



Bolton's Genies



This is the place in Bolton where the remains of the first and second churches of St Peter. The church was built in 1180. The tower and the main body of the church were built in stone and the church was a fine example of the work of the great architect of the time. The church was demolished in 1868. The remains of the church are now in the Bolton Museum.

The Monthly Newsletter of the Bolton Family History Society:

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

- Newsletter Comments, and Speaker Bookings: boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk
- General Society enquiries to the BFHS Secretary, Christine M Ellis bolton@mlfhs.org.uk
- Research help, please email boltonhelpdesk@mlfhs.org.uk or visit our
- Help Desk Drop In 10am -12md Bolton Central Library. First Saturday of each month
- Facebook page <https://goo.gl/n99qtW>
- Bolton Document Collection on MLFHS website: <https://goo.gl/hji8Ns> (members only)
- Join the MLFHS/BFHS at: <http://mlfhs.org.uk/join/index> .

April 2019

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

Picture from Facebook, source unknown, shows Bolton St Peters 3rd Church, shortly before its demolition in 1868. Denis McCann tells us "The 15th century Bolton Parish church was replaced by a 'Modern' church and the work revealed several pre-Norman stones under the tower, including a preaching cross in three pieces. Fragments of other crosses and stones from the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries, a sepulchral slab, stone coffin, and the remains of a 14th-century stone female figure, indicate that two earlier churches had existed on the same site, one Anglo Saxon and one Norman.

Greetings all to our March edition, and I hope you all remembered to Spring forward an hour to British summertime, on the 31st March. More daylight for a while now we hope, even if we still have a little snow. Each month as one newsletter is posted, (and sometimes even before that,) the worry starts re what on earth is going to be available for the next month's material; and yet fortunately by three weeks on, it is more often a question of pruning than adding. We are so appreciative of everyone's help and thank you all for your contributions. They do make this a team effort.

Most of our Spring workshops have now finished, and we must thank all the tutors, plus those who helped and attended. Please let us know if there is any way we can improve on them. We hope you enjoy the Summer programme, and even now we are also planning the Autumn activities and arranging next year's speakers. Please do let us know if there are any particular requests for subjects or talks which you would like us to consider.

This last month has been particularly busy with various activities, and we do try to provide reports for those who have been unable to attend, so off we go.

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/TH5zYC>. 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 AND COMING EVENTS

Visit to Lancashire Archives Thursday 7th March

A group of us from Bolton FHS, plus others, have been regularly attending ongoing weekly family history courses in Bolton for several years now, run by a “not for profit” association offering courses for adult learners in Bolton and the surrounding areas. The timings roughly follow the Autumn and Spring terms of the academic year and there are two courses morning and afternoon catering for beginners and advanced, averaging up to 20 in each class. We like to think it gives our grey matter a bit of stimulation, and although led by Rita Greenwood, one of our most experienced members and a trained tutor in family history research, the advanced has really become a self-help group where we learn and bounce ideas off each other with Rita’s supervision, (and a bit of socialising at the same time).



One of our two regular annual outings has been to the Lancashire Archives at Preston County Record Office. This is partly to help us gain confidence in the procedure of how to access original records, also to see some of the wonderful collections that they have first-hand. Lately we have been lucky enough to also receive a short talk from one of the archivists.

This trip was one of the best, and we must have done at least 5 over the years. We were welcomed this time by Keri Nicholson, who is particularly knowledgeable about the Hulton collection having spent several months inspecting and cataloguing it. Keri gave us a short talk about estate papers, showing us some examples of documents from local Halls etc that they have in their vaults. She explained how in May 1940, as World War 2 was developing, the Lancashire Record Office was established as the county record office for Lancashire. One of the first concerns was how to access and preserve as many as possible of the historically valuable documents in the area. Reginald Sharpe France was appointed as the first County Archivist, <https://tinyurl.com/y2bspvqk>, and from 1947 he also taught on the Diploma in Archive Administration at the University of Liverpool, thus establishing a link between the record office and the university. It was explained how, working with just one unqualified assistant, he approached as many local sources as he could find, asking them to donate their records to a safer environment to preserve them in the, very real threat at that time, of an invasion. This meant he had first to identify the local landlords, then find out where records were held, and then try to retrieve and catalogue them and find a place of safety. Rita’s report in our next quarterly journal for MLFHS members *The Manchester Genealogist* gives a full account of this talk, but as events at Peterloo, Manchester 200 years ago are currently being commemorated, and we were privileged to be shown some documents related to this from the Hulton collection, we thought you would like to see these. William Hulton of course of the Hulton dynasty, previously discussed http://www.bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/newsletter/Genie_2016_02.pdf is credited as being the Magistrate who made the infamous order for the troops to charge at the incident of August 16th, 1819.

