

'e-Owls'



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Oldham & District Newsletter Archives : Read or download back copies [HERE](#)

June 2021

MLFHS - Oldham & District Branch Newsletter

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Branch News :

Following March's Annual Meeting of the MLFHS Oldham Branch

Branch Officers for 2021 -2022 :

Committee Member : Chairman : Linda Richardson
Committee Member : Treasurer : Gill Melton
Committee Member : Secretary : Position vacant
Committee Member : Newsletter : Sheila Goodyear
Committee Member : Webmistress : Sheila Goodyear
Committee Member : Dorothy Clegg
Committee Member : Joan Harrison



*Mediaeval harvest gathered in.
Luttrell Psalter, detail
© & Courtesy, British Library*

Oldham Branch Meetings :

**all M&LFHS Meetings, Branch Meetings and other public activities
are suspended indefinitely.**

Please check with the website for updated information.

HOWEVER,

The newsletter will be sent out as usual. Meetings are now in place using the zoom app.
There will be further updates on the Society website Home Page and on the Branch pages.
The Society Journal will go out to members as usual. It relies heavily on Branch reports and

what the Society has been doing at events and fairs etc. However, this sort of news won't be there for quite a long time! To fill the pages with interesting articles, it's hoped that more people will write up family stories and contribute them to the journal. Please refer to the page, '*Notes for Contributors*', in the Journal, for information on how to send articles, etc.

The Society Facebook page [HERE](#) and the Twitter page [HERE](#) will be updated frequently.

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### **Chairman's remarks :**

Hello and welcome to our June newsletter.

Will we, won't we, come out of full lockdown on the 21<sup>st</sup> June? I do hope so. We have spent far too long away from our loved ones who don't live nearby. I am really looking forward to being able to see my son and his family who live about 100 miles away from me. We have not seen each other since last Summer (and that was only a short visit).

I have been watching the nests in the trees in my garden. These are now empty – the baby birds now gone.

I have started to make enquiries with Oldham Library as to when we might be able to resume physical meetings again. For those who have joined our Zoom meetings from other parts of the country and overseas, worry not. We are experimenting with the idea that we will be able to incorporate Zoom with our physical meetings. As some of you have said, it makes you feel closer to the Society to actually take part in the meetings.

I will keep you up to date with the progress we make in organising physical meetings once again.

My Best wishes

Linda Richardson

Chairman, Oldham Branch

email me at < [chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org.uk) >

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Editor's remarks.

Hi Everyone,

First of all, a heartfelt plea from Pat, the editor of our Quarterly Journal, '*The Manchester Genealogist*', who is in real need of some fresh articles for the next copy (submission by 1st July). She would love to receive articles about family, local interest, research and anything that has a connection to family or history. You can email her at < editor@mlfhs.org.uk >.

I can only echo our Branch Chairman's remarks, about our current situation, of 'will we - won't we' uncertainty. But I shan't dwell on it further!

This month we continue to add items to our '*1921 centenary*' including an article reminding us of the terrible events in Ireland in that year of Independence for the South. We have an article from the Oldham Chronicle about '*Daisy Nook*', one about the *Empire Theatre* in Oldham and, from my own collection of ephemera, a letter from Australia, in 1921, to a brother in Failsworth.

In the *Mixed Bag*, we have a look at 'Grotton Hall' and the Buckley family, in Saddleworth. We continue our story of Mary Higgs, with '*A Second Night in the Workhouse Tramp Ward*' and a little bit about John Marsden's talk, in May, about the '*Manor*', rekindling my own interest in learning more about this (mostly) confusing subject!

Included in the e-Postbag is an email from the Netherlands; a reader, researching the crew of a WW2 'plane shot down in 1943, wonders if anyone can help

For the *Gallery*, I was spoilt for choice but, in the end, decided to share the results of an afternoon spent on the British Library website, looking at the *Luttrell Psalter*, and all the witty little margin drawings of life for the peasants (bond or free) in Mediaeval Times.

Before I conclude, I must apologise for not properly crediting Linda's '1921' article about Clara

Walkden, in last month's newsletter. Clara's photograph was © and Courtesy of Greater Manchester Police Museum & Archives.

I hope you continue to enjoy reading the newsletter,
Sheila

Although I am always more than happy to receive articles, pictures etc., for the newsletter, copyright is always a tricky issue so do please make sure that you have the right to use any text or illustrations that you send! It is also helpful if you include mention of your source material.

You will retain copyright of any contributions that you send unless you decide to waive that right, at the time of sending.

Editor reserves the right to edit any contributions before publication.

email me at : < Oldham_newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk >

Please note, regarding using the links to website pages or .pdf documents : if clicking on a link when the newsletter is viewed on the internet, without first downloading it onto the computer, the new page opens in the same window so the 'back button' has to be used to return to the newsletter.

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## Oldham & District Branch

### *Last Month's Meeting ... on zoom*



Saturday,  
8th,  
May  
at  
2 pm



### ***Confessions of a Country Lane Researcher ...***

A free illustrated talk, on interesting family and local history items, from over 40 years as a researcher.

The title for our talk, at the May meeting, included the words '*confessions*', '*country lane*' and '*researcher*'. I think quite a few of our audience, myself included, wondered just what to expect. We weren't disappointed. Tony, likened family history researchers to those who approach the project as if it were a motorway ... straight to the destination at maximum speed or those who digressed, meandered along at an easier pace, finding interesting looking 'country lanes' to explore. I have to confess, like Tony, I am one of the latter!

Tony introduced us to items that he might have found in a newspaper, a museum or elsewhere, which had caught his attention and which he had followed up. There was the story of a Darwen murder, which turned out not to be a murder; that of a workhouse child who, seeming to be adventurous, fell from an aqueduct and 'dented' his skull. Whilst doing research at the Police Museum in Manchester he came across the records of men who had left the service ... some after a few days, some after a few months or years, but only a couple who stayed long enough to draw a pension. Then there were those who were 'thrown out' ... drunkenness and falling asleep on duty amongst the 'crimes'; but also inappropriate behaviour with ladies and one, in particular, with his superior officer's daughter!

There were many more such anecdotes, from his 'country lane' research, around headlines, margin notes on BMD certificates, and other records, that would make you stop, and think, "I wonder what happened to them next." Sometimes we all have this experience and are faced with the dilemma of, 'to explore further or not to explore; to finish the family tree or leave it for

another day?' We can ask ourselves, "do I prefer the country lane or the motorway?" Personally, I know that I've still got a lot to do on my own family tree but then, I'm very easily distracted and get sidetracked down those 'country lanes'!

After the meeting, Tony was ready to answer any questions and, as a group, we were able to chat about research generally, including how to access various newspapers and which were the best research websites, both free or with subscription.

Many thanks, Tony, for a most interesting talk.

We were able to welcome visitors from all around the country and also from overseas. We hope, if you are reading this, that you enjoyed your visit and will join us again for future talks.

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Please continue to try and support the Branch, with your online attendance, as we hope to deliver as much of our 2021 programme as possible, whilst we are unable to hold our meetings in Gallery Oldham. The zoom app is free to download and use.

It would be of great help to us, for the smooth running of the talks (especially if your first!!), if you would look at the two help sheets that we have prepared, [HERE](#) and [HERE](#), one of which will also help you in downloading and using zoom if you are a new user of it. Please be aware that the zoom app on tablets and phones does not offer as many user-personalisation settings as found on a laptop or desktop computer.

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Details of the talks are on the 'Meetings' page of the Branch website [HERE](#).

**Booking for an online talk is essential** and bookings are on [Eventbrite](#) or by email to the newsletter or website editor.

Please note, if you have registered for the talk, but you don't receive a meeting link on the Thursday before a talk, please email me at < Oldham\_newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk > and I will send one.

**The talks will be free to members and non-members alike.**

**Wherever you live, Welcome!**

## JUNE MEETING



Saturday,  
12th  
June,  
at  
2 pm



### ***'Market to Supermarkets and beyond ... 200 years of shopping'***

Covering the main changes in shopping over the past 200 years.

A free online talk, on zoom, given by Michael Winstanley,

Free booking on [Eventbrite](#) or by email to the newsletter or website editor.

Please note, with whichever method you book, if you do not receive your meeting link on the Thursday before the Saturday meeting, email me and I will send the link.

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JULY MEETING



Saturday,
10th July
at
2 pm



A Brief History of the Canals ... around Oldham and Manchester.

A look at why and when the local canals were built, in particular the Rochdale and the Huddersfield Narrow Canals

A free, online talk given by Judy Jones, of the Canal & River Trust

Login is from 1:45, in order to greet friends and welcome new visitors to our monthly meetings and talks.

Free booking on [Eventbrite](#) (from 1st June) or by email to the newsletter editor.

Please note, with whichever method you book, if you do not receive your meeting link on the Thursday before the Saturday meeting, email me and I will send the link.

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### **MLFHS Branches delivering their monthly meetings and talks on-line**

|                                                                |                                            |                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MLFHS,<br/>ANGLO-SCOTTISH<br/>BRANCH<br/>ONLINE MEETING</b> | Saturday,<br>19th<br>June<br>at<br>2:00 pm | <i>'The Mitchell Library<br/>and its Holdings'</i><br><br>A talk given by<br>Dr. Irene O'Brien |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**Anglo-Scottish Website Pages** [HERE](#) for more information and booking details

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MLFHS Bolton Branch online Meetings	Wednesday, 2nd June, at 7:30 pm	<i>'Liverpool Cowkeepers: A family history'</i> A talk given by Dave Joy
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Bolton Website Pages [HERE](#) for more information and booking details.

