

E Newsletter



Welcome

ROGER JONES

It is with great sadness to report the death of one of our members Mr Roger Jones on February 6th 2016. He will be greatly missed not only as a society member but also a friend of many. Roger and his wife Olwen attended regularly and our condolences go out to Olwen and family.

V O L U N T E E R
all that's missing is U!

We have a society with a number of genealogy projects that we would like some assistance with.

Can you spare a little time to help?

This can be done in the comfort of your own home or at your local church or archive office.

We are looking for volunteers who have a computer and can assist in the Staffordshire BMD's project (which has helped us all at some time).

Have you got a digital camera? We are looking for people who can take photographs of headstones so they can be transcribed.

Have you got a collection of photographs of family graves, why not send them to us to transcribe?

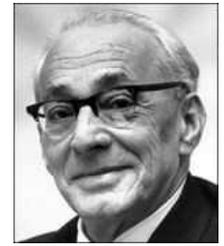
Have you got a story or an interesting article you would like to share?

For more information please use the Email below.



robecarter@hotmail.com

STAFFORDSHIRE PEOPLE



Sir Barnett Stross (25 December 1899 – 13 May 1967)

Barnett Stross was born to a Jewish family, originally bearing the name Strasberg, in Poland on Christmas Day 1899. His parents Samuel and Cecilia, a Rabbi's daughter, were married in Poland in 1880. Barnett, called Bob by his family, had eleven siblings. When he was three, his family moved to Leeds. Stross was educated at Leeds Grammar School. He then studied medicine at the University of Leeds where he qualified in 1926.

He chose to set up in practice in the Potteries. Two years later he appeared before a committee of inquiry into silicosis as an expert witness on behalf of the pottery workers. His campaign on silicosis became a passionate cause and successive government schemes providing compensation for people suffering from pneumoconiosis and silicosis were established as a result of his campaigning. He successfully launched a media campaign to obtain financial compensation for miners who suffered serious occupational lung disease. At a time prior to the existence of a Welfare State in Britain, Stross gave medical care without charge to the poorer members of Stoke-on-Trent's communities. During the Second World War he gave healthy lifestyle lectures on behalf of the Ministry of Food. During one of these lectures, coinciding with an air raid, a German bomb struck the auditorium, leaving Stross seriously injured.

Lidice Shall Live

Stross did not confine himself to medical issues. He also led a campaign to rebuild Lidice, a Czechoslovak village which had been destroyed by Nazi forces during the Second World War in a 1942 massacre under orders from Adolf Hitler, who was enraged by the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich by British trained Czech resistance fighters. On 10 June 1942 Nazi soldiers entered Lidice and ultimately killed all of the village's men. Women and children were separated and taken to the Ravensbrück concentration camp. Only 146 of the women are known to have survived, while 88 children were killed; only 17 younger children survived the tragedy having been placed with German families (these children returned to Lidice after the war). Lidice was then razed to the ground in order to wipe it off the map for ever. News of the tragedy soon reached the rest of the world as it was filmed and broadcast by the Nazis.

Stross was deeply affected by the Lidice tragedy. Immediately after news of the event reached Stoke-on-Trent he spoke to miners and their leaders, proposing the reconstruction of the village of Lidice to commemorate this crime against humanity forever. On the afternoon of Sunday 6 September, in The Victoria Hall, the "Lidice Shall Live" movement was formed in the presence of Czechoslovak President, Edvard Beneš, Will Lawther, President of the Miners' Federation, and Soviet Ambassador Bogomolov. The name of the movement came about in defiant response to Adolf Hitler's proclamation that "Lidice shall die". Barnett Stross vehemently replied, "Lidice Shall Live!"

An audience of 3,000 men and women heard Dr Benes' concluding remarks: "This meeting has made it clear that Lidice has not died: it lives on in the hearts of the people of Stoke-on-Trent at least. From now on, Stoke-on-Trent will forever in the heart of every Czech citizen".

