



# Bolton's Genie

PLEASE NOTE SOME CHANGES OF ADDRESSES!!

The Monthly Newsletter of the Bolton Family History Society:

<https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton>

•Newsletter Comments, and Speaker Bookings:

[boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk)

•Newsletter Archives since July 2014:

<https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/newsletter/archives>

•General Society enquiries to the BFHS Secretary, Christine M Ellis

[bolton@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:bolton@mlfhs.org.uk)

•Bolton Research help, please email [boltonhelpdesk@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:boltonhelpdesk@mlfhs.org.uk) or

Manchester Research email a brief enquiry to , <https://www.mlfhs.uk/virtual-help-desk>

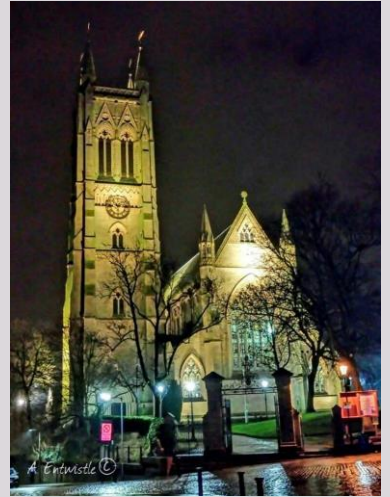
or visit our

•Bolton Facebook page <https://goo.gl/n99qtW> 724 Likes and 791 Following on December 4<sup>th</sup>

•Bolton Research Collection on MLFHS website: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/research>

(for members only and ongoing)

•Join the MLFHS/BFHS at: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/join> .



December 2020

78<sup>th</sup> Edition

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

Banner picture of St Peters Parish Church courtesy of Andy Entwistle



Hello all, and welcome to our December edition and the penultimate of our 2020 newsletters. Let us hope that 2021 starts a little kindlier than how this year is ending. As I write this, we have news of the first approved Covid vaccine arriving in the UK, and there is hopefully a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel. We move on to another Tier 3 level, in our local area, and hopefully a national and even worldwide recovery programme. Here in Bolton we have had to cancel most group festive activities, and many have suddenly found themselves catapulted into Zoomland and similar. We know here in BFHS that we have not been perfect, but hope you are appreciating our efforts to keep a form of routine going with our relaunch of meetings albeit online. Please bear with us. Those of you who have had problems booking Eventbrite tickets might have also suddenly realised your memberships have expired, and our Treasurer Sue Boddy, has asked me to remind you all that many may have lapsed inadvertently during LockDown.

**Perhaps our other much more serious announcement is that, as things stand, we will no longer have a Chairman after next February's General Meeting. More details out soon BUT in the meantime, we understand the MLFHS Executive Committee agreed to Bolton temporarily operating without a Chairman subject to various conditions. This of course is not sustainable, and we are in very urgent need of new blood and assistance from anyone with any practical ideas, as to how we can continue. Even a new Chairman.**

Take care all over the festive period, and we hope to see you in the new year.

PS Don't forget the Quiz to be posted via an extra newsletter December 20<sup>th</sup>

## PREVIOUS CHRISTMAS PARTIES



← Christmas 2015 our second party apparently, at the Bolton Cricket Club, with meat and potato pie provided by the Alan and Pat Lee, catering arrangements coordinated by the Calderbanks, and festive quiz by Peter Greenwood. (Think I missed the first with a broken my ankle, time flies 😊).



Similar in 2016, → but this time we were at the Old Links Golf Club, and had Rita Greenwood giving us an “enlightening”, festive talk about the merits of “Wills and Probate” despite both her voice going and a loud speaker failure. The Club catering staff said they would like to do the pie, so Pat and Alan also had the night to relax.



← In 2017 we opted to let Rita have the evening to eat, drink and be merry with the rest of us, and invited local historian Linda Sawley, who we had met at Browshome Hall, to come and give her delightful explanations of the background to some of our favourite Christmas traditions.

In 2018 → Linda came back to finish her talk but oh, it was cold, with a heating failure, late meal, and we all needed our Christmas jumpers.



← In 2019 Norman Nuttall dropped by to remind us of Christmas past, life with his Grandmother post war, and had us crying with laughter. As always, we also had another of Pete Greenwoods quizzes to ponder over, and our festive raffles.





- Where?