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### **MLFHS updates**

**The MLFHS Family History Help Desk ...**

**is closed under current restrictions**

**As situations change, almost by the hour, there is no certainty of anything!**

**For updated information, please check the website [HERE](#)**

**However, there is still a Virtual Help Desk [HERE](#)**

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MLFHS, Manchester Ancestors

MLFHS aka Manchester Ancestors	Wednesday, 23rd June, at 7:00 pm	<i>'Zeppelin Ship of Dreams'</i> A talk given by David Skillen
MLFHS aka Manchester Ancestors	Saturday, 26th June, at 2 pm	<i>'Pit Lasses : The Female Miners of 1842'</i> A talk given by Denise Bates

Booking on [Eventbrite](#)

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### **MLFHS Online Bookshop: Is OPEN for business again [HERE](#).**

with CDs, Downloads, Maps, Registers, Local Interest Books, More General Publications, Miscellaneous Items with MLFHS Logo etc., and Offers.

One of our Bookshop customers is looking for a copy of the Barton upon Irwell RC Burial Records CD. We no longer stock this item and it is currently no longer available. If anyone has a copy, that they no longer want and are willing to sell back to us, please contact [office@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:office@mlfhs.org.uk).

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MLFHS & Branch e-Newsletters

MLFHS Manchester, and each of the MLFHS branches, publishes a monthly e-newsletter which provides useful news items and articles etc. The e-newsletters are free and available to both members and non-members of MLFHS Society. Members receive the MLFHS newsletter automatically; non-members can find them by following the links, below.

To sign-up, for a Branch newsletter, to be emailed each month, simply click the appropriate link below and complete the short form on the e-newsletter page, where you will also find copies of all past issues to browse.

[MLFHS](#) [Bolton](#) [Oldham](#) [Anglo-Scottish](#)

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**MLFHS Updates to the Great Database** (located in the Members' area of the Website)  
**Emails to the Members' forum**, from John Marsden (webmaster), listing the updates.

### **\* Memorial Inscriptions**

Memorial Inscription listings added to the descriptions to the following churches:

Droylsden    St Andrew

Hyde    St Mary Magdalene

Manchester    Unitarian Chapel Mosley St

Manchester    St Ann

Manchester Collegiate Church (Owen)  
Chorlton Beech Rd Wesleyan Chapel  
Salford King St Chapel  
Manchester Gadsby's Chapel Rochdale Rd (Owen)  
Pendlebury St John  
Heaton Mersey Cong Chapel

Thanks to Cheyenne Bower for her work on these.

#### \* Bolton Workhouse Creed Book

6,951 names added to the creed book transcription.

These cover periods 1884-1886 and 1891-1892. Thanks to members of our Bolton Branch for these. For those unfamiliar, the admission registers for Bolton Workhouse do not survive, but the creed books, which record the religion of each inmate at the time of admission, do. These provide names and other information including dates of admission and discharge (or death). There are no ages, but families are usually listed as a group, which can be helpful.

#### \* Newspaper BMD Announcements

A further 1,641 BMD announcements from the Manchester Courier for 1829.

Thanks to Linda Bailey and Chris Hall for transcribing these very useful pre-civil registration references, which frequently provide more information than the parish register entries..

#### \* Orphan BMD Certificates

A further 42 birth, 58 death and 28 marriage certificates have been scanned and indexed to the Great Database with links to the images.

Thanks to Barry Henshall for these.

\* Another addition to the burial indexes in the Great Database.

This consists of **1,600 burials 1862-1871 at Christ Church, Bradford.**

Thanks are due to Mark Harrey for these.

### Meetings and Talks at other Societies &/or Venues

Please note ...

**the relevant society/group websites or organisers are still being included, here, as they can be checked for further information or for on-line resource material and activities.**

**All public, activities are, of course, CANCELLED until further notice.**

**Oldham Historical Research Group: ... Online Meetings on zoom**



Wednesday  
16th  
June  
at  
7 pm



**Johannes Georg Wilhelm Gruban ...**

**a German manufacturer of munitions, in Oldham, during WW1'**

a free, illustrated talk given by Dorothy Bintley, online on zoom.

Booking on Eventbrite [HERE](#)

Your support for our talks would be appreciated and, if you would like to join us for our meeting on zoom, or need more information, please email me at < pixnet.sg@gmail.com >.

Website [HERE](#)

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Library Events & Gallery talks at Gallery Oldham; Curator talks [HERE](#)
on [Eventbrite](#) and [Instagram](#)

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### **Saddleworth Historical Society & Saddleworth Civic Trust**

At the Saddleworth Museum, High Street, Uppermill. Website [HERE](#)

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Family History Society of Cheshire : Tameside Group meeting.

See their website [HERE](#)

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### **Tameside History Club :**

Meetings on zoom.

Website and programme [HERE](#)

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### **Tameside Local Studies and Archives - Regular Sessions and Events**

Website and programme [HERE](#)

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Moorside & District Historical Society

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### **Regional Heritage Centre :**

Website [HERE](#)

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'A Mixed Bag'

Grotton Hall and the Buckley Family

The following pages are the result of a conversation, with a committee member Joan Harrison, about the possibility of an article for the newsletter about Grotton Hall, in Saddleworth. The problem was that there appeared to be next to nothing to find online and the Local Studies Library was still closed due to Covid restrictions.

Until that conversation, I wasn't even aware of Grotton Hall but, intrigued, I did a little random searching myself, with very little success but then, there it was! It was in '*A Visitation of the Seats and Arms of the Noblemen and Gentlemen of Great Britain*' Vol. 2, written by John Bernard Burke, published in 1853, and complete with a rather nice engraving to accompany the text entry!

Further internet searching brought it up on Historic England, [HERE](#), with a list of the architectural features, but nothing more. The source reference was a Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin dated 1985. I contacted the Society in the hope that there might have been more information. In the return email was the full content of the article referencing its past history for the last 500 years! Following my request, I was given kind permission to include it, in full, on the Branch pages of the MLFHS website, [HERE](#).

Further information on the Buckley family, their estates, with maps of their holdings in Saddleworth, Oldham, Denton, Ashton and Mottram, in 1779 was published in '*Mapping Saddleworth II*', pp 97-127. (For anyone with Saddleworth connections both volumes are a treasure trove and, incidentally on offer, at the moment, of £13 for both volumes instead of the usual £10 each.)

Still searching and I found a couple of pages in '*A Genealogical Memorial of the Family of Buckley of Derby and Saddleworth*' by Henry Fishwick, published in 1900, about the Buckley

family, including those in Grotton.

The following, includes the transcripts of the articles in the book published in 1853, and of the pages from the above mentioned book published in 1900.

'A Visitation of the Seats and Arms of the Noblemen and Gentlemen of Great Britain'

Vol. 2, written by John Bernard Burke, published in 1853



GROTTON HALL, Saddleworth, Yorkshire, the seat of Edmund Buckley, Esq. of Ardwick, Manchester, late M.P. for Newcastle-under-Lyme, whose ancestors have been seated at Grotton for several centuries. [my note: not quite correct! Buckley families, yes, but not direct ancestors! There is, however, dna proof that all the Lancashire Buckleys had their origin in 1300 at Buckley near Rochdale]

This old English manor house, with its gable ends, its snug ancient porch, and its heraldic devices, is very picturesque. At one end in the highest portion of the building immediately above the quaint-looking but cheerful windows, is the family crest of the Buckleys; in the stone work, and directly over the porch, may still be seen the initials J. B. and the date 1656, indicating that John Buckley rebuilt part of the house in that year. The appearance of the whole brings us back, with a very slight stretch of the imagination, to the good old times of English hospitality and Christmas revel. The buildings of our ancestors were completely the reflection of the general habits of the people, and the old Hall of Grotton, though there are many larger and more important edifices, is peculiarly interesting, as a specimen of the domestic, un-modernized architecture of the Tudor period - simple and picturesque. The progenitors of the Buckleys of Grotton, were a branch of the ancient family of Buckley of Buckley, in the parish of Rochdale, co. Lancaster.* They are traceable for several hundred years by the inscriptions on the Grotton-head tomb stones in Saddleworth Church. The present Mr. Buckley is a magistrate for the counties of Lancaster and Derby, and also for the borough of Manchester.

* Captain William Buckley of Buckley settled by his will, bearing date 9th May, 1730, his estate in Hundersfield, Butterworth, Castleton, &c, on his cousin Thomas Foster, with remainder to his sons, and finally on "his kinsman John Buckley, the elder of Grottonhead, in Saddleworth, co. York, gent., and his heirs in trust."

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***A Genealogical Memorial of the Family of Buckley of Derby and Saddleworth'***

by Henry Fishwick, published in 1900

***The Buckley Family of Derby & Saddleworth***

The Buckleys of Lancashire undoubtedly took their name from their territorial possessions in the parish of Rochdale. The pedigree of the family as recorded by Dugdale in 1664-5, goes back to the twelfth century, but from the absence of dates and other details, and the actual errors which it contains, it cannot be accepted as correct. In the twelfth century there was a Geoffrey de Bucklegh, Dean of Whalley, and he was a frequent witness to grants of land in Rochdale, to the Abbots of Stanlawe, and in 1332, in a similar capacity, appears an Adam de Bucklegh.

Another Geoffrey de Buckley was slain at the battle of Evesham, and two centuries after his death, a Ralph Buckley had a window to his memory put in the Cathedral of Worcester, but there is no evidence to prove a connection between the two.

