



# Bolton's Genies

The Monthly Newsletter of the Bolton Family History Society:

<https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton>

## 40 Years Old This Month

More on our history here <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/about/history>

•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>

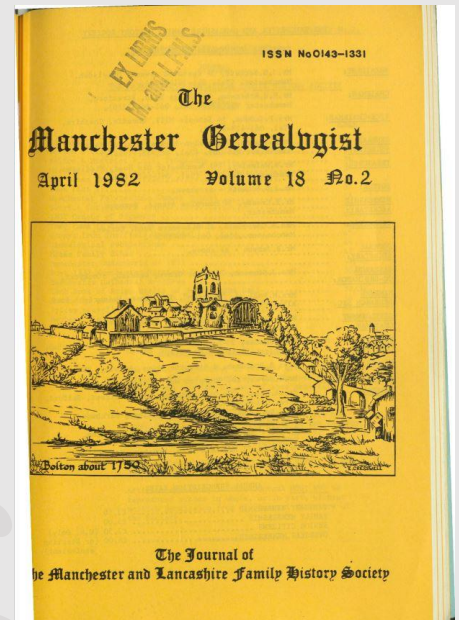
or visit our

•Bolton Facebook page <https://goo.gl/n99qtW> 909 Likes and 1008 Following on Sunday Feb 6th

•Bolton Research Collection on MLFHS website: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/research>

(for members only and ongoing)

•Join the MLFHS/BFHS at: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/join> .



February 2022 Edition 93

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



Hello All. You might wonder why this month's banner picture is of an old front cover of our MLFHS quarterly journal dated April 1982. Have a closer look at the picture, and you should then recognise that it is of St Peters Parish Church, Bolton le Moors dated 1750. This edition of the journal marks a landmark moment in the history of Bolton FHS, and it is all recorded here in this edition. We knew anecdotally that the society had launched in 1982 but nobody was able to recall the date of the first meeting, and we could find no related documents, until EUREKA the penny dropped with a resounding clang, that the first report is in our own MLFHS records in our Members section. The digitalised archived copies of all the journals are there available going back to 1965. <https://www.mlfhs.uk/member-area/manchester-genealogist-back-issues> Our opening meeting was held in the Friends Meeting House Bolton, and if it was on our customary first Wednesday of the month, it must have been February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1982. More on this later.

In the meantime, and again on February 2nd , 40 years on, we have held our 40<sup>th</sup> AGM . Whoever could have imagined then that it would be done via these "new-fangled" computer things, communicating by something called the internet, where we could see and talk to each other as if we are in the same room. See report below.

## OUR LAST and NEXT MONTHLY MEETINGS

**Wednesday February 2<sup>nd</sup> our Zoomed annual general meeting** . Unfortunately, there was a lot of sound interference, and our Acting Chairman did not manage to give his report. However, the MLFHS Chairman, David Muil, conducted the Annual Meeting. He mentioned that Bolton Branch is celebrating the anniversary of its very first meeting on this very day in 1982. He praised the great strides the Branch has made to assist family historians in their research in respect of talks, projects and latterly the Bolton newsletter "The Genie." All this work needs to be carried forward by the next generation and, as the Branch committee is low in numbers, he hoped that members who enjoy the fruits of the Committee's labour will come forward to assist the working of the branch in any way they can. The existing Committee members were then accepted and confirmed as the 2022 -2023 team plus allocation of extra none committee roles.

1. David Baker Chairman
2. Christine Ellis Secretary, email: [bolton@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:bolton@mlfhs.org.uk) Workshop Leader
3. Susan Boddy Treasurer
4. Barbara Owen Workshop Leader,
5. Jane Milne Newsletter Editor, Programme Manager
6. Rita Greenwood Journal Secretary, Workshop Leader
7. Michael Isherwood web master and IT manager
8. Val Chadwick

Supported by Graham Holt Zoom Host and Project Secretary.

As David Baker has mentioned in his written **Chairman's report** <https://tinyurl.com/2675b66x> our committee numbers are seriously reduced, and a plea went out at our meeting for more help.

(Editor's Note- May I add to that by reminding you that we are all only volunteers and none of us claim to be experts in any of these areas. We are just doing our best to keep the BFHS going.

