

## Chris Baker (Civil Engineering)

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**From:** Black Country Society <societyblackcountry@gmail.com>  
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**To all members of the Black Country Society**

### **The April Virtual Heritage Group Meeting**

*Gornal Wood - the transformation of a Black Country Village* by Ward Jones Monday 15th April 7.30pm via Zoom.

No charge for members or non-members - email [societyblackcountry@gmail.com](mailto:societyblackcountry@gmail.com) for Zoom log in details

*The underlying theme of the talk will be how, especially in Victorian times, the village changed dramatically after centuries of isolation. Ward will explore the unchanging years, why and how change came, and some of the consequences.*

### **The April Meeting at Bilston Town Hall**

*History of Dudley Castle* by Max Keen

7.30pm, Wednesday, 24 April, at Bilston Town Hall, WV14 0AP.

Admission: Members **Free** - Visitors **£5**.

*A talk of two halves with Max Keen. In the first half Max will focus on the history of Dudley Castle from 1071 to around 1600. And then in the second half the attention will turn to the two sieges of 1644 and 1646. The talk will feature costume, weaponry, and image projection*

### **Society Walk**

*Wolverhampton's Great War Memorials. Led by Quintin Watt,*

Wednesday May 8th 2024. 1.45pm for a 2.00pm start. Meet at Wolverhampton Civic War Memorial, St Peter's Square WV1 1TY

*Wolverhampton City Centre is the location of several memorials, erected in the aftermath of the Great War. Some of these are inside churches or places of work, whereas others are located outside. They include stone*

wall plaques, bronze rolls of honour, stained glass windows, an obelisk and even rows of trees. This walking tour will highlight the stories of selected servicemen commemorated, as well as explain how and when each memorial was installed. The tour should last about two hours.

## **Black Country Noticeboard**

### **Grusha's Theatre Company**

#### **'Babsolutely Fabulous', by Adrian Johnson - dates in June**

Babsolutely Fabulous is written by former Birmingham Poet Laureate and Guardian journalist Adrian Johnson for Grusha's Theatre Company of Smethwick. It is the story of three amazing and controversial Black Country women: Sylvia King – builder of a massive people's fun palace in West Bromwich, Edna Kirby- Walsall's manufacturer of the UK's finest leather gloves and Dorothy Round - Dudley's two times Wimbledon tennis champion." Details at <https://www.blackcountryociety.com/post/babolutely-fabulous>

### **The Royal Aeronautical Society, Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Cosford Branch**

**The Work of the RAF Heritage Team by Sqn Ldr Rick Lipscomb - Thursday 18th April - Cold War Lecture Theatre, RAF Museum Midlands, Cosford at 19:00. Parking is free after 18:00 and lectures are free to members, non-members are invited to make a £2 voluntary contribution.**

*RAF Heritage seeks to identify and preserve the service's heritage to inspire current and future generations. The presentation will look at the preservation and sharing of the RAF's history and story-telling, with a particular focus on the retirement of Tornado, but also including station closures, gate guards, artwork, silverware and medals.*

### **The Wolverhampton Society**

**Who photographed Wolverhampton's railways? by Ned Williams - Thursday 18th April - Penn Bowls Club at 19:15 for 19.30. Free to members. Guests £5.00**

*When it comes to railway photography, Wolverhampton has often been regarded as a neglected area for a variety of reasons. Nevertheless, it is possible to assemble quite a large collection of local photographs - some taken by passing visitors, some taken by local enthusiasts. This talk asks the question: "Who photographed Wolverhampton's Railways?" and the attention will be directed very much towards the photographer - not just the photographic image itself. Putting local railway photographs in this context enables us to appreciate them in a fresh light and makes us realise what a debt we owe to such photographers.*

## **BCS Noticeboard - Opportunities**

### **The Black Country Society**

***Volunteers needed!***

The society is always keen to recruit members to join the committee, or to help out at our presentations and public events. If you're looking for the chance to get involved in a worthwhile extra-curricula activity, please get in touch with myself for more details.