



Bolton's Genies

The Monthly Newsletter of the Bolton Family History Society

Edition 124 – September 2024



This month's photo is of Bolton's fire station built in 1899 – a magnificent red brick building on Marsden Road. It closed in 1971 when a new Central Fire Station was built nearby on Moor Lane. The old Fire Station was turned into business outlets at ground-level and housing units on the upper floors. It has been extensively remodelled during the years since the Fire Brigade vacated the building.

Sourced by Jane Milne

Editorial Musings

I found Brian Iddon's talk fascinating. How can someone who achieved so much not be recognised by the town where he lived and was educated? Congratulations to Brian Iddon in campaigning for Harry Kroto's recognition in Bolton. BFHS is pleased to have played a small part in Brian's campaign.

Best wishes
Cath Cole

Information and Updates for Members

New Information in the Great Database

John Marsden has recently added three new data sets to the Great Database at the MLFHS website as follows:

Bolton: Duke Street/St Georges Road Methodist New Connexion Baptisms 1874 – 1921 (388 Records)

Farnworth: Cawdor Street Wesleyan Methodist Baptisms 1904 – 1972 (256 records, closed 100 years)

Bolton: Claremont Baptist Chapel Membership c1867 – 1920 (with earlier records to 1821) (1,392 records)

With thanks to Graham Holt and his team at Bolton FHS

Royal Navy Records

The September issue of *Who Do You Think You Are?* contains an article regarding the availability online to research ancestors who were in the Senior Service. Ships' musters which help to confirm vessels on which an ancestor served can be searched at the following:

www.discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/advancedsearch

Another free website to search is *First World War – Lives At Sea*:

www.royalnavyrecordsww1.rmg.co.uk

TNA holds service records for officers (1756-1931) and ratings (1853-1928)

www.tinyurl.com/tna-guides-military-m

18,000 men on the British side in the Battle of Trafalgar (1805) are named on the website: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/trafalgarancestors/

The Battle of Jutland (31 May – 1 June 1916) Royal Naval Casualty Database is located at www.porttowns.port.ac.uk/siurce-information/jutland-casualty-database/

Both Ancestry and Findmypast also have Royal Navy resources:

www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/1687 and www.findmypast/royalnavy

Sourced by Ron Cole

RAF WW2 Combat Reports

The September issue of *Who Do You Think You Are?* also contains an article regarding RAF WW2 Combat Reports. The reports normally cost £3.50 each but they can be downloaded for free if you create a user account and are logged in.

www.discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C2105

Records from 1940 until the end of May 1941 are on www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62605

Sourced by Ron Cole

Who Do You Think You Are?

Of interest to Boltonians, in the latest series of the BBC's TV programme, is an edition about Boltonian Paddy McGuinness. The programme can be viewed on BBC iPlayer.

Sourced by Ron Cole

Recent Events

September Meeting

PROFESSOR SIR HARRY KROTO FRS, NL BOLTON-EDUCATED NOBEL LAUREATE

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

Brian started his talk by stating that there is no biography on Harry Kroto although there are articles on the internet. Some of these articles are biographical and some autobiographical.

In 1900 in Berlin Heinz Fritz Krotoschiner, Harold's father, was born to Jewish parents. His family were from Silesia in Poland. Heinz had shown an early interest in dress design and had established a business in Berlin printing images onto toy balloons. In 1937, he and his wife to be, Edith Kathe Worch, who was not Jewish, decided to leave the turmoil of Nazi Germany. They fled separately in 1938 and met again in London, where they were married at Hampstead Registration Office in 1939.

After Britain declared war on Germany in 1939, Heinz was interned on the Isle of Man as an alien. Edith Krotoschiner left London for a short period to live in Wisbech in Cambridgeshire, where she gave birth to Harold Walter Krotoschiner on 7 October 1939.

Edith returned to London and was later evacuated in 1940 with baby Harold to Bolton where she was billeted with a family at 109 Withins Lane in Brightmet. A letter written more recently by Barbara Herbert exists which describes Harry's first Christmas in Bolton, when he was 14 months old and she was aged 7. Brian showed a letter by Mrs Herbert.

After Heinz Krotoschiner was released from internment and reunited with Edith, the family made their home at 45 Arkwright Street, Bolton. Heinz Krotoschiner became a British Citizen in 1947 and the family name was changed to Kroto in 1955.

Arkwright Street was obliterated by a massive clearance programme in the late 1960s/early 1970s. Skagen Court was built on top of Arkwright Street. This was a continuation of what today is Slater Street, off Higher Bridge Street. Arkwright Street ran towards Brownlow Way where Argyle House stands today. The family lived in Arkwright Street for more than 30 years.

