

# E Newsletter



Would you like to contribute to the E newsletter with your news, views, web sites and articles?

We are looking for any information that you have found interesting and would like to share with others,

- \* A talk that you have recently been to?
- \* An article you have read. And would like to share with others?
- \* Research that you have started / finished?
- \* Do you require help with your research?
- \* Have you visited a web site that you have found helpful?
- \* A project you would like some help with?
- \* A project you would like to share with other people?

you can email them to me using the email address given in the newsletter below.

Have your  
Say



[robecarter@hotmail.com](mailto:robecarter@hotmail.com)

# Dates for the diary 2015

**5<sup>th</sup> October**

## Research Evening

We hold a large number of research material for north Staffordshire and surrounding areas, some of which you will not find at the record's office or on any family tree web sites.

**2nd November**

An account of Charles Edward Honeysett's 1st world memoirs

**7<sup>th</sup> December**

Social / Research Evening



graphicpanic.com

## ON THE WEB

There is a large amount of downloadable newspapers that are constantly coming online and could help you with your family history research.

Some of these sites are free and some you will need to register and pay for a subscription.

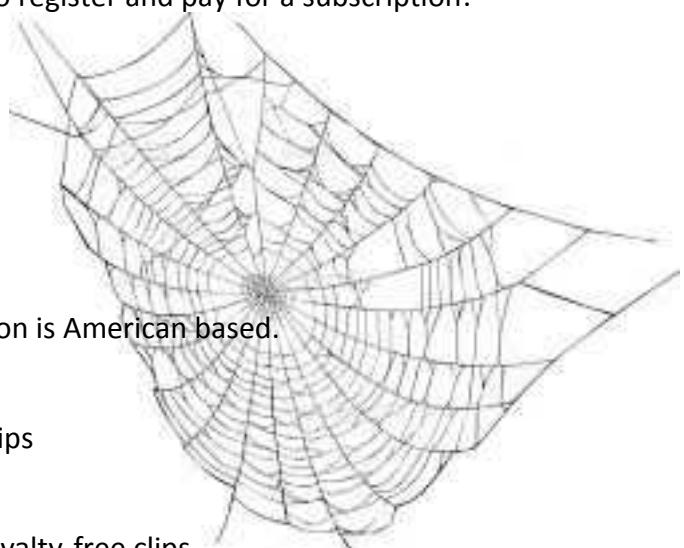
[www.ukpressonline.co.uk](http://www.ukpressonline.co.uk)

[www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)

<http://digitalcomicmuseum.com> most of the collection is American based.

[www.britishpathe.com](http://www.britishpathe.com) a selection of about 90,000 clips

<https://archive.org/movies> internet archive library royalty-free clips

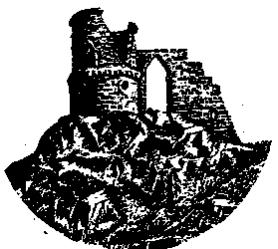


[www.smallthorne-history.org.uk](http://www.smallthorne-history.org.uk) Wanted any photos, documents or items related to Smallthorne. Will copy return or can discuss payment for right material that I can preserve for the local area. Also anyone wishing to add their memories to a non-profit website to retain for history of our village

Please contact: [barry@smallthorne-history.org.uk](mailto:barry@smallthorne-history.org.uk)



## Border History



### Local & Family History Fair

Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2015

Alsager Civic Centre

9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Admission £1

Discover your ancestors, draw your family tree, trace the history of your house or village. Everything you need is here plus lots to see and buy.

*Refreshments available*

[www.borderhistory.org.uk](http://www.borderhistory.org.uk)

Border History is the collective name for the following societies in North Staffordshire and South Cheshire:

Family History Society of Cheshire - Alsager & Congleton Groups, Audley & District Family History Society, Biddulph & District Genealogy & Historical Society, Congleton History Society, Leek & District Historical Society, North Staffordshire Branch of the BMSGH, & North Staffordshire Historians' Guild, Staffordshire Parish Register Society.