In the time of Edward III. [1327-77], we find a John de Buckley living. In 18 Henry VI [1439-40], we have evidence of a most satisfactory character, produced at a commission of enquiry before John de Radcliffe and others, that this John had a son, Robert de Buckley, who was seised in fee of a messuage and lands in Honnersfield, in the parish of Rochdale, and that he had married Alice, the daughter of Roger de Wyandene, and had issue a son, John, whose son, James, ultimately succeeded to the estate. He was living in 1439, and the James Buckley, who in 1492 gave to his son John a messuage, &c., called Stonie Hay (now Stoney Heys), in Healey, in the parish of Rochdale, was probably his son and heir. A descendant (possibly grandson) of this John, of Stoney Heys, was James Buckley, of Healey who left a Will dated 20th October, 1595, in which he names his brothers, Francis and Anthony; and Francis, Thomas, James, Sara, and Grace, children of Francis ; and Richard and Ann, children of Anthony. Returning to the main line of descent, the next two generations as given by Dugdale are unquestionably wrong, and there is unfortunately no evidence to prove the correct descent, but the estate was afterwards found vested in Robert Buckley, who married Grace, the daughter of John Holt of Ashworth, in the parish of Bury, and died 10th May, 1576, his son and heir being Thomas Buckley, then aged twenty-three years; he married Grace, the daughter of Arthur Assheton, of Clegg, in the parish of Rochdale, Esq.; he died 17th August, 1588, and was buried at Rochdale. He held the manor of Buckley with twenty messuages and cottages and demesne land; on his death the manor passed to his son, Abel Buckley, whose descendants held it until the end of the last century. The early portion of the Buckley pedigrees, as already stated, is meagre and unsatisfactory, and even if it were trustworthy (which it is not) it only furnishes the name of the son and heir and in some cases the name of one of his brothers. That the family in and before the sixteenth century was a very prolific one is proved by the fact that in the Parish Registers of Rochdale, between 1582 and 1616, the name appears 300 times. As an example of this may be cited the Wills of Thomas Buckley in 1583, and Margaret Buckley in 1592, both being described as of Buckley.

... About the middle of the sixteenth century (or probably earlier), William Buckley, presumably one of the junior sons of the Buckleys of Rochdale, settled in Derby; his Will dated 10th June, 1564 was proved at Lichfield, on the 18th September, following; he is described as "William Buckley, the elder, gentleman;" he desired to be buried in the churchyard of Derby,' and left his estate to his wife, Margerie, and his children - but unfortunately their names are not given, and it is therefore probable that they were all under age. ...

One of the evidences as to the connection between the Buckleys of Derby, and the Buckleys of Saddleworth and Rochdale, is the frequent recurrence of the same christian names, Philip, Francis, Nathaniel, &c., but the most satisfactory proof of this is in the fact that in 1585, William Buckley, of Derby, was seised of the reversion of the half of the manor of Quick, in the county of York, and as this manor contains the whole of Saddleworth it embraces both Grotton and

Grascroft.

A dispute as to this reversion was heard in the Court of Chancery. A final agreement was come to in 1586, when the defendants acknowledged the right of William Buckley to the moiety in dispute, which consisted of 16 houses, 6 cottages, 20 "tofts," 16 orchards, 400 acres of land, besides 600 of heath and moor, and 200 acres of moss; for this acknowledgment he gave £240. It is noteworthy that in 1639, Abel Buckley, of Buckley, died seised of a messuage and 10 acres of meadow and pasture in Quick. William Buckley died intestate; he was buried at All Saints' Church, Derby, 2nd December, 1604. Not very many years after the death of William Buckley, of Derby, the manor of Quick appears to have passed to George Bouthe and Katherine, his wife, who in 1607, came to a final agreement with Sir Urian Leighe as to its transfer to him.

Some of the Buckleys had however before this date obtained grants in fee of certain portions of the manor, as appears from "the Feet of Fines," taken 41 Elizabeth [1599], when an agreement was made between Henry Buckley, James Buckley, John Buckley, and Robert Buckley, on the one part, and John Bradshaw and Isabella, his wife, on the other part, whereby the latter in consideration of a fine of; £50, acknowledged the right of the Buckleys to 2 houses, 2 barns, 2 gardens, and 78 acres of land, with right of pasture, &c., in Quick.

It must be noted that William Buckley, junior, of Derby, was married in 1567, but we have discovered no register of the baptism of any child until 1574, in all probability between those dates several children were born, and one or more of them may have been parties to the agreement just referred to, and there is little doubt but that John Buckley, living in 1599, and Edmund Buckley, of Saddleworth, his brother (whose Will was proved 1605), were sons of one of the two William Buckleys, and from their fathers inherited lands in Grascroft.

footnote: In the Rochdale Registers Francis Buckley occurs ten times between 1582 and 1616, and in the Saddleworth Registers between 1613 and 1751 there are thirty-two entries of Philip Buckleys.

At this period there were several Buckleys living at Grascroft and Grotton, but the positive evidence adducible is not sufficient to furnish the connecting links between them and the Derby and Rochdale Buckleys, but it may be accepted that such a connection existed.

### ***Buckley of Grotton in Saddleworth***

In 1 Mary (1553), Gilbert Buckley appeared as the defendant and Sir John Byron as plaintiff, in the Duchy Court; the question in dispute being 'trespass on Buersill moor, in Rochdale.' The original document gives no genealogical information but the names of Gilbert, Bernard, John, and Edmund Buckley, yeomen, all appear. Except a Gilbert Buckley who married Jane ... in 1611, the Rochdale Parish Church Registers from 1582 to 1641, contain no mention of a Buckley with this Christian name, and it may be assumed that the defendant above referred to is the Gilbert Buckley who settled at Grotton, in Saddleworth, and left a Will dated 20th October, 1603, which was proved at Chester, the 8th February following; he is described as a husbandman; his wife, Ann, survived him. They had issue : (1) Richard, of whom presently; (2) Thomas; (3) Francis; (4) a daughter married to Thomas Leese (or Leche); of the three latter nothing is known, but as their father (Gilbert), mentions (but not by name) twenty grandchildren, it is probable that they were all married before 1603, and their descendants formed a great portion of the Buckleys of Saddleworth.

Richard, the son of Gilbert, lived at Grotton Head, and in his Will dated 6th March, 1633 (proved 24th January, 1636), he is described as a yeoman; one of his executors was Thomas Leche, his brother-in-law. He was buried at Saddleworth, 7th September, 1635. He had issue: (1) John, who was buried at Saddleworth, 15th June, 1681, being described in the Register as of "Grotton Head, Senior;" (2) Richard; (3) Thomas; (4) Edmund, was probably the father of John Buckley, baptized at Saddleworth, 11th October, 1640, and who was there buried on 28th August, 1723 (aged eighty-three years); his widow being buried on 31st October, 1724 (aged eighty-two years); they had issue, three (or possibly more) children, viz.: (1) John of Grotton Head, gendeman, who was buried at Saddleworth, 27th December, 1738, aged seventy-two years. By

his Will proved at Chester in 1740, he left an annual charge of forty shillings, to be laid out in oatmeal and given every Christmas Day at Grotton; William Buckley of Buckley, in his Will made in 1730, mentions John Buckley of Grotton Head, as his "kinsman;" (2) William, buried at Saddleworth, on 13th November, 1715; (3) Mary, buried at Saddleworth, on 15th January, 1683, unmarried.

Note ... copies of some of the wills are included in the book.

You can read more about Grotton Hall in the extended article, on the Branch pages of the website [HERE](#), content courtesy of Saddleworth Historical Society.

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Mary Ann Higgs, O.B.E. (née Kingsland) 1854 - 1937

As we know, local author Carol Talbot gave a talk, on suffragette Annie Kenney, to the Olham & District Branch of MLFHS, at the February meeting. However, a few days later, she also gave a talk, to Oldham Historical Research Group, on another Oldham woman, this time one largely forgotten, named Mary Higgs. I found that Mary had written three books and, in the last couple of months' newsletters, I transcribed some pages from one of them. The three titles that I found were all related to her lifelong aim to provide decent and safe accommodation, especially for women in poverty, exposing the evil circumstances in which so many were forced to live.

So far, extracts have been from the opening chapter of, '*Glimpses into the Abyss*', and the first two parts of '*Five days and nights as tramp among tramps*'.

Continued :

FIVE DAYS AND FIVE NIGHTS AS A TRAMP AMONG TRAMPS

IV. A Second Night in the Workhouse Tramp Ward

The miles between us and our destination seemed to grow as walked. The replies we got varied from four miles to eight; we discovered that some were directing us back to the union we had come from. I do not know what the distance really was, but if we added up the distances we were told it must have been nearly eleven miles. I believe we went considerably out of our direct route. We had come about two miles, and after we began to tramp in earnest we only rested a short time once or twice to dodge heavy showers. We were walking from about two o'clock till nearly eight before we reached the workhouse, but my companion grew so weary she could only crawl, and I pushed her up the long, long hills. We seemed to go up and up, and always a long hill in front. We had to give up trying to dodge the rain, and walk steadily on through the wet, which grew worse and worse. We were very wet indeed before we reached the shelter of the Union, and only just in time to be admitted. I feared we should have been left shelterless. The workhouse was in such an out-of-the-way place that it was hard to find; we thought we should never find it, and grew very discouraged, but could not walk faster. To ease our minds we told each other the story of our lives from childhood, taking turns as we got tired and out of breath. We had now had no food for nearly seven hours. At last we came to a dirty lane, by the side of a high stone embankment, leading to big gates. We plunged down it; our feet by this time were soaked and our shawls nearly wet through. With some difficulty we found the lodge, a large, substantial stone building, with an office occupied by a single man. He looked more respectable than the other one, and asked us the questions in a straightforward matter-of-fact way that was a pleasant contrast. He told us to sit on a seat and wait for the portress. We sat for quite a quarter of an hour in our wet things. Two young men, who seemed to be related to officials and familiar with the place, passed through; otherwise we were quite alone with this man, and he began to talk in a familiar and most disagreeable manner. He asked me where my husband was, and insinuated that I had been leading an immoral life. He said a married woman needed to "sleep warm." He told us he was a pauper and lived there, asked how we liked his house, said if there was one woman "he often shared his breakfast with her." He produced a screw of salt and gave it us as a favour. Being two we were protection' to each other, and passed off the conversation as well as we could, telling him that we were not of *that* sort, that

we had only taken shelter, and were going to friends. He said he hoped he should see us in the morning. *We* hoped not. He told us the portress often kept a single woman more than two days to do her cleaning, giving her rather better food. We dared not offend him. What might happen to a single woman alone with such men?

