

# 'e-Owls'



## Contact us :

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

**July 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



from: The Everyday Table Book, 1826

### 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 :**

As I write this on the 21<sup>st</sup> June (the longest day) my grandson is 18 years old today. Where has the time gone. It doesn't seem two minutes ago that he was born. How time flies.

As we move into July and the holiday season begins I wonder what restrictions the boffins will inflict on us next.

Our Zoom meetings are still going very well and we seem to have attracted quite a stable following who join us each month from all over the Country and abroad. Our last meeting in June was a first, in that the speaker couldn't actually join us on the day, but kindly pre-recorded his talk for us. I was a bit dubious at first but all went well and brought back many memories of markets, supermarkets and the demise of some department stores and other stores in recent times.

It was also mentioned that Oldham Council, who have bought the Spindles Shopping Centre in Oldham, are going to move the Market Hall stalls and what remains of the old Tommyfield Market into the Spindles building. I can't see that working myself, but who knows.

Our talk next month is about the history of the canals in and around Oldham and Manchester. I do hope you will join us. See below for further information on booking your tickets.

Enjoy the rest of the Newsletter,

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,

This month seems to have been very busy! I suddenly realised, a couple of days ago, that I've been editing the newsletter for 2 years and 2 months, since May 2019! I looked back, through my records, to find out what I had been writing about, mostly, at that time, in that pre-covid year. Of course, it was the Bi-centenary of Peterloo and all the events and activities leading up to the anniversary on August 16th. In my first newsletter, was an account of the MLFHS visit to the Peterloo Exhibition, at the People's History Museum, in Manchester, which was arranged by Sue Forshaw. There was a Peterloo Walk, organised by Manchester MLFHS; and a visit being arranged for a tour of the 'Protest and Peterloo' Exhibition (with lunch!) at Touchstones Museum, in Rochdale. How long ago it all seems ... another time and another world.

For most of the last year, I've only registered for online talks from the MLFHS zoom meetings and, of course the monthly Oldham HRG meeting but, more recently, I've actually registered for several others, which I've really enjoyed (some of which were flagged up in the MLFHS Members' Online Forum ... thank you, Susan). Last week, particularly, there was a series of zoom talks organised as part of the Festival of Manchester's Libraries ([website](#)) and I registered for several of them. One was a joint presentation from the Working Class Movement Library (Salford) and the Portico Library on Mosley Street. I'm familiar with both libraries, but it was wonderful to be 'inside them' again during the presentation. For research into Manchester's political and industrial history the WCML is the go-to place, website [HERE](#). For more general research, the Portico Library is so wonderful, or just visit and enjoy their exhibitions and a light lunch surrounded by their wonderful collection from the 19th century, website [HERE](#). Other

talks, from Greater Manchester libraries included one with the poet Michael Rosen, probably best known for his children's works. I can well remember, several decades ago, when he visited the school at which I was teaching, to talk to the children in each class about poetry. They were enthralled (so was I!) and his talk last week didn't disappoint. A talk from Tameside was about the Pendle Witches and, again, another great talk. Other memorable ones for which I registered were one from Chetham's Library, and the Tameside talk on Ashton's Radical Poets. Each and everyone of these zoom presentations was a reminder of how essential our libraries are to us, for both our research and our own well-being.

Far be it for me to complain BUT, I know I love finding the content for the newsletter and the website pages but, it shouldn't all be about what I want to write about! I would love our readers to send content for both the website and the newsletter, be it long or short, reminiscences or the 'big' story; be it family or local history ... please help to make it 'our' newsletter, and not just 'my' newsletter!

Still on the same thread, I've started a new page for the website, calling it 'Snippets and Memorabilia' and on this page I want to include the trivia from our history ... anecdotes and reminiscences; pictures of memorabilia that have a personal importance and so forth. And, of course, I still want anything you can contribute from around 1921.

For more help in navigating the Branch website pages, there is now a '[Where to find it](#)' contents list. There is a link to it from the Branch landing page [HERE](#) , and others throughout the pages. 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, whilst allowing MLFHS to re-use the material in an appropriate manner.

Editor reserves the right to edit any contributions before publication.

email me at : < [Oldham\\_newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto: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,  
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, illustrated, online talk, on zoom, given by Michael Winstanley.

This talk was a first for the Oldham & District Branch in that, although it was a zoom presentation,

we had actually recorded it in advance as our speaker would be away from home (without good wifi!) on that Saturday. 'Touching wood', the recording went well and Linda and I provided a mini audience for Michael! On the Saturday, at the meeting, it seemed a little strange, at first, to be listening to a recording but that feeling soon passed as Michael introduced Mediaeval markets and then went through the changes, in our ways of shopping, into the 21st century. After that, it became another nostalgic trip down 'memory lane' for us all, with, lots and lots of pictures and, "Do you remember ... ?" Of course, we did! Because Michael would usually enjoy interaction with his audience during his talk, I asked everyone to write all their memories and comments in the chat box, which I had offered to save and then send to Michael. There was a lot to send!! All fully engaged and appreciative. They included comments such as ...

- My Grandad was a Director at UCP
- Bury market is still a lovely busy place to visit
- That was brilliant, thank you for organising. I worked for WH Smith in Kent when they were very profitable. My husband's first job from school was in Harrods. One of my Family History student's Great Grandfather employed a young lad in his Grocer's shop - William Morrison!
- My mum worked at Buckley and Proctors.
- A very interesting and informative talk. It brought back some wonderful memories of the Maypole and Liptons. I could smell those shops when he showed the photographs. Thank you Michael for the presentation and to the Oldham and District Branch for hosting it.
- Think the Hewitson in the Ravenstonedale Poor Law indenture might be a ancestor.
- Excellent presentation. I'm a 4 generation retailer, with ancestors being private shopkeepers, to Co Operative & C.W.S workers & chain stores. Very interesting history on how retail has developed from 16th C to present day. Really enjoyed. Many thanks
- my grandfather started work when he left school as baker for the CO-OP.
- Loved the talk, really interesting. I worked on Oldham market in 1966 when England played Germany in the World Cup and because of the war and because many of the stallholders were Jewish they really wanted England to win The atmosphere was electric and when England equalised and then went on to win the cheers were deafening Also opposite our stall (one of the brick ones at the back) there was a man and his son who sold China teaset Most people would crowd round when he started shouting out the great deals he had and people who had very little money would buy a full set until he sold out. I was mesmerised at his art of persuasion thanks again.
- Tripe & elder was tea on a Friday night & always got from Tommyfield as a kid growing up.
- Chitterlings made using pork intestines
- There is still a tripe shop in Stalybridge.:
- I am sure I remember hearing that the Co-op began on London Rd in Oldham. I remember because my auntie lived there.
- I enjoyed this very much. Thank you. I worked in Woolworths on Market St Manchester in the 60s and I remember it being on fire in the 70s.
- If you visit the north east of England you can visit Beamish Open Air Museum near Chester le Street which has a Co-op shop reconstruction. Everyone recalls their number!!!
- To Everyone: A lovely trip down memory lane ! Thanks .

Linda realised that he hadn't mentioned the UCP (United Cattle Products) and, when asked why it hadn't been included, he admitted that he'd never heard about it! This prompted my own response, as someone who'd grown up with all the different varieties of tripe on the table, from Ashton Market, and the confession that, if I was give 6d, I would buy a pig's trotter, from the



tripe shop at the bottom of Henrietta Street (round the corner from my home) in preference to sweets! Not everyone, in the audience, found that confession too appealing! My husband's aunt would walk up to the tripe dresser's at Hollinwood, with a bucket (saved for this purpose!) and get it filled for half a crown (2/6). When she got back home she'd then share it out with the extended family.

From this report, you'll gather that we all thoroughly enjoyed the talk.

Many thanks, Michael.

as a ps ... this recording was for that meeting only, and will not be available for viewing on the MLFHS website or any other media platform.

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.

Note: Please make sure you enter your email address correctly in both the required boxes on Eventbrite. 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!**

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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](#) 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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**AUGUST MEETING**



Saturday,  
14th Aug.  
at  
2 pm



***Passchendaele ... 1917  
and some of the local men who lost their lives.***

The Battle of 3rd Ypres, Passchendaele, continued from 31st July to mid November. In that time there were 8 distinct Battles in which many hundreds of local men lost their lives. In this talk we remember, particularly, those in the Oldham Battalions.

