

Newsletter
August 2017
oldham_newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk

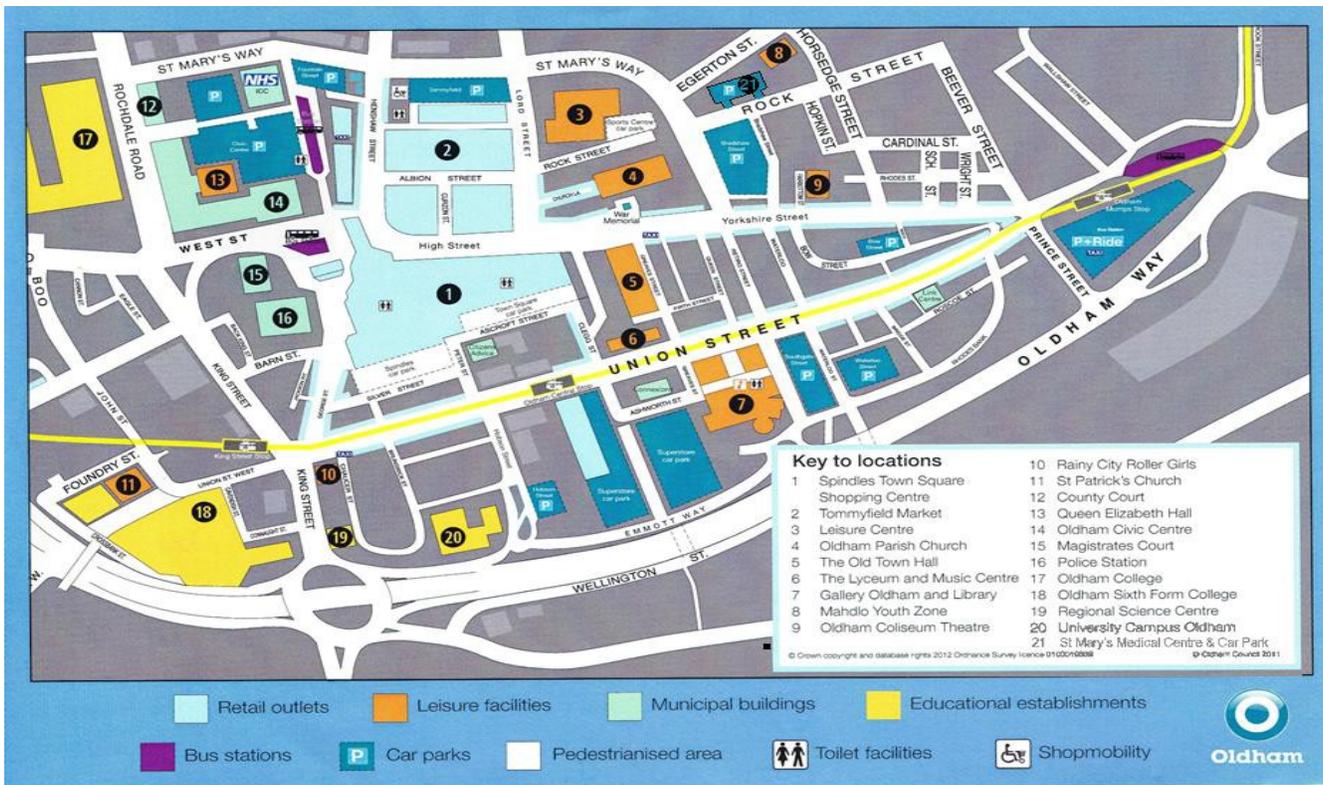


Branch News

The next meeting will be on **Saturday 9th September** and will be a talk given by **Cpl Stewart Cook on the Third Battle of Ypres.**

Stewart will be talking about if it was the Somme all over again. What was different? What were its aims and objectives? War in 1917 was changing; equipment, strategy and manpower.

Please note this meeting will take place at **Mahdlo, Egerton Street, Oldham.** (marked 8 on the map) The room we are meeting in has its own entrance on the Horsedge Street side and we are allowed to park in St. Mary's Medical Centre car park (marked 21 on the map) off Rock Street, which is almost back to back with Mahdlo.



Mahdlo only has two disabled parking spaces in front of it on Egerton Street.

