

Bolton's Genies



The Monthly Newsletter of the

Bolton & District Family History Society.

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A branch of The Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society.

Editorial

Hello there. Firstly may we apologise for our initial hiccup about our contact details in last month's inaugural edition. Dare we ask what you think on our second attempt? We would love to hear your comments good or bad, and this time we have the correct email address for your responses as above. Sorry we got the "coms" and "orgs" mixed up last time, and it took us a week to realise why we might not be getting any feedback. By that time folk were enquiring by phone instead, so at least the option was available and being used, and we relaxed a little.

We were quite surprised to see some of the statistics produced after our launch though

M&LFHS BL postcode Bolton addresses with email 73 had but 39 did not

M&LFHS BL postcode Bury addresses with email 21 had but 17 did not

"Out of area" M&LFHS members who have asked for the email version 12

M&LFHS non BL members who gave email address at a B&DFHS meeting 15

Known Bolton genealogists, not on other lists who asked to be included 24

Bolton News, Library contacts, Local History Societies 5

TOTAL 208

From these initial details it can be seen that 56 people, that we know of as members with no email, should now have received an initial mailed, printed copy of our newsletter. Unfortunately this method of distribution is not sustainable regularly, so if you know of anyone who has not got email but who might be interested in receiving same, please could you

maybe print a copy off, or assist them in reading one online. We also plan to archive the last 6 on our web site on a rolling basis.

There are also at least 40 researchers who we would love to welcome to the Society, with now reduced fees of **£15 per family per year**, which surely can't be bad for our "stimulating company", and help. Come to a meeting and pay on the night for the following year, or £1.50 just to try us out. Personal research help is always available after each meeting. Take a look at the web site to see what is offered <http://www.mlfhs.org.uk/>, and our Bolton pages will be launched shortly once holidays are over.

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Our Last and Next Monthly Meetings

(All at the same venue Bolton Cricket Club (Back door),

Bishops Road, Farnworth, BL3 2JB 7.30pm,

First Wednesday of each month apart from January).

We routinely offer a Help Desk for personal research after each meeting,
and have a recycle service for your used Family History Magazines.

Don't throw them out, bring your old ones in to be passed on.

August 6ths talk was by Yvonne Gill-Martin who gave us a very helpful insight into researching Scottish ancestry, and even better, some legible hand outs for future private reference and research

September 3rds talk is one by Katherine Carter, an elder from the Church of Latter Days Saints, Preston Temple, and she is coming to help show us how to make maximum use of their <https://familysearch.org/> website. Unfortunately we will not have live internet access but she has reassured us she has a Plan B.

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VISITS AND ACTIVITIES

July and August are quiet over the holiday period. But

September

Wednesday 17th Horwich Heritage Centre Leader --Val Leese

Friday 26th Manchester Central Library --Brian Whittle

All bookable via Boltonnews@mlfhs.org.uk but places are going fast and priority will be given to members

Also we are looking for more ideas of where to go with maybe monthly visits, and, even more so, volunteers to organise some of these trips. Any offers???

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LEARNING-COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

Updates next month but please refer back to last month's details about the options for autumn's many local Bolton planned courses. Or enquire via Boltonnews@mlfhs.org.uk

BUT

also just to remind you

MLFHS Beginner Courses Continue in September

The fifth of this year's series of seven beginner courses will be held at Manchester Central Library on Saturday 6 September 2014 starting at 10.30am and ending around 12.30. This and all of the courses will be held in the Performance Space on the ground floor.

This session will deal with *sources of particular relevance to the 19th and 20th centuries focusing specifically on newspapers, trade directories, electoral registers and rate books.*

The session is free to members of MLFHS but a £3.00 fee is payable on the day by non-members. This will be refunded if a person joins MLFHS on that day.

Whether a member or non-member, please book for this event using the link below so that they can have an idea of the numbers attending:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/beginners-course-5-new-sources-in-the-19th-20th-centuries-tickets-11413655551?ref=ebtnebregrn>

This update was published on 12 Jul 2014. For more information, please contact Bea Bentham at MLFHS <http://www.mlfhs.org.uk/#>

Another very useful website for both starters, and linking to ongoing and more advanced research is

GENUKI or UK and Ireland Genealogy-

- site map- <http://www.genuki.org.uk/contents/>

- **Getting Started in Genealogy and Family History** <http://www.genuki.org.uk/gs/> by acclaimed historian Roy Stockhill. This source could be described as one of the "definitive" UK based genealogical sites, and is constantly updating, and offering loads of local information. Just start from the top of the site map and work your way down.