The Lancashire Archives documents include

- a Letter of congratulation 21st August 1819 (5 days after Peterloo), from Lord Sidmouth, on behalf of the Prince Regent, to the Earl of Derby, to be passed on to Major Trafford, “ *to express to the Magistrates, of the Lancashire County Palatine who attended that day, the great satisfaction derived by his Royal Highness from the prompt, decisive, and efficient measures for the preservations of the public tranquillity; and likewise, that your Lordship will signify to Major Trafford his Royal Highness’s high approbation of the support and assistance to the Civil Power afforded on that occasion by himself, and the Officers, and Non Commissioned Officers, and Privates of the Corps, serving under his command*”.





• ← A letter dated 23rd August 1819 from Lord Derby to “the Magistrates” presumably William Hulton as it is in this collection
“Dear Sir, Having this day received from Lord Sidmouth the enclosed letter by Command of the Prince Regent requesting me to express to the Magistrates of the County Palatine of Lancaster who attended at Manchester on Monday last, the great satisfaction decided by his Royal highness from their prompt decision to officiate measures for the preservation of the public tranquillity; I take the earliest opportunity of forwarding to you (and requesting you make communication to the other gentlemen who acted with you upon the occasion alluded to) this full approbation of your and their conduct and of the measures taken by you in the discharge of your official duty as magistrate for this County.

I have the honour to be Sir, Your most humble servant

Derby Knowsley August 23rd, 1819”

• → A poster dated October 5th, 1819 trying to advertise a meeting to be held in Bolton at the Commercial Inn on Wednesday 16th October, petitioned by 64 householders, to “express their sentiments in the late melancholy Occurrences which took place in Manchester on the 16th August, and to take into Consideration the best Means of affording Relief to the unhappy sufferers “. This was evidently refused twice. It seems this must have signalled more trouble developing “at t’ mill”, and students of social unrest and change could take this further, if it hasn’t been done already.



• ← A page from "Alisons History of Europe" Vol 2 page 403, dated perhaps 1843 <https://tinyurl.com/vylet6uc> headed “No Serious Breach Occurred?? 16th August 1818”

“approx 3 months before Aug 16th, 1819 the Magistrate of the Salford Hundred, had found it necessary to create a committee with a Mr Hulton as Chairman, to receive reports of large bands of militia training, particularly in the Pendle Hills, near Middleton in the late evening hours and before sunrise.--- Delegates were actively engaged and persons accustomed to military discipline were appointed to instruct the major.--- These facts being sworn to, were from time to time laid before Lord Sidmouth, the then Secretary of State for the Home Department: and the advice of the Law Officers of the Crown, especially of Lord Chancellor(?) Coldran were given to the Magistrate. ---

When a great assemblage took place at Peterloo, near Manchester " (Alison)

“When the mob assembled in St Peters Square within the town of Manchester, it was a large open space, only a few houses having been at that time completed ---”

• → Newspaper article from? The Bolton Chronicle, describing unrest in Bolton prior to the 1841 general election and where William Hulton, with his wife, and one of his

daughters were attacked by “ruffians” shouting “*there goes old Peterloo!!*” during a quiet walk in the streets”. The women were spared but William got a kicking. Scary times, (wouldn’t happen these days of course).



• ← Letter re the need for Parliamentary reform from approx 1821 petitioning that the towns of Salford and Blackburn, having no parliamentary representation, should be allocated two places in the Houses of Commons in preference to Grampound <https://tinyurl.com/y3hms3fp> a small village in Devon.