Contributions to the Journal

We are looking for articles for the next copy of the Journal from researchers who are pursuing, or have pursued, their interests in family history. All the better if it relates to Oldham, the difficulties experienced and how they were overcome, or any new or unusual records and archives or research into events before 1800. Where possible please reference sources and their location. If you add photographs please do not send originals, or if the photograph is rare or of sentimental value, a TIF or JPG would be better. Please include your details i.e. name and address, email and tell us if you want your address/email address to be published.

Email: editor@mlfhs.org.uk

Quoting Oldham Branch

Help Needed

I am writing an article for the Oldham Website to include in Adopted Sons and Daughters

Hartley Bateson Born 1888 – 1968

Senior English Master at Oldham High School from 1914 to ?

A photograph of him would be good.

He was a prolific writer in the Oldham Chronicle and published books about all aspects of Oldham.

Jennifer Lever

Please reply to: Oldham_webmaster@mlfhs.org.uk

Also

Jennifer is looking for information on:

John Evans and his cousin Daniel Evans:

The two Evans boys went to Australia in 1852 looking for gold and they found it returning to Oldham in 1853 with a quarter each share of a very large nugget. I read that they bought a coal mine and the street near it was renamed 'Evans Street'. Unfortunately, that's all I have. Another of the quartet was John Lees also a native of Oldham, I have found information on him, and the fourth member who came from Wolverhampton. In 1859 a cousin of Daniel went to Australia and found a nugget of 120 lb, he was the son of Benjamin Travis.

I only have their names - Can you help?

Please get in touch.

Oldham_webmaster@mlfs.org.uk

London Trip

These photos were taken on the Oldham Branch Annual London Trip.

One shows Dorothy Bintley being presented with her fellowship award by David Muil, MLFHS Chairman, as she was unable to go the Annual General Meeting.

The other shows the Oldham Branch Chairman, Rod Melton, presenting Mary Pendlebury with an award to celebrate her 20 years of organising the London Trip.

Congratulations to both Dorothy and Mary.

Gill Melton



Dorothy and David



Rod and Mary

Joan has sent us this report about her experience of the visit:

On Tuesday morning a few of our group made the usual excursion to The National Archives at Kew, each with our own hopes of things to discover. I had recently learned that one of my 3XGt Grandfathers, George Whittaker, had been in the Army between 1826 and 1835. To find out more was my quest.

To start with I was going round in circles - getting nowhere fast. Then with someone from the help desk I struck GOLD --- well I found 10 pages of records including:-

He was a Gunner Driver in the Royal Regiment of Artillery 8th Battalion.

His reason for discharge --- diseased shin bone right leg and ulcers on right arm.

Description at Discharge --- Age 29 1/2 years, Height 5ft 11inches, Hair Brown, Eyes grey, Complexion fresh, Trade carpenter.

I now have to study the documents to see what else I can find.

Our swimming this year was a little on the tame side. Instead of the wild open waters of the last two years, which you may remember, most of the ones were over an hours journey away or closed for maintenance. We had almost given up

when late Thursday afternoon we found a council run swimming facility, with an OUTSIDE and inside pool. However only two brave souls sampled it and the sauna attached. May do better next year???

By Joan Secker Wlodarczyk

Gill has also sent us this account of her research into her family history at Kew:

I went to Kew to confirm some details I had found out about my 3x Gt Grandmother, Jane, whose 1st husband, James Charters, died at the dockyard in Bermuda and was buried there in April 1833. This event I confirmed in the Dockyard Records but could not find his cause of death in the Bermuda Hospital records. My 3x Gt Grandfather, Thomas Newson, started work at the dockyard in July 1833 and their first two children were born in Bermuda in October 1834 and May 1836, the second of which is my 2x Gt Grandmother. (I have, over several years, found out a lot of information about Thomas 30 years service in the Royal Navy on various ships and at dockyards, from records at Kew,) As Jane's youngest child with James Charters was baptised in Bermuda in August 1832 and I have been unable to find her marriage to Thomas Newson in Britain, I have come to the conclusion that they probably married in Bermuda but these records are not at Kew. I enquired about the records whilst I was there and they referred me to a book called "The British Overseas" which is lodged at The Guildhall Library in London. Staff at the Guildhall Library have looked up for me where marriages in Bermuda are lodged and have referred me to a list lodged at The Society of Genealogists in London, who I have now emailed and await a reply.

