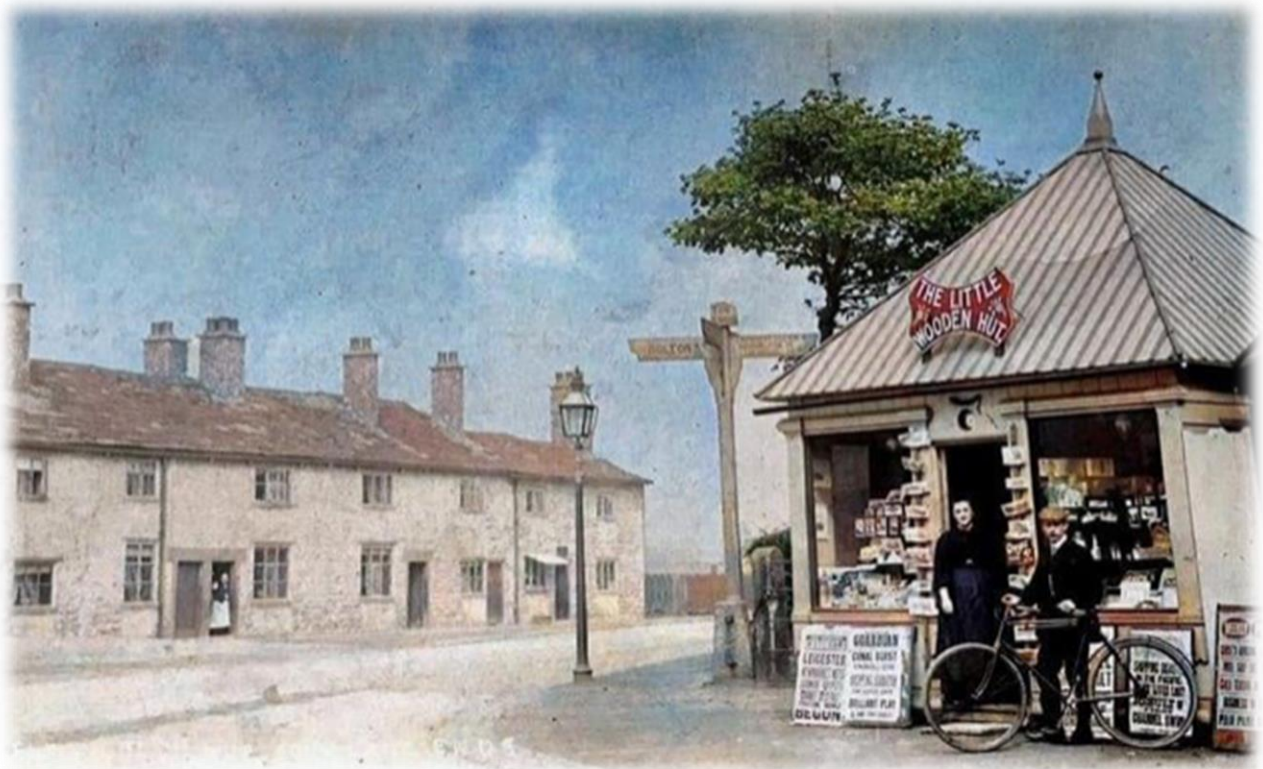


Bolton's Genies

The Monthly Newsletter of the Bolton Family History Society

Edition 112 – September 2023



This month's photograph has been copied from an old postcard. It depicts "The Little Wooden Hut" at Four Lane Ends which originally sold tram tickets. The Hut was built by a local entrepreneur who thought it was a good idea to expand the tram ticket office into a shop selling groceries, newspapers and sweets. The photo is thought to be over 100 years old as one similar photo shows "The King's visit to Bolton" which is thought to be when King George V and Queen Mary visited the town in 1913. The photo shows a row of cottages on what is now Salford Road, the A6. These cottages later became part of the Red Lion public house. The Ticket Office was demolished and the Co-op built a store on the site which now houses the North West Fireplace Centre.

