



Bolton's Genies



The Monthly Newsletter of the Bolton Family History Society:

<http://www.bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/>

- Newsletter Comments, and Speaker Bookings: boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk
- General Society enquiries to the BFHS Secretary, Christine M Ellis bolton@mlfhs.org.uk
- Research help, please email boltonhelpdesk@mlfhs.org.uk or visit our
- Help Desk Drop In 10am -12md Bolton Central Library. First Saturday of each month
- Facebook page <https://goo.gl/n99qtW> (288 liking and 314 following us on May Day) ☺
- Bolton Document Collection on MLFHS website: <https://goo.gl/hji8Ns> (members only)
- Join the MLFHS/BFHS at: <http://mlfhs.org.uk/join/index> .

May 2019

This month's pictures shows the Park View Inn (otherwise known as the Dug un Kennel) on Tonge Fold Road, which became the regular location to celebrate Oak Apple Day on the 29th May, and its statue of Charles 11. To find the connection read now about the Tonge Trail <https://tinyurl.com/yydb3tdb> a highly recommended website that all Boltonians should know about. The walk is 8 miles but if you can't manage it yourself, do it this way <http://www.tongetrail.co.uk/locations/>

Bolton Family History Society is a branch of the Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society



Well here we are a month on , the AGMs are all over and we are starting another society year. It seems most members of Manchester and Bolton committees have expressed a willingness to carry on doing what we have been doing, BUT we are coming to face the facts that some changes do need to be made. One of these is the preparation of this newsletter. I, the editor, am coming to the reluctant conclusion that I cannot physically continue producing the Bolton Genie as I have for the last 5 years. Yes, the first edition was in July 2014 <https://tinyurl.com/y7hbbsva> . I can't believe the learning curve, and how it has changed over the years, and I do still enjoy preparing it. The sad fact is however, that I have an "itis" and sore hands. Help with writing up our meetings and any visits etc could be the immediate solution if anybody is willing, (still allowing editing to fit the final presentation). Perhaps with this a final decision can be delayed but assistance would be appreciated. We like to think the newsletter is a "diary" of our activities as well as keeping you up to date with developments, so all contributions will be gratefully received please. For all enquiries please contact the secretary as above, and onwards and upwards with the rest of our news.

OUR LAST and NEXT MONTHLY MEETINGS

- Where?

Bolton Old Links Golf Club, Montserrat Brow, Chorley Old Road BL1 5SU. Buses 519 & 125 <https://goo.gl/TH5zYC>. All MLFHS members free. £3.00 to non-members unless joining on the night.

- When?

7pm beverages available for 7.30pm start, on the first Wednesday of each month, except December and January. Extras include a Help Desk for personal research, Stationery Table for discounted equipment, and recycle service for your used local and family history magazines, books etc. (Thanks for recent books donated from local historian Wes Halton's collection by his family. Proceeds to the BFHS and hope you enjoy the books. More always welcomed).



RECENT TRIPS AND COMING EVENTS



Friday 12th April 12.30pm to 1.30pm. "Parish Records-not just baptisms , marriages and burials", by Kate Newman. This was one of the free monthly talks offered by the Lancashire Archives at the County Record Office in Preston, on their "Family History Friday" programme on the second Friday of each month.

<https://tinyurl.com/y6l79mgx> . Some go there by car, but a group of us have found the train journey much more convenient now that the time table is more reliable, (and some of us can also use our bus passes and get there for £8 return 😊). Beverages are free, and there is a place to eat butties, although no café unfortunately. STOP PRESS, we have just discovered we pass the "Nutty Butty" take away on the left as we approach Bow Lane. 😊



Promptly at 12.30pm Kate introduced herself and launched into a whistle stop tour of her subject. It was immense and involved much more material than most had ever expected. The talk was also confined to mainly the Anglican records held at the LRO, so few non-conformist, or Catholic, which are mostly held elsewhere. (see LANCAT <https://tinyurl.com/y6opsamu> . This is because of the Parochial Registers and Records Measure Act 1978 "passed by the General Synod of the Church of England, (which) was a step to ensure the long-term care and preservation of, and access to parish records. It was a response to the interest and use of parish records in historical research, recognition that church employees did not necessarily have the skills or appropriate storage conditions to care for parish records, and the development of archival services in the country---" <https://tinyurl.com/y5la3lto> The National Archives . It seems this Act , in practice, implemented the extension of the powers of the growing network of record offices, (Lancashire's launch was discussed briefly in our previous April newsletter), "to acquire and care for records of local significance." As a result of this many records appeared and have been processed by the Archives, but there are still some which have not yet been contributed for whatever reasons. At this point Kate showed a map of the newly created Anglican Cheshire Diocese as it was designed in 1541, as a reshape of various Catholic archdeaconries, dioceses, and even Welsh parishes, and now within the northern Province of York, (as opposed to the southern Province of Canterbury). As shown here in the Family Search link <http://tinyurl.com/y234rv68> the new diocese was then subdivided into two arch deaconries whose boundaries were defined by the main rivers of the Mersey and Ribble. There have been several adjustments since 1830 in trying to accommodate population increase and movement following work. The Lancashire County Record Office (LCRO) now concentrates mainly on holding the records of the Diocese of Blackburn created in 1926 <http://tinyurl.com/y6opsamu>, (plus a few others of other denominations that it has acquired through time and opportunity). For research purposes there are "root codes" for each area.

