

Bolton's Genies



The Monthly Newsletter of the

Bolton & District Family History Society.

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A branch of The Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society.

To join the MLFHS and thus the B&D FHS go to <http://www.mlfhs.org.uk/join/join.php>

Hello all, and welcome to our third edition. We hope you will appreciate that we are learning on our feet here, and yes, last month's production was a bit long and probably overwhelming, so we are now trying to prune down a bit. Some of the regular details we will now have to take as read and understood, rather than repeat them each time. If in doubt you only have to ask as above. We have been very pleased with our monthly attendances at meetings lately, now averaging about 30-35 this year, even in the summer. We hope this means we are moving in the right direction.

Hope you have all been managing to get out and about over the holiday period, relaxing, and perhaps catching up with family that don't live on your doorstep etc., I have just come to reflect that here I am trying to discover more about my ancestors, and yet it seems to be a supreme effort getting the living ones together in this day and age, with busy lives and increased distances.

The younger ones may be partly dealing with "keeping in touch" via the "social media", but where does that leave us "seniors"? We are now being encouraged to join in, many of us now use Skype, and I have recently dipped my toe into Face Book. This was partly because MLFHS now have a page there, and I have also heard enticing stories of groups such as "Bygone Bolton", and of course Ancestry, FMP, The Genealogist and Familysearch.com etc., offering "hot off the press" information in bulletin form several times a day. I must admit I am personally finding it a bit intimidating. People I haven't had contact with for maybe 30 years suddenly want to be my friend again, and even scarier, their friends want to be my friend!!!. Am I just being anti-social maybe? There is certainly a lot of interesting and helpful information out there, but I am already wary of overloading you and trying to be selective.

So, what are your thoughts on this? One of our considerations has been to ask someone to come and advise us on the use of social media in family research, maybe after a scheduled

meeting or as an extra. Any volunteers prepared to explain it all??? . If we did would you come??? Please let us know via the above.

Our Last and Next Monthly Meetings

All at the same venue Bolton Cricket Club (Back door)

Bishops Road, Farnworth BL3 2JB 7.30pm,

First Wednesday of each month except January)

Help Desk afterwards, Genealogy magazine collection and swop service offered.

September 3rd Meeting was Kathryn Carter's talk on the Church of the Latter-Day Saints website Familysearch.com . She would of course have found it much easier if we could have offered her internet access, but unfortunately we are unable to, and her fascinating Plan B of a well prepared (previous afternoon) , so up to date and very informative PowerPoint presentation certainly made up for this. Wow did nt she do well! (with the help of her husband of course). We think we may have also had out best attendance ever with a count of 63 attenders and we almost ran out of chairs!! We have already asked them to return in 2016

I am afraid this meeting also involved several unexpected lengthy announcements leading to a late start, BUT, I think I should qualify the information from Rod Mellor the visiting Oldham branch Chairman. They have made several very good visits to The National Archives in Kew in the past and this might not have been made clear. For an account of their most recent trip please visit oldham@mlfhs.org.uk and ask for a copy of their August newsletter. For those not there last night they are inviting interest for another trip July August next year and need to know in the next couple of weeks.

October 1st Meeting will be a presentation about the Atlantic / Arctic convoys by David Chadwick, co-author of "High Seas to Home, Daily Dispatches from a Frigate at War". David was a Bolton News journalist, who was approached by a colleague whose father, Cliff Greenwood, had been a wartime journalist. He wrote regular letters home to his wife, from enlistment in the Royal Navy and initial training camps, to when he served on the high seas, on HMS Byron. This was a frigate on escort duties on the convoys and he gave a first-hand account of life in the navy at that time, in letters to his wife that the family later found in a loft. . We are hopeful that David will be joined by Cliff's daughter Shirley and son in law Allan Seabridge. This promises to be a most interesting, and different, evening

We will also be holding a raffle in the next months in preparation for our **Christmas Party on December 3rd**. I know we are still in the summer solstice until the 22nd but this is early notice that we have Sid Calderbank returning for another evening of traditional fun plus, hopefully, Terry Walsh with his books, a quiz if you want it, and pie and peas. Watch this space for more details to follow.

Visits and Activities

September Visits

Wednesday 17th Horwich Heritage Centre Leader --Val Leese
Details supplied by Val to members attending at September meeting

Friday 26th Manchester Central Library --Brian Whittle

- Assemble at the foyer of Trinity Street station 9.45am for train departing 9.56am arriving Manchester Oxford Road 10.20am
- 5-10 minute walk across the road to the library to arrive for an 11am tour start at the library
- 12.15pm -1pm lunch—own sandwiches or can use library café facilities
- Presentation by John Marsden Chairman MLFHS on "Forgotten Fields" then short briefing by Leslie Turner on the Help Desk services for members.
- Finish about 2.30pm with returning trains at 2.49pm, 2.58pm, 3.26pm
- Personal ID such as driving licence and utility bill (to confirm address) needed to obtain free library membership and use their computers.

Further enquiries to via boltonnews@mlfhs.org.uk but places have been going fast and priority given to members.

