

Bod-Kin

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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

We hope you had a chance to enjoy the sunshine in April and May.

The theme for this issue is '*Bradford and its People*'. We asked for stories about how your family came to live in Bradford, a particular event in your family history relating to Bradford, or cultural events that had significance for your family. You have excelled yourselves, submitting many excellent articles and it was a delight to receive two handwritten submissions. Do you remember what it was like to receive a handwritten letter in the post? It happens so rarely these days that we had almost forgotten how pleasurable it is.

Also in this edition are two committee reports and news about the newly elected committee members. Sue Steel continues as the Society's chairman. She is the linchpin of the Society. We would like to thank her for the support she has given us over the last eighteen months and for all the work she does to keep the Society working effectively.

The cutoff date for the next issue of Bod-Kin is 4 August 2025. No article is too small. Articles over six pages in length can be serialised or placed whole on the Society's website.

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Front cover picture – Bradford City Hall and the Ramadan Pavilion which represents part of the religion and culture of some of the people of Bradford, © Andrea Brown.



From T'Chairman

Sue Steel

Firstly, a huge thank you to our committee members from 2024-25 for being there giving support and suggestions. A special thanks to Malcolm Cowburn who is stepping down. But a huge thank you to Gill Overend who has been our Treasurer for 13 years. She has been doing a fantastic job all that time, regardless of what we threw at her – data protection, insurance queries, starting a limited company, accountants, HMRC and hundreds of transactions. But she has now decided to stand down from the Treasurer post but will still form part of our committee.

Secondly, hello to our new committee for 2025-26 – myself, Bobbie Hipshon (Secretary); Stewart Varley (Treasurer); Andrea Brown (Membership Secretary); Sally Tetlow (Publications Officer); Anne Attfield; Bill Boldy, Derek Dyson; Gordon Holmes; Anne Luciw; Gill Overend; Shirley Sura; Pat Whitford-Bartle and Liz Wright. Our new additions are Stewart as Treasurer who some of us met at our recent drop-in session at the Bradford Local Studies Library. I am hoping we don't frighten him away over the next couple of months as Gill hands over the reins. Also, Liz Wright, the co-editor of the Bod-Kin, has decided to see what we get up to on the committee. Thank you all.

It is that time of year when we ask if anyone would like to be the Speaker Finder for the 2026 programme. You will have lots of help and suggestions for speakers. We would usually start producing the speaker programme for 2026 from September. The new programme being available for the December issue of the Bod-kin (needed for the start of November). So, if anyone is interested in having a go, please do let me know. Speaker Finders tend to choose talks that interest them (I did!), so changing who does this allows us to have a variety of speakers over the years.

Other news:

Bradford City Library and Bradford Local Studies Library will be moving into Britannia House ground floor sometime in 2026. Or at least this is the latest rumour. This may mean a closure of Local Studies for a time whilst the move happens. The re-location venue of Bradford Archives was unknown at the time of writing. I will keep you all informed using the News items on our website.

The Bradford Club in Piece Hall Yard closed at the end of May. The building dated back to the mid-Victorian period with parts of the Club dated 1855 and other 1866. The private club, open to men and women, will be sadly missed. Groups meeting in the building have had to find alternative accommodation, with

Bradford Historical & Antiquarian Society moving to Bradford Mechanics Institute (including their extensive library).

The Historic Town's Trust has produced a new map of Bradford to celebrate the City of Culture. The map shows the history of the city and includes an introduction, a history of the city, and a gazetteer providing a brief history of the main features shown on the map. The full colour maps are at a scale of 1:2500 (about 25 inches to the mile) and have illustrations and points of interest specific to the city. The map does cost (around £12) but shows the growth and history of our city. For further details see the website - <https://www.historictownstrust.uk/>

Just so you are aware the committee will be discussing our status as a limited company and whether this is still relevant. If you have any comments on this please do let us know. We have fewer members now than when we became a limited company. and the costs may now outweigh the advantages. Being a limited company protects committee members from being liable for any fines and court costs for Data Protection and Copyright infringements. We have had none to date and take these matters very seriously.

I would like to thank our overseas members, especially Lynn-Dell Norton and Sue Carsons for advertising our Society to Australian and Canadian History Societies near them. Getting our existence out to the world is really important. If any of our other overseas members are willing to promote the Society locally we encourage them to do so, we would love further overseas members.