Records available can cover a multitude of subjects. The Diocesan Collection includes accounts of church court hearings, bishops visitations, probate, marriage licences, property decisions, and information re the clergy involved. The Parish Bundles of Richmond and Chester are accessible, and topics may include faculties, nominations and testimonials, plans, information about schools and charities, papers about church property. Parish Records may include details re registration, church wardens, Poor Laws, Vestry minutes, land and property, again other aspects of charities, also pew rents, lists of parishioners, and also more on finances and the Queen Anne's Bounty <http://tinyurl.com/yvwlcghe> . The Church Warden accounts involved the work of the laity re "housekeeping" bills and fulfilling other duties for the day to day running of the church, and names of those involved.

There are a few Roman Catholic records available for the Liverpool Arch Diocese 1850 → , Salford Diocese 1850→, and Lancaster Diocese 1924→ , referring to the R/C parishes and giving some details of registration, register returns, schools, and their specific charities and societies; also records from the Society of Friends from 1568 to the present from Lancashire and beyond. I know from personal research that some of this latter collection is quite fragile but very rich in details re attendants at various meetings, and stories of "Sufferings" <https://tinyurl.com/y5lbljif> . There are also records from some nonconformist churches

which have been donated for safe keeping, including some from the Lady Huntingdon's Connection <https://tinyurl.com/y43s9odw>. Kate closed at this point, after a fascinating whistle stop tour of what is probably a mostly unappreciated collection by many. I hope this overview will help some to make more progress in their research.



Wednesday 7th April Manchester Quarterly Meeting and 55th Annual General Meeting

This full day event involved two talks with the AGM slotted in between. Five of us attended from Bolton. The first talk was about the **“History of the Manchester Ship Canal”** by **Steve Little**, a retired Industrial Architect. Steve, although from London, has spent a large part of his life either working as a mariner on the canal, rising to Third Mate, or studying its structure and history. He obviously has a real, and lasting love of his subject. After managing to master the daunting technicalities of the PowerPoint presentation, (which quickly endeared him to many of us), Steve launched into a fascinating overview of how the canal first appeared from a vague 18th C idea, to a fully functioning 36-mile , engineering marvel, bigger than the Suez Canal in the early 20thC. There are also of course many websites e.g. Wikipedia <https://tinyurl.com/y3o7xszyand>, and books available on this subject so no need here to go into too much detail. Steve explained that after years of on and off discussion, in 1735 a ship actually came up from the Mersey from the Irish Sea (thus by-passing Liverpool which had monopolised the trade up to then), to Quay Street Manchester, where it could exchange cargo and return. He suggested that it was this simple action, demonstrating that the trip was “doable” that launched the northern industrial revolution as being able to import raw cotton from America directly to the mill towns, and export manufactured products goods and coal. This did depend on favourable tides, winds, and rainfall though. Over the next few years there was considerable wheeling and dealing with various business moves. The Bridgewater canal was connected at Runcorn, parts of the waterway silted up, and there was strong competition with the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, At one point it was cheaper to use the port of Hull. The problem of increased business needs came to a head in the early 1880s and in 1882 Daniel Adamson called a meeting of local businessmen and politicians, plus two civil engineers to discuss a plan for a canal between Manchester and the Irish Sea. The proposed port which would actually be in Salford , was still 60ft above sea level though, so this would probably necessitate locks and /or deep cuttings. It took over a year of arbitration to eventually achieve approval by Parliament. Financing was a problem as some were reluctant to invest in such a competitive field, but a clever publicity campaign to offer the £10 shares, (in 1/- instalments in books of 10) , to the “ordinary working man”, won tremendous public support. Politics again caused more complications and Adamson resigned in despair. Lord Egerton of the Bridgewater Canal took over and eventually cut the first sod on 11th November 1887. The project was mainly manned by local highly skilled labourers which also solved the current unemployment problems. They were not just “navvies” , (a skill in itself), but also operating heavy machinery, and earth moving equipment of the day. There were 130 fatalities, and 1000s of injuries. The route created a settlement “on the go” though, with temporary boarding houses, kitchens, shops, schools, churches and even field hospitals in accompaniment. The wages were 4 1/2d an hour equating to 25/- a week. Good money in those days. Engineering marvels were designed such as the unique Barton Swing Bridge <https://tinyurl.com/yxj9r3xn> picture courtesy of Trip Advisor carrying the Bridgewater canal over the MSC. There was delay due to flooding in the Mersey basin area, and in the 1890s they again ran out of money but were rescued by the Manchester Corporation to “maintain the prestige of Manchester”; however, this was on the condition of having full control of the Board. Sadly , although the canal was eventually completed in 1894 , the expectations of trade never came to full fruition. Practicalities of big ships in a comparatively



