

Knutsford u3a

FAMILY & SOCIAL HISTORY GROUP

Meeting Report 13th January 2026

Thanks to Allan J and Mark B for enabling January's group meeting to go ahead.

The presentation '**Murder Most Foul**', was another of Allan's memorable performances, a reprise of a talk in 2024, partly for the benefit of the newer members of the group. The story was inspired by the chance discovery of a grave in the churchyard of Over Peover parish church, St Leonard's. It concerns the tragic and untimely death of 18 year-old Arthur Barnard, under gamekeeper at Peover Hall.

Allan recounted the events of the early hours of Monday 13th January 1873 and the details of what happened over the following days, gleaned from newspaper reports. The following tour of the processes of law and order in 1873 was fascinating. The speed of the arrests of three poachers, the immediate setting up of the Police Court, the way an Inquest was carried out at two days' notice, the referral to Magistrates Court and the trial for wilful murder at Chester Crown Court just three months later.

To find out what happened, turn to the meeting report of December 2024. Thank you, Allan, another well researched and entertaining talk.