Finally, I have been asked by another school in Bradford, this time Our Lady and St. Brendan's Catholic Primary School in Eccleshill to visit and introduce the children to family history. Hopefully we will have a date to do this by the time you read the journal.

If you have any suggestions, questions or comments please get in touch.

(4097)



Secretary's Report for 2024

Bobbie Hipshon

2024 saw a return to people feeling comfortable in the daytime meetings and the attendance at our cosy rooms in the Bradford Mechanic's Institute has reflected this, increasing steadily on pre-covid numbers. Zoom meetings, are still popular

and offer a welcome alternative for those who live far away or cannot travel for other reasons. Membership, however, is still declining slightly and we are always looking for ways to recruit new members. It is one of the reasons we keep our membership fees so low – the internet membership still being a mere £10 a year. This offers exactly the same benefits as the other memberships except for the printed and posted copy of the Bod-Kin, which is available digitally, along with copies of the magazines from several other family history societies. You are still encouraged to join us in meetings, (£1.50 in person, or £2 on Zoom when there is a speaker), and to serve on the committee. Being a member of the committee alongside people I now consider friends, has been an added benefit to me. Please talk to your friends and colleagues about us, you never know who has a connection to Bradford. We welcome all the diverse communities, young and old, who have an interest and have family who were born or lived here, you do not have to go back to the Middle Ages to feel you belong. We have members in Australia, New Zealand and the US who join us (usually slightly bleary eyed) for meetings over Zoom, and some have even visited in person – although not just for a meeting it has to be said!

Sue, Pat and I visited Ilkley All Saints Primary School for the second time in two years to give a presentation to Yr5 and help them fill in lineage charts. A great time was had by all and the children were engaged and knowledgeable, in the most part, about their family history. We did not have as many pets included in the charts this year, but some families were very extended!

Thank you as always to the other hard-working members of the committee without whom there would be no BFHS. Shirley, with a little help, has furnished us with another year of fabulous talks which are worth the membership on their own. Sue has overseen a lot of transcript work done by members which brings in some revenue from Find My Past when it is published and accessed on their website. Anne Luciw and Liz Wright are doing a sterling job having taken over the publishing of the Bod-Kin last year and Andrea has continued to carry out the task of membership secretary diligently, despite having a demanding full time job. Gill has had a challenging year health wise but nevertheless has carried out her job as treasurer with hardly a pause. Her hard work is evident in our healthy accounts and detailed reports. I attend meetings, write up the minutes and give praise to everyone else who does the hard work...seriously though each and every one of our committee members contribute to the decisions we make and are considered invaluable to the running of the society – so thank you. We are a friendly bunch so why not come and see what we do?

(4606)

Treasurer's Report and Accounts for 2024

Gill Overend

I am pleased to report a more successful year with an excess of income over expenditure of £1,226.23. The project started in 2023 was completed. Sage has grouped the grant income and the expenses with meetings. We spent all but £61 of the grant we received. Membership subs held up well but we only sold one CD in 2024 and other sales fell.

We did not renew one of our insurance policies arranged by the Federation, so FFHS expenses fell. Fewer copies of the Bod-Kin are being printed so cost is reduced but postage is more than the printing.

Software and website costs are gradually increasing, as are audit fees, bank charges and commission charged by PayPal and GenFair. We have been helped by the interest rate on our deposit account and received £493.93 in 2024.

In December 2024 the laptop used by our membership secretary, Andrea, was failing so we purchased a reconditioned laptop at the cost of £160.

I apologise that the accounts have been late for a second year. I am standing down after this AGM so that the society can have a treasurer whose mobility and health are more reliable than mine have been recently. I have learned a lot in 13 years. I am grateful to my committee colleagues and others I have worked with, and our many wonderful members I have come into contact with. I especially need to thank Sue and Andrea for their support in recent months.

The accounts will be audited in the near future by our accountant.

