# **Bolton's Genies**



# The Monthly Newsletter of the Bolton Family History Society:

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

Bolton Family History Society is A branch of The Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society. http://mlfhs.org.uk/index.php

Newsletter Comments, Bookings and Speaker Queries to: boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk

For Research Assistance and General Queries: bolto

bolton@mlfhs.org.uk

01204 309515

**Secretary: Barbara Owen** 

# May 2016

Hello everybody. Well what a busy month it has been. I am just beginning to catch my breath. Twelve of us were off on our first visit, to the WDYTYR show the day after our last meeting, then it seems to have been none stop onwards. Yours truly then fitted in a wonderful holiday in Italy and Monte Carlo (had to get that bit in), closely followed by first cataract operation. I now feel as though I am writing this with the benefit of sudden high definition in one eye and a cloud in the other, and it is very strange so please bear with me. I am giving our activities in date order as shown below and hope I have got everything in.

Firstly, just to remind you

#### **OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS**

• Where?

Bolton Old Links Golf Club, Montserrat Brow, Chorley Old Road BL1 5SU. Buses 5SU <a href="http://goo.gl/3llsRd">http://goo.gl/3llsRd</a> . 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 usually include a Help Desk for personal research, Stationery Table for discounted equipment, and recycle service for your used Family History Magazines



# **RECENT MEETINGS, TRIPS AND COMING EVENTS**

## Thursday April 7<sup>th</sup> Trip to the Who Do You Think You Are Show at the Birmingham NEC.

As I said above, this took place the day after our April meeting, and Peter Watson's fascinating talk as reported in last month's newsletter. We had barely had time to tidy up from that, get home, make our butties and have our beauty sleep, before we were meeting again for a 7.30am departure for Birmingham on a dismal morning in the pouring rain. We were a cheerful bunch of eleven intrepid souls though, (even Arthur who we found had been waiting under a nearby hedge but none of us had seen), in a bright green minibus, and we set off on time with a full team, meeting another member at Birmingham. We arrived 2 ½

hours later at the NEC and after 15 minutes of negotiating where to park the bus following various conflicting instructions from the car park attendants and no obvious signposts, we eventually disembarked at the entrance, and those who had been before guided us newbies into the hall and facilities. My first impression was how big and overwhelming it all was. We had looked for a floor map in both the WDYTYR magazine and exhibition entrance but could not find anything. It seems the only one available was in the £3 programme and even then there were last minute alterations. Most of us had done our homework though and already knew there were certain talks, classes and stalls we wanted to attend, and the group dispersed in various directions to find their personal targets, agreeing to reassemble for a 3.30pm departure. Here is a link from the Society of Genealogists for notes on some of their 2015 and 2016 talks.



For me I found it was nice to meet people from other groups who I had been in contact with for a few years and never met. At last we could put faces to names. Some also took advantage of various "show offers" for subscriptions, and seeing demonstrations of software etc. and others enjoyed some of the talks and classes. The photo shows John Marsden our Manchester Chairman helping to man the MLFHS stall. We all met on time again to return, but this time with a more protracted 4-hour

trip with much of it in second gear due to a break down and road works

Monday April 18th Greater Manchester Police Museum. http://www.gmpmuseum.co.uk/ This was

planned as a follow up visit to the excellent talk which the curator Duncan Broady had given at MCL at the last Quarterly Meeting. We made our own ways there from Bolton and escaped the freezing cold wind outside on Newton Street to be invited inside and take our coats off due to the heat. Two retired police officers Gary and Bob, then introduced themselves. We were given an interesting overview of how the title "constable" came from the Latin "comes stabuli" meaning "attendant to the stables," (or literally "count of the stables" from the Roman Empire, and later became a high military rank), and then the background to the origins of the Metropolitan Manchester City Police which formed in the 1830s, just after the Metropolitan Police Force was created in London. The eventual creation of GMP was in 1972 when the Local Government Act amalgamated Manchester, Salford City and several other sections of nearby County forces including parts of



We were then split into two groups to be shown around the building. The uniforms were the first display,



Bolton.

showing the change from initial pseudo military, to adaptions and modernizations to suit the police officer's changing role and work demands. The priorities now are body protection, whilst still carrying essential equipment, with as much personal comfort as can be accommodated and a professional appearance. Not easy. It was sad to see that even the horses had to be similarly protected.

