

Bolton's Genies



The Monthly Newsletter of the Bolton Family History Society:

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

Newsletter Comments and Speaker Queries to : boltongenies@mfhs.org.uk

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August 2016

Bolton Family History Society is A branch of The Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society.

Welcome all to our August edition.

As can only be expected in the summer months, not a lot of activity, except maybe some have been taking the opportunity to visit newly discovered family residences and haunts from the past, and those of us working in the "admin" area, have been trying to finalise winter and 2017 plans. Our 2017 programme is now finalised with a few goodies for you we hope, and will be available soon. We already have a couple of autumn visits lined up but we would also appreciate a bit of help with ideas and arranging bookings for more if you want them.

I think we should also thank those of you who have been quietly doing sterling work on indexing both for Grahams research projects and the Genie archives. We all have a lot to thank you for.

OUR LAST and NEXT MONTHLY MEETINGS

Wednesday 3rd August Sara Vernon, author and historian came to tell us about "Street Name Research".

This was a talk about the names of some of Bolton's streets and how they lead to some fascinating stories of events and personalities of yesteryear and reminded us of some essential parts of Bolton's history. Her collection of photos of old Bolton triggered quite a lively discussion for the 80+ who attended.

Wednesday 7th September 7.30pm, sees the welcome return of **Brenda Hustler, Irish research specialist from MLFHS** who will come to give us a talk about **"Parish Registers on the Internet"**. Brenda will tell us how to search and find information. She did visit us a couple of years ago when she gave us a memorable talk about the intricacies of Irish research. This talk promises to be of at least equal helpful interest to get our brains back in working order after the holiday season.

- **Where?**

Bolton Old Links Golf Club, Montserrat Brow, Chorley Old Road BL1 5SU.
Buses 5SU <http://goo.gl/3llsRd> . All MLFHS members free. £1.50 to none members unless joining on the night.

- **When?**

7pm beverages available for 7.30pm start , on the first Wednesday of each month. Extras include a Help Desk for personal research, Stationery Table for discounted equipment, and recycle service for your used Family History Magazines



RECENT, TRIPS AND COMING EVENTS

Sunday August 7th Our Trip to the Heaton Park Tram Museum. See map <http://goo.gl/jxsfux> We meet at 1pm at the Lakeside café. The

shortest and easiest way to get here is using the South Car Park at the Sheep Foot Lane entrance. There might be a token charge here but it is then about 10-minute walk around the eastern side of the boating lake, on the level to the meeting point. Alternatives are

*travelling there via the Bury Manchester tram and getting off at the Heaton Park stop. This then involves crossing Bury Road to the Station Gate entrance and a walk of approx. 15 minutes to the meeting point or

*entering via the northern St Margaret's Road entrance with two choices of car parks and small charge, then making your way downhill to the Lakeside café either by foot or the internal land train which costs approx. £1 to go down to (and back up from) the lake. Maybe 30 minutes walking.

There are picnic facilities and also light snacks available at the café and also toilet facilities there. The cost of the actual visit is £5 for adults and £2.50 for children with a busy programme as described by David Lloyd at August's meeting. We hope to see you there, no booking necessary.



Visit to Bolton Parish Church 7.00pm on Thursday 8th Sept. Visit expected to take about 1 ½ hours, and parking in the church grounds. More information next month but names now being taken.

A Visit to Victoria Hall is also planned in October. Date to be confirmed.

GENIE'S TIPS for AUGUST

Tips for reading old handwriting <https://goo.gl/F6kLVN> Ancestry Apr 18, 2016

There are a number of tricks for reading old handwriting, enough that you could take an entire college course on the topic. This article is intended to be a crash course in some of the unusual things you're likely to encounter reading historical documents before you jump in.

I rather think this article is intended for the many "volunteers" who transcribe and index for the vast "Ancestry.com" empire, but the advice is still useful for all.