These documents (and there were many more on other subjects) provided a fascinating window for us into the problems of the day in years gone by. Different attitudes, different social rules, and yet some events maybe not so dissimilar from what we are seeing today. We are very grateful to Keri and the archives staff for hosting us through such an interesting visit. Some of us stayed on to listen to Dr Alan Crosby's talk about Tithes in the afternoon, raising funds for the Friends of Lancashire Archives, but that is another story which will also be reported in the members journal. Please note also



Wednesday 22nd May 10:30am Peterloo Walk For MLFHS

members only with **Chris Makepeace**, once Manchester's Local History Librarian and later the prover of historical information for the Greater Manchester Planning Department, is leading a walk around where the Peterloo Massacre took place, pointing out where the events unfolded. His walk will last approximately one and a half hours so probably won't be suitable for people with mobility problems. Meeting point is Manchester Central Library for 10.30am. Booking essential and via <https://tinyurl.com/y4edxp9g>



Monday March 25th Visit to Gorton "Monastery" website <https://tinyurl.com/y46ywx7v> and GENUKI <https://tinyurl.com/y33737m4>

This was the first of Carole and Pat's well organised BFHS trips out for 2019. Twenty-four of us joined the coach at Bolton Interchange, and were taken on a circuitous route through Salford, and Cheetham Hill, past the Etihad Stadium to Gorton, avoiding the road works on Regent Road Salford. Many spotted once familiar landmarks on the way and marvelled at how the scenery had changed with "progress". We were joined by six others who had made their own way there at Gorton, and then after a welcome in the entrance hall we were conducted to an upstairs room to hear guide Emma Bryning give us a potted history of the building and its current situation. Phil Stringer's account on the GENUKI page as above (and who is booked to speak to us about the revamped GENUKI website in September), has given a good account of the history of the building, so I will just mention a few points that we thought particularly interesting.



It was the Bishop of Salford who initially invited the founding Belgian Franciscan friars in 1861, to come to Gorton from Sclerder Abbey in Cornwall, where they had temporarily stopped for few years, in transit from Belgium. Franciscans had been in the North West previously but left after 16th and 17th C religious persecution. It seems this time the Bishop saw a chance for them to provide support in faith to the villagers of Gorton and the rapidly expanding population associated with the industrial revolution. Railways, mills and engineering works were taking up the convenient, level, and unused land and the nearby colliery's of (Manchester's) Bradford area were supplying the power.



Augustus Welby Pugin (1812-1852, son of Augustus Charles Pugin (1762-1852) of Anglo-French origins, was commissioned to design the building, and he had his own novel ideas about building a Gothic style structure with a difference. A converted Catholic he opted to align the structure north to south instead of the conventional east west, in order to make use of natural daylight in seasonal changes, to highlight features of the interior. There was little finance though, so the local congregation slowly raised funds by all manner of social events, and freely contributing their manual labour if they had no work, or in their spare time. Starting in 1863 they fast developed all manner of construction skills with a friar as clerk of the works, and even made their own bricks from the clay the friary was standing on. It was completed in 1867. Soup kitchens were introduced to support the poor, often catering for 400+, four schools, and various community support groups were established. Sadly however, the industrial bubble burst, the

congregation shrank to 20 in the 1970s as the workers had to move on, and houses fell into disrepair and were demolished in the slum clearance programme of the 1960s and 70s. The church also suffered with lack of maintenance. In November 1989 it closed, and the surrounding land was sold for housing developments. The roof leaked after the lead was stolen, there were several fires, many of the contents disappeared such as 12 statues of Franciscan saints that had sat on top of the pillars in the nave, and a highly valued crucifix that had been mounted on a wall. We were shown harrowing pictures of the ruins



after various property dealers came with ideas then went again, and the walls crumbled. By pure luck however, in 1994 Janet Wallwork, a local Manchester historian, saw an article about 12 “garden ornaments” for sale at Sotheby’s. On further investigation they were the Gorton saints. <https://tinyurl.com/y2usduaw> (Manchester Evening News 9 SEP 2011). She instigated their withdrawal from sale and recovery. A Trust was launched to save the monastery and in 1998 it “squeaked in” as the 100th on the list of a 100 to watch by the World Monument Fund.

<http://wmf.org.uk/Projects/the-monastery-manchester/>. A funded recovery programme began and was

completed on schedule. Even the crucifix was saved as it was about to leave England for a church in Florida, (and with pressure for the moral argument they recovered it for £20,000 instead of the asking £70,000). They continue to fund raise for ongoing conservation and are supported by many of the great and good.