In the months that followed, from its base in Stoke-on-Trent fund-raising campaigns were organised, collecting donations from British miners and workers to pay for the construction of a new Lidice. In 1947 Lidice began to be rebuilt with the help of the £32,000 raised by people from the Potteries, this included more than 150 modern state of the art homes. In 1955 Barnett lead an initiative to construct the world's largest rose garden with 23,000 roses donated by numerous countries around the world. For this work, on 18 June 1947 Stross was honoured by the Czechoslovak government with the White Lion of Czechoslovakia, and he became Chair of the British-Czechoslovakia Society, using this position to highlight human rights abuses under the Communist government.

Sir Barnett Stross considered the establishment of the movement to support Lidice, its genesis in Stoke-on-Trent, but growing worldwide, his greatest personal success. He said that the success lay neither in the big sum that had been collected for the rebuilding of Lidice nor in the beautiful Rose Garden nor in the Lidice Collection which he had founded. He saw the success in the fact that the news about the slaughter of innocent people had flown around the world, converting the crime committed by the Nazis into a weapon of peace.

Henry Lark Pratt (1805–1873)

Pratt was born in the parish of St Peters in Derby on 16 February 1805 and he was apprenticed into the porcelain trade at the Derby Factory at the age of about 12. Pratt would have completed his apprenticeship in 1824. He stayed in Derby until 1830. After that he worked for Mintons from 1831 to November 1836 as a painter.

Six months before he left Mintons he married Margaret Windsor of Stoke on Trent. Henry and Margaret had children with the first in 1837 and the first five in Stoke. A son was born in 1839 who confusingly was given his fathers full name as he was to also become an artist.

In 1841 Pratt described his profession as artist in the census and in 1844 he started taking an interest in oil painting. He was then employed to sketch baronial halls in nearby counties. He enjoyed painting and was keen on landscapes and particularly the valley of Dovedale on the Derbyshire and Staffordshire border.

Patrons of his art included the Dukes of Devonshire and Queen Victoria who bought a dinner service with views of Windsor Castle that Pratt had painted.

He moved back to Derby in 1851 where he was still making a living from his artistic skills that kept his wife and their nine children.

In 1861 he described himself as a "Landscape painter on China." He died on 3 March 1873 in Stoke on Trent. Pratt's son Henry Lark Pratt changed his name to Hinton to try to avoid confusion with his father but this was to little effect as paintings are found that are signed "H.L.Pratt".

Pratt (junior) went on to exhibit a painting at the Royal Academy in 1867 and six years later he had another painting accepted by the Society of British Artists . He died in 1875 at the age of 36.