(2220)

Bradford Family History Society Limited Accounts 2024

Profit and Loss

	Change 2024	2024	2023
Sales			
Subs - this year	5347.69	5347.69	4754.38
Sales - Publications			
Resaleables	541.94	541.94	832.25
Sales - Bookstall	4.00	4.00	16
Sales - Meetings			
including Project Grant	1978.71	1978.71	502.77
Misc. Receipts	511.93	511.93	502.77
	8384.27	8384.27	7466.89

	Change 2024	2024	2023
Purchases			
Publications Resaleables	-3.90	-3.90	93.83
Bodkin	2271.71	2271.71	3117.69
Meetings inc Project	1944.88	1944.88	1472.02
Misc. Other Expenses	52.50	52.50	46.95
	4265.19	4265.19	4730.49
Gross Profit/(Loss):	4119.08	4119.08	2716.4
Overheads			
Printing & Stationery	28.37	28.37	5.9
FFHS	259.20	259.20	626.88
Computer expenses	1277.58	1277.58	490.99
Advertising & Publicity, Fairs, Travel	55.00	55.00	368
Website Expenses	537.60	537.60	540
Donations made	30.00	30.00	125
Legal & Prof. Fees	13.00	13.00	13
Audit Fee	600.00	600.00	600
Sundry General Expenses	92.10	92.10	88.5
	2892.85	2892.85	2858.27
Net Profit/(Loss):	1226.23	1226.23	-141.87
 Balance Sheet			
Fixed Assets			
Computer Equipment	160.00	160.00	0
	160.00	160.00	0
Current Assets			
Stocks	3.90	683.35	678.45
Bank Current a/cs	620.86	947.22	326.36
Bank Deposit a/cs	-1056.07	16201.19	17257.26
	-431.31	17831.76	18263.1
Current Liabilities			
Honoraria - re this year, payable next	0.00	600.00	600
Audit Fee accrual	0.00	600.00	600
Subs - in advance	-222.53	680.66	903.19
Meeting fees accrual	-60.00	0.00	60
Project Accrual	-1215.01	0.00	1215.01
	-1497.54	1880.66	3378.2
Current Assets less Current Liabilities:	1066.23	15951.10	14884.87
Total Assets less Current Liabilities:	1226.23	16111.10	14884.87
Capital & Reserves			
Accumulated Fund	0.00	14884.87	15026.74
P & L Account	1226.23	1226.23	-141.87
	1226.23	16111.10	14884.9

Harry East and “gracious living”

Ben Stables

Harry East (full name Harry Ackroyd East) (1910-1989) was a sports journalist who published a number of light-hearted books on cricket. A keen educator, he bequeathed money to fund prizes at his alma mater, Bradford Grammar School. He published many articles in newspapers like the Yorkshire Observer and Keighley News, plus regional and cricket related magazines. His friend, author Maurice Colbeck (1925-2013), described him in the following terms:

Harry was what some might call an ‘original,’ others a ‘character.’ Neither word does justice to that ex-schoolmaster, part-time author, cricketer and humourist, a Yorkshireman to his toenails, but by no means your stereotypical Tyke.

He was born at 20 Prospect Street in Buttershaw, on the outskirts of Bradford, on 11th August 1910. He was the son of a plumber, George East (1879-1954) and Mary Ellen (née Ackroyd) (1878-1963). His mother was a keen member of the local Congregational Church, and his father was likewise a keen member of the local Working Men’s Club! Harry was educated at Buttershaw Council School (which no longer exists) and later at Bradford Grammar School.

Harry found work as a primary school teacher and lectured on Textile Mathematics for an evening school held at Bradford Technical College (now the University of Bradford). In semi-retirement, he occupied himself as headmaster of a small independent school in Halifax. His other career was as an amateur cricketer. As a boy, he played football for Buttershaw, and cricket for the Buttershaw Congregational Church team. In adolescence, he played for the East Bierley and Bingley Cricket Clubs.

His writings on cricket were full of Yorkshire wit and wisdom. He published a large number of articles and three books; a novel entitled ‘The Heart of Yorkshire Cricket’ (1973), and two collections of his cricketing articles ‘Laughter at the Wicket’ (1980) followed by ‘Cricket is for Fun’ (1981). Another interest was walking long distances. He wrote a series of articles about his experiences travelling from Bradford to seaside towns like Blackpool, Cleethorpes and even New Brighton in Merseyside mainly on foot.