Well our first illustration shows our previous meeting place at Bolton Cricket Club → How many of you remember that place? We outgrew it though. The last event we held there was Christmas December 2015 and in the Spring of 2016, after the then Chairman Brian Whittle and Vice Chairman Graham Holt , had scouted around Bolton for a more suitable venue we moved to the Bolton Old Links Golf Club → , <https://tinyurl.com/ssb8hd5> . We used the downstairs room first but outgrew that so, using H&S regulations as our leverage, we moved upstairs. Unfortunately, though, this hasn't suited other H&S regulations and we are very aware that we are not disabled friendly now. The assurance of a lift to be installed imminently has still not happened, much to our frustration and embarrassment.

- When?

Up to March this year 7pm beverages have been available for 7.30pm start, on the first Wednesday of each month, except December and January. Extras included a Help Desk for personal research, Stationery Table for discounted equipment, and recycle service for used family history magazines, books etc.

BUT we now have plans for alternative events by offering talks live online via Zoom until we can access an approved safe meeting venue as before. See here <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/events>, and then here at the bottom <https://www.mlfhs.uk/> for our full programme. Technology permitting, we hope to at least record the talks for members not able to attend, and post same on our website. We now realise how advantageous it has been to make our meetings accessible this way for those who can't make it physically. Ideally, we would like to follow both pathways in the future, and advice on this would be welcome, if anyone is skilled in this area please???



## RECENT AND COMING EVENTS

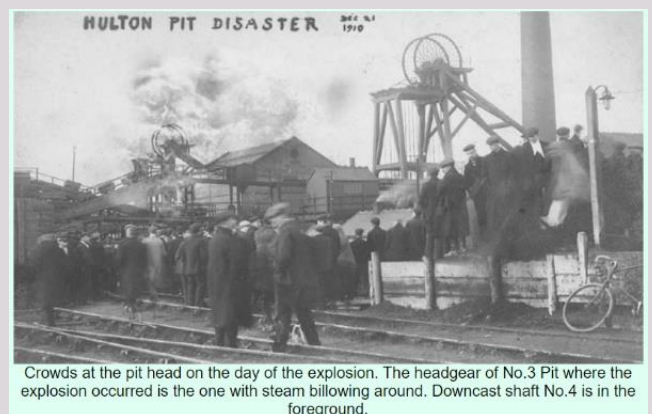
**Wednesday December 2<sup>nd</sup> Garth Ratcliffe by Zoom - "The Story of the Pretoria Pit Disaster of December 21st, 1910, on its 110th Anniversary"** picture courtesy of Lancs OPC website <https://tinyurl.com/y4o7axet>

(Unfortunately, yours truly was unable to access most of the meeting, and it seems also a recording was NOT made, so this report is at least second hand. We can only apologise and assure you that a full report will be available for members in our quarterly journal.)

We are so grateful though that Garth agreed to come and share with us the details that he has gleaned of this tragic event in Bolton's history, although he is the first to say that Alan Davies, the mining historian, is the "definitive speaker" on this subject.

It was quite evident from the interest shown, and comments afterwards, that many still have very raw and personal stories to tell re family involvement from that time. It wasn't just about those who had lost loved ones, which was bad enough, but also of those who had carried out the first rescue and recovery process which continued until February 14<sup>th</sup>, 1911 and then the survivors of it all had to deal with the long term effects, and what we now know as "post-traumatic stress disorder" , which continued for generations afterwards; in truth the community is still feeling the aftershocks today, although folk are now at least able to talk about it.

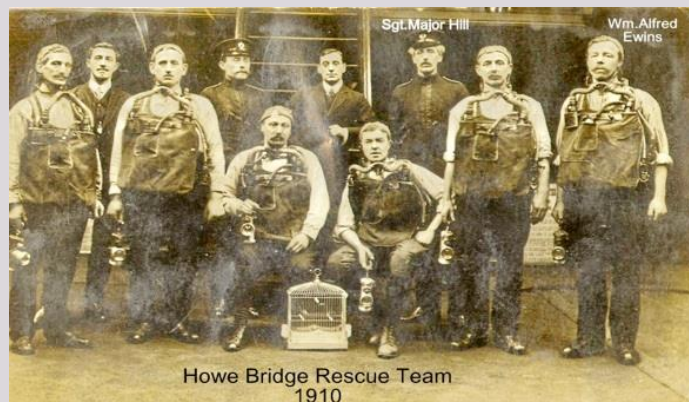
I understand after the explosion at No 3 shaft at 7.50am, the Manager, Alfred Tonge, volunteered to investigate first, and asked for volunteers to assist in going down the No 4 shaft for the initial assessment



