

Bolton's Genies



The Monthly Newsletter of the
Bolton & District Family History Society.

Newsletter comments and Speaker Queries: boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk
Research help, Bookings and General Queries: bolton@mlfhs.org.uk
Secretary: Barbara Owen on 01204 309515

April 2015

A branch of The Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society.

Hello everyone

Well we hope you have all had a good Easter, and are not too full of chocolate! I am writing this on a soggy Good Friday with hopes of some sunshine later. Never mind.

Many of us are probably still trying to absorb last Wednesday's meeting. Even if there are no known Catholics in the family (and who knows that for certain anyway), Jim's talk was still a fascinating overview of the last 600 or so years of religious ups and downs of our history. Hope all enjoyed it.

The good news is that as a result of that, and some previous talks with accompanying notes, we can now announce a new section on the Bolton pages of the main MLFHS website, under the label "Miscellaneous", <http://www.bolton.mlfhs.org.uk/Handouts.php>, as a resource for notes from talks, so that all can benefit. This is thanks to some excellent background work from our webmaster Graham Holt who does n't say much but does a lot. Notes from our earlier Irish talk from Brenda Hustler are also there, and if we can find more we will pass them on. .

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OUR LAST and NEXT MONTHLY MEETINGS



April 1st Jim Lancaster's Talk on Researching Catholicism in Lancashire.

Well I can only repeat what a successful meeting this was. Jim started the ball rolling by providing us with his very concise reference list hand out of notable dates and documents relevant to the history of, and current research, of Catholicism in England, and more particularly in Lancashire.

There will also be a full report of his talk in our

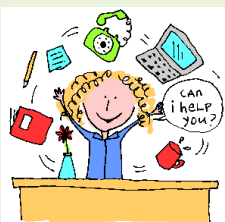
next quarterly journal which all members will receive anyway.

We hope those attending the meeting were also able to make full use of the stationery offers at the desk. These are from "My History", <http://www.my-history.co.uk/>, the Doncaster based genealogy supplier, with whom Brian has negotiated some very competitive prices). discounted of course, no postage costs, and a bargain because you can buy in small amounts as you need. . We soon also plan to have a code that all MLFHS members can use to

buy directly online with a discount, and this will be announced on the forum. Not surprisingly all this was very enthusiastically received. All in all a very enjoyable evening. There were 56 attendees, with 5 new members. Welcome to all

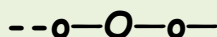
May 6th will be our **B&DFHS "Annual" General Meeting** followed by our **Manchester Chairman John Marsden** talking about help **Researching Soldiers of WW1**. Forms were announced and available for more committee nominations at the last meeting, but if you missed that all enquiries can still be passed on to Secretary Barbara Owen as above. We are always looking for more talent to help with our team. If you think you can help in any way, even if you are a bit apprehensive about "committee" duties, please pass on to Barbara. It will be good to have John here to maybe watch and advise if necessary, and I know his expertise about WW1 research will be another learning experience afterwards.

(All Meetings are held at Bolton Cricket Club (Back door), Bishops Road, off Green Lane, Farnworth, BL3 2JB 7.30pm, First Wednesday of each month apart from January).



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

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



VISITS and ACTIVITIES

Thursday March 5th. Preston County Record Office - A Rita Ramble

A group of us from Rita G's ongoing Family History course made our annual pilgrimage here. Each year has been a bit different. We were made very welcome as usual, and first given an introductory talk on what type of records are held in all centres like this and learn how to access them. I do not have any personal reason to do family research here, but it was still fascinating to be updated on their latest acquisitions and what might be available elsewhere. We were then shown their vault and some examples of what treasures are held there, including some with local interest sealed by King John no less!! Some stayed on to take the opportunity to do some private research afterwards. There will be a fuller report in the next *Genealogist*



Friday March 13th John Rylands Library and Manchester Cathedral (another Whittle Wander)