After a fascinating visit, and lunch in the café, (beware of the “soup and sandwich” order, they are separate orders, not a “combi” ☺), we returned to the coach and were back in Bolton by 4pm. Many thanks to all who organised this trip.



Thursday 28th March Talk by Graham S Holton “Tracing your Ancestors using DNA”, hosted by the Friends of Lancashire Archives

There were approximately 16 of us from Bolton who managed to get tickets for this full house event at the Lancashire Archives. We arrived in various cars and by rail transport, and it was good to be greeted with a welcome brew before the talk started. Graham was introduced to us by Jacquie Crosby, (Alan’s “better” half ☺), who is the Archives Service Manager at Lancashire Archives. His credentials amongst many others are he is principal tutor in the University of Strathclyde's Postgraduate Programme in Genealogical Studies. For us mere mortals, he is closely involved with the ongoing free Genealogy course held via Future Learn, <https://tinyurl.com/yxwxwz6o> and he is editing this book “Tracing your Ancestors by DNA” by Pen & Sword soon to be launched. <https://tinyurl.com/yx8ph9vn>. The talk commenced and Graham first discussed the various reasons for using genetic genealogy e.g. to identify and or confirm close relationships, for adoptees, donor conceptions, illegitimacy investigations, homing into a specific branch of a tree, (as is often the goal for researchers from the USA). Sources for help include several books written recently by authors such as Blaine Bettinger <https://tinyurl.com/y66reus2>, and , with Debbie Parker <https://tinyurl.com/y5dg9q39>. Graham also suggested the ISOGG Wiki <https://tinyurl.com/y4we8nq6>, and there are other various genetic genealogy blogs and newsletters available, (previously mentioned here and on our BFHS Newsletter Index). Mailing lists and many Facebook groups can also help, and good talks are usually offered at the various Family History Shows etc.



He went on to explain the three main types of DNA tests i.e. autosomal (the most popular and best for “bio geographic” research looking at both sexes, Y-DNA carried by the male line only, and mt-DNA carried by the female line only (and sometimes needing lateral thinking of tree structure as in the Richard 111 analysis). I must confess that as Graham rapidly progressed through more detailed explanations I, like many others I think, was soon finding it too difficult to follow. On trying to understand my notes though, I have found this Wikipedia website which seems to echo what he was telling us <https://tinyurl.com/yyba4xwn>.

He also commented in his conclusion that many of the big companies such as Ancestry, and to a lesser degree, Findmypast, My Heritage, Living DNA and more, have developed quite sophisticated software to find apparently quick answers to these complex research investigations. They all also each offer slightly different types of analysis, so it is sometimes worth considering using more than one according to reasons for testing. Ancestry has the biggest database with 12 million + now and is still very actively trying to recruit more, particularly in the British Isles, to help satisfy the “thirst” of our cousins overseas in trying to discover their roots. Living DNA is the best to find British and Irish geographical origins. Gedmatch is a developing database which is trying to process results from the various companies and coordinate. There was a warning that certain features of results are being found by the different laboratories and named differently although they are in fact the same.

Unfortunately, most from Bolton had to make a rapid exit at this point as we had a train to catch. There were probably many questions that would have been asked but time did not allow. We are very grateful to Dr Holton though, for making himself available for this very difficult subject, and perhaps our next best step will be to look at some of the recommended reading list and try to slowly inwardly digest.

Thanks also to Jacquie Crosby and the Friends of Lancashire Archives <http://www.flarchives.co.uk/> for making us so welcome.

Wednesday 3rd April 7.30pm Monthly BFHS talk, Jackie Depelle - Chair of the Yorkshire Group of Family History Societies, family historian and author “Ideas for researching nonconformists”

It was good to welcome Jackie back for another talk, and I think she enjoyed the catch up with one of our members, Linda, who, after hearing last year’s talk about individual studies of ancestors took up on her suggestions and created a “masterpiece”, with Jackie’s mentorship help. We are all impressed.



This time Jackie launched her talk by first explaining that she comes from a Moravian background and was brought up in a “settlement” called Fulneck, in West Yorkshire <http://www.fulneck.org.uk/>. I suspect few of us had even heard of this place, although its location at Pudsey, near Leeds is probably a bit more familiar. I would urge you to look into this website though. It is a fascinating story, and for me explains a lot of Jackie’s interest in family history.