The main difficulties are currently in the IT and editing areas and this means that quite often they could be resolved from anywhere in the world. We need Administrators for our Facebook page which is growing steadily and becoming an important means of short notice communication as well as generally sharing interesting family history related information or handling queries.

It seems our Eventbrite booking system has also been causing some difficulties but hopefully resolved now. From April you will have the option of attending meetings physically or by Zoom. Both need to be booked via the Eventbrite link though so that we can control numbers. <https://mlfhs.uk/bolton/events> . We do not plan to take money at the door as we used to, to reduce cash handling.

Note, if you click to "Follow" the BFHS when booking, you will then be automatically notified by Eventbrite when the next meetings tickets are available.

We also need help with the newsletter and journal. This could be initially by contributing material, but eventually managing the editing. (Reporting talks would be very helpful to us. We can illustrate but it is the actual typing that is causing problems for arthritic hands.)

**We then heard a talk about "Dating by Design" by Steve Gill professional photographer and photo historian, FRPS, ASICI** <https://www.photo-consult.co.uk/>

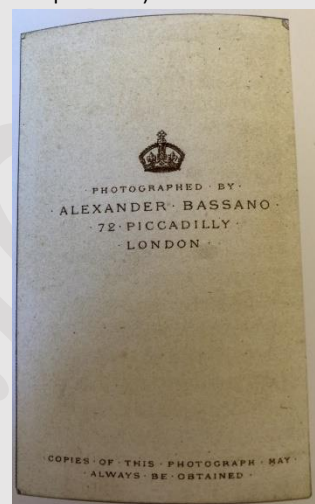
The Zoom host, Graham Holt, introduced Steve Gill, who started by asking how long those present take to look at family photographs. Most people see very little! It is natural to look at subjects' faces first, especially if they are relatives and especially in black and white photographs. In coloured photographs, it is usual to notice very brightly coloured objects. In Steve's example, we saw Del Potter's yellow van and not the bridal couple featured.



He then recommended sitting down and really looking, taking note of the background – shops, vehicles, post boxes, streetlights and anything else that could help to date the photograph. It is good to guess why the photograph was taken – could it be a christening, wedding anniversary (wedding photos being self-explanatory), “big” birthday, the little boy wearing his first trousers (breeching), church occasions and so on. Is there anyone missing from the photograph – a recent bereavement. Then consider when the photograph was taken – a baby whose birth is known, fashions - young women mostly wear up-to-date modes – elderly gentlemen might stick to tried-and-tested outfits.

The earliest Daguerreotype, Ambrotype and Ferrotypes photographs were taken in studios, and it is possible to identify the dates when photographers were at the addresses (often on the backs of photos).

In answer to a question from the audience, Steve demonstrated that if you flip up a Daguerreotype photograph (made on a copper plate with a thin silver coat), you will see a negative image whereas Ambrotype photos, whilst looking similar to Daguerreotypes, do not have a negative image, (as they are made on glass covered by certain chemicals which change according to the light they are exposed to), Ferrotypes are printed on metal, usually tin. Later photographs can be more difficult to date, as casual photographs became more popular, especially after the box Brownie camera was produced. Photographers plied their trade at the seaside. Postcards with divided backs – one for the address, one for a message started in 1907. There are lots of automatically coloured photographs these days, but true colours are not always correct. Faces are usually good but from the examples shown, it is clear that hands, arms etc. can be blue and not recognised as flesh



You can get a good idea of the date of any photograph by collating all the various components with the relevant dates, with a minimum of four components resulting in the best guess of date. Taking the photograph below as an example:

The Bassano studio was top-end so presumably the lady's style will be very fashionable. The hairpiece with flowers would match her large bustle. The dress was probably silk to emphasise wealth. The wristwatch would be extremely fashionable, as would the fan in her hand.