We were then shown examples of their now obsolete motor bikes, and

memorabilia of various famous cases. The enclosed

above tells the story of a body found in a Bromwich Street cellar in Bolton in 1983. Despite cutting edge technology of the time the woman, born approx. 1926 and thought to have died of natural causes has still not been identified. The Victorian Charge Office, with examples of past restraint and communication equipment used, seemed like a film set from "Dixon of Dock



Green" or "Peaky Blinders", as did a row of cells, and stories of frequently double figures being held in accommodation meant for two, and lastly the well retrieved and preserved furniture of Denton Magistrates court. Some of the "offensive weapons "confiscated and on display were the stuff of nightmares, as were some of the tales. There was also the humour of everyday encounters with the cross section of society, the pathos of their dealings with victims of social deprivation for whom the only way to survive was to steal or worse, and perhaps also drown their sorrows with drink or drugs. I think most of us left with nothing but gratitude that there are people out there even now, doing their best to protect our life and property. Certainly I know those who have family in the job will always dread the knock at the door.

Wednesday April 20<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Manchester Meeting and AGM Four of us attended this with another fascinating talk by our friend Dr Michael Powell of Chetham's College, telling us more about three of their most interesting collections of the Leech, Bracegirdle and Reed families. The central AGM was then held as will no doubt be reported in the Genealogist Journal and there was a subsequent talk about "Breach of Promise to Marry" by Denise Bates from Oxford University

Wednesday May 4<sup>th</sup> Our AGM and subsequent talk by Richard Heaton "Finding your Ancestors in Newspapers and Periodical's".

The meeting was initially Chaired by John Marsden, our Manchester Central Chairman and the Bolton members appreciated him coming to say "Hello". The reports and updates were approved with the general theme of approximately a third increased attendance, many more activities over the last year, and a general new "buzz" about the new venue. We thanked one retiring committee member Val Lees leaving after many years'

service, and welcomed two new members, Nick Walmsley and Michael Isherwood. (Thanks for joining us fellas, we need some new energy).

With the formalities over we then progressed to Richards talk. Although he has Bolton ancestors, he had actually come up from Buckinghamshire, especially to talk to us, and promised to cover sources (both online and offline) for research – UK, Ireland, then briefly Continental Europe, USA, Canada, Australia etc,



telling us what we can find and how it can help us. He certainly did this. We were enthralled as he skipped through the background to his interest, how he has acquired all his information and collection of 45,000+ original copies of old newspapers, and gave advice and some tricks of what to look out for. He then showed us how to analyse and maximise what can be gleaned from the various sources of information.

Those who missed it or want to catch up, don't despair, you can find the information on our website <a href="http://goo.gl/RGAIsK">http://goo.gl/RGAIsK</a>. (He provided handouts as well. What a star).

## Tuesday May 17th Stockport Hat Museum http://goo.gl/07r5HZ and Air Raid Shelters

http://goo.gl/ChHmeB . Please email to Brian as above, including an emergency phone number if possible. We will then have your contact details to confirm arrangements, and notify you in the event of any late changes or for more information. This booked visit is via a combined ticket for £6 to be bought on site, and will be reached with a direct train from Bolton to Stockport. Holders of GMT travel passes can of course get this free.



ARRANGEMENTS We meet at Bolton station at 9.40 am to use the 9.56am train to Stockport direct arriving at 10.34am. We will then take the 10 minute (slow walk down a slight hill), to the Hat Museum to start the tour at 11am. We plan to have lunch at a nearby cafe before moving around the corner to visit the air raid shelters at 2pm for a 1-hour tour, and return later via direct train to Bolton taking approx. 45 minutes, and probably the 15.47 which is the first direct train back.

There are others changing in Manchester. If anybody wants to use alternative transport, please can they inform Brian when booking.

Please can I add at this time that, as for many of our trips, we only have limited capacity and usually a waiting list. If last minute cancellation can be avoided i.e. minimum 48 hours' notice, it will give us a chance to reallocate. If you are on standby a phone number is helpful.