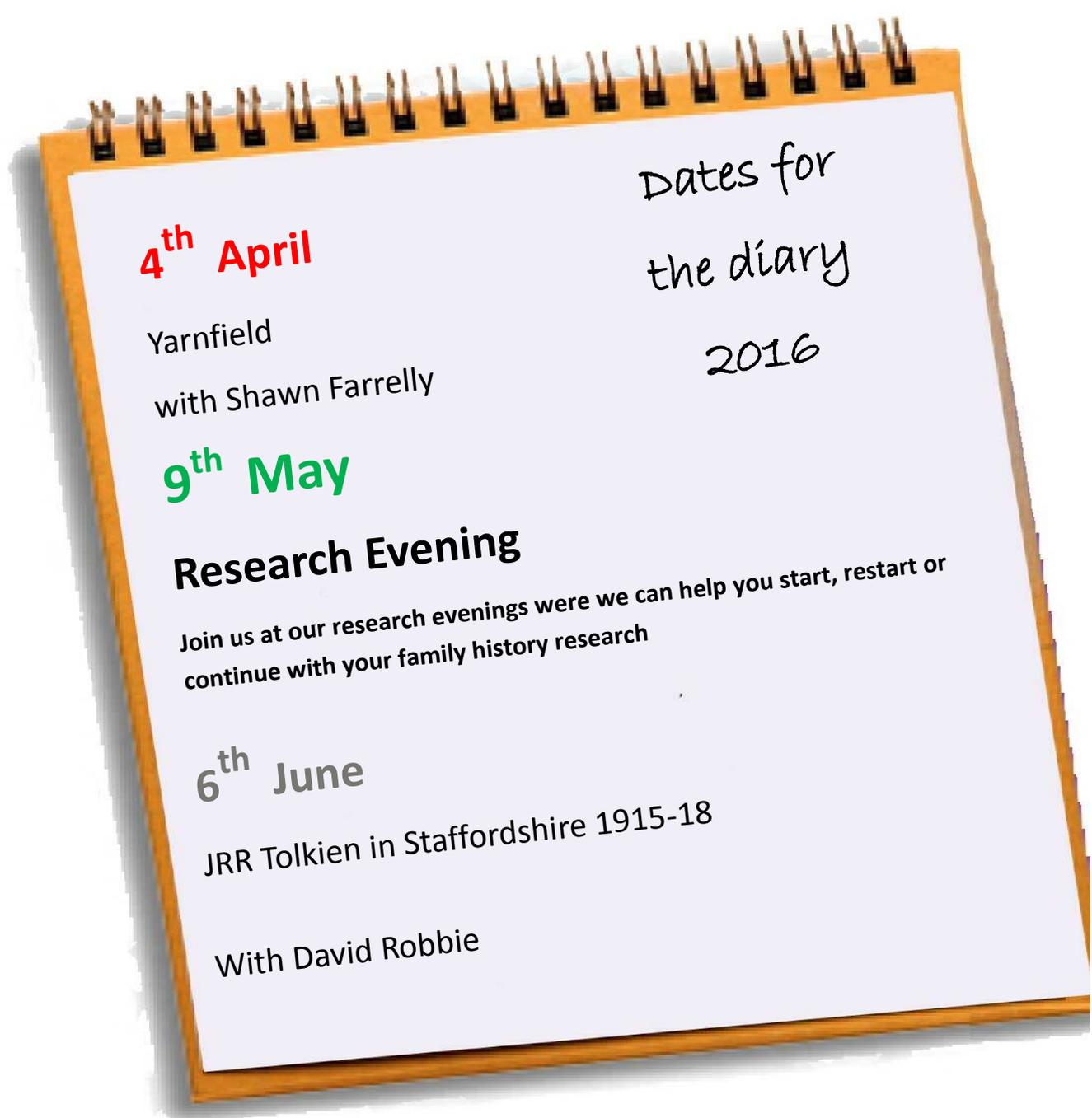


One of his paintings of Etruria From Basford Bank



(Stoke Minster churchyard)

In loving memory of the late HENRY LARK PRATT / artist of Stoke-on-Trent who died / March 3rd 1873 aged 68 years / HENRY LARK PRATT Junr. Artist / died July 31st 1875 aged 36 years / also MARGARET / wife of HENRY LARK



4th April

Yarnfield
with Shawn Farrelly

9th May

Research Evening

Join us at our research evenings where we can help you start, restart or continue with your family history research

6th June

JRR Tolkien in Staffordshire 1915-18

With David Robbie

Dates for
the diary

2016

When the War Came to Yarnfield with Shawn Farrelly

For such a small village, Yarnfield has a remarkably high profile. Had it not been for the Second World War, Yarnfield may still have been a sleepy little hamlet just outside the town of Stone. As it is, Yarnfield played a significant role in that War due to the building of the nearby munitions factory.

After the war some of the hostels became known to thousands of telephone engineers as the GPO engineering department central training school. How did this all happen and how different might things have been if different decisions had been made?

THE BLO(O)R(E) SOCIETY

The Family History Society for people with
Bloors, Bloores or Blores. in their Family Tree
We also have Blewers and some Blowers in our Trees.

The Next Meeting of the Society
will be held at

The Church Hall of St. Mark's, Basford
next to 211, Basford Park Road, Basford, Stoke-on-Trent, ST5 0PG

on Saturday, May 14th, 2016

Anyone interested in Blo(o)r(e) Family History
will be made most Welcome

We'll be there, ready to help you, from about
10am until about 5pm

All the usual research tools and expertise will be
available to help you start, restart, or continue your own
Blo(o)r(e) Family History research.

