

Bod-Kin

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Spring in Bradford

© *Liz Wright*

**Journal of the
Bradford Family History Society**

BRADFORD FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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Many others help the Society from time to time. Without their help, we would not function so well.

Please include your membership number in all correspondence and a SAE if you require a reply unless you are purchasing items that include postage.

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Journal of the Bradford Family History Society Editors

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The Editors

Happy new year to all our readers and hello from your new Bod-Kin Editorial Team, Anne Luciw and Liz Wright. We hope 2024 will be a good year for all BFHS members. We would like to thank Sally Robinson for all her hard work as the Bodkin editor over the last 8 years; she has done an amazing job. We would also like to thank her for all her help in coaching us in our new responsibilities. Thanks, as ever, go to Sue Steel for helping the “newbies”. We ask for your indulgence while we find our feet and invite your ideas and suggestions for future themes, along with articles, letters, book reviews, research questions, and other material for your Journal.

Much of this edition of Bod-Kin is taken up with the various documents required for the AGM to be held in April. Members have come up trumps with a range of interesting articles.

The theme for the June’s edition is “Education”. Articles for consideration for inclusion in the next edition should be with us by 6 May 2024. Any articles we don’t have room for will be held over for inclusion in a future edition.

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From T'Chairman

Sue Steel

Happy New Year! Yes, I know it's March but I haven't had a chance to say this to everyone. I hope 2024 is better than 2023 for you all.

It is that time of year when I remind members that it is our AGM on Monday evening the 15th April at 7:30pm. The AGM takes 10 minutes and will be followed by a talk from Ben Beck on Quaker Family History. Another new subject for us. But at the AGM I will be asking two things:

1. For you to look at some minor cosmetic changes to the constitution for approval. The draft version is in this magazine, together with all reports.
2. For you to think seriously about joining the committee to help run the Society. We have 5 meetings a year, usually following on from one of our Thursday morning meetings. These last around an hour and are in person and by Zoom. Which means you don't need to live in or near Bradford to be on the committee.

Renewals – These were due on 1st January. So, if you haven't renewed then this will be your last magazine. If you want more magazines or the ability to join in on our Zoom meetings, please renew your membership now.

Events at the end of 2023 and beginning of 2024 have meant the committee have been seriously considering contingency plans going forward. These are mainly to cover illnesses or holidays by committee members but also technology failures. The latter can (and did) cause issues with Zoom meetings in the main. Sometimes we are just unlucky enough to have internet issues or software issues that cannot be rectified in time. As for the Mechanics Institute being hit by a car in December, well we hope that that was a one off and that the building gets a brand-new door that doesn't stick when opening. Every cloud has a silver lining and all that.

Our website is always up to date with events and news items. So, if you ever get a meeting email that confuses, our website has the correct information. Please do look at the news items. These can be about a meeting venue (car into the Mechanics Institute building), Government (their decision to digitise and then destroy wills), surname interests or just websites mentioned during a talk.

Don't forget to contact me or any of the committee members if you have a query, suggestion, Bod-Kin article or anything really.

(4097)

Delving into the history of Bod-Kin

Anne Luciw

When accepting the Bod-Kin editorial role with Liz Wright, I went back through the published editions. Some of you will remember the first typewritten newsletter (issued in hard copy only) forty years ago in the Spring of 1983, with the editorial role filled by **Philip Rushworth**.

The Newsletter first appeared with its name “Bod-Kin” in the Winter of 1985 (Vol. 3 no. 1). The name was put forward by Ken Kenzie to reflect the Bradford Family History Society’s purpose. Bod being the Yorkshire name for a Boar’s Head, the centrepiece of the crest of the City of Bradford coat of arms. This was a surprise to me, being an offcomer and a southerner to boot! Kin reflects the family aspect. The picture on the cover of the newsletter is a reminder of the tradition linking Bradford to the Wild Boar’s head.

By December 1989 **Ken Kenzie**, the Chairman, had taken on the additional role of Bod-Kin Editor – I don’t know how he did it – and the membership list was computerised. The World Wide Web became available for use by everyone in April 1993 but it would be another eleven years before publishing Bod-Kin on-line became affordable.

When the 25th anniversary edition of the Bod-Kin was published in 2007 **Geoffrey Greenhough** was Editor, a role he continued in for another seven years until September 2014 when **John and Astrid Hansen** stepped in as interim editors. During 2014 Bod-Kin was first made available on-line, appeared in its now familiar format, with contributions being sent in electronically as well as by post.

Sally Robinson took on the role in time for the March 2015 edition. She served as Editor of Bod-Kin for eight years, ending her service in December last year.

Liz and I are following in the footsteps of some impressive people. As Philip said in 1985:

Do not forget, this is your Journal. If you have anything to say it will be included within the columns. Let us hear about your family researches, whether it be humorous, bizarre, even macabre.

The Bod-kin



BRADFORD

Family History Society

Newsletter

Vol. 3 No. 1

Winter 1985



(5233)

Hartshead Between the Wars

Sue Carson

(Alec) Bernard Crowther was my mother's second cousin, although they didn't meet each other. I connected with him in later life when I wrote to the Spenborough Guardian asking about the Crowther family from Hartshead. He was delighted to be "discovered" by me and we became "friends" for a few years at the end of his life through our shared interest in family research.

Bernard was born in Hartshead in 1916 around the time his father, Ben Crowther, was offered the tenancy of the Grey Ox Inn and its farm where Bernard spent his early years. He left the village during WWII and didn't return until the mid-1970s. After WWII he went to work in the nuclear industry and he and his wife, Connie, thought it best that they didn't have children in case he had been exposed to radiation.

Bernard saw many changes and, in the late 1970s, he decided to document his memories of the 1920s and 1930s. He wrote a 20-page booklet called Hartshead Between the Wars. Bernard gave me the booklet knowing that I would share it with any interested family members and was happy to know that his words would survive.