Wednesday June 1st A late change of programme here from our cancelled talk by Steve Fielding, with

David Lloyd stepping in to tell us about the Trams of Bolton and featuring the development from the Bolton "Horse way" Trams to the electric powered trams from 1890-1947, and the restoration of tram 66, <a href="https://goo.gl/cJaxKG">https://goo.gl/cJaxKG</a>. Those who attended our April meeting might remember David gave us a 5-minute flying visit to tell us about the restoration project, and he is now stepping in at short notice to give us a more detailed and illustrated report. Further to this we are hoping to arrange a visit to the line and tram sheds in Heaton Park, Whitefield <a href="https://goo.gl/supob0">https://goo.gl/supob0</a> maybe in August 2016



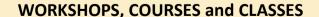
picture by David Lloyd,

## **GENIE'S TIPS for MAY**

"6 Effective Ways to Use Twitter for Genealogy Research How to Tweet Your Way to Genealogy Research Success" <a href="http://goo.gl/fCWeFb">http://goo.gl/fCWeFb</a> . I am afraid I am still a dinosaur in this area and resisting the pressure to sign on, mainly because I don't know enough about it. I put my big toe in but it asked for my mobile number which worried me. I imagine there are a lot like me I suppose it will come eventually but can anyone out there advise us oldies please?

"Free Google Earth for Genealogy Video Class" <a href="http://goo.gl/PXsEZ3">http://goo.gl/PXsEZ3</a> by Lisa Louise Cooke Google Earth offers a 360-degree, 3-dimensional way to explore, document and share your ancestor's world Google Earth is known for its ability to virtually "fly" us to locations around the world. We can use satellite imagery, terrain maps, 3-D views of city streets and more to understand all kinds of places—even places of the past. ...

"Video: How to explore criminal records" Findmypast 29 June 2015 <a href="https://goo.gl/mQWc1e">https://goo.gl/mQWc1e</a> In this video, expert in criminal family history Abigail Rieley takes you through the basics of researching the ne'er do wells in your family's past...



#### **Family History Courses 2016**

Regular readers and members will know that we have been able to offer a variety of courses this year, trying to cater for different levels and availabilities





Beginners classes have been held at Blackrod, Westhoughton, Bromley Cross and Harwood Libraries in response to a growing demand. Margaret and Colin Calderbank have been teaching courses for 4 years now and this was started by just helping a couple of ladies at Bromley Cross. They report their courses have been aimed at beginners although they have had a few refresher members. All told they have had 49 members on four courses from

February to March, and have found it most enjoyable watching them learn and progress over the five weeks. They have used their own power point presentation which enabled them to explain a lot of the research sites which can be used and how to use them.

Bromley Cross had wifi so this was a lot easier and the lessons were followed with enthusiasm. All members are now looking forward to visiting the Bolton Archives to expand on their research.

They are now looking forward to September when all the libraries should have wifi and of course their teaching will be linked to this

## Advanced -Held at Bolton Archives & Local Studies Section Bolton Library

Annual workshops have been mounted for some eight years now and this year, six workshops were held from February to the end of March on Saturday mornings under the leadership of **Barbara Owen and Rita Greenwood.** Although advertised as for advanced students, they always get some beginners so these are also catered for. They have always been impressed by the enthusiasm of the people participating and have been delighted to see many of them at our monthly meetings. A reminder also of the

2016 Season of Beginners' Talks at Manchester Central Library <a href="https://goo.gl/XsnwYD">https://goo.gl/XsnwYD</a> which includes May 7<sup>th</sup> Civil Registration when Jean Newman will explain Birth, Marriages and Death certificates in England and Wales, with brief mention of other parts of the UK. Why certificates are important, how they were made and how to find them. Ideas for problem solving. The talks are free to Society members but non-members are most welcome to attend for a small charge of £3.00 (refundable for anyone who joins on the day). Booking is recommended and helps in the planning. Check the link as above for more. It is expected that they will run these on a regular basis, depending on demand

Genealogy: Researching Your Family Tree <a href="https://goo.gl/vkXTf1">https://goo.gl/vkXTf1</a> Develop an understanding of genealogy – how to research your family tree and communicate the results – in this free online course.



