

# Bolton's Genies

The Monthly Newsletter of the Bolton Family History Society

**Edition 115 – December 2023**



**Photo by Liv Clarke for Bolton News**

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This month's photograph shows Bolton Town Hall decorated with Christmas trees and Christmas lights. Liv Clarke is known for her artistic approach to photography. She captures unusual but outstanding images. This shot has the Town Hall clock tower and the Christmas trees slightly out of their true form - an outstanding photo.

## **Editorial Musings**

Thank you to Jane Milne for sharing her family story relating to the Harcourt Diaries. Jane's article is interesting and informative and provides a valuable link to Jim Beach's talk in November.

The Christmas quiz 2023 will keep our family and friends on their toes when we get together on Boxing Day. We will wait with baited breath for the answers. Thanks to Rita & Peter Greenwood.

Best wishes to all members of BFHS and other readers for a peaceful Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Cath Cole

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# **Information and Updates for Members**

There is no information this month.

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## **Recent Events**

### **December Meeting**

There was no speaker at our December meeting but there was a Christmas Quiz. Test your festive knowledge. Answers in next month's Genies

## **The Christmas Quiz 2023**

1. Who was the subject of these lines? - "it was always said of him that he knew how to keep Christmas well"
2. "Carols from King's College" has become a regular feature of Christmas broadcasting on radio and TV, but where is King's College?
3. Which ecclesiastical season starts on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Christmas?
4. Which actor plays Ebenezer Scrooge in the film "The Muppets Christmas Carol"?
5. What were the names of the three wise men who brought gifts to the baby Jesus.?
6. Which song, now associated with Christmas, was originally written for "Thanksgiving" in the USA?
7. How many of Santa's reindeer have names beginning with the letter D and what are their names?
8. In children's literature, in which fictional land was it "always winter but never Christmas"?
9. What Christmas tradition was started by Sir Henry Cole in 1843?
10. According to the Gospels, why were Joseph and Mary travelling to Bethlehem?
11. What name is given to the event, nine months before the birth of Jesus, in which the Angel Gabriel tells Mary to "fear not, for thou shalt bring forth a son"?
12. In Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol", how many ghosts visited Scrooge and what were they called?

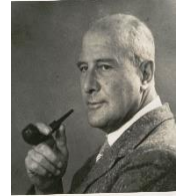
13. Which company rebranded Father Christmas and changed his traditional green suit to the red one that we are now familiar with?
  14. Often eaten at Christmas, what is the better known name for Marchbread?
  15. If you were born on Christmas day, what would be your star sign?
  16. In "A Christmas Carol" who serves up Figgy pudding for her family?
  17. In which country has it become tradition to eat Kentucky Fried Chicken on Christmas Day?
  18. In the Christmas pantomime Aladdin, what is Aladdin's surname and what is the name of his brother?
  19. These are the second lines of well-known Christmas Carols. What are the first lines?
    - a. Stood a lowly cattle shed
    - b. In Heaven the bells are ringing
    - c. When they are both full grown
    - d. Glory to the new born King
    - e. Bearing gifts, we traverse afar
    - f. No crib for a bed
    - g. On Christmas day, on Christmas day
    - h. 'Tis the season to be jolly
    - i. Frosty winds made moan
    - j. That glorious song of old
  20. In Victorian England who were nicknamed "robins" because of the colour of their uniforms?
  21. In the song "Jingle Bells" how many horses pull the sleigh?
  22. If all the gifts given in the carol "The Twelve Days of Christmas" were added together, how many would there be?
  23. Who composed the music for the Christmas ballet "The Nutcracker"?
  24. Good King Wenceslas was a real person who lived in the 10<sup>th</sup> century. However he was not a king but a duke of where?
  25. In the song "the Twelve Days of Christmas" how many different species of bird are named and what are they?
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# Postscript to November's Meeting:

## The Story of my family's Harcourt Diaries by Jane Milne



Maybe 15 years ago now my brother went to South Africa on a catch up trip to visit a cousin and her mother. He was meeting our first cousin once removed who I will call Cynthia. Her mother was our great aunt Ethel Chapman and she had settled with her husband William Douglas Harcourt, into married life in the Western Cape soon after the end of WW1. Cynthia was born in 1923 in Wynberg, Western Cape, South Africa, and when my brother visited, she was nearing 80 and in poor health. Her daughter, William and Ethel's granddaughter, was trying to "*tidy family things up*" with her mother's help and they all exchanged a few stories. A few years later on a return trip, Cynthia's mum had died in 2010. Cynthia was



overwhelmed with family paperwork including several diaries which she had no idea what to do with. She knew they were related to her grandfather's English family with a military aspect, but not much more. She was reluctant to throw them out but had no idea of alternatives. My brother asked me on her behalf, as the family historian, if I would be prepared to take them on. I agreed with her approval rather than allow them to be thrown out. My brother lives in Switzerland, so it was another couple of years before I received them. When I did, they were in a big tatty brown envelope. I made a cursory inspection, decided I could not read much of the handwriting and what I could read I could not understand, so the envelope and its contents were shelved until I had more time.

The envelope and its contents remained like this until November 2018 when Bolton History Centre held a Bolton Remembers event in partnership with Mike Coyle, a volunteer representative from the Imperial War Museum North. Members of Bolton FHS were asked to assist. Locals were invited to bring their WW1 family memorabilia in to be assessed for historical value, recorded, and then returned to the owners.

We were overwhelmed with contributions. It seemed like the world and his wife wanted to learn about their treasures that grandparents had stored safely away, each having a story to tell. We even had a camera crew



recording it all, and tickets were given out to ensure nobody jumped the queue. Mike started soon after 9am and managed a cup of tea and biscuit for lunch. He left after 4pm. Among many other items he inspected my assorted diaries recording my overview of the source, how they were



dated and took my name and email address for further contact.

I heard nothing more about the diaries, now boxed in a plastic tub and sat on a shelf until I could find the time to look at them. On 6 January 2022 I received an email from Dr Jim Beach, military historian at Northampton University, who had found a reference to the WW1 Diaries on the “Lest We Forget” website:

<https://www.cabinet.ox.ac.uk/firstworldwar>

Jim explained that he was *“researching the First World War service of the writer and painter Percy Wyndham Lewis. Because I’m a military historian, I have been working through war diaries, reports, service files, etc. and the 330 Siege Battery War Diary which lists the officers who were deployed to France and I therefore began identifying them and looking for background information on them,”* My great uncle Captain William Harcourt served in the 330 Siege Battery in 1917.

Jim Beach went on to add:

*“Regarding William’s diaries, without looking at them I wouldn’t want to jump to an assessment. But I can say that they have the potential to be historically interesting, given that William was serving alongside an (in)famous artist. It’s really great that they’ve survived because, sadly, so many sources like this get lost because of descendants’ indifference. It’s therefore good that your family passed them onto you because of your interest in history.”*

We arranged to meet at Bolton History Centre. I booked a table on 4 February 2022 so that Dr Beach could inspect the diaries. It was only really at this point in preparation for the meeting that I had a better look at them. I realised that they were written in two different styles of handwriting by two different people. One was my great uncle, William Douglas Harcourt who was born in 1891 in Aston, Birmingham and died in 1954 in Western Cape, South Africa. He was my grandmother’s brother- in-law. The other was his father, John Thomas Davis Harcourt who was born in 1850 in Birmingham and died in 1936 in Cape Town, South Africa.

William's diaries started around 1910, when he was living with his father in Mowbray, Western Cape, South Africa. He had been given his father's diaries on his 16th birthday. He first recounts how he studied to be a railway surveyor in South Africa whilst hearing the rumblings of war and trying to make sense of the politics of which country was on whose side etc. He was also undertaking some sort of military training prior to volunteering to serve with the South African Horse Artillery in 1914. His initial Attestation papers found on Ancestry, for the South African Horse Artillery, showed as well as his family background and scholarly achievements that he was white and could ride a horse! I had only briefly dipped into these details before showing them to Jim Beach. Jim's main interest was discovering what William had recorded in his diaries in 1917 whilst



serving as a Captain in 330 Siege Battery on the Messine Ridge with Wyndham Lewis. He commenced by photographing each of the 1917 diaries page by page. From later conversation with Jim and after reading William's diaries, I learned that William had become skilled in engineering and surveying. He was head hunted to the Royal Garrison Artillery on arriving in England in 1915. The diaries in those early years describe intense technical studying at officer training school. William still had family in England and I think he must have met the Chapman family from Hull, Yorkshire via the husband of another of my grandma's sisters, Emily Chapman, who married James Frederick Colquhoun Hindson born in Hull in 1884. In 1917 he became Acting Major Hindson, acting officer-in-charge of the 330 Siege Battery at Wijtschate and he was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry during active operations against the enemy.