See also this useful article

The Biggest Mistake in Reading Old Handwriting – and How to Avoid It <http://goo.gl/uBKfzh> Amy Johnson

Crows blog undated accessed 02.06.16 "focusing too much on that one word or name could be keeping you from reading old handwriting. Here's a way around that" ---"we don't have anything to compare it to. Taken out of context, this is just a scribble. We need to look beyond the word that's tripping us up. --- Here's that same word within context of the record: ---".

In other words, compare the unknown with the known

"Five Minute Find: Five Things You Should Do with Every Record" <https://goo.gl/qrhtSC> from Anne Gillespie Mitchell on You Tube via The Ancestry Blog accessed 31.07.16

7 Reasons Why You Can't Find Your Ancestors Online <http://goo.gl/DmHTSP> from Crestleaf accessed 20.07.16

"When you're unsuccessful at conducting an online search for an ancestor, it can be due to a number of reasons. The good news is that by simply changing the way you search for your ancestors can save you even more frustration and discouragement when you hit those genealogy brick walls".

“How to tell if you have the right person using Genealogical Proof Standard” <https://goo.gl/9FMXqi>
Findmypast The Society of Genealogist's Else Churchill explains the Genealogical Proof Standard, the cure to every family history researcher's frustration.

“Bastardy Bonds & Documents (Parish & Poor Law)” <http://goo.gl/zD5d2q> from The GenGuide accessed 31.07.16
“Records generated from a number of documents relating to the issue of illegitimacy and bastardy cases mostly trying to determine the name of the bastard child’s father. A child born to unmarried parents was considered by law to be illegitimate. The range of documents, mostly deposited in the parish chest, include the Bastardy Examination, Bastardy Warrants And Summons, Bastardy Order, Maintenance Order and the Bastardy Bond.”

WORKSHOPS, COURSES and CLASSES

The Calderbank Local Library 5 week Starters Courses are back again. These are introductory courses concentrating on the basics of how to start on your family tree from “scratch”.

Blackrod Monday 3rd October and next 4 weeks until 31st October 10am-12md

Bromley Cross, Thursday 6th October and next 4 weeks until 3rd November 10am – 12md

Westhoughton, Friday 7th October and next 4 weeks until 4th November 10am – 12 md

Harwood Friday 7th October and next 4 weeks until 4th November 1.15pm - 3. 15pm



Not actually under the umbrella of MLFHS but lead by Rita Greenwood our most experienced tutor we have

“Enjoy Learning”, Family History Courses at all levels at the Friends Meeting House, Silverwell Street, Bolton, <http://goo.gl/aPYI0h> *“It is said, 'there's nothing sure in this life except death and taxes'. One more could be added- your ancestors. Perhaps the impermanence of today's living makes more people ask 'Who Do You Think You Are?'*

Stage 2 CF431, 6th Oct-15th Dec 10wks £78, 10-12noon This course is for anyone interested in family history who may have dipped their toe into the internet and come up with nothing!

Stage 3 CF432-2, 19th Jan-30th March, 10wks, £78, 10-12noon, “progressors”

Stage 4 CF433, 6th Oct-15th Dec, 10wks £78 1-3pm CF433-2, 19th Jan-30th March 10wks Advanced

“Once researchers have gone as far as possible with civil registration, census etc and have hit the inevitable brick wall then other avenues have to be used. This course analyses more advanced sources and suggests how they can push research further back in time and put flesh on the bones!”



This usually includes study trips to the Bolton and Preston archives plus the odd “social event” !!

THIS MONTHS LOCAL NEWS and SOME ORGANISATION UPDATES

Lancashire Records

New in the main MLFHS webpages <http://goo.gl/NQ2o6a> -

Members Area, General Documents - you can find a list of



- “**Lancashire Workhouse Inmates**” who spent more than 5 years in the various institutions, which includes the Bolton Workhouse. Thanks to Carol Fullelove for this listing of 1,200 names. Also see
- “**Lancashire Bastardy and Removal Orders**” which includes Bolton information. Thanks to Mark Campbell for this list which is 207 pages long.

