

M&LFHS NEWSLETTER

The monthly newsletter of the
Manchester & Lancashire Family
History Society



May 2020 Issue 1

SOCIETY CONTACTS

Website: - <https://www.mlfhs.org.uk>

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MLFHS Office: - office@mlfhs.org.uk

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MLFHS mailing address: Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society, 3rd Floor,
Manchester Central Library, St. Peters Square, Manchester, M2 5PD.

SOCIETY BRANCHES

Oldham Branch of MLFHS - <https://oldham.mlfhs.org.uk>

Bolton Branch of MLFHS – <http://www.bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/>

Anglo-Scottish Branch of MLFHS – <http://www.angloscots.mlfhs.org.uk/>

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Welcome to this the first issue of the MLFHS newsletter. I should say at the outset that this newsletter will not be a replacement for our prestigious 'The Manchester Genealogist'. The aim is to provide up-to-date information about the Society, the services that it provides, bookshop news and details of events in and around the Greater Manchester area. However, we will not stop there. If any of our members wish to contact us with news and forthcoming events in their area we will do our best to include it in a subsequent issue. It would also be useful if you could also provide a website address that would provide additional information. No long articles please, these should be forwarded to our journal editor.

We would be delighted to receive your views and comments through our e-mail address newseditor@mlfhs.org.uk.

Sadly the Coronavirus, Covid 19, has severely disrupted the lives of people throughout the world. Members of this Society are no exception and it is important that we all keep in contact with one another during these trying times. It had been proposed to launch this

newsletter in March to highlight talks and events taking place in April. Covid-19 put paid to that. So, the format has changed slightly with no information about events and talks and no related book reviews.

This issue will contain details of how to register as a new member of the Society and also how to renew your membership. There will also be a mention of the Society's Forum and how it may help you in research. There is a brief Project update and some websites that some of our member may find interesting. You may find the article about Archives+ of interest.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Hello fellow members,

I am delighted to be able to use the first edition of the Society newsletter to say a few words about the impact Covid-19 has had on Society operations. A launch had been planned for late March, full of our programme of future events. The closure of all our venues and the social distancing protocols put paid to that. The Editorial team has now been able to recast the contents and the result is as you see it. I congratulate the editorial team and wish it all success.

It is now just little more than a month since your Trustees took the decision to stand down all public engagements scheduled by the Society at all our venues. I do hope you and your families are coping well with the current restrictions and that you are well and in touch with your extended families by remote means.

On your behalf I want to thank a small team of volunteers who are working from home to maintain Society operations during the lockdown.

The office, social media, accounting, project, The Manchester Genealogist and forum operations are all continuing from the home bases of each controlling volunteer. Further details about membership subscriptions appear elsewhere in this newsletter. Progress is being made too with the design of the new website and we have reached the stage where a prototype is currently being discussed for agreement before the design stage can begin.

What is clear is that a resumption of a normal Society programme of events is some way off. Watch out for announcements on the website, The Manchester Genealogist and the various newsletter platforms as the situation changes over the coming weeks and months.

Meantime, I wish you the best of health in the coming days and look forward to the return to some kind of normality when the risks diminish,

Best wishes

David

David Muil, Chairman

A MESSAGE FROM OUR GENERAL SECRETARY

I hope you are all safe and well. You will be pleased to know we now have the office up and running from home, we can take renewals and new membership online. We can't get into Central library so have no access to anything posted since we closed. If this has affected you please email the office.

Please continue to renew in these difficult times and we will still be sending out The Manchester Genealogist as usual.

The best and safest way to join or renew is by PayPal or debit card.

To join click on this link <https://www.mlfhs.org.uk/join/> and follow the instructions

To renew click this link <https://www.mlfhs.org.uk/join/renew.php> and follow the instructions

I know some of you are not happy with using PayPal but if you scroll down from the PayPal option it allows you to pay by debit card.

Log in to PayPal

Enter your email address or mobile phone number to get started.

[Forgotten your email address?](#)

Next

or

Pay by Debit or Credit Card

Any problem please email to office@mlfhs.org.uk

Facebook is still being updated and we have added a variety of posts, not just family history, to hopefully amuse and suggest activities to help you get through this difficult time.

EVENTS/TALKS

Please note that because of Covid 19 all talks and events previously programmed have been cancelled or postponed. Please check our website for update information.

WEBSITES

Each month we will highlight sites that may be useful in your family research, particularly for our newer members

BBC Family history links

If you're tackling archives for the first time in a search for your family's past, this guide will help you get organised, and direct you towards further help and the incredible resources available on the internet. Follow this web address -

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=2ahUKewiMgunJ1PfoAhUVVRUIHcDHBgsQFjAAegQICRAC&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.bbc.co.uk%2Fhistory%2Ffamilyhistory%2Fget_started%2F&usq=AOvVaw2F_ZPojgcDf56om6Vdlf65

When wandering around the site and you get a 404 error message don't worry. Just reload from the link above. This site is no longer updated but it still contains a wealth of information. You can even print out basic record sheets.

The Guardian – 50 Best Websites

One or two of the links give a 404 error message but don't worry as the site is well worth looking at and there are some real gems in there. I am sure that any member visiting the site will find something of interest.

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=18&ved=2ahUKewjkh8nR1_foAhUOWxUIHVj0BssQFjARegQICRAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theguardian.com%2Fnews%2F2007%2Fapr%2F14%2Fguardianspecial4.guardianspecial226&usq=AOvVaw3lD_9wna3wqHZLrI0mGL2B

Lancashire BMD <http://www.lancashirebmd.org.uk>

Lancashire County Births, Marriage and Deaths Indexes. At the time of writing there are 10,884,017 births, 4,577,507 marriages and 6,519,595 deaths on the database.