It became apparent that the diaries written by William Harcourt could be a useful historical source. This photograph of a painting by Percy Wyndham Lewis is called *A Battery Shelled*. It has been suggested that it is depicting the 330 Siege Battery with Jim Hindson the officer-in-charge. It was brought to the IWM North a few years ago and took up a whole wall. I have not read all the war diaries. Much of them involves military jargon and is in long hand which requires considerable concentration. I know there are references to William's training programme in England as well as keeping contact with and concern about his family in South Africa. He had to deal with his brother's Leslie's death whilst he was training which would not have been easy.



I believe William served on the Somme but don't know the details and was moved on to the big artillery of the Royal Garrison Artillery.

Jim Beach has transcribed the diaries covering 1917 because of his own project re Percy Wyndham Lewis, and has kindly shared them with me. William (shown here standing, second from the left) writes of the logistical problems of moving the massive guns cross country by rail or horse drawn trailers and installing them on their concrete mountings under constant bombardment.



They had the problems of manning them 24/7, managing the welfare of the gunners as best they could, dealing with their casualties, reconnoitring to see where the enemy were, mentioning a balloon flight across the front line and over enemy territory and communications with other departments. For much of the time they were under atrocious weather conditions and occasional leave when they went to Ypres or further afield. There were obviously some tensions within their team. This is a photograph of Wyndham Lewis.



Hostilities eventually finished in 1918 and it seems by 1919 William had returned home to Cape Town to his work at Rosebanks as a civil engineer. He was also studying for his "London Matric" presumably via a correspondence course. His diary talks of near weekly letters to and from Ethel and how he is having a house built for them both. On 3 July 1920 he handed in the banns of marriage to be published. Ethel arrived in Cape Town on HMS Saxon on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 1920. There was a brief panic as the chaperone they had arranged for her let them down at the last moment, but they managed to get the services of a teacher companion Ethel had travelled with. They were married at 11 am on the 12 August 1920 at All Saints Church, Plumstead, South Africa.

William and Ethel went on to enjoy a happy married life with the usual teething problems still seen a 100 + years later by many. This photograph below shows them and friends setting off for a family picnic at Cape Point in November 1921 in the local doctor's donkey cart.



William's father's diaries were written neatly in what we would call "exercise books" with a few loose leaves added giving recipes for hair dressings and notes about more recent family BMD events. It was only as I started to read them, obviously written in fountain pen as opposed to his son's pencil scribbles, that I realised they were describing leaving "*Southampton Docks on Monday 15 June 1874 at 12 o'clock in the 'SS Asciatic' and going past the Needles. Eddystone, Bay of Biscay, off the coast of Spain and Cape Finisterre*" are mentioned, and comments such as "*saw a Waterspout and 4 sharks, a shoal of porpoise*" and then "*between Canary Isles sighted the Peak of Tenerife.*" On 24 April "*Sea running mountains high Weather fine. Flying fish, jelly fish Nautilus, sharks & Porpoise in plenty*" then "*Fort St. Louis*" & "*Cape Verde*". "*Can see Southern Cross, 4 stars pointing directly south and the Great Bear.*"

After "*the moon is full*", then "*St. Helena 6am to land Cargo*". There are added comments that would be inflammatory these days about the ethnicity of the inhabitants. On 14 July after visiting Napoleon's tomb and moving on is "*The sea is covered with Cape Hens & Albatrosses.*"

Then on 17 July 1874 "*Cape Town a very dirty place. Came in contact with some natives on Tuesday night: they fought with knives, we with sticks*". He goes on to report how they landed at Port Elizabeth and eventually after getting stores from a Mr Hemming, in 11 August "*pitched tents sunset. Killed 2 snakes while having dinner*" and 14 August "*Struck tents at 9.00 am. I marched to Fort Jackson (15 miles) then rode 4 in Bullock Wagons*". There are more stories of training, disputes about receiving pay late and marches towards Orange River in the southern Kalahari Desert. Towards the end of Sunday 20 August "*Hunting gouannas [Iguanas, large monitor lizards] today.*" On Sunday 27 August "*Visit Bona Pass [Boma Pass] today seen plenty of Lowries [loeries, rain-birds] in about the Keiskama [River]. Horses are fetching good prices now the dealers have only to say a price & get it, because the men are so anxious to be mounted. Have an adventure with an iguana.*"