Crowds at the pit head on the day of the explosion. The headgear of No.3 Pit where the explosion occurred is the one with steam billowing around. Downcast shaft No.4 is in the foreground.



with no pressure whatsoever. This was extremely dangerous in itself in that they had no breathing equipment and conditions were unknown. Then we heard how the recently trained rescue teams from nearby Howe Bridge undertook the serious recovery process, and eventually over the weeks and months, the reality check of the 344 victims, and their details, and that of the families that had been virtually wiped out became evident. There was some consolation to know that 91% were thought to have succumbed quickly to the carbon monoxide poisoning. The story of the heroic efforts of those who took on the hard task of retrieving the remains, and supporting the families was told. The description of how the teams of hundreds of mine rescue services, ambulance staff and doctors and nurses, religious groups, and community support just to mention a few, all responded within hours, seems awesome and yet something to be so proud of. Human nature at its best. Picture → shows the Howe Bridge rescue team courtesy of <https://tinyurl.com/y5aee238>



Perhaps we are far more aware of the long term effects of these dreadful experiences on these people, now in retrospect, after two world wars, and then the Manchester bombing currently being investigated. The anecdotal family stories have become the folk lore of the area, and the grieving is slowly mending. We were told there is still room for improvement re mining safety, both at home and abroad, although many new safety regulations and better equipment has now been introduced. It will always be one of the highest risk jobs in the country.

Garth is the Deputy Chair of the Westhoughton Local History Group, and his particular interest in Pretoria stems from the fact that several of his relatives were killed in the disaster i.e. two of his grandfather's brothers Thomas and William Ratcliffe and his father was in fact named after them. In addition, his maternal grandfather Richard Mather and his son Daniel were also killed in the event. Picture right from the Manchester Evening News → He agreed to brave his first presentation by zoom, on this sad anniversary of his own family's loss, and perhaps it was an appropriate reward, when at the end of the talk two guests introduced themselves as hitherto unknown relatives.



This weblink from Lancs OPC is perhaps one of the best online references for information re the disaster <http://www.lan-opc.org.uk/Westhoughton/Pretoria/index.html> and we can recommend this and the booklet "The Pretoria Pit Disaster 1910", produced by WLHG and prepared by Pam Clarke, now the sadly departed Lancs OPC parish clerk. Peter Wood, one of our previous contributors and retired OPC from Atherton also contributed to the project. If you'd like a copy of that, payment can be made to WLHG via paypal at [howfenhistory@gmail.com](mailto:howfenhistory@gmail.com) . £4.50 including local delivery Westhoughton area only, or £6 including postage. Alan Davies book is also available via our MLFHS website <https://tinyurl.com/y3w7owwm> "The Pretoria Pit Disaster: A Centenary Account" .

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Quiz** This year, sadly, we cannot offer a party, BUT we have a Quiz, and a December Bolton Genies Extra will be posted to all subscribed readers, containing



- A Pete Greenwood special BFHS Festive Quiz, and
- An Eventbrite link to our next coming talk in 2021, when we have Paul Salveson coming on -----



Wednesday January 6th, 2021 Prof Paul Salveson to tell us by Zoom, about his new book "Moorlands, Memories and Reflections" and including the



**Celebration of – "The 125th Anniversary of the 125th Winter Hill Trespass next September".**

This is the Eventbrite link for an early sign on sign on with your membership number or £3 as a guest

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/127053740157>

Paul is a visiting Professor from Bolton University amongst many other roles, <https://www.facebook.com/paul.salveson1/> and describes himself as a writer, historian, social entrepreneur, general crank ("a useful object that causes revolutions") and Creator of the Lancashire Loominaries website <https://tinyurl.com/y4k5d63l> . He tells us on his website that,

*"The stirring events of September 1896 were virtually forgotten for several decades. The story of the 'Winter Hill Mass Trespass' was rediscovered in 1982 and celebrated with a march over the disputed road. The event was repeated in 1996. I wrote a short history of the events, with the first edition published in 1982 and a second in 1996. I thought I'd completely run out of supplies, but I'm glad to say I was wrong."*

A supply of about 50 copies of Will Yo' Come O' Sunday Mornin'? (1996 edition) have been unearthed. With the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary coming up in 2021 the discovery is very timely and complements his new book, which has a couple of chapters relating to it.

