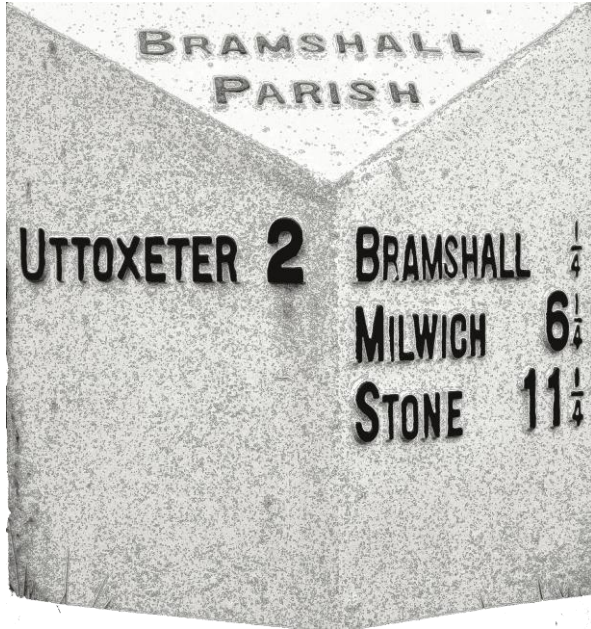


The History of Bramshall Part 2



Ancient Britain to 1900

by Jenny Wall

2013

Bramshall Church(s)
Original research undertaken by Mr. G Gamble & Jenny Wall

There has been a church on the site in Bramshall since ancient times. The Plea Rolls for Staffordshire dated 1227 make references to a church at Bromshelf:

1. Matilda, mother of Sibilla held land of Bramshall Church for eighteen farthings yearly

"..... . The jury state that Matilda, the mother of Sibilla, held the land of the Church of Bromshelf (Bramshall), for eighteen farthings yearly, and gave it to Robert Godman, the father of Margaret, in frank marriage with Sibel, her daughter, who through poverty relinquished the land, and became a wandering beggar (ivit mendicans); and through default of service the said Magister took the land into his own hands, but permitted Sibel to retain the house until she died; but she did not die seised of the land. Magister Robert therefore to hold the land in peace, and Margaret is in misericordiâ. Her fine is remitted because of her poverty, and she is to pursue her claim in another form if she chooses"

2. Silurus of Bromshelf

"A jury & whether a messuage in Bromshelf was a lay fee of William de Stafford, or the free alms of Silurus de Bromshelf, pertaining to his Church of Bromshelf (Bramshall)"

3. Silvester the Parson of the Church at Bromshelf

"An assize, &c., whether a messuage in Bromshelf (Bramshall) was a layee of Hervey de Stafford, or the free alms of Silvester, Parson of the Church of Bromshelf. The jury find in favour of Hervey"

4. Richard de Halghton Rector Bramshall Church 1312-1377

"Power of attorney by Richard son of Hugh to Richard de Halghton rector of the church of Bramshall to deliver seizin to John de Denstone of all those lands and tenements in the fee of Bramshall which he acquired from William son of Simon de Stafford Thursday next after the feast of Pentecost 26 May 40 Edward III"¹

5. Robert Lowe Rector Bramshall circa 1456

"Demise by John Gresley, kt, Thomas Bludde, John Strethay, Henry Kynnardesley, Robert Lowe rector of Bramshall and Thomas Blysse. vicar of Uttoxeter to Margaret late wife of John Kynnersley, of their manor of Lea with all appurtenances and two pastures called Blaklee and Wynstowe in Loxley along with a messuage in the tenure of Henry Mathowe and a pasture called Tapmore, a pasture called Longheth and four shillings rent arising from a pasture called Hayteley: for life 4 June 14 Ed. IV"²

From: 'Plea Rolls for Staffordshire: 1227, Staffordshire Historical Collections, vol. 4 (1883), pp. 40-67. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk>

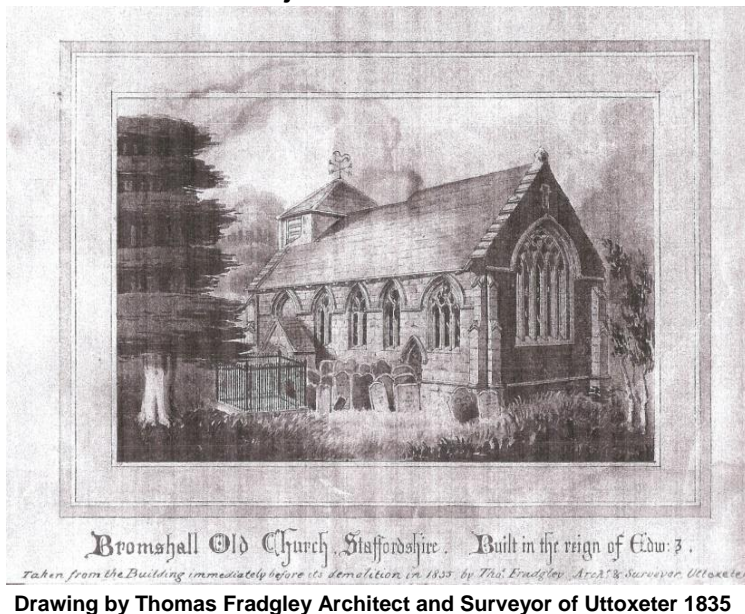
In view of the above 13th century references to a church at Bramshall it can be assumed that a total of at least three churches have stood on or near the site of the current St Lawrence. A period of rapid development in church building occurred across England during the reign of Edward 3rd (1312 – 1377)³ including a new church for Bramshall.

1 D(W) 1733/A/2/100

2 D(W)1733/A/1/4

3 Following Frances Redfern by W G Torrance Part 3 page 11 & Bramshall Collection File 14

6. Bramshall old church just before its demolition in 1835



As the drawing above illustrates the second church⁴ was a wooden structure, which according to records fell into serious disrepair⁵ and was eventually replaced by the current St Lawrence Church by 1835. The new church continued its medieval dedication to Saint Lawrence who died in Rome in the year 258 AD (Feast day August 10th). Since Tudor times and following the Reformation “The Saint for today”, St Lawrence considered the poor, ill and unloved to be “the churches treasure”; nurturing and administration for the poor.