I can now report that I have found this course a great success. How many of you have also had a dabble? To be truthful I still haven't finished it, due to writing newsletters, having holidays etc., but that is the beauty of it that, once enrolled, students can do it at their own pace. I met Tabitha the lead tutor at the WDYTYR show and they plan a repeat in July. Suitable for all levels really as you get out of it as much as you put in to it. As above to enrol or for more information.

# THIS MONTHS LOCAL NEWS and SOME ORGANISATION UPDATES

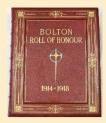
Bolton Cenotaph and Book of Remembrance <a href="http://goo.gl/ZycTIS">http://goo.gl/ZycTIS</a>
The Book of Remembrance or Roll of Honour

In 1920 Bolton Council had appointed a War Memorial Committee and it decided to build a "campanile" or bell tower structure in Queen's Park with the names of the fallen inscribed. Unfortunately, in the Depression of post war Bolton it was suggested that since many schools and churches in the borough had installed their own war memorials it wasn't necessary to build a municipal monument and the project stalled. By 1925 however opinions had changed and a subscription list had been set up for the construction of a memorial. A new committee was appointed and it decided that not only a memorial should be

constructed in Victoria Square in front of the Town Hall, but that there should be a hall of remembrance inside.

#### **Book of Remembrance Cover**

The names of the fallen are not commemorated on the Cenotaph but in a Book of Remembrance held in the Hall of Memory inside the Town Hall. The "Golden Book" as it was named, is an illuminated manuscript designed by Tillotsons (Bolton) Ltd and contains the names of Bolton servicemen and civilian casualties of the First World War. Mr W Farnworth of the Bolton Guild of Help helped compile the list of names. spoilt this month.



#### Lancashire Records

http://goo.gl/l29JpL This new tutorial page might also assist, from Ian Hartas, of UKBMD. "Over the years I've had the honour to talk at a variety of Family History Society and U3A group meetings on the subject of "BMDs on the Internet", offering an introduction and advice on how to get the best out of the various BMD websites that are part of the Local BMD Project.

I've now split my talk up into a set of separate video tutorials which can be accessed, for free, via the UKBMD website. <a href="http://goo.gl/Sgqycy">http://goo.gl/Sgqycy</a>



Lancs OPC http://goo.gl/AN699Z and left click on the "What's New" tab on the left

An Online Map Collection of historical maps focusing on central Manchester <a href="http://goo.gl/hyf5dW">http://goo.gl/hyf5dW</a> is now available to view in the University Library's Digital Image collections (LUNA). The maps date from the late 18th century to the middle of the 20th century, and comprise private surveys, detailed Ordnance Survey maps and a selection of plans showing the Manchester Ship Canal and Docks. Expand your search even further

Genealogy in Time Genealogy News <a href="http://goo.gl/9y3mpq">http://goo.gl/9y3mpq</a> A synopsis of the most important genealogy news. This Canadian site always seems to be very helpful resource to keep on top of all the latest worldwide genealogy research developments, as well as explain them in language I can understand

**Lost Cousins** <a href="http://goo.gl/N29Rxa">http://goo.gl/N29Rxa</a> is another very useful free fortnightly newsletter to which anyone can subscribe. The actual annual membership being approx. £12.50 pa and well worth it.

# SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES

"The Midwives, Abortions and Offences Against the Person Act 1861",

https://goo.gl/1qkZK7 in which "any pregnant woman who acted with intent to "procure her own miscarriage" was guilty of a felony and could, if convicted, be sentenced to "penal servitude for life." This same law that punished women who attempted to rid themselves of an unwanted pregnancy also punished the nurses and midwives who were frequently engaged to assist them"



#### Get a copy of a decree absolute or final order <a href="https://goo.gl/Jmit6z">https://goo.gl/Jmit6z</a>

Write to the court where the divorce, dissolution or annulment took place to get a copy of a decree absolute or final order

Free Parish and Probate Records <a href="http://goo.gl/oc2Hyo">http://goo.gl/oc2Hyo</a> Not sure how long this offer from Ancestry is going to last but it seems to be working OK as I post it.

