



# Bolton's Genies

The Monthly Newsletter of the Bolton Family History Society

**Edition 123 – August 2024**



Photo from British Cycling

In an Olympic year it is apposite to remember past glories associated with our town: Sir Jason Kenny, born in Bolton, Great Britain's greatest ever Olympian with 7 Gold medals. Amir Khan, also born in Bolton, silver medallist in 2004 when he became at the age of 17, Britain's youngest boxing Olympic medallist; just two of 30 athletes born in Bolton to take part in the Olympic Games.

Sourced by Ron Cole

## Editorial Musings

It is great that, as Boltonians, we can be proud of the achievement of our Olympians. Yet, I am sure many of Bolton's Genies' readers will have sportsmen and sportswomen in the history of their families.

In our family we have champion Crown Green Bowlers; my maternal grandad and my stepfather played at Prestolee Working Men's Club. My father-in-law ran a football team in Leverhulme Park as part of the Bolton Boys Federation. Ron and our son played cricket in Blackrod and Euxton in Chorley. Dear reader, I can hear you thinking - but what about the women?

The backbone of the sporting activities of the men in our family were the women who supported their hobbies. My maternal grandma made delicious cakes and sandwiches for the teams playing bowls. My mother-in-law washed the football team's strips using a twin tub washing machine. During wet weather the strips were hoisted onto the clothes airer to form a tent over the kitchen table. I have fond memories of slapping ham on sliced white bread for cricket club teas. Nowadays our daughter-in-law and granddaughters enjoy bouldering. I shudder at the thought that they climb without the use of ropes and harnesses. They reassure me that if they fall it will be onto a padded mat!

Best wishes  
Cath Cole

# **Information and Updates for Members**

## **Bolton Family History Society's Beginners' Workshops**

Do you want to trace your family history?

Not sure how to begin?

Then these Workshops are for you.

Bolton Family History Society will be holding a course of four workshops at Little Lever Library, 63 Market Street, Little Lever, Bolton BL3 1HH on four Saturdays - 7, 14, 21 and 28 September from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm - the cost is £25 payable to the society.

If you wish to attend, please email [bolton@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:bolton@mlfhs.org.uk) with your email/contact number. Places are limited.

## **MLFHS: Bolton Journal & Guardian WW1 Servicemen**

This has been transcribed by Linda Bailey and is now available on the Great Database at MLFHS's website. Follow the instructions below - members only:

Open MLFHS website

Log on as member

Scroll down page to "Member Databases"

Click on "The Great Database"

Ignore "Surname, first name, year" in WHITE boxes

Click on "List of Databases included" in the second ORANGE box

Scroll down the next page and click on "Military Records"

Click on the second entry "Bolton Journal & Guardian WW1 Servicemen"

If you wish to search for a certain person, return to the opening page of The Great Database and insert the names of your choice and the year 1916 and then click on "Search" to see if that name is listed.

## **MLFHS: Little Bolton, Higher Bridge Street. Methodist Burials**

These records have been transcribed and are now available on the Great Database at MLFHS's website.

Follow the instructions as above and choose "Death and Burial" instead of "Military Records" Then scroll down to "Bolton, Little Bolton, Higher Bridge Street, Methodist Chapel, Burials" and click on it. There are 2,058 records.

## **Article from Brian Groom's Facebook Page**

### **Made in Manchester with connections to Bolton**

Ann Lee (1736-84) was at the wilder end of religious non-conformism. She became 'Ann the Word', the leader of a sect known as the Shakers who were so called because they worshipped by ecstatic dancing or 'shaking'. She and her followers emigrated to upstate New York in 1774 after she had been arrested several times for breaking the Sabbath and blasphemy and imprisoned in Manchester. Followers later believed her to be the 'second coming' of Christ in female form.

A blacksmith's daughter with no formal schooling, she worked cutting fabrics. As a child she had religious manifestations. Followers said she claimed lusts of the flesh, signalled human nature's depravity and allegedly admonished her mother for sleeping with her father. With family members, she took up with religious visionaries James and Jane Wardley in Bolton. Their society was known as Shakers (later the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing) because in meetings they sang, danced, trembled and screeched.