Twenty eight of us met at the Rylands Library foyer at 11am despite another nightmare of commuter hold ups into Manchester, but Wow!! Was it worth it? We were split into two

groups and whisked upstairs and downstairs into all the nooks and crannies of this wonderful neo gothic building. We were told of how it was built for the people of Manchester thanks to the inspiration and funding initially by John, and later his third wife Enriqueta Rylands, who completed the project as a memorial to him, (and this apparently included considerable slum clearance in preparation for it). It seems impossible to describe all the treasures we were shown or told about, but suffice it to say it included the Spencer collection, the Aldine pocket book collection, and mention of an original Gutenberg Bible insured for £66,000,000!! plus lots more. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Rylands_Library for more information. Although this could have been a rather serious or "stuffy" occasion it wasn't allowed to be with the feature of John Rylands wearing a topical red nose to celebrate the day <https://www.rednoseday.com/> Friday 13th



After welcome refreshments in the café, most of us went on to visit the Cathedral which is of course just down the road. We did feel a bit like a school crocodile trip (some even held hands), but it was also nice to talk to members who cannot always make it to our meetings and put faces to names. Where do I start for this visit? It has been of course, the Collegiate

Church since 1421 of Manchester http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collegiate_church, (which we were told gave it Cathedral like responsibilities and status but no parish), and is maybe best known to local family researchers as the place where all the marriages took place as recorded in the Parish Registers we must all have so avidly studied online.

<http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/db.aspx?dbid=2967>

We were once again split into two groups and our guide Mike Breaks, (who also happens to be the voluntary Cathedral archivist, told of how under the under the Cathedrals Act of 1840, the warden and fellows of the collegiate church were translated into a dean and canons in preparation for becoming the Cathedral of the new Manchester Diocese, which came into effect in 1847. The building was extensively renovated in 1882. Years later in 1940 it was badly damaged in the Blitz, only to be repaired, then once again damaged, this time by the IRA in 1996. Maybe not as magnificent as some similar buildings, the church seemed more of a symbol of how the Manchester population has been so battered and bruised through the ages, but has been the hub, and support of so many generations, from birth, to marriage and death. It is still very much part of the community, hosting routine services, civic gatherings such as the memorial service to the two policewomen murdered in 2012, as well as constant fund raising with activities such as concerts and the wine sale they were preparing for that night. After an hour being shown around, and trying to retain some of the multitude of facts and stories that we had been treated to, we thanked our very informative guides, and made our way back to Victoria Station (now open in theory to both the trains and trams thank goodness), to make our way back home for to a welcome cup of tea.

We had enjoyed a fascinating day of culture and catch ups, and I really can't do justice to it all. It is only left now to thank Brian for organising it, and say Well Done!!!

Some interesting statistics that Mike mentioned were

- 1835 was their year of most marriages - 3228. This averaged at 9-10 a day. In comparison 9-10 a year is a good year for them now!
- 1853 Christmas day, Mikes Great Grandmother's sister (think that is great great aunt?) was baptised in the Cathedral. Research has shown that apart from normal Christmas day services there were 62 marriages and 216 baptisms on that day. One of the main reasons was that the bread winner would not lose a day's pay.

Other Stats. -

- Mid 1830's. One of the major causes of death was cholera.
- 1820's. One of the major causes of death was whooping cough
- 1780's. One of the major causes of death recorded was bad teeth and would mainly be gum infections - no penicillin then.

Population -1770's - 17,000

Mid 1840's - 465,000

I did also ask Mike for information about seeing the archives he is in charge of. He replied " *We are quite busy at the moment and it would seem that the Heritage weekend would be the best opportunity to view some of our records. You will appreciate that we need to be secure and that they are for viewing only, but we try to put a good selection of items together. We give a short overview and then allow people to view them over a 30 minute period.*"



So maybe another visit to put in the tick box for next September 10th -13th.

<http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/> . More about that nearer the time

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GENIE'S TIPS for APRIL

Manchester Parish Registers on Ancestry.co.uk <http://screencast-o-matic.com/watch/cI10byVxL3> An excellent " how to do it " video. Wish I had relatives to look up here but I am sure the principle of it will apply to other similar data bases that they have.

