

E Newsletter

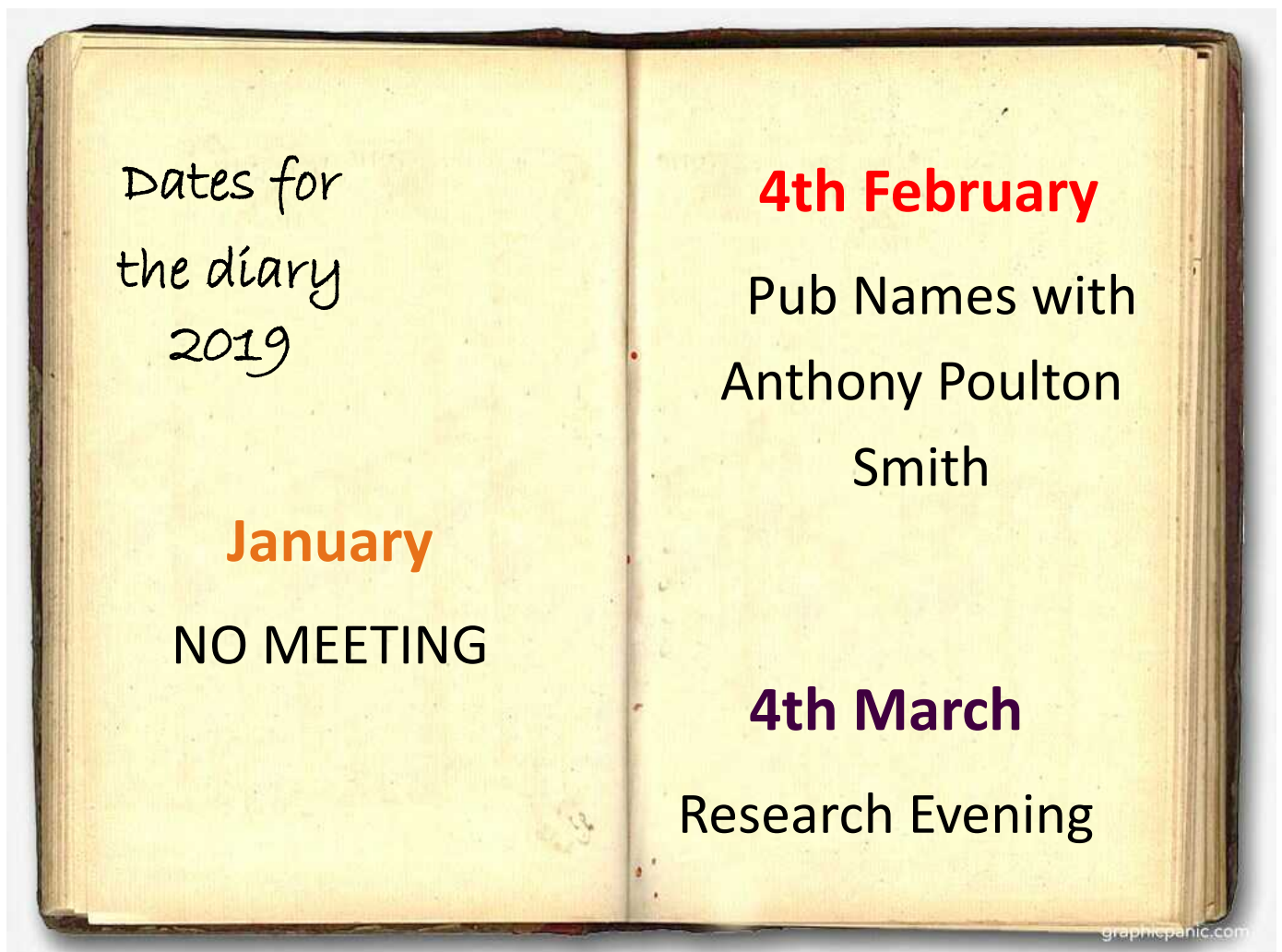


Welcome to the NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY (MIDLAND ANCESTORS)

Meetings : 1st Monday of the month at 7:30 pm unless First Monday is a Bank Holiday, then second Monday

There is a free car park at the side of the centre and ample on street parking in Harpfields Road and Flash Lane.