Frances Redfern noted in the second edition of his book: The history and Antiquities of Uttoxeter dated 1886 that:

“The old church at Bramshall, built in the time of Edward III, was taken down in 1835, and the present one was built from a design in the Batty Langley Style, by a person of the name of Laycock, head carpenter to the late Lord Willoughby de Brooke, at his lordship's expense. The tower of the old church appears to have been of wood, and to have stood considerably more south than the present edifice. It did not contain any monuments”

⁴ See Bramshall Collection File 45 – Seating plan & names. Design of the old church

⁵ See Bramshall Collection File 45 – collection correspondence & papers relating to the old church and the rebuild

The Staffordshire Church Register Volume 2⁶ states:

7. The first stone laid of the new church is 1834

The first stone of the new church was laid 1st or 4th of September Within the burial ground 15 yards more to the old church..... The old church had a curious old oak roof. Mrs. Cavendish and Miss Archer took a drawing

The present church was built in 1835 by Thomas Fradgley of Uttoxeter at the expense of Lord Willoughby de Broke. Two medieval bells, the Caroline alter rails and some 14th and 16th century glass windows survive. The church also has some 13th century heraldic glass in the north aisle bearing the arms of the de Broke family.

Uttoxeter Rural Parish Council provide the following interesting details of the church on their website: <http://www.utttoxeterruralparishcouncil.org>

The church ... is a fairly simple structure of Gothic design, with a seating capacity of approximately 90. The tower contains only 3 bells, of which the tenor and treble have been listed for preservation (these being circa 1590 & 1500 respectively). The little bit of ancient stained glass is limited to 14th century 'de Stafforde' shields, a 16th century panel of fragments representing Alice Tame, the Lady Vemey, and three panels of 14th century glass recently re-instated. In November 1921 Bramshall became a united benefice with Uttoxeter, at which point the patronage transferred from Lord Willoughby de Broke to the Dean and Canons of Windsor. Its only claim to 'notoriety' is that during the war the home guard, stationed as look out on the tower, mistakenly identified some parachutists and rang the bells to signify the German Invasion!

(Extract taken from the Bramshall Village Action Plan 2008)

8. Thomas Bakewell was parson at Bramshall from late in the reign of Henry 8th

Thomas Bakewell was parson at Bramshall from late in the reign of Henry 8th until the 1580's.

"To Thomas Bakewell my son £6 due unto me by the last will and testament of Sir Thomas Bakewell, my brother late parson of Bromshulf deceased" ⁷

9. Plaque over the entrance to the old church dated 1565

Copy of a plaque over the entrance door Bramshall Church 1565 which is now displayed in the church on the south wall of the Nave:

John Taylor & Thomas Wettwood by their deed dated the 12th day of February in the 7th year of Elizabeth's reign , AD 1565 did give grant and confirm unto several trustees therein named all that meadow of pastures called Smythe Lee otherwise with appurtenances lying and being in the Parish of Checkley in the county of Stafford to the use of the common profit of the tenants and inhabitants of the Parish of Bramshall in the said county and that the rents, revenues issues and profits of the said parcel of meadow should be forever employed bestowed and expended in upon or about the repairing or amending the Parish Church of Bramshall aforesaid buying of bells or other necessities for the furniture of the said church , the payments of the 10th or 15th temporalities within the said parish setting forth of soldiers for the service of the prince or other such like use as shall be thought beneficiary by the discretion of the parson and church wardens of the same church and the most part of the tenants and inhabitants there for the time being of the common weal and profit of the same parish forever and to no other use intent or purpose.

Wording from a photocopy of the plaque over the door of the old church
Staffordshire County Council Records Office Reference D3892

7 Seven Studies in the economic and social history of Uttoxeter and its adjacent rural parishes 1530 – 1830 Bramshall Collection File 8

10. St Lawrence Church: Damage during the English Civil Wars (1642-1651)

In 1642 damage was caused to Bramshall Church by the Scottish army who were being billeted following their surrender in support of the King. Further an account of the demands made by the Parliamentarians from Richard Richardson Farmer of Bramshall in 1648. . Richard complained that on October 2nd 1648 the soldiers had caused him to lose all his forage, they consumed or used all his hay and pease. For this damage he later claimed £6⁸ from the Parliament Commander.

11. Lawrence Dawson Rector of Bramshall (1659-1674)

The story of Lawrence Dawson as reported by William Torrance⁹ remains a bit of a mystery. A brief summary of what is known about this gentleman is listed below. Why did he become rector at Bramshall where he served until his death in 1674? He is buried in the churchyard at Bramshall

- He was involved in legal proceedings during the years 1625-1637 concerning Uttoxeter and its citizen's rights to land during a time of hardship
- He was related to the Warner family of Bramshall
- He owned considerable lands in Uttoxeter and a house with land near the churchyard of St Mary's Church
- He was minister at Uttoxeter 1653-1658
- He had a daughter called Hester Townsend whom he left £5 and a son called William
- To the poor he left £3 /6s / 8d

8 Following Frances Redfern by W G Torrance MA Part 4 page 36

9 Following Frances Redfern by W G Torrance MA Part 5 pages 5-7

12. The Rectory (The Bramshall Inn)

In 1767 Lord Willoughby de Broke commissioned a village plan (which I have been unable to find). Apparently on this map the building is marked as the vicarage. Later to become a beer house called The Farmer's Arms and later still the Butchers Arms and Bramshall Inn. It was in circa 1823¹⁰ that the building was converted to provide a beer house to meet the needs of the men building the railway¹¹.

The Old Rectory circa 1900



13. Daniel Astle Curate at Bramshall Church between 1813 and 1826

Frances Redfern reports an interesting story relating to the church and one of its curates: Daniel was an important local dignitary from an influential and wealthy family. He was an army general and served under General Howe at the battle of Bunker Hill, he was a published author¹² and by marriage was related to the Constable family¹³ as well as being the curate at Bramshall between 1813 and 1826. It was reported that a certain Mr. Norris (printer and stationer from Uttoxeter)

10 See the story of the old clock which stood in the same place for 127 years. Bramshall Collection File 19

11 See Bramshall collection File 19

12 A prospect from Barrow Hill, near Rocester, in Staffordshire 1777 in print on Google books ISBN 9 781170832189.

13 The Letters of Samuel Johnson: Volume II: 1773-1776 page 179 By Samuel Johnson

owned an ink sketch¹⁴ of Captain Astle with Samuel Johnson, reportedly as the Doctor undertook his famous 1784 penance. It is reported the sketch is engraved in The Life of the Doctor in part of a four volume Illustrated London Library (Published by The Illustrated London News) Redfern goes onto to state the image of Samuel Johnson is not accurate and he thought it more likely to be Samuel Bentley, the Uttoxeter poet. A further note about the Astle family relates to Mary Astle who was married to a certain Anthony Rhudde (1738-1816) a gentleman whose life is being investigated by a colleague of mine¹⁵ following the discovery during 2010 of a clasp with his name on in a field he once owned in Uttoxeter.