She first defined what a “non-conformist” (Spelling 1) is, i.e. any form of worship that isn’t Anglican, and she gave examples of other terms that have been used such as “dissenters”, “recusants”, “ranters”. She also mentioned that even the word “nonconformist” (Spelling2), can have different spellings and confuse a Google search.

If unsure whether an ancestor might have been “none conformist”(Spelling 3), or not, a first step might be to look at a map of the area they lived in at that time, (a good source for this is the National Library of Scotland <https://tinyurl.com/yc9ljt8m>), thus getting an idea of not only the position of the nearest Anglican (parish) church but also the other denominations nearby. The Phillimore Atlas <https://tinyurl.com/y5dehmmk> is also useful for identifying parish boundaries. Comparing maps of different dates gives clues to when churches were active. It was also pointed out that typically in the 18th and early 19th C the place of worship might also vary according to the social circle that went there, (and how good their cakes were, or “extramural activities” offered). Local Record Offices should have, or be able to inform on, the whereabouts of the relevant records. Here Jackie briefly referred to the origins of Parish Records <https://tinyurl.com/y553pzg> which were first started in 1538 after England had split from Roman Catholicism and became Protestant. Thomas Cromwell, Vicar General at the Court of Henry VIII, ordered that every wedding, baptism and burial should be recorded, and apart from a few interruptions due to political changes, and a calendar revision (Julian to Gregorian in 1751), this continued in various shapes and forms to be the main record source until civil registration in 1837. Note, births and deaths were not recorded so much as the date of the religious ceremony of baptism or burial that marked it. Lord Hardwick’s Act of

1753 <https://tinyurl.com/y3hfga6e> aimed to stop clandestine marriages, and ruled that all marriages must be in a C/E church apart from Quakers, and Jews as their own records were already as good, (if not better). The records from these can offer valuable information via banns, and licences, re status, witnesses, and occupations. The Marriage Act 1836 <https://tinyurl.com/y3vxgz49> allowed marriages to be legally registered in approved buildings belonging to other religious groups and introduced civil registration from January 1837. Jackie emphasised again that there was a lot of movement between Methodist denominations, and records may move around between locations and archives. If researching via Ancestry, it is important to check the catalogue number and that the record is the correct church. There are of course several other competitive online subscription sites such as Findmypast, and the Genealogist plus the usual free ones like Familysearch.org, and various county On-Line Parish Clerks <https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/OPC> . Some denominations had central points in the country where baptisms were held so the location can be misleading, and not necessarily the place of residence. Burials may be in the Anglican parish grave yards or council run cemeteries, but in a separate nonconformist area and with a separate chapel in the cemeteries. Headstones can give clues to a denomination by the method of dating, décor, and erection. Contemporary local newspaper reports may give clues as to which church was active in that area at the time of the event, fitting in to a timeline. Websites such as Deceased Online and National Burial Index can be helpful. The National Archives provides a good catalogue of databases using the Discovery link. Alan Godfrey maps <https://tinyurl.com/yy9m9xx8> might show an altar in the centre of a building (nonconformist community centric), rather than at the east window, (conventional Anglican). Identifying Methodist Circuits <https://tinyurl.com/yylatgme> might give clues to a specific church.

The industrial revolution of the early 1800s is said to have caused a “religious crisis”. There was social unrest with militant nonconformist workers also becoming religious leaders, compared with traditional Anglican clergy sponsored by land owners. Records for this period may be traced via GENUKI <https://www.genuki.org.uk/big> which provides links and sources of information for all the United Kingdom. Jackie went on to suggest several other sources for research, e.g. The Gazette, <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/> and Historical Directories, <https://tinyurl.com/y87pzey2> , but as she has been good enough to provide us with a reference list now on our website <https://tinyurl.com/y22az584> , there does not seem to be any need for more details here. She concluded by encouraging an awareness of subtle hidden clues in the family archives i.e. ceremonial mementoes like trowels, watches, brooches etc, the family bible, prayer books, Sunday School prizes which some are lucky enough to have. I think, similarly to last year’s talk, Jackie left with most of us thinking about how we can revise our plan of action with renewed energy. Thank you very much Jackie.