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Editorial Musings

The article about Blackpool illuminations brought back childhood memories of coach trips from Prestolee school. The fevered excitement of a trip on a “charabanc,” that word shows my age, with soggy tomato sandwiches and a sherbet dip. The twinkle of lights and amazing tableaux was a joyful experience for the small children - one of whom was bound to be sick on the long journey home.

Thank you to Jane Milne for early sight of next year’s interesting programme. We have included January – April to whet readers’ appetites. The full programme will be posted as soon as the final contributor has been confirmed.

Thank you to Rita Greenwood for stepping in and scribing Dougie Tobutt’s lively talk.

We are always happy to receive articles for possible inclusion in Bolton’s Genies. Please note articles submitted may be edited.

Best wishes to all
Cath Cole

Information and Updates for Members

The End of the Census?

An article in this month’s “Who Do You Think You Are” about the future of the census invites people to respond to Government proposals. There is an opportunity to respond to “Consultation on the future of population and migration statistics in England and Wales”. The consultation runs till 26 October 2023.

Open this website address:

<https://consultations.ons.gov.uk/ons/futureofpopulationandmigrationstatistics/>

If you wish, you can complete the Questionnaire.

Article by Ron Cole

The Suffragette Arson Attack at Rivington

On Monday 7th July 1913, Edith Rigby and her accomplice, Albert Yeadon, loaded cans of paraffin into the boot of her husband's car. Edith and Albert carried the cans up to Sir William Lever's country residence, a large sprawling construction known as Roynton Cottage. Once there, Edith dismissed Albert and then went around the building to check no one was at home. She set about breaking the windows and pouring cans of paraffin into the rooms. Edith then ignited the fuel, and fled.

Read the rest of the story at <https://lancashirepast.com/2023/09/02/the-suffragette-arson-attack-at-rivington-near-horwich/>

Sourced by Jane Milne

Family Tree Maker

MacKiev from Ukraine have completed the take-over of the site from Ancestry. Look on their website for a new version of FTM.

<https://www.mackiev.com/ftm/>

Sourced by Jane Milne

Surname Clusters

Members may enjoy looking on the following website - if you have half an hour to spare, it might be worth it.

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0uvSPUhg39Y36cKU9ansdiMowgd5BeB8FbuoFZ3YvKBwBv6UCEJZ2su3w9C4joqGel&id=100064758666666&paipv=0&eav=AfaJRvtbmX7M7W1265_0awQkj7PvdlUouxMhLwy4V8qgRaMPsHtpjOkX6qkhXh70S8Q&rdr

Sourced by Jane Milne

The story behind the famous Blackpool illuminations and when they started for 2023

The Blackpool illuminations are one of the world's most famous light shows. Every year, thousands flock to the seaside town to witness the beautiful spectacle that has become a staple in the Lancashire calendar. But many don't know the story of how the illuminations came to be the show we all know and love.

First introduced in 1879, the original illuminations were an experiment by Blackpool Council to try and lift the gloom on the promenade. They installed eight electric arc lamps on 60ft poles, preceding Thomas Edison's invention of the lightbulb by a year.

The lamps were dubbed 'artificial sunshine' - and they were the start of a 30-year-long evolution to the Blackpool illuminations of today.

In 1912, a royal visit saw Princess Louise open a new section of the Promenade which led to more lights being installed along the walkway. Thousands flocked to the resort to see the promenade decorated with around 10,000 lights.

It was such a success that the Council decided to display the lights again that following September, and the tradition was born.

The famous animated tableaux starting at the North Sea Shore were erected in 1932 and the illuminations now stretch from Starr Gate to red bank Road in Bispham, which is around six miles.

The lights were switched off for a decade between 1939 and 1949 because of the Second World War. They were also temporarily left in the dark for a month during the coronavirus lockdown in 2020. You can find out about the full history of Blackpool Illuminations at the following link:

[History of Blackpool Illuminations](#)

When were the 2023 illuminations switched on?

The lights have been switched on from Friday, September 1 and will shine until January 1, 2024. Once again, the illuminations are free to attend; the huge switch-on event returned to outdoors for the first time in four years.