Wednesday 30 August "*Me, Mat, Teddy & WATTS go shooting monkeys & hairs.*" By September he is getting homesick and concerned for his father. "*Get leaf of Absance for 48 hours. Start at 4 am to walk to King (William) with MACDONALD. I am anxious to meet the mail. I am determind that if I do not get a letter by this to get my discharge & work my passage back home. Thank God I get one at last although it is not at all cheering; at least they are all alive & well. I am determind not to leave this Troop if I can help it. But to keep near to the seaports. All things considered I spend a comfortable time hear [sic] but I now want to get home on a/c of business. I must save my money & awate next letter*"

In February 1875 he had bought a horse and was starting to do mounted patrols. It seems this was a very turbulent time politically in SA colonial history and JTDH was in the thick of it.



Rather than give a blow by blow account of more here, I will now refer readers to the Electronic branch of the Genealogical Society of South Africa:

<https://www.egggsa.org/index.php/en/> - scrolling down to the Harcourt diaries entry of 22 April 2022. I have received valuable help here with the transcription of these diaries by Sue McKay and also in putting the account into historical and geographical context. The near daily entries report how he and the Border Police patrolled the boundaries of the Cape Colony usually on horseback and with bullock carts and their encounters with the local tribesman and how they dealt with them. Much of it is quite upsetting, to say the least, to modern eyes but does give some insight into the attitudes of the day.

The last entry seems to be Thursday 8 June 1878 when his patrol had just had a *“successful encounter with a group of “Kaffirs” killing at least 52 and wounding more.”*

This article gives an overview of the Cape Colony story of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

<https://www.britishempire.co.uk/maproom/capecolony.htm> .

JTDH must have returned to England soon after this as he married Ann Marie Hemming, on 21 Aug 1880 at Aston, St Peter and St Paul, Warwickshire. She was the daughter of William Henry Hemming but I think she met JTDH at the Blue Coats School in Birmingham which they had both attended. Her father had died in France 1862 and his father had remarried after his first wife died when JTDH was 7 years old. I suspect the Mr Hemming, who JTDH met as a ship's stores man in the Cape, was actually Ann Marie's great uncle John Stephen Hemming, for whom there are many articles about his exploits in the colony on Family Search where he rubbed shoulders with John Herschel, the astronomer and David Livingstone, the missionary. I wonder if this is what attracted JTDH to visiting the colony when he took the 6 children back to Cape Town SA to settle in 1902 after Ann Marie had died in 1898.



My goal for these two sets of diaries was always to have them conserved and archived together because of the family link and make them freely available for public research. I think the son was inspired by his father.

Jim Beach was interested in these WW1 diaries for his own research so what should I do with the older ones? I approached the Imperial War Museum who would be happy to accept the WW1 diaries but not the older ones.

I had great help from Sue MacKay, a member of the Genealogical Society of South Africa, who I had noticed gave a zoom talk about SA research to Glamorgan Family History Society in December 2021. The GFHS secretary helped me to contact her. Sue agreed to have a look at any photocopies I could send of the older diaries. She was immediately interested and consulted fellow SA historian Geoff Chew for local knowledge.

“The Harcourt Diaries” were transcribed by Sue Mackay and Geoff Chew and posted on the SA Genealogical Site Welcome - eGGSA branch of the GSSA as of valuable historical interest on 8 April 2022. Thanks to Sue and Geoff.

<https://www.egggsa.org/index.php/en/>

GSSA could not provide storage. I asked the National Archives at Kew explaining that I would like them to be conserved together and made freely available for research by the public. No joy.

In the meantime, Jim Beach remained in touch and I asked him for advice regarding any contacts he might have who might be prepared to add both sets of diaries to their collection. In March 2022 he emailed to say Alan Wakefield from the Imperial War Museum had contacted him and had suggested asking the National Army Museum in Chelsea if they might be interested.

