

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

Newsletter
January 2017
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A Happy New Year to you all

Branch News

There is no meeting in January.

Our Future Programme (February to August)

Our next meeting will be on **Saturday 11th February** and will be a talk given by Sid Calderbank on **Love and Romance in Victorian Lancashire.**

Sid is the chairman of The Lancashire Society and committee member of the Edwin Waugh Dialect Society. He has been researching, collecting and performing works in the Lancashire dialect for over 40 years.

Sid will entertain us with songs, stories and poems from 19th century Lancashire writers.

March 11th 2017 - Poor Law in 1834 - Alan Crosby

The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 completely transformed the system of poor relief which had operated since 1601. It centralised administration, created the massive union workhouses so feared by our Victorian forebears, and turned a comparatively humane system into a draconian one where deterrent was the key word (in other words, make the workhouse so unwelcoming that people will be deterred from applying for assistance). The aim was to cut the welfare budget. Sounds familiar? It didn't work, and especially not in Lancashire and Yorkshire, but it was a fundamental aspect of Victorian society. If your ancestor was a pauper, this is the system they had to deal with.

April 8th 2017 - And in Flew Enza - Tony Foster

This talk is based on the Spanish Flu that was a worldwide pandemic and resulted in 50 to 100 million deaths during 1918-1919. There were 228,000 deaths in the UK of which 611 deaths occurred in Oldham. In the talk Tony will outline the various sources that can be used to explain how the flu affected the local

community and how they coped with this “new” flu. The talk will also explain the commercial remedies that could be purchased over the chemist counter. Tony has been involved with family history research since the early 1970s and is a Vice-President of the Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society. In 2000 he completed a MA in Local History.

May 13th 2017 - North Country Folklore - Peter Watson

This talk will look at some of the ‘Folk-Learning’ relating to healing, protection, the supernatural, popular beliefs and superstition. Peter lectures on social history, medieval history and popular culture and has been giving talks for 40 years. His particular interests are protective, healing and image magic, and the uses of magical artefacts.

June 10th 2017 - Skeletons in the Cupboard - Alan Morrison

This presentation is a descriptive account of how the speaker researched his family tree and the very unusual outcome he discovered. This sometimes humorous and sometimes sad account advises the listener of various sources and ways to interpret them.

No meetings in July and August

Society News

Saturday 7 January, 10.30am: Beginners Talk - First Steps

Madeline Best will be talking about the basics of beginning your family history research along with mention of items you need to check along the way and the possible pitfalls and incorrect information you may find.

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.

The Quarterly Meeting - 18th January

To be held in the Performane Space, Manchester Central Library.

10.30 am Probate Records for Family Historians

Speaker: David Lambert

Wills, administrations, inventories, intestacy laws

12.00 Lunch

1.00 pm John Ellis: The Rochdale Hangman

Speaker: Ian Etchells

He was a hangman at Strangeways and the talk relates to three murderers he hung.

Please register via Eventbrite on the Society home page.

That's all for this month.

We hope to see you at one of our meetings this year.

Sue Forshaw, Newsletter Editor

Assisted by Irene Whitby