confined channel made traders reluctant to continue via this route, and in 1993 Peel Holdings acquired the complex and are apparently now talking of developing this, and their Port of Liverpool holdings , using containers to help reduce road traffic.

Steve closed to an appreciative round of applause, and we all took a quick break before the next item on the list.

(PS I don't think any one of us could have envisaged this April's announced problems combining two of our recent stories. Apparently, roe deer, possibly spooked by the renovations at RHS Bridgewater (Worsley New Hall site , see our report from Dr Mike Nevell June 2018 <https://tinyurl.com/y3ytueoc>), are jumping into the canal at Boothstown and drowning!! <https://tinyurl.com/y24x42bq>. They are worried that people are now also wading in trying to rescue them, and themselves getting into difficulties!!! Picture courtesy of Vicky Martin in the Manchester evening News)



The MLFHS 2019 AGM.

It does not seem necessary to report this in detail as it only affects members and will be reported in the next Manchester Genealogist of course. Suffice to say that the Executive Committee remains unchanged, and I expect the Chairman's reports will be available soon on the members section of the website. Fellowships were awarded to Rod Melton, → the retiring Chairman from Oldham FHS , and Olwen Bird, who has been very active in the Manchester team. We were also pleased to help welcome Jackie Macleod → who has been awarded the 2019 Earwaker Prize (launched by the MLFHS in the spring of 1991). The prize, named after a 19th century Manchester antiquarian, John Parsons Earwaker, <https://tinyurl.com/y3qs436b> awards a £50 book token to the author of the best article in the four journals published in the previous year, and Jackie had travelled all the way up from Salisbury to receive same.



We moved on to lunch, and then our BFHS friend **Steve Gill** arrived to take over the afternoon slot talking about **“Dating Old Photographs”**. This was much of a repeat of what he has told us about in Bolton as a talk at meetings <https://tinyurl.com/yxfqc3ur> ,and also our Open Day last November <https://tinyurl.com/yvzb2ch7> , with tweaks, but we were quite “chuffed” to see how much of our donated material he was recycling, (with permission of course). It also gave a chance for our volunteers who had missed it due to Help Desk duties, to hear the talk properly. The day concluded at 2.30pm ish and we made our way back home via the convenient tram to Bury, parking just outside the front door.



Wednesday May 1st 7.30pm, Anna Watson - Retired archivist from Lancashire Archives “Probate records - wills bring out the worst in people”

Anna has been a friend of BFHS for several years now, with many of us meeting her first at the Archives in Preston ,when she has been one of those showing us around on visits arranged via Rita Greenwood's courses. Now as she is enjoying the benefits of early retirement, we have also heard her talking at the Manchester Central Library, and it was good to welcome her to Bolton to hear her “Introduction to Lancashire Probate Records”. She has been good enough to provide us with notes on her talk, some of which are used here and are available on our website. <https://tinyurl.com/y62klckw> under Annas copyright of course. This report will be expanding on these slides.

First on slide 4 and 5 came some general information about wills and probate, (“Applying for the legal right to deal with someone's property, money and possessions (their 'estate') when they die is called

‘applying for probate’”  <https://tinyurl.com/mm8hpg4>, with a look at the history and terminology of probate in Lancashire; also looking at what records survive and how to find them.