28th EARL LECTURE at  
KEELE UNIVERSITY

Professor RICHARD CUST  
*University of Birmingham*

CHURCH MONUMENTS IN  
POST-REFORMATION STAFFORDSHIRE

MONDAY 5 OCTOBER 2015 at 8  
pm

WESTMINSTER THEATRE  
CHANCELLOR'S BUILDING  
Keele University

Promoted by Keele University in collaboration with  
the  
Jack Leighton Trust

## Don't Believe Parish Records are the Gospel Truth. Dianne Shenton

I go into Stafford Record Office regularly and was asked if I could do a check for the Staffordshire BMD co-ordinator. They had discovered in the Hanley Registrar's office that the Register for **St. Mary's, Bucknall cum Bagnall**, Staffordshire, had a page torn out and the registrar had no note of when it was done. Therefore they asked me to look at the Church register, to see if it existed there.

So I went off to Stafford R.O. and asked in the politest way possible if I could possibly look at the original register, rather than those on fiche, to check if the page existed. The Staff looked at their indexes and commented that something weird was going on in that Church as they not only had the original but also a duplicate book. So they suggested I got both out to check.

They kindly allowed me to have both books at the same time (rather than the usual one document at a time). The main register was the post 1st July 1837 Book and I quickly flipped through to find page 235 and 236. Page 235 (1843) was present and had the marriages for John Cartledge to Jane Hollins and William Johnson to Harriet Cooper however when I turned it over to view page 236 on the reverse, I found a note by the Vicar **N.B. This page has been torn out in corresponding Register Book by some person whilst it l[a]y on the Altar Table of the Church of Bucknall during service.** That explained that problem, but of course the two missing marriages from the StaffsBMD can only be found on FreeBMD as that is compiled from the GRO Indexes, which were compiled from the Quarterly returns that the Vicar/Curate had to produce.

I then turned my attention to the duplicate book to work out what it was. This was a pre-1<sup>st</sup> July 1837 Book with only a few pages filled in. The first few were obviously marriages performed before the new rules came in but then there were sporadic entries up to 1843.

So I carefully checked the sporadic entries against the "real" Register and most of them were there too, but a few were not. The missing ones were:-

Entry no 13 1837. Thomas Phillips to Maria Swetnam (can be found on FindMyPast)

Entry no. 14. 1837 Thomas Shenton to Martha Janes (can be found on FindMyPast)

Entry no 15. 1838 John Lovatt to Elizabeth Howard (can be found on FindMyPast) Father named and different to entry 16)

Entry no. 16 1838 John Lovatt to Elizabeth Jones (can be found on FindMyPast) (Father named and different to entry 15)

Entry no 23 1841 Joseph Titley to Emma Barker (can be found on FindMyPast)

Entry no 24 1841 James Bootl (or Booth) to Elizabeth Bootl (or Booth) (can be found on FindMyPast)

Entry no 25 1842 John Johnson to Eliz. Reeves (found in Staffs BMD and FreeBMD)

Entry no 26 1843 Joseph Sawyer to Sarah Kerly? (can be found on FindMyPast)

However some of these appear on the Staffordshire BMD so must have been entered into the Registrar's Book but not all of them. So if you have lost someone be sure to check all indexes.

Another surprise in the Register Book was that all pages after page 38 had been filled in by the same hand, which I assume was the Vicar. Perhaps not unusual when people couldn't write, but nothing indicated that any of these were signed on behalf of X. In addition some were signed in the wrong place eg. Witness signed as groom etc. So where I have been blissfully telling people to get their certificates from the Local Registrar's as you get to see the signatures this is not necessarily so.

My kindest interpretation is that perhaps the Vicar had Dementia – he died in 1851.