(Alec Bernard Crowther, © Sue Carson)

Below is chapter 5 of Bernard's booklet about the tradespeople in the village. His uncle Edwin (Jack) Crowther was the butcher mentioned.

(4127)

Chapter 5 – Trades people

A.B. Crowther

With limited public transport and even less private transport it was natural that the village of Hartshead was much more self-supporting than today.

The hub of the village was the Post Office and store. This was more commonly known as Lane End, a name perhaps of some antiquity. Before the enclosure of Hartshead Common in 1840 the only road into the village was Hartshead Lane and the location of the Post Office coincided with the end of this road, the lane end.

Post Office – Walter Hutchinson and descendants. The range of the Post Office services was limited – stamps, postal and money orders and pensions but in addition it was one of two suppliers of groceries and also dealt to a limited extent in ladies' clothing. Like all village Post Offices, it was also the main centre for the dissemination of local gossip. Grocery orders were delivered on Saturday morning. Some cattle food was also available. The shop is now a private house.

Cooperative Store – A branch of the Heckmondwike Cooperative Society was situated a little way on Fall Lane. The manager was Walter Lindsay and the shop was primarily a grocery store and it is now a private house.

Butcher – Edwin (Jack) Crowther was the village butcher, and the slaughterhouse and shop was located at Crow Trees at the top of the rise from Lane End. Animals purchased at Huddersfield market on Mondays were slaughtered on Tuesday. Other butchers from outside the village shared this facility. Wednesday and Thursday were devoted to preparation; and sausage and potted meat were available on Thursday and the weekly joint on Friday. Surplus meat was sold on Saturdays at Heckmondwike Market. Although the original buildings remain, the property is now a private house.

Cobblers – Hartley Charlsworth carried on a boot and shoe repairing business at Littlethorpe in a workshop adjacent to his home. Alf Sheard who was employed full time as a cobbler at Brighouse Cooperative Society had a small wooden hut in Fall Lane between the Post Office and Cooperative Society. He repaired footwear on Friday evening and Saturday. This hut has been demolished and there is no longer a shoe repairer in the village.

Fish and Chip Shop – Harold Lyons built a fish and chip shop on a plot of land at the junction of School Lane and Peep Green Road about 1923. The business was subsequently continued by his brother Alfred. Chips cost 1d per portion and fish 2½d. This shop has been demolished.

Currier – Ben Roberts had a curriers business in a small workshop at Crow Trees. This workshop and his adjoining house have since been demolished. He was also noted for the breeding of Clumber spaniels.

Firewood – Clement Dawson, who was severely crippled, sold firewood, touring the district with a pony and cart. A shed which still stands at the bend in the road between Kitson Hill and Crosshills Farm was the place where he cut and stored the firewood. At one time he was a noted breeder of canaries when he and his parents lived in the cottage next to the former tannery.

Ice-cream and Pies and Peas – In the late twenties Leonard Hewitt made and sold ice-cream in the summer months. This was made at his home in Ladywell and he toured the area in a pony and trap selling 1d and 2d wafers and cornets. In the winter months he fitted a small stove into the trap on which he could heat pork pies and peas and thus complemented his summertime ice-cream business. He rang a bell to attract potential customers. Pies would cost 3d or 4d.

Sweet Shops – There were two sweet shops in the village. Miss Barker who lived at Yew Tree Cottage in Peep Green Road sold sweets from a room in the cottage. The other was situated at Littlethorpe and run by Mrs. Ann Sheard who may also have sold confectionery in addition. The houses remain but not in business.

Second-hand dealer – Jack Ramsden carried on a second-hand business in an old mill in Fall Lane. It was the last building on that road before open country. In the late twenties the mill was converted into a private house by Mr. Albert Guiseley. For some reason Ramsden was known as “Old Grower” behind his back.

Tea Suppliers – For a time Ronald Wilson, a blind person, sold tea from door to door.

Coal – Coal was delivered from Hartshead pit at 21/- to 25/- per ton or 1/- to 1/6 per cwt.

Painter and Decorator – Arthur Shaw (junior) who lived on Littlethorpe Hill did this job. His father, Arthur Shaw, was a nurseryman at the same address.

Whilst the above were all Hartshead residents, several trades people visited the village supplying essential goods on a door-to-door basis.

Yeast – Wheatley from Hightown toured the village on Tuesdays in a pony and trap selling yeast. Many people, particularly in the earlier years, baked their own bread and this was their only source of yeast.

Fruit and Vegetables – Messrs. Beevers and Connor from Norristhorpe sold fruit and vegetables from a horse and cart on Fridays. They were later succeeded by Edgar Lyons and then by Harry Cawthra of Hightown.

Butcher – A butcher's van belonging to Heckmondwike Cooperative Society toured the village on Tuesday.

Confectionery – Fox's of Cleckheaton sold cakes and pies from a small motor van on Fridays.

Household Pottery and Glassware – Willie Farrer of Roberttown sold household crockery from a horse drawn wagon until his death in 1934.

Muffins and Crumpets – Lambert Firth of Hightown sold muffins, crumpets, milkcakes and oatcakes weekly in the thirties. His was a one-man business and his working day started at 4.30a.m in the bakehouse. Like Fox's he used a small van for transport.

Textiles – A packman whose name I never knew toured the village once a week selling household textiles. His wares were carried in two boxes over his shoulder and wrapped in oil skin as protection against the weather.

Newspapers – Daily newspapers were not available in the village but were delivered to order by Franklin Maltas, postmaster at Roberttown, and included the News Chronicle, Daily Dispatch, Daily Sketch, Daily Herald (now the Sun) and the Leeds Mercury. These titles have all disappeared. The Leeds Mercury was absorbed by Yorkshire Post at the outbreak of WWII and the Daily Herald, which was politically left wing, changed ownership twice having been retitled The Sun in the process. The cheapest papers were 1d, the Mercury and Chronicle 1½d and the quality papers, including the Yorkshire Post which was a more superior paper than the current publication, were 2d.