Slide 5 introduced how before 1858, probate was administered by a system of church courts, but afterwards it was changed from an ecclesiastical to a secular one in 25 August 1857. “An Act to amend the Law relating to Probates and Letters of Administration in England” <https://tinyurl.com/zzqrd2d>. The administration of probate had been mainly the responsibility of the Church Courts from the Middle Ages to 1858. The exceptions were “Peculiar Jurisdictions” <https://tinyurl.com/y4bxrmtk>, and during the period of the Commonwealth, 1650-1660 when the business of the Church Courts was in abeyance. A “Civil Court of Probate” in London took over during this period. The wills from this era are kept at the National Archives and can be searched for online in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury will indexes. Anna did note here though, that many wills from the north were simply not processed at this time as it was too far away, and it wasn’t until the Restoration that several thousand were then processed and are now available at Kew. The north, however, has been administered mainly by the massive Prerogative Court of York since Henry VIII reign 1542, and the western regions (as described below), subdivided into the Diocese of Chester, and thence Archdeaconries of Richmond and Chester (see slides 6 and 7 on the hand out). Slide 8 shows how Richmond mainly covering the eastern areas, was subdivided again to 5 “probate areas”, Slide 9 shows the typical journey after a dying person has left a will, → the appointed executor or next of kin informs the Probate Court and applies for permission to administer the stated wishes of the will.--> If all is signed and witnessed correctly a copy of the will, plus occasionally an administration bond to cover expenses, are given to the executor to supervise the process. The executor must now prepare an inventory of belongings and accounts, and supply these to the Probate Court. Slide 10 shows a rare notice of when a Probate Court would next attend at Harwood. These events were announced at routine morning services and consisted of perhaps two clerics progressing around a circuit of churches. They were sometimes combined with the Bishops Visitations for convenience. It was not unknown, if a Court sitting was missed at one place, the Executor might try to catch them at the next. It was all very time consuming as well, of course with the communication difficulties of the day, and it could take 6 months for an inventory to be calculated and a year for the final accounts to be settled, particularly if clerks and accountants had to be hired due to illiteracy. . If the deceased had died without making a will, i.e. was intestate, probate would still be needed, so the court had to be applied to for “Letters of Administration, i.e. approval and permission to proceed with the legalities .



Slide 11 showed how to find a will, perhaps the most difficult aspect for any researcher. There were different courts and where a will was proved depended on a variety of factors such as where the testator lived and died, where their property lay and whether there was any dispute about the will. If in Cheshire (see slide 13), their records are at the Chester Record Office (RO), and now also Findmypast. The Welsh are in the National Record Office of Wales, and most others in the Lancashire RO, but there are always exceptions. Chester, see slide 14, was divided into “supra” (dealing with estates worth more than £40), and “infra” (less than £40). Many did leave wills as it was even recommended in the Common Book of Prayer, but costs were entailed and if the estate was worth more than £5, they went up on a sliding scale which was a deterrent for some, see slide 15.

The Archdeaconry of Richmond (see slide 17), was sub divided in five deaneries, (slide 18) Amounderness, Copeland, Furness, Kendall and Lonsdale, for easier administration over such a remote area. The records for these are now in LANCAT, <https://tinyurl.com/y6opsamu> and it is important to bear in mind that although born in in area they might well have died in another, and owned property elsewhere. Slide 19 introduced the aspect of “What type of records will you find in someone’s probate papers?”, and Slide 20 introduced the topics of a Will, and also Administration bonds (possibly more than one), and suggesting there was probably no original will but next of kin may be shown. Inventories are also very useful, (mainly from around 1650 to 1720), as giving indications of wealth via specified clothing, furniture, tools, livestock. Slide 21 added Tuition/Curation bonds (protecting the upbringing of child heirs, the completion of specified tasks, Accounts (ensuring all debts are paid from the estate), Commissions (fees to witnesses of oath takers if out of own jurisdiction), Citations (to enforce reluctant witness statements), and Letters and other memoranda. Slide 22 was about “What’s in a will?”, and listed testator’s name, address and possibly occupation, indication of where they want to be buried, bequests, and appointment of supervisors/executors. The preamble can suggest their denomination, with the more expansive tending to be R/C background, and it was of course important to assert they were of “sound mind”, even if the body was frail, and that they were not being coerced. Slides 23 and 24 showed the completion of the event as being signed, sealed (literally with a wax seal), witnessed, and delivered to the appropriate official. Occasionally notes may be added protecting members of the family such as single women dependents as having ongoing rights to live in the house.

Slide 25 next discussed the inventory. This usually includes the testator’s name, address and possibly occupation, names of appraisers, list of deceased’s goods and their appraised value, and sometimes includes list of debts, although these may also appear at the end of the will. It might be noticed here that it is often the same people appraising many wills and indicates that these are the “go to” literates who may almost have made a career of this. Sometimes we may also find clues as to whether the deceased was multi-tasking with various seasonal occupations e.g. working on the land in the summer and weaving or similar in the winter months. Slide 26 gives an example of “goods and chattels”, listed in a will, and 27 the value of contents.