When the Shakers began to disturb Manchester's Church of England congregations, several members, including Lee, were jailed. Lee, her husband, and several other Shakers left for America, where they dispersed to make a hard living. Lee left her husband and moved to upstate New York where Shakers had taken up farming at Niskeyuna (now Watervliet). They achieved mass conversions, but Lee was imprisoned for opposition to military service during the American War of Independence. The sect attracted poor people and crowds often formed to scare the Shakers out of town. Mobs attacked and even stripped Lee to make sure she was not a witch or a British spy parading in women's clothing.

Brian Groom's new book "Made in Manchester: A People's History of the City that Shaped the Modern World", published by Harper North.

Sourced by Jane Milne

## **The Best Free Websites**

"WDYTYA" has published an article for those who wish to search for family ancestors. The article highlights the following websites:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission: [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)

UK Genealogy: FreeBMD records - [www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk) FreeCensus records - [www.freecen.org](http://www.freecen.org) Free Parish Register Transcriptions - [www.freereg.org.uk](http://www.freereg.org.uk)

Family Search: [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

Historical Directories of England and Wales: [www.tinyurl.com/sco-directories](http://www.tinyurl.com/sco-directories)

Billion Graves: Find A Grave - [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) and Interment - [www.interment.net](http://www.interment.net)

US Library of Congress: [www.tinyurl.com/us-loc-chron](http://www.tinyurl.com/us-loc-chron)  
British History Online: [www.british-history.ac.uk](http://www.british-history.ac.uk)  
National Library of Scotland: [www.nls.uk](http://www.nls.uk)  
English Civil War Petitions: [www.civilwarpetitions.ac.uk](http://www.civilwarpetitions.ac.uk)  
Connected Histories: There are free datasets at [www.connectedhistories.org](http://www.connectedhistories.org)  
National Library of Wales: [www.library.wales](http://www.library.wales)  
Find A Will: [www.probatesearch.service.gov.uk](http://www.probatesearch.service.gov.uk)  
General Register Office: [www.gov.uk/research-family-history](http://www.gov.uk/research-family-history) - there are some useful free indexes to births and deaths.  
Old Bailey Online: [www.oldbaileyonline.org](http://www.oldbaileyonline.org)  
The Gazette: [www.thegazette.co.uk](http://www.thegazette.co.uk)  
The World Holocaust Remembrance Centre: [collections.yadvashem.org/en/names](http://collections.yadvashem.org/en/names)  
The National Archives: [www.discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk) - free resources are available on this website  
Digital Panopticon: [www.digitalpanopticon.org](http://www.digitalpanopticon.org) - millions of records about London convicts in Britain and Australia (1780 - 1925)  
Genuki: [www.genuki.org.uk](http://www.genuki.org.uk)  
Protestation Returns: [www.tinyurl.com/parl-arch-protestation](http://www.tinyurl.com/parl-arch-protestation) 1642 requirement of every adult to swear allegiance to the Protestant religion - an early census.

Sourced by Ron Cole

## **Sporting Ancestors**

Do you have a Sporting Ancestor? Here are some websites which will help to find them:

[www.sportingheritage.org.uk](http://www.sportingheritage.org.uk)

[www.ournetballhistory.org.uk](http://www.ournetballhistory.org.uk)

[www.thefootballarchives.com/network/home.php](http://www.thefootballarchives.com/network/home.php)

[www.acscricket.com](http://www.acscricket.com)

[www.uel.ac.uk/study/student-life/library-archives-learning-services/archive-collections](http://www.uel.ac.uk/study/student-life/library-archives-learning-services/archive-collections) - this website contains the collection of the British Olympic Association.

[www.l1v11.com](http://www.l1v11.com) The Association of football statisticians website contains records of English and International football.

[www.espnricinfo.com](http://www.espnricinfo.com) - latest news and live stats.

[www.espnricinfo.com/wisdenalmanack/content/story/almanack/index.html](http://www.espnricinfo.com/wisdenalmanack/content/story/almanack/index.html) - this website could be more interesting for family historians.

[www.tinyurl.com/oly-results](http://www.tinyurl.com/oly-results) - the International Olympic Committee's website has results and medallists' names

Sourced by Ron Cole

-----

## **Ethel Johnson - Bolton United Harrier**

**Ethel Johnson** (8 October 1908 – 30 March 1964) was an English athlete who competed for Great Britain in the 1932 Summer Olympics. She was born in Westhoughton and was a member of Bolton United Harriers.