14. Williams Bennett Rector at Bramshall 1857 – 1893

Williams Bennett was rector at Bramshall for 36 years. The 1861 census shows him living with his wife Isabella and their six children at the vicarage in Bramshall. Twenty years later he is shown living with his eldest daughter Louisa and her children. Research into the Bennett family has been undertaken by a member of the family. For further details please view the Bramshall Collection File Number 68.

15. Thomas Fradgley Architect and Surveyor of Uttoxeter

Before moving on from the church it feels only fitting to add a short piece on Thomas Fradgley the architect who designed Bramshall Church and whom is also buried in the graveyard.

Thomas Fradgley was born in London in 1802; he married Clarissa Warner¹⁶ at Bramshall church in 1839. She was the daughter of Roger and Lydia Warner of The Stocks, later Stocks Manor Bramshall. They had two children, a son called Thomas Warner Fradgley who died on January 21st 1841 aged 6 months and possibly a daughter called Ann¹⁷.

Thomas Fradgley had a long and illustrious career which commenced in the late 1820's when he was employed as an architect and builder

14 The History and Antiquities of the Town and Neighbourhood of Uttoxeter, with Notices of Adjoining Places 1886 (2nd edition) by Frances Redfern page 173

15 <http://www.uttoxeter-news.co.uk/News/History-of-owner-of-clasp-sought-20112012.htm>

16 See Bramshall collection File 66 The Fradgley Charity 1895 - 1995

17 Ann does not appear in the church or parish records

at Alton Castle (Towers). Later he worked with the famous E W Pugin, best remembered for his Gothic revival style and The Palace of Westminster. Thomas served as the Clerk of Works at Alton Towers and numerous architectural design features of the Alton estate buildings and gardens are attributed to him. A further early achievement was his being commissioned by a company of gentleman, The Foresters Lodge; to design the old bridge over the river Dove, the foundation stone of this beautiful 170 year old structure being laid on August 8th 1839.



Thomas went onto design the Town Hall Uttoxeter, built in 1854 and in the same year he also designed the original neo classical conduit / weighing machine for market stall holders over a natural spring in market square.

This building was adapted in the 1870's by the sculptor Richard Cockle Lucas into the Samuel Johnson Memorial Kiosk we know today in the market square Uttoxeter. A ceremony is held each year on

the nearest Monday to Johnson's birthday, 18 September, at which speeches are made and a laurel wreath placed over the memorial.

Other architectural achievements of Thomas's include numerous local churches, St. Michael's Stramshall, St. Mary's Uttoxeter, and Marchington. Other buildings include Swiss Cottage or Harper's Cottage Farley and the design of numerous school buildings including Uttoxeter, Draycott, Hanbury, Oakamoor, Cauldon and Alton National Schools. It is also believed Thomas designed and later lived in the substantial house Moorlands on Byrds Lane. He also designed the former Uttoxeter brewery offices; Lathropp's Almshouses and various drainage, gas and sewage schemes in Uttoxeter during his long career.

On the west wall inside St Lawrence Church there is a memorial tablet to Roger Warner, his wife Lydia, their son, which also commemorates the life of Thomas Fradgley who died in 1883. The tablet was commissioned by Clara (Clarissa) Fradgley, Thomas's wife.

16. Bertram Philip Taft

Just past the south door into the church lies the memorial headstone of Bertram "Bertie" Philip Taft, a site which is shared with the graves of one of his four sisters, Ethel and his parents John and Annie.

Bertie was an Old Contemptible a name given to those who signed up for service in the regular army during the First World War.

Image of Bertie Taft from:

<http://www.uttoxeterlostgeneration.co.uk>



Bertie resigned from his job as a clerk for the North Stafford Railway Uttoxeter and joined the army in the summer of 1914. His military records indicate Bertie was 18 years of age and declared fit for active service on September 27th 1914. He joined the Prince of Wales North Staffordshire Regiment where he served in both the 1st and 6th Battalions.

It's unclear from surviving records what Bertie did during his first year of his army service but we know that on October 12th 1915 he found himself marching into the final hours of the Battle of Loos in northern France. He was declared missing in action after the charge of Hohenzollen Redoubt; two years later his date of death was confirmed as October 13th 1915, the last day of the Battle of Loos, along with several thousand other young men.

Records show that the Taft family functioned as fruiterers, green grocers and shop keepers living in the Uttoxeter area from at least the middle of the 19th century, his parents only moving to Bramshall after Bertie's death. John and Annie Taft became publicans at the New Inn (The Robin Hood) in 1920 or 1921 and ran the pub for at least 10 years. Bertie was the youngest of seven children; he had a brother called Richard who served in India during the war, and a sister called Ethel whom he shares his memorial grave, she I presume to have died of flu in 1918.

According to his obituary in the Uttoxeter Advertiser Bertie was a courteous lad, which it transpires during the research for this article was 'economical' about his real age on joining the army. We know

from his army records that he was very fit for active service; he stood 5 foot 7 ½ inches tall weighing in at 150 lbs at his army medical in 1914 aged 17 years. Bertie's short life is commemorated every year at the St Lawrence Church Act of Remembrance service in November, along with others from the parish who have lost their lives during conflicts.

17. William Grove Torrance MA

Again before concluding this chapter on the church it feels only appropriate to include a chapter on William Grove Torrance MA¹⁸ whom I have quoted so much in compiling this booklet and who is also buried in Bramshall church yard.

William Torrance is perhaps best known locally for his authorship of the series of short books entitled *Following Frances Redfern* (1972-5)¹⁹. In these publications he took the opportunity to amend and further develop the first authoritative history of Uttoxeter, written and published by Frances Redfern in 1865²⁰. What is perhaps less well known is that these two scholars were known to each other via Torrance's uncle and that during his long and distinguished life Torrance published books and articles on a wide range of subjects. He lived to the grand age of ninety finally passing away in 1977; instructing the placement of half of his ashes on the grave of his first wife Nellie in Bramshall churchyard²¹.

William Torrance was proud as his Scottish ancestry and his distant relation by marriage to the Wedgwood potters²². During his life he lived in Oldfields Road in a house which still bears the name of his Scottish routes: Airdrie.

