



# Bolton's Genies



## The Monthly Newsletter of the Bolton Family History Society:

<http://www.bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/>

- Newsletter Comments, and Speaker Bookings: [boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk)
- General Society enquiries to the BFHS Secretary, Mrs B. Owen, 01204 309515
- Research help, General Queries: [bolton@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:bolton@mlfhs.org.uk)
- Help Desk Drop In 10am -12md Bolton Central Library. First Saturday of each month.
- Facebook page <https://goo.gl/n99qtW>
- BFHS website <http://www.bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/>
- Bolton Document Collection on MLFHS website: <https://goo.gl/hJi8Ns> (members only)
- Join the MLFHS/BFHS at: <http://mlfhs.org.uk/join/index.php>

## May 2018

Bolton Family History Society is a branch of The Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society



Picture shows Great & Little Bolton Co-op Central Premises, Bow Street Outfitting Department and Entrance to Warehouse  
<https://goo.gl/ApKB1S>

Hello all, and welcome to our May edition of the Genie. Almost half way through the year and it is just beginning to feel like Spring has arrived at last, even after we have had Easter and now the first May Bank Holiday. This means that the BFHS courses are complete until our new season starts in October, (Manchester monthly Saturday talks still available following the links on these yellow squares but need booking <https://goo.gl/uAk5NA>), and it is time to get out and about, maybe exploring some of our ancestral homelands, or just enjoying the lighter and warmer days, and recharging the batteries. Our programme of visits has started as discussed below, and we plan to also arrange a visit to the Terracotta Army in Liverpool in the late summer. There are also a few Family History Shows to consider with Chesterfield on May 19th <https://goo.gl/i3uHpX> , and York 23<sup>rd</sup> June <https://goo.gl/1njNpj> , but of course in all these cases, transport could be a problem for some so please let us know if you can offer a car share. .

I have been asked also to pass on some new ideas with you.

1. Our hosts, Bolton Old Links Golf Club have asked if any of our group would be prepared to help them research the history of their club which is over 125 years old! Please let your interest be known to any of us, and/ or contact their secretary on 01204 842307 or email [office@boltonoldlinks.com](mailto:office@boltonoldlinks.com)
2. Consideration has also been taken of trying to reduce the work load in preparing this newsletter. Would anyone be prepared to take on the monthly job of collating the programme of other local (family) history societies, (from their websites), and entering their next months activities on to a template provided and posting same to the Genie email address to be added to the coming edition. This is time consuming more than difficult but will probably be easier with a computer rather than a tablet, for the editing needs.

## OUR LAST and NEXT MONTHLY MEETINGS

- Where?

Bolton Old Links Golf Club, Montserrat Brow, Chorley Old Road BL1 5SU.  
Buses 519&125 <https://goo.gl/fkVgZ5> . All MLFHS members free. £3.00 to non-members unless joining on the night.



- **When?**

7pm beverages available for 7.30pm start, on the first Wednesday of each month, except December and January. Extras include a Help Desk for personal research, Stationery Table for discounted equipment, and recycle service for your used family history magazines, books etc.

## **RECENT TRIPS AND COMING EVENTS**



### **Wednesday April 25<sup>th</sup> MLFHS Quarterly Talks and Annual General Meeting.**

A group of us from Bolton attended this meeting and took a few notes to bring back “home”.

**10.30am The Manchester Museum Speaker: Karen Brackenridge, “An Insight into the workings of the Museum”.** Karen and her colleague Alina brought along some objects from the museum and discussed their role as volunteers, encouraging visitors to use the “hands on “approach. It was a delight to hear such enthusiasm and interesting to see another outlet for volunteering.



