

Bolton's Genies



The Monthly Newsletter of the Bolton Family History Society

Edition 130 – March 2025



Photo by Bolton News

Corporation Street, April 1933, outside the Market Hall.

Sourced by Jane Milne

Editorial Musings

Congratulations to Bolton Museum for earning the accolade of Best Free Museum in the UK.

Bruce Tocher's talk brought back family emotional stories of my father's heroism in World War II. I am sure that this was also true for other members of BFHS.

This month's photograph, above, is intriguing, Are the men laying cobblestones? If so, are they still there?

Best wishes
Cath Cole

Information and Updates for Members

Farnworth, Moses Gate Wesleyan Methodist Chapel

There were 388 Baptisms 1895 -1930 (subject to 100 year closure) added to the Great Database on the MLFHS's website. These have been transcribed by members of the Bolton branch.

Bolton, Cable Street Wesleyan Methodist Chapel

There were 578 Baptisms 1882-1969 (subject to 100 year closure) added to the Great Database on MLFHS's website. These have been transcribed by members of the Bolton branch.

Farnworth, Halshaw Moor Wesleyan Methodist Chapel

There were 399 Baptisms 1838-1861 added to the Great Database on MLFHS's website. These have been transcribed by members of the Bolton branch.

Thanks to Graham Holt and his team of transcribers.

NLS Map Collection

The following video explains the basic facilities: <https://maps.nls.uk/videos/?vid=Map-Images-Website-Help>

Ordnance Survey National Grid Maps 1944-1974 have been added to the collection because they are newly out of copyright.

Sourced by Graham Holt

Horwich, Crown Roundabout

A historic signpost on the Crown Roundabout in Horwich was recently damaged in a car crash. It was made 150 years ago and the company that made it is still in existence. Formerly "The Royal Label Factory" but now Leander Architectural of Buxton have agreed to repair it. RFL's history can be traced back to 1874. Read more at <https://www.theboltonnews.co.uk/news/24865202.historic-crown-roundabout-sign-repaired-crash/>

Sourced by Jane Milne

Free museum is the Best in the UK

Bolton Museum has been named the best free museum in the UK! It is famed for its excellent option for families looking to keep their children entertained and praised for the attractions offering "immersive learning". Experiences for children include the ancient Egyptians to Zoology as well as local history. The museum also houses the region's only public aquarium.

Sourced by Jane Milne

Red Rose Collections from Lancashire County Council

This looks like a useful resource for Lancashire research – click the link:

https://redrosecollections.lancashire.gov.uk/?fbclid=IwY2xjawIqt25leHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHfSbAGvbfDP3SDLUVEX2WL1wy9SHE55l28g7Fk48Wypx846tu5n4eIxZfQ_aem_PUAAsYuCgDSgRLzwKzWjPO&WINID=1740494879741

Searching for Bolton's Clockmakers.

By Denis McCann

For many years I have had an interest in the local history of my hometown of Bolton. For many more years I have had an interest in clocks; Bolton clocks especially. The day came when my Bolton longcase clock arrived at my home. I decided to research the maker having honed my research skills for articles and questions posed on my Facebook pages on Ancient Bolton and Little Bolton. It was a logical step to look further into my clock. That was the start of my journey.

I now have over 450 clock and watch makers identified, collated and researched. Bolton, whilst recognised for many things, is not recognised as a centre of clockworks and watch making. Many have heard of 'Butler' or 'Standring' clocks, but there are many more. My interest widened into watches as facts were uncovered. People suggested that other places should also be included, such as Farnworth and Horwich. Other places, sometimes fiercely independent in their origin but inextricably linked culturally and geographically to Bolton. As research continued and the count increased, stories started to emerge, and a fascinating history unfolded in the most exquisite detail, while others remained frustratingly illusive. It is the closest thing I have encountered to my family tree research. It has flowed and stalled in similar ways, before that simple fact is uncovered that brings an avalanche of discovery including the following:

A watchmaker Thomas Osborne missing from London during the height of the Black Death, assumed dead, turned up in Bolton during the national pandemic. The unwelcome visitor had died and was hurriedly buried in the Parish Churchyard. He has been found and identified after all these centuries.