From Manchester Evening News - Story by Denise Evans & Nicole Wootton-Cane
Edited by Cath Cole

Our regular venue is Bolton Golf Club, Chorley New Road BL6 4AJ, although this may vary occasionally due to circumstances beyond our control. Any changes will be announced on our Facebook page (link <https://www.facebook.com/BoltonFHS> accessible without subscription) and in this newsletter. It is always advisable to check before leaving home.

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

Talks are usually provided by a visiting speaker, but occasionally speakers may deliver their talks by zoom. This happens when the speaker, who is known to be a first-rate expert in their field, is based some distance from Bolton. Those present at the golf club and zoomers will see our speaker streamed on screen. It is not necessary to book a place to attend the golf club in person, but it is essential to

book for a zoom place at <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/events>. The link will be emailed to you several times.

Meetings are on the first Wednesday of most months. The golf club opens for roomers at 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start and zoomers can sign in from 7.15 pm. The club has a bar and tea or coffee is available. We have a table with recycled genealogy books and magazines, Godfrey maps of local areas and discounted equipment.

Meetings from other branches of the MLFHS are available and free to all members. These meetings, like ours, may be live, zoomed or hybrid. <https://www.mlfhs.uk/> is the link for events.

Recent Events

September Meeting

Tobutt Sports: A Rollercoaster Ride

Dougie Tobutt the current owner of the business is the grandson of Len Tobutt the founder of Tobutt Sports. To celebrate the centenary of the Tobutt family business, Dougie is raising money for Bolton Hospice.

Len Tobutt was born into a family of farmers in Ruislip, Middlesex in 1881. Dougie shared anecdotes about his grandfather, some gleaned from customers of the business. Dougie's favourite memory was his grandfather's Christmas gift of ten shillings to his grandchildren – a small fortune.

Len was a professional cricketer and also played football and enjoyed swimming. He moved to Darwen in 1911 where he signed to play cricket. He continued to play for the local team until 1914 and the outbreak of war. In 1915 he married Edith Standish and was called up to join "Dad's Army" which allowed him to remain helping his widowed mother on the family farm. Len moved to Bolton in 1920 and played for Tonge Cricket Club, his responsibilities included coaching other players for which he was paid £10 6s 0d per week. In 1922 he acquired a shop in Lyndhurst Street, near Higher Bridge Street and lived at Ivy Bank. Len and Edith had six children, five girls and a boy – Geoffrey, who joined Len in the business and was Dougie's father. One of Dougie's aunts joined the Women's Timber Corp in preference to the Women's Land Army. Len died in 1965 aged 83 and on his way to work!

Dougie didn't like his given name and so paid £25.00 to change it, by deed poll. He joined the firm aged 18. In 1976 the business moved to another rented shop in the row which fronted Asda on Blackburn Road. By 1989, his mother and father had died, Dougie wanted to purchase, rather than rent, a shop. He bought the current premises opposite the rented shop. He loved sport in all its guises, especially running. Dougie has completed 123 marathons in 53 countries and then because of continuing health problems he was forced to retire from participation in sport. For ten years he researched healthy eating and living to gain back his health. He succeeded and ran another marathon with little discomfort. Building on the concept of healthy living Dougie acquired other premises calling them "Good Health Clinics." One clinic is next door to "Tobutt Sports." The sports shop, run by Mrs Tobutt, now mainly concentrates on the sport of running.

As Dougie is not a seasoned speaker many family members attended the talk to give him support. Not that he needed it, as his talk gave an interesting and lively insight into his own and his family's lives.

Article by Rita Greenwood
Edited by Cath Cole

Upcoming Events

4 Oct - Paul Salvesson talks about his new book - "Lancastrians: Mills, Mines and Minerets" A new history that takes in an area from Liverpool to the Lake District. The hardback edition is available from booksellers at £21.95 - HYBRID

For your Diary - Future 2023 Events

(More details should be available shortly on our website)

1 Nov - Dr Jim Beach. "How 12 'obscure' WW1 diaries of a British Army Soldier from South Africa, serving on the Messin Ridge, (inherited by a Bolton MLFHS member and presented on a Research Day at Bolton History Centre in 2018), assisted in the research of Percy Wyndham Lewis, an official, and "questionable" war artist". HYBRID

6 Dec - Quiz, Raffle & Supper (No Zoom) - To be held at our usual place, Bolton Golf Club. Tickets will be available at October and November meetings. The cost will be £5 to members and £10 to non-members.

