



# Bolton's Genies



The Monthly Newsletter of the Bolton Family History Society: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton>

- Newsletter Comments, and Speaker Bookings: [boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk)
- Newsletter Archives since July 2014: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/newsletter/archives>
- General Society enquiries to the BFHS Secretary, Christine M Ellis [bolton@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:bolton@mlfhs.org.uk)
- Bolton Research help, please email [boltonhelpdesk@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:boltonhelpdesk@mlfhs.org.uk) or Manchester Research email a brief enquiry to, <https://www.mlfhs.uk/virtual-help-desk> or visit our
- Bolton Facebook page <https://goo.gl/n99qtW> 755 Likes and 825 Following on January 7<sup>th</sup> 2021
- Bolton Research Collection on MLFHS website: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/research> (for members only and ongoing)
- The Calendar for all 2021 MLFHS Zoom Events can be seen here and Bolton's are below. <https://mlfhs.uk/manchester/events>
- Join the MLFHS/BFHS at: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/join>

January 2021

Edition 79

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



Picture courtesy of Coralie Foster showing Winter Hill with 5 of its 7 transmitters. Note the hang gliders showing the easy way to descend on a glorious New Year's Day See below for the story of its fame long before these appeared.

Well, first of all let's wish you all a happier new year, with positive thoughts. We are assured vaccinations against the dreaded Covid 19 are imminent and some of you might already have had one by the time you read this. Brexit and the USA situation are perhaps beyond our control so we can only watch and wait. 😞

On an arbitrarily more serious local note though, we need to face up to our new 2021 situation here in Bolton FHS. As things stand, after next month's Annual Meeting, we will have no Chairman, and two other long service committee members are also retiring. The remaining committee members; -

Christine Ellis (Secretary and Tutor), Sue Boddy (Treasurer), Rita Greenwood (lead Research Officer and Tutor), Jeanette Holland (Journal Secretary and Face Book Admin), Michael Isherwood (Webmaster), Barbara Owen (Tutor), David Baker, plus I Jane Milne (Newsletter Editor, and Programme Coordinator) plan to try to carry on but obviously with a depleted team. We will actually be down at least four members, because Graham has been doing the job of two for the last five years, and Margaret and Colin Calderbank have decided that it is now time to take a much deserved retirement from official duties. (see below). The problem has been discussed at the MLFHS Executive Committee Level and we have a year's grace to try to carry on with a skeleton team. This will not be sustainable for any longer than this though to comply with administrative guidelines.

We know there are some very capable members out there who are perhaps nervous about taking on new and unknown responsibilities. Routine tasks are already, perhaps belatedly, being changed, adapted, and reallocated where possible though, and we expect we will have to be even more flexible in the future. We do try to tailor these to individual's talents and interests, and perhaps we can even help some folk develop new skills as we hopefully approach a post Covid world and many are facing enforced career changes. Our future, like that of many other community interest groups all over Bolton and beyond is unpredictable. It seems very likely that Zooming is here to stay and will be welcomed by most, as avoiding the hassle of commuting in heavy traffic and adverse weather conditions, parking etc, but it does also feel as though there is something missing. Is it just the spontaneity of friendship, and natural conversation??

Unless we get more help, this will be lost in Bolton by 2022. You don't have to be a family history expert, none of us claim to be that, but we just enjoy the fun of the adventure, commiserating with the disappointments, and take pleasure in helping others discover their own stories. For much of this you don't even need to live locally.

If you feel that you would like to at least know more and try to help as the new committee is appointed at our coming Annual Meeting, please could you email our Secretary, details above, or here to the Genie and I will pass enquiries on.

## RECENT AND COMING EVENTS

### **First An Update on our Wednesday December 2<sup>nd</sup> talk about the Pretoria Pit Disaster**

You may have gathered by now that we had problems with the recording of Garth Ratcliffe's excellent talk last month, recounting the story of the Pretoria Pit disaster of 21<sup>st</sup> December 1910. We explained our problem to the Westhoughton Local History Group where Garth is Vice Chairman and asked if they could help. Fortunately, he did repeat his talk to them on the actual anniversary of the event and they have now posted a recording of same on You Tube, freely available

<https://youtu.be/KREmARFawME> , lasting approx 45 minutes.



