

Newsletter: March 2018
Biddulph & District
Historical & Genealogical Society

Meetings commence at 7pm in Biddulph Library. Admission is free for society members and £2 for non-members.

2018 Spring Programme

Monday 19th March : AGM followed by activities and a local photograph slide show.

Monday 16th April: Mr. Paul Walton of Biddulph Grange Gardens: The Gardening Year

Monday 21st May: Catherine Burgass: Reading the Bastille – The Workhouse at Chell

Monday 18th June: TBA

Below: Gerald Worland has come across a stereo-view card of the Sprink. Thought to date from the 1920s – 30s it requires a stereo viewer in order to be seen in 3D. Gerald has a metal fold up viewer but it's not the correct type. Does anyone have a wooden viewer?

27th April 1875: TWO CASES OF HYDROPHOBIA – *‘Two cases of children having been bitten by dogs have occurred, one at Smallwood, the child dying in great agony on Wednesday night, and another at Mow Cop, the child – named Martha Hancock –dying on Saturday night. The latter, a girl seven years of age, was under the care of Dr. Warrington. The usual symptoms were developed early on Saturday morning.’*

I was horrified to read this news item and found reports in the Sentinel. On April 29th an inquest was held at the Ash Inn into Martha's death. She was the daughter of collier George Hancock and was aged only six. She had left the house to buy some bread and had only been gone a minute when she was bitten on the right eye by a dog belonging to a Mr. Hewitt. The inquest into Joseph Knight, the son of a labourer, of Smallwood, was held at the Blue Bell Inn. The jury returned the verdict that he had ‘died from exhaustion from hydrophobia’.

The last case of rabies caught in the UK was in 1902. Since then it has only been acquired abroad through dog bites. However, there have been more recent cases of bat acquired rabies.





Long since gone!

Photographs of a few properties that have disappeared over the years: Hall Green Farm on Park Lane, the old police station on Wharf Road, the American bungalow on Halls Road, cottages at the top of Station Road and Welsh Row.

The Staffordshire Daily Sentinel Thursday March 25th 1875: Bradley Green: Fatal Accident-

'A serious accident has occurred resulting in the death of Henry Doody, twenty-seven, Bradley Green, at the Knypersley Nursery, Biddulph. The deceased was working yesterday with a man named Owen sinking a well, deceased being at the bottom of the well and Owen at the top. Owen, seeing that the side was giving way between him and his fellow worker, shouted to Doody, but before anything could be done all one side fell upon the unfortunate man. The well was about 8 yards in depth, and it is said that there was nothing to secure the sides from giving way. An alarm being given, Mr. Forsfall, manager to Messrs. J & T Bradbury; Mr. G. Goskell, colliery proprietor, and a large staff of assistants were soon on the spot; the body was as soon as possible got out. Deceased leaves a wife and four children.'

I have not been able to find an inquest report. In 1871, Henry resided in Cross Street and was described as a travelling tinker from Bilston. He and his wife, Caroline, had two young sons. He was buried at St. Lawrence on the 29th March.

Now Available: Transactions No. 12 which includes "Ada - Love at Jerusalem" as researched by Christine Jesson.