In 1932, she was one of a team of five women entered by the Women's Amateur Athletic Association at the Los Angeles Summer Olympics. They were Britain's first female Olympians in Athletics events. Ethel, Gwendoline Porter, Eileen Hiscock, Nellie Halstead and seventeen-year-old Violet Webb sailed for five days from Southampton to Quebec and then travelled a further 3,000 miles by train before arriving in Los Angeles. Ethel was eliminated in the first round of the 100 metres due to injury and was replaced by Violet Webb in the women's 4x100 metres relay.

At the 1934 British Empire Games Ethel, Eileen Hiscock, Nellie Halstead and Ivy Walker were members of the English relay team which won the silver medal in the 220-110-220-110 yards relay race. Ethel finished fifth in the 100 yards race and in the 220 yards race she finished sixth.

Sourced by Ron Cole who acknowledges the help of Westhoughton Local History Group

## **Recent Events**

### **August Meeting**

#### **The Future of Family History**

At the 7 August meeting, Mike Coyle gave a much-anticipated talk on the future of Family History. He opened with a photograph of his mother and five of her nine children to illustrate that the future is unpredictable. He pointed out that nobody in that photograph knew that one child would be a bank manager, another would go into his father's business and his sister would become their competitor, one child would be on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day and another would move to Nigeria.

Mike then discussed the reasons we are interested in family history (curiosity, legacy and perhaps building followers or inspiring descendants to continue the work). He noted that the obvious data that fills a family tree (BMD, relationships, locations) is only the tip of the iceberg and that the real rewards are in the stories and people behind the facts. This includes beliefs, expectations, achievements, behaviours, intellect, culture,

traditions and customs. In other words, how our ancestors interpreted their world and how their experiences and assumptions influenced their actions and decisions. He cautioned that as family historians, we must be accurate and rigorous, corroborating discoveries and avoiding the extrapolation of past events to predict future behaviours. He noted that it seems obvious that in the future this information will be hard to come by as fewer people document their lives in forms that will be accessible in the future. For instance, even the census looks to be discontinued after 2021, there are fewer graves and gravestones that help tell the stories of peoples' lives and even the graves that do exist are falling into disrepair. Further, few people communicate by letter or keep hard copy photos of written communications or arrange for the family trees they develop to be passed on.

Apart from human behaviour changing, data restrictions, copyright and the increasing costs of data will complicate access to the information on peoples' lives. Even now, the reliability of some sources is questionable (family trees in Ancestry and Find My Past that contain errors that many simply copy). And of course, families are more complex. In addition, with the increasing mobility of populations, global records are needed. Mike quoted statistics from a 2011 US college-based survey that showed 40% of respondents were not born in the US and 90% of grandparents were not. Fifty per cent of the respondents had diverse heritage and 50% do not share their father's surname. All these factors make tracking family history harder. In addition to mobility and family make-up, people now rely on on-line resources for communicating and their phones for picture taking. Most people do not label or back up their photographs.

On the other hand, the software we use has not changed substantially in 25 years but genetics and DNA, the range and volume of data and cheap storage have increased the information to be assessed.

So, what can we do? Several things it turns out.

- Change our emphasis to current family stories to preserve them.
- Ensure the survival of our own family history by taking a fresh look at recording and preservation with a view to the changing technology in the future.
- Research other aspects of family history such as social history.
- Plan for the increased cost of research as information is privatised and increases in cost.
- Appreciate the increasing role of DNA.

And the work that you have already completed?

- Record memories and artefacts (label photographs!!);
- Note the existence of digital information in your will and who it should go to, including websites and passwords;
- Make your family history work accessible to others and tell them about it;
- Archive and label documents and correspondence (including emails) as well as copying documentation;
- Create photobooks of memorable events.

Mike highlighted the importance of family history societies for better understanding of the events surrounding our ancestors' lives, for sharing and exchanging of information, helping to record and publish findings and for encouraging emotional engagement to the past rather than just facts. He pointed out that there are many ways for volunteers to help their local society.