Torrance attended Thomas Alleyne's Grammar school as a young child (1897 to 1902) later working there as an English teacher and then

18 See Bramshall collection File Number 81

19 Published in 10 parts by William Torrance, distributed by H M Bowring of Market Place Uttoxeter. Currently out of print – some parts are still available for sale at Redfern Cottage Museum of Uttoxeter in Carter Street. All 10 parts available for reference at the museum or contact Jen.wall@btconnect.com. Also a complete copy as part of the Bramshall collection File Number 14

20 *History of the Town of Uttoxeter 1865* (1st edition) & *The History and Antiquities of the Town and Neighbourhood of Uttoxeter, with Notices of Adjoining Places 1886* (2nd edition) by Frances Redfern

21 The other half of his ashes are with his second wife at Uttoxeter cemetery A13 (548)

22 Uttoxeter Advertiser Profile Mr W G Torrance by Peter Lead Spring 1972

finally the school became the subject of his first book: The history of Alleyne's Grammar School Uttoxeter 1558-1958²³ published in 1959.

William Torrance served in both world wars in the Royal Flying Corps and the RAF, although he never actually flew in combat due to his age, he had a distinguished career and ended the second world war as a Squadron – Leader. Later he held the position of President of the Uttoxeter RAF Association, a role he continued until his death.

A further great passion and subject of his masters degree was rural education and psychology, equipping young people to learn the skills and knowledge to work and live on the land. He was evidently fascinated by varied subject areas in the fields of agriculture, horticulture and conservation; going on to write a further book published in 1967 entitled Saving Our Floral Heritage²⁴. In 1949 William Torrance was elected as treasurer to the committee of the Staffordshire branch for the Council for the Preservation of Rural England²⁵

Thanks to the 21st century technology even a most cursory search through local newspaper archives broadens the list of the activity and interests of this gentleman: - a campaign for a plaque to remember Mary Howitt²⁶, a talk on humor to the Uttoxeter Rotary club²⁷, an active Rotarian, a founder member of the Old Alleynians and an avid gardener and member of Uttoxeter gardening club. Indeed a remarkable man who is remembered by Mr. John Walker whose help was much appreciated in compiling this brief summary of William Torrance's life.

23 The History of Alleyne's Grammar School, Uttoxeter, 1558-1958 by WG Torrance Published 1959, by Old Alleynians Association, Uttoxeter.

24 Saving Our Floral Heritage by William Grove Torrance (Paperback, 1967) printed by Harpur & Sons 1968

25 Uttoxeter Advertiser Profile Mr W G Torrance by Peter Lead Spring 1972

26 Rotary Club of Uttoxeter Talk on Mary Howitt Uttoxeter advertiser 1959 October?

27 Supplement to the Uttoxeter Advertiser Wednesday December 4th 1946

Loxley Park **Original research undertaken by Mr. G. Gamble**

There has been an estate and house at Loxley since before the Norman Conquest and indeed it even merited a mention in the Domesday Book of 1086. Redfern makes reference to several descriptions of an earlier building on the site on page 427 of this 2nd edition of the history and Antiquities of Uttoxeter.

Like the many layers of an onion, the current house has been greatly altered over the intervening centuries, although the exterior of the present building is believed to look much the same as it did when it was “front – cased” with ashlar stone in 1797.

1. View of the front of Loxley Park circa 1821



LOXLEY PARK,
STAFFORDSHIRE.

London Pub. Aug. 1821, by J.E. Meale, 16 Bennett's St. Blackfriars Road & Shoreditch, Wolsky & Sons, Exeter Street Row.

Shortly after the Norman Conquest the park came into the ownership of the de Ferrers family for successive generations until passing into the possession of the Kynnersley family as part of a marriage settlement in 1327. The estate remained within the family until 1815 when Clement Kynnersley died. His nephew Thomas Sneyd duly inherited the estate and added the Kynnersley name to his own.

During the late Victorian period Loxley Park was rented out to a Doctor Fletcher²⁸ from Manchester who used it as a convalescent home for wealthy persons and during the heyday of the 'Roaring' 1920's the house became the summer residence of a girls boarding school. At the outbreak of World War II in 1939, the estate was requisitioned by the Government to serve as a camp for Displaced Persons from Eastern Europe and the Baltic States. Later on, many German and Italian prisoners of war were also interned at Loxley and sent out as part of the war effort to work for local farmers.

The interior of Loxley Hall circa 1920



Photograph from <http://www.search.staffspasttrack.org.uk>

A view of the interior of the hall showing carved paneling on the walls and a balustraded balcony supported by Corinthian type columns. The room is full of 1920's style furniture, basket weave chairs, table, potted plants, paintings, weapons and antlers displayed on the walls.

²⁸ The History and Antiquities of the Town and Neighborhood of Uttoxeter, with Notices of Adjoining Places 1886 (2nd edition) by Frances Redfern page 428

The Sneyd-Kynnersley family eventually sold Loxley Park in 1949 and by 1954 the house was significantly altered and adapted in order to become a residential school for boys with Special Educational Needs, a function it continues to fulfill to the present day²⁹.

2. Photograph of Loxley Park Outbuildings



Staffordshire County Council Records Office
Reference: C/P/65/2/1/54/1-12

29 See Bramshall Collection File 22 for more information about Loxley Park and Hall

3. The Dovecot in the grounds of Loxley Hall

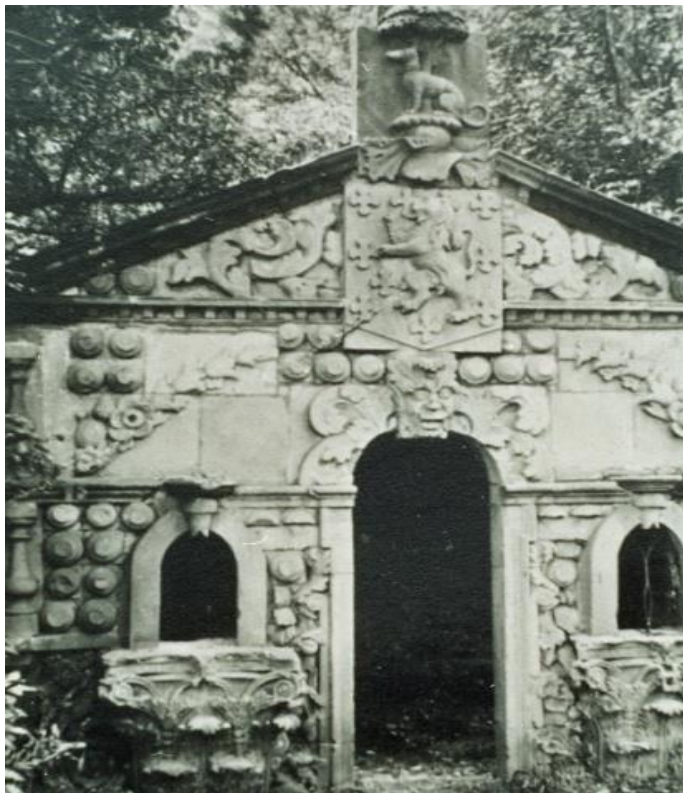
In Medieval times a dovecote was a symbol of status, although it is unlikely that the Dovecote which still proudly stands in the grounds of Loxley Park is that old. The building is a grade two listed building registered in 1966 by English Heritage