<http://www.archersoftware.co.uk/igi/index.htm> For Newbies who might have missed it previously this website lists the extracted batches for the British Isles that previously formed part of the IGI (International Genealogical Index), the on-line database created by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) and available at familysearch.org

21 tips, tricks and shortcuts to help you stay anonymous online <http://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/techandscience/21-tips-tricks-and-shortcuts-to-help-you-stay-anonymous-online/ar-BBiibQ0> some timely advice from The Guardian Nicholas Tufnell 06/03/2015

Analyzing a Historical Document What Does the Record Really Tell Us? By Kimberly Powell Genealogy Expert on her very helpful blog

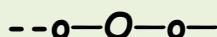
http://genealogy.about.com/od/basics/a/Historical-Document-Analysis.htm?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=sm&utm_campaign=shareurlbuttons This is continuing a theme mentioned last month. How can we prove our family tree connections and encourage others to do the same? This is where the Genealogical Proof Standard established by the Board for Certification of Genealogists comes in
<http://genealogy.about.com/cs/citing/a/proof.htm> accessed 16.03.15

The British Newspaper Library Top tip: Saving newspaper articles to your computer
<http://blog.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/2015/03/24/top-tip-saving-newspaper-articles-to-your-computer/>

Free Electoral Roll Search UK <http://www.freeelectoralroll.co.uk/> Note the option at the bottom of this page if you do not want your own name here.
<http://www.electoralregisters.org.uk/pollbooks.htm>

Poll Books list who voted at elections and who they voted for. The earliest ones are from around 1700 and they continued until 1872 when the secret ballot was introduced. While all poll books record the name of the voter, some also record other information such as occupation and/or address

And from the same source <http://www.schoolrecords.org.uk/available.htm> ...information about the school records, school registers and admission books from Victorian times,



WORKSHOPS, COURSES and CLASSES

FAMILY HISTORY WORKSHOPS - SPRING 2015 Bolton Central Library

The Bolton Branch, continuing their long standing partnership with the Archives & Local Studies Section of Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council., recently completed five workshops. This year's theme was "**So you want to get your research back before 1837**" and covered such topics as Parish Registers, The Parish Chest, Illegitimacy, Wills and probate.

As is usual, when the workshops are advertised in "Bolton News , What's on" etc., regardless of what expertise they are aimed at, people who are beginning their research apply for places, so there have been two separate groups. Barbara Owen has taken the five beginners through Making a Start, Civil Registration, Census and also made suggestions as to how to keep records of research done and future studies. This group also took up the Local Studies Librarian's offer of a conducted tour of the Search Room during the final workshop.

Rita Greenwood took the remainder of the applicants who numbered eighteen. Again as usual, there was quite a variety in how much progress each person had made, so questions came thick and fast.

Brian Whittle, the Bolton Chairman, visited the groups during the last workshop to give a synopsis of what the Bolton & District Family History Society is all about and the benefits of joining the Society. He invited all present to attend any meeting of the group as our guest. Report on Central Library courses lead by our Rita Greenwood and Barbara Owen



Margaret and Colin Calderbanks classes at the Branch Libraries

Margaret started these classes in 2011 after being asked by a Bromley Cross librarian who knew she was in the MLFHS, if she could help a lady trace her family tree. After spending a couple of hours with her the lady suggested she did a course for her friends who were also interested. This led to regular events and now 4 years on, Margaret and Colin tell me they

have taught at Bromley Cross, Westhoughton, Farnworth and this year at Blackrod, teaching approx. 100 library members. A further 5 weeks are booked for September. Probably because the classes are in the week day time their students are generally between 60 - 70 years of age or people who have retired early or at home for other reasons. The Calderbanks report they enjoy meeting other people, and helping them to find long lost families, most of who have never touched a computer and now finding a new 'hobby'. The oldest lady who joined was 90. For more information re further classes in the Autumn please contact Boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk

Saturday 11 April 2015 10.30am - at Manchester Central Library

Beginners' Course: 1 First Steps for Beginners. This, the first of seven monthly lectures, deals with research basics and record keeping. Please book via the Eventbrite online booking system where you will also find details of the other six lectures. These are FREE to members but a small charge of £3.00 per lecture applies to non-members. This will be refunded if the person joins MLFHS on the day. http://www.archivesplus.org/events/mlfhs-family-history-beginners-course-1-first-steps/?dm_i=PR8,3AO9S,8DIJQO,BSPRB,1

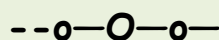
And the second one

Saturday 9 May 2015 10.30am -

Beginners' Course: 2 First Steps for Beginners. The second of seven monthly lectures, deals with civil registration. Please book as above.

Details of the remaining sessions are also available on the Eventbrite site and bookings are now open for all sessions. All sessions will be held in Performance Space 2/3 at Manchester Central Library.

