.uk](http://www.stafford-riverway-link.co.uk/)

Please contact Wombourne Library if you have any questions about visiting the exhibition on 01902 506055.

**Perton Library Family History Course**

Perton Library will be offering a FREE 5-week Family History course in association with Penny from Midland Ancestors, starting in April. Get help and advice to begin your journey into your family’s story

5-week course starting Tuesday 4th November 2024

2:15pm – 4:15pm

The courses are FREE, but please book as places are limited -

contact Perton Library on 01902 506050 or e-mail perton.library@staffordshire.gov.uk

**Tolkien Trail Walk**

Join us for a healthy eight mile walk from Coppice Hill Car Park, Cannock Chase, in the footsteps of J.R.R. Tolkien, to Great Haywood for a village tour with historian David Robbie

Wednesday 23rd October

10:00am departure (please arrive for 9:45am) at Coppice Hill Car Park on Cannock Chase.

£2 per person (book early as places are limited)

Bring a packed lunch and wear sensible footwear and clothing for the weather conditions

Please contact Perton Library on 01902 506050 for further details or to book.

**Wombourne Library presents…**

**A Double bill of Horror – Two, one act plays by A.A. Birch.**

Wombourne Library and Community Centre

9th November

8:00pm (with a 20-minute interval)

General admission £10.00
Students/OAPs £8.00

Book tickets at [www.blackcountryhorror.com](http://www.blackcountryhorror.com) or by calling 07798 914579

**When Hell Breaks Loose**

Disenchanted with working for other people, Steve Fletcher decides to turn to the more lucrative life of crime.

Burglary is proving to be much more exciting than his previous job as a delivery driver and so far, everything has been going well. Tonight, his luck is about to change.

**The Vampyre of Huntley Cross**

Miss Colburn lives alone in a beautiful cottage, in the depths of the Shropshire countryside.

As a foster carer for stray dogs she takes them in and cares for them until they can be found their ‘forever’ home.

Following a brief on-line conversation a potential owner is invited to meet a lurcher called Harvey.

Dark secrets are revealed and the encounter gradually takes on a more sinister turn.

TRIGGER WARNING: Contains some swearing and scenes of violence. Unsuitable for those of a nervous disposition.

**Recycle at Your Library**

Staffordshire Libraries in South Staffordshire are teaming up with Waste Savvy Staffs to expand a bra recycling scheme that also helps to support the ‘Against Breast Cancer’ Charity.

Bra recycling banks are onsite at Codsall, Perton, Wombourne Library and Kinver Community Library and we hope to roll out this offer elsewhere as well.

You can also find ink cartridge recycling points and battery boxes at Codsall, Perton and Wombourne to dispose of those unwanted ink cartridges and batteries.

To find out more contact your local library or search for Waste Savvy Staffs on Facebook.

**Perton Library Astronomy Club**

Pop along to our next meeting for informal chat, presentations and observing if the skies are clear. Bring your own telescope or binoculars if you have them and get help in making the most of them.

Beginners welcome!

Thursday 17th October 7:00pm-9:00pm (usually every third Thursday of the Month)

Contact us for more information on 01902506060 or email: perton.library@staffordshire.gov.uk

**Need advice on Wills and Power of Attorney**

Thornes Solicitors will be offering free pop-up advice sessions.

**Codsall Library** - Every Third Thursday of the month at 10am - 11:30am

**Perton Library** - Every First Wednesday of the month at 10am - 1130am

Contact Perton Library on 01902 506050 or Codsall Library on 01902 506060 for more information.

**IT Buddy available at Wombourne Library**

Every Wednesday

1:00pm – 4:00pm

**Free**-Bookable slots

Please contact Wombourne Library for more information or to book on 01902 506055.