The theft of a watch in 1798 from one William Horrocks resulted in a formal execution of a young man, Samuel Longdon from Bolton. He was put to the gallows at Deane Moor and buried there, only to be later discovered with the gibbet in 1887.

The Henry Lee of Bolton watch that in the 1880s fell from the Brooklyn Bridge during construction and was found and recovered by a diver who saw it falling while he was in the water.

Historic clocks made in Bolton such as the oldest surviving Bolton Clock made for St James's Church, Brindle, in 1637 is now in Liverpool Museum.

The Bolton Parish Church clock, from 1617, one of the first in Lancashire was sadly lost when the old parish Church was demolished.

The Bolton Clock once owned by USA President Donald J. Trump.

The Pretoria Pit Disaster watch was a sombre reminder of that tragedy.

The watches presented by the grateful townsfolk to their heroes during World Wars I and II.

The £3.8 million pound watch inextricably linked to Bolton and Dr Roger W Smith OBE who first worked in his parent's garage in Bolton, as he learned to make watches.

The Bolton watch presented to Septimus Robert Welch, the Captain of the SS Great Eastern, Isambard Kingdom Brunel's leviathan of a ship.

One of the oldest Bolton Longcase clocks surviving was made by Thomas Bridge and dates from 1710.

The exquisite beauty of the watches by Robert Douglas, holding the 1784 first duty mark used by 'mad' King George III to fund the War in America as they fought for their independence from the United Kingdom.

Technical masterpieces such as Astronomical Regulators by the Astronomer and Scientist William Banks of Bolton who provided the Holden Telescope which provided highly accurate timekeeping and utilised maintaining power to power the clock while being wound.

The Thomas Barry Astronomical Clock, a very complex three-dial astronomical and musical table clock which was raffled in 1787 for one guinea, £1.05 in modern currency, per ticket with 100 tickets available. It was sold to the nation for £250,000 paid for by the national lottery in recent years.

Family dynasties were captured such as the Lee Family of Bolton with generations of makers to their name.

As the story of watches and clocks unfolded, so did the story of the tragedy of some makers' lives. The children in orphanages and poor houses and the Dumbill family whose children ended up in Cheetham's Hospital School for Boys in Manchester where they died are typical.

The website www.boltonclockmaker.org catalogues over 450 makers and would suggest that Bolton's clock makers and watchmakers should be recognised more widely than they have been to date. The biographies provide a brief insight into their life and times.

I have had awesome assistance from Jane Milne and the MLHFS, Ancestry UK, My Heritage, Lancashire On-line Parish Clerks and a huge number of specialist reference books, individuals and enthusiasts.

I am always delighted to hear of other watches, clocks, makers, history and other aspects of the trade and connection to Bolton by email at www.boltonblockmaker.org and I am happy to freely advise and give opinion on clocks and watches from Bolton makers.

Edited by Cath Cole

March Meeting

The Story of Operation Freshman and the previously unknown role of Flight Lieutenant Donald Higson, Bolton's own Hero of Telemark – an illustrated talk by Bruce Tocher.

Dr Bruce A Tocher was born in Forfar, Scotland and is a graduate of Aberdeen University. Bruce has a PhD in Geology and was a lecturer at Plymouth Polytechnic and Aberystwyth University for 10 years before moving to Norway to join their largest oil & gas company, Statoil. He spent 20 years there working in their Research & Development Division before taking early retirement in 2016. He then spent two years as an International Trade & Investment Senior Executive with Scottish Enterprise before deciding to focus full time on military history, in particular Operation Freshman.

Bruce, who is based in Stavanger, Norway has spent five years researching this topic with the aim of publishing a new book on the raid.

