



# 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> 916 Likes and 1016 Following on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March
- 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> .

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



This month's banner picture is of Bolton All Saints Ukrainian Roman Catholic Church , <https://www.ucc-gb.com/about> It was founded in 1967 and I am sure you all know exactly why this is the selection for March. Our thoughts are with our Bolton neighbours, and their families in this desperate time.

Well, Hello again and welcome to our March edition. A momentous month in many ways.

I am sure most of us are just horrified , hearing the news from the Ukraine as it changes hour by hour. Few of us will actually have family out there but many will know someone who has, and the current news bulletins are bringing the dreadful events into our living rooms. We do feel closely connected. Some of us older ones will remember the Falklands war of 1982 a generation ago, when we were receiving similar updates after another invasion , and before that it might have been the World Wars of previous generations. I find myself wondering if mankind will ever free itself of this sad recurrent urge to indiscriminately reset boundaries.

Here in Bolton though we do have happier domestic news. Next month we start real live face to face, in person, meetings again for the first time since March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020. More details below. We will also continue to Zoom to those who can't get to the venue, and please note, the booking method has also changed. See details below. Places will still need to be reserved beforehand and we do not plan to take cash at the door for non-members.

**Please do not just turn up on the night without booking a place first. You may not be allowed in.**

May we also welcome two new assistants from our overseas membership in Ottawa, Canada. Helen Pitt, and Joan Bridges have offered to help with our paperwork which of course can be done from anywhere in the world. Helen is taking on helping with our talks write ups, and is assessing the Indexing of newsletter articles, and Joan offered to assist with transcribing and has already completed some from registers recently discovered in Victoria Hall. I am told Joan has been a regular helper in the past, so we are glad to renew the contact.

## BOLTON'S MONTHLY MEETINGS

### **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March - "Not Mass Observation Again!" a zoom talk by Dave Burnham**

This was a welcome return by Dave giving us an update on this fascinating study of life in Bolton, in between two World Wars. As the population was still recovering from WW1, the rumblings of WW2 were already being heard.

Helen Pitt, a member from Ottawa, Canada, has very kindly offered her services in helping us to write up reports such as this, and other clerical work, which she can now access via Zoom. What a super job she has done and what a brilliant reminder of how technology is enabling us to make real time contact with members from all over the world. Thank you, Helen.



"Dave Burnham, who is writing a book on local contributors to the Bolton Mass Observation Study (1937-40) called "Worktown's People", gave a very interesting talk on March 2.

The Bolton Mass Observation Study was part of a movement to learn more about the lives of everyday people. Although the originals of the thousands of observations in the form of notes, reports, photos etc. are at Sussex University, 45 trays of microfiche are available to consult in the Bolton History Centre. Dave Burnham noted that while there has been a lot of academic interest in the study, not much attention has been paid to the local volunteers, many of whom were ordinary people.



His talk began with intriguing biographies of Tom Harrison and Charles Madge, the leaders behind the study. They had met at Cambridge. Tom Harrison was an ornithologist who had been part of a research expedition to the south Pacific and had published a study of the local people, *Savage Civilisation*. It was one of the first cultural studies of ordinary people and when he returned to the UK, he moved to Bolton. Charles Madge was a poet and left-wing activist who felt that those in power knew little about ordinary people. This was demonstrated by the big difference in reaction to the abdication of Edward VII in 1936; while the news media, business and landowning class were alarmed, the working people seemed not very worried. He had set up a monthly survey and asked for opinions on different topics, for example, reports on what people were doing on May 12, 1937, Coronation Day.

The two organized a three-year study in Bolton to attempt to record people and activities in all types of locations (pubs, street, labour exchange, etc). Funding was provided by some rather influential people: James Tillotson, newspaper owner, Sir Ernest Simon, a Manchester industrialist and Thomas Delmahoye Barlow, a textile manufacturer. Bolton was chosen as the location because it was a complete defined town, it was industrial, unlike the Home Counties, and changing, and it had a strong sense of identity. Three full time observers were employed as observers. Because of their Oxbridge connections, they were able to recruit about 150 young academics as volunteers, many of whom later became well-known names, e.g., Harold Wilson, Michael Foot, Julian Trevelyan.