Do you know someone with a Blo(o)r(e) in
their Family Tree?

Please tell them about the Meeting

For more information, contact Ian K Bloor on 01270 811 260 or
email enquiries@bloor.org

Municipal Cemetery Registers

The municipal cemetery registers can be a valuable source of information and can only be viewed at Stoke-on-Trent city archives and Staffordshire record office.

To assist you with searching for individual(s) an index as been created by members of the North staffs genealogy society in conjunction with Stoke-on-Trent city archives and Staffordshire record office.

On the index web site cemetery plans are being added which may help if you are trying to find a family grave?

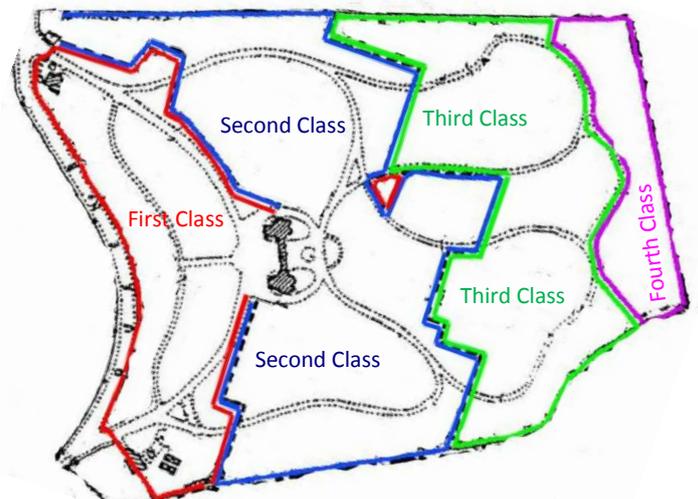
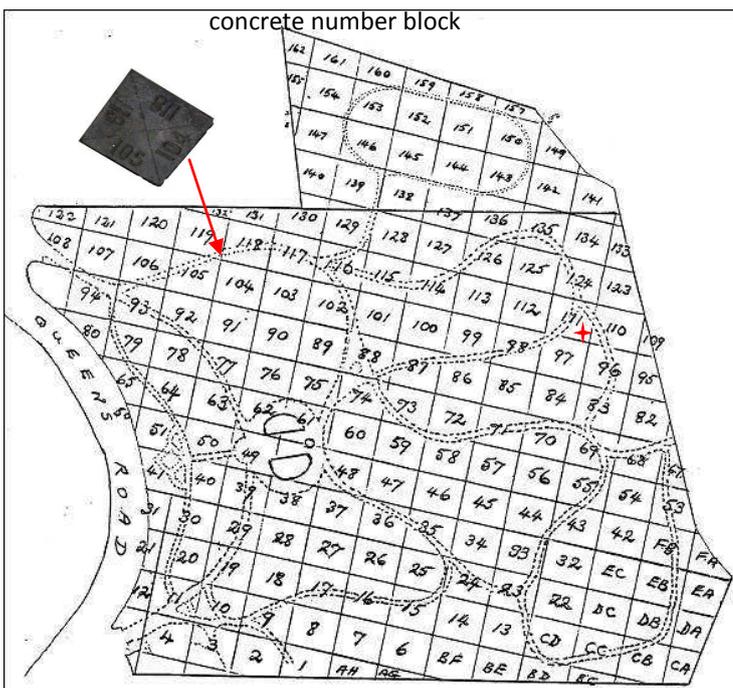
Please follow the link for the index <http://www.bmsg.org/burialsearch/>

Below is a sample of the burial register for Hartshill cemetery, in the column for the (number of grave space) the registrar as begun to add the block, row and grave numbers. This started on the 6th of February 1962 for Harsthill cemetery and began in June 1952 for Hanley cemetery.