**11.45am Annual General Meeting** which will be reported in the Genealogist

**1.30 pm “Bastards by Law under several disabilities...”: How to find illegitimate children. Speaker: Anna**

**Watson** Anna, who some of us know well from the Lancashire County Record Office, first discussed social attitudes to the bastard child, mentioning legislation from the reign of Elizabeth 1 <https://goo.gl/7wRvoF>. With the increase in population and therefore resources, first attempts were being made to manage the various categories of social outcasts. The illegitimate were regarded with the same social stigma as prostitutes, thieves, beggars, vagrants, and other “disreputables”, and all costing the Parish money. Looking after the mother, paying for the midwife (who would try to extract the name of a father whilst the woman was “in extremis”), establishing the name of the father, finding him and bringing him to court, as well as paying for the child, all took its toll on the ratepayers. Mothers would go to great lengths to hide a pregnancy or might kill a child, rather than face the community. This generated paper trails, using either Civil or Canon law, and Anna went through some examples of the 32 documents associated with illegitimacy. Reference to all relevant documents can be found on LANCAT (their online catalogue <https://goo.gl/d325gi>). The usual response to research into illegitimacy is through filiation and maintenance orders, held with Quarter Sessions records. However, this route works best when going way back in time. When one reaches say, Victorian times, there is more incidence of grandparents rearing a child of their (usually) daughter within their household. Assumptions about fathers can be made where mothers used part of the surname for a child, or perhaps where a father is living with a family at census time but perhaps the best way of identifying a father (without DNA) is through family stories.



The first law on bastardy was dated 1576. It stated that JPs should order the punishment of both mothers and fathers. The mother went to the poor house and the father to jail. Every effort was made to force the parents of an illegitimate child to pay for its upkeep. Very often, a pregnant unmarried woman would approach the local J.P. and ask for an examination to be held with a view to getting the father formally identified and force him to pay for the confinement and subsequent maintenance of the child, (the amounts dependent on his means). The parish constable was charged with finding an absconding father and bring him back to the parish. The constable had to pay the costs out of his own pocket if he was unsuccessful.

In 1809, in the reign of George III, a law was passed, requiring a father to pay towards the birth and the cost of the filiation order. A “recognisance” would be drawn up (which is a promise to pay, in this case money), for the child for 14 years. Failure to do this would result in a jail sentence.

In 1834, the New Poor Law Act took responsibility from the father and rested it on the mother until the child was 16 years old. The reasoning behind this was to (hopefully) improve female morality.

Documents can be found in church courts, quarter sessions (including petitions, bonds, calendar of prisoners), petty sessions, township and parish records and even newspapers. There are also “Compert

books”, in which churchwardens sent information to the relevant bishop about instances of fornication, obviously giving lots of details of parents of illegitimate children. <https://goo.gl/zwKBVi> Church courts would excommunicate mothers (which was better than going into jail or being whipped). Often a penance would be imposed on mothers, who paid 7s 6d for the privilege! This might include standing up in church and acknowledging their sin to the whole congregation, ( I have heard also that this could be years later). The laws of settlement are also relevant in this context because the child of a single woman would take her place of settlement and if she was sent to jail, the child would usually be separated from the mother and sent back to the original place of settlement.

**Thursday April 26 A Visit to Bolton Museums Storage Facilities.** <https://goo.gl/8BdrZq>

We are very lucky that Arthur Clemmett, one of our most senior and valued members, had been to this storage depot a few years previously, and was able to recommend same to his fellow students in Rita Greenwoods ongoing Thursday “Enjoy Learning” family history classes. We had heard the stories, and now the intrepid Carole Wright decided to try to arrange a visit. She contacted the museum staff, and the event was booked with a limit of 20 people due to space constraints. The location is not for general publication, which we all understand and respect. We arrived at the very nondescript building in a “backwater”, and



entered via a side door where we were greeted by Laura, and all signed in. The first room had a small display of textiles, which we crowded around, and then some of us noticed a quiet desk in the corner where one of Laura’s colleague was quietly working away, apparently trying to gently separate a piece of material off a card with the use of a palate knife and spray. When we shyly asked what he was doing he was a bit none committal at first but sensing our interest he explained that the fabric was thought to be approximately 5000 years old, and was from an ordinary artisan’s Egyptian graveyard, pre-dating the pyramids. They were hoping to analyse the structure of the fabric, which firstly needed separating from the card that it had been mounted on,

comparatively recently, and “conserved”. Depending on the assessment of each item, sometimes they gently sprayed with water to soften the glue fixative, other times as in this case, they used a special solvent. Wow. Here in Bolton!!! This was PhD material. Literally.