Suggested areas of interest, therefore include

CDV Square corners 1855 1870

Hairstyle – false high plait 1870 1880

Square yoke in lace 1865 1870

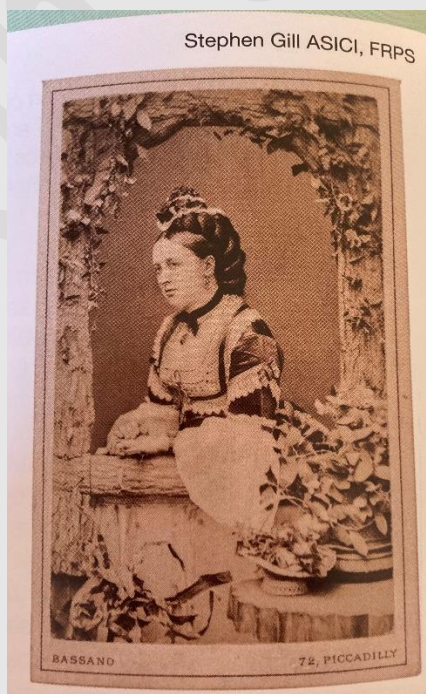
Low sleeve puffed 1865 1870

Studio operation 1870 1881

Average date range 1864 1874

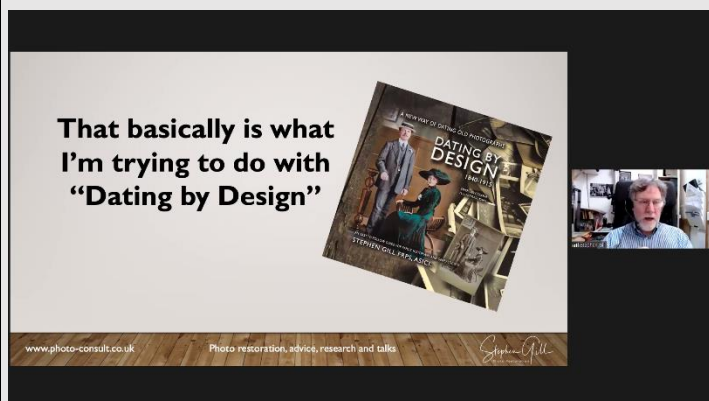
Average date 1869

Adjusted date 1870



On compiling areas of interest, the date may have to be adjusted (as in this case) if the result (for example, if the address of the photography studio) does not match the criteria. If doing the above, make sure that the photograph is an original, rather than a subsequent copy.

The photograph and its description, together with the areas of interest are reproduced by kind permission of Mr. Gill, and these entries are from p66 and 67 of his book. "Dating by Design"



Steve closed with recommending books:

Professional Lancashire Photographers 1840-1940 by Gillian Jones

"The Family Detective" by Steve himself published 2021 ISBN 978-1-5272-8221-6 can be obtained from the author at [www.photo-consult.co.uk](http://www.photo-consult.co.uk)

"Dating by Design" again by Steve Gill, published by the Family History Federation. 2022 ISBN 978-1 906280-60-4

Many thanks Steve for another fascinating talk .

**Wednesday March 2<sup>nd</sup> a Zoomed talk by Dave Burnham "Not Mass Observation Again!"** Yes! We've recently uncovered just how important local working people were to the 1937 - 1940 Bolton/Worktown survey. And here is Dave's introduction to this .

I am trying to find out about several people who volunteered for the study of life in Bolton undertaken by Mass Observation (MO) between 1937 and 1940 – and I'd like some help.

- This Mass Observation (MO ) study, now famous, was set up and led by ornithologist, and anthropologist Tom Harrisson and journalist and poet Charles Madge. While Madge was a remarkable fellow, Tom Harrissons' reputation veers all the way from charlatan, through war hero and polymath to genius. David Attenborough fronted a six part BBC series about him, The Barefoot Anthropologist in 2007. It's on YouTube in 6 parts and is worth a look. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SVtGT6g4-64>
- The Bolton Study, 'an anthropology of ourselves,' was a three-year attempt to observe and report life as it was lived in one town. Harrisson charmed local power brokers to fund him, and he set up his HQ in a terraced house, 85 Davenport Street, and over the course of the next three years attracted hundreds of volunteers to help, some who stayed for a week or so, some much longer and some who came and went several times. Although the study used desk top research, formal surveys and interviews, the Mass Observers are generally remembered today for watching and listening to people, 'observing' and noting down what people, did and said. In the MO jargon reports based on listening (snooping as some called it), were referred to as 'Overheards.' If people were followed, these were called 'Follows.'
- The result of this activity was thousands of reports: typed, scribbled, long, short, boring, hilarious, frustrating, comprehensive, wonderful. This vast archive is available in Bolton History Centre, in Bolton Central Library in Le Mans Crescent. For a broader introduction to this fascinating project read something like Worktown by David Hall (2015) or Hester Barron and Claire Langhamer's very moving The Class of '37 (2021).
- There has from the 1970s, when the Mass Observation records were properly catalogued, continuing academic interest in MO and the material has been regularly used by social historians. A notable feature of what has been published is a concentration on the volunteers who came here for a few weeks from