<https://www.nam.ac.uk/collections/what-museum-holds>

I emailed and over the next few weeks I was invited to send them an overview of the contents of both diaries plus the family background.

Eventually they asked to see them and in July my sister who lives in London, collected them from me in Bolton and a viewing was arranged in Chelsea in November 2022. My sister was not

allowed to leave them in Chelsea until a full approval committee meeting was held in Spring 2023. We were eventually told, “*Yes please! We would like to accept both collections.*” I was then asked to fill in several forms in duplicate with a neighbour witnessing my signature. I had to prove that I am the rightful owner of the items. My sister handed over the diaries. An official receipt arrived dated 18 July 2023.

The Job was done!

### **Post Script:**

Both collections are now in quarantine which is the normal routine. I asked for clarification of this and Christopher Dobbs, my main contact, has been very helpful. He writes:

*“No problem at all, I’m happy to let you know our quarantine process. My apologies this is a bit of a long message....*

*You’re certainly correct in that mould is a big risk, although this is relatively rare for us. Bad cases can usually be spotted in photographs from donors before the items reach us. With archival material the other big issue would be book lice and silver fish (if damp has been a problem) and other such pests.*

*Every object or archive, regardless of what it is, that comes into us is quarantined, the length and method used changes depending on the item.*



*Everything is wrapped in see through polythene and clearly labelled, but then a number of processes could be used. If mould or pests (such as clothes moths) are active the items tend to be frozen for at least a week or so at something like -30 degrees Celsius, allowed to de-frost slowly then are re-assessed and cleaned (with a conservation vacuum). Unfortunately, not everything can be frozen for various reasons, some composite or particularly fragile items just can't be frozen, and space in the freezer is somewhat limited (some items wouldn't even fit inside).*

*If there are no concerns of active pests etc. the items are put on a shelf in a quarantine room for a period of three months, basically to assess if any pests are hiding out. If there are usually tell-tale signs within this time and the decision to freeze the item instead is taken.*

*Wooden items are treated much the same, but need to be left for a much longer period, up to 6 months to catch any pests that bore their way into wood and have a longer life cycle.*

*We also have the ability to create bubbles around objects and replace the oxygen inside with different gases, which over time will basically suffocate any pests. But this can be quite a long process and is only used on fragile objects or if the freezer cannot be used for whatever reason. We tend not to use sprays or powdered pesticides anymore as these often leave a residue, can pose a health risk to staff members and sometimes damage the objects too.*

*Our storerooms tend to be very large warehouse like spaces, so if anything undesirable gets in and spreads a huge volume of items could be affected and potentially require treatment, which would be incredible expensive. So we make sure to be overly cautious when items first come in.*

*I believe Jim Beach has also been in contact with our archives team and I have a note to let him know of the accession numbers once assigned so he can pass on to anyone with an interest to request to see the diaries.*

*Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any other queries, and I'll be in touch again in the not too distant future with the accession details.*

*Kind regards,  
Chris"*

PS Both sets of diaries are now available with accession code: 2023-08-7-1

# Upcoming Events

- **Wednesday 10 January 2024 - NOTE THIS IS NOT THE FIRST WEDNESDAY**

Wayne Ashton “Tom and Fanny have gone to Russia they liked it so much they stayed”.

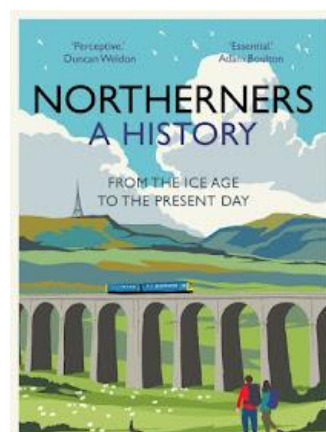
The story of how Wayne’s uncle and aunt, two 19<sup>th</sup> century Bolton mill workers were recruited to work in Russia in 1861 and stayed for forty years. Wayne became interested in the subject only to find that there were thousands of Brits in Russia up until 1917 and some never came back, they made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

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## Advance Notice of 2024 BFHS Speakers

