

# Bolton's Genies

**Edition 106 – March 2023**



This month's banner photograph is an antique print of The New Infirmary, Bolton from the Illustrated London News, 17 September 1881.

The Monthly Newsletter of the Bolton Family History Society: <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton>

- 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 us at
- Bolton Facebook page <https://goo.gl/n99qtW> 969 Likes and 1069 people following on Facebook
  - 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>

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

## Editorial Musings

Welcome to March and thoughts of lighter nights and spring flowers.

In recent years March has been a time of distress and upheaval. First Covid and then the devastation of the war in Ukraine. The piece forwarded by Jane Milne gives members an insight into the lives of those involved in Family Tree Maker. It is worth clicking the contact button to read about Pauline and her colleagues at the Ukrainian consulate in Germany.

I have written an article as a follow up to my January talk to introduce the idea of a Write Your Family History Group.

Who am I? I am Cath Cole and Ron, my husband, and I have taken over from Jane as editor of Bolton's Genie. Ron will concentrate on formatting and other technical matters and I will work on the content.

And last and most important, a vote of thanks from our chairman David Baker and the committee of Bolton Family History Society to Jane Milne. Jane has been brilliant in her commitment to producing the newsletter each month. Her research skills and extensive knowledge have benefitted members across the years. Jane will be a hard act to follow. Ron and I are heartened by her offer of help and support.

Best wishes to all  
Cath Cole

## This month's Notices to Members and Visitors

### Please note venue change due to refurbishment of Bolton Golf Club

#### Meetings are as follows:

5 April 2023

#### **Bolton Arena – FOR ONE MEETING ONLY**

There is ample parking and guides will be available to show members and visitors to the room. The Arena is situated between Bolton Wanderers Football Stadium and Parkway Railway Station.

3 May 2023

#### **Bolton Golf Club – As usual**

Are you by any chance interested in the work of the society and would like to join our friendly committee, please contact our chairman David Baker or Christine Ellis, our secretary.

Our regular venue is Bolton Golf Club, Chorley New Road BL6 4AJ, although this may vary occasionally due to circumstances beyond our control and will be announced on our Facebook page (link <https://www.facebook.com/BoltonFHS> accessible without subscription) so it is always advisable to check before leaving home.

<https://www.boltongolfclub.co.uk/contact/how-to-find-us/> provides helpful directions.

Talks are usually provided by a visiting speaker, but occasionally speakers may deliver their talks by zoom. This happens when the speaker, who is known to be a first-rate expert in their field, is based some distance from Bolton. Those present at the golf club and zoomers will see our speaker streamed on screen. It is not necessary to book a place to attend the golf club in person, but it is essential to book for a zoom place at <https://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton/events>, and the link will be emailed to you several times.

Meetings are on the first Wednesday of most months. The golf club opens for roomers at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start and zoomers can sign in from 7.15. The club has a bar and tea and coffee are available. We have a table with recycled genealogy books and magazines, Godfrey maps of local areas and discounted equipment.

Meetings from other branches of the MLFHS are available and free to all members. These meetings, like ours, may be live, zoomed or hybrid. <https://www.mlfhs.uk/> is the link for events.

## **Recent Events**

**Thanks to Jane for passing on an update from the Family Tree Maker News about Ukraine**



*Live Chat agent Pauline, above, now volunteers at the Ukrainian consulate in Germany. [Read her story.](#)*

It is now over a year since the peace-loving country of Ukraine where Family Tree Maker is made was changed in an instant. Most of our development staff have long since returned to Kyiv from the camp we built as a safe haven, high in the Carpathian mountains. But there's a new spirit in town. It's the pride of David having taken on Goliath. And the steely determination to carry on, no matter what. The air raid sirens still sound all too often, and the electricity goes out for a few hours now and then. But we have a generator. And our own satellite dish. So for those of our staff not fighting at the front, the work of making Family Tree Maker goes on.

We have much to tell you. Let's get started.