At last, to our great relief, the portress came. She was comparatively young, dressed somewhat like a nurse, very quick and sharp, and evidently she had many other duties, and this part of her work was distasteful to her. She was very cross at being summoned so late, and said at first we ought not to have been admitted, as it was past eight; but the man told her we had been waiting. We should have been glad of a little of "the milk of human kindness" in our wet, weary condition, but we were "only tramps," and were ordered about sharply. She told us to follow her to the bathroom. It was a stone-floored room at the end of a stone passage, from which led out four stone cells. Each contained a bed, and was imperfectly lighted by a square aperture, high up, leading into the passage. The walls were stone, spotlessly whitewashed. She asked what we had got in our pockets, but did not search us. She took our bundles and asked how much money we had, but did not take our solitary penny. She insisted on a bath, and watched us undress, telling us to leave our clothes, and giving us nightdresses doubtfully clean. (The necks were dirty) We hurried for fear of offending her. She asked if we would sleep together or alone, as the beds were double. We were glad to be together. My friend said she should have cried all night if shut up alone in one of these prison-like cells. I was ready first, and was given four blankets. To walk on a stone floor straight from a warm bath in a thin cotton nightdress and make your bed is not very nice. But I have since seen nightdresses made of rough bathing flannel, and as broad as they are short! I suppose "anything is good enough for tramps." It is hardly realised that respectable destitute women might have no other shelter. The conditions are such that probably few do apply. The accommodation at this workhouse, which appeared to be a large one - four cells, with beds for a possible eight - showed that few probably applied at that Union, while the porter said that often there was only one. Yet there are many destitute women, as Homes and Shelters show. Are they forced into the common lodging-houses - or worse? The bed was a most peculiar affair. In addition to the wire mattress it had a wire pillow, and no other. This was a flat, woven wire shelf raised a few inches above the mattress. Its discomforts were still to be experienced.

I made this curious bed as well as I could, spreading one blanket over it and the pillow, doubling another for our backs, and reserving two to cover us. We got into bed and were given the regulation mugs of porridge and thick slices of dry bread. We were then locked in and left. We had one spoon between us. There was no light except from the aperture, but it was not yet dark. We were prisoners indeed, and a plank bed would have been more comfortable. The pillow was a cruel invention - it was impossible to place one's head upon it; the edge cut the back of your neck, even through a blanket, and the rough meshes hurt your face. We could not spare a blanket to double up for a pillow, we were cold as it was; the blankets underneath barely kept off the rough wires, and two were little enough to cover in a cold stone cell. The pillow was a torture; we finally put our heads *under* it and lay flat, screwed up into any position that gave ease. Over our heads was a framed motto and verses about "Jesus only." I wondered whether *He* would think this the proper lodging for a "stranger!" We were thirsty and hungry - but alas! when we tasted our gruel, our *only* drink, it was sweetened to nauseousness with treacle! It was, indeed, to all intents and purposes "treacle posset." Anyone with a grain of common sense can realise the effect on the system of taking this sort of stuff immediately after a warm bath, following a wetting. In fact, the diet produced a peculiarly loosened feeling in the skin, as if all the pores were open, which made it very hard to work. I usually perspire little, but next morning, while working, I was again and again in a profuse perspiration, and this produced a feeling of weakness, and culminated in a sharp attack of diarrhoea - fortunately after I had reached my friends. Anyone who thinks will see that this would only be a natural result of the diet with many people. We were terribly hungry, and ate our bread; this made us still more thirsty, but there was

nothing to quench our thirst but the thick, sweet gruel - very good in quality, but most nauseous. The thirst we suffered from that night can be imagined better than described. "I was thirsty and ye gave me no drink," kept running through my mind whenever I turned my eyes up to spell out the words of "Jesus only." This was our worst night; we were very weary, but could get no ease; we fell into restless slumber, to wake again and again from thirst or cold or some pain caused by our uneasy couch. Long before we were called we were wide awake, longing to get up. About six o'clock, probably, our cell door was unlocked, and we were told to dress. We hastened to the bath-room and drank eagerly at the tap. Our wet clothes were lying just where we left them. They were still quite damp and our boots wet through. Had we known, we might have left them in a rather different position, on some hot pipes; but we thought they were sure to be stoved, as the portress knew we had taken shelter from pouring rain. We had told her we could not reach our friends in the neighbouring town because of it. There was nothing to do but to put our wet things on and set to work. A woman brought us a pair of men's boots, very damp, with blacking and brushes, and told us to polish them for her before we had our breakfast. We did this, which doubtless was extra, and were rewarded with a mug of her coffee, with one mug of the same sort of gruel, and two thick slices of bread. The coffee was such a treat. I have made some enquiries since, and have found at least one workhouse where the gruel is replaced by coffee, though this is contrary to regulations. The reason given is that the tramps never eat the gruel, and frequently *throw* it about, and even at one another, making a great mess! Also, being made in summer overnight, it turns sour, and "is not fit for pigs!" Is any comment needed? How many tons of good oatmeal must be wasted every year! It is *absolute* waste, as we were again told to empty our mugs of the night before down the w.c., and put them away clean. So not even the pigs have the benefit of it!

There was no room to sit in, or seat, except a short form, just big enough for two, in the bathroom. No table - and mugs and bread were put on a window-sill. We sat on the form by a window, a few inches open, that looked on some shrubs, and as we sat there a man - a pauper - passed and stared in. We moved away. He went, and we again took our seats, but presently he returned and stood staring in. We had fled to either side when we saw him coming, but presently my friend *peeped*, and there he was, standing staring in. She gave him some sharp words and ordered him off; he disappeared, but evidently this was a means of communication between men and women. The window, however, would not open wide, but conversation would be easy.

Presently the portress came, very brisk and sharp. I was told to clean and stone a larder some distance off. We had already done a little work while waiting. Knowing we should have to do it, we folded our blankets, washed our pots, and cleaned the bathroom taps. All was made clean and tidy when the portress came, but we were not to get off so easily! My friend was told to stone the place completely through, including the three cells not used (which looked clean), to blacklead the hot-water pipes all down the passage, dust everywhere thoroughly, and clean the step. Meanwhile I had first to do some shelves and then stone a spiral stair and the floor of a small larder, and then go on to other work. I think, probably, the work we did would have taken the ordinary tramp a full day, and earned another bed and breakfast. But we did not dawdle, but worked steadily on, and pleased the portress so much that eventually she said we might go that day. We could not finish our task by eleven, so she kindly gave us our dinner and let us go after it, saying we should have time to reach our friends. Evidently she saw we were above the usual tramp, and our work pleased her. She asked us a few questions, but our answers, that we were tramping from L— to B—, having come short of money before we reached our friends, satisfied her, being true. This portress came backwards and forwards pretty frequently, and so did our acquaintance of the previous night, who seemed to have numerous errands by the larder where I was cleaning, but I neither looked at him nor spoke, so he did not make any advances. It would have been easy to "carry on" with him in the intervals between the times when the portress came. The woman pauper who brought in the boots was, however, to be seen within

call, in a room near by, the door of which was open, so I felt protected. She was a decent woman and kind to us. She said she “didn’t do it for everyone,” when she afterwards brought us part of her dinner. After finishing the larder, the portress set me to turn out bundles, which were stacked in compartments on either side of a long, high room, right up to the ceiling. I had a high pair of steps, and was to take each bundle out and dust it with a brush, sweep out the compartment, and replace it. Each parcel, as a rule, was wrapped in rough linen wrappings, but a considerable number of things were unparcelled, and some dirty and foul-smelling - probably they had been only stoved and put away. All the bundles which were not tightly tied were more or less moth-eaten. It made my heart ache to see these clothes in such a state, remembering that they were all that some poor people possessed. I had often noticed the lack of care with regard to destitute women's clothing, having fetched girls out of the workhouse whose clothes were so crumpled, even when decent, that everyone stared at them - and had received from poor people many complaints that their clothes were lost or spoiled. After seeing the state of this store-room I can well believe it. Behind the bundles were cobwebs simply festooned with moths. They had attacked the bundles at every opening. The coverings kept them off, but some bundles were rotten, and one sad thing was that if a bundle was rather more respectable, and contained more clothes, it was not so tightly tied, and was, therefore, more open to attack. Besides, not a few things were quite unprotected and swarming. The place was heated with pipes. A better breeding ground for moths could hardly be imagined. Yet a simple expedient would have prevented most of the mischief. If each bundle had been provided with two wrappers, and the second one tied over the openings of the first, the moths could not get in. Besides this, however, the whole should be examined more frequently. I turned out more than a hundred bundles, and was then told to simply dust down the front of the remainder. Doubtless this had been done often, and all looked right. I showed the portress, however, so many moth-eaten bundles that she said she must have them all stoved. She came and said I might stone the floor and finish, my companion having finished about the same time. We had rough aprons given us to work in ; but I should like to mention, as a subject for thought, that all this rough, hard work naturally made our clothes dirty, and would soon wear them out. We were, after only two nights in workhouse tramp wards, far more dirty and disreputable in our clothing than when we left home. The sleeves of my blouse were very dirty by this time. Yet in the workhouse, as bundles are confiscated, there is no chance to change, and no opportunity to wash a garment. One is “between Scylla and Charybdis!” In the common lodging-house you can wash your clothes, but not yourself; in the workhouse tramp ward you can wash yourself, but not your clothes!