STOKE-ON-TRENT BURIAL BOARD.					REGISTER OF BURIALS.						
Number of Entry	Name of Person Buried	Description of Person Buried	Age, in years, unless otherwise expressed	Abode at time of Death	Parish or Ecclesiastical District in which abode existed	When Died	By whom the Cemetery was Performed	Number of Grave space	If in consecrated Ground, age in years	If in dedicated un consecrated Ground, age in years	When Buried
36955	Sidney Harry Freeman	Retired	71	North Stafford Royal Infirmary	Stoke-upon-Trent	5 February 1962	B.P. Cook	4041		R.C.	9 February 1962
36956	Paul Staren Elliott	Child	9 mo.	The Limes, Hartshill.	Fenton	30 January 1962	B.P. Cook	DB.137			9 February 1962

If the document only give you the grave space number, you can go to the relevant Municipal cemetery and they may provide you with the block, row and grave number. Once you have these you can search for the grave you are looking for using your cemetery plan .

The above record marked with + shows on the plan the position of the grave from the burial register.



THE GRAVE BLOCK PLAN

On the 10th of December 1884 the Cemetery Committee instructed the Borough Surveyor to prepare a large scale grave plan showing the grave spaces due east and west.

The ground was also to be divided into first, second, third and fourth class graves for each religious denomination.

The original plan contained 139 blocks. There were 200 grave spaces in each block which are divided into 10 rows with 20 graves per row. Each grave was 9 feet long by 4 feet wide. This ensured that when the grave was excavated in the middle of the space there was ample solid ground on either side.

If any of the blocks are cut off by the path any grave spaces that would be wholly, or partially in that area would be marked as "not useable".

The rows begin in the right hand corner and the grave run left to right (see diagram below)



Block 104

10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
6	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

Rows 1-10

The cemetery was subsequently extended in 1904 on the north-west side and the new blocks were identified by letters instead of numbers (see right hand corner of plan above).

A second extension took place in the 1930s and here the block numbers were continued from 139 to 162.

If you would like a practical demo of how to make use of the index and plans etc come to our research evening on Monday the 9th of May.

Curiosities from St. Mary's church Uttoxeter parish records.

29 June 1691 Marriage John Wasser, a Souldier, **A Dutchman** and Mary Lease a **Dutchwoman**.

An appropriate occupation for someone of this name.

12 June 1698 Baptism John s/o John Cooke, a Baker.

Quite a lot of Travellers and people from different places.

24 Jan 1661/2 Burial Ralph Hitchin a poor Traveller **aged 116**

21 Mar 1678/9 Bur. Francis Sands. A Traveller under the name of ye **King of the Gypsies**

26 Mar 1678/9 Bur Jane the reputed wife of ye sayd Francis Sande

10 Feb 1712/13 Bur. John Williams, **A Welshman**.

Occasional extra comments.

27 June 1699. Bur. Jonathan Clewes, A Sadler who was **accidently drowned by fishing**.

16 July 1704 Bur. Anthony Ward who was accidentally **killed by a fall from a load of Hay**.

28 Jan 1711/12 Bur. Madam Mary Kynnersly having for **upwards of 21 years been a Pious Relict** of Thomas Kynnersly Esq

14? Mar 1700/1 Bap. Thomas s/o William Sandlands, A **Horserider**.

13 July 1704 Bap. John s/o Thomas Bull, skinner being their 2nd child. (Also an appropriate name for the occupation.)

I am going through the PR for St. Mary's, Uttoxeter extracting references to occupations before 1800 and found what must be every Family Historian's worst nightmare – beyond "brickwall" which you can hope to knock down. This is an absolute end of the line for some poor soul.

18 Mar 1701/2 Baptism of John Barnes a child found in a barn.

From Dianne Shenton

ON THE WEB

Australia

National archives of Australia

www.naa.gov.au

National library of Australia

www.nla.gov.au

Society of Australia genealogy

www.sag.org.au

Canada

National archives of Canada

www.archives.ca

National library of Canada

www.nlc-bnc.ca

New Zealand

National archives of New Zealand

www.archives.govt.nz

National library of New Zealand

www.natlib.govt.nz

Society of New Zealand genealogy

www.genealogy.org.nz