Wednesday 17 April 10.30am: MLFHS Quarterly Meeting
10.30 am “Development of the Manchester Ship Canal” Speaker:
Steve Little

Steve is a retired industrial archaeologist, and his talk is on the development of the Manchester Ship Canal, of which construction began in 1887 and was opened by Queen Victoria in 1894.

11.45 am ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

12.45 pm Lunch

1.30 pm “Dating Old Photographs and Telling Their Stories”: Steve Gill

Another chance to catch Steve Gills talk if you missed it when he came to Bolton at our Open Day last year This meeting will be held in the Performance Space at Manchester Central Library. The meeting is free to members. A fee of £3.00 will be charged to non-members but this is refundable if the individual joins the Society on the day of the talk. Booking is required. Please CLICK HERE <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/manchester-amp-lancashire-fhs-1651925094> to book.



Wednesday 1st May 7.30pm, BFHS Monthly Meeting with Anna Watson - Retired archivist from Lancashire Archives discussing **“Probate records - wills bring out the worst in people”**. She explains her topic as

“Where there's a will, there's a relative! Probate records are an invaluable resource for putting the flesh on your ancestors' bones, but many researchers think their ancestors were too poor to leave wills. This talk will dispel that myth and show you how to locate the records relevant for you”.



Thursday 16th May “Scottish Heritage Day” hosted by the Anglo Scottish branch of the MLFHS at Manchester Central Library MLFHS members free non-members £3.



Booking essential CLICK <https://tinyurl.com/y5frb47c>

Apparently, this is the first time that such a prestigious team have agreed to come south of the border. Let's make them welcome



10.15am Registration and Reception

10.45am Secrets of the Royal Mile a history of Edinburgh by Ed Glinert who will “walk “us through some of its historical secrets looking at back alleys and streets of the town.

12md lunch

1pm Scotlands People a talk by Iain Ferguson, S P manager, giving hints and tips about how to get the most out of the website.

National Records of Scotland – a talk by Tessa Spencer, Head of Learning with the NRS looking at some of the many and varied records held from Court Records to Parish Records.

Following each talk there will be an opportunity for questions for each speaker.



Sunday 19th May “Book Fair” · Hosted by The Barlow Edgworth from 9am to 4pm 216 Bolton Road, Edgworth, BL7 0AP Bolton Just a reminder of this event and that our friend Bob Dobson long time collector of specialist books pertaining to Lancashire and the north west, is preparing to 'sell up', *“I shall be offering between 30% and 50% off the marked price If you want me to take books on a particular township, or a specific book, drop me a line 01253 886103 or landypublishing@yahoo.co.uk”*

Thursday 23rd May 10.30 am Guided tour of Astley Hall Chorley PR7 1XA

<https://tinyurl.com/y5sbkika> Cost is £8 to include tea/coffee & biscuit on meeting at Cafe Ambo at the start of the visit, (and they do good snacks/cake for afterwards). This will be by own transport only. Carole and Pat will need payment at our next BFHS meeting on 1st May please. For more information Please email as above.



Saturday 21st September “One Day Conference” 10am - 4pm hosted by **The Catholic Family History Society “Looking for your Roman Catholic ancestors?”**

<https://tinyurl.com/y4onlfpv>

Speaker Naomi Johnson BSc, MSc, on Birmingham Diocesan Archives

Speaker Lawrence Gregory MA on Tracing Cardinal John Newman's Family History

Tour of the Historic Oratory Church and its treasures

Tickets £25, to include lunch and refreshments, contact jeansmith1934@talktalk.net

WORKSHOPS, COURSES and CLASSES <http://www.bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/Workshops.php>

Well as you can see from this link, we have now completed the March workshops, but we can still take names for the beginners series to be held at Brightmet in May. I cannot emphasise enough the amount of preparation time that I know all our tutors have given for these events, and we can only thank them.

I am told the Harwood course was received with enthusiasm, but it is thought more students could have been accommodated, with earlier and better advertising. If you would like a repeat or more help, please let us know.

Here is Margaret and Colin Calderbanks report from Bolton Central Library classes.