down south. Many of these privileged, affluent people went on to lead remarkable lives: Tom Driberg, Woodrow Wyatt, Norman Cohn, William Empson, Richard Crossman, Celia Fremlin, Julian Trevelyan...and so on.

- But there were other volunteers, local people, including unemployed men, weavers and spinners. There is precious little written about these mostly working class people, precious little known and to be frank not much interest. The implication of some publications is that local volunteers were peripheral to the project. A couple of years ago, before the plague struck, a small group of us tracked down around thirty local volunteers and investigated what they did. Far from being peripheral to the Bolton Study these people were central to it.
- I am putting together a book about these locals to be called Worktown's People and want to find out more about them: their family background, what happened to them after Mass Observation left Bolton and later on, after the war. But they had no public profile, so this is difficult. A selection names I am having difficulty with are here. All the addresses are Bolton addresses:
  - Annie Barlow - b. 11/10/1916. 68 Pennington Road, worked at the Employment Exchange in Radcliffe. Married Alec Hughes photographer and MO volunteer, in 1940.
  - Alice Bennett – b. 8/09/1913, Eric Bennett b. 12/05/1908, 15 Powell street. Labour Party activists. Possibly lived in Wallingford, Berkshire in the war.
  - Thomas Binks – b. 28/12/1908 at 42 Burnaby Street. Lived at 21 Chip Hill Road. On the Worker's Educational Association Council from 1938. Wartime Conscientious Objector Bridget Coulton – Teacher, nothing else known.
  - Joe Derbyshire – b. 11/07/1883, 52, Arnold Street (or Arundel Street). Labour Party member. Had been a collier and was unemployed in 37/38.
  - Duckworth, Ernest (b.14/9/1900), Constance (b. 21/5/1904), daughter Sheila (b. 14/11/1927), son Thomas (b. 1935). The family lived at 75, Davenport Street in the 1930s. Sheila married Fred Farnworth after the war.
  - Tom Hadfield – b. 10/8/1908, 82, Davenport Street, warehouseman, Labour Party.
  - Tom Honeyford – b. 21/3/1891, born in Walkden, a spinner, piano player. 193 Worsley Road, Married Clara Alice Wolfendale (b, 22/6/1894).
  - Peter Jackson – b. 22/1/1893, 19, Moorland Grove, served in the Royal Navy in the Great War, engineer, unemployed in 1937. Children Edna and Norman.
  - Joyce Mangnall (nee Margery Joyce Dalton) – b. 1/3/1917 in Chippenham, Wiltshire, but came to Bolton with her family. She was a weaver. Married James Mangnall in April 1935, she from 69, Old Road, Astley Bridge, he from Pegamoid Street Tonge Moor. They emigrated to Australia. She died in 1979 and is buried in Lilydale Lawn Cemetery, Yarra, Melbourne.
  - Bill Rigby – b. 22/11/1879, unemployed miner, with two daughters. Lived at 34 Hawker Avenue.
  - Harold Shaw – optician and Socialist Club member. 69 Davenport Street.
  - Barbara Smethurst – b. 8/12/1916 lived on Chorley New Road, educated at the London School of Economics, sister of Philip Smethurst, the inventor of a photographic light metre. Daughter of a yarn merchant .
  - Doris Taylor – b 22/10/1911, 69 Market Street, Westhoughton, with her brother Leslie Taylor – b. 28/12/1915, lived in mother's drapery store. Father retired carpenter. Doris was an Elementary School teacher at Pike's Lane. Leslie had worked in a pharmacy.

You'll note I have names and addresses for many of these people, but know nothing of their humanity or family ties or personalities. That's what I am after. Can you help me find them?

A long shot this, sorry, but thanks, Dave Burnham, [daveburnham@virginmedia.com](mailto:daveburnham@virginmedia.com) , 07758 365696

Editor Please if you can help Dave, he would welcome any contributions either via the contact details as above or maybe discuss after his talk on the evening.