A free, online talk given by Sheila Goodyear.

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

Free booking on [Eventbrite](#) 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, ANGLO-SCOTTISH BRANCH ONLINE MEETING</b>	Saturday, 17th July at 2:00 pm	<i>'Gems of Manchester Walking Tour' given by Jonathan Schofield</i>
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**Anglo-Scottish Website Pages** [HERE](#) for more information and booking details (Members only)

<b>MLFHS Bolton Branch online Meetings</b>	Wednesday, 7th July, at 7:30 pm	<i>'Jerome Caminada, a 19th-century Police Officer in Manchester' A talk given by Joseph O'Neill</i>
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**Bolton Website Pages** [HERE](#) for more information and booking details.  
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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, on-line talks



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.

\* Mother's maiden name has been added to existing birth index entries at [www.lancashirebmd.org.uk](http://www.lancashirebmd.org.uk) as follows:

10,473 for Castleton Nearer, registers at Rochdale.

Thanks to Tony Foster and his team

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\* another 1,537 burial records for Christ Church, Bradford, these covering years 1871-1879. Thanks to Mark Harrey for this addition.

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\* listings added to the Memorial Inscription database description pages :  
St. Helens, Hollinfare

Salford, New Jerusalem (Owen)  
St. Mary Lancaster  
Leigh Parish Church  
Leigh, St. Mary  
Lowton, St. Luke  
Middleton, St. Leonard  
Middleton, St. Gabriel  
Middleton, St. Leonard (Owen)  
Middleton, Mills Hill Baptist  
Mossley Parish Church  
Wargrave, Emmanuel  
Newton-le-Willows, United Reform  
Newton-le-Willows, St. Peter  
Oldham, Northmoor, All Saints  
Oldham, Chapelry  
Oldham, Werneth, St. John  
Oldham, Royton, Quakers  
Oldham, St. James

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**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.**

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



Wednesday  
21st  
July  
at  
7 pm



**'The Life and Times of Dame Sarah Anne Lees'**

co-project to the book, *'Born of the Loom :  
the Biography of Two Suffragists from a Northern Mill Town'*

a free, illustrated talk given by Lewis Taylor, 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](#)

&

**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'**

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

Concluding the series of extracts, *'Five Days and Five Nights as a Tramp Among Tramps'* from *'Glimpses into the Abyss'* pub.1906, by Mary Ann Higgs.

This Oldham lady wrote three books that were all related to her lifelong work and aim to ensure decent and safe accommodation, especially for women in poverty, and exposing the evil circumstances in which so many were forced to live.

The earlier extracts can be read in the previous newsletters, March to June, and available for reading or download, from the MLFHS website [HERE](#)

***Part V . A Night in a Woman's Shelter***

pages 131-135

We knew that three good miles lay between us and our friends, but we were also a day beforehand, as we had expected to be detained two nights. What to do for this last night considerably exercised us! Should we give in, and go to our friends a day earlier? This would be to lose an opportunity for research which might be long in recurring. Should we go to another workhouse? This would be to risk detention over Sunday. Should we try a night in the open? I knew the neighbourhood fairly well, and it might be possible to find shelter; but the weather was gloomy and damp, and it would hardly do to risk making an appearance in a police court when I had been announced to speak publicly on Sunday evening. So we determined to walk on, and, if we could not find any other alternative, to pawn our spare shawl for a night's lodging. Only we neither of us cared to face a common lodging-house; it would be hardly fair to our friends to arrive at civilisation straight from such surroundings. At any rate, we had the rest of the day for experiment, some workhouse bread, some plasmon sugar, and one penny! We went to a park, and spent part of the afternoon sheltering from rain, and then pushed on for the town. I passed the houses of friends who would have stared indeed to see me, but probably no one would have recognised us. It got near tea-time, and we tried again and again to spend our last penny on butter. No one would sell us a pennyworth, so finally we went to the third-class waiting-room of the station and ate our bread with plasmon sugar. Here our problem was solved! We saw by a notice that there was a "Woman's Shelter" : beds 3d., 4d. and 5d. Just the thing I Here was a new and final experiment: we should not have to give in I So we went out to search for the shelter and a pawnbroker's, and easily found both; we changed our best shawl for the poor one that covered our bundle, but would do as a substitute, and pawned the shawl which had cost

8s. 11d. - for 2s. 6d. We were then "passing rich" ! We enquired at the shelter, which had only just been re-opened after the smallpox epidemic, and after engaging two fourpenny beds we went to a coffee-house nearby, and indulged in the luxury of two half-pints of tea; my friend had some sausage and I a tea-cake buttered. After this welcome meal we returned to the shelter. It was a great relief to find ourselves once more in a decent place, and with women only. I cannot too highly commend this shelter as being *just the thing needed for the class it provides for*. It was not a charity, though doubtless not wholly self-supporting. We paid for what we received, and were free to come and go unquestioned. Particulars were entered similar to those in the workhouse (in addition, we were asked the address to which we were going). Women could enter up to eleven at night. The place was a converted mill. The basement consisted of a large, comfortable kitchen, with a large stove, benches and tables and shelves. There was also a well-appointed lavatory, deep basins, plenty of hot and cold water, a wringing machine for clothes, and baths could be had *free*. We easily begged a bucket to wash our tired feet. *There was everything necessary for persona! cleanliness*, and in the presence of women only (especially as only one or two were in the lavatory), changes of clothing could be made. The women were friendly and cheerful, and appeared to appreciate their privileges. There was no restraint, but a pleasant, elderly woman in charge sat in the kitchen and prevented foul talk and brawls. Upstairs was a large, pleasant hall, with a piano. Some women of a better class apparently preferred this, and sat working. This also was easily supervised, without its being noticeable, by the presence of someone in the adjoining office. We could go to bed at nine, ten, or eleven, but not between, so that the bedrooms were only disturbed at these hours. Three stories above contained bedrooms - large, airy rooms, with beds at graded prices. The w.c.'s were in a yard out of an upper story, and were clean and well flushed.

Altogether I was most thankful for this opportunity of seeing just the sort of provision for migrating women which should exist in every town. Even if some of the inmates were immoral, they were in no temptation at least while there. One woman told another she knew she had given way to drink, but was glad to get back to "the old place," and there appeared to be some who lived there who tried as much as they could to exercise a good influence. There was a "Sankey" on the piano, and I played a few tunes as well as I could without spectacles; this was warmly appreciated, and several joined in singing, my stumbling playing suiting my condition of "having seen better days!" Some young ladies passed through and said, "Who is she?" but made no further remark.

We went to bed at nine. My bed was clean, but my companion's was dirty, and a very dirty woman slept next, who had had drink, and got out frequently in the night, and sat on my friend's bed. She saw some vermin, but I saw none, and slept very fairly well. People came in at ten, and at eleven a woman and some children came in, and settled down rather noisily. Room-mates got out of bed at intervals, and early trams ran outside, and some got up early, but on the whole we had a good night compared with other experiences. The cleanliness of the floor left something to be desired, and we were told to make our beds before we went downstairs; so they would be left for the next comer, clean or unclean. We heard several expressions of thankfulness for the place, only one woman said, "They only did what they were paid for, and she didn't see that it was much charity." We found our way downstairs for a wash, and after sitting a little while in the kitchen we went to the neighbouring coffee tavern for breakfast. After this we had still 1s. 1½d. left out of our 2s. 6d., and some spare provision, including some workhouse bread. The remainder we decided to spend on making ourselves respectable. It may be thought that this would be difficult, but by a little contrivance we managed to make ourselves sufficiently presentable to elude scrutiny, and to pass for shabby tourists on a "walking expedition." Our luggage had been sent on, and supplies of money awaited us. Therefore the only problem was that of changing from "tramps" to "tourists." Bad weather would account for boots and untidiness. We found a cheap shop, and bought a hat and trimmings, tie, and belt for a shilling. My friend put on a more respectable underskirt of mine over her linsey petticoat. Her

hat and shawl would pass muster. My new hat, tie, and belt “converted” me into a lady! We went to a park to trim the hat with pins, which we bought for a half-penny. There we remained till afternoon, dining on our remaining bread, except what we gave to the swans. Immediately overlooking this park friends lived who little guessed that one who was to visit them shortly was dining under their windows as a “destitute woman!” Our destitution was, however, at an end, and with hearts full of thankfulness at the successful issue of our research expedition we found our way at the appointed time to the house where we were expected by a friend, who thought she quite understood our desire for a speedy change of apparel after our “walking tour!”