We had bread and cheese given us for dinner we had our bundles given us, and mashed our last tea with water from the bath tap. The kind woman brought us part of her dinner, telling us to return the plate and not let the portress see it. We then got leave to go. The portress was in the lodge, and we passed out without remark.

Once more we were free! - but very exhausted. We felt completely tired out, and struggling up the dirty lane we found a reservoir and some public seats. We took turns to rest, lying on a seat, for some men were about, and kept walking backwards and forwards and laughing at us. The ground was damp, so it was no use seeking a more sheltered place. We rested an hour or two, till we began to grow cold.

More next month.

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### ***The Manor, and Manorial Records ...***

what a minefield ... at the same time fascinating and yet so frustrating.

I knew the basics of the Conqueror's feudal system; had scraped the surface of Tudor, Stewart and Hanoverian dynasties, then the French Revolution, before finally concentrating on Irish Land Tenure in the early 19th century. Not exactly a springboard for understanding 'The Manor'

in mediaeval England, as it evolved for hundreds of years, until the 'mechanical age' gradually came to dominate the economy.

## ‘THE VILLAIN AT WORK’



Sowing



Reaping



Threshing



Shearing

Having avoided the Manor (as a topic) as much as possible, I began to realise what a big hole this created in my understanding of family and local history. In a way, this was my 'brick wall', not just for family history but for local history, as well. I usually like my facts as accessible bullet points and this was never to be the case when looking further back in time. What I hadn't fully



accepted was that it was an ever-evolving way of life, based on long-held customs, all of which were gradually identified, defined and set down as the manorial rights; importantly, each manor having similar but different ways of working.

John Marsden's zoom talk, on 'The Manor', in April pushed the 'door' of my understanding open enough for me to investigate further (and, as a bonus, enjoy it!) Always ready to be diverted, I was now determined to build on this new understanding ... getting the books recommended and searching the internet with the advantage of having a better idea of what I was actually looking for! I'd had John's booklet, '*The English Manor and its Records*', on my bookshelves for years; unfortunately, it was buried and forgotten! It provides a brief but concise overview, for the foundations of further enquiry, and is still available from the Society shop [HERE](#) for a mere £2! )

Going back to John's talk, his speaker's notes (based on the powerpoint presentation) have been uploaded to the website [HERE](#), and include a comprehensive bibliography. His recommended title was, '*Life on the English Manor, 1150 - 1400*' by H.S. Bennett, pub. 1937. I managed to buy a 2nd hand, 1971 reprint, on Amazon, but it is also available, for free download, on Archive.org [HERE](#), as is, '*The Manor Houses of England*' by P.H. Ditchfield pub. 1910 [HERE](#); also referenced in 'Further Reading'.

Bennett's book is a very readable ... full of easily (well, relatively easily!) assimilated information and a glossary, bibliography and list of resources filling 15 pages. One of the references that caught my attention was that to a psalter, the Luttrell Psalter, circa 1330 which, apparently, amongst the extravagantly illuminated page margins, with their fantastic mythical creatures were witty little depictions of life on the manor. Now, I love pictures so, again, I went searching on the internet. There it was, in all its colourful glory, on the British Library website. Dozens and dozens of these beautiful pages. A small copy of the images can be downloaded as long as the Library is properly referenced and it isn't used for commercial purposes. I've added a couple to the Gallery. If you want to look at them all, and read about the psalter, visit the British Library [HERE](#), and see all the psalter pages [HERE](#).

Many thanks, John, for giving the talk and re-kindling my interest in 'The Manor'.

Sheila Goodyear

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From the e-Postbag

Not from our own postbag but, on the Member's Email Forum, was an email link to an online talk, from '**History Indoors**', which looked interesting so I followed the Eventbrite link and registered for the free talk. Interested to find what else the website might offer, I followed the link to their website [HERE](#) which didn't disappoint. In their, 'About us' we can read ...

Begun in April 2020 ... History Indoors was started to bring some of the newest ideas in history to the public.

We started this project as a way to bring history to people in isolation from the Coronavirus pandemic, as we found that lockdown has not been particularly intellectually stimulating for anyone and wanted to do something for people stuck indoors. As history researchers, we thought we would do what we do best and share our weird, wacky and wonderful research with the public.

Articles, Blogs, forthcoming talks that can be joined on zoom and past talks are on their Youtube channel, [HERE](#) along with 'In History this Week', as members of the team discuss the newsworthy events in particular weeks in history.

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### An email from Wessel Scheer, in the Netherlands.

Dear Sir / Madam,

My name is Wessel Scheer and I am an amateur researcher from The Netherlands.

I am doing research on an Avro Lancaster crash in Hulshorst on the 01st of April 1943.

The 103 Squadron Lancaster ED626 / PM-G was shot down by a German night fighter.  
We commemorate the crew each year at a little monument in the forest and on the cemetery of Harderwijk and Amersfoort.

One of our goals is to get to know as much as possible about these brave airmen.

One of the airmen who died in this crash was Sgt. Sefton Stafford. He and his wife lived in Blackpool (South Shore)

However, looking at his parents details (below) it could very well be he lived in Chadderton before.

**Here are the details I have:**

RAFVR Service number 1033931 - Sergeant - Air Gunner - Sefton Stafford - Age 33 - KIA

- of South Shore, Blackpool, Lancashire, UK

- Plot 13. Row 5. Grave 97. - Amersfoort (Oud-Leusden) General Cemetery "Rusthof" - CWGC ref. 2620423

Son of Asa and Rachel Ann (Dearden) Stafford;

Husband of Elizabeth (nickname probably "Molly") Stafford, of South Shore, Blackpool, Lancashire, UK

**His parents;**

Rachel Ann Stafford (16 May 1879 Rochdale - 18 Mrt 1951 Chadderton)

Asa Stafford (28 Jun 1881 Chadderton - 16 Mrt 1968 Middleton)

Besides Sefton, they had three other children;

John Stafford 1912 - 1937 (24)

Alice Stafford 1908 - 1912 (4)

Dora Stafford 1917 - 1918 (1)

My question to you is, if you might be able to help me to find more on Sgt. Sefton Stafford and/or his family/relatives, any information is highly appreciated!

Warm regards,

Wessel Scheer

If you can help Wessell, at all, please email him at < awscheer@outlook.com >

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1921 ... a Census Centenary

As all we family history enthusiasts are well aware, the 1921 census should have been released this year ... however, for obvious reasons, it won't be! Hopefully, we can look forward to its release in 2022.

On the Members' forum, was a notification that MLFHS would be using this period of time to do just that ... follow the links to the short video [HERE](#) and blog articles [HERE](#) on the website (they're on the public access pages).

What a good idea! We could start with some regular '1921 pages' in the newsletter!

To create more context we thought we could include the two year before and after 1921, ie., from 1919 (when servicemen were returning home, after the war, with high hopes for a better future) to the end of 1924 when the full reality of a damaged economy was being suffered.

Amongst our Family History collections, most of us have 'snippets', anecdotes and little stories, personal ephemera such as birthday, christmas or memorial cards, postcards, holiday photos, event programmes, marriage invitations, letters etc., etc., from those years. Many war memorials were erected; there were organised visits for families to visit the battlefields; there will be local newspaper clippings; photos and so much more.

Please, get in touch with me, through the newsletter email address, either to ask questions or contribute scans of ephemera, photos or narratives (long or short!).

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**MLFHS 1921 Project Talk**

"... as many of you know the Society has now put in motion an ambitious plan with our 1921 project. This heralds the release of the 1921 census early next year. We thought it might be beneficial to members and other family historians in order to provide some context to the 1921 census prior to its release in early 2022. We are looking at all aspects of the census and life in the 20's.

There was a lot happening in 1921, for example, the original census date (April 24) was postponed due to industrial unrest (Black Friday/Triple Alliance), the Defence Force was then established in order to deal with possible civil unrest, unemployment was high, there was a coal strike (lock out by the mine owners) and then coal rationing. The new census date of 19 June was selected in order to avoid a clash with the "big industrial holidays of the North", and therefore to try and avoid people not being in their usual place of residence. The first birth control clinic was set up by Marie Stopes in London, the Anglo-Irish Treaty was signed (Dec), and the country continued to mourn its war dead and built numerous war memorials. This is just the tip of the iceberg.

We have now planned a couple of talks around events that were happening in the 1920's and are kicking off with a talk called: **"Zeppelin - Ship of Dreams"**. The 1920's saw the beginning of inter-continental air travel and we have invited speaker David Skillen to present a talk about this amazing craft. How they were built, what it was like to fly on these huge craft and the disasters, including the R38 in 1921 that doomed these magnificent craft.

Please join us by booking via [EVENTBRITE](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk) for this talk on Wednesday 23 June at 19:00.