Two local people were also recruited, John Hilton of Daubhill, and Albert Edward Smith, of Swan Lane. John Hilton had obtained a scholarship but left at 14 to apprentice in an engineering shop. He was known for talks on the BBC on issues of interest to the consumer, e.g., hire purchase scams. Tom Harrison suggested he go to Bolton and become an observer. He was fascinated by the football pools. Albert Smith was an Oxford graduate with an MA in history who had worked at the National Library and was a lecturer at the Bolton Workers Education Association. The WEA was founded in 1903 to help working people, who usually had to leave school at 14 to work to obtain further education.

Dave showed us an example of an observer report by Phillip Harker. It was a description of various activities of 90 people at the Bolton Labour exchange over a fifteen-minute period. Other reports covered a wide range of activities and locations, some in great detail, others with little. They included observations, interviews and overheard conversations. Understandably, they were not at all consistent. And omitted author or location because the "obs" were unfamiliar with Bolton. All these factors presented a huge cataloguing challenge. Harrison had planned to produce four books on church and non-church goers, pubs, non-voters and Blackpool Holidays. He became fascinated with pub life since he felt pubs were one of the few places where working people were free to express their own opinions. Other interests were darts leagues and the football pools.

The southern volunteers were all educated and influential, but Dave thinks that the story of the many local volunteers has not received much attention to date.

The economy – the depression and changes in the cotton industry - was one of two background influences on society at the time. It meant there were large numbers of unemployed men in Bolton. Although these numbers had diminished somewhat by 1937, there were still 20,000 unemployed in Bolton. The Bolton Unemployed Welfare Association organized many activities, including games, walks and classes. Albert Smith taught classes and Tom Harrison joined one and recruited several local men for the Study. Many had colourful backgrounds. For example,

Peter Jackson a former mill piecer with a very brief Navy career (his father bought him out after 12 days!), wrote reports on Ladies' Rounders and other sports such as lacrosse and bowls.

Ernie Luetchford, a former police constable (he was sacked for sexual assault) reported on low life activities such as pubs, prostitutes and swearing.

Tom Honeyford, a former spinner, reeder and barman was badly wounded in WWI and loved to play the piano. He didn't contribute many "obs" but wrote a moving autobiography about his life and worker abuses in the mills.

Another influence on lives in the 1930s was the threat of war. From Italy's invasion of Abyssinia, Hitler's annexation of the Rhineland, the Japanese invasion of China and the beginning of the Spanish Civil War, international politics were very unsettled. Memories of the horrors of WWI were still fresh in people's minds; Bolton alone had lost 2,500 men in the First War and many feared another armed conflict. The Peace Pledge Union was formed in 1934, and Bolton was one of the first towns to hold a Peace Pledge Week (Sept 21-27, 1936) with anti-war films, marches, lectures and exhibitions. Many leaders of this movement became involved in Mass-Obs. Some examples were:

John Fagan, an iron moulder, who left school at 14 and became a member of the Labour Party executive.

Phil Harker, son of a postman and former bank employee, who became a communist, spent time in the USSR and was a leader in the National Unemployed Workers Union.

Harold Shaw, optician, secretary of the Bolton anti-fascist committee and communist party, and Arthur Catherall, spinner and scout leader.

Dave showed two very interesting slides including a map noting where many of these activists lived in the area around Davenport St., and another illustrating the interconnected memberships of the leaders of the Study in local left wing political organizations.

Accounts of the Mass Observation focus on themes, such as local politics, churches, sport, etc., but the local volunteers have been largely ignored. Dave has identified 33 locals who contributed, included those listed above (and those mentioned in the February 2022 newsletter <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/newsletter/genies-archive/2022/1847-genie-2022-02/file> ), and is trying to learn more about their lives and what they did afterwards. The local volunteers contributed far more than just observations. Since the outside volunteers were unfamiliar with Bolton, locals also translated local language and culture, made introductions, acted as guides and provided advice on where not to go.

Those attending the meeting appreciated the varied and interesting talk. There is much to learn about the other locals who participated in Mass Observation in Bolton. If you have information on the people listed in the previous newsletter, please forward it to Dave Burnham [daveburnham@virginmedia.com](mailto:daveburnham@virginmedia.com) ."



## OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE LIVE

PLEASE NOTE OUR CHANGE OF VENUE .  
BOLTON GOLF CLUB ON CHORLEY NEW ROAD BL6 4AJ

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.

PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND WITHOUT A TICKET.  
YOU MIGHT BE DECLINED ENTRANCE!