We were then conducted through several vast rooms containing all sorts of bric-a-brac, machinery, tools, utensils, clothing, furniture, bottled “specimens” of, shells, bones, insects, animals, textiles, memorials, walled maps, paintings, the list amounted to a veritable Aladdin’s cave. There was a printing press, cheese press, a 1780 upgrade of Arkwright’s carding machine, 1819 Hargreaves Spinning Jenny, 1830 Jacks Carding Machine, and a 1927 reassembled spinning mule destined for Africa but returned to Bolton. Old wagons, a penny farthing, and furniture from Burnden Park.

We were told that it was only in recent years that they had moved to this secure, air-conditioned site from a now demolished mill, and Bolton is now proudly showing our facility off to other authorities as an example of quality. I know the group left, with many wishing they could have had a “lock in”. We had hardly scratched the surface of what is there proudly preserving Bolton’s heritage. With many thanks to all the museum team, and Carole Wright and Pat Greenhalgh for arranging it







## Wednesday May 2<sup>nd</sup> BFHS General Meeting and Talk by Gillian Lonergan Librarian, Co-operative Heritage Trust, National Co-operative Archive gave a talk entitled "Researching the Co-op"

Well, once again some adjustments had to be made to our arrangements before we had even started the evening. Unfortunately, David Muil, our MLFHS Chairman had to cancel due to illness, and then we also heard that the new representative of the Family History Partnership was also unable to attend. Here the good news was that our friend Terry Walsh the outgoing rep', came instead, allowing us to say farewell to him and wish him well in his retirement.

More detailed information re the General Meeting will be provided in the quarterly journal but suffice to say that all the committee were asked to continue and agreed same, with nobody new offering their services, Graham Holt is now our confirmed Chairman, and our next and all future General Meetings will be at our Feb 2019 meeting, rather than May, so that any queries raised can be dealt with at the MLFHS AGM in May 2019, rather than



10 months later in May 2020. We also took the opportunity to thank our outgoing Chairman Brian Whittle with a memento for his 3 years of service in which we have moved meeting venues twice, near trebled our attendance figures, and I think we all feel we have a rejuvenated service. It has been an exciting journey, not yet finished. Thanks also to Val Whittle who has always been there in support and was given a bouquet. Picture left shows Terry and

Brian having a catch up

At this point Gillian Lonergan commenced her talk on the history of the Co-op movement. Those of us who thought we had heard it all at Manchester a few weeks earlier, were quite surprised to hear this fresh approach. The talk was launched with an explanation of the principles of the Co-op mantra that it is "an *autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise*" Wikipedia <https://goo.gl/HNee1P>.



Although in the Manchester area we generally think the movement started in Rochdale, the first recorded association was from the Fenwick Weavers in Ayrshire in 1761 <https://goo.gl/my1G9w>. to enhance the quality of their weaving business. It is thought earlier models started around 1650 (and even earlier according to Wikipedia with the Shore Porters Society based in Aberdeen, Scotland, established in 1498 <https://goo.gl/S4cxwp>), but there are no records of this. The principles were adopted by the Rochdale Equitable Pioneers Society who opened their first store in 1844. The National Cooperative Archives <https://www.archive.coop/> in Manchester contain approximately 200 years of records re the development and expansion of this movement, but many are deliberately also stored in local archives to retain the community "ownership" of same, and this includes Bolton.

Robert Owen (1771–1858) <https://goo.gl/Vdw4zv> is regarded as the father of the cooperative movement. A Welshman who made his fortune in the cotton trade, and who has been credited with encouraging access for all to education and therefore self-development of the masses, and he lived in Manchester for a while as a young man. This idea really expanded after WW1 as troops returned home and wanted to self-improve and now there are "co-operative schools" all over the world <https://goo.gl/qsxekx>, the nearest one to Bolton probably being in Swinton <https://goo.gl/4n69Ar>. The model was and is, to include a dedicated period of study either work related or for general "improvement" in the timetable of all working days, and to provide free equipment to support this such as books, instruments of all kinds.