In July 1942, the British War Cabinet decided to attempt to destroy the heavy water production facilities at the Norsk Hydro factory at Vemork, Norway - this was code-named Operation Freshman. The German command, realising the importance of heavy water in nuclear fission, decided to up production at the Vemork facility in Telemark. The Allied forces, learning of this from the Norwegian resistance mounted a plan to destroy the plant. There were several challenges:

- the factory location was isolated
- the heavy water production unit within it was difficult
- hydro-electric cables made it difficult to approach by plane
- dropping in troops to sabotage the facility was also difficult because of isolation
- the weather was unreliable.

Several methods were assessed and a glider landing chosen as the best. There was concern that the Norwegian resistance had insufficient experience. Allied troops were used for the operation except for the advance party, Operation Grouse, which contained four Norwegians from Special Operations Executive.

Due to the urgency, the time to plan, train and execute the operation was very short, from 8 September 1942 to 19 November 1942. The objectives were to destroy stocks of "LURGAN" (code name for heavy water) and the means to produce it. Operation Freshman would involve gliders arriving at local time 20.00 hours after a 3 to 3½ hours flight, being met by an advance party and directed to the site, 5-6 hours away, blowing up the facility, splitting into 2s and 3s and escaping on foot to Sweden. While remaining in uniform, the men could carry arms but in civilian clothes they must not. The mission participants were all volunteers and included the four-person advance party, 14 members of 38 Wing from four Squadrons (295, 296, 297 and 138) of the RAF, 2 from the Glider Pilot regiment, 2 pilots from the Royal Australian Air Force and 30 members of the Royal Engineers Airborne Division (20 from the 9th Field Company and 10 from the 216th Field Park Company). None of the volunteers to the mission had much experience and none could ski. Among the 9th Field Company were Lance Corporal Wallis Mahlon Jackson from Leeds (son of a decorated WWI war hero and responsible for training the men) and Sapper John Glen Vannen Hunter, an electrician from Glasgow.

Royal Engineer Training began on 21 October and consisted of conditioning, mountaineering, map reading, survival training, demolitions and "silent-killing". Although there were 27 days until the mission, much of the time was taken up in travelling to different sites.

The Glider pilots trained in night towing, using blind flying aids, jettisoning of the Horsa undercarriage (protection for plywood gliders) and landing on minimally lit flare paths. Total training time (airborne) was 44 hours 20 minutes.

The RAF aircrew began training on 27 October, focussing on the unfamiliar Halifax bomber which most had not flown before. Navigators received specialist training in the Rebecca/Eureka radar guidance system. Although 50 hours training was planned, they had less than half that due to bad weather and aircraft serviceability. While the crews were training, planning, intelligence gathering and reconnaissance was ongoing among Combined Operations, Special Operations Executive and the Norwegian resistance. Photos were obtained from within the factory and terrain reconnaissance was undertaken by Flight Lieutenant Donald Higson and Pilot Officer John Douglas Hayes. Donald Higson was born 23 January 1915 in Bolton and attended Bolton School

and Bolton Technical College. He was a good athlete and interested in horticulture, drama and scouting. In 1935 he received a commission in the Royal Artillery Territorials but was seconded to the RAF Reserve and became a pilot. Pilot Officer John Douglas Hays, born 12 August 1917 in Guildford Sussex, joined No 1 Photographic Reconnaissance Unit (PRU) in 1941 as a navigator. Higson flew 55 reconnaissance operations with the PRU in both Spitfire and Mosquito planes. It was likely that Higson was the pilot and Hayes the navigator for many of them. They flew reconnaissance flights over Vemork in August 1942 and took several high-quality photographs of factories including the hydroelectric factory and the bridge at Vemork. These photos were later used by the US to plan bombing raids. In October 1942, Higson and Hayes took off from Fife to photograph the Operation Freshman glider landing sites but were detected by a German Squadron and shot down south of Oslo. Both men were killed. They were buried in Oslo West Cemetery, among the 500 PRU casualties of the war.