We are asked though to avoid parking in Vicarage Lane which is adjacent to the building since it is narrow & difficult for residents



The newsletter will be added to the web page on the following dates for you to view:

30th June 2019

30th September 2019

31st December 2019

31st March 2020



1. **It is not only the Queen who has Two Birthdays.** (or don't believe everything on a certificate)

I was helping an elderly lady in Stafford Record Office who had no idea how to start her Family History Research so we had to start at the beginning. I asked her parents names and then asked when her Father was born. At this point she burst out laughing which was not what I expected. She then explained to me that her Father was born in 1898 but his Parents missed the deadline for registering his birth. So rather than incur a fine for late registration they "adjusted" his date of birth so that it was within the specified time limit. So throughout his life he had his actual Date of Birth and his Official Date of Birth.

2. **People may be interested to know that I have had a closed record in the 1939 Register opened** without a Death Certificate. If anyone has tried to open a closed record it appears that they will only accept a Death certificate but my Father in Law's first cousin Malcolm John Shenton born 1921 was shot down in a Lancaster Bomber in Jan. 1945 and his body never found. (or at least not identified).

Therefore I emailed Find My Past to ask if it was possible to open the record with the death certificate and gave them the entry on the Runnymede Memorial on CWWGC and also on a Trafford website of people lost in WW2 which said lost overseas and burial place unknown. (Malcolm came from Sale, Cheshire)

FMP has opened the record after looking at my information and seeing that he is listed in RAF Deaths and it only took 2 days.

Births

In the early days of the system, it was up to each local registrar to find out what births, marriages and deaths had taken place in his sub-district. It has therefore been estimated that only about 50–60% of births, both legitimate and illegitimate, were registered as parents were not legally obliged to inform the registrar. It has been estimated that in some parts of England up to 15% of births were not registered between 1837 and 1875. As a result of the Births and Deaths Act 1874, registration was made compulsory from 1875 and the onus was now on parents to inform the registrar when they had a child and penalties were imposed on those who failed to register. Births had to be registered within 42 days at the district or sub-district office, usually by the mother or father. If more days had elapsed but it was less than three months since the birth, the superintendent registrar had to be present and if between three months and a year, the registration could only be authorised by the Registrar General.

Until 1926, there were no registrations at all of still born children. For illegitimate children, the original 1836 legislation provided that "it shall not be necessary to register the name of any father of a bastard child." From 1850, instructions to registrars were clarified to state that, "No putative father is allowed to sign an entry in the character of 'Father'." However, the law was changed again 1875 to allow a father of an illegitimate child to record his name on his child's birth certificate if he attended the register office with the mother. In 1953 a child's father could also be recorded on the birth certificate, if not married to the mother, without being physically present to sign the register.

Marriages

For marriages, Church of England clergy acted as the local registrar. Two identical registers of marriages were kept and when they were complete, one was sent to the superintendent registrar. However, every three months, the clergyman had to send a copy of his marriage records (detailing marriages that had taken place in the preceding three months) directly to the superintendent registrar. The Marriage Act 1836 also permitted marriages by licence to take place in approved churches, chapels and nonconformist meeting houses, other than those of the Church of England. Marriages were only legally binding if they were notified to the superintendent registrar by the officiating minister so in effect, this required the presence of a local registration officer as the authorising person. When a nonconformist minister or other religious official, such as a rabbi, performed the ceremony it was necessary for the local registrar or his assistant to be present so that the marriage was legal. This legalisation was not repealed until 1898, after which date, nonconformist ministers and other religious leaders could take on the role of notifying official, if so appointed, and on the condition that their premises were licensed for the solemnising of marriage. The civil authorities, i.e. the local registrar, could also perform marriage by certificate in a register office. Changes in marriage laws since 1836 have also affected how marriages are registered, for example, civil partnerships for same-sex couples were introduced by the British Government in 2004 and the GRO records these ceremonies through its civil registration system.

Deaths

The local registrar had to be informed of a death within five days and burial (or cremation) could not take place until the death had been properly registered. The death had to be registered either by a relative or some other person present at the death or there during the final illness of the deceased, or the person responsible for disposing of the body, or a responsible person from an institution (e.g. a workhouse). From 1845 the cause of death had to be certified by a doctor before registration. A death would normally be registered in the district in which it occurred. Once a death has been registered, the registrar would normally issue a Certificate for Burial or Cremation, unless the death were being investigated by the coroner or there were an inquest. This certificate would give permission for the body to be buried or for an application for cremation to be made. A different registration system operates today in other parts of the United Kingdom.