# Breaking News !

The above vicar was Ed Powys and it has come to light that he was also connected with St Edwards Church, Cheddleton, where he was, shall we say, also less than 100% accurate with writing things down. Fortunately for family historians he passed away before the first register was full and needed to be deposited at the Registrars Office. From the notes in the margins of the register later deposited in the Registrars Office it looks as if his curate was concerned with the accuracy and the majority of marriages conducted by Ed have some crossings out and corrections put in with notes explaining what the correction is. The curate did all this before the register was full, so when it went to the Registrars and was indexed by them it all looked good ! I also suspect that the curate was the one who did the quarterly returns for St Edwards as they appear to be correct on the GRO indexes.

Thankfully it looks like this curate took his role seriously enough to put matters right in the registers before he let them out of his care.

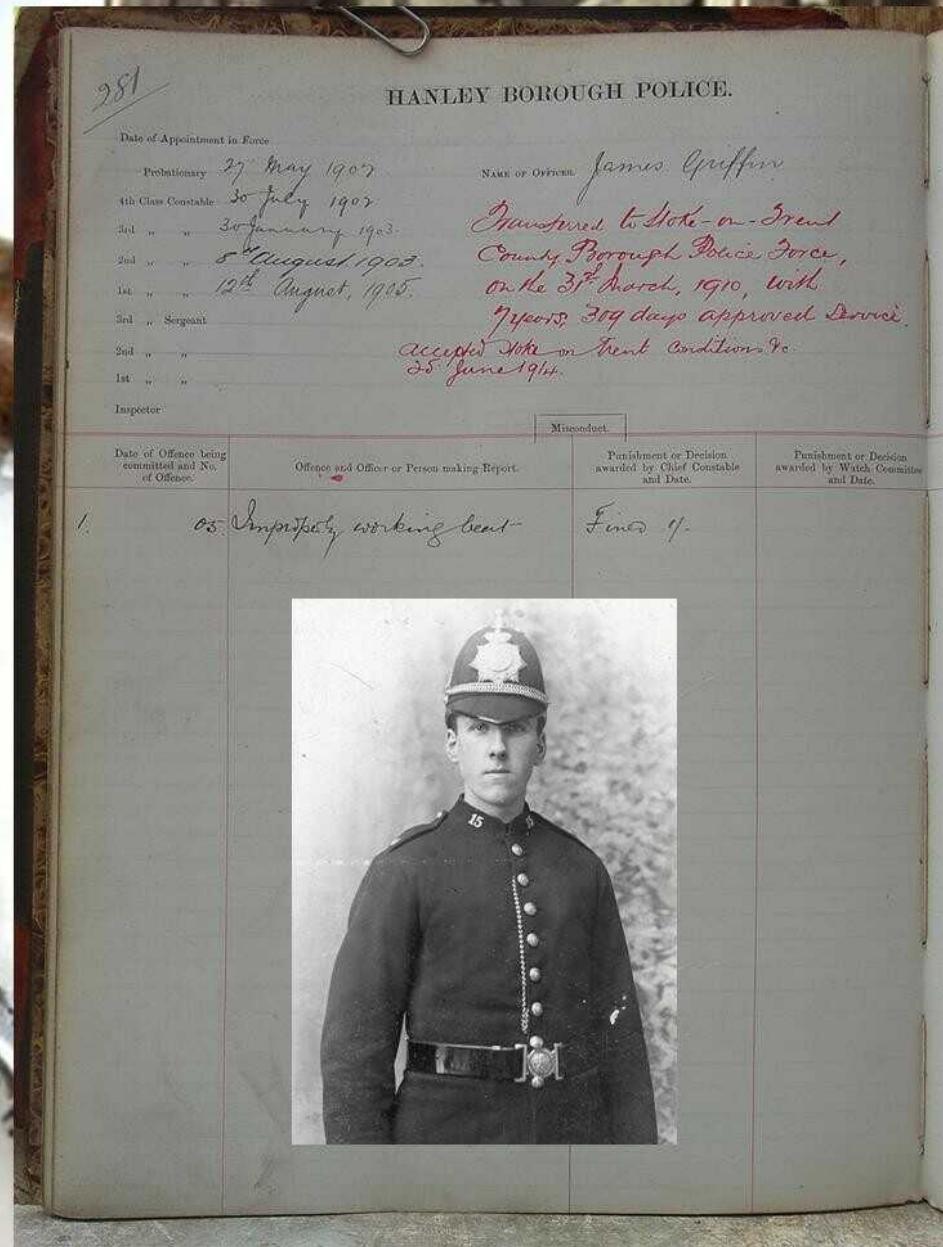
One other thing we have noticed about Bucknall Marriages is that there are page after page after page where there are no FATHERS details on any of the marriages ! We all know that a lot of illegitimate children were wed without the fathers details being documented but the number in Bucknall is disproportionate and if we take into account Ed's foibles it wouldn't be stretching the imagination to believe that he just forgot to write them down.