At the same time, final preparations for Operation Freshman were under way. The four man Grouse team parachuted into the Hardangervidda plateau in October. The Freshman crew made final preparations by writing their wills and last letters to family. On 19 November, the operation got under way, taking off from RAF Skitten. There were two Halifax bombers towing two gliders (Combinations A and B). Initial take-off was delayed because of intercom failures. The Halifax A reported a failure in the Rebecca system when they crossed the Norwegian coast. Ice buildup on the tow rope made it too heavy and it broke, releasing Glider A which crashed in Fylgjesdalen, killing 8, including Sapper John Vannen Hunter. The Halifax A returned to Scotland. This crew were the only eventual survivors of the operation other than the advance team. Three survivors of the glider A crash including LC Wallis Jackson went to a farm for help. The nine were turned over to the SD (Gestapo) and were held without medical treatment for one week. They were transported to Gestapo prison "A" in Stavanger. The severely injured were kept in a separate cell. No medical treatment was provided. They were interrogated over the two days and after a week, five were sent to Grini prison camp near Oslo. They were held in isolation. They were not interrogated and apparently not tortured but managed to communicate with Norwegian prisoners who later provided information as to their fate. On 19 January 1943, after 51 days of captivity, they were signed out of prison, taken to Trandum Wood and executed. They were buried in a pre-prepared grave.

After conferring with Gestapo HQ, the remaining 4 were ordered to be executed. German soldiers refused to be part of a firing squad to kill the wounded men. Three men were murdered on 26 November by Gestapo officers, prison jailers and a Luftwaffe medical officer, Dr. Werner Fritz Seeling, some in particularly cruel ways. The fourth was shot by his German driver while being transported to a local Gestapo HQ. Their bodies were stripped, weighted down by rocks and dumped at sea near the island of Kvitsoy.

The Halifax B combination released Glider B successfully, but it crashed, killing 3. The Halifax B crashed in south Norway and exploded, killing all 7 aircrew. Their bodies were buried in a shallow grave by locals and later moved to a more appropriate spot and eventually interred in a CWGC cemetery in Helleland Churchyard. Two of the 14 survivors of the glider crash called for help to the Norwegian sheriff, but calls were being monitored by the Germans, and they surrendered. They were not aware of a new directive from Hitler to kill or turn over to the SD any enemy combatants found. At the camp they were photographed and interrogated. At 4 pm, all civilian workers were

ordered to leave and the prisoners led to a remote spot and executed. The bodies of these men were driven to the coast and buried in the same dunes at Brusand. In all, 41 of the 48 men who volunteered died in Operation Freshman.

After the German surrender in May 1945, a War Crimes Investigation was begun and five investigators assigned. Land Forces Norway faced many challenges, including the need to repatriate 375,000 armed German forces and up to 84,000 Allied PoWs while ensuring they were effectively screened. Prosecution protocols were established and subjects for prosecution identified by counterintelligence and screening. A Central Registry of War Criminals and Security Suspects was established. Several high-level Gestapo commanders escaped justice by suicide or disappearance. Phase 1 Investigations included Operation Freshman, was led by Major CJA Pardoe and initially focussed on the Stavanger Zone. Prosecution relied on contemporary police reports, newspaper reports and eyewitness statements. The volume of investigations proved too much for the civilian affairs branch and in Phase 2 of the War the Crimes Investigation, a new WCI branch of 56 officers and other ranks was formed under the command of Lieutenant William Dobson and assigned to six administrative zones. Three cases were assembled in relation to Operation Freshman, resulting in five trials:

Case 1 – Killing of 4 British officers at Stavanger (Glider A). The trial (1) was held in December 1945. Dr Seeling (doctor) and Erich Hoffman (Gestapo driver) were sentenced to death and executed by firing squad and hanging. A Gestapo jailer was sentenced to life imprisonment but released early.

Case 2 – Killing of 14 British soldiers at Settebo.

Trial 2 – Karl Maria von Beeren, former commanding officer of Wehrmacht Stavanger-Egersund was acquitted.

