

BIDDULPH & DISTRICT GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEETINGS UPDATE:

It is hoped that we will be able to restart meetings in the library from March 2021.

Please keep checking our website and ask at the library for further information.

Socially distanced events are planned for September, October and November

<p>MONDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 1500-1700 and also 1830-2030 Members are invited to meet at the roundabout in St. Lawrence's churchyard. The aim of this socially distanced event is to check memorial inscriptions for Volume 3.</p>	<p>MONDAY 19th OCTOBER 1500-1600 or 1830-1930 Meet outside the library and collect a 'Treasure Hunt'. This will involve walking the length of High Street, John Street and part of Tunstall Road gathering information.</p>	<p>SATURDAY 14th between 0900 – 1100 & MONDAY 16th NOVEMBER between 1500-1700 Come along to Biddulph Library where the society will be launching a new publication by Adrian Lawton on the 'Buses of Biddulph'.</p>
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Interesting article found in the Staffordshire Sentinel of September 29th 1908

BIDDULPH COUNCIL

The New Infectious Diseases Hospital

'A letter was submitted from Mr. H. Ferrand, Clerk to the Congleton & District Joint Hospital Board, stating that at the new infectious hospital there were three pavilions, consisting of one for scarlet fever (16 beds), one for typhoid and diphtheria (10 beds) and an observation ward (4 beds), and that if a greater number of diphtheria cases arose than there was provision for the medical officer would make arrangements for them to be dealt with in the typhoid wards if empty, and vice versa. The letter also stated that the Council might inspect the hospital, and the Clerk was instructed to arrange for the Council to inspect the hospital after the building work was finished.'

We have very little knowledge of the Infectious Disease Hospital. Can anyone shed any light on where it was and when and why it disappeared?

An Historical Society member recently came across this obituary of one of her ancestors, which was reported in The Staffordshire Advertiser of 1st November 1845.

This concerned Jervis Forrester, born Bucknall 1772 died Wetly Rocks 1845, aged 73 years. They described it as the death of a "singular characterwhose eccentricities have long caused him to be well known in the north of this county. He had been the landlord of the Cellar-head Inn, and had also been a farmer, maltster, brick maker and master collier.

Jervis was declared bankrupt in 1838, but he had issues with the way that his affairs had been handled, saying that had he been trusted with winding up his affairs, there would have been funds to pay all his debts. He therefore made a vow, that he would not be shaved, nor have his hair cut, till all his debts were paid. "He allowed his beard to grow till it rivalled that of a venerable Israelite; and his flowing locks reached over his shoulders. He was a tall man, and as if yet not sufficiently remarkable, he mounted a huge fur cap, like a grenadier's and wore a large blue cloak with a red collar."

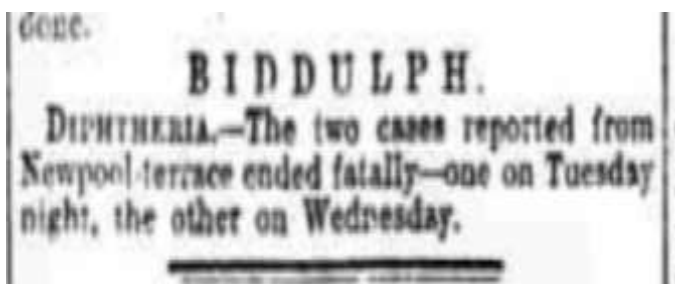
They report that Jervis, with one or more dogs, wandered about the country, including wakes and fairs, selling matches or tracts, sometimes singing hymns or ballads, discussing religious affairs and attending churches in the Potteries.