Tickets to be booked via Eventbrite <https://tinyurl.com/4vb265fw> . Note have you opted to "follow BFHS when booking? This way you will ensure notification by email of our future events .

## IN BOLTON WE CURRENTLY HAVE MONTHLY ONLINE MEETINGS BUT NOTE

WE PLAN TO CONTINUE ONLINE MEETINGS UNTIL APRIL, THEN WE PLAN TO RESUME PHYSICAL TALKS , WITH ZOOM STREAMING, FROM BOLTON GOLF CLUB ON CHORLEY NEW ROAD BL6 4AJ.



**PLEASE NOTE OUR CHANGE OF VENUE . This is the link to get there from any local address by private or public transport.**

<https://www.boltongolfclub.co.uk/contact/how-to-find-us/>

### BOOKING

ALL TALKS ARE STILL TO BE BOOKED VIA EVENTBRITE TO FACILITATE SAFE CONTROL OF NUMBERS IN THE ROOM. YOU WILL SEE TWO OPTIONS TO BOOK on this page, <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/events>

- ONE FOR THE LIVE TALK,
- ONE FOR THE ZOOM

Please apply for the ticket which suits your situation the best. We hope to be able to resume as near normal physical meetings as we used to enjoy preCovid, whilst maintaining a safe environment regarding our new lifestyle. Let's look after and respect each other's concerns. The taking of swabs before attending a live event is still considered good practice, wear masks if preferred, use any sanitiser available on entrance, give each other space.

To those who we have been meeting on Zoom who cannot attend our physical meetings welcome! It is so good to be able to greet you this way, and to know we can share events live as they are happening. We hope you enjoy same, and comments/ suggestions / help, will always be appreciated .

We are all on a big learning curve here. We hope you are all able to join us.

Talks from other MLFHS branches remain available of course and free to all members each month. Just scroll down the page of this link <https://www.mlfhs.uk/> , and select an event. Visitors are also welcome for a small charge.

- When?

Bolton's are 7pm for 7.30pm start on the first Wednesday of most months.

- How?

We use Eventbrite so all you need to do is open this page <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/events> , select the talk you wish to attend, left click and follow the booking instructions.

From April extras include a Help Desk for personal research, Stationery Table for discounted equipment.

**Please ensure you make the correct booking ie Live or Zoom as booking on the incorrect screen will present problems both for yourself and the committee.**

## GENIE'S TIPS for February 2022

### January 29<sup>th</sup> Myko Clelland's talk to the MLFHS re the 1921 Census.

I will just make a brief reference to this excellent talk, which was fully subscribed to our maximum 100 with a waiting list , but sadly I think I still only saw 81 places filled. It really does seem unfair for those who so badly wanted tickets but couldn't obtain them. Please can we ask everybody to cancel if you find you can't attend . The information came fast and intensely but members will still be able to access this talk , plus a similar one due out Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> via this link, so I will not go into too much detail. <https://www.mlfhs.uk/1921-census-event> .



Myko first explained how thrilled he was to have discovered he has a northwest connection in his own tree. He then went on to explain the social context of when this census was taken i.e., a world coming out of a global pandemic, ongoing civil and industrial strife, distrust in politicians at an all-time high, members of the government accused of corruption and taking back handers, parts of the UK on the brink of independence. Yes, it rang many bells. We were listening.

We noted that the addresses on the census might be those of a holiday, and not home, much resentment from women who had seen fulfilling personal emancipation filling the jobs usually taken by the men who had gone to the Front, but they were now expected to return to "home duties" and start families; and yet many men had not returned, others had but were disabled, and others come back to unemployment. There were many orphans after the double whammy of war and the flu pandemic.

The 1921 census attempted to get a picture of this new situation statistically to learn exactly what they needed to deal with in a time of limited resources.

Myko went on to explain how when Findmypast acquired the contract to make the census available to the public, their first priority was to clean and stabilize the paperwork after a near century spent in storage underground somewhere. This was done using very sophisticated techniques with even the extra pencils, paperclips, insects and other "attachments" also retained.

Each section was split into three segments to ensure unbiased transcription. Individuals were asked for their age to the month to try to obtain more accuracy. This was the first time that divorce was recorded, effort were made to try to get more accuracy with the addresses, and enumerators from the local district were very useful here.