The Registering of Births, Marriages and Deaths for those of you who are members but still don't watch the MLFHS forum <a href="http://goo.gl/UZRfZE">http://goo.gl/UZRfZE</a> for comments, you have missed a very interesting discussion today, May 2<sup>nd)</sup>, about the above i.e. "the name that appears on that (baptism) certificate is a different from of the one she is registered in". Many of us must have come across this problem and Jim Lancaster, one of our members and a past speaker, responded and provided this tutorial website <a href="http://goo.gl/VE2tdV">http://goo.gl/VE2tdV</a> by Barbara Dixon with this page England and Wales Birth Certificate Information as a very interesting resource.

This discussion lead to looking at the history of **subsequent name changes by deed poll** with comments from another of our members that "The rules for this are possibly more constraining than those for birth registration, but they're detailed here: <a href="http://goo.gl/G1SSH">http://goo.gl/G1SSH</a> The conversation then lead to the origin of the term 'deed poll', with the answer here: <a href="http://goo.gl/5qBZwB">http://goo.gl/5qBZwB</a>. Further to this I have now found Barbara Dixons sites on marriage certificates <a href="http://goo.gl/ceGlzf">http://goo.gl/ceGlzf</a> and death <a href="http://goo.gl/dcQdCr">http://goo.gl/dcQdCr</a> With thanks to Bob Thornley

"How to Look after your Family Documents" Bloodlines Ancestry April 25, 2016 Michele Losse

<a href="http://goo.gl/tm9ZAk">http://goo.gl/tm9ZAk</a> "You may have in your possession lots of precious family documents, which can vary in age, condition and type. If you are lucky, you may have deeds written on parchment, wills or other legal documents, family letters, original certificates, newspaper cuttings etc. The next step is to identify what you have, their condition, and how to preserve the different documents you hold"

The Genetic Genealogist <a href="http://goo.gl/o5QLB2">http://goo.gl/o5QLB2</a> The DNA route debate is ongoing of course and as well as assisting some and disappointing others there seems to be a lot of money involved as well. This link offers some thoughts, updates, and advice.

Some Cumbrian sites that might be useful

ENG-CUL-CARLISLE Mailing List <a href="http://goo.gl/R7Rjcp">http://goo.gl/R7Rjcp</a> A mailing list for anyone with a genealogical interest in the part of Cumberland, England, that is north of the River Derwent which passes through the towns of Workington and Cockermouth and is broadly equivalent to the Diocese of Carlisle.

North of the Sands - Westmorland Family History – Home <a href="http://goo.gl/kj2tmH">http://goo.gl/kj2tmH</a> Westmorland Church Notes is the transcription of all of the monumental transcriptions, church plaques and windows, and other parish church memorials in the County of Westmorland published by Edward Bellasis in 1888

Cumbria Family History Society http://goo.gl/wgRTox



## The Anglo-Scottish FHS www.anglo-scots.mlfhs.org.uk

This is the branch of the MLFHS helping those with Scottish links and I suspect most of us are likely to have some Celtic roots lurking there somewhere, probably causing more brick walls than their English cousins. They have now also started their own newsletter "eScotia" which can be accessed by this link http://goo.gl/ZmdTN9 similarly to how you have accessed this "Bolton's Genies".

Pinching a couple of bits of information from their opening issue, did you know that as MLFHS members you can buy vouchers for 30 credits with "ScotlandsPeople" at the MCL Help Desk for £6 (normal price £7) This discount is available to us as a result of our membership of the Scottish Association of Family History Societies (SAFHS).



There is also news of their "MLFHS Scottish Marriage Index." Which

can be accessed on their website. It currently lists details of marriages which have taken place outside of Scotland where one of the parties was born in Scotland. By going onto the webpage you can add details of anyone you know who meets these criteria and in this way they hope to enlarge and enhance it. They recently received over 100 entries from a member in New Zealand.