### **Thursday 17th December 2020 "The new Web Site - How to get the most out of it" by Hilary Hartigan of the Anglo Scots Branch Meeting**

I am passing on this report from our sister branch within the MLFHS, firstly because I think these comments should be helpful to anyone trying to do local research, and secondly to make you aware of what is freely available from other branches within the MLFHS subscription. Even better it was Zoomed so can be seen from Home, and I understand notes should be available to members shortly by this link

<https://www.mlfhs.uk/anglo-scots/research/speakers-notes>

Since the setting up of the new Society web site the general response from members has been positive. That said there were some expressions of frustration when trying to find some resource so familiar on the previous web site. Given the more light-hearted mood prior to Christmas we decided that a topic exploring the new web site would be helpful and 17 members of the Branch joined this Zoom meeting to take part. The demonstration of the web site was led by Hilary Hartigan, a member of the Branch and a leading light in the setting up of the web site. Who better? Having just received my copy of the Manchester Genealogist, I see that in the Anglo Scots section, Hilary has written an article about the web site and as the MG goes out to all 2,500+ members of the Society, then all benefit.

However, I share the content of our Branch get-together which gave rise to some questions from members the answers to which you might find helpful and I mark off the items that were highlighted for me:

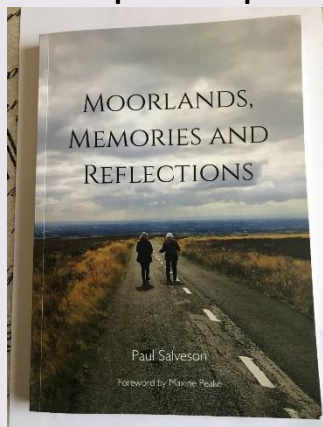
- Remember to scroll all the way down to the bottom of the page: it is good to remember that the pages of the web site are long and so not just what appears immediately on your screen. So, there is the need to make use of the scroll button on your computer. Some users have done a search and then claimed that nothing appeared. However, a scroll down would have revealed their results
- Home Page: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/> attractive to members and non-members alike: obviously members of the Society can log in and take advantage of the many thousands of records that we have, but there is on this Home Page also the opportunity for non-members to savour some of the benefits.
- By way of referencing the number of records our site has Hilary made the point that whilst, for example, the War Grave Commission site has 1.7 million records, the MLFHS site has 2.7 million. (You will need to sign in to explore further). But ----
- Web Links: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/research/find-out-more/weblinks> I must admit that this was a source that I had not tapped into let alone made use of, but it is indeed a vast source of information on, and links to, what is available on the Web. The site is subdivided into three categories; Main, Overseas and Miscellaneous, which are in their turn subdivided into useful headings to ease research. Every category that you could be interested in is there. The "Overseas" category carries websites for Canada, Australia and New Zealand whilst the "Miscellaneous" category includes categories related to military research. It is certainly a site that I shall be consulting in the future.
- The Great Database: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/databases/misc> this is the primary source of research of all of the databases on the site, 187 in total, a phenomenal number. For members of the Society, it is possible, by way of the Great Database site, to explore, individually, all the various databases. We were advised that if you know what you are looking for it is useful to go into the specific database as searching this can throw up more information than simply doing a general search via the Great Database.
- New additions to records: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/manchester/research/databases> (on the main Home page and open to all), again this is a site that I have not been familiar with but one which Hilary advised us all to keep an eye on since new records are being added all the time. Members and non-members can access this part of the site from the Home page by scrolling down to the heading "New Additions to our Record Collection" and clicking on the "read more" button. There you will see all the most recent records that have been added to the overall collection some of which may be of interest.
- Indicating membership preferences: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/branches> now this was an area that caught many of us out since we had not addressed it since the opening of the new web site. It refers to our registering what Branches of the Society we might be interested in. This was something we had done when we joined the Society and something that all new members to the Society are invited to indicate when joining. We all join the M&LFHS and this also includes our membership of the various Branches, Anglo Scots, Bolton, Oldham and Irish. However, by specifically indicating an interest in one or all of the Branches this alerts that Branch to your interest and they are able to include you in their local interest group/newsletter, etc. Could we ask you please to check on the system that you are so registered? If you want to join the Society this will be taken care of. However, if you are already a member then you have to do this manually. You do this by logging into the web site with your membership number. Then on the "Home" page, scroll down to the black box under the "Unique resources for members" section <https://www.mlfhs.uk/member-area> that says "Join M&LFHS". Although you are already a member, click on this and you will be taken to your own profile page. On this there is an option under the "Your Personal Details" section to "Update your membership details". Click on this and you are taken to a page where you can "Edit membership details". One of the options that you have is headed "Preferences". Click on this and you will see all the Branches indicated with check boxes next to them. Click on the "interest" that you have and click "Submit". I am sorry that it is a rather convoluted process, but once done it does let the Society offer a better service by meeting all the interests that members might have.

**Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup> our BFHS Christmas Quiz** was posted on our Facebook page, and sent out two days later by our extra newsletter, edition 78b <https://tinyurl.com/ybu7sjn2> . The answers were subsequently posted on our Facebook page December 26<sup>th</sup>, and also here <https://tinyurl.com/y99eyy7f> .

With thanks to Pete Greenwood, and we hope you enjoyed same.



**Wednesday January 6<sup>th</sup> Prof Paul Salveson Zoomed in to tell us about his new book “Moorlands, Memories and Reflections”, and more about the plans to commemorate the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the original Winter Hill Trespass in September 1896.**



Zooming is of course a big learning curve for most of us, including many of the speakers. Those who have had to learn quickly and under pressure for home based work, have probably mastered it much more quickly than the rest of us. There are of course also tricks to learn for managing presentations, even after learning the basic technique of talking to each other. Each of our talks so far seems to have been an improvement on the last, and we hope you are coping with our occasional



hiccup.

On this occasion we had 47 attending as Paul was welcomed, and once the sound control was sorted out Paul went on to tell us how he came to write this book, as an update of the writer Allen Clarke's [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C. Allen Clarke](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C._Allen_Clarke) book published 100 years ago “Moorlands and Memories, sub-titled ‘rambles and rides in the fair places of Steam-Engine Land’”. Paul has explored the places Allen wrote about in Bolton and the north west, plus several more areas of industrial development, travelling mainly by foot but also bicycle and other forms of simple transport, and commented on the changes in the area, as industry has come and then gone again and the legacies still to be found. Of particular interest to us was the reference to the Winter Hill Trespass of 10, 000 people in 1896 and its significance in social reform, and the anniversary plans for this coming September Covid precautions permitting.

The talk was recorded and will be available shortly via this link to members. <https://mlfhs.uk/member-area/documents/bolton-records/meeting-notes-archive> Next please could we ask you to read the article below which is a reduced version of our outgoing Chairman's full report and can be read in full following this link.

<https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/about/what-we-do>. This is part of the formalities we are required to make prior to our Annual Meeting at the beginning of our next talk in February. I hope it will give you an understanding of our activities over this last year and needs for the future. Copies would normally have been waiting for you on your chairs, but we are adapting. 😊.



## Summary of the Bolton FHS Chairman's Report, 2020.

The Society met at the Bolton Old Links Golf Club in January, February, and March but then Covid19 struck, and all meetings stopped. Meetings began again in November and December using the Zoom website facility. The first three monthly meetings averaged 81 attendees, the Zoom meetings averaged 55 including people from Australia and Canada.

The MLFHS website underwent a major re-write during the summer and Michael Isherwood is the Webmaster of the Bolton pages. Since the website's unveiling there have been many detail improvements carried out and I am sure more will follow as use of the site develops.

During 2020 our Facebook page has been an especially important means of staying in contact with the membership and the increasing numbers of Followers shows how much the Bolton pages are appreciated. The work of providing a new page every day falls to Jeanette Holland and I, for one, am amazed at the quality of the product that she has provided for us.

Another important means of communicating with members during 2020 has been the Bolton's Genies newsletter which Jane Milne has produced since its inception in 2014. Covid-19 has provided Jane with lots of opportunities for innovation, which is another way of saying that Jane has had to be inventive to find material to fill the Genie, a task she rose to with splendid effect.

Help Desk and Research Advice, The Manchester Genealogist Magazine, Workshops, Projects, Visits, MLFHS Executive Committee, Contributions to the Lancashire BMD Website, Bolton History Centre are all dealt with in the Report. See <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/about/what-we-do>

### Margaret and Colin Calderbank

In December Margaret and Colin informed the Secretary that after many years of service to the Society they will not be standing for re-election to the Committee in February 2021.