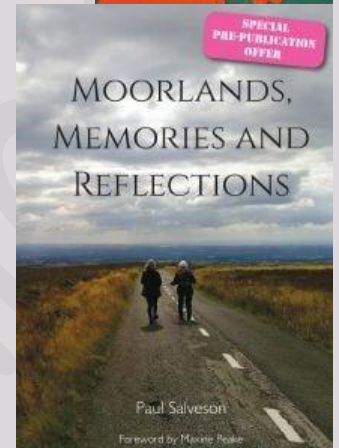
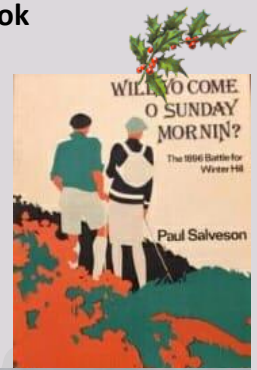
This 'mass trespass' was the biggest rights-of-way battle in British history (much larger than Kinder Scout) and mobilised thousands of Boltonians over three weeks in September 1896".



Julie Lamara Bolton Archives Collections Access Officer-Local Studies tells us a little more of the background to the event, and about a local project YOU can get involved in NOW!!

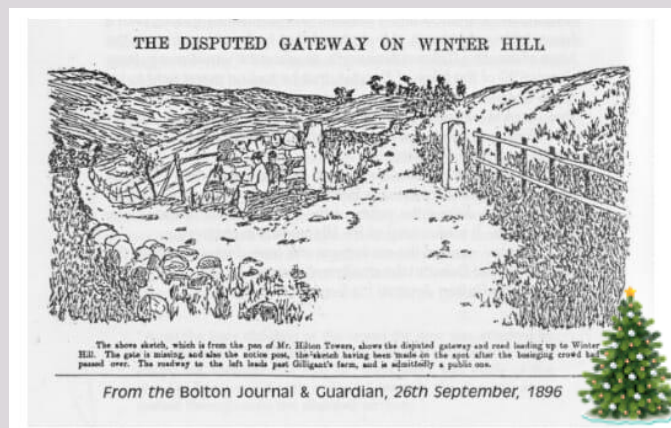
"Next September sees the 125th Anniversary of the Winter Hill Trespass. In 1896 Colonel Ainsworth stopped access across his land to walkers and local people by erecting a locked gate and employing men to stop anyone gaining entry. Two marches on consecutive Sundays took place across the moors with thousands of participants. Colonel Ainsworth fought the protesters in court. Even though the protesters were defended by Richard Pankhurst, husband of Emmeline, Ainsworth won.

However, the path later became a dedicated Right of Way.





Commemorations took place in 1982 and 1996. Were you there? Did you participate in the march? Do you have memories of the day, a story to tell? Did you take any photographs? If you would like to participate in next year's commemoration or can help provide photographs or stories from the previous events, please post on the Facebook page below. Winter Hill 125 <https://tinyurl.com/y329hsqt> (where you can also find details of how to buy Paul's book, and he is even offering to deliver personally on his bike if you are local ☺).



## THIS MONTHS LOCAL NEWS and SOME ORGANISATION UPDATES



Lancashire Records <http://goo.gl/I29JpL>



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



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



We have also been asked to share this announcement to you all, explaining how the MLFHS has been working to coordinate activities, procedures and stationery for all branches, in order to maintain standards, and prevent duplication which all members should be aware of. Did you know that: -

**A Promotions and Education Committee (PEC)** has been created. At the Executive Committee meeting in November 2019 the Committee, considering a working party assessment, approved the formation of the PEC as above.

The prompt for this was the situation in which the Executive Committee found itself, following the retirement of the Family History Fairs co-ordinator, who for many years had organised, promoted and attended to the Societies involvement in Family History Fairs throughout the country.

No replacement was forthcoming. This, together with the Executive Committee's desire that the Society be promoted more broadly resulted in the formation of the PEC.

The remit for the PEC is threefold:

- To meet twice/three times a year or as often as appropriate.
- To provide guidance for any material that emanates from the Society by way of publicity and education including the Manchester Genealogist; all leaflets produced by the Society and all promotional material
- To be responsible for identifying, co-ordinating and developing the Societies involvement in fairs and other gatherings where the Societies aims would be met.

It is understood that the existence of this resource for the Society has not been sufficiently disseminated. We bring it to your attention in the hope that any member of the Society who has observations or suggestions as to how the Society might best be promoted would share these. You can get in touch with the committee via the Society office email address [office@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:office@mlfhs.org.uk)







## GENIE'S TIPS for December 2020



lately?