## MORE LETTERS FROM UKRAINE

Six months ago, our live chat agents in Ukraine shared what it was like for them in those first traumatic days in a country transformed. Many have now updated their stories with what life has been like since then. Pauline helped pack humanitarian aid convoys on arriving in Kraków, Poland and now in Germany she is putting the five languages she speaks to good use as a volunteer at the Ukrainian consulate in Germany – helping with everything from speech writing for the consul to calling on fire departments to donate vehicles for Ukraine. So stop by and see what our chat agents have been up to. *Click [here](#) to read their updated stories.*

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## Upcoming Events

### Next Meeting

**Wednesday 5 April 2023 Mark O’Neil**

#### Preservation, Conservation & Digitisation – how archives keep the past for the future

The talk will highlight why conservation is a vital aspect of archives to not only allow or restore access to the unique documents within archival collections, but also enable their long-term survival and continued enjoyment, use and accessibility for future generations.

The talk will highlight several preservation and conservation projects that Lancashire Archives have undertaken over the last year to improve, enable and restore the ability the access unique and irreplaceable documents and collections, and will showcase some methods of archival repair.



This photo is of a visit to one of Bolton Museum’s storage depots in 2018. The photo has been supplied by Jane Milne who has also found an interesting article on a BBC website: “England’s Archaeological History Gathers Dust as Museums Fill Up”

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-64707488>

# Writing Family History by Cath Cole

Kind comments were made after my talk in January and interest was expressed in members possibly pursuing their own writing projects. I offered to facilitate and host a group. Events have stalled due to complications with the need to temporarily switch venues. Finding time to introduce the idea to the wider group, in our already packed programme, will be discussed at our next committee meeting in April.

The first advice any writer is given is write, write, write and the second is read, read, read. But for a new writer the first questions are more likely to be - what should I write and how do I set about writing?

There are different ways or genre to write family history and finding the correct genre may take trial and error. I will outline possible genre and give examples of existing work so that potential writers can begin to read, read, read.

My chosen method is to use historical facts and represent them as fiction. Many experienced writers use their own or family members autobiographical details and experiences to inform their work. Richard Osman uses his mother's life in an upmarket residential community and the Reverend Richard Coles explores dastardly goings on in the Church of England as background to their cosy crime novels. Victoria Hislop and Kate Mosse use their intimate knowledge of Greece and Carcassonne, respectively, to inform and entertain readers. I am keen to write a novel set on a luxury cruise ship, but this is based on the need to do extensive research rather than any literary imperative!

There is a difference between autobiography and memoir.

Autobiography takes a longer view of a life, womb to tomb or sperm to worm, whereas memoir tends to focus on a particular period or event in a life.

Some of my favourite memoirs

*Educated* – Tara Westover

*Becoming* – Michelle Obama

*The Music Room* – William Fiennes

*Giving up the Ghost* – Hilary Mantel.

*Dead Man Running* – Billy Isherwood

*The Sound of Laughter* – Peter Kay

Peter Kay and Billy Isherwood are both Bolton authors.

The use of photographs, maps and other documentation has been used to good effect by Gordon Readyhough. Gordon was a dear friend and relative and used his skills as a librarian to research and produce a number of books on his beloved Bolton. Gordon was the librarian at the Bolton Evening News. His books are available through the Bolton Museum shop.

One of my most precious books is *Bolton's Royal Infirmary* by Margaret Harrison. I loved the Infirmary and treasure the memories of being a cadet, student nurse and staff nurse that are evoked by Margaret's book. Capturing a world before it disappears is a worthwhile incentive for writing.

I hope that this brief article has given an insight into potential genre for writing family history. But who is the writing for? First and foremost writing has got to be for the writer. Sitting alone tapping at a computer or scribbling with a pen is lonely and the chance of publication slim - so writer beware. Publication. Who mentioned publication? Perhaps that is something we can talk about when we set up the group.