There are now 34 documents in the Bolton specific documents listing. It is worth a quick look to see if any of these documents can be of use to you. If you have not yet joined us, old editions of our quarterly journal are now available here for free.

The Manchester Genealogist 1964 -2012 <https://goo.gl/EFdWTS> **Family Search Wiki**

“The Manchester Genealogist is the quarterly journal of The Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society. The journal started in 1971 and continues today”. Just found this after a comment on a Face Book group. Good for publicity but of course more recent online versions are in our member’s pages.



<http://goo.gl/I29JpL>



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

The New WDYTYR List <http://goo.gl/pa4cPq>

And nice to see the new list of names for the next WDYTYR series and our very own Sir Ian McKellen ex Bolton School boy included “*With a glittering array of characters under his belt, from X-men’s Magneto to Gandalf in “The Lord of the Rings” and Hobbit trilogies to Shakespearian heavyweights and Mel Hutchwright in Coronation Street, Sir Ian McKellen is one of the nation’s best-loved actors. The thespian has been a key figure in British theatre since the 1960s and was knighted in 1991.*” A few of us recently saw him in “Mr Holmes “at the free monthly Bolton Central Library Silver Screeners event which we highly recommend.

Heritage Open Days <https://goo.gl/RtjbnP>

Do you all know about this annual event held the second weekend of each September when we get the opportunity to visit all sorts of English nooks and crannies related to our social history that we don’t normally have access to. This includes historical buildings, records, bygone methods of work and travel and lots more. Events are still being added so just check the website above. These are some of the Bolton events

Hall’ i’ th’ Wood Museum, Saturday 10 September, 12pm – 4pm (tours 1pm and 3pm)

Hall i’ th’ Wood’s tour will include a rare chance to view the attic space where Samuel Crompton allegedly hid the spinning mule during an outbreak of machine-breaking in the late 1700s.

Smithills Hall Museum, Sunday 11 September, 12pm – 4pm

The Friends of Smithills Hall will be stewarding and you can stand in the same room where Bolton Protestant Preacher, George Marsh, was interrogated by the owner of the estate, Robert Barton. Marsh was later burned at the stake because of his faith. Legend has it that as George Marsh was being led from the Hall he stamped his foot on the flagstone, leaving a mark that has remained there ever since as a declaration of his steadfast faith

“Wigan Stuff”. <http://goo.gl/2ABBB0> from **“Wigan World”** All sorts of useful bits of miscellaneous information about Wigan from the whereabouts of old streets, to records from Court Leet Rolls , and various Cemetery Indexes. If your lot ever lived in Wigan this is the place to check.

SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES

More “Bolton Stuff”

“Theatres and Halls in Bolton, Greater Manchester” <http://goo.gl/x02IU5> from **“Welcome to ArthurLloyd.co.uk”** - **The Music Hall and Theatre History Site - Dedicated to Arthur Lloyd, 1839 – 1904**



There are over 2,400 pages of information on this site and more than 11,000 archive images on the history of Music Hall and Theatre in the UK. Did you know that apparently there have been at least 8 music hall type theatre houses in Bolton since at least the 1820s, although I am sure I have also heard only recently of mobile street theatres being popular before this on market days etc with one reported here in Bolton in 1836. Shown here is the

last Theatre Royal on Churchgate <http://goo.gl/Q2663b> with thanks to Bolton News Archives

Searching for Theatrical Ancestors <http://goo.gl/gFCIfM> **British Library Friday 29 Jul 2016, 10:00 - 17:00**

Experts explore ways of searching for theatrical ancestors by using theatre history resources online and in archives (including marriage and travel records).