Also we are still looking for more ideas of where to go with maybe monthly visits, and, even more so, volunteers to organise some of these trips. Any offers???

October Date TBA but a Friday afternoon. Second visit to Chetham's Library -Brian Whittle.

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Other Local Societies' News

Halliwell Local History Society <http://www.halliwell-lhs.co.uk/monthly-meetings/>
Email margaretk@talktalk.net Meetings are usually held on the **last Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm**, at St Luke's Church, Chorley Old Road, BL1 3BE, Bolton, Their September talk will be by Keith Warrender on 30th September 'Underground Manchester' - Tales of secret passages and lost tunnels under the streets of the city, and what lies beneath many of the famous squares and landmarks.

Turton Local History Society

Most events are on the **4th Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm except for December**, Winter meetings are at Longsight Church Centre at Harwood, BL2 3HX. .

For this month's event please email Secretary PeterMHarris@care4free.net for more information.

Westhoughton Local History Group - Meetings take place on the **1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, between 10am and 12md** at Westhoughton Library, Market St, Westhoughton, BL5 3AU. See website for further information

http://www.westhoughtonhistorygroup.org.uk/Westhoughton_History_Group/Home.html

Horwich Heritage Centre- Meetings are held on the **second Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm** at the Horwich Resource Centre, Beaumont Road (off Longworth Road), Horwich BL6 7BG. Open Days, are held most months on Saturdays between 10am --- 1pm

With lots more on offer please consult their web site at

<http://www.horwichheritage.co.uk/meetings.htm>

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Workshops and Courses

Just to remind you.

M&LFHS Courses -- Beginner Courses Continue. As advertised in July the fifth of this year's series of seven beginner courses will be at Manchester Central Library 6th September "19th & 20th century Sources". This will look at newspapers, trade directories, poll books and rate books and , starts at 10.30am, ending around 12.30pm.

<http://www.mlfhs.org.uk/news/user/story.php>

Whether a member or non-member, please book for this event using the address below so that they can have an idea of the numbers attending: For more information contact Bea Bentham via

<http://www.mlfhs.org.uk/contact/mailme.php>

Horwich Heritage Centre - Our Val Leese, who is also a member of this committee, plans to start a 10 week Family History Course in their Museum Room. Monday 29th September, 2014 between 11am -- 12.30pm and between 7pm -- 8.30pm (with a break in between). The cost will be £20. This will be ideal for beginners in researching their family history and includes use of the internet using the Ancestry web-site.

Local Libraries with our Margaret and Colin Calderbank are offering another series of 5 week introductory classes in October, cost £15 (including pencil and notebook) and places are in demand! Venues are:

- **Bromley Cross Library October 9th 10am - 12md.** at Toppings Green, Bolton, BL7 9JU. Contact Lynn on email bromley.cross.library@bolton.gov.uk or 01204 332354
- **Westhoughton Library, October 17th 10am - 12md.** At Library Street, Westhoughton, Bolton, BL5 3AT Contact Mandy on westhoughton.library@bolton.gov.uk or 01942 634640
- Subsequent computer classes may also be arranged.

Enjoy Learning- <http://www.enjoy-learning.org.uk/> is a locally based "not for profit association", aimed at Bolton and area residents. . Amongst other subjects on offer , **our Rita Greenwood**, one of our most experienced members, has been running ongoing courses in basic and then improvers/ advanced family history research for some time, and many of us have, and still are attending her classes. They are usually in two terms of 8 weeks each, on Thursdays and costing about £67 a term. More details via the above website.

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This Months Tips for Bolton's Genies

MAPS

Last month we brought you WW1 websites, this month's its MAPS. What use are maps I hear you say? Have a look at the MLFHS website www.mlfhs.org.uk, sign into the Members Area, Manchester Back Issues and in issue 2012, Vol. 48 No 4, page 364 you will find an article in the Bolton pages that explains just how helpful they can be.

We must start with The Bolton History Centre

www.boltonmuseums.org.uk/archives/archives-indexes/maps-and-plans where they have the expected local Ordnance Survey maps plus a large collection of private plans and maps, often pre-Ordnance Survey. These contain things like land holdings and The Harwood Moor Enclosure map. The Archives have introduced a fee for permission to use your digital camera in the search room. The local libraries often have a plan chest with locally relevant OS maps. They may or may not charge for use of a camera.

Possibly the best online site for old Ordnance Survey maps is The National Library of Scotland <http://www.nls.uk/> where maps of England and Wales in various scales and dates can easily be found. <http://maps.nls.uk/os/6inch-england-and-wales/index.html>. The print-off facility is limited but I found a Snipping Tool in the Accessories provided by Microsoft, and using that to transfer the selected image to a Word page in landscape format satisfies my needs.

The OS's own old maps facility is at www.old-maps.co.uk/index.html but I prefer the NLS version.