Various groups of social reformers also absorbed the movement such as non-conformists, Chartists, Trade Unionists, women's rights activists, and Sarah Reddish <https://goo.gl/bz5Ndd> in particular from Bolton lead the Cooperative Women's Guild in 1907 <https://goo.gl/2ZKz6x> fighting for equal opportunities for women, and their right to be able to buy a £1 membership share in their own name rather than that of their husbands (pre

married women's property reforms (<https://goo.gl/WwpGic>). At this time in the early 20thC it was still unusual for women to even speak at meetings so creating quite a stir.

There were many types of co-ops created (<https://goo.gl/Ryq188>) covering most aspects and needs of daily life, and with a view to improving same. Initially they tended to be composed of workers who were members plus investors in some sort of production line or factory. In Bolton 1890s there was the Commonwealth Society in which workers with different complementary skills such as cabinet makers and carters teamed up to create a funeral service. New housing was created, consumer projects were developed from farms to dairies, to boot repairers and clothing manufacturers and shopping outlets.

Credit unions were created, more so in the USA where Robert Owen had settled for a while. Initially most activities were performed in workers spare time but eventually paid employees were needed. Small individual projects began to come under umbrella organisations and "*Bolton Co-operative Society, formed in 1859 along the principles of the Rochdale Equitable Pioneers Society ---became Bolton & District Co-operative Society in 1863 and in 1970 the society merged to become Bolton & Wigan Co-operative Society*". (<https://qoo.gl/d1F1b4>) This meant 21 small societies had amalgamated, each with its own set of records, mostly now kept in local archives. (Editor's note Read also "*History of the Great and Little Bolton Co-operative Society Limited: showing fifty years' progress, 1859-1909*

by Peaples, F. W (<https://qoo.gl/5V6TGW> free downloadable book).

The typical Co-op retail outlet though, had shops on the ground floor, offices on the second, and halls for social activities on top. See right above → Cooperative Large Hall, Central premises Bridge Street, Grocery and Confectionary Departments with Restaurant in Basement, and below right → Central Tailoring Department, corner of Bridge Street and St George's Road, Burnt Down 1902, all illustrations courtesy of "Bolton Revisited"

(<https://goo.gl/NvbZfG>). Training for employees was part of the programme, with school leavers typically starting in the basement, learning how to receive and process deliveries (such as bagging up flour), to the shop floor, and promotion upwards to the offices and management.

All these activities have generated meticulous records. Many are kept in local archives, but the National Museum in Manchester also has a splendid collection. Some are catalogued online, (<https://goo.gl/bcSkSq>) but many more are not, and it is always worth a phone call or email to enquire. The museum is very limited in space, but visitors are welcome.

Gillian was so knowledgeable about her subject and her enthusiasm was obvious. The final satisfaction came when Graham was happy to announce that "*The Great and Little Bolton Co-operative Society Jubilee Book of 1909 has been searched, and a database of all the names mentioned has been created. That database has been added to the Bolton Document Collection on the MLFHS website. Where there are photographs or long biographies this too has been noted. There are copies of the book in every Bolton library and in the Bolton History Centre.*" This was news to Gillian, and her delight was palpable. A brilliant evening, and thanks to all.



## Thursday May 10<sup>th</sup> First Trip of 2018 to Browsholme Hall <https://browsholme.com/>



Well Carole and Pat have been busy coordinating plans for our first visit of the year, and you should all have given your names in and paid by now of course. Just to remind you of arrangements we meet on the car park at 10.30am, tea/ coffee will be served in the Tithe Barn before our guided tour at 11am. The post code is BB7 3DE and this link will give a map to the Tithe Barn <https://goo.gl/s3oNbf>. Please note facilities for lunch were deemed not practical so we suggest either taking a picnic or visiting nearby Clitheroe which also has a market on that day. If anyone still wants to come but has not signed up, please just arrive at this time and we can

accommodate you.

**Wednesday 6th June 7.30pm, Dr Michael Nevell, from the University of Salford will give a talk on “Worsley New Hall & Gardens, The families who lived and worked there, and the renovation of the gardens to RHS status”.** <https://goo.gl/ZG8SHr>, <https://goo.gl/TcjMBN> I would hope by now, most of you have managed to see some of the recent publicity on local television programmes about this ambitious project. We are so lucky to have this on our doorstep, and many may well have had ancestors who worked here. (They are still looking for family recollections.). Let’s enjoy hearing some of the story from one of the principle organisers in this renovation. Mike is an excellent speaker.