Bolton Industrial Schools and Ragged Schools <http://goo.gl/N8kNlj> from **“Childrens Homes”**, Peter **Higginbothams new website** *“originally opened on June 19th 1854*



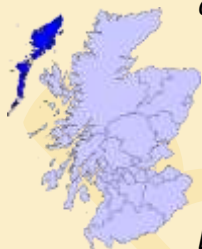
on Commission Street ---“

I suspect this might be the second updated version though built in 1870 on Tempest Road, Lostock Junction, Rumworth. I wonder if anyone can tell us any

more about this please.???



Hebridean Connections <http://www.hebrideanconnections.com/> *“On this website you will find thousands*



of records relating to the genealogy, history, traditions, culture and archaeology of the Western Isles (or Outer Hebrides), a chain of islands off the west coast of Scotland. The material is drawn mostly from the archives of local historical societies (comainn eachdraidh) and other member organisations, with valuable input from Hebrideans and their descendants around the world”

The Hebrides People Genealogical Database <http://www.hebridespeople.com/> **Bill Lawson** *has been specialising in the Family and Social History in the Outer Hebrides of*

Scotland for over 40 years, and is widely recognised as an authority in the area

Interesting Facts About Scottish Marriages <http://goo.gl/CKri17> **Geneosity** *Christine Woodcock/June 23, 2016/Genealogy Blog/ accessed 11.07.16 “Unlike the rest of the UK, Scottish marriage laws were much more lenient. Under Scots law, there were three forms of “irregular marriage”. An irregular marriage could result from:*

- *mutual agreement,*
- *a public promise followed by consummation*
- *cohabitation and repute”*

Well we have done trams, and narrow boats this year. Now on to caravans.

“Census 2011 included a “Gypsy and Irish Traveller” category for the first time. The Census puts the combined Gypsy and Irish Traveller population in England and Wales as 57,680. This is reckoned to be an underestimate for various reasons” from

“The Traveller Movement” <http://goo.gl/Cw5mD0> Irish Travellers and Romany

Gypsies

“Irish Travellers are a traditionally nomadic group with origins in Ireland, who possess a separate identity, heritage and culture to the community in general. An Irish Traveller presence can be traced back to 12th Century Ireland, with migrations to Great Britain in the early 19th Century. The Irish Traveller community is categorised as an ethnic minority group under the Race Relations Act, 1976 (amended 2000); the Human Rights Act 1998; and the Equality Act 2010. Some Travellers of Irish heritage identify as Pavee or Mincier, which are words from the Irish Traveller language, Shelta.



Romany Gypsies have been in Britain since at least 1515 after migrating from continental Europe during the Roma migration from India. The term Gypsy is a corruption of “Egyptian” which is what the settled population perceived them to be because of their dark complexion. In reality, linguistic analysis of the Romani language proves that Romani Gypsies, like the European Roma, originally came from Northern India, probably around the 12th century. French Manush Gypsies, have a similar origin and culture to Romani Gypsies.

There are other groups of Travellers who may travel through Britain, such as Scottish Travellers, Welsh Travellers and English Travellers, many of which are able to trace a nomadic heritage back for many generations and who may have married into or out of more traditional Irish Traveller and Romany Gypsy families”.

Romany and Gipsy Connections <http://goo.gl/mo4X3u> **Welcome to Romany Connections**, *“This site serves those people that have found Romanys/Gypsies in their family tree --- If you are interested in any information to a particular surname, and you cannot find it on this site at this time, then please ask, use a thread, and we will do a look up for you on other information!”*

Wow what a fascinating database of various websites

Roots chat Romany Message Board <http://goo.gl/O7XLkY>

Gypsy Genealogy <http://goo.gl/o5Q2B2> Find articles that include references to a particular person

The Romany and Traveller Family History Society <http://goo.gl/VgQZXD> *“Face-to-face meetings at locations around the country – at our own Society Days and Open Days and when we take part in family history fairs – are a very important part of that. Our quarterly journal and publications are too. So is our presence on Facebook: a page that attracts a lot of family history questions and a lively exchange of photos, information and ideas. And as long as there are people out there who welcome this spirit of great teamwork and friendship in family history research, the RTFHS will be here for you”.*