These latter experiences of eluding questions caused us some amusement. But supposing we had had no friends, no cheerful welcome, no waiting supplies. What could we have done? Before us would have stretched, in grey monotony, the life of poverty, a possible search for uncertain work, a gradual pawning of every available article for food, more workhouses, more common lodging-houses. The last article gone, cleanliness lost, clothing dilapidated or dirty - what then?

To wander helpless and homeless, driven to tramp, or to descend still farther into vice. From such a life “*facilis desensus Averni.*”

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### **WITCHES in LANCASHIRE**

I think that all those of us who hail from Lancashire or live here, now, have heard tales of the Pendle Witches and their terrible fate, at Lancaster Jail, in the reign of James I. However, less well-known are the tales of other witches in Lancashire. I'd been to the library talk on the Pendle Witches and decided to make a search for mention of other witches.

The following account is from the Appendix to '*Lancashire Legends ...* ' by John Harland and T.T. Wilkinson pub. 1873.

### **THE LANCASHIRE WITCHES.**

#### **INTRODUCTION.**

From internal evidence, it may be inferred that the author of the following rare tract probably lived in the early days of James I; for although the Pendle Forest Witches form the burden of the story, they are nowhere alluded to as having suffered capital punishment at Lancaster, which many of them did in 1612. Another batch very narrowly escaped the same fate in 1633. See Whitaker's Whalley ; Potts's Discoverie, by Crossley; or Croston's Samlesbury Hall.

### **THE FAMOUS HISTORY OF THE LANCASHIRE WITCHES**

Containing the manner of their becoming such; their enchantments, spells, revels, merry pranks, raising of storms and tempests, riding on winds, &c. The entertainments and frolics which have happened among them; with the loves and humours of Roger and Dorothy. Also, a Treatise of witches in general, conducive to mirth and recreation. The like never before published.

#### **Chapter I**

*The Lancashire Witch's Tentation, and of the Devil's appearing to her in sundry shapes and giving her money.*

Lancashire is a famous and noted place, abounding with rivers, hills, woods, pastures, and pleasant towns, many of which are of great antiquity. It has also been famous for witches, and the strange pranks they played. Therefore, since the name of Lancashire witches has been so frequent in the mouths of old and young, and many imperfect stories have been rumoured abroad, it would doubtless tend to the satisfaction of the reader to give some account of them in their merry sports and pastimes.

Some time since lived one Mother Cuthbert, in a little hovel at the bottom of a hill, called Wood

and Mountain Hill [Pendle], in Lancashire. This woman had two lusty daughters, who both carded and spun for their living, yet were very poor, which made them often repine at and lament their want. One day as Mother Cuthbert was sauntering about the hill-side, picking the wool off the bushes, out started a thing like a rabbit, which ran about two or three times and then changed into a hound, and afterwards into a man, which made the old beldame to tremble, yet she had no power to run away. So putting a purse of money in her hand, and charging her to be there the next day, he immediately vanished away, and old Mother Cuthbert returned home, being somewhat disturbed between jealousy and fear.

## **Chapter II.**

*Strange and wonderful apparitions; how one witch had power to make another ; and other strange things.*

The old woman opened not her purse until she came home, and then found in it ten angels; so, calling to her daughters, she told them what had happened. The wenches rejoiced that the treasure of the house had increased, that they might stuff themselves with beef and pudding which they had long been strangers to; and advised their mother to go again as he had ordered, and so she did. The first thing she saw was a tree rising out of the ground which moved towards her, and, to her surprise, multiplied into a very thick wood round her, so that she was afraid of losing herself, when on a sudden she saw a house, and heard the sound of musick. This appeared most strange ; however, she took courage and went towards it, when she found a great many women all dancing and revelling; and the house appeared like a stately palace, and the tables were furnished with a great variety of delicacies. The dance being ended, she was desired to sit at the table with the rest, but she scrupled it at first, till at length, being hungry, she fell roundly to. After dinner the matron which received her, by striking the floor with her wand, caused divers of the familiars, in the shape of cats, bears, apes, &c., to enter and dance antic dances, whilst she played on the gridiron and tongs. This done, taking Mother Cuthbert aside, she demanded how she liked the cheer and sport? She answered, very well; but desired to know where she was and her company? Mother Crady then told her that she was Witch of Penmure [Penmaenmawr], a great mountain in Wales, and the rest were her countrywomen of the same faculty; and being desirous to have her of the fraternity [sisterhood?] she had contrived this way to entertain her, to show that she might always live jocund and merry. Mother Cuthbert, overcome with persuasions, consented, when immediately they anointed her breast with a certain ointment, then, speaking a charm or two, they gave her the rest to use upon occasion, and also in another box a little thing like a mole, that was to be her imp. So, all mounting upon a coal-staff, away they flew and she with them ; but they left her at the door of her own house, and kept still on their way with the wind.

## **Chapter III.**

*A Lancashire witch enchants the Mayor of the town, who had caused her to be whipped; with the circumstances attending.*

Mother Cuthbert being thus entered into the society of witches, by the force of her ointment, and counsel of her imp, who could speak when he pleased, and turn himself into divers shapes, finding the power she had, began to play many pranks.

Sometime before this, the Mayor of Lancaster had caused Mother Cuthbert to be whipped, for breaking his pales to make her a fire in the cold winter, which she resented much ; and now, knowing her power to revenge it, she trudges thither, where she found him carousing with many friends. She took an opportunity to slip a letter into his hands, and retired unknown, which he had no sooner perused, but telling his company he must run a race, he immediately went into the next room, and stripped himself stark naked, then taking a hand whip, he ran into the street, lashing his sides and back, crying "There he goes! I win! I win!" Whilst the people followed, calling him to stay, thinking he was distracted, yet he ran on to the further end of the town, lashing himself till he was bloody. At which time, coming to his wits, he was in the greatest



consternation, swearing the devil had put this trick upon him; for all the time he imagined he had been on horseback, and was riding a race, not feeling the lashes he gave himself till he had completed his number, and filled the measure of the witch's resentment.

#### **Chapter IV**

*The old woman's two daughters become witches, and one of them, in the shape of a mare, is revenged upon her false sweetheart and rival.*

Mother Cuthbert, growing more and more perfect in her art, resolved to bring in her daughters for a snack and thereupon communicates to them all that had befallen her. They were content to be ruled by the mother, and she anointed them, and used the best means she was able to make them perfect in their new trade.

Their names were Margery and Cicely. The first was courted by Roger Clodpate, a plain, downright country fellow ; but he was wheedled from her by Dorothy, a gentleman's dairymaid not far distant. This vexed Margery, and made her resolved to be revenged for it; so one day as they went abroad in the fields about courtship, she, by casting up dust in the air and other enchantments, raised up a mighty storm of rain, which so swelled the ditches that they overflowed in their way and stopped them ; but as they began to think of going back, Margery immediately transformed herself into the shape of a black mare, and came gently towards them; when Roger, glad of the opportunity, first mounted his sweetheart, and then got up himself But they were no sooner in the middle of the water than she threw them heels overhead, and ran away laughing, soon recovering her shsipe; while Roger and Dorothy were in a piteous case, and forced to trudge home, like drowned rats, with the story of their unfortunate disaster.

#### **Chapter V**

*A witch rescues a man, who was going to gaol, and plagues the bailiffs, by leading them a dance over hedge and ditch.*

A POOR man, being arrested by a cruel creditor for debt, and he not being able to pay it, they were carrying him to Lancaster Gaol, when Mother Cuthbert met them, and desired to know the matter. The officers answered her very surlily, pushing her aside, which, raising her choler, she said, "But you shall let him go before we do part." And they said he should not. Whereupon she bade the poor man stop his ears close; and then she drew out a pipe which had been given her by the Witch of Penmure, and then set piping, and led them through hedges and thorns, over ditches, banks, and poles, some times tumbling, and other times tearing and bruising their flesh, while the poor fellow got time enough to make his escape; but the catchpoles cried out for mercy, thinking the devil had led them a dance. At length she left them in the middle of a stinking pond, to shift for themselves.