Slide 28 was about “What’s in an administration bond?”. This will probably include the testator’s name, address and possibly occupation, may include name of next of kin as an administrator, and includes administrator’s responsibilities. These forms were usually completed on a proforma, and in cases where the purpose was to protect a child until adult, a fine of perhaps £100 might be included as shown in Slides 29 and 30. Lastly Anna, in Slide 31, made some suggestions as to where to look for wills including County Record Offices, National Archives, Printed sources, On-line, and she made a point of saying that these are the general guidelines for all over the country, not just Lancashire. Slide 32 gives some website addresses,

After 11 January 1858 of course, the rules changed. The principle behind the Act was to simplify the probate system by having it all dealt with by one Court - the Court of Probate - instead of the multifarious courts which had existed before. The Act was to come into operation on 1 January 1858 but did not actually become operational until the 11th. Any probate jurisdictions that had existed previously - ecclesiastical, royal, manorial, peculiar - no longer had any right to grant probate from this date. The Act established a Principal Registry and 40 District Probate Registries and Commissioners of Her Majesty’s Court of Probate were to be appointed to administer oaths. Helpful sources include National Probate

Index available at some County Record Offices/District Libraries/on-line at ancestry.co.uk, Printed Sources, Newspapers. Locally these may be the 250, 000 in the Lancashire CRO, Chetham's Library, the National Archives, and the Borthwick Institute in York.

We are very grateful to Anna for this detailed explanation of a how to use a very valuable resource, and her generosity in allowing us to use her notes in reporting her talk. It has made life much easier, and hopefully accurate, and for those of you who didn't know, a "FLA flattener" is a Friend of Lancashire Archives who helped to unroll the reams of documents that have been donated to the Archive, stored in cardboard rolls, or simply tied up with string. Not conducive to long term conservation.

Thursday May 23rd Visit to Astley Hall, Chorley <http://astleypark.co.uk/> PR7 1XA See **map** <http://astleypark.co.uk/map/>

This is using own transport to meet at the Café Ambio at 10.30am, or by bus use the 125 Bolton to Chorley and the 109 Leyland Little Bus to Astley Hall . The £8 fee includes tea/ coffee, and a guided tour of approx 1 ½ hours of the Hall, which is well recommended, (please note this involves 3 floors with no lifts). The Old Hall car park is off Hall Gate, (via Chancery Road, off the B5252), as shown below, with a 5-minute walk from there, past the white cottages on the right which house the Chorley Family History Centre, to the café which is just beyond. The Hall is 5 minutes on. For those of you with a little more time to spare there are plenty of picnic areas, woodland walks, and even play areas and a pets corner if interested 😊. If you wish to come but have not booked, please email our Secretary as above ASAP.



the café food is good, and there are

Wednesday 5th June 7.30pm, Kate Hurst - WDYTYA researcher

"Research, with reference to Sir Ian McKellen's story" Kate tells us that "In late 2015, as a Lancashire-based family history researcher she was approached by Wall To Wall Television to carry out some research into Sir Ian McKellen's grandmother, to link in with his episode of *Who Do You Think You Are?* This inspired her to create a talk that explores the differences between the way tracing family history is portrayed on screen and the actual process of researching for the programme. Using examples of the documents consulted at Manchester Central Library, Kate will show how she formed an impression of the person she was investigating." I know Kate has also been seen using the Bolton Archives extensively for other work, so this should be a very interesting and helpful talk on a local based subject.

More on Peterloo

Sunday June 16th Gorton Monastery a local history day re the Peterloo Story <https://tinyurl.com/y3s8lhw4> with talks and stories focusing on the rich history and heritage of Manchester. Tickets cost £20pp and each ticket will include all four talks throughout the day; teas, coffees and biscuits on arrival, and lunch. Talks on the day are set to include:

- 'Peterloo', Dr Robert Poole, University of Central Lancashire
- 'Lydia Becker: A Manchester Suffragette', Joanne Williams
- 'Absalom and Edward Watkin: Manchester's Forgotten Reformers', Geoffrey Scargill
- 'The Manchester Martyrs', Joe O'Neill



 **Wed 26th June 11am to 2pm. Visit to Touchstones, Rochdale, A tour of the "Protest and Peterloo" Exhibition**

11-12pm Looking around the exhibition and speak to curator Sarah Hodgkinson

12 -1.00 pm A chance to have lunch in the cafe

1.00 - 1.40 pm Session in Local Studies. We are told *"This exhibition will take you on a journey through the stories of those involved, from espionage and cover-ups to national outrage and mourning. Ask yourself what it means to protest and voice the issues that matter most to you. Discover the role played by local man Sam Bamford who was imprisoned for his part in organising the gathering. Find out about the spies who gathered information for the government. See the Middleton banner, the only known surviving banner from Peterloo, as well as props from Mike Leigh's recent film Peterloo"*.