For more Scottish stuff see also

CHG Scottish Family History <a href="http://chgscottishfamilyhistory.blogspot.co.uk/">http://chgscottishfamilyhistory.blogspot.co.uk/</a> Some guidance on finding your Scottish ancestors from Cumnock History Group. Friday, 16 January 2026 What a breath of fresh air this group is for assistance with Scottish history. (and the date is what thy have put on to "save updating for a while"). I have just joined it on Facebook and guess who is also a member? Our friend Myko Clelland of FMP. Here are some examples of their hints

\*Scottish Naming Patterns in the not too distant past the following conventions were followed by Scottish parents. This still happened in the early 20th century. Scots who went abroad often stuck to it too. http://goo.gl/SOMNzM , also

- \*Getting the most from a Scotlandspeople search (some may also be interested in this update re the ScotlandsPeople site <a href="http://goo.gl/btXIU2">http://goo.gl/btXIU2</a>
- \*Ordering certificates from scotlandspeople and lots more. Have a look.

"Mental Health Institutions in Scotland ", Scottish Indexers by Graham and Emma Maxwell, genealogists at Maxwell Ancestry <a href="http://goo.gl/va3Bfq">http://goo.gl/va3Bfq</a> Over the past few centuries, many mental health institutions have operated in Scotland. It is relatively easy to find information regarding the large public asylums. Many smaller institutions also existed, some of which had only a few private patients. We aim to include as many of these as possible as we expand these pages. For the moment, the pages contain details of all licensed institutions operating when the 1857 report of the Royal Lunacy Commission was being prepared.

British Coastguards and Their Families - An Index http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/Coastguards Provided



to GENUKI by the late Stan Wright and his team of contributors. For the background to the progression of the 1809 Preventative Border Guard (Revenue Men), to the present service look here <a href="https://goo.gl/dPl4sf">https://goo.gl/dPl4sf</a> but the whole GENUKI website is a national treasure and currently being upgraded. Have a dabble, you won't regret it.



The British Evacuees Association (formerly The Evacuees Reunion Association)

<a href="http://www.evacuees.org.uk/index.html">http://www.evacuees.org.uk/index.html</a> is a non-profit making registered charity which was formed in 1996 to ensure that the true story of the great evacuation would become better known and preserved for further generations.

Finding Children When There Isn't a Will <a href="http://goo.gl/M2HqHD">http://goo.gl/M2HqHD</a> Posted by Amy Johnson Crow on April 18, 2016 in Research the Ancestry Blog. Advice primarily for the American market but much

can be adapted to British research. ----.

Hearth Tax Online Newsletter <a href="http://goo.gl/9KLvlR">http://goo.gl/9KLvlR</a> The Hearth Tax Project In 1995 the British Record Society joined with the Roehampton University Centre for Hearth Tax Research to publish a series of the texts of the hearth taxes of the 1660s and 1670s The aim of the Hearth Tax Series is to provide a national

survey of population, households and their relationship with social and economic status in Restoration England and Wales.--- The volumes are being produced county by county, generally in conjunction with the relevant local record society --- When the mapping and analysis is completed, it will provide a bird's-eye view of the distribution and density of taxable population in England and Wales in the 1660s and 1670s. and this Spring we have Yorkshire East Riding Hearth Tax Published. Hoorya!!! (Unfortunately I think my my lot were still ag labs elsewhere but I live in hopes).

Papers Past <a href="http://ww35.paperspast.co.nz/">http://ww35.paperspast.co.nz/</a> recommended by New Zealanders for New Zealanders. What more can I say? Please let me know your thoughts.

"A Tragic Story of Danish Soldiers in 17thC Yorkshire" Flickering Lamps <a href="https://goo.gl/3xbx1y">https://goo.gl/3xbx1y</a>
On the face of it probably not very interesting to Lancastrians, but have a read of it and I think you will find the historical background is fascinating for most Brits. — and Beverley, East Riding of Yorkshire , is a lovely spot, (plus there are links to other stories from all over the world.)

"More family notices from Welsh newspapers", Families in British India Society <a href="http://goo.gl/mBc5LX">http://goo.gl/mBc5LX</a> By Valmay on 29/04/2016 in News Around 600 English language entries from Welsh newspapers have been transcribed from the Family Notices that have a reference to 'Calcutta' by Peter Evans , with the cooperation of the National Library of Wales <a href="http://goo.gl/g27hWt">http://goo.gl/g27hWt</a> and uploaded to the FIBIS database website.