#### **Chapter VI**

*Of a Lancashire witch being in love with a gentleman; of her haunting him in the shape of a hare, and obtaining her ends.*

Cicely, the youngest daughter of the Lancashire witch, being in love with a gentleman's son about a mile from their home, was resolved to have him in her arms at any rate; wherefore, knowing he admired hunting, she often turned herself into a hare to make him sport, and still drew him towards her mother's house; for when he went that way he was used to call to chat with them, the which caused in Cicely the first fatal passion. But once this had liked to have proved fatal ; for the charm wanting somewhat of its force, one of the foremost hounds caught her by the haunches, just as she was entering her creep-hole, and gave her a terrible pinch; and happy was it for her that she was so near, or her loving had been for ever spoiled. The young man, commonly losing the hare about this house, began to wonder, and supposing it to have run in at the sink, he entered the house, where he found Cicely rubbing of her back; but not meeting what he sought, nor looking for such a transformation, he departed, and she for the future grew cautious of showing him any more sport of that kind. But when he was going to be married to a beautiful young gentlewoman, she by enchantment caused the lady to lose herself

in a wood, and there cast her in a deep sleep for a day and a night. In the meantime she personated the bride ; but knowing it could not long continue, she cast him likewise into a deep sleep, and then fetched the young lady to his arms, that when they both awaked, they thought they had been all the time together.

## **Chapter VII**

*Mother Cuthbert enchants several thieves, and takes away the money ; with the manner of setting spells.*

Old Mother Cuthbert going along the road, she overheard some thieves bragging of a mighty purchase they had made, whereupon she resolved to herself that she would come in for a share; and accordingly she muttered some words, on which the horses began for to stumble, which made them [not the horses, but the thieves] curse and swear. At length they supposed they heard the rattling of clubs and staves, as if the whole city had been up in arms to seize them; and finding they could not spur their horses on, nor make them stir a foot, they got off, leaving the portmanteaus behind them, and ran away on foot. The prize she conveyed home, and hearing some poor people had been robbed, she gave them back what they had lost. The fright the rogues were put into was caused by enchantment, in which she was so good a proficient, that she would often set spells on the highway, so that any being robbed, the rogues had no power to get away.

*The description of a spell.*— A spell is a piece of paper written with magical characters, fixed in a critical season of the moon and conjunction of the planets; or, sometimes, by repeating mystical words. But of these there are many sorts.

## **Chapter VIII.**

*The manner of a witch-feast; or, a general meeting.*

There being a general meeting of the witches, to consult for merry pranks, and to be even with any who had injured them, one of them must needs bring her husband with her; but charged him and made him promise that, whatever he saw or heard, he should not speak a word of it. To this he promised to be obedient. He was carried thither in the night, but he knew not what way ; and there he found a stately palace (to his thinking), furnished with goods of exceeding value; and it shined in the night with artificial lights as at noonday. Here they had all manner of good cheer, and he was as frolicsome as the merriest. The man observed his covenant till he came to eat, when, looking about and seeing no salt (for it seems witches never use any), he, before he was aware, cried out, "What, in God's name, have we no salt here?" Upon this, all the lights immediately went out, and the company flew away; so dreadful is the name of God to those servants of Satan. Storms of rain and hail, attended with lightning and terrible claps of thunder, ensued. The rain poured on him, the wind blew, and instead of a palace, when daylight appeared, he found himself in an old uncovered barn, about twenty miles from home. And from that time he never desired to go with his wife to see curiosities.

## **Chapter IX**

*The Humours of Roger and Doll, with the manner how they were served by a Lancashire Witch.*

Roger and Dorothy being got in a merryhumour, one day meeting with Margery, began to swear at her, and called her "Leaden Heels," but she passed by as if she minded it not. They had not far to go before there was a stile to go over; - but when they was on the top, they could not get down on either side, fancying there was ponds of water round about them, till some travellers came by, who, finding them thus mounted on the wooden horse in a strange posture, made them dismount. However, not satisfied, she watched their motions, and found them in a barn that stood by the road, where the cows used to be driven in to be milked. There, being seated upon the straw, toying together, and wondering at what had happened, . . . Margery, who stood there invisible, sprinkled Roger with a certain dust, which changed his very countenance, making it appear to his mistress like an ass's head ; which so frightened her, that she gave a lusty spring, and throwing him quite down, she got up, running, and crying out, "The devil! the devil!"

This so terrified Roger, that he followed, crying out, "What ails you, my dear? —what ails you?" In this manner, to the laughter of a great number of people, they ran until they were so tired, they were forced to lie down, being no longer able to hold out. Thus, at this time, her revenge was satisfied.

## CHAPTER X

*How some Witches, revelling in a gentleman's house, served the servants who surprised them.*

It happened one time that a great number of Lancashire witches were revelling in a gentleman's house in his absence, and making merry with what they found, the dogs not daring to stir - they having, it seems, the power to strike them mute. However, during the frolic, some of the servants came home, and, thinking they had been ordinary thieves, went to seize them. But they happened to catch a Tartar; for, each taking one, they flew away with them, who in vain called for help, till they had lodged them on the top of very high trees; and then raised prodigious storms of thunder and lightning, with hard showers of rain, they left them there to do penance for their intrusion.

## Chapter XI

*A brief Treatise on Witches in general, with several things worthy of notice.*

About this time great search was made after witches, and many were apprehended, but most of them gave the hangman and the gaoler the slip; though some hold that when a witch is taken she hath no power to avoid, justice. It happened as some of them were going in a cart to be tried, a coach passed by in which appeared a person like a judge, who, calling to one, bid her to be of good cheer and take comfort, for neither she nor any of her company should be harmed ; and on that night all the prison locks flew open, and they made their escape; and many, when they had been cast into the water for a trial, have swam like a cork. One of them boasted she could go over the sea in an egg shell. It is held on all hands that they adore the devil, and become his bondslaves, to have for a term of years their pleasure and revenge. And indeed many of them are more mischievous than others in laming and destroying of cattle, and in drowning ships at sea, by raising storms. But the Lancashire Witches we see, chiefly divert themselves in merriment, and are therefore found to be more sociable than the rest.

**Note** .. engraving of Lancaster Castle / Jail in the Gallery.

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## From the e-Postbag

### 1921 ... From John Marsden on the Members' email forum :

As part of the activity surrounding the release next year of the 1921 census, Leslie Turner is assembling a podcast around the subject. One component will be a collection of 'sound-bites' from people about what they are hoping to find out when the 1921 census is released. Leslie will welcome contributions from any member who has a specific family history question which they hope the 1921 census will solve.

If you would like to add your contribution, please contact Leslie direct at :

< leslieturner24@btinternet.com >

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### an email from MLFHS member and newsletter reader, Jan Costa

#### Looking Backwards

This extract is taken from '*Crompton Tradesmen's Association Almanac and Street Directory of Crompton 1936*', [21st anniversary edition]. It looks back to past businesses of Shaw and Crompton and although not giving dates maybe we could consider this to be some reminiscences of a century ago from today.

As there are no dates mentioned in this article I have marked with an \* those businesses which appear to be mentioned in "Extracts from *Kelly's Directory of Lancashire, 1918*" which is found

.....

This being the twenty-first publication of the "Crompton Tradesman's Almanack," it is thought that we might, with profit and some pleasure, "Look Back" at some of the bygone trades in the district.

This subject was attempted some years ago with, we believe, some interest to our readers generally, and no disadvantage to the present-day trader. We acknowledge our indebtedness to some of the older inhabitants of Crompton for the information supplied; and wish to say that we have no intention to cause offence to anyone by the use of by-names.

Taking a brief review of **Market Street:** the first shop, that of W. Staples was formerly owned by John Lucas\* known as "Owd Saddler", grandfather of the late occupant, probably one of the oldest established businesses in the district.