More “Social History Stuff”

Child Rearing <https://goo.gl/nzv5To>

Not to everybody’s taste maybe, (sorry about that but couldn’t resist it), and I apologise if it offends anyone, but have you ever wondered how neonates managed to survive in the past, if their mother’s milk was not available, and without our modern readily available formula milk and sterilised bottles. It was quite common of course, if you look at historical death certificates and records for newly delivered mothers to die as a result of childbirth complications. We know anecdotally that the first option of many of the “high and mighty” was to hand their new-born over to a local “wet nurse” who had infants of her own and let them get on with the “unpleasantness” of breast feeding, but what if there was nobody readily available? How did the child survive?



A recent passing comment on BBCs "Countryfile" <http://goo.gl/hUjHv3> accessed 31.07.16 intrigued me, about the farming of goats and their milk being good for human babies as a near match, and then I Googled for more information and found this. Wow!!! Even shades of the legend of Romulus and Remus. *"Animals were used as substitute wet nurses for infants, particularly after the rise of syphilis increased the health risks of wet nursing. The practice of breastfeeding or suckling between humans and other species has gone in both directions: --- Goats and donkeys were widely used to feed abandoned babies in founding hospitals in 18th- and 19th-century Europe".*

Well it solved my queries anyway and I suppose it was quite a logical solution in the days of few other options.

"An increasing number of British people don't pronounce the word 'three' properly — these maps explain why" <http://goo.gl/xyYDmx> The Independent Jim Edwards, Business Insider Monday 13 June 2016 | *"The wide variety of accents and dialects that characterise the different regions of Britain are in decline, according to new research from Cambridge, which shows that we're all taking in a generic South East English accent rather than keeping our local tongues ---"*

Those of you who have travelled around the country a bit like me, will already have noticed this I am sure, but I hadn't realised how many "hot spots" I have lived in myself.

Traditional Falconry Demonstrated by a Bolton Lad at Dunrobin Castle

<https://goo.gl/na6EYu> . I just thought I would share this visit we made whilst on a recent holiday to the Scottish Highlands near Dornoch. . We were amazed to discover this was a Little Lever man demonstrating one of our oldest crafts. A wonderful afternoon if you get the chance to visit.



More Military Related Sites

- **Local War Memorials Continued.**



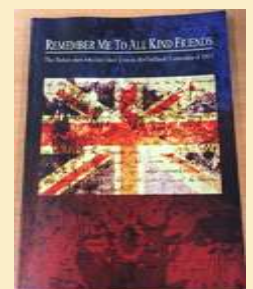
A Successful Book Launch at The Barlow Institute <http://goo.gl/DauqN4>

On Saturday 9th July 2016 a successful book launch was held at The Barlow in Edgworth. Author Linda Spencer led a group of volunteers undertaking research, with the aid of a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, into the war memorial at the Barlow which consists of individual photographs of soldiers. Only fifteen sets (three volumes) of the books have been produced and two sets were presented to Julie Lamara, Local Studies Librarian at Bolton History Centre. A website with all the information and photographs of the soldiers will soon be available.



If you have information about men from Edgworth, Chapelton or Entwistle who fought in the war, and/ or would like to be involved in researching the project please contact Linda Spencer on lespncr@aol.com or 07779 060962. They welcome any anecdotes or information, however small. Other local groups have also been busy undertaking research into war memorials in their own areas. Copies of their books are also available in the History Centre.

The research on the 'Bolton Remembers' project by the staff and volunteers of Bolton History Centre continues. The memorial project, which covers the whole of the Bolton Metropolitan Borough, is to locate the names of as many servicemen who served and or died in WW1 by the end of the commemorations in 2018. Images of WW1 war memorials (also images of WW2 memorials where available) are taken and the information found, from the public or other sources, is being added to the database.



All information regarding the war memorials will also be shared with the Imperial War Museum to update their information <http://goo.gl/jXNNEJ> .

