

## What's New - January to June 2024

### Don't Change A Word!

The title of a paperback due out late March, the focus is life at Bournemouth YMCA in the early 1960s. I moved in months before taking my GCE O'levels, a story in itself.

A few years ago I dedicated an account of this positive experience to Fred Daldry who was General Secretary. Now 93, Fred beamed at me: Don't Change A Word!

Additions explain the backdrop of why I came to live there with more detail about the characters, events, incidents and so-called permissive society - all known to Fred.

### Yet More Ideas

Publications, Papers and Curses are a click away. So are Enterprise and Innovation. Download what you want. For U3A group leaders et al there is a wealth of material on British social history. Peruse the book list too. All are for loan if local to the Poole area.

Much like the Lunar Society, the aim is to spark ideas and fresh approaches to subjects stuck in a rut. Coming up later this year are: *Undercurrent Economics* and *Throwing Out The Bathwater*. The latter is about the history of management.

### Social Family History

As the youngest, compiling a family history in 1991 was daunting as both parents died in my early teens. What emerged was little more than a family tree on my father's side.

My aim was a social profile. The answer - bite the bullet. How about each of us writing about our early life up to leaving home! We all did this in 1998. An incredible mosaic resulted, from growing up in the 1930s to the late 1950s. This provided a springboard.

Lacking was knowledge of my mother's side, apart from a Leeds upbringing and male side involved in the legal profession. We knew snippets only about grandfathers on both sides and even less about earlier generations. Thanks to siblings, Aussie cousins, and Leeds Local and Family History Services we now do. Click on Publications for a brief social history, linking the two families. Complete with photos and illustrations, it may offer inspiration to others to bring the past alive, through the lens of time.

In Alan Bennett's play, *The History Boys*, there is a memorable quote from Hector, an eccentric yet inspirational teacher. "Pass the parcel. Sometimes it's all you can do. Take it, feel it, and pass it on. Not for me, not for you, but for someone, somewhere, one day." How true. Take a document, or skill such as master thatcher or stonemason. If not passed on they may be lost forever. So it is with family history.

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