"in his peregrinations he met with much ridicule and arrogance..... Last Sunday he went to Leek wake and was insulted and abused by some drunken men. In the scuffle he was much bruised. On Monday he returned to his lodging at Wetly Rocks; he complained of the treatment he had received appeared ill, and died on Tuesday afternoon. The report that his death was the consequence of the ill treatment he had received, caused an inquest to be held at the Powy's Arms before John Catlow Esq. Captain Powys and Mr Russell the superintendent of police at leek, were present. The evidence of Mr Tomkinson, surgeon of Cheadle was taken, and although there was general opinion that the ill treatment he had suffered must have had a serious effect upon a person of his age, yet in the absence of positive proof, that his death was attributable to other than natural caused a verdict to that effect was returned. He left a widow and eight or nine children, but domestic difference had estranged him from them. His forlorn condition excited much pity among them who knew him under other circumstances."

(A full copy of the obituary of Jervis Forrester has been added as page 3 of this newsletter)

Do you have any interesting tales of your ancestors? If you would like to share any stories via the newsletter please contact either Madelaine or Elaine:

madelainelovatt@hotmail.com or e_heathcote@yahoo.com



Diphtheria has often struck the town and surrounding area as the notice appearing in The Sentinel (left) reported on **August 27th 1903**:

'two cases reported from Newpool terrace ended fatally – one on Tuesday night, the other on Wednesday'.

Outbreaks were reported in **January 1938** (Staffs Advertiser Jan. 15th 1938) : *'Two adults and twelve children were admitted to hospital. As a precautionary measure a children's matinee at a cinema was cancelled along with Sunday school classes and the senior girls school did not reopen'*.

THE STAFFORDSHIRE ADVERTISER

Obituary of Mr. Jervis Forrester

As it appeared in the *Staffordshire Advertiser* page 3, column 2 dated: Saturday 1 November 1845

Death of a singular character. We have to record the death, on Tuesday last at the age of 73 years of Jervis Forrester, a person whose eccentricities have long caused him to be well known in the north of this county. He was for a considerable period the Landlord of the Cellar-head Inn, then a much frequented public house at the point where the Hanley and Cheadle, and the Leek and Sandon roads intersect each other, near Werrington.

Some years ago, after having carried on with supposed success, the multifarious occupations of publican, farmer, malster, brick maker and master collier, he was declared bankrupt and his creditors were great losers. Forrester himself declared, that had he been entrusted with winding up his affairs, his estate would have been sufficient to have met all just demands; and he is said to have made the curious vow, that he would not be shaved, not have his hair cut, till all his debts were paid.

Be this as it may, his conduct, henceforward, he was remarkable for eccentricity. He allowed his beard to grow till it rivalled that most venerable Israelite; and his flowing locks reached over his shoulders. He was a tall man, and as if yet not sufficiently remarkable, he mounted a huge fur cap, like a grenadier's and wore a large blue cloak with a red collar.

Thus accoutred and sometimes led by one dog, but occasionally by two or three of his canine friends, he wandered about the country, sometimes selling matches or tracts, at other times singing hymns or ballads; now conversing with propriety on religious subjects, and anon found in the most profane company. He was a visitant at all the wakes and fares in the country. We need scarcely say, that in his peregrinations he met with much ridicule and arrogance, which he bore almost unmoved.

He generally attended a place of worship on the Sabbath, and regularly communicated with apparent devotion at one of the churches in the potteries.

Last Sunday he went to Leek wakes and was insulted and abused by some drunken men. In the scuffle he was much bruised. On Monday he returned to his lodging at Wetley Rocks; he complained of the treatment he had received appeared ill, and died on Tuesday afternoon. The report that his death was the consequence of the ill treatment he had received caused an inquest to be held at the Powy's arms before John Catlow Esq. Captain Powys and Mr Russell the superintendent of police at Leek were present.

The evidence of Mr Tomkinson, surgeon of Cheadle was taken, and although there was general opinion that the ill treatment he had suffered must have had a serious effect upon a person of his age, yet in the absence of positive proof, that his death attributable to other than natural caused a verdict to that effect was returned.

He has left a widow and eight or nine children, but domestic difference had estranged him from them. His forlorn condition excited much pity among those who knew him under other circumstances.