Lancashire Archives at Preston have maps that cover the Bolton fringe towns, a consequence of Horwich etc. once being served by the Lancashire Library Service.

www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/oldmap/

Other local archives offer a similar service, for example North Yorkshire CC on-line maps will permit you to select a locality on a modern map and then you can progress back through the old maps for that specific locality. I have done it for an area as small as a single farm house so it may be worth checking on other archives around the country.

http://maps.northyorks.gov.uk/connect/?mapcfg=historic_maps

The boundaries and divisions of Bolton-le-Bolton Parish

www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=53036

The boundaries and divisions of Deane Parish map

The National Library of Scotland <http://www.nls.uk/> has also just launched

Ordnance Survey Maps - Six-inch England and Wales, 1842-1952 *The most comprehensive, topographic mapping covering all of England and Wales from the 1840s to the 1950s. Two editions for all areas, and then regular updates in the 20th century for urban or rapidly changing areas.* [OS Six-inch England and Wales, 1842-1952](http://www.nls.uk/os/6inch-england-and-wales/index.html)

Look at this one of the Bolton area in 1850. <http://maps.nls.uk/view/102344051>

(Just in case anyone does not appreciate the significance of the underlined blue text - hover the cursor over the blue writing and follow the on-screen instruction to connect direct to the website, -- assuming your internet is in an active state.)

National Heritage Free Open Days 11th -14th September

<http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>

This is an annual event when thousands of volunteers invite you to experience local history, architecture and culture. - See more at:

<http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/directory#sthash.EA8uvxPH.dpuf>

There are 21 pages of Manchester events including many churches etc. (this one may be of particular interest for Catholics <http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/directory/salford-diocesan-archives>)and in Bolton and area, 16 pages for Lancashire, and the scheme covers the whole of England as far as I can see.

In the past I have visited the subterranean Bolton Archives, had a tour around a 200 year old windmill, had a narrow boat ride on the Lune and have friends who have done similar in Liverpool. Have a look around at the list, and if you want company or maybe help with transport, give us a shout. Maybe we can fix something up.

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News on Recent Developments

The Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives

<http://www.agra.org.uk/> . Yes well I had certainly never heard of them before much to my embarrassment but here is a summary of Chris Patten's report
"AGRA, the body representing professional genealogists in England and Wales, has recently announced radical changes to both its Membership and Associateship criteria.

All applicants wishing to join the association will now have to attend an interview and in most cases will also be asked to undergo practical tests. The new rules also attach greater importance to formal qualifications and ongoing learning."

Looks like they are tightening up their portfolios which can only be a good thing.

Genealogy in Time Magazine

50 Best Genealogy Brick Wall Solutions (Part I) 29.07.14

http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/Articles/50_best_genealogy_brick_w_all_solutions_part1_page_01.html

UK Cemetery & Graveyard Plans Index

(mainly Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire but we live in hopes for more)

<http://www.bairdmb.webspace.virginmedia.com/cemplans/plansindex.html>

and now they are looking for local help

<http://www.ukbmd.org.uk/localbmdproject>

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Regular, Free and "Really Useful" Newsletters

Lost Cousins <http://www.lostcousins.com/> Two weekly newsletter full of good advice, topical offers and home of Lost Cousins <http://lostcousins.com/newsletters/aug14news.htm>

The National Archives

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk> Approximately monthly bulletins of new releases, progress reports, podcasts etc.

Who Do You Think You Are

<http://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/news> . This is the online newsletter from the TV programme but also offers advice, a forum, imminent media programmes of interest, data releases etc.

British Genealogy

<http://britishgenes.blogspot.co.uk/> OK, this is Chris Patten's way of trying to sell his books, but he offers regular "hot off the press" chat about British data developments and tips, and only does it when there is something to pass on.

UKBMD

Births, Marriages and Deaths on the Internet <http://www.ukbmd.org.uk/register> offers announcements from the various BMD web sites detailing the latest additions and updates and details of other changes and relevant information regarding them, and now they are also looking for local help. <http://www.ukbmd.org.uk/localbmdproject>

Genealogy in Time

<http://www.genealogyintime.com/genealogy-news.html> describes itself as "the world's most popular online genealogy magazine and one of the world's largest free genealogy websites. We have the tools and resources to trace your ancestors for free". It is Canadian based but just try it. I think you will be amazed

Scotland's People

<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/> The data is of course bought by credits but the newsletter is monthly and free so at least you know what is available

Does anybody know of any more please? Let us know.

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Extra No. 1

At the Society Meeting Magazine swap facility we have been given 10 copies of the Northumberland & Durham FHS magazine, 2008 to 2010 and 4 copies of the Dumfries & Galloway FHS newsletter, spread between 1997 & 2004. These are very much special interest magazines so if anyone does want them please email the Newsletter and we can make arrangements for you to collect them from Harwood or the next Society meeting.

Extra No. 2

Some time ago a member gave the Society 8 volumes of MI records published by the Cleveland, NY & SD FHS. Whilst looking through these books I noticed that some of the entries were highlighted. Nothing too strange about that, I hear you say, but it just so happens that the highlighted names include what I think is my family. Did you give us the books? If you did please email Graham at the Newsletter and we shall see if there is a connection.

Newsletter email: boltonnews@mlfhs.org.uk

Members Comments and Queries

This is your chance so why not get in touch via boltonnews@mlfhs.org.uk