THERE ARE TWO LINK OPTIONS TO BOOK on this page, <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/events> and here

- ONE FOR THE LIVE TALK, <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/finding-aunt-sarah-live-meeting-tickets-250025853057>
- ONE FOR THE ZOOM <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/finding-aunt-sarah-zoom-meeting-tickets-255189367267>

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 crowded 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.

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 7pm for 7.30pm start "Finding Aunt Sarah" a hybrid talk by Dr Alan Crosby**

This will be our first face to face / Zoom meeting since lock down, and our first in our new venue Bolton Golf Club, Lostock Park, Chorley New Road, Bolton, BL6 4AJ. The committee and assistants have now visited twice, and hope that you will bear with us as we try to ensure as smooth a transition as possible. The entrance to the complex is on the right, just past the "Welcome to Horwich" sign travelling out of Bolton. There is a barrier as you enter on the drive which should be open for us on our nights. There are then two car parks, the first large one on the immediate left just past the barrier, is the preferred one for us, especially in the summer. It is a 5 minute walk to the club house from there. There is a second smaller, nearer one on the other side of the club house, (or on the right of this main entrance), which is likely to be busy with golfers in the season. There is not a dedicated disabled parking area but if accompanied, anyone with poor mobility could be dropped off at the front door before the companion parks the car nearby. If use of the lift is required, please ask the BFHS meeter/greeter at the main entrance, and the alternative door at the top of the ramp can be made available. During the introduction and welcome speech fire evacuation procedures will also be explained as "good housekeeping". Please do make note of same.



This will be our meeting room on the first floor, with committee and helpers in preparation.

We are very pleased to be able to welcome back Dr Alan Crosby to help us launch our new venture, with his talk "Finding Aunt Sarah". He tells us this is "basically reconstructing the family history and background of his grandma's best friend."

We have asked Alan as a long-time friend of Bolton, to help us on this very special occasion, and whilst we are still celebrating our 40th anniversary.



We hope April extras will include a Help Desk for personal research, Stationery Table for discounted equipment and some new

Godfrey maps. Tea and coffee will be served by BFHS staff at £1.50p a cup from 7pm

Please ensure you make the correct booking

i.e., Live or Zoom as booking on the incorrect screen will present problems both for yourself and the committee.



## GENIE'S TIPS for March 2022



Association of Genealogists  
& Researchers in Archives

### **Free Advice re**

**the Probate Search Website from Dave Annal QG,**

FSG via this YouTube Link <https://youtu.be/wvgExKFbNXQ>

Contact Dave Annal Mobile: 07732977394

Email: [dave.annal@lifelinesresearch.co.uk](mailto:dave.annal@lifelinesresearch.co.uk)

Apparently, this government website

<https://www.gov.uk/search-will-probate> is being updated and has been causing some problems in the process of same. I came across this excellent 10 minute talk via Facebook the other day by Dave Annals, a well known genealogy lecturer who some of you may have come across via Zoom talks from the FHF. <https://www.agra.org.uk/dave-annal-genealogist-in-hertfordshire>



Very easy and simple to follow, which suits me fine.

### **30<sup>th</sup> January · from Terry Barton to the Bolton Family History Society Face Book page**

"Lancashire is the "hotspot" of the Barton surname in England - and not just because a Barton family once owned Smithills. My Barton ancestry is rooted in Lancashire. 150 men have yDNA tested and matched me. Five have paper trails to Lancashire - Bolton, Prescott, Upholland & two to Wigan. (There are no known paper trails in my matches to other English locations.)

Through the years, we have tested about 500 Barton men. We have identified 39 Barton Lineages (a Lineage has at least 2 men named Barton who have matched) and at least 56 more Barton men who have no Barton match to date. That makes at least 95 different genetic Barton families in the world.

Now - we want to test the rest of the Barton families in Bolton & Lancashire! Many of you have Barton in your ancestry and probably everyone in this Facebook Group knows a Barton. Can you please help?