By Gill Melton

Society News

Focus Group Report to the Executive Committee, 5th July 2017

The first meeting of the Focus Group took place on 13th June. The session was led by Facilitator, Claire Evans, Chief Executive of 4CT Ltd, a community-based charity. A mix of seasoned trustees and members with no previous experience of Society planning explored ways to retain, increase and broaden membership. The discussions generated a host of ideas, all of which will be given due consideration but delegates agreed that prompt action was required in three key areas:

1. General publicity and promotions
2. An increased, improved social media presence
3. Development of a wider range of social activities where members meet.

The Facilitator's report will now be submitted to the strategy sub-committee, which will meet in late July, to consider the practical aspects of implementation of these recommendations and prepare a report for approval by the trustees in September.

A further meeting of the Focus Group will take place after the E.C. in September when the trustees' response is known so that plans can be made to implement the approved recommendations.

David Muil

Findmypast Subscription Discount

MLFHS is pleased to announce that the 20% discount offer for NEW subscriptions to Findmypast has been extended for a further year. To access this offer, log into the member area of the society web site and click the link to Findmypast. The discount code 'MLFHS' will be applied automatically.

Volunteers Wanted

All of the back issues of The Manchester Genealogist are now available in the member area of the Society web site. An index search feature has been added but volunteers are needed to index the contents of the 200+ magazines. This is work you can do at home and online. If you would like to help, please mail [John Marsden](#).

Other News

Thursday 21 September: Family History for a Floating World

Alison Light, author of Common People, will be talking about family history and genealogy. Alison will be reflecting on the work she did for her own family history, published as the acclaimed book Common People.

There will also be a wine reception. Talk starts at 5:30.

This event is sponsored by Ancestry.com and is part of a two-day event considering International Family History.

This meeting will be held in the Performance Space at Manchester Central Library. The talk is open to the public. Booking is essential. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to book.

Friday 22 September: International Family History

International Family History - a day-long symposium looking at Family History in an international context.

This event is sponsored by Ancestry.com

Please register in advance for catering - there will be coffee and lunch provided.

Speakers include:

Marc Scully (University of Leicester)

Paul Knevel (University of Amsterdam)

Sarah Abel (University of Iceland)

Ashley Barnwell (University of Melbourne)

Henriette Roued-Cunliffe (University of Copenhagen)

Indira Chowdury (Shrishti School of Art and Design, Bangalore)

Tanya Evans (Macquarie University)
Peter Wade (University of Manchester)
Carolina Jonsson Malm (Malmö University)
Andre de Lemos (Universidade Federal de Ouro Preto)
Ewa Jurczyk-Romanowska (University of Wroclaw)
Marcelo Abreu (Universidade Federal de Ouro Preto)

This meeting will be held in the Performance Space at Manchester Central Library. The talk is open to the public. Booking is essential. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to book.

DNA

Mary has sent this link about DNA which she thinks our readers might find interesting.

The link is: <http://www.ffhs.org.uk/news/news170604.php>

This is a brief description of the item.

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Read the small print

Family historians are regularly pressurised to purchase DNA tests. Those who do so enter into a contract with the firm providing the service. But how many read its complete terms?

Local News

Talks by Other Groups (which are not part of our society)

Oldham Historical Research Group

3rd Battle of Ypres-1917 Passchendaele

With reference to Edward Garside Whitehead, Grenadier Guards; Guards Machine Gun Regt.

A volunteer at Hollinwood. Killed in action on the first day at Pilckern Ridge.

He is remembered on the Menin Gate.

A talk by Sheila Goodyear at Oldham Local Studies and Archives at 7pm on **Wednesday 16th August.**

Moorside and District Historical Society

World War One - 1917

The Impact on the Parish

Moorside in the Great War cont...

At St Thomas' Church Lounge, Moorside at 7.30 on **Monday 21st August.**

That's all for this month. We hope you have enjoyed reading our newsletter. Thank you to those of you who have been in contact with us.

We value your comments.

oldham_newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk

Sue Forshaw, Newsletter Editor

Assisted by Irene Whitby