Trial 3 – Nikolas von Falkenhorst, former commander of all German forces in Norway, was sentenced to death for his role in handing over captured soldiers to the Gestapo. This was later commuted to 20 years. He was released in 1957 on medical grounds

Case 3 – Killing of five British soldiers and one British sailor at Trandum Wood

Trial 4 – The prosecution emphasized the secrecy involved in the executions, whereas defence claimed they were following orders. Nine former members of German Security Services in Oslo were sentenced to 15 years and 4 were acquitted. All were released by 1952.

Trial 5 – Oskar Hans, former head of the Security Service in Oslo who oversaw more than 300 executions during the war was sentenced to death. Again, the secrecy of the executions was emphasized by the prosecution. This sentence was commuted to 15 years and released in 1954.

Bruce ended his presentation with photographs and the inscription of memorials to those who died in Operation Freshman at Eiganes Cemetery, Stavanger, Norway.

Questions:

Is it not possible to issue awards and medals posthumously? Bruce has tried but without success so far.

Was landing in the sea a strategy at the time? The crew may have thought they were over land and a coded message should have been sent to say glider lost so that a rescue operation could be undertaken.



Memorial to the men of Operation Freshman near the site of the former RAF airbase at Skitten.
Photo by Bruce Tocher



Original burial site of the 8 men killed when Glider A crashed in Fyljesdalen, Lysebotn, Norway.
Photo by Bruce Tocher



Grave 9, Trandum Wood, near Oslo, where the five Freshman soldiers and Able Seamen Evans were originally buried.
Photo by Bruce Tocher



Commonwealth Graves for Halifax B aircrew, Helleland Churchyard, Norway.

Photo by Bruce Tocher



Execution site of 14 British soldiers from Operation Freshman at Slettebø Camp, near Egersund, Norway.

Photo by Bruce Tocher



Remembrance Sunday 2020, Commonwealth Grave Section, Eiganes Cemetery, Stavanger, Norway.

Photo by Bruce Tocher

If you wish to offer information or find out more about the Operation Freshman Project, please contact batocher@outlook.com

Please Note that a record of all 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'

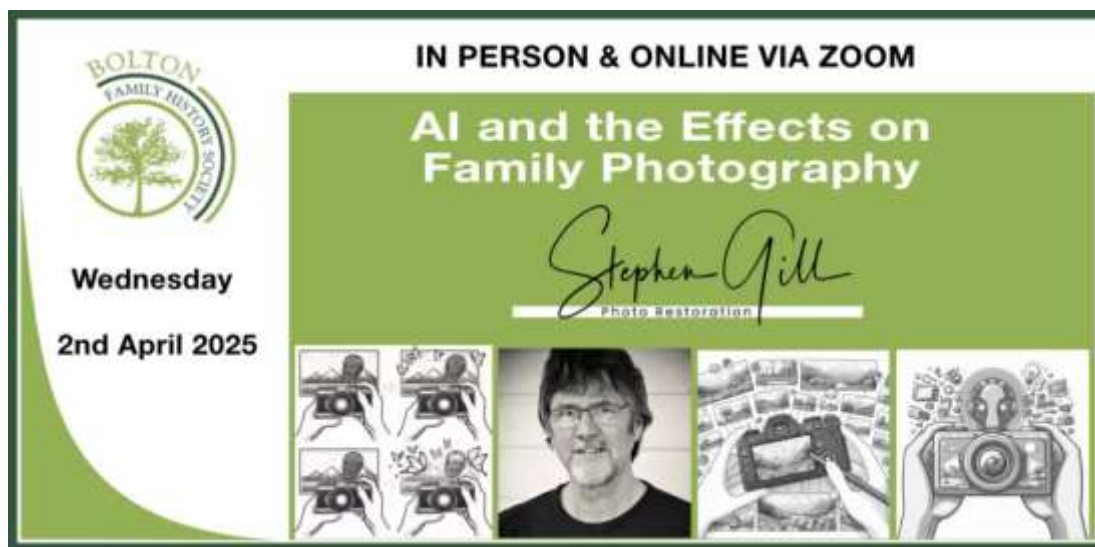
Enter your 'Name and Email address'

Click on 'SIGN UP'

Each Newsletter contains a report of the previous month's talk.