Myko now moved on to explaining how to home into the specific census copy required before actually buying it. It seems each type of living situation has its own schedule and code, so street living will be different from an institution, school , military base, ship etc . Troops stationed overseas were recorded for the first time. Imagine doing all this without computers.!!

It is accepted that there are transcription errors. This is partly because of time pressures to release the final project on the day agreed of Jan 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and partly because of staffing and precautions during the

pandemic. FMP do not claim that the project is complete yet, and corrections and additions will be ongoing for some time yet, so they are grateful for notification of any corrections needed. A Findmypast spokesperson said: "Due to the secure nature of the 1921 Census project, the period of time in which we have been able to access and review the data ahead of launch has been limited. Transcription errors found without purchasing the transcript itself can be reported to our Customer Support team by emailing [transcriptsupport@findmypast.com](mailto:transcriptsupport@findmypast.com) ". "Please include a link to the record and a brief description of the error, for example, the first name is recorded as Jo when the image shows it as John, and also use 1921 Census transcription update as the email subject line, this will allow us to correct errors quicker and more efficiently."

I will conclude with the reminder that Manchester Central Library has been lucky enough to be allowed to function as a northern hub offering free access to the 1921. All you need is the free Manchester Library card so ID will be needed if you plan to join when you go. Myko also gave the FMP subscription offer of 21% discount to join using the word ROADSHOW.

STOP PRESS

If you were unlucky and could not get a ticket to the talk about the 1921 census by Myko Clelland of Findmypast on 29 January, you will be pleased to hear that you can now see and hear Myko's excellent presentation on our web site. If you were lucky and heard the talk, you may wish to see it again since it contained so much information that it was hard to take it all in the first time.

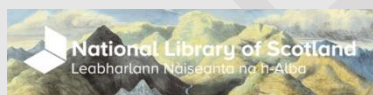
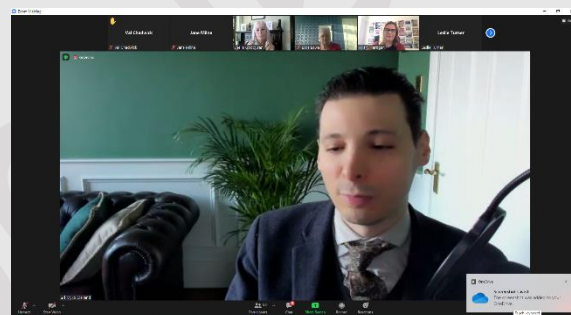
The talk is available to MLFHS members only so to access the recording you must first log in to the member area. To see the video: Go to the MLFHS web site <https://www.mlfhs.uk/>

Log in to the member area.

Go to the 1921 Census page (first featured item)

The link to the recording, which lasts about one hour and fifteen minutes, is the first item on the page.

Please note: The video will remain on the web site until Friday 18 March, after which date it will no longer be available.



National Library of Scotland Lots going on in maps <https://tinyurl.com/4k2e42j5>

*"View a new set of guides on re-using georeferenced maps. These guides provide easy, step-by-step instructions for how to bring our georeferenced maps into GIS software for annotation, tracing or other projects.*

*More than 2,000 Ordnance Survey maps published in 1971 have recently come out of copyright and we've now added them to our maps website. These maps include particularly good coverage of many parts of Shetland.*

*Finally, if you love maps and have a bit of time to spare, do we have opportunities for you! We're looking for volunteers to help us with three new community map transcription projects. The projects involve gathering all the names from the Roy Military Survey of Scotland, tracing historic footpaths, and transcribing text from Ordnance Survey mapping of Edinburgh. If these projects sound appealing, then we'd love to hear from you."*



Online ordering service - Register or Login

<https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/Login.asp#Results>

Do you all know about this cheaper way of obtaining Birth or Death certificates. The Index does not provide Marriage certificates yet, but these are the details you can find re Birth, marriage, civil partnership and death certificates on a pdf costing £7.00 as opposed to £11.