# **MISCELLANEOUS**

# Mass Observation Archive <a href="http://goo.gl/zfSNsP">http://goo.gl/zfSNsP</a>

Thursday 12th May 2016 Would you like to keep a one-day diary for Mass Observation? This year the Mass Observation Archive will be repeating its annual call for day diaries. <a href="http://goo.gl/L3oKLp">http://goo.gl/L3oKLp</a> --- In 1937 Mass Observation called for people from all parts of the UK to record everything they did from when they woke up in the morning to when they went to sleep at night on 12th May. This was the day of George VI's Coronation. The resulting diaries provide a wonderful glimpse into the everyday lives of people across Britain, and have become an invaluable resource for those researching countless aspects of the era. This of course was the famous Bolton version <a href="http://goo.gl/Fj48us">http://goo.gl/Fj48us</a> as discussed here Bolton Worktown <a href="http://goo.gl/H7TNAJ">http://goo.gl/H7TNAJ</a>

# **MEMBERS COMMENTS, QUERIES, and MEMORIES)**

#### Strolls in Bolton Tonge and Heaton Cemeteries

Last month, after days of bad weather, my husband and myself decided to cheer ourselves up by going for a walk in a cemetery. Yes, a cemetery, Tonge Cemetery to be exact. We were looking for my maternal grandparents' and his father's graves. We thought we knew where they were, but things looked different from years ago when we had last visited, well, it was over 50

years (in his case).

Of course we couldn't find either grave. Not to be outdone I decided to look on Deceased Online, <a href="http://goo.gl/P4wMFC">http://goo.gl/P4wMFC</a> and came up trumps. I found both graves together with grave numbers and maps. Easy, so off we went again, with garden gloves and trowels to clean up the graves. We found the areas indicated on the maps and some grave numbers, but not ours. One of our graves was numbered 32, we found 42 so counted the next 10 graves along - it wasn't there, it was the same with

both graves. In desperation I pleaded, "Come on Grandad, I need some help here." Help came in the form of

Nick (not Old Nick thankfully) young Nick, one of the cemetery workers who had been riding a sit-on mower and seen us struggling. He eventually found both graves. How grateful we were. He showed us that the graves are not numbered singularly but go up in l0s, so grave 32 was next to 42 not 10 graves away! Both graves were very neglected and need a lot of cleaning up, that's a job for a fine day, when we get one.

We were on a roll. Back to Deceased Online and we found three in Heaton Cemetery. The search there was a lot easier now we knew the system and found all three, but nothing's that simple. There's a man in one of the graves who doesn't appear to belong to my family - yet there his is. That's the problem with genealogy, you solve one problem and end up with another! I'll keep searching.

Barbara B

Editor's Note. Thanks Barbara and this reminds me of some of my experiences which I will try to document later. Has anybody else got any helpful stories of learning experiences please. It's all part of the fun.

"Health care for children in the Second World War" http://goo.gl/YLy3PR. What Life was really like – in the 1900s by people who were there. I am putting this in the memories section rather than the "useful articles". I certainly remember the clinic orange juice, and I suspect a lot of you do as well. Yum! Not so much with the cod liver oil though. Maybe you can add some more.



Bottles of orange juice and cod-liver oil, distributed to pre-school children i WW2. Photographed in Nidderdale

# OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES NEWS

# Halliwell Local History Society <a href="http://goo.gl/8erYyr">http://goo.gl/8erYyr</a>



Email <a href="margaretk@talktalk.net">margaretk@talktalk.net</a> .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, 31st May The Hulton Archive –Jacquie Crosby and Keri Nicholson. In case you missed their talk to us.

# **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 is on 25<sup>th</sup> May when they have a visit to the Northern Engine Society, please email Secretary <a href="mailto:PeterMHarris@care4free.net">PeterMHarris@care4free.net</a> for more information.

#### Westhoughton Local History Group – <a href="http://goo.gl/XNugl5">http://goo.gl/XNugl5</a>

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.

11 May Trip on Manchester Ship Canal: meet at Westhoughton Library at 8:30am

19 May The re-birth of Westhoughton Station - Stephen Freeborn



#### 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. This month is

May 10th ~ David Kaye "Sounds of a Century (Wingates Band)"