## GENIE’S TIPS for MAY



**Requests for personal data and service records: a detailed guide** <https://goo.gl/VFBrd4>

*How to apply for access to personal data held by the Ministry of Defence (MOD).*

This is probably the most relevant for most of us these days I suspect.

**Requests for personal data and service records: a detailed guide** <https://goo.gl/WMz12K>

**Victorians, Vile Victorians** <https://goo.gl/PeV8d4>



Victorians, Vile Victorians  
Victorians  
@victorianists

Those of you who are already “liking” our BFHS Facebook page will have seen at least two recent “nugget” postings which we felt were well worth sharing, but since then there have been loads more, explaining the life styles, and politics of Victorian Britain in a humorous and digestible way. We cannot possibly share them all, but only recommend, as a bit of light hearted education, as to how our great grandparents survived the daily trials and tribulations of the 19thC. The introduction says, *“Are you ready for the real Victorians? Everyday life was more than crinolines and carriages. Nor was it all a saga of chimney boys and slums. Victoria’s reign saw extraordinary change and upheaval, and yet through it all, ordinary people did the laundry, argued with their mothers-in-law, commuted to work and struggled to make ends meet. Yes, there were heroic engineers and wicked poisoners: there were glamorous actresses and dedicated reformers. We shall see them all, never fear. But we shall also rush in where angels fear to tread.”*



**Registration Districts in England from 1837 to the Present, and in Wales between 1837 and 1996.** <https://goo.gl/SZJb1G> and it is FREE!

*“an alphabetical list of all the registration districts in England from 1837 to the present, and in Wales between 1837 and 1996. The same districts were also used to compile the decennial census for the years 1851 to 1911.*



*The following information is given for each district:*

*Name of the district*

*Registration county (many districts crossed county boundaries but were classed wholly in one county for registration and census purposes).*

*Date of creation*

*Date of abolition*

*Names of the sub districts.*

*The General Register Office (GRO) volume numbers used for the district in the national indexes of births, marriages and deaths*

*A table showing the civil parishes or other local government areas included within its boundaries. Civil parishes often differ from the ancient parishes in use until the early 19th century.*

*A table showing any changes affecting the boundaries of the registration district after 1.7.1837.*

*The name(s) of the district(s) which currently hold the records. If two or more offices are listed, the one which holds the most records is named first, and the one with the least is given last. Click here for addresses of current register offices."*

## **WORKSHOPS, COURSES and CLASSES**



**Lancashire Archives** Join once a month a **day of family history activities**. <https://goo.gl/S2h6wv>

Anybody new to Lancashire Archives can join our FREE Getting to Know Session to learn more about our collections and how to use the service 9.30 am -5pm. Our Searchroom is open as usual for anyone wanting to do some research Family History Fridays will be on the following

- **10 -12 md** Get FREE advice and help with family history problems from members of the Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society .
- **12.30 -1.30pm** Beyond Parish Registers Family History talks included as part of our Family History Fridays , this series of family history talks will take a look a look at an interesting range of sources for family history research. Some of them familiar and well used, others less so.

Remember, it's not all online!

11 May Quarter sessions Anna Watson

8 Jun Census records -Alan Crosby

13 Jul Historic photography -Zoe Kennington

10 Aug Hospital records Keri Nicholson

14 Sep Township records -David Tilsley

12 Oct Maps John Rogan –

2 Nov First World War records Peter Bamford

14 Dec Poll books and electoral registers James Towe

FREE Book now by email [record.office@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:record.office@lancashire.gov.uk) or call us on 01772 533039 Tue -Fri

- **2.30pm to 4.30pm** Have you ever wondered **how to use the Searchroom at Lancashire Archives?** How to find your great -great -grandfather's will? How to order a photocopy? How to ask to see a document or map? If so, these sessions are designed for you. An archivist will describe some of the sources we hold and explain the basic procedures for using Lancashire Archives. You'll learn how to use the finding aids, so that you make the best use of your time when you next visit.