Horwich Heritage Centre with our Val Leese is also just completing a 10 week course on April 24th but she will still be available on Friday mornings May 1st until September 11th 10am to 12pm. They also have another course due to start Friday 18th September. Contact her on 01204 468126 or val.leese@btinternet.com



THIS MONTHS LOCAL NEWS and SOME ORGANISATION UPDATES

Campaign to raise £3.5 million to buy Smithills estate picks up steam

http://www.theboltonnews.co.uk/news/bolton/11875117.Campaign_to_raise___3_5_million_to_buy_Smithills_estate_picks_up_steam/?ref=eb. Smithills Hall and estate is of course of

major historic importance to Bolton and its heritage.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smithills_Hall

Lancashire Records

<http://www.lancashirebmd.org.uk/update.php>

<http://www.lan-opc.org.uk/> and left click on the "What's New" tab on the left

The Deregulation Bill [http://britishgenes.blogspot.co.uk/2015/03/progress-towards-making-](http://britishgenes.blogspot.co.uk/2015/03/progress-towards-making-englishwelsh.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed:+BritishGenesGenealogyNewsAndEvents+(British+GENES+(GEnealogy+News+and+EventS)))

[englishwelsh.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed:+BritishGenesGenealogyNewsAndEvents+\(British+GENES+\(GEnealogy+News+and+EventS\)\)](http://britishgenes.blogspot.co.uk/2015/03/progress-towards-making-englishwelsh.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed:+BritishGenesGenealogyNewsAndEvents+(British+GENES+(GEnealogy+News+and+EventS)))

"Very nearly finally, Lords amendments 47 and 48 will allow records to be available other than in the form of a certificate.

And following from that

Civil Registration Certificates from the **The Federation of Family History Societies**

<http://www.ffhs.org.uk/tips/civil-reg-certs.php>

From: john@johnmarsden.name To: forum@list.mlfhs.org.uk

Date: Sat, 21 Mar 2015 12:38:11 +0000 Subject: **MLFHS: Manchester Burial Grounds**

Hi All

Some years ago Geoff Edge compiled a very useful book listing Manchester's burial grounds.

This has been sold by the society but is currently out of print and in need of an update.

Because sales of the book were very limited and also there is a lot more change in burial/MI records available online, we are not inclined to reprint as a printed book and so Geoff has been looking at replacing this with a downloadable version which can be viewed using a PC, tablet or mobile phone. This will probably be made available to members as a free download and because it will be directly generated from a database, can be economically updated as required.

Geoff is still working on the presentation and has now produced a draft for user comment.

You can download a copy at:

<http://www.mlfhs.org.uk/data/BurialGrounds-Mar18-1.pdf>

Geoff will particularly welcome feedback concerning how it displays on portable devices.

Please provide details of the device, operating system and pdf viewer used.

Please post your comments direct to Geoff at geoff@edgefamily.me.uk

And news of another newly found old document and 200th anniversary

Archivists unearth rare first edition of the 1815 'Map that Changed the World'

Date: March 23, 2015 Source: Geological Society of London

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/03/150323075432.htm>

A rare early copy of William Smith's 1815 Geological Map of England and Wales, previously thought lost, has been uncovered by Geological Society archivists. The new map has been digitized and made available online in time for the start of celebrations of the map's 200th anniversary

SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES

St James and All Souls Roman Catholic Parish Diocese of Salford

<http://www.stjamesandallsouls.co.uk/about.htm> . I know many Bolton researchers have ancestors from Salford, and may be interested to know about this website offering the bonus of help to research your family tree from archivist

Ms. Margaret Travis, St James R.C. Church' Pendleton Way, Salford' M6 5HQ on
Tel: 0161 736 1935



Books about Bolton's History

http://www.amazon.co.uk/sim/0752446525/2/ref=pe_27611_66155971_pe_vfe I am not trying to push Amazon but this does show a selection of books local to Bolton, and I am sure there are more. I actually have Sara Vernon's which was a fascinating commentary about the town centre street names, and she is speaking to us next year. Can you recommend any others, maybe with a review?

Chethams Library Belle Vue Collection <http://www.chethams.org.uk/bellevue/welcome>

The introduction says "Welcome to Virtual Belle Vue, Chetham's Library's digital archive of Belle Vue Gardens. Click on the links to explore over one hundred years of manuscripts and ephemera from Manchester's legendary pleasure garden". Have fun!!