STOP PRESS!! ---COMING SOON IN SEPTEMBER.

**"BOLTON'S ALADDINS", TIPS—
THIS MONTHS WILL BE ON "MAPS"**

MISCELLANEOUS

Coming Anniversaries

- **"1914-18" WW1 Centenary Memorial Programme**

Bolton Remembers: Bolton Library First World War Casualty Database

<http://www.boltonlams.co.uk/archives/first-world-war-centenary>

As part of Bolton's World War 1 commemorations Bolton History Centre is endeavouring to produce a database of Bolton casualties. The database will comprise information gleaned from Bolton's Roll of Honour, the Commonwealth War Graves Committee index, local newspapers and war memorials. The plan is, to include the names from the cenotaphs and memorials in parks, schools, hospitals, churches and other places in the Bolton Metropolitan area where war memorials are still in existence. Additional information such as rank, battalion, date and place of birth, residence, place of death will also be recorded.

Even during the War, some of the local newspapers also ran a special page in each issue detailing the news from the front, listing the awards and medals won, those missing in action, and those who were killed, with a short biography of each serviceman.

The Central Library staff are now looking for local knowledge of the area which will be used to find undocumented memorials. They hope to engage with local history groups and individuals, who may be able to help them by taking images of the memorials or transcribing the names listed.

Once the information has been gathered, the database will be accessible in the Bolton History Centre. Further information on the project, how you can help, and details of the first world war centenary commemorations in Bolton is on their website.

Note we do recommend you contact the library first, as quite a bit of work has already been done by other researchers and there is no point in "doubling up". Nice to be involved though

- **"1815 Battle of Waterloo" 200th anniversary in 2015**

<http://www.waterloo200.org/hunt-is-on-for-battle-of-waterloo-descendants-for-200th-anniversary-in-2015/>

"A call is going out to the nation and beyond to find descendants of those who fought in the Battle of Waterloo, the last great conflict of the age of the sword, cannon and musket in Western Europe, ahead of the 200th anniversary of the Battle in 2015"

This was also described as the "Great War" in the 19thC and "*, the consequent deaths were proportionally more than the dead from World War One*"

And another approaching anniversary will be

- **"1415 Agincourt" - 600th anniversary in 2015-** (but not heard of any requests for ancestors from there yet) ,

some interesting similarities here.

Thick glutinous mud!!—

they are all in more or less the same flood plain !!!.—

Did you know Waterloo actually means "wet meadow", and they encountered much the same conditions in 1915, and 1815 as they had in 1415:-

<http://europeanhistory.about.com/library/prodrev/aafprfaceofbattle.htm> if this sort of thing interests you.

And on a Lighter Note --A Travel Buddy Scheme?

It has come to our attention that some people would love to be able to come to our meetings but cannot practically get to our venue at Bolton Cricket Club in the evenings, mainly due to transport problems. At the moment we know of members in Brightmet, Gilnow and Horwich having difficulties. If you also are either having problems or could offer a lift, would you like to be involved in a "buddy" system. Please let us know and we will see if we can coordinate some help, and at the same time get to know each other a bit better. It will be confidential until we get mutual agreement so please don't worry about that. Just let us know via the above email address

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SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES

- **Borthwick Institute for Archives**
York Cause Papers Online - <http://ffhs.org.uk/news/news140608.php>

The blurb from "The Federation of Family History Societies" is

"Readers with ancestors from the north of England can be in for a treat if they visit the [Cause Papers database](#). Cause papers are the papers of individual cases heard in the church courts: in this case the ecclesiastical courts at York

This searchable catalogue of over 14,000 sets of records relates to cases heard between 1300 and 1858 in the Church Courts of the diocese of York. Not all of the cases relate to people who lived in the diocese of York, as some concern appeals originating from other dioceses within the northern province of the Church of England"