Touchstones is located close to Rochdale town centre. Approximately 5 to 10 minutes' walk from Rochdale Transport Interchange with bus and tram access. 10 minutes from the Rochdale Railway Station 10 minute's drive from Junction 20 on the M62. There is no dedicated parking at Touchstones, however there is pay and display parking on The Esplanade at the Town Hall. £5.00 Book via Eventbrite on the Society homepage <https://tinyurl.com/y5g2eehd>

GENIE'S TIPS for MAY

"iOS 11: How to scan documents with the Notes app" Michael Potuck - Jul. 11th, 2017

<https://tinyurl.com/y5t3gamz> Well I must admit I do feel a bit of an idiot struggling to find Apps to scan documents when there one is readily available on my iPhone. How many of you have got iPhone or an iPad and didn't know about this? It will make me feel better. If you have been updating regularly as we all should when reminded , most should now have at least iOS 12 .

1.Go into the Notes App (white square with a yellow band at the top, →



2, Open a new note (Square with pencil in it bottom right hand corner), →



3.. tap the + sign at the bottom → and



4. see the selection of

Scan Documents Take Photo or Video, Photo Library , Add Sketch (the last one i9s fun. I drew a tree), tap and just follow the instructions. The picture can then be saved either by emailing to yourself , the Apple cloud, Dropbox, or wherever you select. Simple!!! It is also possible to choose and crop down to a specific column/ paragraph from a newspaper, document etc.

BFHS WORKSHOPS <http://www.bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/Workshops.php>

Workshop 7 Thursdays, 2, 9, 16, 23, May 2019 10.00am – 12.30noon

"Beginners family history workshop" Brightmet Library (BL2 6NT) No. of Weeks 4

Enquiries & Enrolment Tel: 07847335340 Workshop Leader: Christine Ellis

Cost £25 - Cheques payable to Bolton Family History Society

THIS MONTHS LOCAL NEWS and SOME ORGANISATION UPDATES

Lancashire Records

 <http://goo.gl/I29JpL>



Lancs OPC <http://goo.gl/AN699Z> and left click on the "What's New" tab on the left



Lancashire Archives News and Events <https://goo.gl/H8UexE> for their latest newsletter and more



The Family History Federation (previously the FFHS), <http://www.ffhs.org.uk/ezone/intro.php>, see below for more details. I would suggest this front page is a “must read” for all, for its two monthly free e-newsletters and articles on international news on research, projects, events, and competitions,

“Building steeped in history looks to the future “ <https://tinyurl.com/y33qdq64>

Bolton News By Saiqa Chaudhari April 28th Picture courtesy of the Barlow website

<https://tinyurl.com/y6ol5pck>

THE years are catching up with a building which has served the community well for 110 years.

The Barlow is in need of desperate repair, with trustees busy applying for grant, to give the "large and handsome" building in the centre of Edgworth a new lease of life, with a call for villagers to document the part the building plays in community life since 1909.



The Commonwealth War Grave Experience <https://tinyurl.com/yvw7ue5o>

Just in case you plan to be visiting France on the D Day 75th anniversary next month do you know about this? In June 2019 the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) will open The CWGC Experience in - a unique new visitor attraction that will shine a light on the work of the remarkable organisation at the heart of remembrance of the war dead. Yes, sadly these anniversaries seem never ending don't they. Also, I noticed this a few weeks ago,

Prisoners Of War 1715-1945 <https://tinyurl.com/yxveof4p> Findmypast and

The Management of British armed forces casualties and compassionate cases 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Remains found in northern Italy 2015 appear to be one of five individuals, two of which have been traced to 2nd Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers. The Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC) MOD are looking for any surviving relatives. <https://tinyurl.com/y5mrpc2k>

First - Fusilier Joseph Frank Faulkner, son of Joseph Faulkner and Mary Isabel Plant, born October 1921 in Dartington, Cheshire, last address, Worthington Avenue, Partington in Trafford, siblings Kenneth, George, Cyril, Harry, Jack and Mary.

Secondly - Fusilier Walter Vickers, son of Walter Vickers and Maggie Straker, born April 1921 in Rusholme, last address Boynton Road, Rusholme. Siblings believed to be Bernard, James, Geoffrey and sisters Nita, Lorna and Elva.

SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES

“List of parishes in England and Wales arranged under the jurisdiction of their bishops”

<https://tinyurl.com/y585veb7> Clergy of the Church of England Database 1540-1835

“New Records on FamilySearch from March 2019” <https://tinyurl.com/y5ttcykh> April 1, 2019 - by Laurie Bradshaw

Just to remind you of this site. Always worth checking every month, and a free newsletter available.