Upcoming Events

April 2025 Meeting



- Wednesday 2 April at 7.30pm
- Meeting at Great Lever & Farnworth Golf Club & Online via Zoom
- Attendance in person at Great Lever & Farnworth Golf Club - no booking required
- Zoom - Booking required – Eventbrite tickets will be available from 6th March.

Steve Gill has a fifty-year career as a professional photographer, photography lecturer and photo restorer. He now runs his own photo-restoration business, writes books on photo-history and offers talks to anyone who will listen!

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.

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. Zoom details will be sent on the morning of the meeting to those who have booked.

Speakers have been arranged for the whole of 2025. Details are on the website at <https://mlfhs.uk/bolton/events/meetings>

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 that the event is as previously advertised.

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.

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 – free, Non-Members of MLFHS - £5.00

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.

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.

Bolton History Centre and Bolton Records

Bolton History Centre is now open in the Central Library.

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 \(boltonlams.co.uk\)](#)

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>

Lancashire Records

News from The Archives



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

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/archives-and-record-office/>

Latest newsletter: <https://sway.cloud.microsoft/idx6pPVLkbLrx55?ref=email>



Lancashire Archives Facebook page -

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

Lancashire Archives Digitisation Service -

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/archives-and-record-office/digitisation-service/>

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

Next events – Wednesday 16 April 2025 at 10.30 am. “The History of Gorton Monastery” a talk by Grahame Birtles in Manchester Central Library.

Following the talk above will be The MLFHS AGM at 11.45 am approx.

Then at 1.00 pm - “River Irwell – Pleasure and Perils” a talk by Keith Warrender

Booking will be on Eventbrite

Cost: Members - free of charge

Cost: Non-members - £5.00



Oldham and District Branch

Next meeting – Saturday 12 April 2025 at 2.00 pm in Oldham Library.

Brief Annual Report Meeting followed by “Oldham’s Coal Mines” – an illustrated presentation by Kelly Anderson. This is a hybrid meeting in the Library and online via Zoom. Booking for Zoom is essential – free to everyone – on Eventbrite. In the Library, MLFHS members are free and non-members are £5.00

Refreshments on arrival



Anglo Scottish Branch

Next meeting – Saturday 5 April 2025 at 2.00 pm in Manchester Central Library – “Ghosts Still Haunt the Waves” – a talk by David Muil.

The talk will be preceded by a short Annual Branch Meeting.

Book on Eventbrite

Members are free and non-members are also free.

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 April 2025 at 7.30 pm. “For You, the War is Over” – a talk by Steve Williams at St Luke’s Church, Chorley Old Road, Bolton BL1

4JE.



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

Next meeting – Thursday 24 April 2025 at 7.30 pm at Harwood Methodist Church. “Reginald Dart’s Town Plan for Turton 1947” by David Lloyd

Email: mlandypublishing@yahoo.co.uk

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

Next meeting – Thursday 10 April 2025 at 10.30 am. “Westhoughton’s MPs through time” by Dr Brian Iddon. 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 April 2025 at 7.30 pm – “Northerners” by Brian Groom. Admission is free to members – non-members are welcome to attend

for £2.00 payable at the door. Meetings are held at the Horwich Resource Centre, Beaumont Road (off Longworth Road), Horwich on the second Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm. Free parking and disabled access is available.

Key Information about Bolton Family History Society

- Website: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton>
- Meeting Programme Organiser: boltonprog@mlfhs.org.uk
- Genies newsletter enquiries: boltingenies@mlfhs.org.uk
- Bolton Genealogy Research Advice boltonfhishelp@gmail.com
- Newsletter Archives since July 2014: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/newsletter/archives>
- General Society enquiries to the BFHS Secretary 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>