- **"Genealogy in Time" Magazine** —

Top 100 Genealogy Websites of 2014 <http://www.genealogyintime.com/articles/top-100-genealogy-websites-of-2014-page01.html>

And their free search engine. You might be surprised at what is on it

<http://www.genealogyintime.com/tools/genealogy-search-engine.html>

The magazine is an independent Canadian based company but loads here. (They appreciate the use of Amazon via their site which raises a bit of finance). Have fun and let us know what you think please

- **National Library of Scotland** - newly released **Scottish WW1 Rolls of Honour**

These are lists of casualties and those who died while on active service. The collection includes rolls from schools, universities, clans, businesses, churches and towns. Some of the Rolls of Honour contain detailed biographies of the soldiers, as shown below. The collection can be searched by keyword, such as name. Access is free.

<http://digital.nls.uk/rolls-of-honour/pageturner.cfm?id=100261716>

- **Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)**

<http://quaker.adlibhosting.com/search/simple> an

"online index of their books, pamphlets, periodicals, and committee meeting records. Some of the information goes backs to the 1600s. The archive can be searched by keywords, such as name. You still need to visit the library in London to view the underlying document. The search is free" - (from http://www.genealogyintime.com/records/newest-genealogy-records.html?awt_l=Fz5zc&awt_m=JnPOYzWuLAK.Vy)

Also the newly released

White Feather Diaries reveal Quakers dilemmas in WW!

<http://www.quaker.org.uk/news/news-release-white-feather-diaries-reveal-quakers-dilemmas-wwi>

- **FamilySearch** (<https://familysearch.org>)

has been tinkering again with the way that we locate the i

***International records collections.** Previously there was a list of defined regions within which the collections were grouped, e.g. "United Kingdom and Ireland", located on the Search page. Now that list has been replaced by an interactive map. Visit the Search page at*

<https://familysearch.org/search> and scroll your way to the bottom

- **Childrens Homes** <http://childrenshomes.org.uk/intro/> .

This is another website just launched by Peter Higginbottom (best known already for his Workhouse website <http://www.workhouses.org.uk/>) , to help people whose ancestors grew up in children's homes in Britain, Canada, Australia and Jamaica. This is still in its infancy but looks like a fascinating site

Also for

For English research

- **Greater Manchester Parish Registers**

Have you, like me, often admired Mike Berrell's regular helpful responses to "look up" requests on the MLFHS forum? I plucked up courage the other day when I saw his response to a Bolton query, asked him how he did it, and received this reference to find out what Parish registers are on film at Manchester Central Library (MCL) see:

1. "The Pink Book" Registers in Manchester Archives and Local Studies which are also online http://www.manchester.gov.uk/directory/100/church_registers

Or

2. <http://search.ancestry.co.uk> -----> Card Catalogue--> e.g. "Manchester Marriages"

Browse this selection and fill in the individuals details including the name of the parish e.g. Bolton in this case.

Useful for quite a few other lists as well though. Have a look

- **English County Collections**

<https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/England> is a useful link to find out what records and resources are available for each County e.g

<https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Staffordshire#Parishes>

<https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Yorkshire>

- **Useful BMD sites include**

Do you all know about websites such as these

Freecen <http://www.freecen.org.uk/>

"which offers the "benefit of the U.K. Census data being centrally available on ONE databasand being able to trace your ancestors from 1841 to 1891 via a "free-to-view" online searchable database of the 19th century UK census returns. FreeCEN is part of FreeUKGEN, an initiative aimed at helping make high quality primary (or near-primary) records of relevance to UK genealogy conveniently and freely available online, in a coherent, easy to access and search, information retrieval system.

Other projects associated with the FreeUKGEN initiative are FreeBMD and FreeREG"

They are of course always looking for volunteers but this is how you can learn

- **For those with ancestors from the North East** do you know about www.durhamrecordsonline.com

For those with Scottish ancestors

- **Graham Maxwell Ancestry - Online Indexes -**
<http://www.maxwellancestry.com/census/>

Offers some free censuses 1841-1861 And

- **ScotBDM -** <http://www.sctbdm.com/index.php> - "A Births Deaths and Marriages Exchange for Scotland ~ is a free resource for Scotland genealogy and Scottish family history. For anyone researching their family history in Scotland, the aim of the Exchange is to provide a free resource for sharing information previously paid for about ancestors found in Scotland."

and for the Welsh

- "Welsh Newspapers" <http://welshnewspapers.llgc.org.uk/en/home>
"North Wales BMD"- <http://northwalesbmd.org.uk/>

the Irish

have the newly extended

- "Irish Genealogy" site <http://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/>

Any Dutch Ancestors?