Margaret was for many years the Chairman of the branch and together they have run Workshops, digitised many records which are now available in the MLFHS Bookshop as cd's or downloads, manned Help Desks, and generally been stalwart workers for the Society.

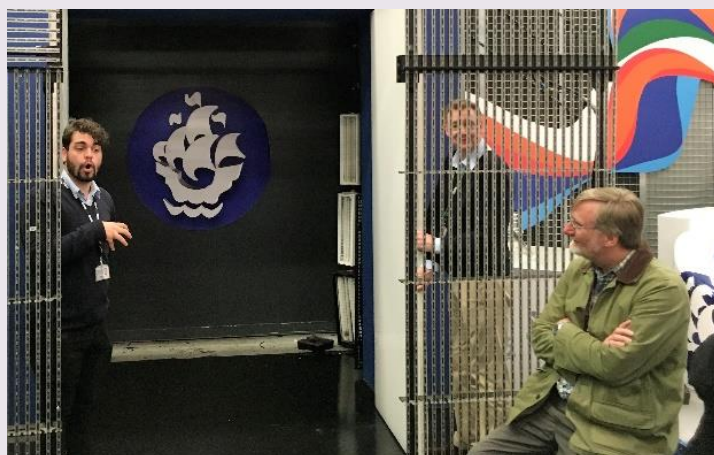
On behalf of all the members of the Bolton FHS I would like to take this opportunity to say Thank You to Margaret and to Colin for their outstanding work for the Society and hope that Margaret enjoys her retirement. We are fortunate that Colin has agreed to continue working by running the on-line Help Desk.

This is the last Chairman's Report I shall be making, as I do not intend to stand for re-election at the February 2021 Annual Meeting, I therefore wish to place on record my grateful thanks to all the Committee members and those members of the Society who have given me so much assistance during my Chairmanship.

Graham Holt, Chairman, Bolton FHS, 1st Jan 2021

**Editor's Note** Please could all current and potential members spare half an hour to read this document. This year you actually have a better chance to digest it than previously.

Thinking beyond Brexit and Covid, here on the domestic front in Bolton we are at a pivotal point in the life of your local family history society. Graham Holt has served as Chairman since June 2017, when as Vice Chairman he stepped in to support the then Chairman Brian Whittle who took an early and sudden retirement due to ill health, soon after we



had made this visit to Media City. This was only meant to be a temporary arrangement until we could find more support at least as a new Vice Chairman, but no new help appeared, and he has been doing the work of two ever since. We think he has more than earned his Blue Peter badge and can only express our sincere thanks to him for leading us, very skilfully and successfully through the last few years.

If you want our meetings, friendship, and research support to continue beyond this year, we need help NOW. --- Please!

**Wednesday February 3<sup>rd</sup> we have our Zoomed Annual Meeting.**

Picture shows last years, meeting as it should have been this year.



This is expected to only take approximately 10 minutes but is a legal requirement of our existence. We hope you all understand that Bolton FHS is a branch of the much larger Manchester and Lancashire FHS. Although we have our own committee, which manages our own programme and budget adapting to what we understand to be our local Bolton needs, we work under the umbrella organisation at Manchester. Our committee up to this year has been composed of ten members although there should have been eleven. Graham Holt has been doing the work of two – Chair and Deputy Chair. Both Margaret and Colin Calderbank are also now retiring, making us four short. We need you all to please urgently consider if you can contribute to the society's management or activities in any way, allowing for adapting to these unprecedented times, or else Bolton FHS will cease to exist next year.

**then Dr Alan Crosby will be Zooming in to tell us about a "Rogue's Gallery: of Crime and Criminals in Bolton 1625-1645"**

*"This talk uses the county's quarter sessions records (which are held at Lancashire Archives in Preston) to explore some of the murkier aspects of the Bolton area and its people in the reign of Charles I. These are not arch-villains but petty offenders ... often opportunistic thieves and small-time criminals, just like their modern counterparts. But the often colourful language of the documents brings these episodes to life and gives us vivid and revealing insights into the attitudes and behaviour of people who just might be our ancestors, almost four centuries ago. One thing is certain – their world was unimaginably different from ours, but human nature does not change!"*

Alan describes himself as "a very well-known local and family historian living in Preston. He has contributed to every single issue of the BBC Who Do You Think You Are? Magazine since it first appeared in October 2007 and is a regular visitor to the Bolton Family History Society. Most of his work focuses on the local history of North West England, with an emphasis on social history and the landscapes of the region".