The shop next to the Blue Bell Hotel\* (incidentally, we believe, this is now the only shop in Shaw, all the rest being, strictly speaking, in Crompton) was formerly a clogger's shop known by the name of "Jack Sharp." E. Howarth and Son, the ironmongers was originally an old druggist's shop kept by John Hall, an old Quaker, whose descendant afterwards built what is now the District Bank, and transferred the business there. In one of the cottages next to Dronsfield's\* shop a man named Micklethwaite carried on a printing establishment and circulating library. Over this door may still be seen the words "Circulating Library" cut in the stone. This man, no doubt, never dreamed of Crompton possessing such a magnificent free Library as she does to-day.

In the shop between Bradwell's and Bradley's was a butcher named Kershaw, father of the Kershaw's of Hunger Hill fame. Originally it had a window facing Four Lane Ends. The site of the premises now occupied by Mrs Whitehead and the Brittanica Assurance Co. Ltd. Were used for a Post Office building by John Farrar\*, who also carried out an earthenware business.

The Post Office was afterwards transferred to premises on the site of the present Post Office on Rochdale Road, later it was removed to Salter's\* shop in Market Street, and after that to the shop now occupied by Bamford's, before the present Post Office was built. Mr Jno. Pollit was then Postmaster and also carried on a printing business.

The chemist's business now owned by W. Yates\* was formerly carried out by a Robert Thornton, before the late Mrs Wall's time. There is still an old showcase on the premises bearing this man's name on a glass tablet which is now probably over a hundred years old. Next door was John Sucksmith, grocer and corn dealer. This shop in those days went up three or four steps from the street.

On the other side of Market Street, the shop of Miss Williams\*, before being re-built, was occupied by Owd Martha Dyson, as a sweets shop and "purveyor of stew," In Mr Varley's\* shop was a family named Greaves, one of the male members of which was known as "Shay Beauty." T. Seymour Mead's premises were occupied by John Clegg a grocer and draper. John Shoesmith, a greengrocer and confectioner, was in Jenkin's\* shop at the bottom of Farrow Street. In John Stott's\* shop was a cobbler named Nat. Lord. This man had a fancy for keeping pigs and was known as "Pig Nat." It is said that his head resembled a pig's more than a human being.

On the ground where the Manchester & County Bank now stands was a plasterer's and slaters' business owned by the late Joshua Milne\* of Clough Mill. The house stood back a little way from the street, and the footpath about here was cobbled similar to the present Cheetham Hill.

Close by was John Rhodes, hairdresser, and Batley, greengrocer and chimney sweep, better known to the older generation as "Dan o' Bailey's." He also kept leeches for bleeding purposes. J.T. Green, better known as "Mick The Barber," had a hairdressing establishment



in an old building on the land where Bamford's shop now stands. He also had what was probably the first chip potato business in the district. Edmund Redfern, butcher, occupied the present Dixon's\* shop, and next door was John Cardle, famous for his "Nelson Cake."

In passing here we ought not to omit mentioning the old time "Bingo Ginnell" up the end of Duckworth's\*, and its "Bingo Well" at the top, from whence some of the people had to draw their supply of water. In "Bingo Ginnell" was John Wild known at (as? My question)"Bingo" who kept a small greengrocer's shop. He was an enthusiastic supporter and follower of the then Shaw Brass Band, and many a time has been played and drummed home by the band of those days.

Rachel Fox, known as "Fat Rachel" on account of her physical proportions kept a sweet shop in "Th' Old Barracks" on the ground where Duckworth's\* shop stands. Joshua Ogden formerly carried on the stationary business of Schofield's\*.

In Hallsworth's shop old Ned Inman had an ironmongery business, and next door where the Maypole shop now is, was the old Wool Pack Inn, kept by Mrs Illingworth, mother of the late Mr Harry Illinworth.

Next door again was the grocer's shop in the occupation of John Henthorn. In the end shop now occupied by Frank Rawlinson\* was a clogger named Wm. Driver. There was another clogger hereabouts named Wild, known as "Harry Rip."

### **High Street**

The Temperance Hotel was formerly a general store kept by a Miss Kenworthy. The property at one time the home of the Oddfellows\*, was owned by some of the Kenworthy family from whom Kenworthy Street or "Kennelly Back" got its name. In this building W.C. Hartley practised as a dentist after removing from higher up High Street. In the cellar beneath, which was then a separate dwelling, lived Old Stanley, a celebrated maker of Eccles Cakes, toffee, etc. Next door a man named Ted Scott carried on a tailoring business, and next door again came John Shoesmith, noted as a toffee maker. In the shoeshop was Joseph Greaves, a clogger, who was succeeded by John Stott, also a clogger, better known as "Jack o' Mats," one of the best known characters of the district. He later became a partner in the late firm of Cocker and Stott's\*, carriers for the railway company.

In the furniture shop was James Schofield, grocer and corn dealer, who afterwards moved into the shop at the bottom of Queen Street, before ever Queen Street was thought of. In the shop next to Clark's\*, then a private house, lived a family of brothers named Proctor, who carried on a throstle spinning, warping and weaving business in the old mill behind. In Clark's shop was John Turner, a grocer, and very well respected Methodist layman. Next door was Aaron Dawson, peg, bolt, and spindle maker. This man is said to have made creel spindles for Platt Bros. & Co., of Oldham. Ann Platt kept a mangle house at the other corner of Queen Street. On the land immediately behind stood an old building which was used as a school by Thomas Dixon commonly known as "Owd Tom Dick." This building was afterwards used as offices by the Local Board previous to the Town Hall being built. In this building was kept Crompton's first Public Library, known as "The Athaneum."

James Butterworth, commonly known as "Jammy Tinner," lived in the first of two old houses up the steps that were opposite the War Memorial, and carried on a tinsmith's business. Jack Kay, a collier, lived in the second house. He was known as "The terror of Shaw." It is said of this man that he once escaped from the "lock-up," which was at that time in the field behind Cheetham Hill. He could not read, and it is said of him that as part of his punishment he had to attend school.

In going through the alphabet, the teacher pointing to the letter W asked if he knew what it was. He replied "Naw (no) nor no mon living."

A little higher up was Old Mother Bailey who kept a sweets and bread shop. This place was used as a Public Vaccination Office by the late Dr Leach.

Behind the hoarding which is now opposite Pritchard's\* shop was an old building occupied by John Travis ("Joan o' Wags") as a Jerry Shop. It was a known place for Irish Jigging

Mr Shaw's shop was an Ale and Porter House called "The Ash Hotel," afterwards "The Miners' Arms," kept by Abraham Henthorn ("Owd Ab. Pudding.") It was previously occupied by James Wood, grocer and dentist – a rather curious combination, nevertheless he used to practice the art of dentistry amongst his groceries. This man also carried out a fustian cutting business in the top storey, which was afterwards used as the Conservative Club, before the erection of the present building.

In the next shop Robert Ogden conducted a drapery business. Joseph Travis, grocer, occupied the premises next door. He was one of the best known men in the district, being known as "Owd Joe Clark," on account of his position as Clerk at the old Parish Church, or Chapel as it was then called. His son held the same office after him, and was known as "Bill o' t' Clarks."

Joshua Winterbottom kept a drapery and shoe business in Miss Howarth's\* shop. Dunn's\* brush shop was a general grocery store kept by a man named Butterworth. Buckley, printer, had a printing establishment next door. He was the only printer at that time in the district. In the present Higher Shaw Branch of the Co-Operative Society was another licensed house named "The Ploughboy," kept by John Wild, whose wife was a very talented singer, being a member of the Old Crompton Choral Society. It was afterwards occupied by Jos. Parker & Sons, of Oldham, who established a grocery business called "The Golden Cannister." About the centre of this block of buildings a man with only one arm, known as "Buckley One Arm," carried on a school. Matthew Bailey, flagger and slater, and Wm. Travis ("Owd Snob") a cobbler, occupied a building opposite the old Big Lamp, which has since been demolished. The latter man used to have a note in his window stating "We cannot all be top branches of the tree although we spring from the same root."

Coming to the bottom of the right hand side of High Street, the hairdressers shop was occupied by Tommy Trustram as a sweets and toy business. The shop was noted for old songs and ballads, one side of the window being filled with song sheets. This man used to collect the tobacco licences of the district and take them on to Oldham.