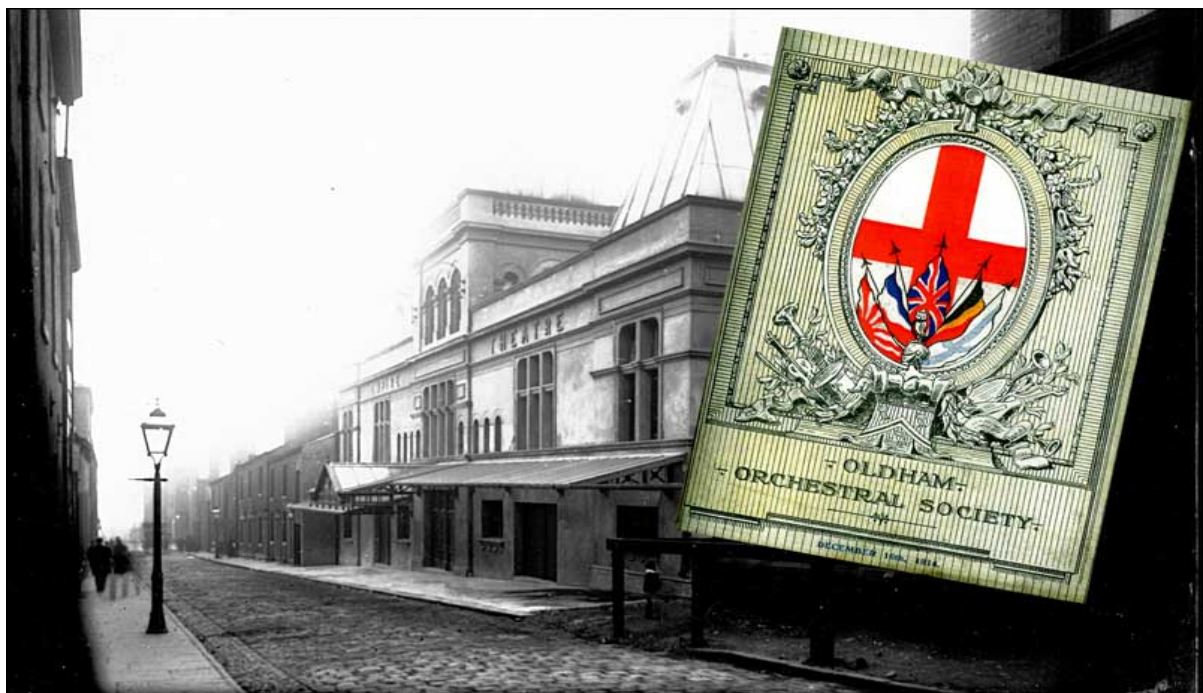
This should be a fascinating presentation and a great introduction to the 1920's."

Leslie Turner

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In 1920 The Empire Theatre re-opened following refurbishment.

The Empire opened on Waterloo St, Oldham in 1897 as a theatre presenting straight plays with such luminaries as Sir Henry Irving performing there. The theatre had 3 levels, stalls and 2 circles, it had the capacity to accommodate 1600 people. The main auditorium was lit with 96 lights, the whole building heated by hot water and lit by electricity.



In 1908 it became a variety theatre. The top names in music hall performed in the theatre including the likes of Charlie Chaplin, George Robey, Ellen Terry and Stan Laurel. With the advent of cinema The Empire converted to a silent cinema in 1911 the first building in Oldham to do so. In 1920 the theatre was refurbished and an organ installed to accompany the silent films,

the organist was a gentleman called William Lawton.

In 1929 The Empire became the first cinema in Oldham to show the new talkie films. The Empire continued as a cinema and variety venue, it also hosted pantomimes at Christmas. The Empire carried on as a cinema/ variety theatre until August 1969 when it closed its doors for good. The theatre lay empty for many years until it was demolished in 1981.

The Empire was just one of many theatres in and around Oldham during the glory days of music hall, variety and cinema, sadly very few of the buildings remain and of those still standing (with the exception of The Coliseum) are not used for their intended purpose.

On a personal level I remember going The Empire to watch a pantomime, we didn't go to watch the cinema as my parents considered it a "fleapit" so we went to the Odeon instead. I also remember performing on the stage of The Empire as part of the Oldham Schools choir competition which was held every year. My Grandma came to see me and was so proud of seeing her granddaughter perform on stage that she bought me a new dress for the occasion!

If any of our readers have any stories relating to The Empire Theatre we would love to hear from you.

Joan Harrison (Branch committee member) I couldn't do it

References:-

Arthur Lloyd .co.uk the Music Hall, and Theatre history site Cinematreasures .org

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**This is a sad story sent in by Jacqueline Evans** relating to a terrible incident when Southern Ireland was asserting its independence from British rule.



John Cooper

My husband's uncle (his mum's brother) born towards the end of 1904, on Retiro Street Oldham, joined the 1st Battalion of the Manchester Regiment, in the British Army, as a Boy soldier, in the band, and was posted to Northern Ireland at the time of unrest there. He had been on patrol and, on the way back to the barracks, he and two other Boy soldiers were captured by the IRA. My husband's uncle, John Cooper, was 16 years old, his fellow soldiers who were captured were Charles Arthur Chapman 17 years old and Matthew Carson 18 years old.

It is coming up to the 100 years anniversary of their deaths, they having died 5th June 1921

It appears that it wasn't immediately apparent that they were missing but, as soon as it was found out, the army searched for them.

The 18 year old's father was Irish and infiltrated the IRA, befriended Michael Collins, and found out that the three boys had been taken to a remote farmhouse in Southern Ireland. After three days, the IRA, believing they were spies for the British Army, shot the boys and dumped their bodies together, in one grave in the farmhouse yard.

Mr. Carson got the British Army involved and the bodies, which were identifiable only by their dog tags and boots, were exhumed and reburied in workhouse grounds. However, Mr. Carson would not leave the matter there and, eventually, in 1924 the three bodies were again exhumed and returned to Ladysmith Barracks, in Ashton-under-Lyne. The lads were buried in one grave, with full military honours, in nearby Hurst Cemetery.



The three soldiers are commemorated with a joint Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone, in the cemetery, stating their date of death as 5th June 1921. From the CWGC entry for them, we can read that Charles Arthur, age 17, was the son of William Edward Chapman, of Birch Lea, Lees, Oldham, and Matthew, age 18, was the son of Robert and Ellen Carson, of 45, Hope Rd., Sale, Cheshire and John, age 16, was the son of John and Ellen Cooper, of 22, Retiro St., Oldham.

You can read the full story [HERE](#)

You can also read '*Tracing the history of the 100-year-old Irish border*' on the BBC News website [HERE](#)



CWGC Headstone in the  
Hurst Cross Cemetery, in Ashton-u-Lyne

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Letter from Australia ... 1921

The letter below comes from my husband's great aunt, May, who was the daughter of a river-pilot in her hometown of Middlesborough (Yorkshire). In 1906 she had married a half-Japanese sailor and, for the next 8 years, remained at home with her parents and brothers, whilst her husband sailed the world in the Merchant Navy, never being back on English soil for more than a couple of weeks or so at a time. In 1914, her husband, Henry, found himself in Australia when war broke out in Europe. He immediately signed up (hiding his Japanese ancestry) in the 1st Battalion of the Australian Imperial Force and, in April 1915, by which time he was the Battalion 'Scout' and a sergeant, he landed on Gallipoli. Not many months later, in mid August, at the Battle of 'Lone Pine', and having already been wounded, mentioned in dispatches and been awarded the first Australian DCM, he was injured again and sent off back to hospital in England. For Wykeham Henry Koba Freame, his war had ended, and he was discharged in 1916, in Australia, as unfit for active duty. It would be 1919 before May was able to join her husband in Australia, to continue life on a soldier-settlement.



Circa 1900



1906



1915

Wykeham Henry Koba Freame and Edith May

"Mount Salisbury"
Kentucky
NSW
15th March 1921

My Dear Lizzie and Frank,

At last I have got started to write you a letter, I really ought to be sewing but that will wait. I am not going to apologise for not writing to you so can only say I did not manage to do so, but seeing I write to mother fairly regular (although this time has been about three weeks) & she passes my letters on to you at Failsforth & to Dormanstown, I know you keep getting news of my doings from time to time, & the little snaps will give you a little idea of how we are situated. Our camera is only a 2½" by 3½" not large enough for views any distance. We hope to be able to get a larger one sometime.

Well dears, I am pleased to say we are both keeping well in health, the only trouble to me is, I am putting on weight too much, & it is rather trying in the hot weather. Henry tells me I am 11 lbs. heavier than him. Kentucky has got a good name for the health of its people. Today has been glorious, & I have been to a Red Cross Meeting, but oh dear Lizzie there always seems to be some differences to settle. I gave up the office of Treasurer, & refuse now to take any office, but I attend the meetings. I was just saying to Henry that if Lizzie was here, she would straighten them up a bit. It is strange that where a number of people are in contact with one another they cannot seem all to pull together. We are having several little changes here in Kentucky lately. The young fellow who took over the Store & Post Office from Henry, has given it up to open a Store here on his own. He naturally desired to take the Post Office with him, but the Department were up against him for that, & they have taken further steps, and retained it at the Government Store. He was evicted from his position as Postmaster at a minutes notice last Friday night at 12pm, by an official from Sydney with no reason at all. On the Sat. morning all the settlers protested against this action & passed a motion to that effect sending it down to Sydney for further actions to be taken. I don't know whether it will do any good or not. The Settlement Manager received a very quick notice of transfer to another settlement further north. The new manager is here, but so far I have not met him, but suppose he will be giving us a call before long. I hope he will be alright for the Settlers. We had a farewell Social in the Hall last week and had a most enjoyable time. There was a record meeting of 160 people which proved the Hall much too small. Mr. Thomas was presented with a handsome travelling bag. He left for his new place yesterday.

