



WEBSITES

History West Midlands

<http://www.historywm.com>

This website complements *History West Midlands* magazine and provides free, unrestricted access to news, features and short films on the people, ideas and innovations which have shaped the region's history. It also offers access to back issues and some ahead-of-print features. The content is updated weekly and details of new content are issued regularly via e-updates to everyone who registers online. Additionally, latest news can be followed on Twitter @HistoryWM or <http://twitter.com/HistoryWM> and on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/HistoryWestMidlands>.

British History Online

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk>

The Institute of Historical Research and Victoria County Histories have worked in partnership to develop this website, which contains a wide range of printed primary and secondary sources for the medieval and modern history of the British Isles. It also provides access to historical geography, urban, parliamentary and religious history. If you are unfamiliar with this website:

- Type the link above into your browser
- This will take you to the British History Online 'Home' page
- Locate 'Midlands' on the left-hand side of the page and click onto it
- Select the appropriate county or make a specific search using the 'Search' box at the top of the page
- To find Birmingham, click on 'Victoria County History: Warwickshire'

Revolutionary Players

<http://www.revolutionaryplayers.org.uk>

A good starting point for finding out more about the Enlightenment in the Midlands is the 'Revolutionary Players' website. The site concentrates on the people who generated the ideas that underpinned the Enlightenment and on those who put these ideas into practice. It also allows exploration of related themes, such as 'Industry and Innovation', 'Culture and Society', and the Midlands Enlightenment in its wider national and international contexts. Information is presented through digitised versions of original documents and illustrations, along with explanatory notes and extended essays.

The Lunar Society

<http://bmag.org.uk/soho-house>

<http://www.sohomint.info>

Many of the key figures of the West Midlands Enlightenment were members of the Lunar Society who met regularly at Soho House in Handsworth, the home to industrialist, entrepreneur and Lunar Society member, Matthew Boulton. These two websites provide not only details of Soho House as a place to visit, but also a wealth of information about the people of the Lunar Society and the activities and products of the Soho mint and manufactory.

Ditherington Mill

<http://discovershropshire.org.uk>

Ditherington Mill is situated in the northern part of Shrewsbury. Designed by Derbyshire architect Charles Bage and built in 1796-7, the Main Mill is the world's oldest iron-framed building. A brief history of the mill can be found at www.discovershropshire.org.uk. Follow the 'History' link and look for the link to Ditherington Mill. This, in turn, will lead you to the Friends of the Flax Mills and Maltings website (www.flaxmill-maltings.co.uk). A much fuller account of Charles Bage and Ditherington Mill can be found at the Revolutionary Players website (see below left). Just enter 'Bage' in the search box.

Getting Involved - Friends of West Midlands' Record Offices and Archives

Each of the six counties covered by *History West Midlands* has its own county archives service and most have a lively group of Friends. The aim of the Friends groups is not only to support the work of their county archives service, but also to develop and promote the education of the public through the use of archives. Friends' activities – such as social events, talks and guided walks – research projects and membership details can easily be found by entering 'Friends of (and then your county) Archives' into a favourite search engine. A quick search reveals that the Herefordshire Friends are currently working on the Deadwoman Papers; that the Shropshire Friends produce a quarterly newsletter, *Salopian Recorder*; and that, amongst the £42,000 raised by the Warwickshire Friends since 1988, £2,000 was contributed towards the purchase of the Waller of Woodcote estate records.