Heinz Krotoschiner became an apprentice engineer, then a toolmaker for a Bolton engineering company. In 1955, he started a business again of printing images onto toy balloons. Balloon Kroto Ltd moved from Bolton to 471A Leigh Road in Daisy Hill, Westhoughton in 1956 where the business remained until June 1972 when Heinz retired and sold his company to a firm in Bury.

After the Kroto family's home was demolished in Arkwright Street, they moved to live at 1 Peel Street in Westhoughton where both Heinz and Edith Kroto died in the late 1970s. Harold Walter Kroto attended Wolfenden Primary School in Wolfenden Street, a short walk from his home at the other side of Halliwell Road. In his early life he was influenced by helping his father in his workshop and by playing with his Meccano set.

After winning a scholarship, he attended Bolton School from 1947 until 1958. The award-winning actor Sir Ian McKellen was a contemporary of his at the school and they became good friends.

Harold was an 'all-rounder' at school, equally interested in film, theatre, art and music as well as science. He also enjoyed sport, especially gymnastics and tennis.

His sixth form chemistry teacher at Bolton School was Harry Heaney who recognised his talents and persuaded him to undertake a degree in chemistry at the University of Sheffield.

Harry Heaney left Bolton School for a career in higher education. He retired from teaching organic chemistry at Loughborough University in 1996 and was appointed as an emeritus professor.

Harry Kroto graduated with a First-Class Honours Degree in Chemistry from Sheffield University in 1961 and was awarded a PhD Degree there in 1964 for studies in molecular spectroscopy. While his family called him Harold, fellow students at Sheffield preferred the name Harry, which stuck, even with his close family.

Harry met Margaret Hunter at the University of Sheffield where she was a student in Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) and they were married in 1963.

Harry then spent two years (1964 -1966) with the National Research Council in Ottawa in Canada and a further year with the Bell Telephone Laboratories in New Jersey in the USA pursuing his interest in molecular spectroscopy before being appointed at the University of Sussex as a Tutorial Fellow in 1967.

The following year he was awarded a Lectureship at the University of Sussex where he continued his previous interest, namely a study of 'entities' which only exist in high energy environments, using molecular spectroscopy. He was especially interested in chains of carbon atoms that might exist in the plasmas of interstellar space.

Brian then played an interesting video of Harry Kroto explaining his research in his own words

That video was produced by editing together parts of the BBC Horizon Programme which was broadcast in 1996. Google '*Molecules with Sunglasses*' to watch the full 1 hour long programme.

Brian then explained that there are 1661 different forms of carbon which scientists call allotropes. People are very familiar with diamond and graphite but what Harry Kroto had discovered was a fascinating third form of carbon - with 60 carbon atoms linked

together so that the resulting molecule looked like a modern football with its 60 vertices which is made up of 20 hexagons and 12 pentagons.

'Blue sky research' - research in areas where any applications are not immediately obvious - was frowned upon by academics in 1985 when Harry discovered Buckminsterfullerene. It was named after the architect Buckminster Fuller or C-60. He had opened a new branch of organic chemistry called fullerene chemistry.

Academics, like Harry, were under considerable pressure from the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE - an Ofsted-like examination of university research departments) to 'earn their keep' by publishing papers in professional journals and by bringing in significant amounts of money to support their research.

At that point in his life Harry Kroto was seriously considering pursuing his second major interest - namely to become a professional graphic artist.

When Royal Mail published its set of six stamps on 2 October 2001 to commemorate the Centenary of the Award of the first Nobel Prizes it was Harry Kroto's design that it used for the chemistry stamp.

Harry became Professor Harry Kroto in 1985 in the School of Chemistry and Molecular Sciences at the University of Sussex. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS) in 1990 and in 1996 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry, together with Bob Curl and Rick Smalley at Rice University in Houston. He was Knighted in 1996.

Harry was President of the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) from 2002 until 2004. He received many other awards, including Honorary Degrees from 44 universities across the world, including one from the University of Bolton.

On 17 June 2022, the Royal Society of Chemistry placed one of its prestigious Chemical Landmark blue plaques on the Chichester Building at the University of Sussex to denote that an important discovery was made there.

Bolton School named laboratories after Harry Kroto and the University of Sheffield opened the Kroto Research Institute and the Kroto Innovation Centre on its North Campus and erected a giant sculpture of a C-240 molecule.

Brian reported "Harry Kroto first came to my attention in 1985 when I was presenting a series of lectures to my third-year undergraduate students at the University of Salford, entitled "*Fascinating Organic Molecules*". Buckminsterfullerene was the most fascinating molecule that I had come across up to that time.

"Shortly after I was elected to Parliament in 1997, I was appointed by the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) as one of their advisers which involved me attending their Council Meetings at their HQ in Burlington House on Piccadilly in London. That was where I first met Harry Kroto and we became good friends. Like me, he was interested in communicating science to children and the public.