England's Immigrants 1330-1550 <http://www.englishimmigrants.com/>, a fully-searchable database containing over 64,000 names of people known to have migrated to England during the period of the Hundred Years' War and the Black Death, the Wars of the Roses and the Reformation

The Royal British Columbia Museum Canada [http://search-](http://search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Genealogy/BasicSearch)

[collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Genealogy/BasicSearch](http://search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Genealogy/BasicSearch) Indexes to births (1854-1903), marriages (1872-1938), deaths (1872-1993), colonial marriages (1859-1872) and baptisms (1836-1888). This site allows you to print the actual certificates, which might be useful

<http://www.irishtimes.com/editorial-page-teasers/recordings> if you have Irish roots, Irish POW songs recorded in Germany WW1

Genealogy In Time Magazine have had two particularly interesting articles this month

<http://www.genealogyintime.com/records/genealogy-records-by-country.html> and they also tell us that "Harvard University has begun a multi-year project to put online their collection of early English manor rolls.

http://oasis.lib.harvard.edu/oasis/deliver/deepLink?_collection=oasis&uniqueId=law00212

These are court rolls, account rolls and other documents from various English manors. They range in date from 1282 to 1770. The largest collection comes from Cheshire, with additional rolls from Hampshire, Sussex, Staffordshire and Suffolk. At the moment, this collection is

not searchable. Access is free. [Early English Manor Rolls]" . How on earth does an American university get hold of English records like that?

The Wellcome Library <http://wellcomelibrary.org/what-we-do/> Describes itself as "one of the world's major resources for the study of medical history. They also offer a growing collection of material relating to contemporary medicine and biomedical science in society, and a wide range of personal papers, manuscripts and organisational archives held in the Archives and Manuscripts Collection. This covers a broad range of themes relating to health and medicine. Unpublished material, drafts, notes, letters, photographs and more can be found in personal papers, manuscripts and organisational archives held at the Wellcome Library". Have a look. I was amazed.

Yesterdays Journey Researching Derbyshire records

<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~spire/Yesterday/> Well worth a look and ongoing.

Irish Genealogy Toolkit: <http://www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com/index.html> This seems to be a good starter pack for those embarking on their Irish backgrounds. It claims to be free and certainly starts off with some good advice "You do, however, need to look with some care! Too many websites overstate the difficulty of Irish genealogy research or encourage you to part with large sums of money unnecessarily. I'm not referring here to well-qualified professional genealogists, who use experience and great skill to unlock the past for their clients. No, I'm talking about the bandwagon merchants, who are all too ready to fleece the unwary.

With the advice available on this site - all of it provided absolutely free and without favour to any organisations or service providers - you can avoid these pitfalls. Posted by

Posted by Claire Santry, Irish Genealogy News

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MISCELLANEOUS

Roots Bid <http://rootsbid.com/#>! To read more

"RootsBid solves an enormous problem in family history research, where so much can be accomplished in an ancestor's homeland, but that homeland is inaccessible. Hiring local Certified Genealogists is not always possible, or reasonable within a limited budget. Much research can be done by professionals and non-professionals alike - both of which can be found on RootsBid."

Data Protection in the Deceased Online Database

<http://deceasedonlineblog.blogspot.co.uk/> . An interesting comment which maybe we should all be aware of.

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MEMBERS COMMENTS, QUERIES,(and now MEMORIES)

None really this month. You have all gone quiet.



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OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES' NEWS

Halliwell Local History Society <http://www.halliwell-lhs.co.uk/monthly-meetings>



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 month's talk is on 28th April 2015. When they will have their Annual General Meeting followed by "How much do you know about Astley Bridge?" - Norman Hindley.

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 the evening walks. All start at Longsight Church Centre at Harwood, BL2 3HX. . They offer talks of local and regional interest.

This month's event April 22nd "Fathers Medals", by Eddy Bevitt

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

Westhoughton Local History Group -

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

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

This month's talk is on 16th April Linked parishes around Westhoughton - Rev Canon Dr Chris Bracebirdle

Horwich Heritage Centre- 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 with a "special" Family History event on 11th April - followed by a talk on April 14th ~ Russell Hedley "Bolton, Rivington & our Heritage Part II ". With lots more on offer please consult their web site at <http://www.horwichheritage.co.uk>

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That's it folks!