From Dianne Shenton

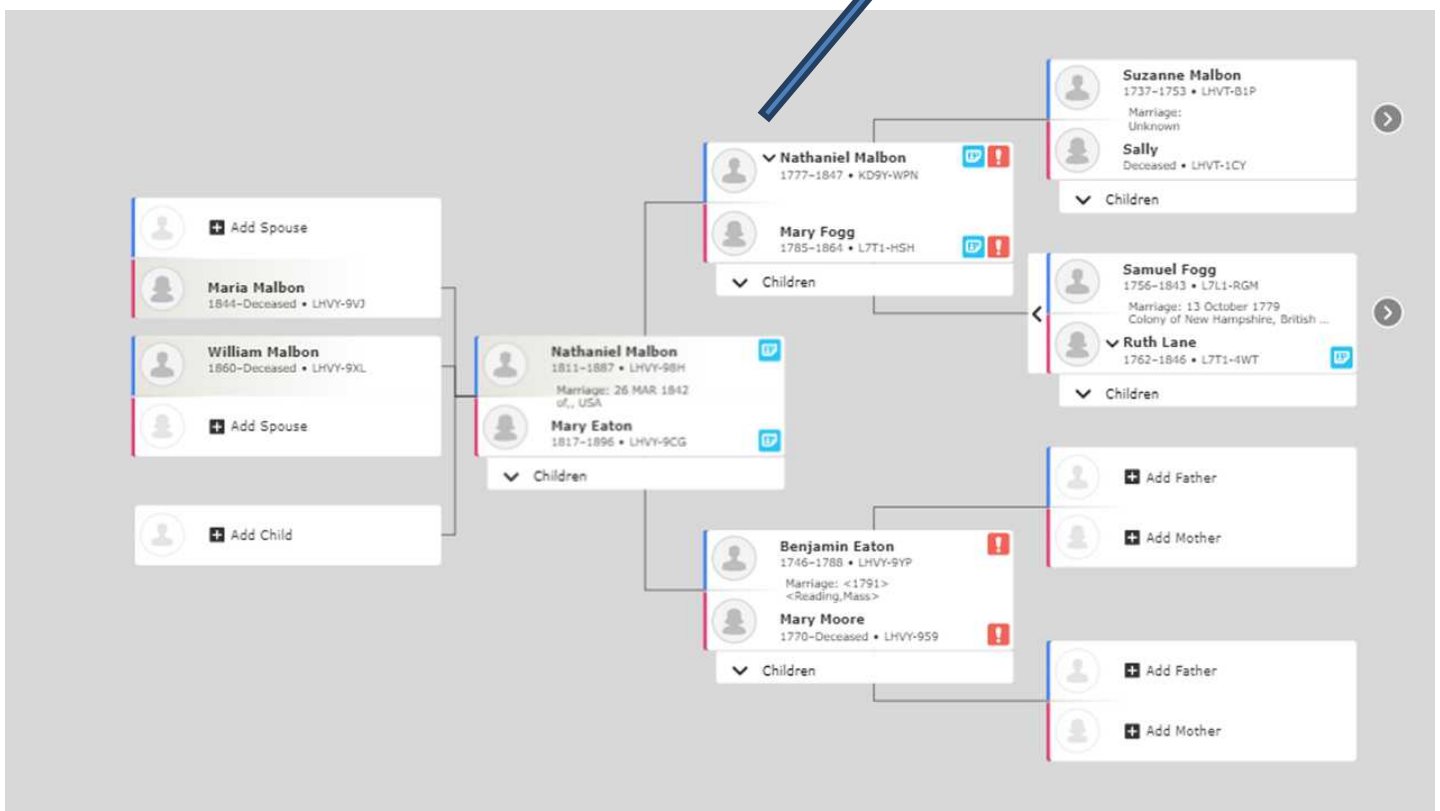
ERROR

This was sent in by Dianne Shenton has a warning to us all to check and double check the information that we have and use in our research

Inaccurate tree off Familysearch.org – Includes a same sex marriage circa 1770!

Nathaniel was the s/o James Malbon and his wife Sally

Suzanne Malbon was the sister of James and therefore an Aunt of Nathaniel.
She married Pierre Pochard.



Events @ Staffordshire Record Office

Availability: Most of our events have limited availability and tickets are allocated on a first come, first served basis. If you contact us by email or telephone at the office organising the event, we will confirm availability of tickets and send you an email about secure online payment.