## **THIS MONTHS LOCAL NEWS and SOME ORGANISATION UPDATES**

### **Lancashire Records**



<http://goo.gl/l29jpl> New data has been added at [www.lancashirebmd.org.uk](http://www.lancashirebmd.org.uk) as follows: Added 11,957 Births for Bolton RD comprising:

Bolton A (1986-1988) Bolton B (1981-1982) Bolton C (1980-1986) Bolton D (1981-1982)

Thanks are due to Bob Winder and his team. -- John Marsden

Webmaster:



**Lancs OPC** <http://goo.gl/AN699Z> and left click on the “What's New” tab on the left. I am told the transcribers have been busy this year with St Peter's, Churchgate and have now got the following on their website: Well done all.

Baptisms 1573-1712, 1805-1945; Marriages 1573-1712, 1813-1938 Burials 1573-1894



**Lancashire Archives News and Events** <https://goo.gl/H8UexE> for their latest newsletter



<https://goo.gl/RSrWUs> and more **Parliament Square suffragette statue: Women of Bolton**

**honoured** <https://goo.gl/MYLV39> Saiqa

Chaudhari 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018



Julie Lamara from Bolton Archives has enjoyed passing this story on to us.

*“Most of you will have heard about the statue of Millicent Fawcett being unveiled last Tuesday in Parliament*



*Square. However, I am sure most of you will not be aware of the image of a Bolton woman etched on the plinth? An image of Sarah Reddish (1849-1928), Social Reformer, Pioneer Socialist, Peace Campaigner and Suffragist is amongst 59 images of men and women who campaigned for the rights of women and helped secure the vote”. Pictures courtesy of the Press Association left, and Bolton News right. (If anyone visits this in London, perhaps they could take a picture for us, of the area with the Bolton related etching please)*

NB Do you also know about the “**Looking Back**” section of the **Bolton News** which is edited by Gayle McBain every Wednesday, and available via this Facebook page <https://goo.gl/J4kBCu>

**Finding the Graves of Your Catholic Ancestors (using Manchester as an example)** <https://goo.gl/wLNXqQ> March 18, 2018 **Catholic Family History Lawrence Gregory**

*People researching their family trees often came into the Diocesan Archives expecting us to be able to identify the final resting places of their ancestors, and even maybe to find a surviving headstone full of useful information. Invariably these individuals went away sorely disappointed, and in this article, using the town of Manchester as an example, I shall explain why.*

**Lancashire Land Tax Assessments 1780-1832** <https://goo.gl/irBLtE>

*The information given in the returns comprises:*

*the name of each proprietor, or owner of property, in the township*

*the name of the occupiers*

*the amount of tax assessed*

*The returns may be useful for family or local historians, but it can sometimes be very difficult to identify land-holdings, owners and tenants and in many cases it is obvious from other sources that many names have not been recorded.*

### **Beyond Lancashire**

**Lincolnshire 1837+ Marriage Indexes** <https://goo.gl/MG8nL2>

*These marriage indexes contain the names of bride and groom, their fathers, full date and the name of the parish. All information is transcribed from the parish registers deposited at the Lincolnshire Archives (registers that have not been deposited at Lincolnshire Archives are therefore not included). The indexes do*



not contain any Register Office marriages, and there are few non-conformist marriages at present. The marriage index is updated regularly as more records are transcribed - currently the period from 1850 to 1911 is being worked on.

**North Yorkshire Archives** <https://goo.gl/KP7pCP>

I know many of you actually have connections with this area so thought you might like to contribute to this survey. The closing date is Monday 4 June 2018. "Currently the county archives are housed in the County Record Office at Northallerton in a building that is in need of a complete overhaul so that it can continue to maintain important and irreplaceable documents in a secure and controlled environment. --- Give us your views The survey is open to anyone, both as an individual and as a group with an interest in the archival heritage of North Yorkshire".

**"England and Wales electoral registers for 1920 go online"** By Who Do You Think You Are Editor, 6 April 2018 - 11:37am <https://goo.gl/gNk2PF>

"Over 6.7 million records from the England and Wales 1920 Electoral Registers have been indexed by subscription website Findmypast.