The Barton Surname DNA Project, backed by the Barton Lineage I Research Project and the Barton Historical & Genealogical Society, will pay for a 37 yDNA test <https://www.familytreedna.com/products/y-dna> for the first and second representative of every Barton family directly connected to Lancashire, (with at least 4 generations of Barton paper trail and connected to Lancashire. Contact [terry@bartons.org](mailto:terry@bartons.org)

NOTE: this is a yDNA test for tracking the male line. A man gets his yDNA from his father's, father's, ...father's line and must provide the sample. A woman can't do this test, but can sponsor a male Barton.:

<https://www.bartonsite.org/> <https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/barton/about>

<https://www.bartondatabase.com/>

[https://one-name.org/name\\_profile/barton/](https://one-name.org/name_profile/barton/) Barton ONE-NAME. in the Guild of One Name Studies website

Editor's Note – More on the GOONS in our July talk <https://tinyurl.com/2p8hy9c5>



### **How to find divorce records in England and Wales <https://tinyurl.com/2p8m838w>**

A useful article from the highly esteemed Rebecca Probert writing in Who Do You Think You Are magazine. I found some "very juicy" 1871 papers the other day which solved a brick wall. This is always worth checking out.

(Here also is a You Tube link for her recent talk for Lost Cousins

<https://www.lostcousins.com/newsletters2/mar22news.htm> on Marriage Law <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bgyPFizUAiQ>).

## WORKSHOPS, COURSES and CLASSES



I am told our BFHS workshop series of four intermediate classes at Bolton Central Library which starts this Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup> is now fully booked, but just in case you were wanting to refresh, or even start the grey matter getting back into gear again and have missed this local opportunity, , do you know about the ongoing, online Future Learn genealogy course programme from . <https://tinyurl.com/3b45t626> . In theory this free course lasts for 6 weeks, but there is absolutely no time pressure. It can be done at an individual pace , support is provided, and many of us are grateful that we have done this over the years. The next course starts this Monday March 7<sup>th</sup>. Just click on the link.

## MEMBERS COMMENTS, QUERIES, and MEMORIES

### **"How did a Bolton Lad come to live in Australia?" By Carole Cockshoot**

On 12 February 1913 a family from Bury Lancashire sailed from England aboard the ship S.S. Wilcannia. They were Thomas Alfred Burton, his wife Mary (Polly) and their three sons, George Lewis 19, Norman Hampson 11 and Albert Percy 2. The ship arrived on 11 April 1913 and the family settled in a suburb south of Sydney.

Between 1920 and 1931 all three brothers married: George Lewis to Ethel Jolly (born 1898 in Bury Lancashire) Norman Hampson to Barbara Marguerite Harris (born 1906 in West Wycombe Bucks) and Albert Percy to Jessica Eleanor McRitchie – shock horror - A Colonial! Both Norman H and Albert P each had a family of a boy and a girl. Over the years letters and photographs flowed back and forth between Thomas Alfred (T.A.) and his younger brother Albert. Actually, I think that it was their wives who carried on the bulk of the letter writing. T.A.'s brother Albert had married Bathsheba Jane Hardman (Bessie) in Bury in February 1910, and she was pregnant with their only child by the time T.A. and family left England in February 1913– the child born on 3rd Sep and named Norman was my father.

Norman (b.1913) had qualified as a Pharmacist in 1938. By which time he had met a young lady Annis White born 1913 in Radcliffe. Norman from Bury worked at Radcliffe Boots the Chemist and gained an apprenticeship to study to become a pharmacist while Annis lived in Radcliffe but worked in Bury Co-op serving an apprenticeship in ladies tailoring. They met while traveling to work on the train. Norman remarked to a mate that he thought she was "a tasty piece" (Dad's words) and his mate said, I know her I will introduce you. That was May 1933, recorded in my mother's diary which I now have. On 11th she records "Saw him today in the train. "went into Boots." On 13th she records 'on train, he spoke then stopped and talked.' On 15th 'he sat with me in train & then stopped talking.' On 18th they exchanged names. Things are progressing!

Sat 20th May – 'Went with him to see 'Rebecca of Sunny Brook Farm'. They courted until Norman qualified in October 1938 and they married in March 1939. They had 2 children, Carole born 1941 and Howard born 1944.

WW2 had started and still letters, and photographs managed to be sent back and forth.

In early 1949 Annis and Norman living in Whitefield with their two children, went next door to say goodbye to the neighbours who were emigrating to Australia. As they walked back to their own home Norman said to Annis, 'What do you think?' She replied, 'Let's go.' So, they wrote to Norman Hampson and his wife Barbara asking if they would sponsor them and they agreed.