"Initially as a joke, I told Harry that, when they knocked down Wolfenden Primary School, where I was chairman of the Governing Body for about eight years, I would present him with a 'souvenir'. I had forgotten that it wasn't built in Victorian times (therefore no stained-glass windows or bottle green tiles). The school was subsequently knocked down and I presented Harry with the last brick from Wolfenden School at a dinner in the Palace of Westminster. Although it was a very decorative brick from Withnell Brick Works, I also mounted it on a plinth with a plaque. I had never given a speech on bricks before that!"

From 1990 to 1995, Harry Kroto was a Visiting Professor at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). He was a Visiting Professor at the University of Santa Barbara in 1996 and in 2004 he was appointed as the Frances Eppes Professor in the Department of

Chemistry and Biochemistry at the Florida State University in Tallahassee - a post from which he retired in 2015.

Harry used his communication skills to promote science across the globe. The classes at which he handed out 'buckyball kits' to children who he taught how to make a C-60 molecule were legendry. He held one such class at Bolton University and another one at the MUFC's ground at Old Trafford which Sir Alex Ferguson attended.

Harry set up the Vega Science Trust which operated between 1985 and 2012 and GEOSET (Global Educational Outreach for Science and Engineering and Technology). Both with the aim of supplying teachers with materials to enhance their teaching. In 2014, Harry and Margaret launched the 'Innovative Use of Science and Technology Learning Prize' which involved children all over the world in producing a five-minute video.

From an early age Harry was an avowed atheist and he was a distinguished member of the British Humanist Association. He was also a member of Amnesty International. Harry Kroto died in Lewes, Sussex on 30 April 2016 from complications arising from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. He left his wife Margaret and his two sons, Stephen and David.

We salute an amazing man who made a fascinating discovery.

Brian reported that he had campaigned for more than 25 years and on 13 September 2023 the town of Bolton at last recognised one of its most important sons when Lady Margaret Kroto unveiled a bust of Sir Harry Kroto at the University of Bolton. The transplant surgeon, Nadey Hakim, an amazing man in his own right, made the sculpture. Ian McKellen, who had been invited to the event, but who was unable to attend, sent a video message to the invited audience.

Cath Cole thanked Brian for a most interesting talk.

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 'Bolton Branch / Browse Documents / Bolton Documents / Speakers Notes'

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



Next meeting: Wednesday 2 October 2024 at 7.30 pm

“The Hangman’s Record” by Steve Fielding

Steve’s talk will be on crime and punishment – specifically hangmen and crimes committed in Bolton.

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>

Members of MLFHS are free and non-members are £5.00

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 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>

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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/gtDWcW3fNqiY8clf?ref=Link>



Lancashire Archives Facebook page -

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

Lancashire Parish Register Society link - www.lprs.org.uk

Lancashire Online Parish Clerk - follow the link www.lan-opc.org.uk

Lancashire Infantry Museum link - 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

Quarterly meetings – Wednesday 2 October 2024 at 10.30 am –

“Scuttled! Excavating A 19th Century Barge in Rochdale” by Kelly

Griffiths in Manchester Central Library and Wednesday 2 October

2024 at 1.00 pm in Manchester Central Library – Details on the MLFHS website.



Oldham and District Branch

Next meeting – Saturday 12 October 2024 at 2.00 pm in Oldham Library

– “Hesketh Booth of Oldham” – An illustrated presentation by Hilary

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

MLFHS members are free and visitors £5.00. Booking not necessary.

Refreshments on arrival.



Anglo Scottish Branch

Next meeting – Saturday 5 October 2024 at 2.00 pm. “Social Event –

Bring Your Brick Walls!” – An online meeting via Zoom. Booking on

Eventbrite. Members free and non-members £5.00

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 – Tuesday 29 October 2024 at 7.30 pm - “Lesser Known Leverhulme” by Ray Jefferson at St Luke’s Church, Chorley Old Road, Bolton BL1 4JE.



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

Next event – Thursday 24 October 2024 at 7.30 pm - “Lost Shops of Bolton” by David Lloyd at Harwood Methodist Church, Longsight, Bolton BL2 3HX

Email: mlandypublishing@yahoo.co.uk

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

Next meeting – Thursday 17 October 2024 at 10.30 am – “Medieval Rouen” by Graham SIRRUP. A talk about the ancient town of Rouen and the Joan of Arc story. The event will take place in Carnegie Hall via the upper floor of Westhoughton Library, Library Street, Westhoughton BL5 3AT Doors open at 10.00 am.



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

Next meeting - Tuesday 8 October 2024 at 7.30 pm – “Recent Pre-Historic Discoveries in Aspull” by Patrick Maloney at Horwich

Community Centre – free to members and non-members are £2.00 per meeting.

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
- Genies enquiries: boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk
- Bolton helpdesk:
- 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>