I am happy to be contacted by private message via Facebook or at [cath.cole@btopenworld.com](mailto:cath.cole@btopenworld.com)

## **For your Diary - Future 2023 Events**

(More details should be available shortly on our website)

- **May 3<sup>rd</sup> Simon Marland “Bolton Wanderers & David Jack 1923 FA cup victory, marking the Centenary of same” HYBRID**
- **June 7<sup>th</sup> Ian Trumble Curator of Archaeology, Egyptology and World Cultures at Bolton Library and Museum PhD candidate in Egyptology The University of York** is to visit us to tell us about the world renown Egyptology collect we have at Bolton museum and how the Barlow family contributed to its collection. HYBRID . Details yet to be finalised.
- **July 5<sup>th</sup> Dr Alan Crosby. Law, Literature, Lucie and Longmeadow: exploring my great-grandmother’s family** HYBRID
- **Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>. Tony Greenwood** One of our members “Life and Times of Smithills Estate HYBRID
- **Sept 6<sup>th</sup>. Dougie Tobutt of Tobutt Sports , <http://www.tobuttsports.co.uk/about-us/> How 100 years ago my grandfather Len Tobutt , a professional cricketer from Middlesex came to Bolton via Scotland and Darwen , to establish the “Go To” Tobutt Sports business, a family run enterprise which has spanned four generations. HYBRID**
- **Oct 4<sup>th</sup>. Ray Jefferson Author “The Bolton-Bridgeman Connection**HYBRID
- **Nov 1<sup>st</sup> Dr Jim Beach. “How 12 ‘obscure’ WW1 diaries of a British Army from South Africa, serving on the Messin Ridge ,( inherited by a Bolton MLFHS member ,and presented on a Research Day at Bolton History Centre in 2018), assisted in the research of Percy Wyndham Lewis , an official , and “questionable”, war artist” . HYBRID**
- **Dec 6<sup>th</sup> Speaker & quiz & supper TBA (No Zoom)**

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## INFORMATION REGARDING BOLTON HISTORY CENTRE

The telephone number for any local history and archive queries is 01204 332853 For queries and requests for material, it is better to send an email request, so references do not get garbled on the phone.

Requests take seven days to turn around and will either be looked at in the lab at OR the museum at Crompton Place. References to some of the websites:

<https://boltonremembers.org/> has some of the WW1 & WW2 records we have found for Bolton military personnel either born, resided, or enlisted in Bolton.

<https://vad.redcross.org.uk/search?fname=&sname=Bates> you can search for a name or location for VADs in the war. The Red Cross website was down for maintenance when I copied this address so hopefully it will be up and running again when you access it.

<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/search.aspx> Canadian Army WW1 personnel records. NOTE these records are soon to be transferred to their new LAC website

<https://bolton.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/HOME> Spydus catalogue for local studies searching.

<https://www.boltonlams.co.uk/history-centre-1> This is the History Centre page for the services we offer to researchers. Gives some information about archives and the records we hold.

This is the archives website for National Archives of which we have records listed on this site. It is possible to choose a search through all the archives of England or drill down just to search in Bolton Archives.

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/advanced-search>

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## Lancashire Records

**UK BMD Summary** <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

## SOME INTERESTING, USEFUL, AND MAINLY FREE WEBSITES



### COMING ACTIVITIES FROM OTHER MLFHS BRANCHES

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



#### Manchester branch



#### Saturday 2pm – 3.30pm Oldham and District Branch

Option to book for the talk through the MLFHS website, Oldham Branch, 'Meetings' Page.

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



#### Thursday 2pm - 3.30pm Anglo Scottish Branch

So do join us. We look forward to seeing you. Eventbrite Link

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

### OTHER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES' MEETINGS

WE ADVISE CHECKING THEIR RESPECTIVE WEBSITES PERIODICALLY FOR UPDATES ON SAME.



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

Email. [enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk). 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,



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

Illustrated talks and meetings are held from August to April inclusive on the fourth Thursday of beginning at 7.30pm. This next month's event

#### Westhoughton Local History Group – <http://goo.gl/XNugl5>

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



#### 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