Evening papers, the Yorkshire Post and the Yorkshire Evening News were delivered. Both were published in Leeds, but the latter is no longer published. The Sports Post was delivered on Saturday evenings during the football season and cost 2d.

On Sundays the usual Sunday papers were delivered including the now defunct Empire News and Sunday Chronicle, published in Manchester and the Reynold News published by the Cooperative Society. The two quality papers, Observer and Sunday Times cost 2d and the rest 1d.

On Friday and Saturday respectively the Spenborough Guardian and Heckmondwike Herald were delivered with the morning papers. The publishers of these papers were quite independent of each other until the outbreak of war when they amalgamated.

From: Hartshead Between the Wars by A.B.Crowther.

Bradford Family History Society

Annual General Meeting

To be held via Zoom MONDAY 15th April 2024
at 7.30 pm.

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Confirmation of the minutes of the last AGM held on 17th April 2023
3. Matters arising
 - a. Constitution Changes
4. Chairman's report
5. Secretary's Report
6. Treasurer's report
7. Election of Officers and Committee
8. Any other relevant business

* * * * *

To be followed by a talk on Quaker Family History by Ben Becks

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

held on 17th April 2023 via Zoom

The Chairman, Sue Steel, opened the meeting at 7.30 p.m.

1. Apologies

Diana Tottle, Maureen Logan. 47 members attended

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 25th April 2022 were confirmed as a true record, proposed by John Parker, seconded by Derek Dyson, passed unanimously.

3. Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising.

4. Chairman's Report

Printed in Bod-Kin March 2023.

5. Secretary's Report

Printed in Bod-Kin March 2023.

6. Treasurer's Report

Printed in Bod-Kin March 2023. The accounts have been audited and processed by the accountants. The accountant's version will be signed off by Gill Overend after this meeting.

A proposal to accept the accounts was made by Jackie Depelle, seconded by Derek Dyson and passed unanimously.

7. Election of Officers and Committee

Single nominations for the following Officers were received:

Chairman: Sue Steel

Treasurer: Gill Overend

Secretary: Bobbie Hipshon

A proposal to accept the nominations for officer posts was made by Anne Attfield, seconded by Mary Twentyman and passed unanimously.

There were ten nominations for the vacancies on the Committee.

The nominations were: Anne Attfield, Bill Boldy, Andrea Brown, Derek Dyson, Gordon Holmes, Maureen Logan, Anne Luciw, Shirley Sura, Sally Tetlow and Pat Whitford-Bartle.

A proposal to accept the nominations for committee posts was made by Marilyn Gardner, seconded by Dennis Renshaw and passed unanimously.

8. Any Other Business

Sue Steel informed the meeting that the Society policies had all been reviewed by the committee and the new versions were now on the website. The Society Constitution will be reviewed in 2024 and any proposed changes will be published in the March 2024 edition of the Bid-Kin for discussion at the next AGM.

Thanks were received from members at the meeting for the work of the committee and for making members feel welcome at meetings.

The meeting closed at 7.42 p.m.

Draft – highlighted paragraphs to be amended

Constitution of the Bradford Family History Society

~~(Approved at the EGM on 7th July 2017)~~

1. Name.

The Society shall be known as the Bradford Family History Society.

2. Aims and Objects.

The Objects of the Society shall be to promote Family History by education, mutual assistance, demonstrations, lectures, excursions and any other means conducive to its advancement.

3. Membership and Subscriptions.

- (i) Membership of the Society is open to all who support the Aims and Objects of the Society.
- (ii) Subscriptions become payable on joining the Society and thereafter on the first of January each year.
- (iii) Membership will lapse if payment of subscription is not made within three months of it becoming due.
- (iv) The rates of subscriptions and categories of membership shall be recommended by the Committee from time to time and ratified at the following Annual General Meeting (AGM) but variations to reflect unforeseen circumstances may be made without such referral.
- (v) Honorary membership is at the discretion of the Committee.
- (vi) All members to have voting rights and those over eighteen years of age to be eligible to serve, if elected, on the Committee.
- (vii) The Committee, referred to in section 5 below, has power to refuse any application for membership or to suspend any member whose activities are considered by a simple majority of the Committee, to be detrimental to the Society achieving its aims and objects.

4. Benefits of membership.

Subject to any particular limitation and condition considered necessary by the Committee from time to time, members:

- (i) May attend all meetings, visits and activities of the Society (where additional costs may be charged). The meetings maybe in person only, via Zoom or a hybrid of both.
- (ii) May use all the facilities of the Society provided for its members, together with any external facilities arranged by the Committee.
- (iii) Shall receive copies of the Society's journal for each year that a subscription is paid.

5. The Committee.

- (i) The Society shall be administered by a Committee of ~~eleven (11)~~ between six (6) and twelve (12) members (including the three (3) officers) that

shall include the Officers (Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer) elected by paid-up members at the AGM (see section 6 below). The appointments are effective immediately after the vote.

- (ii) The Committee shall have the power to fill vacancies by co-option. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt up to two additional members to serve until the next AGM.
- (iii) The Committee shall serve the Society for a term of one year. All members shall be eligible for election or re-election on completion of their term of service.
- (iv) The Committee shall usually meet at five (5) pre-determined dates but additional committee meetings may be called by an Officer.
- (v) To be quorate, meetings must include one officer and four other elected members.
- (vi) Voting shall be decided by a simple majority of votes cast but in the event of a tie the chairman shall have a further, casting vote.
- (vii) The Committee may, from time to time, form ad hoc or sub-committees.
- (viii) Normally minutes of the last Committee Meeting shall be available to members at monthly meetings on the Members Area of the Society website.
- (ix) The accounts shall be inspected annually by a competent person who shall be appointed by the Committee.
- (x) The Officers and Members of the Committee shall each be indemnified by the Society against any liability, claim or demand arising from any action taken or omission in good faith by them on behalf of the Society or its Members in the administration of the Society.