Of course, we all know him well by now after several years of very well received talks, and I am sure this will be equally interesting and very Bolton centred, although offering ideas to check out elsewhere.





## Saturday 10th April 2021 Family History Show

Early Birders get Best Value - Show Tickets only £7.50 -until 31st January 2021

Building on the amazing success and lessons learned from November 2020 our April 2021 show will feature MORE inspiring SPEAKERS MORE knowledgeable EXHIBITORS, plus exciting NEW FEATURES.

As someone who tried to attend the last show, I am relieved to learn that Slack has now been retired in favour of "online live chat" direct from the main website. In addition to ALL TALKS remaining available for at least 7days afterwards. EARLY BIRD TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW [www.fhf-reallyuseful.com](http://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com)

## GENIE'S TIPS for January 2021



Friday, 11 December 2020 New online repository for Irish Roman Catholic archives

<https://catholicarchives.ie/>. We are told *"The benefits of such a central repository include the provision of a platform for smaller archives to receive greater exposure, while researchers can enjoy free online searching and browsing of a wider range of material, catalogued to international standards, from archives that normally have fairly limited access arrangements.*

*The catalogue is fully searchable, by name, places, events, subjects and archival institution, allowing for cross-referencing and browsing by users. It's been created using open-source software, so it's uncluttered in presentation and easy to move around and narrow down items of interest.*

## MISCELLANEOUS

### More books

"The Family Detective" by Steve Gill <https://tinyurl.com/ya2rjuze>



Those of you who managed to attend any of the three talks that Steve Gill photograph historian, has given to us over the last few years, will I am sure, be glad to learn he has finally written a book covering many of his discussion points.

I found his explanation of the history and journey of photography over the last couple of centuries fascinating, and the information is given in a very digestible form with beautiful illustrations.

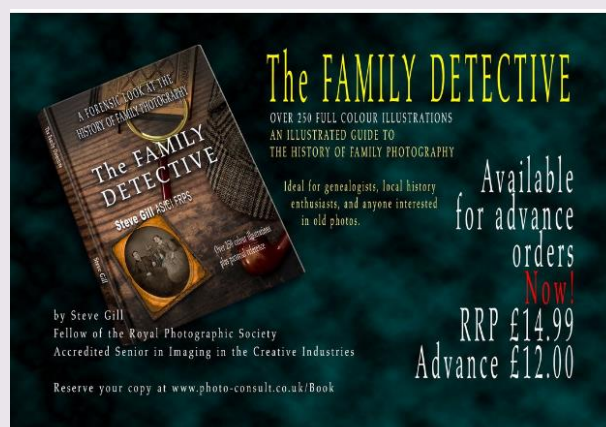
(In fact, my first thought on my preview was "this is just like his talks were and it feels as if we are still in the same room".)

Those of us who are lucky enough to have had photos passed down to us from previous generations will now be able to begin

to appreciate the skills and planning that were involved in the preparation of these family antiques. Steve does in fact point out that the general guidelines of such terminology is that the item is at least 100 years old and should be treasured and protected as such in its inevitable fragility. Most of these items are of course also unique.

His discussion goes on to explain the many innovations which contributed to new equipment and development techniques. Techies will I am sure be very interested in his debate about the experimental cameras and trying out new chemicals, lighting, timing tweaks etc.

The highlight of the book for family historians though will be how to analyse the clues in the picture and detect the story behind it. If questions such as Why, Where, When, Who, Which and How, can be answered logically, this should provide a whole new quality to the content of the picture.



- Are locations, and /or events being recorded for posterity because they were of significance at the time and it may be useful for us to work that out?

- Was the picture taken at home or from further afield, and why was it taken, perhaps a family or historical event???
- What clues might be there in the fashion style, furniture, surroundings.
- Who is there and what is their facial expression and activity???