**Also Have you looked at our new website**

It has been reborn, although we are still in the throes of after pains unfortunately. (Mums will understand that one, even if the fellas are a bit bemused).

See the December 17th Anglo Scots talk for more details "Our New Website followed by pre-Christmas Chat", <https://tinyurl.com/y4s2tgxv>

It has been recognised for some time that the old website was tired and difficult to use. A new one was needed to reflect the sophistication of the new decade. The process was to be that the main website was to be created by a professional company, with input from two of the main MLFHS techies, John Marsden, our long time Web Master and previous MLFHS Chairman, and Hilary Hartigan of the Anglo Scots branch. The content of each branch section of the Anglo Scots, Bolton FHS, Manchester, and Oldham was then to be completed by a dedicated technician from each branch, under given headings. It has soon become apparent that the selected headings do not always match the working pattern of each branch though, for example we do not really have "events" as such in Bolton, and each technician only has limited access to certain pages, so we are still learning.

In the meantime, why not have a look at these Bolton specific sections if you haven't already.

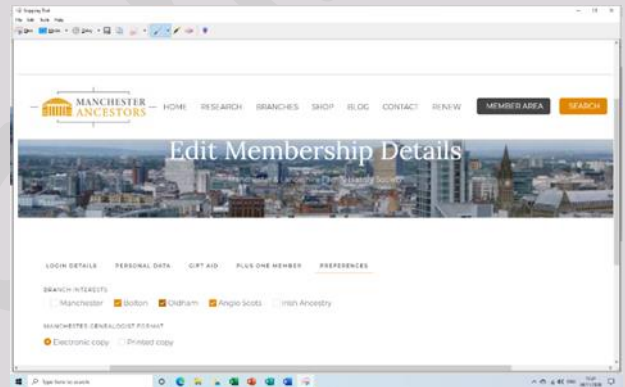
- BFHS Our Featured Meetings <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/events/meetings>
- BFHS Where we have been meeting (Covid Permitting) <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/events/venues-and-maps>
- "Miscellaneous Useful Information" including You Tube snippets from our regular speaker on Photograph Restoration Steve Gill <https://mlfhs.uk/bolton/research/local-interest> see p 8 below
- BFHS Workshops and courses <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/events/whats-happening> not a lot at the moment but we live in hopes
- BFHS Help Desk and other sources of advice <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/events/helpdesk> this includes online links to our Bolton Helpdesk as above as well as those of the other branches and the main MLFHS route, and also our two booklets available to members only for Beginners, and Advanced Researchers
- BFHS Volunteering Opportunities <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/events/volunteers> .

**\*Please note that as well as current ongoing projects (see below) we also have the major role of a new \***

**BOLTON FHS CHAIRMAN to fill. Even one with  plates would be very gratefully considered and supported. WE WILL NOT HAVE ONE AFTER FEBRUARY 2021**



**And not quite as urgently a new Editor or even an Editorial Assistant for this Bolton Genies Newsletter.**





• BFHS Projects <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/events/projects> where it is explained that Bolton FHS has a long history of undertaking Project Work and this has resulted in more than 40 Bolton specific documents/databases in the Online Data area of the MLFHS webpages. A list of all the completed Bolton projects can be found in the Members Area / Document Collection. There is usually transcribing work available, the size of which varies, and it normally involves use of an Excel worksheet specifically designed for that job.

There is a long running project to transcribe the Creed Registers of the Bolton Workhouse being undertaken. These registers record the name, religion, age, dates of arrival & departure etc. of the inmates. More than 25,000 lines of data have already been transcribed but there is more to do. The records have been photographed and they now need transcribing into Excel worksheets, a job easily done at home. The photographs are of pages which are between A4 and A3 in size.