Advance Notice of 2024 BFHS

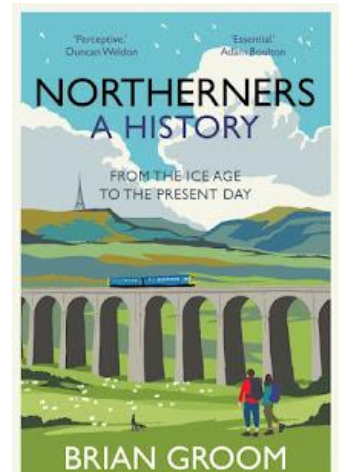
Speakers

- **Wednesday January 10th Wayne Ashton “Tom and Fanny have gone to Russia they liked it so much they stayed”.**

The story of how Wayne’s uncle and aunt, two 19th century Bolton mill workers were recruited to work in Russia in 1861 and stayed for forty years. Wayne became interested in the subject only to find that there were thousands of Brits in Russia up until 1917 and some actually never came back, they made quite a community for themselves.

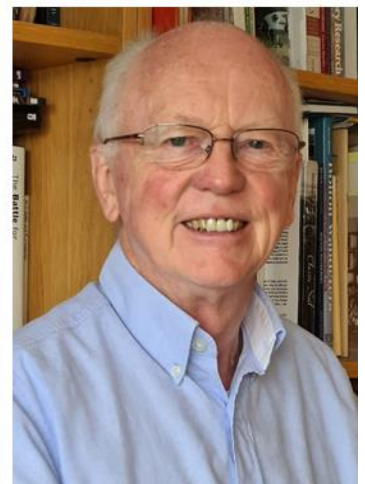
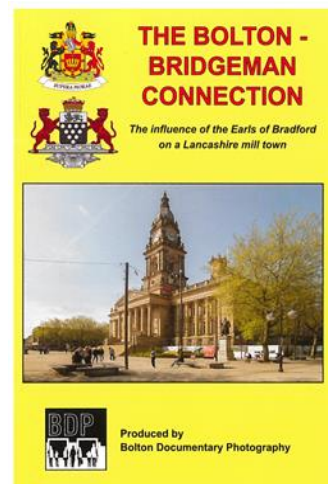
- **Wednesday Feb 7th Brian Groom Northerners Based on Brian's forthcoming book 'Northerners: A History, from the Ice Age to the Present Day',**

Brian’s book was published in paperback on 25 May 2023 by Harper North. It is the first general history of northern England to be published for more than 30 years. We are promised an entertaining event with wide appeal and plenty of local interest, a 45-minute romp through 180 million years of northern history!



- **Wednesday 6th March Ray Jefferson LIVE re his new book ‘The Bolton - Bridgeman Connection’.**

Ray, a local author and lifelong photographer, believes photography should be valued according to the contribution it makes to society, and is the chairman and a photographer for the voluntary community and arts organisation Bolton Documentary Photography, meet the team (boltondocumentary.co.uk).



The story tells how the Bridgeman family (later elevated to the Earls of Bradford) were involved in the story of Bolton over 350 years and it is a development of the exhibition which was mounted in the parish church in 2017.

- **Wed April 3rd Maggy Simm “Henry Dawsons presentation album and T Taylor Ltd of Bolton”.**

<https://tinyurl.com/fkz7udv3>

<https://tinyurl.com/4vvaz24z>

Thanks to Jane Milne

Bolton History Centre and Bolton Records

Due to the Library renovation work the History Centre has moved temporarily to Crompton Place Shopping Centre, in the former C&A building opposite the rear entrance to the former M&S.

The telephone number for any local history and archive queries and requests for material is 01204 332185 or send an email request to archives@bolton.gov.uk Requests take seven days to turn around and will either be looked at in the lab at or the museum at Crompton Place. References to some of the websites:

<https://boltonremembers.org/> has some of the WW1 & WW2 records we have found for Bolton military personnel either born, resided, or enlisted in Bolton.

<https://bolton.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/HOME> Spydus catalogue for local studies search.