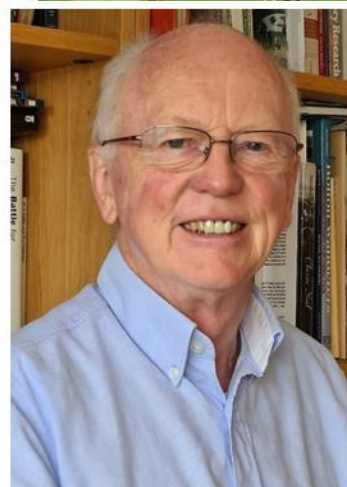
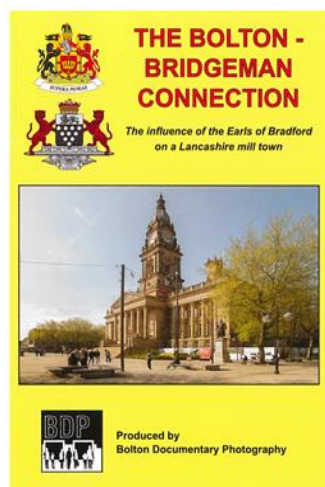
- **Wednesday Feb 7<sup>th</sup> Brian Groom Northerners Based on Brian's book 'Northerners: A History, from the Ice Age to the Present Day',**

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 6<sup>th</sup> March Ray Jefferson from 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. He is the chairman and a photographer for the voluntary community and arts organisation Bolton Documentary Photography, meet the team ([boltondocumentary.co.uk](http://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.

Speakers for the remainder of 2024 will be published each month in this newsletter. Speakers have been invited for all months up to November 2024 and are available to view on the following website: <https://mlfhs.uk/Bolton/events/meetings>

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## **Bolton History Centre and Bolton Records**

### **Latest News from Bolton History Centre**

Bolton History Centre is due to re-open on Saturday 20 January 2024. The Centre has informed us that “It will be relocated (in one of its original positions!) to the far right hand corner of the main library.” In the meantime, the following still applies:

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](mailto: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

## News from The Archives

**UK BMD Summary** <http://goo.gl/I29JpL>

Winter at Lancashire Museums - click on the link below:

<https://email.ionos.co.uk/appsuite/#!!&app=io.ox/mail&folder=default0/INBOX>



**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>

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## Activities and Events from MLFHS Branches



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



### **Manchester branch –**

Next meeting – Wednesday 17 January 2024 at 10.30 am in Manchester Central Library.

“Urmston, Flixton and Davyhulme: A Postcard Heritage” - A talk by

Michael Billington

Booking: will be on Eventbrite

Cost: Members - free of charge

Cost: Non-members - £3



### **Oldham and District Branch**

Next meeting: Saturday, 13th January 2024 at 2.00 pm

“Life and Work in Cotton Lancashire, c1830-1914” - An illustrated

presentation by Dr Michael Winstanley

This is a Zoom only meeting



## Anglo Scottish Branch

Next meeting: Saturday 3 February 2024 at 2.00 pm  
"Caledonian Asylum Petitions" by Lorna Kinnaird

An online meeting via Zoom

Booking via Eventbrite - Free to members Non-members £5.00

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## 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](mailto:enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk)

Next meeting – 8 January 2024 - "Life in the Forties"

A humorous talk by Norman Nuttall

Meetings are held St Luke's Church, Chorley Old Road, Bolton BL1 3BE at 7.30 pm



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

Next meeting - 25 January 2024 at 7.30 pm - "Holcombe Moor Rifle Ranges" by Richard Horrocks

Meeting will be held at Harwood Methodist Church

£2 entry fee for non-members.

Email: [mlandypublishing@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mlandypublishing@yahoo.co.uk)

### Westhoughton Local History Group – <http://goo.gl/XNugI5>

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

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



Next event – 9 January 2024 at 7.30 pm - "Lower Brazley Hall" - A talk by Derek Cartwright

This event will be held at Horwich Community Centre, Beaumont Road, Horwich BL6 7BG. It is free to members. Non-members are welcome with a £2.00 admission fee payable at the door.

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

New Exhibition: "40 years since the Closure of Horwich Loco Works" On now till 31 January 2024 at Horwich Heritage Centre with free admission.

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## **Key Information about Bolton Family History Society**

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

•Speaker Bookings: [Boltonprog@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:boltonprog@mlfhs.org.uk)

•Bolton helpdesk: [boltonfhishelp@gmail.com](mailto:boltonfhishelp@gmail.com)

•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)

•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>

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