B. J. BOOTH, Master of the Workhouse at FARNWORTH.

Date of the Entry.	Date of Admission.	Name, Christian and Surname.	From whence Admitted.	Religious Creed.	Name of Informant.	Highway or other Admitted.	Discharged or Died.	Name & Address of parent, Relative or Friend.
1900	1900							
Apr 25	Apr 25	Atkinson, Alice	Bolton	Ch of Eng	Self	N. Nuttall	May 25/02	
" 30 "	" 24 "	Anderson, William	"	"	"	S. Perkins	May 16/02	
May 2	May 1	Allen, Joseph	Stansbury	"	"	E. Perkins	May 16/02	
" 7 "	" 6 "	Allen, Thomas	Bolton	"	"	David G.B. May 16/02		See Thomas Allen
" 8 "	" 7 "	Appleyard, Charlotte	"	Noncon	"	S. Perkins	April 18/02	See Thomas Allen
" 10 "	" 9 "	Aspinwall, Ellen	Northampton	Ch of Eng	"	Aspinwall	April 18/02	See Thomas Allen
" 20 "	" 19 "	Barnworth, Joseph	Bolton	"	"	S. Perkins	June 18/02	See Thomas Allen
June 7	June 6	Barnes, Thomas	"	Noncon	"	David G.B. May 16/02		
" 14 "	" 5 "	Barnwell, Ellen	Northampton	Ch of Eng	"	N. Bates	May 9/02	
" 21 "	" 10 "	Barnworth, Richard	Farnworth	"	"	E. Perkins	Oct 1/02	
" 28 "	" 17 "	Barnworth, Mary	Bolton	"	"	N. Nuttall	May 16/02	
" 29 "	" 18 "	Allen, John	Farnworth	"	"	E. Perkins	June 18/02	
" 30 "	" 20 "	Allen, Mary	Bolton	"	"	N. Nuttall	May 16/02	See Thomas Allen

**You might also notice on the main members page bottom left hand corner, that members now have the option to ask for an environmentally friendly digital copy of the quarterly journal The Genealogist rather than the costly paper version**

Lastly, we have the MLFHS Members forum. <https://www.mlfhs.uk/research/getting-help/member-forum> What if you have a family history problem and need some help? Were the memorials of this churchyard recorded, and if so where? What does this abbreviation in the census mean? How could I go about finding someone who emigrated to the USA? One of our members probably knows the answer (they are a pretty knowledgeable lot). Join our Member Forum to share your problem (and your own knowledge) with hundreds of other society members. If you are a subscribed member click here to sign on <http://www.list.mlfhs.org.uk/mailman/listinfo/forum> [list.mlfhs.org.uk](http://www.list.mlfhs.org.uk)



## MISCELLANEOUS



### More Books That Might Be of Interest for Christmas



From Norman Mc Namara "Just A Boy From Lancashire". I am so pleased to say my latest book is now published on Amazon Smile link being <https://tinyurl.com/y623nxqs> My First in the series being "Just a boy From Bolton" <https://tinyurl.com/yyav3d2s> Norm tells me "The third one hopefully will be out next year called "Just a teenager from Lancashire"

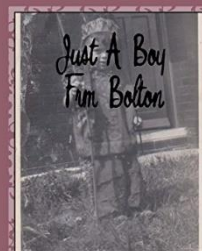
*Both books, though telling different stories are about being brought up in Lancashire in the 50s and 60s and how we managed to get through the times we did, sometimes funny, sometimes sad but all completely NON Fiction".*

Some of you might have read Norms reminiscent articles posted over the last few years in various Face book pages. Many of his stories will, I am sure, have conjured up those half remembered we have all had as we have grown up, either locally or beyond, and they remain vividly with progresses through his illness.

Norms outlet is fundraising for the charity below, as someone with first-hand experience of condition. He tells me

Just A Boy  
From  
Lancashire

NORMS MC NAMARA



NORMS MC NAMARA



"All proceeds, every penny will go towards buying Mp3s for those with dementia, uploading them with music chosen BY THEM, and then we give them away for free for them to enjoy, please see link "<https://purpleangel-global.com/mp3-players/>" Thank you so much for helping us bring joy via the Mp3s to so many people.



### And Walks Weather permitting e.g. "Worktown Walks 1: Cotton, Culture and Characters"

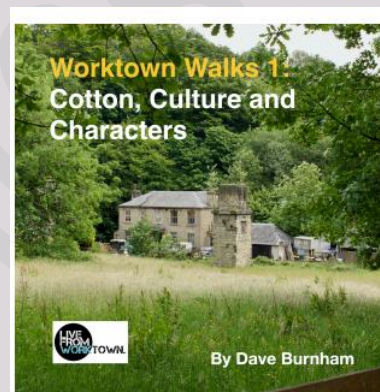


Bolton-based arts and heritage organization, Live from Worktown is launching a free online series of historically themed guided walks. Over the past four years, local historian, and MLFHS member and speaker, Dave Burnham has led walks on "Bill Naughton's life", "the Saints and Sinners of Bolton town centre", and "Victorian Murders". While researching his latest walk, the pandemic struck and, of course, a guided walk with regular stops for explanations would breach social distancing rules. Undaunted, the

Worktown Walks team set about producing downloadable directions and commentary instead.