The wheels were set in motion with letters to Australia House and letters between Norman H and his wife Barbara, Norman, and Annis. The result was that on 10th January 1950 a second Burton family embarked aboard a ship, the M.V. Georgic from Liverpool to Sydney. They arrived on 13th February and were



welcomed by Norman H and Albert P of the first family. Norman's mother Bathsheba Jane (Bessie), now a widow, also came with them and she went to live with her sister in law Polly, the widow of Thomas Alfred. The newly arrived Norman had a job by the end of the first week and in May the family moved into their own home in an outer suburb southwest of Sydney.

By 1963 this second Burton family were well settled in their home. Carole had finished school and was working as a telephonist for one of the airline companies. She met and became engaged to a young man who turned out not to be quite what he claimed so she broke the engagement, resigned from her job and her parents Norman and Annis bought her a ticket to England on a ship which sailed in June 1963. She arrived 4 days after the Great Train Robbery moving in with her maternal grandfather in Radcliffe who had been widowed earlier in the year. By the end of November, she had a job working at Thomas Preston Paper Bag Makers in Radcliffe as a filing clerk/relief telephonist. On 12 December the works Christmas Party was held in Bolton, so she went along and was a bit early having come by bus from Radcliffe. There was only one other person there, so they got chatting. His name was Bryan Cockshott and he worked in the office upstairs. They had seen each other around but apart from a few brief words related words had not really had much to say to each other. That was about to change. At the end of the evening



Bryan walked her back to the bus stop and at work later asked her out. Bryan was born in Bolton at Haslam's Maternity Home and grew up in Horace St. before the family moved to Grasmere St. He attended Wolfenden Street School then moved to Church Road School where he became a Senior School Prefect before entering Bolton School on 14 September 1946 with a Bolton Borough Free Place. Bryan got his Matriculation certificate passing in all the subjects he sat for. He was also a member of the school boxing team and fought in school competitions. Although not winning he was described in The Boltonian school magazine as a 'plucky opponent.' He was a member of the School Physical Training Team. Outside of school he also played for his youth club table tennis team. He was also an avid cyclist and did a lot of running, winning prizes in both of these sports. At about the age of 16 he had joined Bolton Clarion Cycling and Athletic Club winning races both on his bike and running.

His first job was in Bolton Town Hall in the rates department before he left to do his two years National Service in Aldershot. On leaving the army he returned to the Town Hall and later got a job at Thomas Preston's Paper Bag Makers. They started going out together at weekends and once with a mate who had a girlfriend, they hired a car and the four of them went to Blackpool Tower, dancing. Bryan had a motor scooter and at weekends they went out to places like Chapel en le Frith, Birkenhead via the Mersey Tunnel, Bronte country in Yorkshire and even into Wales one day. Towards the end of January, he asked Carole if she would marry him, and she agreed. Bryan told her that he would like to come to Australia to live. They looked for a flat to rent and found a very nice one in Rishton Lane Great Lever, fully renovated and furnished and they paid the first month's rent. The following day he told her to bring her passport into work the next day and at lunch time he went into Bolton and came back with a special licence and with a booking for them to be married on the following Saturday. Carole rang her parents to tell them she was getting married in 3 days' time and I think they were quite upset as she was their only daughter. So, on 1st February 1964 Carole and Bryan were married in Bolton Registrar's Office. It was a small wedding with her grandfather, her late grandmother's sister, her mother Annis's brother and his wife, Bryan's landlady, his best mate Alan Nichol who was his Best Man and two old friends of her parents who had known her from birth. Alan was his mate



from the Bolton Clarion Cycling and Athletics Club. If memory serves me correctly there was a club room in Wood St Bolton. The small wedding reception/luncheon was held at the Pack Horse Hotel in Nelson Square. That evening started off like all the others with a group of Bryan's friends with wives and girlfriends meeting in the lounge area of the Boar's Head pub in Churchgate. This was our routine every Saturday evening. Just seven weeks had passed since that Christmas Party in December 1963.

His friends were members of the Bolton Clarion Cycling and Athletics Club. Bryan had over the years done lots of cycling all over the place and won quite a few trophies and medals both for cycling and running. One article appeared in the Bolton Evening News dated 5 May 1989 with a photo taken 32 years ago asking 'where are these riders now?' In this photo Bryan is on the front row second from left with glasses. On his right is Alan Nichol and between the other two at the front with bikes is Jack Ward. Another newspaper article has a date of 3 Apr 1960 and the words Team Prize Bolton Clarion, written on the back. Other pals of Bryan's were Tony Arnold (his wife was Bess) and another whose first name escapes me, but his surname was Sixsmith and they all called him Tanner! During the year Bryan sold the motor scooter and bought a Bond Minicar. We thought we were in a Rolls Royce as it was heated, and we were dry when it was raining!