6. Annual General Meeting

- (i) The Annual General Meeting shall normally be held during the month of April each year but in any case, within six months of the end of the financial year. At least twenty-one (21) days notice shall be sent in writing to all members. The business of the Annual General Meeting should include:
 - Receiving and approving the Annual Reports.
 - Receiving and approving the examined accounts.
 - Electing Officers and members of the Committee to serve until the next AGM.
 - Consideration of any business which has either been published in the Agenda or notified to the Committee in writing at least 3 weeks in advance of the AGM.
- (ii) ~~Lists shall be available at meetings during the 3 months prior to the AGM on which nominations for officers and committee members shall be entered.~~ Nominations for officers and committee members shall be requested and accepted during the 3 months prior to the AGM.

Nominations must be proposed and seconded by members and have the consent of the nominee.

- (iii) Except when a change in the Constitution is proposed, voting at any meeting, including the AGM, shall be by a simple majority with a casting vote by the Chairman.
- (iv) Suggested changes to the Constitution must be notified to all members in advance of the AGM or Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM). For the changes to take effect, a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those present is needed.
- (v) Accidental omission of notification to an individual member shall not invalidate the meeting.

7. Extraordinary General Meeting.

An EGM of the Society may be convened at any time by a resolution of the Committee or upon a requisition signed by twenty-one (21) members stating the object of the meeting. A meeting called by such a requisition shall be called by the Secretary of the Society within three months, giving the members at least twenty-one (21) days notice in writing of such a meeting.

8. Finance.

- (i) Any excess of income over expenditure shall be applied to furthering the aims and objects of the Society.
- (ii) The Society's monies shall be deposited in a bank or building society in the name of Bradford Family History Society. ~~No payment shall be made other than by cheque or through an official petty cash account, supported by vouchers.~~ Payments will be accepted by cheque, cash, bank transfer, PayPal and Standing Order.
- (iv) The Treasurer and two other Committee members shall be designated signatories to the accounts. Any two (2) of these three (3) will be needed to sign a cheque.
- (v) Honoraria may be paid, on recommendation of the Committee, ratified at an AGM.
- (vi) Speaker's fees may be paid to a Charity of the Speaker's choice if the fee is waived.

9. Dissolution.

Bradford Family History Society may only be dissolved at an Extraordinary Meeting called for that purpose. Twenty-one (21) clear days notice of this intention shall be sent to all members of the Bradford Family History Society. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of those present and voting would be required. On Dissolution, any assets remaining after the satisfaction of all debts and other liabilities, shall be disposed of according to the majority wishes of the members of the Society present at the Dissolution meeting, and specific regard to other groups or societies with similar or related aims and objects.

Chairman's Report 2023

Sue Steel

Well, 2023 was certainly a busy year, not quite as much as 2022 and the 40th Anniversary, but nearly.

This year we focussed on Projects and Funding. We were successful in getting a Heritage Lottery Fund to help change our website so that we had a database to which we could add transcription details. The idea being to transcribe details from any documents not currently on-line, specific to Bradford and its surrounds and which had plenty of individuals named. We worked with West Yorkshire Archives (Bradford) and Bradford Local Studies Library to decide on the first set of documents. With hopefully many more to be added in the future.

We finally decided on some of Bradford Poor Law Union Workhouse records held with West Yorkshire Archives (Bradford). These were births, baptisms, deaths, admissions, discharges and punishment registers. All for a limited number of years but rich in hopefully member's surname interests.

After a great deal of teamwork with photographs, agreements and spreadsheets, we completed the transcriptions just before Christmas. A copy of everything was handed over to West Yorkshire Archives (Bradford) for public use in two parts on Thursday 30th November and on Monday 15th January. At the time of writing, our website has been altered to give access to the data and we are waiting for the final spreadsheets to be loaded onto this. A huge thanks to all involved, especially the tireless half a dozen of transcribers who did the majority of the work – Aileen, Andrew, Dennis, Eileen, Ray and Richard.

Last year we also wanted to do something to increase our membership numbers. Our membership numbers reduce year on year as some of our older members sadly die, or just stop researching. We do get a few new members joining for the first time throughout the year, but some of these for only one year as their research brings them to Bradford. In December 2023 we had 476 members including 18 Exchanges (other Family History Societies), 3 Honorary members and 17 overseas members.

One of the suggestions to help membership was to visit schools and engage the younger age groups. Maybe the children would inspire their parents to join us? We were actually invited to All Saints Primary School, Ilkley to speak to 60 year 5 children one afternoon. Bobbie, Pat and I went along and had a wonderful couple of hours. The children were wonderful and so enthusiastic about the subject. Although I'm not sure our family trees included dogs and cats. But they also added aunts, uncles, cousins, step-families, as well as their immediate parents and siblings.

In 2023 we had our usual morning and evening meetings. But this year we actually closed in July and August for the first time. The number of members attending during those months in the past being very small. Other Societies do

the same, so we weren't doing something unique. During the morning meetings we had an average of 33.4 members at each meeting (a mix of in person and Zoom attendees). Then at the evening meeting we have an average of 37 members attending (Zoom only). There was usually the same number of people in person as there was on Zoom during the morning meetings. The numbers show an increase in attendees prior to 2019, all because of Zoom. My thanks to Shirley for sorting out a wonderful and varied programme of talks yet again.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the committee members for their continued hard work, commitment and support in 2023. Especially Andrea, Bobbie and Gill in their roles as Membership Secretary, Secretary and Treasurer. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Sally Robinson for her work as our Bod-Kin editor over the past 8 years. The magazines produced were brilliant and prompted many positive comments over the years. She also changed the look of the magazine for the better by introducing coloured photographs on the cover. She left the bar very high for our new editors, Anne Luciw and Liz Wright, to aim for. Something I know they are completely up to doing.