This will help family historians looking to bridge the gap between the 1939 Register and the 1911 census, both of which are also available on Findmypast". --- <https://goo.gl/Hw2jNf>

## MISCELLANEOUS

### **The Opening of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway on 15 September 1830.**

I know many of you wonder how we find some of the stories that appear from time to time in this newsletter. By good luck many come from my nagging leading to some brilliant contributions from our readers, but some others are found by meanderings through various articles in other online newsletters and Facebook groups. This was one of those. An article in an FB group, "Victorians, Vile Victorians" <https://goo.gl/2L6Ufa> showed this picture which is one of a series of 6 which are for sale, taken from "David Brass Rare Books".

<https://goo.gl/e5Sg1X>. I hadn't realised how big the project had been, to create such enormous engineering feats, not just with the engines, but also with the structure of the line. The impact of it all must have been on a par with our generation's construction of the Channel Tunnel. (My first experience of that last week).

I next followed the Wikipedia link <https://goo.gl/wAoHgk> which includes a contemporary account of the events of the day when apparently "Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington, the Prime Minister, rode on one of the eight inaugural trains, as did many other dignitaries and notable figures of the day. Huge crowds lined the track at Liverpool to watch the trains depart for Manchester" ---"The trains left Liverpool on time and without any technical problems. The Duke of Wellington's special train ran on one track, and the other seven trains ran on an adjacent and parallel track, sometimes ahead and sometimes behind the Duke's train". I should imagine a few Bolton cotton magnates were watching as it reached and progressed past the planned junction with the <https://goo.gl/3UHL38> Bolton and Leigh Railway (B&L) ("which was the first public railway in the historic county of Lancashire, England. It was promoted primarily as a mineral line in connection with the coal pits belonging to William Hulton west of his estate at Over Hulton and collieries belonging to the Fletchers at Atherton and opened in 1828 for goods between Pendlebury Fold and Bolton. The Hulton Hall estate, mentioned in last month's newsletter." The Hulton Papers are now of course in the Lancashire Archives available for all to read. <https://goo.gl/9sfpY1>. The story of the accident leading to William Huskisson's loss of a leg, and later his life, is very sad, and almost farcical when read from today's perspective of traffic, but I think it is also an insight into attitudes to life, and life style in the 1830s and well worth a read.

Continuing the railway theme here are some more interesting websites

**Railway Work, Life and Death project** <https://goo.gl/95yx2e>

"aiming to make it easier to find out about railway worker accidents in Britain between 1911 and 1915"



## Dee Bridge disaster 1847

“was a rail accident that occurred on 24 May 1847 in Chester, resulting in five fatalities. It revealed the weakness of cast iron beam bridges reinforced by wrought iron tie bars, and brought criticism of its designer, Robert Stephenson, the son of George Stephenson”. It seems this problem continued with many other disastrous collapses until an enquiry after the 1891 Norwood Junction rail accident resulted in the recommendation to replace cast iron by wrought iron. <https://goo.gl/G1gBYq> . Many of us have probably had ancestors working in these dangerous conditions, either as builders or actually on the train. Scary times!

## COMMENTS, QUERIES, and MEMORIES

### **The Train to Blackpool by NormMac (continuing the Railway theme and unedited)**

As a seven-year-old the most magical of days out where to Blackpool from Bolton by steam train, oh such memories which will stay with me forever. We got off the number 31 bus on Newport Street, walked on a little and there she was, across the road, standing proud and beautiful, Trinity Street Railway Station Bolton Lancashire

The entrances were grand and tall and as you stepped in there it was like stepping into a different world. The first thing that hit you was a smell of both Engine oil and coal steam, its smelt as if it was hundreds of years old yet smelt so welcoming and friendly, you could almost hear the cobbled boots from railwaymen of years gone by marching forever onwards, this, was indeed the great old days of BRITISH RAIL.