“After teaching at local libraries for over 6 years we realised that the new members i.e. beginners etc were having trouble using Family History resources on the internet. We worked out a plan, along with our Chairman Graham Holt, on how best we could achieve a course showing the various sites that most of us use. So, with the help of Julie Lamara of the Central Library we booked the room, organised the internet, copied the various sites (with permission from them of course), and started to advertise.

We have had a total of 14 members for 4 weeks and worked off the internet in the meeting room at the library. Some of the team from the Saturday morning Help Desk also came along to give their support and help at the interval, at which time tea & coffee was supplied.

The course has been a breakthrough for many, showing them what the various sites held and how to look through them. For most newcomers to computers the problem seems to be that they are afraid of clicking, but we have shown them that this is an easy way to do research. Most of the age group were between 50 to 70 years of age and retired, so computers are practically new for many of them. It has proved a success so far and we are now planning to hold another one in September”.

Well done all, and we have had very good feedback as well from participants.



THIS MONTHS LOCAL NEWS and SOME ORGANISATION UPDATES



1st February 2019_The Society re-joins the Federation of Family History Societies Our MLFHS Chairman David Muil has just announced “

that after a gap of some years the Society Trustees have resolved to re-join the Federation of Family History Societies. Our application was approved in late January and our membership began on 1st February 2019.” For more on the many positive implications of this for our members please read here

<https://www.mlfhs.org.uk/news/user/story.php?id=%20136>

Lancashire Records



<http://goo.gl/l29JpL>



Lancs OPC <http://goo.gl/AN699Z> and left click on the “What's New” tab on the left



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

SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES

New Hearth Tax Website March 13, 2019

·<https://hearthtax.wordpress.com/2019/03/13/new-hearth-tax-website/>

Privacy Dr Andrew Wareham University of Roehampton a.wareham@roehampton.ac.uk

I used to receive regular emails from this website with updates, then it all stopped, but now seems to have been resurrected in a different form. We are told Hearth Tax Digital <http://gams.uni-graz.at/context:htx> replaces Hearth Tax Online (2010-2017) and was launched in 2019. I urge you to read on. This is not just a “collection of data about fireplaces”, according to the introduction it actually gives clues about much more e.g. wealth, population movement, social conditions, occupations

“About the hearth tax

Hearth taxes were levied in medieval and early modern Europe, notably in France and the Low Countries, but were not levied in the British Isles until the late seventeenth century. Following the Restoration of the Stuart monarchy in 1660, the hearth tax was levied in England and Wales from 1662 until 1689 (it continued to be collected in Ireland until the early nineteenth century). The administrators were required to compile lists of householders with the number of their hearths according to county. It was collected twice each year at one shilling per hearth. It was also levied in Scotland in 1691 with collection lasting until 1695. The hearth tax provides a remarkably rich series of records on population, wealth distribution and poverty in a period of key political, social and economic change ---”

And this was pre central heating of course



The year women became eligible to vote in each country by Tim Wenger

Mar 7, 2018 <https://tinyurl.com/y285dn6o> Matador Network

Continuing this year’s theme of exploring the history of women’s suffrage I find this a rather humbling article

A quick glance at the map tells only part of the story, however. Pay close attention to the asterisks, as the year noted for some countries signifies only limited suffrage, often only for white women or in conjunction with specific requirements such as homeownership or marriage. Belgium’s 1919 suffrage granted widows and the mothers of servicemen killed in World War I, or widows and mothers of servicemen “shot and killed by the enemy” the vote but didn’t extend the same rights to all women until 1948. Australia granted women excluding Aboriginals the right to vote in 1902. For a more complete list of exclusions, view the notes at the far bottom of the infographic.



“Do you have ancestors who were Freemasons?” <https://tinyurl.com/yxpkrcsy> By John Crawford 05/03/2019

A very interesting explanation of the origins of Scottish freemasonry, (which probably lead on to the same in England as their James VI moved south to become James 1 of England in 1603), and the terminology that they use such as “Lodge”, communication system of handshakes, and use of symbolic tools on headstones etc.

“Scottish freemasonry has its origins in the Stonemasons ‘Incorporations’ (the equivalent of English ‘Guilds’): organisations set up in the mid- to late 15th century to establish standards of competence, fix wages and regulate performances. Stonemasons tended to move round the country and developed a system of signs and ‘grips’ (handshakes) – the equivalent of today’s certificates, diplomas, references etc – so that potential employers would know immediately how competent and proficient they were at working in stone ---”

The article also suggests several other useful websites for more research.