- **WhoWasWho** <https://www.wiewaswie.nl/en/home/> this is a Dutch website but now with English facilities. Please could anyone trying it let us know how you progress

And I make no apology for once again offering this website for 2 weekly newsletters from

- **Lost Cousins-** <http://www.lostcousins.com/newsletters/jul14news.htm> -
<http://www.lostcousins.com/newsletters/latejul14news.htm>

Again these are free, and will probably be out of date by the time you read them, but the current version will be available, and you will realise it is worth monitoring it regularly for the short term offers (already out of date unfortunately) , and general advice and information

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST,

OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES' NEWS

Halliwell Local History Society - <http://www.halliwell-lhs.co.uk/monthly> - meetings Or email margaretk@talktalk.net .

Meetings are usually held on the last Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm, at St Luke's Church, Chorley Old Road, BL1 3BE opposite Shepherd Cross St, Bolton. Their next meeting is on August 26th, "The life and voyages of Sir Ernest

Shackleton' - an outstanding leader, who was responsible for one of the most remarkable sea journeys of the 20th century", by Malcolm Tranter

Turton Local History Society

Normally all events are on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm except for December, (which is too close to Christmas) and the summer months (May, June and July), when they have their evening walks. All start at Longsight Church Centre at Harwood, BL2 3HX. This is the old Longsight Methodist Church which has just been converted to a 'multi-use centre'. They offer talks of local and regional interest.

August's event is on the 27th and commemorating their 40th anniversary.

Please Contact Secretary PeterMHarris@care4free.net for more information.

Westhoughton Local History Group -

http://www.westhoughtonhistorygroup.org.uk/Westhoughton_History_Group/Home.html

Meetings take place on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, between 10am and 12md in the room above Westhoughton Library, Market St, Westhoughton, BL5 3AU Admission £1, which includes light refreshments and time to meet others interested in our past. They have 2nd August- 11th November the opening of their World War Exhibition, Thursday 7th August "Women in WW1", by Kath Payton with the 21st "Westhoughton and WW1." A drama production One the Go Theatre Group. To be staged in the Carnegie Hall

Horwich Heritage Centre- <http://www.horwichheritage.co.uk/meetings.htm>

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm at the Horwich Resource Centre, Beaumont Road (off Longworth Road), Horwich BL6 7BG. And free parking and disabled access is available. Open Days, are held most months on Saturdays between 10am - 1pm

August's meetings are on Tuesday 12th, 7.30pm when Malcolm Tranter gives a talk about "The Big Ditch; the Building of Manchester Ship Canal" and Saturday 16th 10am-1pm when they are holding WW1 Commemorations

Lots more on offer please consult their web site

Members Comments and Queries

Please tell us what you think, and what you would like to see here (or not).

One thought

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

Personally I have always preferred not to get involved in the "social media" scene, but I know a lot do enjoy the contact, and MLFHS are in fact trying to drag more of us into the 21st C. I have recently been informed by one of our readers about this site

<https://www.facebook.com/InAndAroundBoltonPhotos> as being very interesting for local pictures, old and new, comments and reminiscences. I am sure there is a lot more available in this direction, and if anyone has any recommendations please pass it on.

Coming next month, hopefully an "idiots guide" to how to do it!!! Watch this space

And something completely different I have just come across this website
Another thought for Parents /Grandparents, Anybody!

Free Things to do in the Northwest of England this Summer 2014

http://www.travelzoo.com/uk/t-northwestforfree/?utm_source=localdeal_uk&utm_medium=email&utm_content=1817733&utm_campaign=1817733_html_the-northwest

***** Note particularly the

Heritage Open Days (at a place near you) .11th 14th September

In the past I have done a free trip on a canal boat, a tour of a 200 year old windmill, Bolton archives, and they have opened churches and church records normally closed, historical sites etc etc, have a look wherever you are going to be that weekend.

<http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/directory>