Reference numbers: ID: 273905 NGR: SK0621632150



Staffordshire County Council Records Office
Reference: C/P/65/2/1/54/1-12

4. The Robin Hood connection



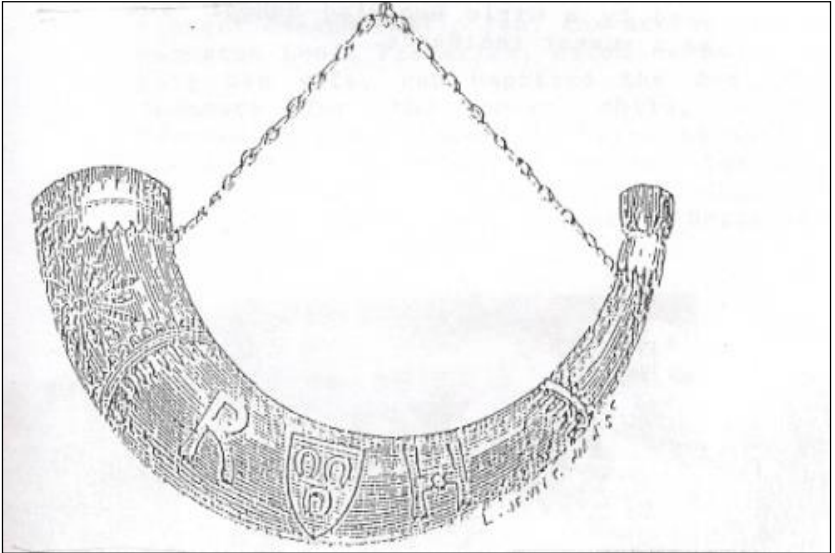
5. Robin Hood's Temple

Many stories exist about a possible link between Robin Hood and Loxley Hall. The picture above depicts a building which once stood in the grounds named Robin Hood's Temple. The temple was erected from part of the façade of the old 17th century Loxley Hall, sadly the building no longer exists.

Frances Redfern refers to the legend of Robin Hood and his association with Loxley Hall on page 428 of his 2nd edition. Amongst other stories Redfern relates the tale from around 1760 in which it is claimed that Robin Hood spent his honeymoon at Loxley following his marriage at Doveridge Church.

6. Robin Hood's Horn

To add yet another layer of mystery, the exact whereabouts of the medieval artifact, known as Robin Hood's Horn which was housed at Loxley for many years, is currently unknown. The horn, which apparently passed down the de Ferres family has reportedly got the initials RH on it, was mounted with silver ferrules and had a silver chain for its suspension³⁰



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³⁰ The History and Antiquities of the Town and Neighborhood of Uttoxeter, with Notices of Adjoining Places 1886 (2nd edition) by Frances Redfern page 428

Bromshall Railway Station 1848 – 1866
by Jenny Wall, Andrew Dartnell and Reg Edwards

1. The Clog and Knocker Line

The journey into the history of Bromshall continues with the story of the Stafford to Uttoxeter railway line which commenced at Bromshall junction. The line originally spurred off the North Staffordshire Railway Stoke to Derby line near the current Loxley crossing.

Nicknamed the '*Clog and Knocker*' line, the Stafford and Uttoxeter Railway was created by Act of Parliament in 1862 and opened in 1867. It is believed that the hand written Act of 1862 was the origin of what was probably an error or misrepresentation of handwriting resulting in the creation of the Bromshall line rather than Bramshall. At its opening the railway owned seven coaches, sixteen wagons, a goods van and eventually a locomotive called the '*Shrewsbury and Talbot*' after a local landowner.

"Why was it called the Clog and Knocker line?" Reg Edwards informed me it seems to have had several different potential origins:

1. **A railway one** - The Lancashire Derbyshire and East Coast Railway, which despite its extensive geographical claim only operated in North Derbyshire and North Notts, as the "Clog and Knocker". This nickname was supposedly then transferred to the Great Central Railway which took over the former line.
2. **A mining one** – a railway line which operated in a largely mining area – and associated with the clogs worn by miners with malevolent spirits called "knockers" who lived underground and were blamed for any accidents! Indeed during its short life the Uttoxeter to Stafford line experienced several accidents and fatalities.
3. **A general one** - the connection between the universal footwear worn by workers and the use of the "knocker-up" who used a long pole to tap on bedroom windows to wake workers in time to start their work in the days before alarm clocks. The knocker-up would be paid to do this and it might be a suitable occupation for someone too old or injured to manage normal work. Usually employed in villages and towns where there was a large enough population required to be at their place of work at a fixed time.

4. **An expression** used to describe an old or obsolete way of working which ignored modern developments and would be characterized by small, underfunded, largely uneconomic country line such as the Stafford and Uttoxeter line which bumbled along in the same old, outmoded fashion from start to finish, a relic of a bygone age!

Bromshall Station was opened on August 7th 1848 on the Stoke - Derby branch line. The 1851 population census records a Mr. Cope aged 43 as Station Master residing with his wife and 5 children. The station had a short life as a passenger service, closing on 1 January 1866³¹. It continued as a goods only station and it is not certain when it closed³²

2. Map showing the station and the railway lines

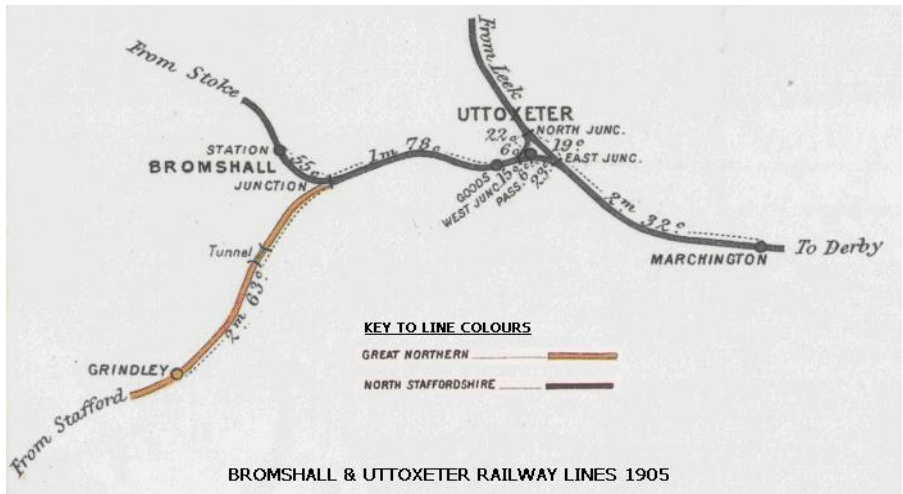


Image adapted from Jim Mc Sharry's photos of the old Stafford Uttoxeter Railway³³

31 I have been unable to find a picture of Bromshall Station – there is one picture of a platform of people getting off the last train at Bromshall Station in 1957 in the Bramshall collection file 58. Do let me know if ever a photograph of the station comes to light !!