Robert Ashworth ("Owd Bob Butcher") carried on the business which is still carried on by his grandson, James\*. On the land hereabouts stood an old smithy kept by "Tom o' Milly's." What are now the War Memorial Grounds was formerly the Wakes Ground.

We jump from here to "Th' old Ash," a one-time famous landmark of Shaw, which was blown down in a gale on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 1887. It was a very large old ash tree that stood at the bottom of Cheetham Hill. A part of Shaw Wakes was held about here, and we are told that outsiders, mostly Royton people used to come and walk round "Th' Owd Ash" and were then said to have been to "Shay Wakes."

In Mr. Leach's butcher's shop lived an Irishman named Neddie McCann who carried on a greengrocery business there. The shop next to this was occupied by John Fenton ("Jack Butcher"). The land higher up, with the exception of the old old cutting garret, was a continuation of the garden right round what is now Church Street.

Many thanks, Jan, for this glimpse of Shaw so many years ago ... and of particular interest to me as I've lived in Shaw since 1969.

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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 Manchester 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).

A dedicated 1921 page, bringing it alltogether, is [HERE](#). and a 1921 World Timeline is [HERE](#).

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

To create more context we thought we could include the two years before and after 1921, ie., from 1919 (when sevicemen 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 vist the battlefiels; 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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1921

**Aspinal School, Gorton. Standard V, Mixed**

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### **ROYAL VISITS TO OLDHAM**

July 1921 was the month in which Oldham saw two separate visits from sons of George V, as both Edward, Prince of Wales and his younger brother Prince Henry visited the town.

The following are extracts from the *Manchester Guardian*:

On Thursday July 7th, the *Manchester Guardian* reported on the visit of Prince Edward :

**'Prince's Tour Through Industrial Lancashire';  
the 'Wonderful Welcome', 'The Visitor's Happy informality'.**

Fulsome in its praise, the report goes on:

"All through the day there was an underlying feeling of great intimacy and informality ... One feels that the Prince deserves it all. Anything more solicitous than his approach to a disabled

man, more kindly than his dealings with a child, more unpretentious than his general bearing would be hard to imagine. His conduct of the most difficult moment of today was admirable to a degree. It was at the Oldham Athletic Ground [Boundary Park]. A tiny child named Ellen Mills was presented to him. She was wearing the Victoria Cross won by her father, Private W. Mills, of the 10th Manchesters who was killed at Bethune. The child was lifted up to the prince and handed him a red rose which she held tightly clenched in her fist. But the Prince was already wearing a red rose. He took it from his buttonhole, gave it to her, and wore in its place the one she had given him."

and continues:

### ***At Ashton-under-Lyne.***

To-day's tour began at Ashton-under-Lyne ...

"The Prince walked from Charlestown station to the Town Hall, which faces the market-place. The market-place was packed with a dense crowd, which cheered again and again as the Prince mounted the Town Hall steps accompanied by the Mayor. At the station he had had presented to him Private Ernest Sykes, V.C., a Stalybridge ticket collector. Several presentations were made on the Town Hall steps, and then the procession through the streets began.

The varied nature of the reception the Prince was to receive during the day was at once evident. Here was a Salvation Army band, there were Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, church lads' brigades, detachments of ex-soldiers, veterans wearing the medals of wars whose names are history, squads of nurses, and dense throngs of children several thousands of Union Jacks a-flutter, Industrial Lancashire is austere territory, but the children brightened it all through the day. It must be long since so many Union Jacks were seen together, and they were all there by private endeavour. Apart from a bright scarlet dais, flower-decked, which most towns and townships provided, there seemed to be little expenditure of public money, but even the meanest street managed out of its own resources to achieve a certain efflorescence.

From Ashton the route lay through Hathershaw to Oldham. At places between the towns the crowds thinned; but they never disappeared. Now it would be a family standing outside a roadway cottage, now a haulier waiting beside the road with his horses pranked out in gay colours. For however small a group the Prince had the same courteous salutation as for a roaring market-place packed with people.

It was Lancashire without concealing ornament that he was passing through now. The pavements were lined with the faces of colliers having that strange barbaric look that comes of eyes shining whitely through black dust, with mill girls in clogs and shawls; and now the horizons were etched chimneys and close-packed house-tops and the gaunt skeletons of pit-head machinery - all lying under the film of smoke which is beginning to come faintly back.

### **Beauty at Oldham**

At Oldham there was a sudden passing from industrialism personified to something unexpectedly beautiful and moving. With the best intention in the world, you cannot disguise Oldham. Crowds may gather in the streets and cheer as though work were a thing left far behind, flags may wave across the black fronts of buildings; but behind it all, and staring starkly through is the unbeautiful reality.

So it was today; and then one passed into the Oldham Athletic Ground - not in itself a beautiful place, but strangely transformed. All the childhood of the town had been swept together into the stands. Almost all were dressed in white, touched with lively colours, and all carried flags which they waved, cheering tumultuously, as the Prince advanced to a scarlet dais in the centre of the ground. In addition to the children, who numbered 12,000, there were disabled soldiers, war widows and orphans. Scouts and Girl Guides packed all round the great amphitheatre. There must have been 30,000 people present, and it seemed as



though the Prince would never get away.

Whether it be a "programme" item or not, he insists on talking to ex-soldiers wherever he finds them. It is this charitable habit which must be his excuse to those who had to await his arrival to-day for an hour longer than they expected. There was no question of keeping to scheduled time. The Prince of Wales does not look upon his job perfunctorily. He went through what he had to do patiently, thoroughly, and sympathetically, leaving no one with reason to complain of haste or inattention.

The Oldham children, unfortunately, suffered from their excitement and the heat of the day. Literally dozens of them had to be laid out on the edges of the field. A great many nurses and ambulance men and some doctors were kept hard at work.

### **And So to Bury.**

From Oldham procession made its way to Chadderton. All along the road were hung out words of welcome, and on a wall was chalked in bold letters. "Welcome, old sport." The flags which had cheered the troops home from the war were pressed into service again to bid the Prince here and there : "Welcome home!" There was a short stop at Chadderton, another at Middleton, and another at Whitefield, where the Prince, breaking again from the programme, had a chat with the teachers in charge of the school children and shook hands with them all. Bury was the next town on the route ... "



**5th July 1921**

### **Edward Prince of Wales, visiting Johnson's Dye Works, Bootle**

The following day, Thursday 7th, was spent in another 'whistle-stop tour' of the region, this time of Manchester and then Salford before returning to Manchester and leaving for London, by train, from London Road Station (Piccadilly).

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The *Manchester Guardian*, Apr 21, 1921;

### **ROYAL LANCASHIRE SHOW : ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS YEAR**

The second visit to Oldham was already being arranged in April of 1921, and it was to be for the Royal Lancashire Show, to be held at Hollinwood (Oldham) in July, and at which Prince Henry was to be invited to present the prizes :

"The Council of the Royal Lancashire Agricultural Society met in Manchester yesterday to give final consideration to the draft prize list and other details concerned with the show. The show is to begin on July 27 at Hollinwood, Oldham, and will finish on the 30th.

After a short discussion the list was accepted, with one or two modifications. A new class (No. 23) has been added for the best "pedigree shorthorn dairy cow in calf, calved in or before 1917, to calve within three months after the show, and eligible for and entered in Coates's Herd Book, or pedigree sent for such entry previous to the show." Other special regulations attach to this award. A new Championship prize, given by Lord Leverhulme is also included. It is offered for the best Lancashire-bred exhibit (bull, cow, or heifer) in the pedigree dairy shorthorn classes. The bacon and ham classes have been withdrawn, and there will 'be no show of honey.

It appears from a ruling, which is being disputed by the Council of the Royal Show, that persons visiting the horticultural section, admission to which is charged for, will be subject to entertainment tax. The Lancashire officials have decided that If the ruling is enforced the charge shall still be 1s. and will include the tax. The dog section is also liable to entertainment tax.

The Council has decided to limit the area from which entries for local competitions may come to five miles from Oldham Town Hall. This has been done expressly to exclude Manchester.