This first audio walk, "Cotton, Culture and Characters" concentrates on Bolton's early pre-eminence in the cotton industry, particularly Samuel Crompton and the Ashworth family. But it also takes in Nat Lofthouse's disputed goal in the 1958 Cup Final, a Battle of Britain fighter pilot, and the smallest cinema in town amongst much more on its 21 stops.

Despite its suburban setting in Tonge Moor, Sharples and Eagley, this walk is mostly through wooded countryside. Click here for free access to the pack <https://tinyurl.com/yy29jkkh> and for more information/interviews contact: [daveburnham@virginmedia.com](mailto:daveburnham@virginmedia.com)



And lastly some interesting Christmas facts for the Kids from

**National Geographic.** <https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/history/general-history/facts-about-christmas/> (and some grownups might like this as well).



**Anne Sherman** <https://leavesfamilyhistory.co.uk/> is a Registered and Qualified Family History Researcher and Tutor with over 30 years experience, who researches

English and Welsh family history.

### Looking for Dead People

Do not worry; this is not a blog about the Macabre or even Halloween. It is in fact what all family history researchers do – search for our dead ancestors.

Whilst many researchers stick to online records and those held in archives, there is one place which some tend to forget about – the graveyard! Although death and burial records can be helpful, in many cases they do not always give you a wider view of the family, and they can be impersonal. A trip to the church burial ground or local cemetery can bring you closer to your ancestors, not only in a physical sense, but also an emotional one.



### No Stone!

Not everyone could afford a gravestone (also known as Memorial Inscriptions or MI's), in some cases you know where they were buried but cannot find the grave marker. The church or cemetery office can be very helpful here, as they generally have maps of where everyone was buried.

In this case the space next to the white gravestone belongs to a husband and wife who could not afford to purchase a headstone.

Do not assume however that no stone meant they could not afford one. It could also mean that the original headstone was damaged and removed. One of my local cemeteries suffered bomb damage during WW2, and a number of graves were destroyed. All that remains is a slight dip in the ground that once had a lot of headstones.

### How Wealthy?

The type of headstone your ancestor has, if it has survived, can indicate how wealthy the family were. Did they have a large imposing stone, monolith or even a tomb, or did they have a small simple stone? Was the headstone made from expensive hardwearing granite or cheaper sandstone that can quickly decay over time? Whatever the type and style it is important that you take a photograph of the headstone showing its general location and a closer viewer of the full inscription, as well as writing down the full inscription, not just the basics. In some cases, this will mean getting on your hands and knees to move away the undergrowth, vines, and algae.

PLEASE NOTE NEVER scrub or use chemicals to clean gravestones without the permission of the graveyard/cemetery owners. You could inadvertently cause more damage.

### Look at the neighbours.

Once you have found the gravestone of your ancestor, do not think that is all there is to do. Have a wander around and look closely at the neighbouring stones: it may be that family members are close by.

Just because the names are not the same do not mean that they are unrelated, although they could be. If stones are very close to each other, then the chances are they are related. This first image shows two headstones of a husband



and wife next to the grave of their daughter and son in law. The second image shows a lady buried with her sister and brother in law.



### Location Location Location!

The location of the grave can also give you some information about your ancestor. Often important people were buried close to the church building or the path leading to the church door.

In cemeteries different sections may belong to different groups. One part of the cemetery will be council owned and may include Methodist burials, but other areas could be for Church of England burials when the local churchyard is full and Catholic burials. Always check with the Cemetery staff about the different areas.





## Inscriptions

What your ancestors chose to have inscribed on gravestone can also tell you much about the family. In some cases, it may even reveal their cause of death, if they have been ill for a long time, and may include other family members, including infants who may have died shortly after their birth. Even the image used may have some significance to the deceased and give you a clue as to their belief or affiliations.

If you cannot read the inscription, check with the local Family History Society to see if they recorded it in the past. Many FHS's record the Memorial Inscriptions in their area and publish them in booklets. The local library or archive office may have a copy you can look at. Just because the inscription cannot be read today does not mean that it could not have been a few years ago.