Society of Genealogists' monthly newsletter <https://tinyurl.com/y4lgesyt>



A very interesting newsletter which is also free, and many of our speakers are members of same. *"Each month, our newsletter brings you updates from the society and the world of family history, as well as competitions and details of forthcoming events".*

Stillbirth certificate application form <https://tinyurl.com/y5wahet6>

A recent enquiry on Facebook lead me to look at this sad situation a bit more. It seems quite likely that even now with improved maternity care, most families will have at least one or two stories to tell about such experiences in their tree. Some parents might have even been advised to "forget about it and work on a replacement", as I have heard up to even recent years. To us genealogists though, I hope it is only considered right that they are acknowledged as a family member, lost but at least recorded, and certificates can be obtained but *" must be ordered via the email address in the above link, or by calling through the General Register Office, you won't be able to order at a district registration office"*.

This is another very useful site which explains the history of Civil Registration, Birth (England & Wales) in a much more detailed account <https://tinyurl.com/yymuhmsp>.

The List of Historic Place Names of Wales <https://tinyurl.com/y6cr3apu>



Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.

is a ground-breaking and innovative resource that contains hundreds of thousands of place names collected from historical maps and other sources. It provides a fascinating insight into the land-use, archaeology and history of Wales.

MEMBERS COMMENTS,

Long term readers may remember a story in our March 2016 edition.

http://www.bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/newsletter/Genie_2016_03.pdf (crikey, what a difference a few years can make), when we asked for help re the history of Bolton artist David Winder who owned a shop at 19 Great Moor Street, Bolton. We are so pleased to be able to tell you that three years later we have a response, I have permission to share, and if anyone could help that would be a real bonus.

"I came across one of your monthly newsletters (I think it was a few years ago) when I was looking on line for information about the artist David Horatio Winder son of David Winder who were from Bolton. There was an article about David Winder asking if anyone had any information about him.

My grandmother came from Mellor and knew David Horatio Winder and bought several of his paintings which I still have (in their original frames). Two are Venetian scenes (one by D H Winder and the other by M Winder) and two very large ones are of Loch Awe in Scotland. The other is of a castle by a lake which I think is in Switzerland.

When my grandmother was young, she worked in a textile mill as did her husband, so I presume that it was the one managed by John Winder, father of David.

My grandmother was Frances Jane Lund, born 7 February 1885 in Mellor, daughter of Richard Lund a shoemaker and Sarah (formerly Topham) and she married John James Hulme, born in 1887 who came from Ashton under Lyne. They married on the 12 February 1916 at Mellor Wesleyan church. At the time they married my grandfather was a cotton spinner and my grandmother was a cotton winder. When they married, my grandmother was living at Higher Brundhurst Farm, Mellor and my grandfather was living at 97 Charlotte Street, Blackburn. My grandfather later went into catering and I think they ran a fish and chip shop in Bolton. He was also a lay preacher and I have several books of his that were prizes for good attendance. Sadly, I never knew him as he died from a burst appendix in Blackpool Victoria Hospital just before my parents married in May 1944, and I was born in March 1945.

Do you have any members who live in Mellor who might know something about my family? I would love to hear from them if they do. My grandparents are buried in Mellor Chapel churchyard. We used to visit

every year when I was younger, and I have been there since the new church was built but we now live in South Devon, so it is rather a long way to travel.

I look forward to hearing from you. Regards (Mrs) Maureen Frances Parfitt

If anyone can help, we can pass the message on to Maureen

OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES NEWS



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

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,

30th April AGM followed by 'The History and Renovation of the Gorton Monastery, Manchester ': as told by a staff member



Turton Local History Society <https://goo.gl/adx4GM>

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. This next month's event

24th April – "Bolton Breweries" Speaker Dave Sweeney

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.

2nd May "Educating Rita" - Dr Steve Harrington Steve will you about the education of Westhoughton's women and what his extensive research has uncovered.

16 May Trip: Hardwick Hall



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

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.

9th April "The Tudor Origins of Today's Words" Lavinia Todd –

13th April Family History Open Day 10am to 1pm

14th May "Hidden Gems of Manchester" Keith Warrender

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