MISCELLANEOUS “SPECIAL”, NEWS FROM OTHER SOCIETIES

So, is anyone else a member of any other Family History Societies apart from this one? Being a member of most FHS in Great Britain, now also means that we are part of the umbrella Family History Federation (previously known as the Federation of Family History Societies), which includes more than 180 societies

worldwide <https://tinyurl.com/y53wrdr6> . We are not, as might be mistakenly thought, in competition with each other, because each society just covers its own specific area which might be either geographic, (e.g. ours covers Bolton within the MLFHS umbrella), or a group of people (e.g. the Anglo Scottish FHS covers those with Scottish ancestors but is also within the MLFHS), or perhaps those performing One Name Studies. Family History Fairs <http://www.ffhs.org.uk/events/fairs.php> are very useful for finding the appropriate FHS that specialises in one of the areas your ancestors might have been active in, and don't forget many have moved around quite extensively, and therefore boundaries can overlap. Online membership subscriptions might only be £5 to £10 pa for regular digital newsletters, use of databases, local knowledge etc, which is a real bargain if getting to the meetings is impractical. I am a member of 3 others by this route. See here re the background to our MLFHS re-joining the FHF <https://tinyurl.com/y69upo8b>, and here <http://www.ffhs.org.uk/> for an overview of what extra benefits are now accessible with this expanded membership. We have always tried to work with and support each other though.

A bonus of this is that every so often, a little gem of information can pop up in one society's publication, which is worth sharing with others, with the permission of the creator of course. Here is one I found in



“Ryedale Roots”, the newsletter for the **Ryedale Family History Group**. <https://tinyurl.com/y36l7d7o> which covers the area around Malton, North Yorkshire. (and if you come across anything similarly interesting to all, please get permission to share and pass on to us).

“Acres and acres “

Now that the metric system is widely used in England, some of our younger readers may have forgotten the original system that our parents and ancestors used for many generations. Yards, feet and inches having been replaced by metres, centimetres and millimetres. Even more obscure are some of the terms of measurement that were used to define areas of land. Various systems were in use in England, derived from Saxon, Roman and other sources. The Weights and Measures Act, which came into force on 1st January 1826, (Editors note <https://tinyurl.com/o2qo2u4> tried to standardised the system to Imperial Measurements) , but various other acts since that date have altered things still further.

We come across various mentions of land measurements in documents relating to our ancestors and their property. Some of the terms used are now obsolete, but it may be useful to know the meaning of some of them.

An acre - unit of land measurement equal to 43,560 square feet, or 160 square rods. One acre is equivalent to 0.4047 hectares (4,047 square metres). Derived from Middle English aker (from Old English aecer) and also Latin ager ('field').

Typically, the acre was the area that could be ploughed in one day with a yoke of oxen pulling a wooden plough. The Anglo-Saxon acre was different, defined as a strip of land 1 × 1/10 furlong, or 40 × 4 rods (660 × 66 feet). Scottish and Irish acres were different again.*

In England, one acre gradually came to denote a piece of land of any shape measuring the present 4,840 square yards.

Hectare = about 2.47 acres An acre is about 0.405 hectare.

Chain = 22 yards = 66 feet = 100 Links [length of a cricket wicket, about 20 metres]

Furlong = 10 chains = 220 yards [length of a furrow, about 200 metres]

Mile = 8 furlongs = 1760 yards = 5280 feet [a thousand Roman paces (a Roman 'pace' was actually 2 paces: left, right) – about 1600 metres]

Virgate = 30 acres [but varied in different districts - also called yardland]

Hide = 4 virgates [originally the amount of land sufficient to support a family, and varied according to the locality or quality of the land]

Carucate or carrucate was a medieval unit of land area approximating the land a plough team of eight oxen could till in a single annual season – probably about 120 acres or 49 hectares. It was known by different regional names .

Oxgang or Bovate , of varying size, this land could be from 15 to 25 acres, depending on the area, fertility and condition of the land”.

I must admit that by the time I had finished reading this, and done the background research, I was just beginning to realise what a big subject it is. If anyone can recommend someone to come and speak to us about weights and measures through the ages, please let us know. It seemed bad enough going metric.

<https://tinyurl.com/vytp9wkt> , maybe it is just another generation thing 😞

A Request for Help from a Friend from Lincolnshire FHS

I am currently a member of the Lincolnshire Family History Society and tracking the branch of my BOULDING family who vacated their native Lincolnshire to work in the cotton mills of Bolton in 1870, and now seeking your help in obtaining a contact who may be willing to discuss any of the following Bolton families who were related to ourselves pre 1914.

We appear to have lost contact during the War of 1914 / 1919, The BOULDINGS married into the families of ISHERWOOD, MOTLER, SHEPERD, and PARKINSON who all lived at Bolton between the dates of 1870 / 1921

Our last contact was a WILLIAM BOULDING who was killed in a coal mining accident somewhere near Macclesfield in 1926

Thank you for any help that you can provide , Regards Ron Boulding (Please email us and we will pass on to Ron).

OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES NEWS



Sunday 12th May 2019 9:15 am – 4:45 pm 17th Annual Northern Jewish Genealogy Conference Chapel Howard Conference Suite Greater Manchester Police Training Centre

Sedgley Park Prestwich Manchester M25 0JT. Hosted by **Manchester Regional Group of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain** <https://tinyurl.com/yy2rumuy> . for full programme and Registration form

09:15 – 10:00 am Registration and Coffee

10:00 – 10:10 Opening Address & Welcome – Anthony Rosenthal

10:15 – 11:00 North West Jews of the First World War: A new database – Paula Kitching

11:00 – 11:15 Short Interval

11:15 – 12:00 pm From Dusseldorf to Manchester via the Isle of Man and other internment camps – Rob David

12:00 – 12:45 Catching Up with FamilySearch – Sharon Hintze

12:45 – 14:15 Lunch

14:15 – 14:30 President’s Address – Leigh Dworkin

14:30 – 15:15 A British Jew considers a German Passport – Robert Voss

15:15 – 15:45 Tea interval and Raffle draw

15:45 – 16:30 DNA for Genealogy: Interpreting your results – Donna Rutherford

16:45 Conference close

Please note the speakers and running order may be subject to change without notice.

We apologise if that becomes necessary.

(Editors note -I see at least 6 high profile speakers here to be heard for £27.50 a ticket, plus lunch. This would seem to be an excellent chance for us to hear such people in this part of the country.)



Saturday, 1st. June, The Catholic Family History Society <http://catholicfhs.online/>

(North West) is meeting at Fulwood Methodist Church, Watling Street Road,

Fulwood Preston PR2 8EA . Programme includes

1-0pm Arrival and Welcome by Maureen Fitzgibbon 1-30 pm “Online Newspapers, a Valuable Source for Family History Research”, by Lawrence Gregory M.A., Archivist, Newman Collection, Birmingham.

2-0 2-30 pm Afternoon Tea

3-00 pm “Sources and Problem Solving” Meet fellow family historians for discussion on established and new sources of information and advice on finding your ancestors. Bring your own research to show us! Discussion led by Brenda Hustler.

4-00 pm Meeting closes

Cost £8.00 per person (inclusive of all refreshments). Enquiries and booking - e-mail - Jeansmith1934@talktalk.net

CANCELLED Saturday November 3rd BFHS Open Day with Bolton Library Services

Some might already have been aware unofficially that we had planned to repeat our practice of the last two years in hosting this “free to all “ event at this time of the year. We have been very fortunate that we have enjoyed free accommodation and facilities so far with the use of the Bolton Library Theatre. This year however, sadly, it was not to be. We had researched and booked two very prestigious speakers with Michael Gandy from the Society of Genealogists and Gill Rossini from Aberystwyth University; also, specialists for the Help Desks were pencilled in. We have now been told in late April that our slot is no longer available, after being filled by the, (temporarily homeless but paying), Octagon Theatre Repertory Company for a short season. We are “gutted” to be honest, as we feel this will interrupt the growing momentum that we have been building over the last few years, of introducing to , and assisting the public to the vast satisfaction of family history research, and the assistance and resources available via local societies. Alternative accommodation was offered but really not suitable for our needs. We can only apologise and promise you that we already have plans for a bigger and better event next year. Comments and suggestions will be welcome.



Halliwell Local History Society <http://goo.gl/8erYyr>

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 opposite Shepherd Cross St, Bolton,

28th May ‘The Pennines and the Rise of the Factory ‘: Why the Industrial Revolution Happened Here – Stephen Counce.



Turton Local History Society <https://goo.gl/adx4GM>

The old Urban District of Turton, includes the ancient Townships of Bradshaw, Edgworth, Entwistle, Harwood, Longworth, Quarlton and Turton. Illustrated talks and meetings are held from August to April inclusive on the fourth Wednesday of the month, at Longsight Church

Centre, Harwood BL2 3HX beginning at 7.30pm. This next month’s event

22nd May - Visit to Bank Top Brewery -John Barlow

Westhoughton Local History Group – <http://goo.gl/XNugl5>

Meetings take place on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, between 10am and 12md in the room above Westhoughton Library, Market St, Westhoughton, BL5 3AU.

16th May Trip : Hardwick Hall

6th June “ Life in the 14th Century” - Linda Sawley, Linda will take you back to the 14th century with a story of everyday life 700 years ago.



Horwich Heritage Centre- <http://goo.gl/fSPsij>

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.

14th May Keith Warrender – “Hidden Gems Of Manchester”.

Saturday 11th May 10am --- 1pm Open Day “The Changing Face Of Horwich Shopping “.