Bryan and Carole were sponsored by her parents and flew to Australia on Christmas Day 1964. The trip was long with stops in Rome, Beirut, Teheran, Delhi, Singapore, Darwin and finally Sydney. Leaving London on Christmas Day it was 27F and very cold. Arriving in Darwin at 1.30am after a tropical storm we descended the gangway to stretch our legs on the tarmac. Bryan could see the steam from the rain as it dried but wasn't prepared to feel it rising up the legs of his Harris Tweed suit!

Their daughter Margaret was born in 1966 followed by a son Robert in 1969. Bryan was happy in Australia and loved the climate. He revelled in the summer heat and was often out on his bicycle even when it was in the high 30s and low 40s. Remember that old Noel Coward song, Mad Dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun? That was him! It wasn't until we moved into our own home in mid-1965 that Carole found out that Bryan had been a cyclist from the age of 16. He came home from work with a new bicycle and had found a club to join. He had been a member of Bolton Clarion Cycling & Athletic Club for many years and had lots of friends in the club, most of whom had been there the Saturday evening after our wedding. He didn't give up his bike riding until 2018 when he decided the roads were just too dangerous with lots more traffic. He then took to walking every day for an hour.

Bryan's parents Sidney and Nellie Cockshott arrived out here to settle – they arrived 3 days before Margaret was born. Both are now deceased – Sid in 1968 age 57 and Nellie at the ripe old age of 104 years in 2018. Both were from Bolton families – Nellie's maiden name was Gethings. The Cockshott family came to Bolton from Darwen and Preston between 1861 and 1871 while the Gethings arrived from Wexford Ireland into Bolton by 1881. The earliest, John Gethings, had served in the Royal Irish Constabulary. Sidney's mother Rachel Motler was a descendant of one of the Palatine families who fled the Rhineland of Germany in 1709 and arrived in England under the protection of Queen Anne.

The marriage lasted 57 years until Bryan's sudden death on 21 Jul 2021.

And that is how a Bolton Lad came to live in Australia – all because of a girl!

Carole Cockshott (member 5771)

## THIS MONTHS LOCAL NEWS and SOME ORGANISATION UPDATES

### Bolton Records

It is amazingly six years ago now since members of the BFHS were invited to visit and take a tour of Victoria hall, Bolton. This wonderful old building has hosted many historical events in the last 250 years or so, and it was known records had been stored there in the past, but when we visited, they had as yet not been found. The attached photograph shows just one room hidden away in the basement, and there were many more. It has taken time, with much dependent on voluntary help, with one of our members Michael Isherwood, closely involved. We have now received some good news.



The Bolton Central Methodist Mission [Victoria Hall] have now made available for transcribing some early Methodist baptism records. The King's Hall, Bradshawgate / Brightmet St baptisms records [Feb 1932 – May 1958] have been transcribed and will shortly be added to the MLFHS website Bolton Documents Collection. Early Victoria Hall records [Sept 1897–Jan 1939] will follow in due course. BFHS wish to express their thanks to the Central Methodist Mission for the making of these records available for transcription.

During this work it has been noted that the Spring Gardens Methodist Chapel baptism records are available on the Lancs OPC website, see below.

### 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

## SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES



**Boston Spa, Yorkshire** <https://www.bl.uk/visit/reading-rooms/boston-spa>

I hadn't realised there is an availability for online help at this facility, until now. *Quick chat Monday to Friday: 10:00 – 17:00 Use our Quick Chat service for short research enquiries and get an instant reply.* [https://bl.libanswers.com/widget\\_standalone.php?hash=f9c425139d908e758a03f496d9498931](https://bl.libanswers.com/widget_standalone.php?hash=f9c425139d908e758a03f496d9498931) .

*They add that when Quick Chat is unavailable, you can contact the Library via the Ask the Reference*

*Team service. Picture courtesy of their website.*

*You can consult millions of items including books, periodicals, newspapers, microfilm, sound recordings and electronic resources in our Reading Room at Boston Spa, near Wetherby in Yorkshire.*

*Please find out more about how we're welcoming you back safely before your visit. We have extended the range of*

*material available to Readers in Yorkshire, with around 85% of the items requested at St Pancras now also available in the north. You can order collection items to the Reading Room via our catalogue.*

*Access is free, but you must first get a Reader Pass and accept our Conditions of Use.*



This facility is only a few miles up the M62 and was on my bucket list before lock down. It seems it is still expanding so maybe an idea for a day out as we slowly start to get mobile again.