But most of all I would like to thank all of our members whether in the UK or overseas. Thank you for your continued support and joining us each month.
(4097)



News from GRO – digital images

Anne Luciw

Some of you may know that the General Register Office (GRO) has made a limited number of birth and death registrations available as digital images for £2.50 each. The records included, at present, are births from 1837 to one hundred years ago and deaths from 1837 to 1957. The digital only copy of the register is equivalent to the middle portion of a birth or death certificate and does not include the registration district information.

I was glad of this service when looking for my Great Grandfather's death record as three men with his name died in the district in the same quarter. I was able to get all three records for only 50p more than I would have paid for one PDF version.

For anyone who is not familiar with using the GRO site I will explain how I went about it. I had to be registered with the GRO to carry out the search, but the registration is free. To access the £2.50 digital image, I had to use the GRO online search index. I tried putting in the GRO Index Reference in but the digital image option wasn't offered. The records available at the reduced price have a "Digital Image" option available in a blue box underneath the search result.

(5233)

Heritage Project – Final Update

Sue Steel

I am hoping that when you get this edition of our fabulous magazine, the Heritage Database will be fully up and running.

Throughout the year (2023) I have been working with Beachshore, our website hosts, to get the details onto a searchable database via our website. So here is how to access this and some hints / tips on its use.

To start you need to log on to our Member's Area. If you need help doing that such as forgotten user name etc please do let me know.



Signed in as Sue Steel (04097) » Sign out

BRADFORD FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

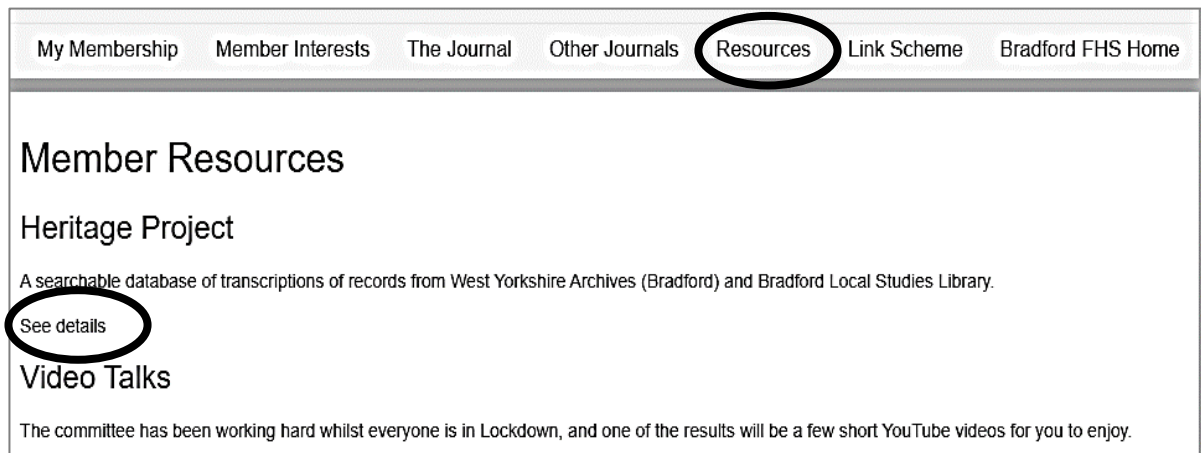
My Membership Member Interests The Journal Other Journals Resources Link Scheme Bradford FHS Home

Membership Details For Sue Steel (04097)

Membership level : Single

Quick Links

Then go into Resources from the menu at the top. The Heritage Project should be at the top of the list. Click on the words 'see details'. You are now into the Heritage Project webpages.



My Membership Member Interests The Journal Other Journals Resources Link Scheme Bradford FHS Home

Member Resources

Heritage Project

A searchable database of transcriptions of records from West Yorkshire Archives (Bradford) and Bradford Local Studies Library.

See details

Video Talks

The committee has been working hard whilst everyone is in Lockdown, and one of the results will be a few short YouTube videos for you to enjoy.

Before clicking the green 'View Heritage Database' button, scroll down the page where searching tips and a list of available datasets can be found. It is like the full catalogue of what is available (green status) or being worked on (amber status).

Bradford FHS Heritage Project



The Heritage Project was started in 2023 when Bradford FHS received a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund through Bradford Council. This was to add a database to our website (members only) where transcriptions of records from West Yorkshire Archives (Bradford) and Bradford Local Studies Library could be held. The database would then be able to be searched by Society Members for details of their Ancestors.

Please read what details are recorded on the database below.

There are no Images included as agreed by West Yorkshire Archives, but the original documents can be seen by contacting West Yorkshire Archives - bradford@wyjs.org.uk or see their website - <https://www.wyjs.org.uk/archive-service/>

[View Heritage Database](#)

Searching Tips

Searching Tips

- All names were transcribed as seen, so the spellings may vary – please use different spellings in your searches if you cannot find a person. A wildcard search is available using an asterisk i.e. Eliz*
- Family members may appear in the records – try just surname searches

Available datasets

The following records have been transcribed and added to the database:

Name	Description	Date	Reference Archive/Library	Status
Bradford Union Workhouse Admissions Register	Register of individuals admitted into Bradford Union Workhouse between 1857 and 1860, with details including: name and reason for admission	1857-1860	BU6/1/1 West Yorkshire Archive (Bradford)	Data import in progress
Bradford Union Workhouse Discharges Register	Register of individuals discharged into Bradford Union Workhouse between 1857 and 1860, with details including: name and reason for discharge, age at death if died	1857-1860	BU6/1/1 West Yorkshire Archive (Bradford)	Data import in progress
Bradford Union Workhouse Birth Register	Register of children born into Bradford Union Workhouse between 1838 and 1853, with details including: name, parents' names, date of birth & baptism, parish	1838-1853	BU6/2/1 West Yorkshire Archive (Bradford)	Dataset available

Then go back and click the green ‘View Heritage Database’ button. Click on the source title of your choice. You will then be resented with a list of the contents in surname order on the left-hand side. Clicking on any of the names will bring up the details from the transcription such as mother, father, date, notes/comments, age. Whatever we found in the records.

