

Sue Swalwell and Marilyn Standfast

The first talk at our upcoming "Those Who Served" seminar, to be held in Essex on 23rd October 2021, is the intriguingly titled "A Warring Weaver: Matthew Swalwell".

We are delighted to announce that Guild member Sue Swalwell, a family history researcher with 40 years' experience, will be recounting how she uncovered the exciting story of Matthew Swalwell, who served with the 95th Regiment of Foot or the "Rifles", later fictionalised in the "Sharpe" books and TV series.

Sue will be accompanied by Marilyn Standfast, who runs the Sharpe Appreciation Society, has a degree specialising in American History and who works as a tour manager on military tours around the world. Marilyn will be providing a display of Sharpe memorabilia and battle site photos.



Image: Social satire: an officer drills a squad of incompetent members of the militia. c.1779, Matthew Darly (courtesy of the British Museum)

For more information, please see our seminar page
< <https://one-name.org/seminar-events/> >

Paul Stevenson

The second talk is "Service Records in the Ministry of Defence Main Archive".

Paul Stevenson has 30 years' experience with the MOD and has been Records Manager since 2008. He is a familiar face from genealogy shows around the country including Rootstech 2019 where he presented Guild member Paul Howes with his ancestor's military record. (Paul Stevenson is pictured on the left).

Paul's talk will be guide us through which records are held in MOD's main archive. He will be providing a display of service records and is also offering a search service which will confirm whether or not the MOD hold a record for a given individual.



Photo courtesy of Guild member Peter Hagger

Peter Elliott

The third talk is “RAF Records for Family History”.

We are pleased to welcome Peter Elliott as our next speaker. Peter retired from the RAF Museum as Head of Archives in 2016 after 31 years and became the Museum’s first Curator Emeritus.

Peter will share his extensive knowledge of the RAF archive and its collections, to help us track down our aerial ancestors.



Photo of Spitfire in flight courtesy of Barry Jacobs

Sarah Paterson

The penultimate talk is "Tracing Prisoners of War and Internees in the First and Second World Wars".

We will be welcoming Sarah Paterson to speak on this topic. Sarah has worked at the Imperial War Museum for 33 years, moving from Librarian to her current role as Curator in the First World War and Early 20th Century Team. She has extensive experience of researching military family history.

In her talk Sarah will cover the different types of records that can be used to research your Prisoner of War ancestor, how and why the documentation was created, and will suggest ways to find out more about those taken captive in both World Wars.



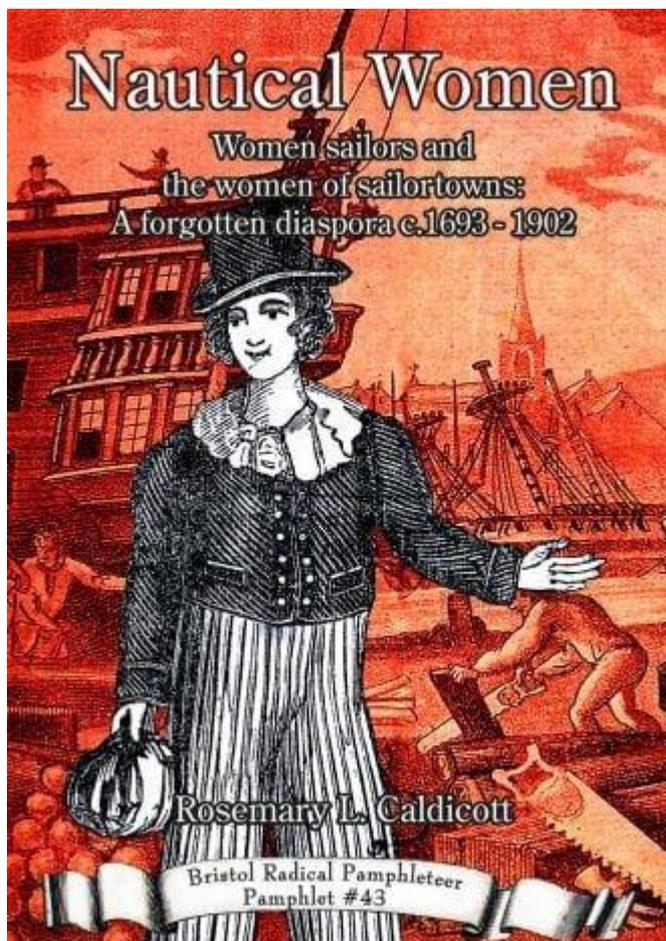
Image: Roll call of British POWs in Poland during World War Two (courtesy of the Imperial War Museums)

Rosemary Caldicott

The final talk is "Cross Dressing Nautical Women: Women Sailors and the Women of Sailortowns".

Rosemary Caldicott is a former university lecturer and currently teaches adult students. She is a published author of several books that have a particular interest in women's history.

Rosemary will explore the stories of two black women who disguised themselves as men to serve on ships and a courageous cross-dressing woman sailor who went to extraordinary lengths to hide her gender. We shall learn about their motivation, adventures and inevitable exposure in stories that are sometimes light-hearted, sometimes tragic.



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