32 Allan C Baker. An Illustrated History of Stoke and North Staffordshire's Railways 2000

33 <https://picasaweb.google.com/102339617777230407674/OldStaffordToUttoxeterRailwayLine>

The *Clog and Knocker* line always struggled economically, although initially supported by the shoe making, ironworks and agricultural equipment industries. It was never financially stable and suffered from several incidents involving loss of life. Passenger services ended on the 4th December 1939 and after WWII the line continued to be used infrequently by military personnel travelling between Stafford and an army depot at Bramshall. The line finally closed on 5th March 1951, however The Stephenson Locomotive Society ran one last passenger service train along the line in 1957. Sidings at Stafford Common and the connection to the main line at Stafford, used by the RAF's 16MU, closed completely in 1975.

During the Second World War the Ministry of Defence requisitioned land between the GNR 'Northern Line' and the LMS main line for the purpose of creating an ammunition storage area. It is debatable whether or not its location was known by Germany but certainly one bomb was dropped and exploded close to the old well behind Stocks Farm and on another occasion a bomb exploded in the Loxley area.

3. Loxley crossing on Bennett's Lane



Bromshall Junction at the Loxley crossing (1966)
Photo by Bill Barking 20 March 1966 ³⁴

³⁴ <http://www.flickr.com/photos/barkingbill/2129185270/>

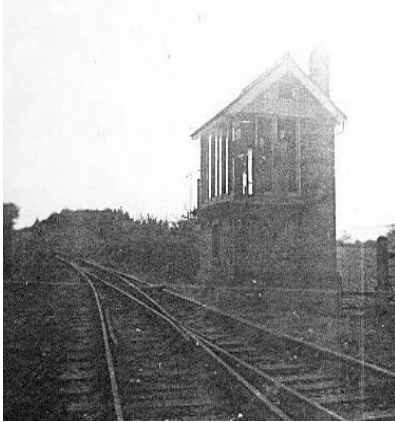
Walking on foot along the route it is still possible to make out where the line diverted as the photograph below depicts. Remnants of the old Bromshall West signal box and the footbridge over the line to Stoke remain.

4. View from Bromshall Junction Box



The branch line to Stafford is to the left. Just visible in the distance is the Bromshall West Signal Box on the right of the track. The line to the right goes to Stoke and Crewe. Note the bank in the middle by the hut and the iron footbridge to the right. Photo copyright "Signaling Record Society". Photo provided by Mr. Nick Allsop per Jan and Fons deJong

5. Bromshall West Signal Box in 1957 and in 2010



1957



2010

1957: The old GNR Bromshall West Signal Box on 24.7.1957. Stafford is ahead and the tall Bromshall Junction Box is to the rear. Photocopy courtesy Armand Chatfield.

2010: The old GNR Bromshall West Signal Box, on the 1st June 2010. Photo by Jenny Wall

Moving further along the line the next structure that remains largely intact is the Statham's Cattle Creep which is still being used to pass cattle under the old line

6. Statham's Cattle Grid



The next impressive remaining feature, which the line ran under, is the Ipsbridge, which lies just east of the Bromshall tunnel. We concluded this bridge was constructed for the dual purposes of providing access for the land owner and to serve the army depot.

7. Ipsbridge Loxley



Ipsbridge Loxley to the east of Tunnel Bridge.
Photo H.B. Oliver courtesy Jan and Fons De Jong.

It was not possible to gain access to the Bromshall tunnel without trespassing, but this 321 yard tunnel was a major engineering project, which probably contributed significantly to the lines economic difficulties. Today the tunnel is in-filled at its northern end, resulting in floodwaters of up to three feet in depth. The structure is brick lined throughout with its remaining portal edged in stone.

8. Bromshall Tunnel



The west portal of the tunnel under the Stafford-Uttoxeter Road, the A518 at Aldery Bank or Tunnel Bank, Loxley, usually referred to as Bromshall Tunnel looking east towards Uttoxeter³⁵.

Image from Jim Mc Sharry's photos of the old Stafford Uttoxeter Railway³⁶

35 Please see Bramshall collection Files 37,58,59 &66 for more information about the railway line

36 <https://picasaweb.google.com/102339617777230407674/OldStaffordToUttoxeterRailwayLine>

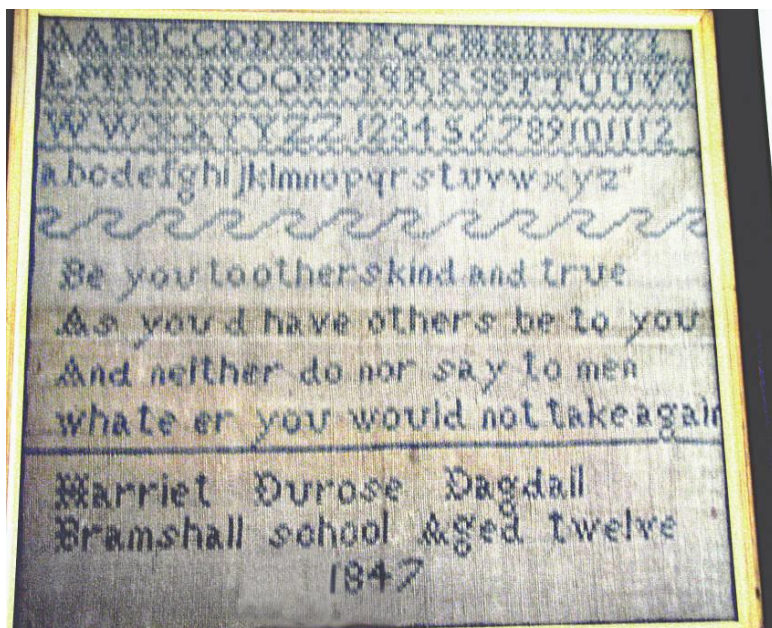
Bramshall Village School 1847 – circa 1900
by Jane Crosland with additional research by Jenny Wall
and Pamela Gouldsmith

‘Just the date to add and then my work will be done...’

Such thoughts might well have occurred to the twelve year old Harriet as she threaded her needle with blue cotton and leant forward to complete her carefully embroidered sampler with the date 1847.