Mr. R. B. Neilson presided."

A couple of weeks before the show was about to open, on the 14th July, the *Manchester Guardian* reported :

#### **"A GOOD ENTRY PROMISED AT OLDHAM.**

When the Royal Lancashire Agricultural Show revived its annual show last year after the war-time suspension it was confronted with many unexpected difficulties, not the least of which was a spell of rainy weather which considerably retarded preparatory work on the showground. There was, too, but a small reserve of labour to draw upon, so that those upon whom lay the responsibility for making all ready by the opening day bore an exacting burden. This year the Council of the Society has been spared such anxieties. The weather has been peculiarly favourable for outdoor work and the supply of labour abundant. The preparation of the showground has been carried out with unusual expedition and members of the Council who went to Hollinwood to inspect it, were gratified to observe how near all the arrangements were to completion.

The Oldham ground is not so large as that on which the show was held at Bolton last year. It covers only 36 acres, as compared with 50. It has, however, proved to possess the compensating advantage of lending itself to a very compact layout. There is little appropriate rusticity in the surroundings, for mill chimneys and pit head-stocks rear themselves up on every side, but it is well that the interests of agriculture should be asserted in a district that is almost entirely industrial. The ground is easy of access to the large populations of Oldham and Manchester. The tramway from Manchester will take passengers to a spot within a mile from the gates, and the rest of the journey can be accomplished by Grains Bar cars.

Statistics relating to the entries have not yet been collated, but it was reported at yesterday's meeting of the Council that the numbers compare satisfactorily with those registered a year ago. It is expected that heavy horses and dairy cattle will prove the strong features. One disappointment has to be recorded. The children's riding classes, which were introduced into the schedule on account of the success which similar classes have achieved at other shows, have had to be dropped as there were only two entries.

Prince Henry is to visit the show on the opening day. He will arrive at the ground at 12:30, and in the afternoon will give away the championship cups. Prince Henry will be the

guest of the Earl and Countess of Ellesmere."

The eagerly awaited Royal Lancashire Show, at Hollinwood, was opened, on Wednesday the 27th July by Prince Henry. This was an event which would bring people into the town from the outlying towns and agricultural areas.

In the *Manchester Guardian*, dated July 28th, we can read :

**THE ROYAL LANCASHIRE SHOW: A GOOD BEGINNING AT HOLLINWOOD  
GOOD CLASSES IN HORSES AND DAIRY CATTLE**

The annual show of the Royal Lancashire Society was opened at Hollinwood yesterday and will remain open until Saturday. It began well. The sun shone for the greater part of the day, and by five o'clock a record had been set up by the number of visitors who had paid to pass through the turnstiles - 8,643. The previous first-day record was one of 8,541, obtained at Bolton last year. Months ago Oldham announced its intention of trying to go one better than Bolton also in the matter of local subscriptions. It has succeeded, the total announced yesterday being £5,688, as compared with £5,170 at Bolton. A point for Oldham now to consider is whether, instead of being satisfied with these achievements, it is going to make a bigger effort by tackling Burnley's third-day record in 1913, when 53,027 persons paid for admittance.



**Prince Henry presenting prizes**



**The Champion Stallion in the Show**

The site, in the centre of a ring of factory chimneys, is not an ideal one, but beyond the chimney stacks the hills stand out boldly on an ordinarily clear day like yesterday, and in a venture which must be made to pay for itself as far as possible there is a great deal to be said for convenience. And the ground is certainly convenient, for excellent services for tramcars to within a few hundred yards of the entrance are provided by both the Oldham and Manchester Corporations. It is not as large as that at Bolton, being but 36 acres in extent, as against 50, but it is quite spacious enough to allow everything to move about in comfort.

In earlier days a great deal of attention was given to land drainage and cultivation, to the condition of the farms and the quality of the crops, but nowadays live stock and dairy produce all but monopolise the prize list. And the livestock, although it includes poultry and pigeons - and even dogs on the last day - as well as horses, cattle, pigs and sheep, is much more limited in its bulk and variety than in former times. Breeders and farmers have not taken advantage of their opportunities to anything like the extent they might have done. One reason given for this is the duration of the show. Another is the heavy charges now made by railway companies. The first is probably the more serious consideration, for it practically entails the absence from the farm not only of the exhibits but also of men for almost a working week, at a time of the year when harvesting has begun ...

**AND FLOWERS**

The brightest spot of the show, of course, is the horticultural pavilion. Sweet peas claim pride of place, but there are some fine displays of carnations, a new 'race' of gorgeous perennial

poppies, larger than the Iceland but of a similar type, and among the roses a semi-single beauty called Sunstar which is being put on the market for the first time this year, and which is likely to become a favourite. There are some enticing spreads of vegetables and fruits, but here again, from the quantity shown, one is driven to the conclusion that the county growers do not take the show seriously. The agricultural department of the County Council has made some attempt to make up for the deficiency by stands here and elsewhere in the grounds, demonstrating how, among other things, farmers may progress along the lines of intensive agriculture, and incidentally provide against the shortage of pasture feed in dry summers like the present, by adopting a scientific succession of forage crops such as oats and peas and oats, vetches, and rye.

The chief prizes awarded yesterday, were presented to the winners by Prince Henry, who arrived on the ground a little after noon, and who spent some hours afterwards among the exhibits. He was accompanied by his hosts, the Earl and Countess of Ellesmere, and by Lord Stanley and Lord Emmott.

The following day, on the 29th July, the *Manchester Guardian*, reported:

**THE COUNTY SHOW: A HOLIDAY CROWD AT HOLLINWOOD,  
KEEN COMPETITION IN THE CATTLE CLASSES**

The second day of the county show is invariably the occasion when the lay folk of the neighbourhood look in at the exhibition. Many hundreds of workaday people from Oldham and Rochdale, Ashton and Stalybridge, went to Hollinwood yesterday to this showyard set, anomalously enough, in a great meadow overlooked on two sides by a score of factories. There were plenty of Manchester people there, too, and many more from still farther afield. Of authentic farming types there were relatively only a few, but they walked around the horses and cattle like competent witnesses to the real purpose of the show. The people from Oldham and Ashton were vaguely interested in everything, from the horse-leaping contests to the poultry trussing competition. Your farmer, like a good specialist, was interested in a few, but mightily so.

So far the visitors outnumber those at the Bolton show last year. On the first day at Hollinwood 8,643 passed through the turnstiles, as compared with 8,541 on the first day at Bolton. At 4pm yesterday 13,810 persons had paid for admission. the average attendance at the same hour for the three previous shows was 8,525. If the show is favoured in the ensuing two days with the same fine weather the Lancashire Society should have no cause to repent bringing it to the heart of a great urban area like Oldham ...

Finally, in the *Manchester Guardian*, 30th July, we can read :

**THE LANCASHIRE SHOW: NEXT YEAR AT PRESTON**

On the third day the Royal Lancashire Show partakes more of the nature of a 'show' in the real sense of the word. With the bulk of the judging and the more serious business disposed of, the proceedings resolve themselves mainly into a spectacular parade of the prizewinners around the ring, to be coolly appraised by the experts and gaped at by the ignorant.

Complete satisfaction with the attendances at the show and with the general organisation was expressed by Lord Emmott at a special meeting of the members of the Association that was held in the morning. Shows in an industrial centre of that kind, he said, did good in bringing town and country together. The older he got the more convinced he felt that we should endeavour to bring about a sense of the identity of interest between all classes. There could be no prosperity in a country like ours unless agriculture and industry worked together harmoniously.

The Mayor of Oldham presented the Society with a cheque for £5,743, the amount of the local subscriptions, and it was decided to accept the invitation of the Preston Corporation to hold the show at Preston next year during the first week of September.



Mainly doubtless on account of the weather, there was a a considerable falling off yesterday in the number of attendances. At four o'clock in the afternoon, 11,630 persons had paid for admission. The average attendance at the same hour for the three previous shows was 21,142. Given a fine day today, however, it is hoped that last year's Bolton figures will again be passed, as they were on Wednesday and Thursday ...

Editor's Note : Lists of classes, names of winners and more details have not been included, here, but can be found in the original newspaper reports.