Some suggested projects are:

- taking photos for deceased online, use FindaGrave or BillionGraves;
- develop and research a project (e.g. absent fathers);
- collect or prepare oral histories and share them;
- research memorials or military families - investigate an incident or accident;
- look at how occupations have changed over time;
- overseas information;
- investigate DNA from stamps or hair; and
- contact your local society to gain more information.

Unfortunately, many family history societies are experiencing declining membership as volunteers have many competing demands on their time. Mike urged those interested to join a society and to not be deterred by some of the constraints on family history research such as pace of innovation, possible skills gaps, unpredictability of the field and costs of research.

Questions and comments:

- Was the 2021 census the last one? Yes (I looked online for an announcement of this but couldn't find anything definite. Just proposals from last year)
- Will AI become more important? Yes, it could help to sift through volumes of data
- Jane noted that the notes on this talk will be in the Genie and the presentation will be on the Bolton FHS website.
- Several people told stories of finding troves of family photographs with no identifying information on the back such as names, dates and locations.

Cath thanked Mike on behalf of the audience for a thought-provoking talk.

Report by Helen Pitt

**Please Note** that a record of this talk (and all previous talks) is available for members on the MLFHS website. Members have to log-in find the Bolton Branch and click on 'Newsletter'

Non-members can go to the MLFHS website

Click on 'Branches'

Highlight 'Bolton'

Click on 'Newsletter'

Scroll down to 'Bolton Newsletter Sign Up'

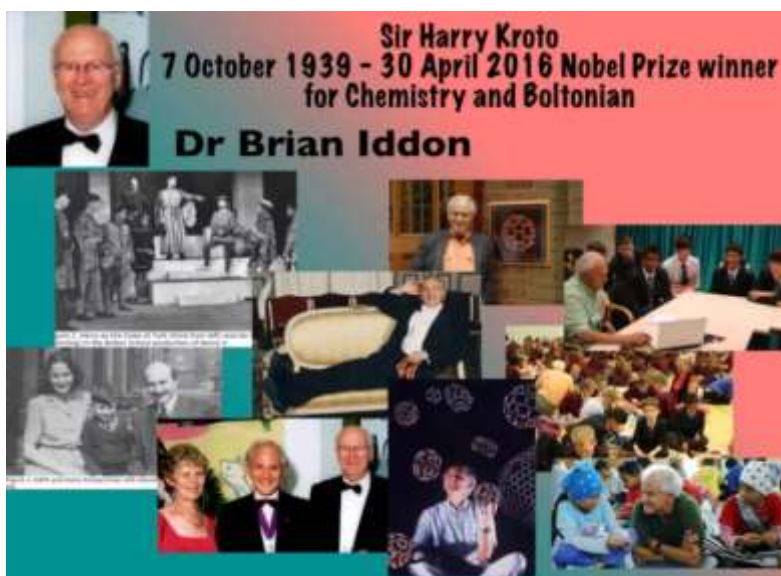
Enter your 'Name and Email address'

Click on 'SIGN UP'

Each Newsletter contains a report of that month's talk.

-----

# Upcoming Event



**Sir Harry Kroto - Boltonian (7 October 1939 – 30 April 2016)**

**Nobel Prize winner for Chemistry**

**Wednesday 4 September 2024 at 7.30 pm - HYBRID MEETING**

Dr Brian Iddon - Brian, born in Tarleton, was a Councillor on Bolton Borough Council from 1976 to 1998 and he became MP for Bolton South-East from 1997 until 2010. He has worked at several universities including the University of Salford.

Brian met Harry Kroto when he was a Parliamentary Adviser to the Royal Society of Chemistry and attended the RSC's Council Meetings in Burlington House, London. He will be talking about the Kroto(schiner) family, Harry's education in Bolton and the discovery which led to the award of his Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1996

**Venue: Bolton Golf Club & Online via Zoom**

Booking: In-person at Bolton Golf Club (no advanced booking required)

Booking: Online via Zoom - Eventbrite can be reached via the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-future-of-family-history-bolton-fhs-tickets-925096898727?aff=oddtcreator>

Please note: All events are subject to last minute changes due to circumstances beyond our control. Please check our monthly Newsletter and Facebook page for any last-minute changes, as that is the only way we can contact people.