Bradford FHS Heritage Project

A database of transcriptions of records from West Yorkshire Archives (Bradford) and Bradford Local Studies Library.

The project utilises Name & Place, a unique database application, designed for the management of family and local history research data.

Powered by
np name&place

Quick Links

- [Bradford FHS Members Area](#)
- [Bradford FHS Heritage Project](#)
- [Name & Place](#)

Source ID	Source Title
1	BU6/2/1 - Register of Births 1838-1853 - West Yorkshire Archives (Bradford)

On the right-hand side is the search facility. Entering a first name or last name or both will bring back any records containing these names. Be aware that sometimes this may include duplicates of records especially if the parent and child have the same name. The list from the search will appear on the left-hand side – a cut down version of the full list.

Bradford FHS Heritage Project

A database of transcriptions of records from West Yorkshire Archives (Bradford) and Bradford Local Studies Library.

The project utilises Name & Place, a unique database application, designed for the management of family and local history research data.

Powered by
np name&place

Search this source

First name:

Last name:

Quick Links

- [Bradford FHS Members Area](#)
- [Bradford FHS Heritage Project](#)

< Source List

BU6/2/1 – Register of Births 1838–1853 – West Yorkshire Archives (Bradford)

<< < Page 1 of 7 > >>

Source ID	Source Title
109	Ackroyd Wm. Conder (1848)
108	Ann Martha (1848)

There are no images, as this has been agreed with West Yorkshire Archives (Bradford) and quite frankly some of the photographs (probably the ones I took) were a little fuzzy.

So, it is now down to you to have a go. Let me know what you think and we can improve things (if possible, given the technology) going forward. The transcriptions were all double checked, but like any transcriptions there maybe mistakes. I apologise if you find any – we tried our best. But we can correct any details or at least add a comment. Obviously, the originals are held at West Yorkshire Archives (Bradford) if you want a closer look.

(4097)

Secretary's Report 2023

Bobbie Hipshon

I can't believe that another year has gone by already! I feel Covid slowed everything down and so many things were 'put on hold'. Things are now moving at a pace where people are determined to make up for a year of virtual isolation, and then a slow few years' return to trust of contact with others. It has been nice to welcome back members to face to face meetings, where we can enjoy each other's company without the fear of passing on illness. Our meetings at the Mechanic's Institute have been better attended this year, thwarted only towards the latter end of 2023 by a sticking door which someone decided to then drive a car into. Hopefully the new one won't stick. Of course, Covid did give us our Zoom members who have become well-loved virtual attendees of meetings.

This year I have done a bit of checking of the transcription work which has been done by a dedicated and very efficient team of society transcribers, led by Sue, who have got through a gargantuan amount of the Heritage Lottery transcriptions which Sue mentioned in her report. Thank you to all who are helping with this ongoing task... you are super-heroes indeed... not an easy task. I was also privileged to accompany Sue and Pat to Ilkley All Saint's Primary School, where Sue gave a simple presentation on family history to 60 year 5 students (and their teachers) after which we helped them fill in family trees. I was amazed at their enthusiasm, and the trees ended up being quite complex and including half siblings, stepparents and even, as Sue mentioned, pets. It seems that Ancestry may have jumped on this band wagon too, as they have recently started doing DNA for your pet!! I doubt there have been many blood connections so far to their owners, but they may find DNA matches to other people's pets?

Unfortunately, we started the year with the very sad loss of one of our committee members Maureen Logan, but have welcomed two new members of the committee; Gordon Holmes and Anne Luciw who are valuable additions to our little team. Anne and Liz Wright are the team of two who are taking over the publication of the Bod-Kin from Sally Robinson who is retiring from the job after a mammoth 8-year stint. We will miss you Sally, but have confidence that the hand over will be seamless.

As usual, I have to thank Sue for her hard work and dedication to the Society. Without her we wouldn't function. Where we all do what we can, we have her guidance in everything we do for BFHS. Thanks also to Gill, as treasurer, who has not been well herself but whom we would be lost without, and Shirley Sura who we have to thank for another year of fabulous talks.

Finally thank you to all of you, our members, who make BFHS a welcoming and inclusive worldwide family to be part of, I look forward to another year serving you.

(4606)

Book review of: *Any More Fares Please?* *Memoirs of a Bradford Bus Conductor*

Shirley Sura

I bought *Any More Fares Please? Memoirs of a Bradford Bus Conductor* by Kenneth J Clayton (Low Moor Local History Group; 1999) at a Family History Fair BL (before lockdown). The lovely lady on the Bradford Family History stall said, 'Let me know what you think'; her Dad had written it. Well Mary, here is just what I think, 'its reyt grand' a hug in a book.

Being born in Bradford and exiled to the far reaches of Birmingham in 1960, I missed all the warmth and comfort of my hometown, the familiarity of the names and places, the certainty that all was well with the world. Well, Kenneth Clayton took me on a bus ride back to all the places I knew, with old words familiar to me, the 'threp'ney bit' 'half-crown', 'florin' and much more.

He brought back my memories of open back buses, bus conductors, the ticket machines I was fascinated with, trolley buses.

I went on a journey through West Bowling, Bankfoot, Manningham, Great Horton, to St Lukes hospital that I now have more friendly memories of than the barred windows I previously remembered. We went down Manningham Lane, Rooley Lane, Manchester Road, Mayo Avenue where my favourite aunt later lived.

The book tells stories and recalls experiences that are funny, scary at times, and always interesting, including memories surrounding the birth of his daughter. On one occasion (page 92), in the times of the old telephone exchange, Mr Clayton recalls inadvertently asking a midwife for a replacement bus. I'll not spoil the story because I'm sure you will want to read it for yourself. He was a bus conductor when the Beatles came to Bradford, when 'Teenagers' was a new word and during all seasons, sometimes when there was so much snow on the roads it was difficult to drive.