Customer Guide Number 14

Information contained on a birth, marriage, civil partnership or death certificate

<https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/images/CG14.pdf>

## Making the Most of Bolton History Centre

It is to be hoped that most folk interested in any Bolton related research will have visited the facilities at some point in their research, and have had some experience there. We thought it might be helpful to offer some guidelines and hints for those who are still a bit nervous though, and Rita Greenwood has been good enough to provide this.

“It was felt opportune to feature Bolton’s History Centre, outlining their work for the people of Bolton.

It is a particularly good local repository with staff who are trained in genealogy and who are more than prepared to help researchers. They can be contacted with queries by telephone 01204 332853 or by e-mail [archives@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:archives@bolton.gov.uk) which is the preferred mode of contact for enquiries. The address is Le Mans Crescent, Bolton BL1 1SE. In certain circumstances, time limits can be put on visits, so, especially if travelling to Bolton, it is good to contact the Centre first to make an appointment. The current opening times are: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday/Saturday and 9.30 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Wednesdays. Closed on Sundays.

An online catalogue of holdings can be accessed at:

<https://bolton.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/HOME>

Open the drop down menu ‘All resources’ on the right-select Local Studies and in the Keyword/Subject Area, insert a relevant subject to search.

You can then make a list of say, the churches you want to search, prior to your visit. Holdings in the Local Studies

Section include trade directories, maps of Bolton and its environs, hard copies of indexes of parish registers and newspapers. Much more information is offered on microfilm including local newspapers, parish registers, Poor Law records. In these days of computers, census material can easily be accessed through the use of Ancestry, FindmyPast etc both of which are freely available in the History Centre

The Archives Section of Bolton History Centre hold one off documents of local businesses, settlements, wills, apprentice indentures and other documents. Recently they have found it possible to produce archives documents at 24 hours’ notice each day (formerly documents could only be produced on Tuesdays and Thursdays and with prior notice Wednesdays and Saturdays). Documents can be ordered in advance by telephone or by email.

There are many projects going on all the time, more recently staff have vigorously collected information from local war memorials and have made it available on “Bolton Remembers.” Anyone with a Bolton ancestor who fought in any war is encouraged to give as much information as possible about the soldier, and send it to the History Centre, again for inclusion in Bolton Remembers. There are 55,000 names on the database, which can be searched by Googling “Bolton Remembers” and then adding the name of a soldier in



the resulting page. World War 1 has received the most work, but it is intended to start World War II. www.boltonremembers.org searches can be made by Surname, regiment, or war memorial. The Cenotaph in Victoria Square, Bolton was opened by the Earl of Derby in 1928. There is a Roll of Honour in the Hall of Remembrance in Bolton Town Hall, with a typed copy available in the History Centre.

A result of a former project produced hard backed green coloured books with indexes of items from the Bolton Chronicle 1871 – 1934. There are also indexes to fallen soldiers from WW1, with many having a \*. This indicates that there is a picture of the individual soldier, which may be the only remaining photograph. These soldiers have also been indexed within the Bolton Remembers project.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### How we Discovered that Wednesday Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, is the 40th Anniversary of Bolton Family History Society joining the Manchester and Lancashire FHS

We knew anecdotally that the BFHS was approaching its BIG BIRTHDAY, but nobody could recall (or admit they remembered), that first meeting all those years ago. We have accounts from Rita Greenwood and Bill Sheppard remembering the early years, plus this newspaper article. It seems that in the late 1970s, early 1980s family history research in the area had been developing for a while, encouraged by classes held by the Workers Educational Association and attended by approx 160 in total over 4 years. They had a meeting 24<sup>th</sup> November 1881 to discuss starting an official Bolton society, which coincided with ideas from the Manchester society (created 1963 and reputedly the oldest in the country), to open a branch in Bolton, as they knew there was strong interest in the subject here, and many had already joined Manchester group. They met in the Oak Room at the Pack Horse in Nelson Square.