Steve concludes his book with a very useful and simple to use index, of the different types of photograph presentation produced over the years and help in dating them and analysing their contents.

Well recommended for all family historians, and we hope we will have the opportunity to hear more from Steve before too long.

#### Lancashire Records



<http://goo.gl/l29JpL>



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

#### COMING ZOOMED ACTIVITIES FROM OTHER MLFHS BRANCHES

<https://mlfhs.uk/manchester/events>

Please note these are all included free to subscribed MLFHS members, £3 to guests.



#### Saturday, 2pm – 3,30pm Oldham and District Branch

It would be of great help to us, if we could receive any questions that you might have, by email, in advance of a talk. Please send them to the Oldham Branch email address

[oldham\\_webmaster@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:oldham_webmaster@mlfhs.org.uk) There is also the option to book for the talk through the MLFHS website, Oldham Branch, 'Meetings' Page. <https://www.mlfhs.uk/oldham/events>



Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2.00pm -3,30pm "Just Taken your DNA test with Ancestry? How do you work through your Ancestry DNA test results?" <https://tinyurl.com/y8qwq7mv> FULLY BOOKED,

next meeting is

#### Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2pm -4pm Working Class Suffragette - The Life of Annie Kenney

A talk by Carol Talbot on the life and times of Annie Kenney. Local lass, Annie Kenney rose from humble beginnings to be one of the leaders of one of the best known campaign groups, the Suffragettes. Imprisoned many times, often enduring hunger strikes, in the fight to gain votes for Women.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/working-class-suffragette-the-life-of-annie-kenney-tickets-129690845811?ref=ecal>



#### Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January New Year Quiz and Chat

We look forward to seeing you. Eventbrite Link <https://www.mlfhs.uk/anglo-scots/events>



**MOST OTHER LOCAL BOLTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES' MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY SUSPENDED, BUT SOME LIKE US ARE TRYING TO MAKE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS. WE ADVISE CHECKING THEIR RESPECTIVE WEBSITES PERIODICALLY FOR UPDATES ON SAME.**



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

Email [margaretk@talktalk.net](mailto: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,



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

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.

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

2021 sees the Westhoughton Local History Group still subject to lockdown and unable to enjoy our usual twice-monthly physical meetings and trips to places of interest. We are now meeting online and providing talks of interest to our members.

At 7.30pm on the Second Thursday of each month, we have a talk using Zoom, for up to an hour. The first two are:

**Thursday 14th January, "Bolton Workhouse and workhouse children" by Dave Burnham. (See below for details). Locked down? Think times are bad? Well start 2021 by seeing what conditions were like in the Bolton Workhouse 200 years ago!**

*"When the Poor Law was reformed in 1834 no specific arrangements were made for destitute children. There were voluntary societies for orphans and foundlings and as the industrial revolution created more urban slums, people began to notice children on the streets, children abandoned by drunken parents, children murdered by so called foster parents. People like Thomas Stephenson set up homes for children, others arranged for them to be sent abroad. As the nineteenth century came to an end local Poor Law Unions and others began to gear up their response to children. Infant Life Protection Visitors visited foster parents, Lady Visitors were employed to check on ventilation, food and drunkenness, married couples were employed in nurseries not just shift working child attendants. Slowly as the twentieth century took shape more focussed care for children began to be put in place. But of course, there were disagreements about how best to care for children, whether preparing girls for domestic service was good enough and boys for work on fishing boats. looking back now some of the ways children were helped, seem appealing - others feel right up to date!"*

**Thursday 11th February, "Sin City" - there's an intriguing title to tickle your imagination, by Joe O'Neill.**

For further information on any of our talks, or to receive joining instructions to meetings, please email [Phil\\_WLHG@outlook.com](mailto:Phil_WLHG@outlook.com)



**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.

Open Days, are held most months on Saturdays between 10am --- 1pm

And finally

## Our BFHS 2021 programme

which has been left at the end for you to be able to conveniently print off for future reference. All programmes are booked initially to be Zoomed vi Eventbrite, and some may stay this way depending on many circumstances. Please bear with us. All meetings start at 7.30pm after signing into the Waiting Area from 7.15pm, are free to MLFHS members, and £3 to guests.