In this book we have been given a very human side of an interesting, heartfelt history of a time in Bradford that I remember, and a time before and after.

To me it tells the story of an interesting, straightforward man with a sense of humour and a great affection for his friends and family. As with most Yorkshiremen I have met, he tells it as it is.

On page 22, Kenneth Clayton said he 'must have "framed" pretty well' under his Dad's watchful eye. Well Mr Clayton's memoirs certainly "framed" very well.

This easy to read (I couldn't put it down), glossy 122-page book has 12 photographs of various buses taken between 1946 and 1951 in various places in Bradford. It can be bought from Mary Twentyman at 'mary@twentyman.org.uk' at a cost of £5 plus p&p. (5022)

David Allen submitted an article describing his experiences and learning while transcribing material with the Calderdale Family History Society (CFHS). Full of interesting observations and encouraging for anyone wanting to get involved in transcribing, it is too long to include in one edition of the Journal so it is being serialised.

Transcribing: An Enjoyable, Worthwhile and Learning Experience (part one)

David Allen

A while ago now, back in the days when we had to connect to T'Internet via Dial Up, (remember them?) I tentatively started to try and research my Great Uncle who had been killed at Passchendaele in November 1917 serving with the Dukes. Being single and in full time employment, coupled with the cost of having a landline telephone and internet connection, neither were conducive to me being able to justify the outlay in time and money. So, for at least 20 years, I didn't get any further along in my research.

Nearly four years ago, I decided to take 'early' retirement, being 65 ½ years old, having like a lot of us, been caught up in the Government's decision to raise the state pension age to 66.

Just as I packed up full time work, just before Christmas 2019, along came Covid, and so, before I could fully sort myself out, we were all locked in.

Like all of us, my plans for what I intended or would like to do, went out of the window. At some stage in late 2020 (I think), having managed to sort my affairs out, I decided to try and devote more time to researching my family.

The first step was to join the CFHS. Initially I was content to sit back and receive the Scrivener every three months, with the occasional dabble online trying to sort out the mysteries and quirks of using first Find My Past (FMP), and then Ancestry, until I saw an appeal in the magazine for a new Membership Secretary. Having fulfilled the same role at a Motor Club of which I was a member, too many years ago now to want to remember, I volunteered.

The reply I got was that the role had been filled, but would I be interested in helping Peter Lord, Project Co-ordinator at CFHS, in his transcribing projects? Having always taken the view that you only get out of something what you are prepared to put into it, and societies and clubs such as ours only exist through the work of volunteers, I offered my services to Peter. He was more than happy to take me on board.

My only worry was that my computer confidence, knowledge and skills were nil. I had never had to use a PC in my work, only minimally in my private life, and had never had any formal teaching in the use of them, and consequently any minimal knowledge I had, had been self-taught, and not always for the better. I needn't have worried too much though, as Peter's patience with me is only to be commended and has helped me so much to not only learn how to use computers, but also to gain confidence in using them, which has also helped me in life in general.

The first project I was involved in was the transcription of the School Admissions for Lightcliffe C of E School. Getting started on this journey was initially hard. I had to get used to the way the photographs had been taken, the constraints the photographer had to work to when taking the photos, lighting, background etc. This taught me to use the computer tools available to, e.g., enlarge, shrink, lighten or darken images etc, in order to better read / decipher them, how to use the cursor to move the image around the screen, all tools which help to make images more readable and decipherable. I also started to learn how to decipher the different styles of handwriting, and soon began to see and perhaps decide who were good teachers and perhaps not so good, with the different standards of handwriting.

My first project (the Schools Project) was a very sobering and shocking one to me. Seeing entries against children of perhaps 6,7 or 8 years old describing them as 'Half Time', i.e., school in the morning and work in the afternoon, (or vice versa), or even worse, seeing the reason for children of similar ages leaving the school as 'Deceased', was to say the least, upsetting. It just went to bring home to me how much we as a Society have progressed in around the last 100 years or so.

It was whilst working on this project, that I made a personal discovery. My Great Grandparents and family lived in Broad Oak Cottages at Hove Edge. This I already knew, but this location as far as public records are concerned, is somewhat of a 'no man's land'. Bearing in mind at the time of this, (c1860-1900), I had doubts as to where they might be recorded in Church Records etc. Great Grandpa Walter had been born in Rastrick and Great Gran Margaret is shown as having been born in Brighouse.

St John's at Halifax (Parish Church) was still predominant for the whole of our area, being the largest parish in the country. People living in Brighouse had the right to be married etc. at either St. Mary's Elland, or St Johns in Halifax, and the transition of Hipperholme to Brighouse (for council, administration and electoral purposes) was still very much a work in progress. Therefore, not living locally, being new to the research game, and the fact that even today, the transcription of old records to T'internet is nowhere near complete, I became stuck and unsure of where to look or even how. My searches coming back as 'no results found' didn't

necessarily mean that I was looking in the wrong place, I couldn't be sure that it wasn't only the fact that a particular place hadn't yet been transcribed.

Then, whilst transcribing one of the batches Peter had sent me, I found an entry for one of my Gt Aunties, Adeline, Walter and Margaret's eldest child. This then led to further discoveries of entries for another two of their children, one of whom was my Grandpa George Henry. Then, purely by fluke, as a result of these discoveries, I found an entry on Ancestry, for my Gt Auntie and three of her siblings in the Christening records of St Ebenezer's Methodist Church at Hove Edge.

On seeing Adeline's entry, in the school records I could see a couple of details which I knew to be wrong. Checking with Peter, who as always with his patience and guidance, he advised me to correct them in the transcription but put an advisory comment in the note's column.