3rd April 1921

You will see by the date it is a fortnight since I commenced this letter to you, however I am just going to continue with the hope of getting away by this mail. We were pleased to receive your letter dated 30-1-21 saying you had got the photos alright, yes, Henry does look slightly different with glasses on but I rather like them. I note what you say about me looking quite matronly, I certainly have put on condition since I arrived out here, but myself would prefer to be a little thinner, so long as I had good health. I still feel the heat at times, but have not had a bad turn dysentery for some months now, & hope I shall not have again. I only went to the Doctor once, half the medicine put me right. He was of the opinion I had eaten something which had not agreed with me, but I had had so many attacks with just about a fortnight's rest between, that I began to feel quite weak, so thought it was time I made my mind up to have advice. I still think it was more or less due to the change of climate, & hope now I am climatised. We were both sorry to read that you had been having so much sickness at "*Failsforth View*," but hope by the time you receive this all will be in their normal state of health again. Poor Grandma will no doubt feel much weaker after her turn, on account of her age, but I hope with the fine weather she may recuperate again. Give her our love & tell her we both often have a little chat over old times we have spent at Failsforth & it is good to remember them. Tell Priscilla we were talking of the time we all had at Belle Vue & the photos she thought she had taken ah; ah; We hope Priscilla too is

much improved in health with the fine weather you should be having now, & convey our love & best wishes to her, Mr. C & Asa. I suppose we shall be hearing of Asa doing the deed one of these days & joining the "married ranks". Well; he might do far worse providing he is getting a right kind of partner. Poor[?] old Eva, so her old flame has livened up once more, & she seriously contemplates going out to him. If she is still at home, give her our love & best wishes for her future happiness, for she certainly deserves to be happy after so long waiting but there again, love is, or ought to be patient, & everything is supposed to come to those who wait. But then old Micawber in Dicken's works, was always waiting for something to turn up. However, if Eva does really go to Canada, I hope she will be happy. I notice in one of your letters you mention the fact of having "Nellie Harrison" calling to see you and how she boasted about her position in life, then a little while after having a letter from her sister with quite a tale of woe. I do not care to learn of anyone's downfall, but really one cannot wonder at anything that happens to such people as them. I only hope neither of them get my address, as I do not wish to hear from them at all. We are pleased to hear cousin Ciss was so far improved as to be able to go out with Henry when he visits her, but we feel real sorry for both of them , & only hope that before long Ciss may be well enough to return home for good. I don't think it will trouble her very much that one of her brothers takes any interest in her life, but perhaps something may yet come to them to punish them for their unkindness & the lives they live. I would not like to change my little lot for any of theirs. As regards Uncle Will, in some ways I do not blame him for having a little happiness now that he is able to although in another way it hardly seems the thing with his wife being bedridden. Then again he has never been able to please himself about things before, & I am rather glad to hear that Mary, Tom & Hilda have gone to live with them, & that he has had the house improved, so as to be able to give Hilda the pleasure she likes, such as Music, Dancing, etc, for I think it better she should be able to have these things at home rather than seek them elsewhere, & her parents have her friends under their supervision. Don't you think it better for uncle to spend the money in this way to give them the happiness while he is living, rather than waiting until he is dead & gone. I can imagine him enjoying the musical evenings as well as anyone. Of course I know there are a hundred & one other ways he might spend his money & time, but I myself think he is not doing too bad when he is making his own child & he is happy & there are lots of good times to be got out of Music & Good Dancing. I think by all accounts they are only Private Theatricals that Hilda takes part in. She sent us two photos of herself in the costume of "Dick Whittington". It is our turn to write them although we have only written about three times since I came out. I had two letters from mother yesterday, & I think she writes wonderfully well & I always look out for her letters. Hope she still retains her fair sight in her other eye, for even poor sight is very precious. There is one thing that keeps mother bright & cheerful & that is when she is able to attend all Services at Chapel. To tell you the truth Lizzie, that is one of the things I miss most out here, for I always used to look forward to going to chapel & church on Sunday, & I enjoyed a full day too. Here we only have service once a month & that is held in the little Iron Hall, which is scorching hot in summer & stone cold in winter. Since Mr. xx[?] has left we have not had even those regular, but there is another minister who has been given the Call & who we have heard & we hope he may accept & then perhaps we may be able to get into a regular way again. They will be a long time before they get another minister who will deliver sermons like Mr. xx[?]. He was a real live man & kept you interested from beginning to finish of his Service. There are more R. Catholics round this district than anything else & nearly all Irish too. It being Easter week, last Monday Henry & I drove into Uralla to the Sports there. They consisted of 75 & 100 yds foot Races, Pony [?] High Jumping, Musical Chairs with horses, & Bending[?] Races etc. It was a fairly bright day, and there was quite a good crowd of people. There had been a special train down from Armidale bringing 700 people. We had tea in town & finished up with the Pictures at night, & arrived home at 12-30 am after a happy time. We have got the Diggers here harvesting our Potato crop, but sorry to say so far we have not benefited any by the marketing of them. Henry got the returns from a ton sold, yesterday, & he benefits to the amount of 4/- so you see farming is like everything else it

varies. Last year was a good year, & of course we were able to buy lots of things that were required and pay the Dept. their dues, after which we were able to keep ourselves from the last of the crop until now, without drawing any further sustenance (which makes all the less for us to have to pay back to the Dept. Of course we hope prices & sales may improve as time goes on, & then we have the turnips nearly ready for harvesting, & hope we may do well with those. I am pleased we are not like a lot of the Settlers in so much debt, as we have paid for all things as we got them, & Henry has more implements etc. than anyone else. So you see if we are losing a bit, we have got value in another way. We are not in anyway downhearted, only Henry is worrying in case he may not be able to keep his promise to mother in regard to my paying a visit home soon. I tell him not to worry, we cannot order things just as we would like. If I cannot get home, mother is big-hearted enough to know it is no fault of one's, but I consider there is still hope & will not worry about it. I have only been here two years & the promise was in five years. We have two boys camping here, they have only been out since last Sept. They came to another brother who has a Block here, after being here a little while they began to find they were not wanted by their sister-in-law. They were doing odd work for Henry & rather than see them take to tramping the country Rabbit Trapping etc, Henry offered they should camp here & dig his Potatoes etc. They did so & have been here since Jan. & are as happy as bees. They are intending joining another brother who is going in for Dairy Farming on the North Coast. He is up there looking at some farms now, so if all goes well I suppose we shall not have them here long. One of them was farming round Penkrige for nine years & is an all round man. They are nice boys & we shall miss them when they go. Well Lizzie, I think I have exhausted my little budget this time & no doubt you will think it a patchy letter but what can a lady do when they live in the country? Oh we had a pleasant surprise this morning, when I went out on the back verandah I heard a brass band playing beautifully & the music came floating through the trees. I almost imagined I was at Redcar or in the Mi'bro' Park. It did sound good. it was a band come up from Watcha Rd (20 miles) to play a few selections. It is the first time & I hope it won't be the last. We are pleased to hear Flossie & Lily like their occupations, & hope they will make good at them. I wonder what Jim will have a liking for? He is quite a boy & we had a laugh about the Social he was allowed to go to with Flossie & Lily. He would be quite proud of himself when he was asked to go again. Yes indeed, History does repeat itself. I am sure Lizzie the young folks are your bright stars in life as they always have something fresh for you. You are indeed lucky in having them. Give them all a big hug & kiss from us both. We would love to see you all. So glad Frank xx[?] keeping fairly good health & I am sure his time is fully occupied, but I think he loves the work although at times his body must feel weary with the toil of the week. Tell him I will forgive him for not writing too often so long as he keeps mother well posted, as I know how much she depends on & enjoys his letters especially when relating to his Religious work. Give him our united love & accept the same yourself, hoping to have another letter from you before long. Kind regards to all enquiring friends. Oh I do wish I could afford a private secretary. Good night & God Bless for one & all,

From Your Loving
Brother & Sister,
Henry & May
Heaps of love & kisses for all.

You can read more of Wykeham Henry Koba Freame's life [HERE](#) , on my own family history pages, including his murder in Tokyo, as a suspected allied spy, in 1941, at the hands of the Japanese, and the death of his son, also at the hands of the Japanese, on V.E. Day in 1945. He was the subject of a number of publications including a book, '*The Gallipoli Samurai*', by Brian Tait pub. 2011, in Australia.

Sheila Goodyear (newsletter editor)

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*'Daisy Nook'*



This quaint little spot lies on the banks of the River Medlock about the centre of the triangular stretch of country between Droylsden, Failsworth and Oldham. It was little known until the Lancashire Dialect writer Benjamin Brierley wrote about it in his word sketches called "A Day Out" or "A Summer Ramble". Brierley asked his friend Charles Potter, an Oldham Artist, to draw an imaginary place called Daisy Nook. Potter went to nearby Waterhouses to do his drawing and from then on the area was known as Daisy Nook.

During the Victorian period, Daisy Nook began to be a destination for afternoons out. Families would picnic by the river, walk by the canal, take a boat ride at Crime Lake and visit one of the refreshment facilities.

Brierley's description of Daisy Nook was 'Two Banks seemed to have opened to receive a group of neat whitewashed cottages and after filling them with happiness, surrounded them with a curtain of trees, to shelter them from the outside world. Most of the cottages have gardens attached, growing flowers and vegetables, and there a small orchard displaying its ripening apples'.

Most of Daisy Nook now belongs to the [National Trust](#) after it was left to them by the late James Lublam, J.P. *'in order that the fields and woods be kept as a pleasure area'*. The park is maintained by Oldham Council.

Daisy Nook hosts an annual Easter Fair along Stannybrook Road - depicted by Lowry in one of his paintings.