The database is available and searchable on the internet with the first draft of information received however it is by no means complete.

Please send any information you have regarding a serviceman or war memorial, there is provision on the website to send information you have to us <http://goo.gl/iL9RCn>



Bolton Museum and Archive, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton, BL1 1SE, Tel: 01204 332194

E-mail: Julie.lamara@bolton.gov.uk

- **WW1 Troop Movements** <https://goo.gl/RWxa0Z> A new interactive feature to track your WW1 army ancestor's troop movements
- **World War One: Who in your family or street died in the Great War? Use this tool to find out** 30 Jul 2014

By Chris Pyke <http://goo.gl/dRFhzx> **Wales Online** This amazing and important tool allows you to discover the records of one million casualties of World War One - searchable by name, street, town or city

- **The Ambulance Trains** <http://firstworldwar.nrm.org.uk/> **National Railway Museum, York.** Between 1914 and 1918, hundreds of thousands of Britain's railway workers left their jobs to fight in the First World War – from cleaners, locomotive drivers, porters and carriage builders. Over 20,000 never returned.

Thanks to 10 years of careful research by our staff and volunteers, you can explore moving stories of the railwaymen who lost their lives through our extensive database.

- **Cousins at War** By Theo Aronson Last updated 2011-03-10 <http://goo.gl/ANv3YY> **BBC History Site** "In May 1910, the monarchies of Europe came together in London, in an opulent show of strength, for the funeral of Edward VII. War and revolution in the ensuing decade heaped assassination, defeat and exile upon them. Theo Aronson portrays the European Royal Families at War."
- **WW2**
- **Isle of Man exhibition features history of WW2 internment camp** 28 July 2016 From the section Isle Of Man / Ellan Vannin

An exhibition about Europe's only internment camp for married couples during World War Two has opened on the Isle of Man.

More "DNA Stuff"

Lost Cousins Newsletter - <http://goo.gl/WqZODz> 9th July 2016 DNA Special DNA evidence proves accountant is true heir to Scottish baronetcy

<https://goo.gl/n93HZa> **The Guardian Online** accessed Monday 20 June 2016 14.07 BST Owen Bowcott Pioneering case settles family feud by verifying Murray Pringle's hereditary claim to 17th-century baronetcy of Stichill



"Britons still live in Anglo-Saxon tribal kingdoms", <http://goo.gl/GBMFjR> **The Telegraph** Sarah Knapton, Science Editor 18 March 2015 • 4:12pm accessed 31.07.16

"Britons are still living in the same 'tribes' that they did in the 7th Century, Oxford University has found after an astonishing study into our genetic make-up. Archaeologists and geneticists were amazed to find that genetically similar individuals inhabit the same areas they did following the Anglo-Saxon invasion, following the fall of the Roman Empire. In fact, a map showing tribes of Britain in 600AD is almost identical to a new chart showing genetic variability throughout the UK, suggesting that local communities have stayed put for the past 1415 years."

"How British are YOU? Genetic study reveals Yorkshire is most Anglo-Saxon part of UK, while East Midlands is most Scandinavian" <http://goo.gl/E8FX34> By Josh White For The Daily Mail 28 July 2016 | Updated: 15:31, 28 July 2016

“Family history website Ancestry studied the DNA of two million people using a home-based saliva test The average Brit is 37 per cent Anglo-Saxon with the remainder of genes coming from European ancestors The British also owe a fifth of their genome to the Germans and French, and 9.2 per cent to Scandinavians English people have significantly less Irish ancestry on average compared to people living in Scotland”.