### Taking care of your family archives

<https://tinyurl.com/53zjivmr>

Some will know that I am currently working on a family project researching ancestors who apparently were pioneers from the colonial days of South Africa. I have been asked to take charge of some diaries written by them and by good fortune I have had some amazing help from this site. One day, when I have managed to “get my head around” the full story, (or both of them) I hope to share it. In the meantime, if anyone else is researching the same area please do have a “dabble” with this society. They have been most helpful.



### COMING ACTIVITIES FROM OTHER MLFHS BRANCHES

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

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March Manchester branch



**FAMILY AND LOCAL HISTORY IN THE CITY**

**Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society**

**SATURDAY, 26TH MARCH 2022**  
Manchester Central Library 10.00am - 4.00pm

Showcasing the wealth of expertise available to family and local historians within the Cities of Salford and Manchester and the boroughs of Trafford and Tameside.

**Film - Archives - Displays**

Talk to the people who preserve our records, transcribe lists, look after our heritage, our buildings, canals, and cemeteries, who curate personal stories and oral histories. Ask the experts from your area of research, join their societies, become volunteers and get as much out of your family or local history interests as you wish.

Manchester Military History Society	Archives+ Manchester Central Library	MLFHS Manchester Ancestors	Salford Cemeteries Trust	GMP Fraud and Scam Prevention
Greater Manchester Police Museum	Anglo Scottish Family History Society	Oldham & District Family History Society	Bolton Family History Society	Manchester, Bolton & Bury Canal Society
Victoria Baths	North West Film Archive	Salford u3a Local History	Family History Society of Cheshire	Tameside Local & Family History

MANCHESTER ANCESTORS M&L FHS MANCHESTER ANCESTORS





Oldham and District Branch Meetings are on the second Saturday of each month 2-3.30pm  
12<sup>th</sup> March 'Edwin Butterworth – Oldham's Forgotten Historian ' by Michael Winstanley by Zoom only . Link to book a place by Eventbrite <https://tinyurl.com/4fm9mvpj>



Anglo Scottish Branch Meetings are on the first Saturday of each month 2p.m -3.30pm .  
Please follow this link to book places <https://www.mlfhs.uk/anglo-scots/events>

### OTHER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES' MEETINGS



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. This next month's event



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.



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

Normal 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.

This next month however they are hosting an important northwest conference for local history societies, so I am attaching their attendance application form as a separate sheet, to facilitate the completion of same.

**Saturday 14th May 2022 the WLHG is hosting the Lancashire Local History Federation Conference**

At Home in Westhoughton At Westhoughton High School, Bolton Road, Westhoughton BL53DN Programme

09.30 – 10.00 Assemble and coffee

10.00 – 10.15 Introduction – David Kaye ( Chairman)

10.15 – 11.00 Westhoughton's History – Pam Wood, Anne Hodgson, Garth Ratcliffe

11.00 – 11.20 Short break/refreshments

11.20 – 12.30 The Burning of Westhoughton Mill by Luddites (1812) – Garth Ratcliffe and Colin Gradwell

12.30 – 13.45 Buffet Lunch

3.45 – 14.45 The History of the Bolton – Leigh Railway (1828) – Phil Wood, WLHG

14.45 – 15.00 Short break

15.00 – 15.45 Pretoria Pit Disaster (1910) – Garth Ratcliffe

Fee - £19 (to include lunch and all drinks)

There is free car parking at the venue. A link to the venue is <http://www.maphill.com/united-kingdom/england/north-west/bolton/westhoughton/detailed-maps/road-map/> Applications must be received by 14th April 2022

Booking form for Lancashire Local History Federation "At Home in Westhoughton"

Please complete and return to Val Chadwick, 16 Dale Lee, Westhoughton, BL53YE. Tel 07908123397 e-mail valjchad@gmail.com Please reserve me---- places.

Name(s) -----

Address -----

Telephone----- Email -----PRINT PLEASE

enclose a cheque for -----made out to Westhoughton Local History Group

Or I wish to pay by BACS. Please transfer funds to the following account title Westhoughton Local History Group, Sort code 60-23-30 Account number 80542522. Ensure that you give your surname as reference.

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