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1921 was the year in which the British Legion was formed. Gillian Melton, (Branch Treasurer) kindly sent me the following extract, from their own Newsletter :

"On 15th May 1921, the British Legion was formed when four veterans from four different Services organisations laid a wreath at the Cenotaph in London, to support all ex-servicemen and women and their families and remember all those who made the ultimate sacrifice. 100 years later, the Legion is still active in the community, with approximately 2,500 Branches in the UK and overseas.

Back in 1921 Members made a difference by fundraising for the Poppy Appeal, which continues to this day, providing welfare locally and doing incredible work to support the Armed Forces community. They raise vital funds and remember those who served and sacrificed as well as looking after local serving and ex-serving personnel and their families. The Royal British Legion has now become the UK's largest Armed Forces charity and their work is as important now as it was 100 years ago, and as long as there are members of the Armed Forces community who need their help, they will always be here to extend a hand. This year they celebrate the Royal British Legion's centenary marking a century of supporting the Armed Forces community."



*Members of the Royton Branch laying a wreath at Royton Park War Memorial on Sunday 15th May, 2021, to commemorate 100 years of the British Legion*

A Timeline of the British legion, reproduced from their newsletter, is in the 'Gallery'.

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## WHAT WAS HAPPENING AROUND THE WORLD IN 1921

- The Irish Revolution leads to the Government of Ireland Act of 1920 providing for the partition of Ireland into Northern Ireland and Southern Ireland with separate parliaments leading to the creation of the Irish Free State.
- Russia and Poland establish a permanent border when they sign the Treaty of Riga.
- The famous and iconic "Chanel No. 5" perfume is created by Coco Chanel.
- The Emergency Quota Act is passed to restrict immigration from Southern and Eastern Europe.
- The Communist Party of China is created.

from Linda Richardson (Branch Chairman)

MLFHS, A World Timeline for 1921 [HERE](#)

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

since the last newsletter :

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\* Timeline: a history of prisons in Britain

[HERE](#)

\* Margaret Pilkington - A generous 'Queen of Arts

[HERE](#)

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\* 102 years ago Stretford born pilot, John Alcock, and navigator, Arthur Brown completed the first nonstop transatlantic flight.

[HERE](#)

~~~~~

\* The Major Oak: capturing the imagination for centuries

[HERE](#)

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\* Cotton spinning in action, at Osborne Mill in Chadderton, Oldham.

[HERE](#)

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\* The boarding out system : foster parents in the 1800s

[HERE](#)

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\* 1921 Industrial Holidays

[HERE](#)

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\* Old Declaration, New Discovery : The Declaration of Arbroath

[HERE](#)

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\* NWFA Film No. 466

Title: Manchester Ship Canal 1937

[HERE](#)

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\* A Tale for Our Times: the Cholera Epidemic of 1832

[HERE](#)

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\* A History of Ancoats Dispensary in 100 Objects

[HERE](#)

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

**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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## Website Links

### Other Society Websites

Catholic Family History Society – [www.catholicfhs.co.uk](http://www.catholicfhs.co.uk)

Cheshire Local History Association – [www.cheshirehistory.org.uk](http://www.cheshirehistory.org.uk)

Chadderton Historical Society (archived website) – [www.chadderton-historical-society.org.uk](http://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](http://www.lancashirehistory.org)

Liverpool and South West Lancashire FHS – [www.lswlfhs.org.uk](http://www.lswlfhs.org.uk)

Manchester Region Industrial Archaeology Society – [www.mrias.co.uk](http://www.mrias.co.uk)

Oldham Historical Research Group – [www.pixnet.co.uk/Oldham-hrg](http://www.pixnet.co.uk/Oldham-hrg)

Peterloo - [Peterloo-Manchester](#)

Ranulf Higden Society (Latin transcription) - [Ranulf Higden Soc.](#)

Royton Local History Society – [www.rlhs.co.uk](http://www.rlhs.co.uk)

Saddleworth Historical Society – [www.saddleworth-historical-society.org.uk](http://www.saddleworth-historical-society.org.uk)

Tameside Local History Forum - [www.tamesidehistoryforum.org.uk](http://www.tamesidehistoryforum.org.uk)

Tameside Local & Family History - <http://tamesidefamilyhistory.co.uk/contents.htm>

The Victorian Society - [Manchester Regional Website](#)

### Some Useful Sites

GENUKI - [Lancashire](#)

Free BMD - [Search](#)

[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](#)

Regiments & Corps of the British Army (Wayback machine) [HERE](#)

## Some Local Archives

Barnsley Museum & Discovery Centre – [www.experience-barnsley.com](http://www.experience-barnsley.com)

Birkenhead – [Local & Family History](#)

Bury – [www.bury.gov.uk/archives](http://www.bury.gov.uk/archives)

Chester - [Cheshire Archives & Local Studies](#) (linked from Discovery at the National Archives)

Derbyshire - [Local & Family History](#)

Leeds - [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](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives)

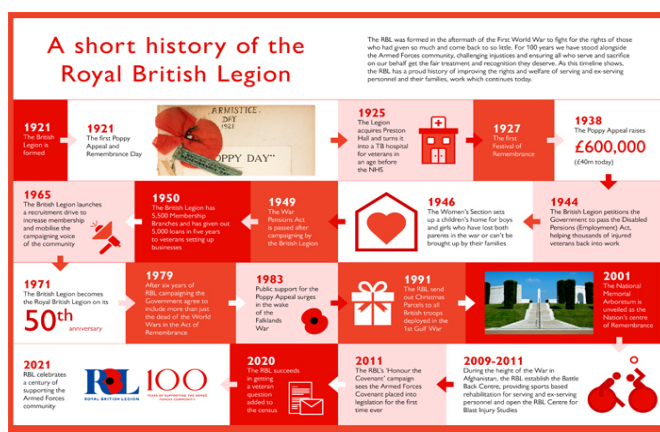
Stockport – [www.stockport.gov.uk/heritage-library-archives](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/heritage-library-archives)

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

York – [www.york.ac.uk/borthwick](http://www.york.ac.uk/borthwick)



## For the Gallery



ORIGINAL IN THE NEWSLETTER

## A TIMELINE FOR THE HISTORY OF THE BRITISH LEGION

... extracted from their newsletter and cut into slices, below, to make if more easily readable, here.



**1921**

The British Legion is formed

**1921**

The first Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Day



**1925**

The Legion acquires Preston Hall and turns it into a TB hospital for veterans in an age before the NHS



**1927**

The first Festival of Remembrance

**1938**

The Poppy Appeal raises

**£600,000**

(£40m today)



**1946**

The Women's Section sets up a children's home for boys and girls who have lost both parents in the war or can't be brought up by their families

**1944**

The British Legion petitions the Government to pass the Disabled Pensions (Employment) Act, helping thousands of injured veterans back into work

**1965**

The British Legion launches a recruitment drive to increase membership and mobilise the campaigning voice of the community



**1950**

The British Legion has 5,500 Membership Branches and has given out 5,000 loans in five years to veterans setting up businesses

**1949**

The War Pensions Act is passed after campaigning by the British Legion

**1971**

The British Legion becomes the Royal British Legion on its

**50<sup>th</sup>**  
anniversary

**1979**

After six years of RBL campaigning the Government agree to include more than just the dead of the World Wars in the Act of Remembrance

**1983**

Public support for the Poppy Appeal surges in the wake of the Falklands War





**1991**

The RBL send out Christmas Parcels to all British troops deployed in the 1st Gulf War



**2001**

The National Memorial Arboretum is unveiled as the Nation's centre of Remembrance

**2011**

The RBL's 'Honour the Covenant' campaign sees the Armed Forces Covenant placed into legislation for the first time ever



**2009-2011**

During the height of the War in Afghanistan, the RBL establish the Battle Back Centre, providing sports based rehabilitation for serving and ex-serving personnel and open the RBL Centre for Blast Injury Studies



**2021**

RBL celebrates a century of supporting the Armed Forces community



**100**  
YEARS OF SUPPORTING THE ARMED  
FORCES COMMUNITY



**2020**

The RBL succeeds in getting a veteran question added to the census



Lancaster Castle / Jail, in 1778, where Lancashire Witches were incarcerated in the 17th century.