During this same year, 1847, a single-storey dwelling house on the Stone Road³⁷ was converted to become Bramshall Village School and it is likely that Harriet³⁸ would been one of the first pupils to be educated there.

1. Harriet’s Sampler



Reproduced by kind permission

37 Bidston & Lyndhurst (opposite Sargeant's butchers shop). The school house was modified to become what is now the Old Post Office Cottage.

38 Sadly we know that Harriet died when she was 18 years old and was buried in Bramshall Churchyard on July 12th 1853. See Bramshall Collection File 84

Supported by the family of local land owner Lord Willoughby de Broke, as well as voluntary subscriptions, this *free* or *parochial* school had space for up to 50 children who would have come from the many houses and farms surrounding Bramshall, Loxley and Dagdale. Large, mixed-aged classes were common in Victorian times and the first known school mistress, Mrs. Elizabeth Goodwin, may well have enlisted the help of some of her older pupils to act as mentors, or tutors, to the younger children.

2. Pupils at Bramshall school circa 1890



Reproduced with kind permission

The post Office directory for 1854 states for Bramshall: '*Here is a parochial school, supported by the Dowager Lady Willoughby de Broke, and voluntary subscriptions. Miss Elizabeth Tranter, school mistress.*'

By the 1850's Miss Elizabeth Tranter had arrived in Bramshall to take over as school mistress, a post she was to hold with some distinction for over 40 years. Originally born in Uttoxeter, Miss Tranter took lodgings in one of the Mount Cottages, near Stone Road, then home to blacksmith Charles Tooth and his wife Caroline. Miss Tranter also involved herself in other aspects of community life, such as that of St Lawrence's Church where she was organist for over a decade.

Having devoted most of her working life to the education of the children of the village when Miss Tranter retired as head mistress she was presented with a silver casket and a sum of gold in recognition of the *"position she had honourably held for nearly 40 years"*.

3. Miss Elizabeth Tranter with pupils on the occasion of her retirement circa 1890



In the photograph above, Miss Tranter, is accompanied by about 40 children. On the original photograph³⁹ it is possible to see:

39 See Bramshall Collection File 15

- A girl with a X on her blouse is Nellie Torrance (nee Statham)
- Boy with a dot is John Henry Statham
- Boy with + sign on his shirt is Samuel John Alsop Buckley

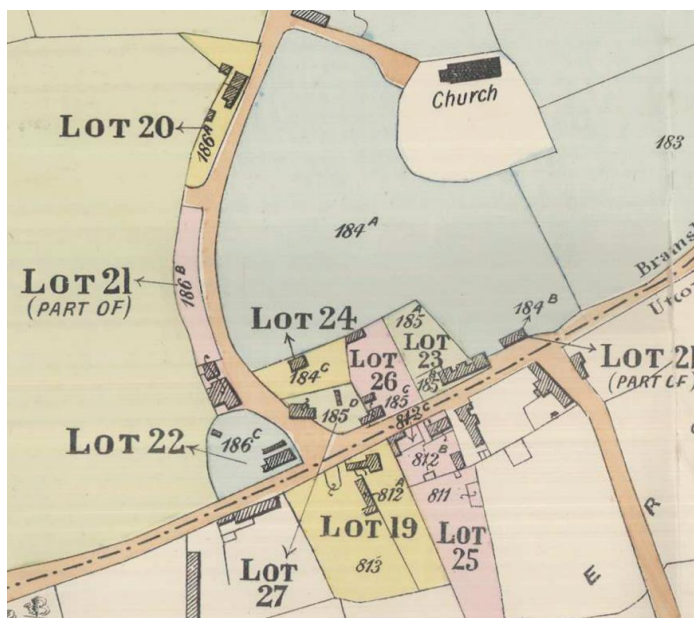
The early years of the 20th century brought many changes, not least in education, and as a result Bramshall Village School closed and the existing pupils were transferred to other schools in the Uttoxeter area.

In the sale of the Bramshall Estate in 1906⁴⁰ the school buildings and land appear as Lot 23:

'The village School, Brick built and tiled, together with Play ground, School House, with large garden, in the centre of the Village of Bramshall.' (Plan 185a: 185b)

At the time let to Mr. G.H. Sanday for £12 per annum, the school was subsequently sold to local farmer Mr. Hibberd for £75.

4. Extract from sale documents showing location of the school - Lot Number 23



40 See Bramshall Collection File 31

By 1906, the work of Bramshall Village School '*was done*'.

Bramshall Collection List of documents and File Number

Topic	Description	File Number
Mrs. Beaton's Cook Book	Gift to the Parish and signed by L E Durose in 1895	1
Lord Willoughby de Brokes & other land owners - Estate Accounts dated 1716	Photo copy of accounts with names and charges made	2
Archive search results for Bramshall and Loxley	Results of multiple searches Bramshall and Loxley by Mike Bennett	3
Maps	20 th century maps of Bramshall	4
Bramshall Charter	Photo copy of the Bramshall charter dated 1289	5
Sale of Farm	Dagdale Farm (sale of)	6
'The Case' – Uttoxeter water supply	Description of a case regarding water supply from Bramshall to Uttoxeter	7
Seven Studies (Economic and Social) 1530- 1830 by Peter Woolley	Bought and donated by Jenny Wall	8
Bramshall residents Wills at Lichfield	Wills held at Lichfield from 1535	9
Frances Redfern – early copy of The History of Uttoxeter	Bought for the Parish by Mike Bennett at £47.	10
Bramshall weddings	Brown Photo album	11
Funerals from 1950's	Black album	12
The Old church: Picture of the old church with seating plan, newspaper clippings.	All in Big Ben photo album – Old Church information about Mr. Bennett Williams	13
Following Redfern by Torrance	Bought for the Parish by Mike Bennett – 10 parts	14
In memory of the late Richard Statham	Red Album	15
Thomas Sergeant with horse a trap	Red Album: Photo 1930	15
Sargeant's' outside Ryecroft Farm 1920	Red Album: Photo	15
Buckleys' outside Elms Farm circa 1900	Red Album: Photo	15
The Elms Farm circa 1920	Red Album: Photo	15
Bramshall Bank Farm 1890	Red Album: Photo	15
Bramshall Jubilee 1879	Red Album: Photo	15
Bramshall School circa 1890	Red Album: Photo	15
The old Rectory	Red Album: Photo	15