From, Linda Richardson (Branch Chairman)

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A short selection of entries from the MLFHS FACEBOOK PAGE [HERE](#) ...

since the last newsletter :

* Clayton Hall
[HERE](#)

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\* Archives Hub  
[HERE](#)

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* The Guardian, 1938 :

"I seek a kind person who will educate my intelligent Boy, aged 11, Viennese of good family," the advert said, under the name Borger, giving the address of an apartment on Hintzerstrasse, in Vienna's third

district.

[HERE](#)

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\* A centenary of the British Legion

[HERE](#)

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* Manchester Libraries blog:
Reopening of Manchester's Cultural venues

[HERE](#)

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\* Before epidemiologists began modelling disease, it was the job of astrologers

[HERE](#)

~~~~~  
* Who were the peasants in the Middle Ages?

[HERE](#)

~~~~~  
\* Canal and River Trust ... Canal History

[HERE](#)

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* The Workhouse

[HERE](#)

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\* 1821 ... the first ever edition of the Guardian newspaper published...  
read it [HERE](#)

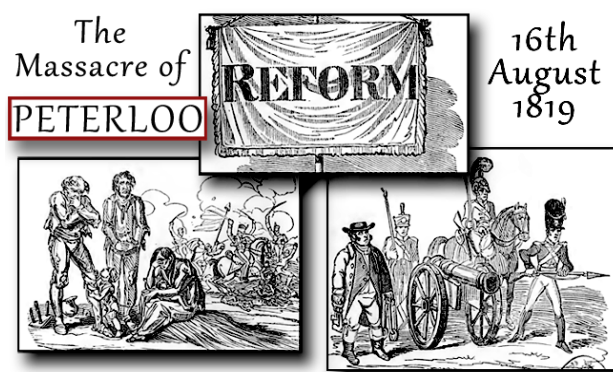
~~~~~  
* Heritage Open Days Blog ... Untapped Tales - whisky galore!

[HERE](#)

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\* For much more, visit the MLFHS Facebook Page :[HERE](#)  
And [HERE](#) is the link to the MLFHS Twitter page.

## PETERLOO : the Bi-Centenary

Visit the website for **The Peterloo Project** with particular reference to Oldham, people, accounts, life at the time and more ...



at [Peterloo-Manchester](#)

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Although the long-anticipated Bi-Centenary has come and gone, there are some Peterloo websites still active with history, news, photos and reports.

You can make searches on websites such as :

Manchester Histories - Peterloo 1819 ... Manchester Histories have created a website which publicises all that is happening, or has happened, around the region.

Visit their website [HERE](#)

Peterloo Memorial Campaign Group ... to find out more about the memorial etc. organised by the Memorial Campaign Group, visit their website. [HERE](#)

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## Need Help!

### **Coronavirus Pandemic**

**Oldham Local Studies and Archives is closed.**

**However the restrictions are subject to change at short notice.**

**Check the website [HERE](#) for up to date details and information.**

**Local Studies and Archives at 84 Union Street, Oldham, [OL1 1DN](#),**

**In normal times** there are regular Family History Advice Sessions every Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 2-4pm.

There's no need to book. Just turn up with all the information you have and the resident family history experts will be on hand to help.

Archives are unique, original documents created in the course of everyday activities. Oldham's date from 1597 and cover an enormous range of subjects and activities :

- Hospital records
- Poor Law Union records
- Coroners Court records
- Local Authority records including Chadderton, Crompton, Failsworth, Lees, Oldham, Royton and Saddleworth
- Schools and education records
- Records for statutory bodies like the police force
- Church and religious records
- Business records
- Solicitors and estate agents records
- Trade unions and associations records
- Co-operative Society records
- Sports, entertainment and leisure records
- Personal, family and property records
- Society and Association records
- Records of Oldham communities

There is no charge to look at archival records although you would need to bring proof of your name and address (e.g. your driving licence) to do so.

Most archives can be produced immediately, with no advance booking required. However, some archives are stored off-site, in which case at least 2 days' notice is required in order to see them.

**Other archives may be closed due to their fragile condition, or because they contain confidential information.**

There are regularly changing displays in the Local Studies Library.

[Opening hours](#) and contact details.

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Other Society Websites

Catholic Family History Society – www.catholicfhs.co.uk
Cheshire Local History Association – www.cheshirehistory.org.uk
Chadderton Historical Society (archived website) – www.chadderton-historical-society.org.uk
Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society - <https://www.lfhhs.org.uk/home.php>
Lancashire Local History Federation – www.lancashirehistory.org
Liverpool and South West Lancashire FHS – www.lswlfhs.org.uk
Manchester Region Industrial Archaeology Society – www.mrias.co.uk
Oldham Historical Research Group – www.pixnet.co.uk/Oldham-hrg
Peterloo - Peterloo-Manchester
Ranulf Higden Society (Latin transcription) - [Ranulf Higden Soc.](http://Ranulf-Higden-Soc)
Royton Local History Society – www.rlhs.co.uk
Saddleworth Historical Society – www.saddleworth-historical-society.org.uk
Tameside Local History Forum - www.tamesidehistoryforum.org.uk
Tameside Local & Family History - <http://tamesidefamilyhistory.co.uk/contents.htm>
The Victorian Society - [Manchester Regional Website](http://Manchester-Regional-Website)

Some Useful Sites

GENUKI - Lancashire
Free BMD - Search
[National Library of Scotland](http://National-Library-of-Scotland) - Free to view, historic, zoomable maps of UK :
1891 - Oldham and locality HERE
Online Parish Clerk Project : Lancashire - HERE
British Association for Local History - HERE
and for their back issue journal downloads - HERE
Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, website, HERE
and for their back issue journal downloads, website, HERE
Internet Archive ... The Internet Archive offers over **24,000,000** freely downloadable books and texts.
HERE There is also a collection of 1.3 million modern eBooks that may be borrowed by anyone with a free archive.org account.
Made in Greater Manchester (MIGM) HERE and Research guide HERE
Historical Maps of parish boundaries HERE

Some Local Archives

Barnsley Museum & Discovery Centre – www.experience-barnsley.com
Birkenhead – [Local & Family History](http://Local-&-Family-History)
Bury – www.bury.gov.uk/archives
Chester - [Cheshire Archives & Local Studies](http://Cheshire-Archives-&-Local-Studies) (linked from Discovery at the National Archives)
Derbyshire - [Local & Family History](http://Local-&-Family-History)
Leeds - [Leeds Local and Family History](http://Leeds-Local-and-Family-History)
Liverpool Archives and Family History – <https://liverpool.gov.uk/archives>

Manchester - [Archives & Local History](#)

Oldham - [Local Studies & Archives](#)

Oldham - [Oldham Council Heritage Collections](#)

Preston - www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives

Stockport - www.stockport.gov.uk/heritage-library-archives

Tameside Local Studies and Archives - <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/archives>

York - www.york.ac.uk/borthwick



For the Gallery

For more about the Manor ... see the 'Mixed Bag'

THE LUTTRELL PSALTER circa 1330

© Copyright British Library

Held by British Library, Shelfmark: Add MS 42130



064618 (detail)

Source: Add. 42130, f.170

Caption: [Whole folio] Psalm 93. Lower margin; the **plough is drawn by a team of four yoked oxen**, a man guiding it from behind. A second man walks behind the oxen on the far side with a long green whip, looking round at his companion. Border decoration with grotesque.

Title of Work: Luttrell Psalter

Shelfmark: Add. 42130

Description of the Psalter:

This celebrated manuscript was commissioned by a wealthy landowner, Sir Geoffrey Luttrell, in the first half of the 14th century. It is one of the most striking to survive from the Middle Ages. Painted in rich colours embellished with gold and silver, with vitality and sometimes bizarre

inventiveness of decoration, this manuscript is unlike virtually any other.

What is special about the Luttrell Psalter?

The Luttrell Psalter is one of the most famous medieval manuscripts because of its rich illustrations of everyday life in the 14th century. It was not the first to include scenes of contemporary rustic life, but it is exceptional in their number and fascinating detail. Its lively and often humorous images provide a virtual 'documentary' of work and play during a year on an estate such as Sir Geoffrey's.

As we turn the pages of the book, we see corn being cut, a woman feeding chickens, food being cooked and eaten. There are wrestlers, hawkers, bear baiters, dancers, musicians, throwing games, a mock bishop with a dog that jumps through a hoop – and a wife beating her husband with her distaff (a tool used in spinning).



071862

Source: Add. 42130, f.60

Caption: Psalm 31. Border decoration with grotesques, a man dancing a reel, holding a legless bird, and an angry wife thrashing her husband, who kneels in supplication, with a large distaff. At the foot; a seated pope with papal tiara and crozier.

Title of Work: Luttrell Psalter

Shelfmark: Add. 42130



057903

Source: Add. 42130, f.173

Caption: [Whole folio] Text; end of Psalm 95; Psalm 96, beginning with decorated initial 'D'.

Marginal decoration including a grotesque with a fish's head. In lower margin, three men stack sheaves, while two others bring more sheaves

Title of Work: Luttrell Psalter

Shelfmark: Add. 42130



detail : 060051

Source: Add. 42130, f.206v;
Title of Work: Luttrell Psalter;

Caption: **Roasting meats on a spit**
Shelfmark: Add. 42130



detail : 060500

Source: Add. 42130, f.158;
Title of Work: Luttrell Psalter;

Caption: **Windmill with miller**
Shelfmark: Add. 42130



detail : 059498

Source: Add. 42130, f.171;
Title of Work: Luttrell Psalter;

Caption: **Harrowing**
Shelfmark: Add. 42130