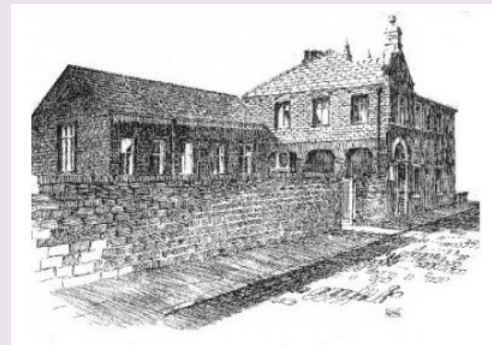
**Wed 3rd February, Dr Alan Crosby ‘Rogues Gallery: Crime and Criminals in Bolton 1625-1645’.** Preceded by Bolton’s annual General Meeting, please see notes above. Using the county’s quarter sessions records (which are held at Lancashire Archives in Preston) this talk will then explore some of the murkier aspects of the Bolton area and its people in the reign of Charles I. To book via Eventbrite please click <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/128426411855>

**Wed 3rd March Speaker: Carol Wells “Irish Research”** Carol is a member of the MLFHS Tuesday helpdesk team at Central Library, Manchester with a particular interest in Irish Genealogy. She has been researching the Irish branch of her family for over 30 years and has travelled to Ireland many times over a number of years visiting all the main genealogy centres in Dublin. The talk is a practical guide to help you get the most out of your Irish research using the main websites that are available and introducing some that you may not be familiar with. To book please click on <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/128427916355>

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April Gordon Benson “Quakerism (aka the Society of Friends), in Bolton”** Is a busy member of the Pendle Hill Quakers Pendle Hill Area Meeting, taking a particular interest in research and the history of the local Friends. His name was suggested to us because of this interest by the Friends of our local Bolton Meeting House at Silverwell Street [https://bolton.pendlehillquakers.org.uk/?page\\_id=33](https://bolton.pendlehillquakers.org.uk/?page_id=33) and I understand he is a very popular speaker within their organisation. They prefer the term Friends to Quakers which is a mere nickname. Gordon has been good enough to take it upon himself to look into local records, to help us understand how the group progressed in Bolton and has told us "The Friends Meeting House in Silverwell Street is well known as a venue for many local groups in Bolton. However, many people know little of Quakers other than chocolates or their crusade against slavery. This talk will explain how they worship and what they believe. The Society of Friends, to give them their formal name, has its roots in the radicalism of the English Civil War and it grew rapidly during the Commonwealth period. Since then, it has developed worldwide particularly in America and Africa.

Quakers have had a continuous presence in Bolton for over 250 years, its members have included some prominent local families”.

This illustration is of Tipping’s Street Meeting House, courtesy of [https://bolton.pendlehillquakers.org.uk/?page\\_id=33](https://bolton.pendlehillquakers.org.uk/?page_id=33) built 1820 and demolished in 1971 in preparation for St Peters Way. Source (c) <http://members.pendlehillquakers.org.uk/>.



To book please click <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bolton-fhs-meeting-quakerism-in-bolton-tickets-128428351657> on sale Jan 10th

And for booking in February ---

**Wed, 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 Jackie Depelle “Females in the Family – Ladies, Ships, locomotives and More”**

Although the Representation of the People Act in 1918 gave some women the right to vote it wasn’t until 1928 that they got equal franchise with men over 21. Thereafter Electoral Registers become a vital resource for tracing the female line, bridging the gap between the 1911 census and today. Bring the 1939 Register into play and many sources in this talk are particularly, though not exclusively, relevant to researching women and developing the maternal side of family trees. However, there are some objects traditionally known as “she” which, when researched, may provide a fascinating insight into your ancestor’s life.

To book please click on <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bolton-fhs-meeting-females-in-the-family-ladies-ships-locomotives-tickets-128429499089> on sale Feb 7th

More dates to watch out for include

Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	David Joy	“Cow Keepers of Liverpool”
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Joe O’Neill	“Jerome Caminada, Manchester’s Sherlock Holmes”
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> August	Victoria Coyle	“The Cotton Famine and how badly was Bolton affected’
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> September	Anna Watson	“Researching Illegitimate Ancestors”
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> October	David Tilsley	“Researching using Education Records”
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Dr Penny Walters	“Why did the Welsh leave Wales (1800s)?”

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