The discovery of Adeline's and her siblings' christening was a revelation, as my whole family as far as I knew had solely revolved religiously around the Church of England, and indeed Walter and Margaret's religious upbringing and their parents was CofE. Why their children's christening took place at St Ebenezer's Methodist rather than St Matthew's C of E at Lightcliffe, where some of their marriages took place, or St Martin's C of E at Brighouse I can only wonder about.

Following on from the discovery of the school admissions for my Gt Auntie, and her siblings, further research threw up discoveries for my Gt Uncle John, who I had initially started out to research. The most important fact I found out was that he had married Mabel Cuckson of Rotherham in St Mathews at Lightcliffe on Boxing Day in 1916. This was a total surprise, as no-one in my family had ever mentioned or indicated to me that he had married before his death at Passchendaele in 1917. So, I had discovered a relation I never knew of, and another branch of my family that I didn't know existed, all through starting to help Peter and the CFHS.

It seems that Gt Aunt Mabel returned to Rotherham after Gt Uncle's death, and never remarried or had children. It appears from Forces War Records, that she was awarded a Death Grant of £5, and was given the princely sum of 13s 9d per week as a War Widows pension.

Having completed the school admissions project, there followed a couple of months break because of I think admin and legal reasons before we started on the next project of transcribing the Exley Cemetery Memorial inscriptions. I was given the David Lord memorial, and along with that came more challenges and discoveries.

To be continued...

(5239)

The Demise of the Woolcombers

Marilyn Gardner

When I started researching my family history some twenty years ago, I discovered that my maternal grandmother's ancestors (CLIFFORD) were woolcombers in Dorset. (But bear with me, they did move to Bradford.)

I learnt that the quality of a finished woven cloth depended on the skill of the woolcomber, and I was proud of this fact. Then I discovered that they asked (and got) high wages, only worked for as long as they needed, enacted closed apprenticeship rules and held weavers to ransom by withholding their skills. I wasn't too proud of that!

They (and their wives!) were involved in the smashing of looms in Shepton Mallet, Dorset, when mechanisation was introduced in the early 1800s and many of the leaders of the riots were woolcombers. They were articulate and wanted to retain their status.

Times were changing. Wages went down. They had to work longer hours at this gruelling job in sweaty, smoky conditions carried out in their own homes.

My ancestors moved to Warwick then Kidderminster following the wool trade. It collapsed around them as their woolcombing expertise became redundant when more mechanisation was introduced.

Finally, they arrived in Bradford in 1838 in time to participate in the Woolcombers' own report on their conditions (some of the worst in Bradford at that time). Half of their children died but they survived because they had been born in the countryside. The skills of the woolcomber were lost when Lister and Donisthorpe's woolcombing machines were introduced into the new factories. The woolcomber became a weaver, competing with Irish weavers who came over during the Irish famine. Their wages were reduced again. They clung to Protestantism, especially Methodism, became union leaders, Chartists (and I'm proud of that) and then it was all over.

No more woolcombers.

If anyone wants to learn more, I can provide a short reading list. This includes novels as well as non-fiction sources.

(5221)

Meeting Programme 2024

Please check the website in case meetings have been cancelled or changed.

Meetings will be held via Zoom and/or at the 2nd Floor, Mechanics Institute, 76
Kirkgate, Bradford,
BD1 1SZ

The venue is small wheelchair accessible and there will be a PA system.
Zoom Meetings may be charged at £2 and all face-face meetings at £1.50 per
member.

Morning meetings open at 10:00 am with the formal meeting from 10.30 am.
Evening meetings open at 7:00 pm with the formal meeting from 7.30 pm.

Month	Date	Time	Description	Speaker	Type of Meeting
Mar	18	PM	A Yorkshire lad does well.... Thomas Footer crosses the pond – His story and how Sue used him as way to find more family information	Sue Barry	Zoom Only
Apr	4	AM	A Female Bigamist - Not Once But Twice! Aunty May's Secret Past	Lorraine Birch	Hybrid
Apr	15	PM	AGM & Quaker Family History – Ben has Quaker Ancestry on His Mother's Side Right Back to the 17th Century	Ben Beck	Zoom Only
May	2	AM	Factories and Fevers - Child Health in the 19th Century	Emma Storr	Hybrid
May	20	PM	Making the Most of a Will - This talk considers the deceased, the testators, the bequests, other documents and records and how combining information from more than one will produce surprising results	John Titterton	Zoom Only
Jun	6	AM	Drop-In-Session at Bradford Local Studies Library		Face to Face Only
Jun	17	PM	House History – Who Lived in the House at Saltaire?	Sue Steel	Zoom Only

Month	Date	Time	Description	Speaker	Type of Meeting
Jul	4	AM	No Meeting		
Jul	15	PM	No Meeting		
Aug	1	AM	No Meeting		
Aug	19	PM	No Meeting		
Sep	5	AM	Lion Stores to Hillard's – From a Cleckheaton corner store to a Northern Supermarket Chain.	Caz Goodwill	Hybrid
Sep	16	PM	Researching Yorkshire Ancestry	Jackie Depelle	Zoom Only
Oct	3	AM	Life and Death on Yorkshire's Waterways	David Scrimgeour	Hybrid
Oct	21	PM	Open Meeting	Sue Steel	Zoom Only
Nov	7	AM	They Came From Far and Near - True Bradford Family History Reflecting the Growth and Wealth of the City in the Late 19th Century. Including Overcoming Brick Walls Along the Way	John Kennedy	Hybrid
Nov	18	PM	Old Poor Law Records at the Borthwick Institute	Laura Yeoman	Zoom Only
Dec	5	AM	Central Bradford Chapels and What They Have Taught Me	Derek Barker	Hybrid
Dec	16	PM	No Meeting		

Details of Meetings were correct at the time of writing, but things do change. Please check the website for any alterations.

N.B. The Society holds liability, but not personal accident insurance. Members are therefore responsible for their own personal accident cover, and attend meetings and are involved in Society activities at their own risk.

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The David Lord Memorial, Exley Cemetery - see page 23
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