On the left were the booking windows, nothing like today, but all in a row with a person stood behind each one. They were only small, but the surroundings were made of old dark wood with a small table like ledge to help you. The people behind (As I remember) were always helpful and polite as you asked for your tickets “Each way” to Blackpool north and they give you the little grey tickets with such small writing on them it’s a wonder anybody could read them, but as they came out of the ticket machine it always reminded me of a snakes tongue, don’t ask me why LOL

Then, within a few steps to your right was the turnstiles, yes, even though the guard at the turnstiles could clearly see you had just bought tickets it made no difference! It was his job to check tickets, count heads and show you which platform you were going from and NOBODY could tell him any different. Then, holding hands with my mum, (not my dad as I was at that age he he) it was down the metal steps, hundreds of them it seemed until we arrived on the platform which had a floor of stone, cold and hard , yet shiny because so many people had walked across it before.

As we stood there I can remember looking at the track and it seemed never ending, it just went on and on into the distance, it was such a wonderful sight. As we ventured near the edge I can always remember my Dad shouting, “NOT TOO CLOSE” and those days the drop seemed huge, far too big to be scrambled back up so as far as we were concerned, if you fell down there that was IT!!!

The worst time was the waiting on the hard wooden benches, it seemed like an age as we kept getting up to look down the track for the train, my mum used to say, don’t worry you will hear it before you see it, but that wasn’t true all the time as on a clear day you could see the steam for miles. Then, just as mum and dads patience was running out you heard the HOOT HOOT from the steam engine and could feel the vibration beneath your feet, we ran as close to the edge to the platform as our nerves would allow us and looked up the track, eyes squinting in the sunlight, and there she was, I all her glory, coming thundering down the track.

The steam bellowed into the air as if someone had just boiled a million kettles and we could hear every turn of the wheels with a clackerty clack, clackerty clack getting ever louder as she approached. The front of the engine was MAJESTIC, it thundered towards us getting bigger and bigger and at one stage thought it



looked bigger than the station itself. In she came, getting louder and louder, then excitement building, our hearts racing faster and faster. Just then the brakes were applied!! It's a noise I can never forget and frightened the life out of me. It sounded to me like thousands of horses screaming as the noise got ever louder and THEN??? a HUGE HUSHHHHHHHHING Sound as the train came to a thundering halt in all her glory.

Stepping on the train, doing my very best not to fall down the abyss that was the gap, and we were there, finally, sat in a carriage just like the ones I had seen on the Agatha Christie movies. It didn't matter if complete strangers were sat facing you, you soon became friends on the journey, and as we set off we always sang the same song to the rhythm of the train, my gran always said it sounded like.....

"Put your cap on, take your cap off, put you cap on, take your cap off" the train seemed to say as we set off for Blackpool. It probably didn't to anybody else, but it did to us, What happened when we arrived in Blackpool??

You will just have to wait and see xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Norrms mc Namara, diagnosed with dementia 10 years ago, can remember my youth, yet not yesterday, but which is more important??

## OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES NEWS



**Halliwell Local History Society** <http://goo.gl/8erYyr>

Email [margaretk@talktalk.net](mailto: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,  
**29th May 'Hidden Gems around Greater Manchester'** – On the trail of odd & unusual places, buildings, customs and people – Keith Warrender



**Turton Local History Society** <https://goo.gl/CKVa35>

Illustrated talks and meetings are held from August to April inclusive on the fourth Wednesday of the month, at Longsight Church Centre, Harwood BL2 3HX beginning at 7.30pm.

**23rd May 2018 NB CHANGE OF PPROGRAMME 7:30pm at Longsight Methodist Community Hall "The Great October Soviet Revolution - Ken Dixon.** <https://goo.gl/uwP2JQ> This is a rearranged talk after being cancelled due to the weather last February.

**Westhoughton Local History Group** – <http://goo.gl/XNugl5>

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.

**17th May Elizabeth Parker of Browsholme Hall : Linda Sawley**

**7th June VISIT to Browsholme Hall for Afternoon Tea**



**Horwich Heritage Centre-** <http://goo.gl/fSPsj>

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.

Open Days, are held most months on Saturdays between 10am --- 1pm

**May 8th, 2018 David Lloyd - A Tour Of Bolton in Old Photos**

**May 19th 2018 80 Years Of Aerospace at Lostock**