



ARNOLD
BENNETT
SOCIETY

17th Annual Conference
Saturday 13 June 2020
North Staffs Conference Centre, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 7NY

ARNOLD BENNETT'S SOCIAL CONSCIENCE Call for Papers

Bennett came from a humble background and achieved both fame and fortune. He had a taste for the finer things in life and a keen eye for social inequality and exploitation in various forms, along with an appreciation of the comic value of British class relations. Bennett frequently dramatises social relations – between employer and employee, master/mistress and servant, or husband and wife – in his fiction. He was, in addition, the author of explicit political commentaries such as the 1907 article 'Why I am a Socialist' and the WWI propaganda pieces. This conference will explore the political views, contradictions and dramas in Bennett's literature and life.

Presentations are invited which address any aspect, or interrelated aspects, of the topic, such as:

- Industrial unrest/organised labour
- The position of women – wives, spinsters, working women
- Servants
- Social mobility
- Class relations/conflict
- Political journalism and non-fiction

Titles and abstracts of no more than 250 words should be sent to Dr Catherine Burgass at c.j.burgass@staffs.ac.uk by Friday 24 April 2020. Conference fee will be waived for accepted papers.