Alternatively, please **post** the booking form to the office named on the form, with a cheque in payment. We recommend that you contact us in advance of sending your form to confirm availability of places. You may then [make payment online](#) using the specific event code given in the event information below .

Most tickets are sent out by email as **printable e-tickets** as standard. If you do not have an email address, tickets can be collected on the day of the event at the venue. If your booking form arrives after all available tickets have been allocated your cheque will be returned to you.

Refunds: refunds cannot be made unless a cancellation is received 8 working days in advance of the event.

Events Mailing List: To keep up to date with our latest events and to avoid disappointment through late booking, join our mailing list.

Email: email staffordshire.record.office@staffordshire.gov.uk with your name, address and telephone number and we will inform you of forthcoming events by email

Post: if you don't have an email address, please send your contact details to Events Mailing List, Staffordshire Record Office, Eastgate Street, Stafford ST16 2LZ

Free One-to-One Family History Help Sessions

Date: Fridays at 1.30 p.m.

- **Admission:** Sessions are free by advance booking only. Please telephone Staffordshire Record Office on 01785-278373 to reserve your ticket.



Stoke On Trent City Archives

Stoke on Trent City Archives
City Central Library
Bethesda Street
Hanley
Stoke on Trent
ST1 3RS

Contact

Telephone: 01782 238420

Email: stoke.archives@stoke.gov.uk

Our online catalogue: [Gateway to the Past](#)

Opening hours

Monday: Closed
Tuesday: Closed
Wednesday: 9.30am - 6pm
Thursday: 9.30am - 2pm
Friday: 9.30am - 2pm
Saturday: 10am - 2pm
Sunday: Closed

Bank Holiday Closures

Please note: please make an appointment to visit the office, ensure that we hold the records that you are interested in, and bring acceptable proof of identity and address for reader registration.



ON THE WEB

Software which will help you to decipher old certificates and documents

www.genscriber.com

Free family tree programs

www.ahnenblatt.com

www.chronoplexsoftware.com

[Legacy family tree genealogy software](#)

Looking for German roots?

www.germanroots.com

www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/germany_genealogy

HM Passport Office (The GRO has a pilot service providing PDF copies of historical birth and death records for a fee of course.

www.gro.gov.uk

Restore photographs of your ancestors with free software.

www.getpaint.net

LOST MEMORIALS

More and more churches and chapels are being lost or turned into restaurants or residential properties so this begs the question where do the memorials go?

Are they taken to the mother church?

Are they left with the property ?

Are they dumped into a skip?

Can you spare a little time to photograph the memorial located inside churches, chapels etc.

If you feel you can help please email me and I will let you know which churches/chapels need to have their memorials photographed near you.



robecarter@hotmail.com

POOR LAW AND THE WORKHOUSE (STONE)

The origins of the workhouse can be traced to the Poor Law Act of 1388, which attempted to address the labour shortages following the Black Death in England by restricting the movement of labourers, and ultimately led to the state becoming responsible for the support of the poor.

An act from 1697, amending the settlement laws, required that anyone receiving poor relief wear a badge on their right shoulder. The badge in the red or blue cloth, consisted of the letter "P" together with the initial letter of the parish, i.e. AP for Amptill parish.



Mass unemployment following the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815, the introduction of new technology to replace agricultural workers in particular, and a series of bad harvests, meant that by the early 1830s the established system of poor relief was proving to be unsustainable. The New Poor Law of 1834 attempted to reverse the economic trend by discouraging the provision of relief to anyone who refused to enter a workhouse. Some Poor Law authorities hoped to run workhouses at a profit by utilising the free labour of their inmates, who generally lacked the skills or motivation to compete in the open market. Most were employed on tasks such as breaking stones, crushing bones to produce fertiliser, or picking oakum using a large metal nail known as a spike.

Life in a workhouse was intended to be harsh, to deter the able-bodied poor and to ensure that only the truly destitute would apply. In areas such as the provision of free medical care and education for children, neither of which was available to the poor in England living outside workhouses until the early 20th century, workhouse inmates were advantaged over the general population, a dilemma that the Poor Law authorities never managed to reconcile.