Most people only send for a marriage at a time, so if the certificate shows no fathers details it would be natural to assume that there was no father known, but when you have the whole book in front of you to look at the omissions just leap of the page at you !

So if you have a certificate from Bucknall and there is no fathers details then I would suggest trying to find younger brothers or sisters of those getting married and hope they were married after 1851 when Ed Powys was no longer on the scene, or may have been married before 1851 but at a different church. We hope this helps some one out there - its certainly helped us to look at things with fresh eyes and opinions.

HANLEY BOROUGH POLICE.

Date of Appointment in Force	Jan 7 1874	Transferred to 394.
Probationary	Nov 26 1873	Name of Officer. John Wallbank (13)
1st Class Constable	Jan 7 1874	1903
2nd	May 23 1874	
3rd	Nov 28 1875	
4th	Nov 28 1876	
Sgt. - Sergeant	7th April 1879	
Sgt. - Sergeant	7th October 1893	
Insptor.	7th April 1896	
Misconduct		
Date of Offence being committed and No. of Officer.	Officer and Officer or Person making Report.	Punishment or Decision awarded by Chief Constable and Date.
1874 March 20th	Neglecting to put himself at 8pm to his documents per duty	banished 20/3/74
May 29th	15 Mins late upon parow	Sup. C
Sept 14th	8 Mins late at 8pm	Cantines 8/9/74
Aug 9th	15 Mins late at 8.45pm	Sup. C
Sept 4th	Neglecting to put himself at 8pm to his documents per duty	banished 20/3/74
November 9th	20 minutes late at 8pm parow	banished, deducted last 2 weeks
April 7th	25 minutes late 8pm parow	banished
April 18th	15 Mins late 8pm parow	banished 2/5/75
July 27th	20 minutes late for 1st	Rec'd 2/7/75
October 27th	20 minutes late at 8pm parow	Cantines 1/11/75
Dec 27th	For not working hard & going with a friend	
January 15th	20 minutes late at 8pm parow	Rec'd 1/1/76
Jan 23	Neglecting to put himself at 8pm to his documents per duty	19/1/76 Rec'd 1/1/76
Feb 14th	10 minutes late at 8pm parow	Rec'd 1/2/76
Dec 6th	Mr. Martin late 8pm parow	Rec'd 1/1/77
Mar 9, 1877	Some of night shift to duty at 12 when 9pm	Rec'd 1/1/77
July 4th	Not working hard & neglecting to go to work	2/7/77 2 hours extra
Nov 29, 1877	Not working hard & going to the pub	20/11/77 1 hour extra
Dec 30, 1877	Retiring from 10pm to 12	2 hours extra
	See p 94	



A project that is nearing completion in the next month or two is the photographing and indexing of the Hanley Borough Police conduct book. Shown above and to the right are examples of entries that may be found in the book.

The photograph is of James Griffin and was supplied by Mike Griffin to whom he is related.

Was any of your family in the Hanley Police?, have you got any photography like mine that can be added to the book?.

To view the book and many more documents please come to one of our research evenings.



NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE FAMILY  
HISTORY SOCIETY (BMSGH)

wishes you a very

*Merry Christmas*



and Happy New Year!