MEMBERS COMMENTS, QUERIES, and MEMORIES

“Comments on Facebook from one Family Search Indexer”, <https://goo.gl/Vsc8kP> Family search Worldwide Indexing Event. Most of you are probably aware that “Familysearch.org”, the free genealogy website run by the Church of the Latter Days Saints has recently held an indexing event, trying to recruit more help and clear some of their massive backlog of raw data, which is awaiting indexing and adding to their worldwide collections. These comments are maybe a wakeup call to us all from one volunteer with more comments afterwards

“Just wanted to share something that came up due to me joining the recent family search indexing weekend. They have responded to the issue I raised with them. It was regarding indexing marriage records. I had a batch of marriage banns from a Hampshire UK parish register. They ask you to index the marriage date. I left that blank as the banns are not the marriage and as we in the UK know the third week is not the date they get married. It seems in their wisdom Family search have decided to use this latest date as the actual marriage date "in order to guide users to further records that may help them". Now I know from my own records that although banns were called some did not get married for a couple of months. So keep this in my mind if you get a name on Family search and the time frame is confusing just have a look because I am beginning to wonder what other dates Familysearch are tinkering with”. The instructions received were “With regard to the index of banns of marriage we ask that the latest date the banns are read be indexed. Indeed, this is not the date of marriage but it would guide the researcher to the correct time frame and to other records which will also hopefully in time be indexed. “With permission from. Sharon Piddock There are other comments from others eg “Banns don't necessarily mean the couple married either”, and “family search “death records are all virtually wrong they are the date for burial not death”, and “I transcribed some burials for them that did not give the age of the person but did say things like "infant", "youth", "widow" etc which could still help a researcher establish if they had found the right person, but you could only record numbers not words”. The sensible conclusion as always is “to use it as a guide but always double check with the original records”

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 August “Opencast Uncovers the Past” – The history of the opencast coal mining and the historical artefacts/old workings revealed. An illustrated talk by Alan Davies

Turton Local History Society



Normally all events are on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm All start at Longsight Church Centre at Harwood, BL2 3HX. This month's event 24th August “The Artefacts of Folk Magic” by Peter Watson. Please email Secretary PeterMHarris@care4free.net for more information.

Westhoughton Local History Group – <http://goo.gl/XNug15>

Meetings take place on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, between 10am and 12mid in the room above Westhoughton Library, Market St, Westhoughton, BL5 3AU.

18 August “Trip to National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire”.

1 September “Tints and Tones of the Town “ - Tom Newton



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.

Open Days, are held most months on Saturdays between 10am --- 1pm with one on April 9th

And we have the announcement of the “birthing pains “and eventual creation, of a new Local History Society . Here is an introductory article by their Chairman David Hargreaves

Blackrod Local History Society

“What had Westhoughton, Horwich, Adlington and other areas have and Blackrod did not? A local history group. This omission was seen by the Blackrod Community Group, who set out to amend this situation. Members of Westhoughton Local History Group were invited to provide a presentation on the steps to take in setting up a group in Blackrod. This presentation was well attended and following that, a meeting was called for 10th December 2015 for anyone interested in forming such a group. From the 15 who were at that meeting a Chairman and Treasurer were appointed. Unfortunately, no one was willing to take on the role of Secretary. However, the position was filled by the March meeting. The Group meet once a month, (at the moment on the third Thursday of each month) in the Council Chamber at Blackrod Library at 2.30pm. Meetings last about an hour. Attendance numbers can vary from 15 down to 7 (England match on TV). A £1.00 subscription per person is paid each meeting. Speakers are being sought but as a fledgling group we are looking for those who charge nothing. So far the following have been booked. 18th August Margaret Calderbank from Bolton Family History Society on “Family History”, and 15th September “A tour of St Katharines Church Blackrod”.

20th October Our Chairman on “The Short Life and Murder of Minnie Stott.” (If the church is required for a service this talk will be brought forward)

We are in need of more members to help the group to find its feet and prosper, and we are also asking for old photos or anything connected with Blackrod, even if it is just memories shared with the group. We aim to be a social group of likeminded people interested in the history of the village and willing to spend time sharing discoveries and creating an archive which will help others with their research, keep the history of the village alive, and stimulate interest in the history of Blackrod”.

Contact details: Chairman David Hargreaves 01257 481393 or Secretary Jean Rosslowe 01942 831719

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