

Oldham and District Branch of the Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society

## Newsletter October 2017

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### Branch News

The next meeting will be on **Saturday 14th October at 2.00 pm** and will be a talk given by **David Scrimgeour** on **Early Asylum Life**.  
**At Mahdlo, Egerton Street, Oldham.**

**Free to members. Non-members £2.50**



David realised some years ago that asylum records have the potential to enable family historians to explore an almost untapped source of first hand information about their ancestors. He explored the fascinating archived case notes of 11,500 patients admitted to the West Riding Pauper Lunatic Asylum, 1818-1869. What he found led to the publication of his first book, *Proper People: Early Asylum Life in the Words of Those Who Were There*.

This illustrated presentation uses material from the archives to take the audience back in time to experience what life was really like for inmates in an early 19th century county asylum.

This meeting will take place at **Mahdlo, Egerton Street, Oldham** (marked 8 on the map.) Our meeting room has its own entrance on the Horsedge Street side. Please enter by this door.

We are allowed to park in St. Mary's Medical Centre car park (marked 21 on the map) off Rock Street, which is almost back to back with Mahdlo.

Mahdlo only has two disabled parking spaces in front of it on Egerton Street.

**Please note: We are not allowed into the main part of the building because of child protection issues but toilets will be accesible. Further details will be given at the meeting.**

## **Society News**

### **Saturday 7 October 10.30am: Beginners' Talk - Wills and Probate**

Geoff Edge will give an introduction to Civil Probate, look at the wealth of genealogical information that may be gleaned from wills and where to look for the records.

These talks are aimed at people new to family history research or those who simply wish to refresh their knowledge.

This meeting will be held in the Performance Space at Manchester Central Library. The talk is free to members. A fee of £3.00 will be charged to non-members but this is refundable if the individual joins the Society on the day of the talk. Booking is required. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to book.

### **Wednesday 18 October 10.30am: MLFHS Quarterly Meeting**

#### **10.30 am History of Belle Vue**

##### **Speaker: Michael Powell**

The archives for Belle Vue are held at Chetham's Library, and cover the period from the amusement park's foundation in the mid 1800's up to its closure in mid 1970's. Michael will talk about the records held in the archives.

#### **12.00 Lunch**

#### **1.00 pm The Peterloo Massacre**

##### **Speaker: Dr. Robert Poole, University of Central Lancashire**

The year 2019 will be the 200th anniversary of the Massacre in St Peter's Field. Dr. Poole, a specialist in the history of popular protest, will talk about this event and its importance in local and national history.

This meeting will be held in the Performance Space at Manchester Central Library. The meeting is free to members. A fee of £3.00 will be charged to non-members but this is refundable if the individual joins the Society on the day of the talk. Booking is required. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to book.

## **Saturday 21 October 2.00pm: Anglo-Scottish Branch Meeting**

### **Dr Laura Stewart, 'The National Covenant and the Scottish People'**

The National Covenant of 1638 is one of Scotland's most controversial documents: for some, an expression of the people's right to choose their own religion; for others, a statement in religious intolerance whose influence has lasted into modern times. Although the text has been heavily debated by scholars, very little attention has been given to its reception. This talk examines for the first time how the Covenant was taken by the people in the parishes and reflects particularly on the ambiguous status of women. By considering the Covenant as a material object, as well as a text, Dr Stewart sheds new light on the Covenant's contested meanings and offers fresh reflections on its significance for understanding Scottish political identity.

Dr Laura Stewart completed her PhD at the University of Edinburgh (2003). She taught British History at Birkbeck, University of London, for over ten years, before moving to the University of York in 2016. She has published many articles and essays on early modern British history, the Anglo-Scottish relationship, and the civil wars of the mid-seventeenth century. Her second book, *Rethinking the Scottish Revolution: Covenanted Scotland, 1617-53*, was published by Oxford University Press in 2016.

This meeting will be held in the Performance Space at Manchester Central Library. The talk is open to both members and non-members.

**Booking is ESSENTIAL!** Please [CLICK HERE](#) to book

### **Volunteers Required**

We can still use volunteers to assist in indexing the online back-issues of the Manchester Genealogist. This is work which members can do from home in their own time. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to contact us if you would like to get involved.

### **MLFHS Help Desk**

The desk is normally open **every week day** from 10.30 to 3.30. A team of MLFHS volunteers will assist you in your family history research.

Ground floor, Manchester Central Library.

### **Local News**

#### **Oldham Local Studies and Archives**

84 Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1DN.

Phone: 0161 770 4654

Email: [archives@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:archives@oldham.gov.uk)

Oldham Local Studies and Archives is run by Oldham Council and is not part of

our society. The archives date from 1597 and cover an enormous range of subjects and activities. However it is advisable to check on the archives website for coverage. [http://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/200539/archive\\_collections](http://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/200539/archive_collections)

Monday 10.00am-7.00pm

Tuesday 10.00am-2.00pm

Wednesday 10.00am-5.00pm

Thursday 10.00am-7.00pm

Friday 10.00am-5.00pm

Saturday 10.00am-4.00pm

Staff will assist with family history enquiries at any time during the week but if you need extended one-to-one advice a family history expert is available between **2pm and 4pm every Monday and Wednesday**. There is no need to book, just drop in.

### **Oldhamers and the Battle of Passchendaele**

During September there will be a display at Local Studies on how residents were affected by the battle.

**Talks by Other Groups** (which are not part of our society)

#### **Royton Local History Society**

##### **Three Ships on the Mersey**

A talk by Gordon Speakman at Downey House, Church Street Royton at 7.30 on **Monday 9th October 2017**.

#### **Saddleworth Historical Society**

##### **AGM**

##### **Saddleworth Chapel: From Foundation to Reformation**

A talk by Victor Khadem at Saddleworth Museum at 7.30pm on **Wednesday 11th October**.

#### **Oldham Historical Research Group**

##### **The Women's Peace Crusade**

##### **1917-1918**

Oldhamers in Word War One who were reluctant or refused to take up arms.

A film and talk by Dr Alison Ronan at Oldham Local Studies and Archives at 7pm on **Wednesday 18th October**.

#### **Moorside and District Historical Society**

##### **Grains Bar in the Camera**

A talk at St Thomas' Church Lounge, at 7.30pm on **Monday 16th October**.

## **Other News**

### **Conference of the Society for One-Place Studies and AGM Communities Of Faith**

**Saturday, 28th October 2017 10:00 am to 4:30 pm**

Premier Meetings Manchester Central (GMEX), Meeting Room 1  
Bishopsgate 7-11 Lower Mosley Street, Manchester, M2 3DW United Kingdom

**The Price:** £15 members, £20 non-members, Lunch £10 per person.

For more information and to book please go to:

<http://one-place-studies.org/members/administration/conference-and-agm-2017/>

**That's all for this month. We hope you have enjoyed reading our  
newsletter.**

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