

Bolton Branch report for Manchester Annual Meeting 22 May 2024

WEBSITE CONTROLLER

The opportunity to be Web Site Controller for the Society was advertised on 14th March on Facebook and a response came the same day. Hilary Hartigan kindly dealt with the technical questions being asked by the applicant and a zoom meeting between Graham Holt (Bolton Chairman), Hilary and Keith Grundy who was then offered the task of Website Controller of the Bolton Pages on the MLFHS website. The MLFHS Webmaster has approved his appointment, Keith has received the necessary passwords etc. and has begun work on revising the Bolton pages.

Since Keith began work he has supplied regular updates of the work he has been doing to the website.

PUBLISHING TALKS ON THE WEBSITE

Bolton Committee is considering publication of the images from the monthly talks, hoping this will not be contravening any form of copyright.

CHANGE OF MEETING LOCATION

Bolton Committee has set up a three member team to consider suitable venues for our meetings.

HELP DESK AT HISTORY CENTRE

Experience has shown that some people prefer to seek research advice in a face-to-face meeting rather than by email correspondence. Before Covid BFHS operated a monthly Help Desk in the History Centre on Saturday mornings on a "drop in" basis which has not been restarted but subject to History Centre agreement, it is hoped to restart in some form.

When the subject was raised at the last Committee Meeting a preference for meetings by appointment was expressed to avoid wasting our time attending when no one was seeking assistance that day.

SPEAKER'S COMPANION

A paper has been produced to be presented to anyone who has accompanied the Speaker to our meetings. It being thought that we should acknowledge their presence which may be at some inconvenience to themselves but which is desired by the speaker.

NEW MEMBERS PACK

Before Covid we produced a pack of Welcome and Information Sheets for new members who we had identified at our meetings. With the hoped for access to all new MLFHS members with a declared Bolton Interest it is important that we have an up to date pack ready to email to

these people. The proposed pack should include a copy of the arranged programme of meetings.

[A BEGINNERS GUIDE to Family History Research](#)

[AN ADVANCED GUIDE to Family History Research](#)

Supplies of these booklets are almost exhausted with less than 50 copies of each remaining. We have the original printers computerized version of the booklets.

The author of the booklets has been asked if any revision of the text is called for and when any necessary revision is completed, we will seek an estimate from at least 2 local print shops for 250 copies of each and subject to a price being acceptable to us place an order

GENIE DISTRIBUTION

In week 11 Mar – 17 March the Bolton Genie newsletter was delivered to 479 email addresses.

PROJECTS

The transcribing of all available Bolton Poor Law Union Workhouse and Poor House Admission/Departures and Creed Registers has been completed and published on the MLFHS website. A digital memory stick with all the transcriptions has been given to the History Centre.

Work has begun on transcribing those non-conformist records held on film at the History Centre that do not appear on Lancs OPC or other on-line sources. The following records have been or are being transcribed and published:

- Halshaw Moor bapts
- Mawdsley St burials
- Moor Lane Baptist membership list and bapts
- Moor Lane Presbyterian [Scotch Chapel] bapts
- Westhoughton Baptists bapts

The Bolton History Centre has films of Catholic Churches registers which are the copyright of Lancashire Archives. The records include hand written Latin which may be a repeat of the same phrases and thus when one is transcribed the rest should follow on. Lancashire Archives have been approached regarding the transcribing of their copyright material.

Astley Bridge, Holy Infant & St. Anthony, Baptisms 1879-1924

Halliwell, St. Joseph, Baptisms 1893-1909

Westhoughton, Sacred Heart of Jesus, 1873-1907

Farnworth, St. Gregory the Great, 1849-1919

are included in the Catholic Record Society records recently added to the MLFHS website.

SS Peter & Paul, St Patrick's and St Mary of the Assumption [St Maria's] are obvious churches missing from this listing and are part of the Lancs Archives filmed records.