Don't forget, to go hunting in graveyards you need a notebook, pen/pencil, a camera – and sturdy shoes! These places do not respect high heeled shoes or flipflops. Happy hunting. Anne Sherman



## SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES



UNIVERSITY OF  
Southampton

### The Soldier in Medieval England

<http://www.medievalsoldier.org/dbsearch/>

This database originated from a major project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) -- running from 1/10/2006 – 30/9/2009---. They tell us

*"Since the end of the official project we have continuously developed this sustainable website and its searchable database. We have welcomed our many interactions with colleagues, academics and 'citizen' historians and now host a number of soldier profiles resulting from this use of our datasets.*

*Our database contains the names of soldiers serving the English crown between 1369 and 1453. Most were fighting the French. In this second phase of the Hundred Years War major invasions of France were launched, including that of 1415 which culminated in Henry V's victory at Agincourt 1415. We have also included soldiers serving in other theatres (Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Spain, Calais etc), and in all types of service (expeditions on land and sea, garrisons, escorts, standing forces).*

*Why do we know so many names? The simple explanation is that soldiers received pay, and this had to be audited. The financial officials of the crown were keen to check the soldiers were present and correct. The main way of doing this was by checking off their names at a muster, at the beginning of a campaign or during it, or every few months for troops in garrison. Thousands of muster rolls survive in archive collections in England, France and beyond. We also have the evidence of letters of protection which soldiers bought from the Chancery to prevent legal actions whilst they were absent from home.*

## COMING ACTIVITIES FROM OTHER MLFHS BRANCHES

Please note these are all included free to subscribed MLFHS members, £3 to guests.



### **Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2020, 2pm – 3,30pm Oldham and District Branch. A Zoom talk by Shelia Goodyear "Failsworth and Woodhouses War Comforts Society in WW1"**

In WW1, the Government hardly ever provided the bare necessities of life for men on active service. As early as September 1914, groups (of mainly women) were springing up all over the country to find ways to provide the extras that would make lives a little more tolerable for the men who had volunteered. Set up as private and church organisations, to begin with, within months many came under the umbrella organisation of the Red Cross. This talk is based on the records and ephemera of one such group, which were saved by a family and which have survived into the present day.

It would be of great help to us, if we could receive any questions that you might have, by email, in advance of the talk. Please send them to the Oldham Branch email address [oldham\\_webmaster@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:oldham_webmaster@mlfhs.org.uk)

There is also the option to book for the talk through the MLFHS website, Oldham Branch, 'Meetings' Page.

<https://www.mlfhs.uk/oldham/events>



**Thursday 17th December 2020, 2p.m -3.30pm Anglo Scottish Branch, A “Zoom” talk “by Hilary Hartigan “The new Society web site - How do I get the most out of it”.**

Now, as long-term members of the Branch know, we don't normally have a December Branch meeting. However, what with all this new technology, and the success of our last Branch meeting using Zoom, we have decided to continue to meet within the comfort of our own homes. The nod to the Christmas season coming upon us is the fact that we are going to meet on the second Saturday of December rather than our usual third Saturday which seemed a bit too close to Christmas itself. If you did not manage to join us previously please do give it a try. It is simple to log in and great to see everyone again, albeit, in little squares!!! The topic we have chosen for this presentation is a look through the new Society.

web site. By and large the feedback from Society members has been positive about the web site, but there remain indications that people are struggling a bit to find their way around and to appreciate all that the new site has to offer. Hilary Hartigan has been one of the key people on the working party established to oversee the setting up of the new web site and is more familiar than most with its structure and contents. We want the meeting to be a casual get together with a focus on the web site.

It is a chance to join in with a glass of sherry and a mince pie - if it is not too early for such!! - and find out what is on offer. So do join us. We look forward to seeing you. Eventbrite Link

<https://www.mlfhs.uk/anglo-scots/events>



**ALL OTHER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES' MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY SUSPENDED, BUT SOME LIKE US ARE TRYING TO MAKE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS. WE ADVISE CHECKING THEIR RESPECTIVE WEBSITES PERIODICALLY FOR UPDATES ON SAME.**



Bolton,

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

Email [margaretk@talktalk.net](mailto:margaretk@talktalk.net) .Meetings are usually held on the last Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm, at St Luke's Church, Chorley Old Road, BL1 3BE opposite Shepherd Cross St,



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

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

**Westhoughton Local History Group** – <http://goo.gl/XNugl5> or email [howfenhistory@gmail.com](mailto:howfenhistory@gmail.com) for updates

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.



**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