-----



# **Advance Notice of 2024 BFHS Speakers**

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>

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

Bolton History Centre is now open in the Central Library. The Centre has informed us that "It will be located in the far right hand corner of the main library; in one of its original positions!"

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) Bolton Archives and Local Studies Service aim to answer all enquiries within 10 working days.

The service can carry out 20 minutes of research free of charge. More detailed research may be carried out for a fee, this is dependent on staff capacity. Please refer to our website for charges, opening times and full details of our services: [History Centre – Bolton Libraries and Museums \(boltonlams.co.uk\)](http://boltonlams.co.uk)

A list of freelance Record Agents who can undertake more in-depth research is available at [Record agents | Research service for archives and local history | Manchester City Council](#)

In person visits to Bolton History Centre to view our digital resources can be made without appointment.

Visits to view archives and local studies material require at least 7 days notice to enable transfer of material from stores.

Access information about our local studies collections here (selecting Local Studies from the drop down menu):

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

Access to the archive collections here (select "Search Other Archives" from bottom of page and enter Bolton Archives and Local Studies):

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/advanced-search>

References to some of the websites:

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

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

This following link is the History Centre page for the services that are offered to researchers. It gives some information about archives and the records that are held. <https://www.boltonlams.co.uk/history-centre-1>

Continued on next page

An interesting website sourced by Bolton News – “Unclaimed estates in Bolton revealed by HM’s Treasury Department for June and July”

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

<https://www.theboltonnews.co.uk/news/23688759.unclaimed-estates-bolton-revealed-treasury-july/>

## **Lancashire Records**

### News from The Archives



Lancashire Archives News and Events - their latest newsletter and more - follow the link:

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/hT3nBjvKNOz3fFSR?ref=Link>



Lancashire Archives Facebook page -

<https://www.facebook.com/lancsarchives>

Lancashire Parish Register Society link - [www.lprs.org.uk](http://www.lprs.org.uk)

Lancashire Online Parish Clerk - follow the link [www.lan-opc.org.uk](http://www.lan-opc.org.uk)

Lancashire Infantry Museum link - [www.tinyurl.com/lancs-inf-mus](http://www.tinyurl.com/lancs-inf-mus)

## **Activities and Events from MLFHS Branches**



Please note these events are all free to subscribed MLFHS members, £5 to guests.



### **Manchester Branch**

Next meeting – Saturday 28 September 2024 at 10.30 am in Manchester Central Library – A beginners talk by Barry Henshall



### **Oldham and District Branch**

Next meeting - Saturday 14 September 2024 at 2.00 pm in Oldham Library - “The Manchester Martyrs” A Talk by Joseph O’Neil. Also available on zoom - all are very welcome - booking via Eventbrite.



### **Anglo Scottish Branch**

Next meeting: Saturday 7 September 2024 at 2.00 pm in Manchester Central Library – “Scotland Beneath the Surface” by Bruce Keith

-----

## **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 – Tuesday 24 September 2024 at 7.30 pm – Open Evening  
A Chance to look into the Society's Archives at St Luke's Church,  
Chorley Old Road, Bolton BL1 4JE.



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

Next event - 26 September 2024 "The History of Bolton Royal Infirmary"  
a talk by Frances Rafferty[ - Harwood Methodist Church at 7.30 pm.

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

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

Next meetings - Thursday 19 September 2024 at 10 am - "Smithills Hall – History and Gardens" by Elaine Taylor at Westhoughton Library, Market St,  
Westhoughton BL5 3AU.



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

Next meeting - Tuesday 10 September 2024 at 7.30 pm - "Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal" by David Barnes at Horwich Community Centre.

Next event – Saturday 14 September 2024 - Trip to Chester - Leave at 9.00 am and return at 5.30 pm Book now at Horwich Heritage Centre - only 50 places.

Cost = £18.00 (Coach only)

New Exhibition: August to November 2024: "120 Years of Lever Park" at Horwich Heritage Centre with free admission.

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

## **BFHS's Regular Venue**

Our regular venue is Bolton Golf Club, Chorley New Road, Bolton 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.

## Key Information about Bolton Family History Society

- Website: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton>
- Speaker Bookings: [boltonprog@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:boltonprog@mlfhs.org.uk)
- Genies enquiries: [boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:boltongenies@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>

-----