Topic	Description	File Number
Thatched cottages at Dagdale	Red Album: Photo	15
Bramshall development 1994	Red Album: Photo	15
Grange Farm 1994	Red Album: Photo	15
The Old Mill Dagdale	Red Album: Photo	15
Grange cottages and rent book	Red Album: Photo	15
Tom Greenhouse (gardener at Loxley)	Red Album: Photo	15
Burials at Bramshall	1535-1843 & 1940- 1994	16
Survey of Bramshall 1768	A survey of feveral farms and lands in the manor of Bramshall 1768 by S Wyatt	17
Sales of land / Title Deeds	Lightwood Field 1636, Raph Horne & William Jennines	18
Pubs	Police raid in 1965, Female licensee at pub,	19
Old Newspaper cuttings	The Butchers Arms and the New Inn	19
Pubs	Cuttings from papers and notes of landlords and events	19
Diary	Mrs. E Richardson 1895	20
Diary	Unknown author – started in 1893	21
Loxley Park	Information leaflet	22
Electoral Role Bramshall	Circa 1990	23
Diaries	E Durose 1855 (original)	24
Sale of farm	Stocks Farm (sale of in 1922)	25
Sales of land / Title Deeds	Glebe properties 1922	26
Bramshall Clothing club	1872- 1877	27
Land Tax	Bramshall land tax 1781-1825	30
Sale documents : Loxley Estate 1918	Details of each Lot, photographs and map	31
Bramshall estate	Bramshall 1906 (original copy of sale documents)	31
Loxley Park Estate 1918	Report of sale outcomes – names & values	32
Rent books	“Corigina” Frances Degg + research documents. Cottage in Bramshall (original copy very fragile)	33
Family histories, detailed	Fisher – including wills and family tree	34
2 cottages opposite Bramshall Inn	Green house	35
Old photos primarily Sergeants	Sergeants	36

Topic	Description	File Number
Sale of Glebe Properties 1922 Sale of Bramshall Inn and other plots in Bramshall	Sale of Land by station, Nine Lands, Far Cow, Fernyhurst meadow, Land near the New Inn pub, opposite the Rectory and Rectory House (the pub)	37
Church	Record of inscriptions in the church yard (to 2003)	38
Baptisms	1927-1994	39
Baptisms	1700- 1743	40
Parish records	1589- 1700	41
Trade Directory references: Bramshall	Whites 1834, White's 1851, Kelly 1901	42
Vicars	Vicars at Bramshall from 1890s	43
Parish Records	1772 hand written by Thomas Warner Church warden	44
Church	Drawing of the old church, old church records, list of rectors from 1553. Tithes 1676, correspondence re new church, diagram and seating plan for the old church 1637	45
Church Accounts	1872- 1892	45
Bramshall Census	Census 1841	47
Bramshall Census	Census 1851	47
Bramshall Census	Census 1861	47
Bramshall Census	Census 1871	47
Bramshall Census	Census 1881	47
Bramshall Census	Census 1891	47
Bramshall Census	Census 1901	47
Extract from a book describing Civil War	Seventeenth Century England page 31 -damage to Mr. Richardson from Bramshall in 1648	48
Baptisms	1775-1929	49
FARMS	The Hayes House farm	50
Bramshall Post office	Closure in 2007	51
Old village green	Photo of the old village green with sign posts	52
Farm: Park fields	Sale in 1875	53
Medieval structure with moat	Aerial photographs from 1963 and Staffordshire County Council record	54
Coronations / jubilees	Varies documents and commemorative broaches (from Joyce Sergeant) + Jenny Wall jubilee brochure	55
Lord of the Manor	Paper article	56
Old village hall minute books	Two minute books dating from 1922	57

Topic	Description	File Number
Black photo album Bramshall social history	Album of photographs / photo copies WI, cricket, Bramshall sewing, Village song, Gunner a Dobson, ,train crash school room, train at Bromshall	58
Stafford to Uttoxeter Railway Line	Assorted documents, references , copy of last ticket from Bromshall station	59
Will	Alys Wetton 1540	60
Will	Nicholas Patrycke 1556	61
Will	William Stertyn 1552	62
Will	Thomas Warner 1650	63
Staffordshire Advertiser references	Marriage J Shipley & Miss Bennett, sale of lands Bennett, sale of stock Thomas Warner, reward for information about a break in 1826 and notice concerning Roger Warner	64
Burglary in 1796 of the home of James Durose	Bank Top 19.9.1796 as reported by Wetton Printer Uttoxeter	65
Brief history of Bramshall & Loxley Author unknown	Church, WW2, school, railway, Post office, shops, pubs, Wheelwright, Blacksmiths, gravel extraction and Ind. Estate	66
The natural history of Staffordshire by Robert Plot 1686	Map of Bramshall	67
Vicars William Bennett died 1893	Comprehensive notes about this rector for 36 years	68
Uttoxeter 1658 as observed by Peter Lightfoot	Survey of Uttoxeter 1628	69
Dagdale – wills and indentures	Ralph Herryson, Rector Blyse, Richard Hyne 1484, 1480 and 1502	70
Bramshall Song	A local song written by Edward Eyre in 1919	71
Bramshall Golf Club	Golf club at Bramshall Carol Ross at Alba Lodge	72
The Buckley Family and Spring Farm , Elms Farm and The Buckley / Bennett Family	Notes, wills, family trees, copy of family account books, newspaper cuttings, pictures, sale documents etc	73
The Statham Family	Notes, wills, family trees, copy of family trees, sale documents etc	74
The Bennett Family	Family notes, correspondence regarding the family.	75

Topic	Description	File Number
Assorted family trees of local families circa 15550 – 1700	Need further research	76
Durose family papers	Assorted papers	77
Warner Family	Will of Roger and sale of land	78
Family Notes	Capewell, Perkin, Fish	79
Bagot family	Article	80
Mr. W G Torrance	Profile by Peter Lead Uttoxeter Advertiser	81
Kynnersley and Sneyd	Paper on the family	82
1839 Tithe map and rents	Tithe maps	83
Bramshall Parish records	1587 – 1900 ISBN 978-0-9565117-4-4	84
Old Village Hall	Records from 1922 up to sale of the old hall	Green bags & red plastic box
Map	Bramshall Circa 1923	Brown cardboard folder
Map	Bramshall area owned by Lord Willoughby de Broke as on Lady's Day 1839	Brown cardboard folder
Map	Loxley and Bramshall field names 19 th century	Brown cardboard folder
Map	Bramshall 1768 (probable medieval field system)	Brown cardboard folder
Map	Bramshall field map 1768 (coloured)	Brown cardboard folder
Map	Composite map Bramshall 1906 and Loxley 1918	Brown cardboard folder
Map	Display boards from the October 2011 exhibition	Brown cardboard folder
	Nanny Goat Fan - The black market man (Bobby Bloor)	Word of mouth