As the 19th century wore on, workhouses increasingly became refuges for the elderly, infirm and sick rather than the able-bodied poor, and in 1929 legislation was passed to allow local authorities to take over workhouse infirmaries as municipal hospitals. Although workhouses were formally abolished by the same legislation in 1930, many continued under their new appellation of Public assistance Institutions under the control of local authorities. It was not until the National Assistance Act of 1948 that the last vestiges of the Poor Law disappeared, and with them the workhouses.

Under the poor law amendment act of 1834 parishes were grouped into unions and each union had to build a workhouse if they did not already have one.

A work house provided: a place to live, a place to work and earn money, free medical care, food, clothes and free education for children and training for a job.

The staff of a workhouse include: a Master, a Matron, a Medical officer, a Chaplain, a Porter and a School teacher

The workhouses provided almost everything that was needed onsite: a dining-hall, dormitories, kitchen, classrooms, nurseries, rooms for the sick, chapel, mortuary, bakery, laundry, tailors, cobblers, vegetable gardens and small farm

What were workhouses like?

Women, children and men had different living and working areas in the workhouse, so families were split up. To make things even worse they could be punished if they even tried to speak to one another!

The education the children received did not include the two most important skills of all, reading and writing, which were needed to get a good job.

The poor were made to wear a uniform. This meant that everyone looked the same and everyone outside knew they were poor and lived in the workhouse.

Upon entering the workhouse, the poor were stripped and bathed (under supervision).

The food was tasteless and was the same day after day.

The young and old as well as men and women were made to work hard, often doing unpleasant jobs.

Children could also find themselves 'hired out' (sold) to work in factories or mines.

Dr Thomas Barnardo felt that workhouses were the wrong places for children and so from 1867 onwards, he led the way in setting up proper children's homes.



Stone workhouse was built in 1782-3, the architect being William Leigh. It had about sixty inmates who were employed in making blankets, linen and mops. White's Directory of 1834 described it as "a large brick edifice" with "more the appearance of a gentleman's villa than a house of industry, having a handsome front, a small lawn shaded with trees, and about three acres of land attached to it."

Trentham's parish workhouse was erected in 1809-10 at the west side of the Trentham Road on land given by the Duke of Sutherland. It could accommodate up to 56 inmates (in 1839, there were 48 residents: three old men, two able-bodied men, five youths, ten boys, nine able-bodied women, four temporarily disabled women, seven older girls and one infant).

The Stone Poor Law Union formally came into being on 3rd February 1838. Its operation was overseen by an elected Board of Guardians, 20 in number, representing its 10 constituent parishes as listed below (figures in brackets indicate numbers of Guardians if more than one):

County of Stafford: Barlaston, Chebsey, Cold Norton, Eccleshall (4), Milwich, Samdon, Standon, Stone (6), Swynnerton, Trentham (3).

Later Additions: Fulford (from 1897), Hilderstone (from 1897), Stone Rural (from 1894).

The population falling within the Union at the 1831 census had been 17,871 — ranging from Cold Norton (population 37) to Stone itself (7,808). The average annual poor-rate expenditure for the period 1835-37 had been £6,491 or 7s.3d. per head of the population.

The new Stone Union took over the existing parish workhouse and in 1839 it was enlarged to accommodate 300 inmates for which the Poor Law Commissioners authorized an expenditure of £6,000. The architects for the work were Boulton and Palmer of Stafford who were also responsible for the Wolstanton and Burslem Union workhouse. The 1839 additions included a new entrance block at the east of the site, extensions to the main block, and a new infirmary block at the west. The infirmary was enlarged in 1879 and again in 1901. A nurses' home and mortuary were added at the north of the site early in the twentieth century.

The workhouse later became Stone Poor law Institution and, under the National Health Service, Trent Hospital. The hospital closed in the 1990s and the site has been redeveloped with only the entrance and main buildings surviving



CAN YOU HELP (This article was found in the Sentinel)

BARNETT

BETH

(BETTY WRIGHT)

Born 07/12/1924 at Longton and was the only child of Harold (1894-1977) and Mary (Nee Palin 1893-1952). Betty attended Orme girls school. Married Peter Barnett (1929-2016) at Barlaston old church on the 30/11/1948.

She passed away peacefully in Devon on the 07/08/2018 aged 93 years.

The family would love to hear from anyone with memories of their mum and the Wright/Palin family

Email. barnettiuk@hotmail.com or mail Wright/Palin family, 15 West Charleton Court, Kingsbridge, TQ7 2AE