<https://www.boltonlams.co.uk/history-centre-1> This is the History Centre page for the services we offer to researchers. Gives some information about archives and the records we hold.

An interesting website sourced by Bolton News – “Unclaimed estates in Bolton revealed by Treasury for June”

<https://www.theboltonnews.co.uk/news/23622610.unclaimed-estates-bolton-revealed-treasury-june/>

Lancashire Records

UKBMD *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.

Lancashire Archives Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/lancsarchives>

Other Records

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Appeal for relatives - August 2023

The CWGC are appealing for help in tracing the next of kin to men who were killed in the two World Wars. Please look on the following website:

https://www.cwgc.org/our-work/news/appeal-for-relatives-august-2023/?mc_cid=3ea22f0d34&mc_eid=32bd9195fe

Activities and Events from MLFHS Branches



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



Manchester branch – Next meeting – “From the Manchester School for the Deaf and Dumb to the Seashell Trust: some people and themes over 200 years” – 4 October 2023 - Manchester Central Library – 10.30 am

Celebrating the opening of the Seashell Trust's new school in Cheadle, ahead of which our Society is proud to have worked with the Trust and Archives to complete the transcription of the records of the Royal Manchester School for the Deaf and Dumb. The speaker will be Ed Baines, who has extensive knowledge of the school's history and the transition to more modern premises and teachings.

Booking will be on Eventbrite

Cost: members - free of charge

Cost: non-members - £3

Manchester Branch – Advanced notice – “The Clifton Hall (Black Harry) Tunnel Disaster, Temple Drive, Swinton” - 4 October 2023 - 1.00 pm

The talk will be given by Carol Lee whose grandfather was a fireman, first on the scene and stayed on duty throughout the rescue operation. Carol will have original documents not seen before.

Booking will be on Eventbrite

Cost: members - free of charge

Cost: non-members - £3



Oldham and District Branch – Next meeting - “A Trip to Switzerland in 1916” - An illustrated presentation given by Tony Foster - 14 October 2023 - Oldham Library - 2.00 pm

The Switzerland talk is based on trips women from this country made to Switzerland to visit their sons/husbands who had been POWs in Germany. Their trips were made between Oct 1916 - Nov 1917. The costs were covered by a fund established by Lord Northcliffe.

A library-only meeting in the Performance Space at Oldham Library.

No booking is necessary

Members free; non-members £3

<https://www.mlfhs.uk/Oldham/events>



Anglo Scottish Branch - Next meeting - “Find out more about the National Library of Scotland’s collection of maps” - 7 October 2023 - Online via Zoom - A presentation by Laragh Quinney

A great opportunity to find out more about the enormous, and amazing collection of maps held at the NLS.

Booking: Will be on Eventbrite

Cost: members - free of charge

Cost: non-members - £3

Other Local History Societies’ Meetings

WE ADVISE CHECKING THEIR RESPECTIVE WEBSITES PERIODICALLY FOR UPDATES AND DATES OF MEETINGS.



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

Email: enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk

Next meeting – 31 October 2023 - Elaine Taylor - “Smithills Hall Gardens”



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

Next meeting - 26 October 2023 at 7.30 pm - Harwood Methodist Church
- "Old Postcard Tour of Turton" by Ged Melia

£2 entry fee for non-members.

mlandypublishing@yahoo.co.uk

Westhoughton Local History Group – <http://goo.gl/XNug15>

Meetings take place on the 3rd Thursday of the month in Westhoughton
Library, Market St, Westhoughton, BL5 3AU.

Next meetings - 19 Oct - 16 Nov - All at 10.00 am



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

Next talk – Tuesday 10 October 2023 at 7.30 pm - "Pit Brow Lassies" by
Alan Davies

Open Days, Admission Free, are held most months on Saturdays between 10.00
am - 1.00 pm

Key Information about Bolton Family History Society

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

•Speaker Bookings: Boltonprog@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

•Manchester Research email a brief enquiry to, <https://www.mlfhs.uk/virtual-help-desk>

or visit us at

•Bolton Facebook page <https://goo.gl/n99qtW> 976 Likes and 1K people following
on Facebook

•Bolton Research Collection on the MLFHS website: (For members only)

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

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