Cheshire BMD <http://www.cheshirebmd.org.uk>

Cheshire County Births, Marriage and Deaths Indexes. At the time of writing there are 3,407,582 births, 1,239,570 marriages and 2,327,900 deaths on the database.

More next month.

Breaking News: British Newspaper Archive are offering history enthusiasts the chance to explore this archive of everything with a **30% discount on 12 month subscriptions**. This **limited time offer** is available from now **until 30 April***. Go to their website for further details.

***Offer expires at 11.59pm (BST) on 30 April 2020**

Findmypast Newspaper Archive Ltd.

PROJECTS UPDATE

BMD Certificates

A project currently underway is the addition of data from birth, marriage and death certificates to our general database. Up to now 5314 certificates have been scanned with 7262 index entries. These have been generally certificates ordered in error by members and donated for use by others although certificates relating to your family research would always be very welcome. One of our members recently sent scans in PDF format of his family certificates and these will be transcribed and placed in our database.

If you have any certificates that you would like seen added to our collection then why not consider sending them to us for transcription. Before sending any scans to the Society please email to newseditor@MLFHS.org.uk. giving us details of the certificates you hold. We will then be able to provide further details.

Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue – Cheetham Hill Road

We are currently transcribing births and marriages from records held by the Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue – Cheetham Hill Road These will be added to our general database.

St Michael Angel Meadow Burials

This project is going well with only one batch to be returned from volunteers to complete the index.

All Saints, Newton Heath Burials

This is a much bigger project with about 15,000 burials post 1854 and more still before this time. The first batches are currently being sent to home volunteers.

BOOKSHOP – new additions/book reviews/special offers/downloads.

The bookshop is currently closed.

However, you can still see all our stock via our website.

Details can be found at. <https://www.mlfhs-shop.co.uk/>

More and more people are now resorting to downloading music, films etc. from the internet rather than buying CDs and DVDs. This, to some extent, is due to computer manufacturers not including a CD/DVD reader in their machines. The increase of download speeds is also a major factor. We have recognised this trend and are now offering a selection of our CDs as downloads. A full list can be found at

<https://mlfhs-online-shop.myshopify.com/collections/downloads>

As you can see these downloads are priced considerably lower than the equivalent CD.

THE SOCIETY FORUM

Are you a member of our Forum?

The Society currently has about 2,300 members of which 1,800 (78%) have provided member addresses. Our records show that 558 (31%) of these member addresses have been registered to use the Forum. Why is this figure so low?

The Forum has been very busy over the last few weeks with some very interesting threads. I was particularly interested in the history of the 1939 Register - why was it taken? What has the data been used for and by who? Why has some of the entries been changed and when was the paper version stopped being used?

The Forum can also be very useful if you have hit a brick wall with your research. Post your query or problem to like-minded and very knowledgeable members and you may be surprised at the result

To register go to our website and sign in as a member. At the Member Area Main Menu click on the E-mail list at the right of the tool bar. This will take you to the MLFHS E-Mail Forum page. From here you can access the registration form.

I know that forums of this type and social media in general is not to everyone's taste but why not give it a try.

MANCHESTER CENTRAL LIBRARY ARCHIVES+

On-Line Memory Box - Withington

<http://manchesterarchiveplus.wordpress.com/>

During these unprecedented times, it's more important than ever to stay connected with your loved ones, whilst observing the government led social distancing guidelines. We hope Archives+ can help you to do this by publishing our popular memory boxes online which can be used as a starting point in discovering your family history, find out what their childhood was like, look back at the area where they grew up, discover their fondest childhood memories and maybe uncover some hidden gems in your family's story.

Whilst children are off school and many adults are at home, why not take this opportunity to find out about those important stories thus ensuring this history is passed on to the next generation which can often get lost or put off for another day as we lead our busy lives. Sharing memories of days gone by can bring families closer together, listening to elderly relatives can be a comfort for families as they gain an insight into their life stories.

Each week Archives+ will publish a memory box for an area in Manchester, starting this week with our archives covering Withington. Below you will find a collection of images from Withington, alongside 6 worksheets. The worksheets are set around 6 themes: Industry, Place, Health and Living Conditions, Pastimes, Radical Thinking, Communities. Using the worksheets as prompts to start up a conversation, write down your findings on a piece of paper, or if you prefer type into a tablet or PC.

In addition to this blog, the online memory box will be published on the Archives+ Facebook page. Dig out your old photos too, these can also be a brilliant resource to trigger fond memories of family times. We encourage you to share your findings on social media, either as comments on our Facebook page or on Instagram or Twitter using the hashtag #A+memorybox.

If you are unable to share your photos and stories online, when the libraries reopen bring copies of your family memories into your local library. In the coming year we will produce an exhibition in your local library of selected submissions, shared both online and in person.

Please make sure that if you share any information with us that the person you have spoken to is happy for you to share it with Archives+. When sharing your findings try to avoid sharing too much personal information such as surnames and date of birth as these details can identify your loved ones.

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HELP DESK – Closed until further notice.

Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society volunteers provide guidance from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm Monday to Friday at the Family History Help Desk at Manchester Central Library. You will find a knowledgeable team waiting to provide you with free family history advice and assistance, whether your ancestors come from Greater Manchester or from further afield.

There is free access to Ancestry and Findmypast along with links to other databases. In addition Central Library holds a large collection of registers, transcripts and records and our volunteers are always on hand to assist you in your family history searches. These collections will be discussed in more detail in subsequent newsletters.

The only time the help desk will normally be closed will be for Bank Holidays, Easter and the Christmas periods.

You can also find us on facebook



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

and Twitter  [@M&L Family History@MLFHS](https://twitter.com/M&L_Family_History)