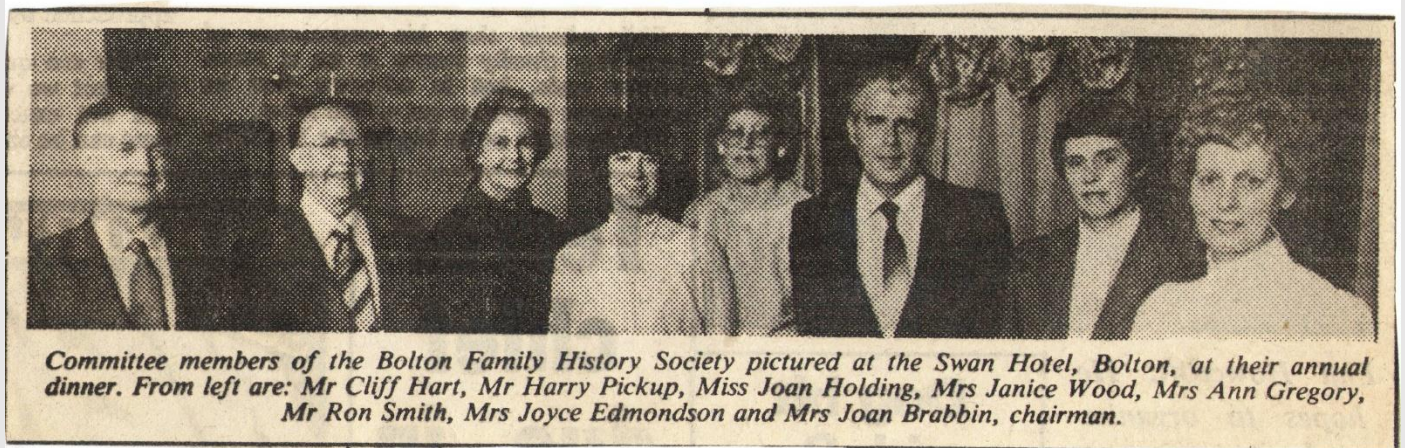
John Heyes coordinated it all, having developed his own interest from researching his grandmother's uncle, Capt Edward John Smith, Captain of the ill-fated Titanic. He had suggested the growing interest was from "the search for stability amidst the present uncertain times, although the problems were still there but under a different cloak." Little has changed has it!

They planned to pay a subscription fee for which they would enjoy full access to the library facilities at Manchester, projects and lectures, and meet monthly at a venue yet to be decided. Local projects included extending the listing of Monumental Inscriptions as an urgency due to the rapid deterioration of many, They had only done Horwich Parish church at this point which was currently being typed up.

The picture below shows the committee from a few years later. Meetings were initially held at Walkers Institute Club on Green Lane, and then to the Angling Club on Rishton Lane, and finally to Bolton Cricket Club. Attendances in those days was about 60 to 70 each week. In the early days a lot of work was done with



listing Memorials at the various church cemeteries, lead mainly by Ron Smith and Joan Brabbin.



If anyone else could contribute, please do get in touch.

### WORKSHOPS FOR FAMILY HISTORIANS INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

For genealogists who have hit the proverbial brick wall  
Four Workshops

Saturdays 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th March 2022

From 10 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Bolton History Centre, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton

£25.00 per head for the course

(includes refreshments and study material)

A cheque for £25.00 will secure a place

Please contact 01204 525472



### THIS MONTHS LOCAL NEWS and SOME ORGANISATION UPDATES

Lancashire Records

**UK BMD Summary** <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



## COMING ACTIVITIES FROM OTHER MLFHS BRANCHES

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



### Manchester branch

These events are at varying times so please check this link to book <https://mlfhs.uk/manchester/events/meetings>



### 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 There is also the option to book for the talk through the MLFHS website, Oldham Branch, 'Meetings' Page. <https://www.mlfhs.uk/oldham/events>



### Thursday 2p.m -3.30pm Anglo Scottish Branch

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

**ALL OTHER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES' MEETINGS ARE SLOWLY RESUMING.  
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,  
22nd February Alan G. Crosby Magistrates & Malefactors in Stuart Lancashire



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

Talks start at 7.30pm at Harwood Methodist Church, apart from the walks in May, June and July.  
Update 2022 - Please note that the venue has now moved to the new church hall, and our meeting day has changed to Thursday. This next month's event

24<sup>th</sup> Feb - Northerners: A History (Brian Groom)



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

Meetings take place on the 3rd Thursday of the month, between 10am and 12md at Westhoughton Methodist Church, Wigan Road, BL5 3RQ. (Opposite The Welland )

Thursday 17 February 10 am : Alan Morris - St Bartholomew's Church before and after the fire



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

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.

8th Mar 2022 A Sporting Life - David Kaye

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