Harry East spent his final years in a nursing home in Queensbury and died “peacefully in hospital” on 16th January 1989 aged 78 years. His ashes were scattered on ‘Daffodil Hill’ at Rawdon Crematorium. His scrapbooks containing the articles he wrote were given to Bradford Grammar School and are now at Bradford Archives. He left over £192,000 including £50,000 each to Exeter College in the University of Oxford and Bradford Boys’ Grammar School to fund prizes and scholarships in the name of his son and wife. The bequests are worded

for “furthering education...particularly in the field of gracious living,” which was thought to have been a pun on the famous cricketer W. G. Grace! (5314)



Harry East
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Bradford and It's People

We asked for stories about how your family came to live in Bradford, a particular event in your family history relating to Bradford, or cultural events that had significance for your family for this edition. You rose to the challenge and provided so many articles that a few will be published in the September edition. If you have a story to tell around this theme but think you missed the boat, please send it in.

How Some of My Ancestors Came to Live Near Bradford.

Judith Bentley

Arthur Smith, his wife Maria Allen and their family

Arthur and Maria were my great-grandparents. They came to this area with the railways during the 1890s. They both passed away before I was born but I feel acquainted with them as my mother and grandmother used to talk about them.

Arthur Edward Smith was born on the 28th of July 1857 in Clewer, Berkshire, the third child and second son of Joseph Stephen Smith and Eliza Buckland. Joseph was a brickmaker and brick master according to the 1851 and 1861 censuses (his father, Thomas, was also a brick master at Clewer according to the 1851 and 1861 censuses). He later moved to Slough with his family, where he worked as a cheese and butter man (1881 and 1891 censuses). By 1901 at the age of 76 he was retired and living off his own means.

In 1871 Arthur was still at school, starting his career with the railways the following year. He appears on the register of lad clerks, working at Paddington on 8th April 1872 and the following April records show him working for the Great Western Railway in passenger/goods. I assume he must have been doing office work. By 1878, at the age of 20, he had changed his job and is on the traffic staff register of appointments working at Clapham for the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway. The next employment record I find for him is in January 1885 working at Hampole, South Yorkshire for the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway. Hampole station was a simple affair on the main line of the West Riding and Grimsby railway which opened in 1885 and closed in 1952.

Arthur and Maria had 7 children. Their birth records help map the family's journey from London to the North of England. The two oldest children, Arthur William born 1882 and Percy Joseph born 1883 were both born at South Elmsall, where on the 1881 census Arthur senior is working as a signalman. Jennie Ethel (known as Ethel) was born in 1885 at Skelbrooke, a small village not far from South Elmsall and near Hampole where Dora Marie was born in 1891. By that time Arthur was working there as station master. There was soon to be another move. My grandfather, Sydney Benjamin, their fifth child, was born in Sandal, Wakefield in September 1892. A year later Gordon Allen was born at Drighlington. According to the Halifax Evening News, Arthur was presented with a writing desk by the station staff in appreciation of five years' service before he moved on to work at Queensbury. By the time of the 1901 census the family were living in Queensbury station house. The station was in an isolated place, difficult to access either from Queensbury or Clayton. According to the census, the family were living in Clayton. My grandfather was a pupil at St James Church School, Market Street, Thornton, and a choir boy at Thornton Church. This entailed regular walks across the fields. My grandfather told us about how, on his way home in the dark from choir practice at Thornton church, he once jumped over a style only to land on the back of a sleeping cow. He didn't know whether he, or the cow, had the greatest shock.

The station was a wooden, temporary affair serving an important junction on the Great Northern Line connecting Bradford, Queensbury and Halifax. In 1901 all children are still living at home. Arthur William, now 18, was working as a railway clerk and Percy 17 was working as a railway telegraphist. Jennie Ethel 15 has found employment as a mantle makers apprentice.

In 1903 their last child was born in Queensbury. His parents were 45 and 44 years old.

Sometime before the 1911 census the family moved to Thornton where Arthur was station master. It was difficult for everyone living at Queensbury station so, when the station master's position became available at Thornton, Arthur was keen to apply for it. Thornton station was in a better position for access to the shops, primary schools and the church. By 1911 Arthur W and Percy had left home. Sydney, now 18, was working as a railway clerk and Gordon was a railway messenger.

By the time of the 1921 census Arthur was 64 years 10 ½ months old. The station house, by now, had only two inhabitants. Arthur was a widower on the verge of retirement, (Maria had already passed away in 1919). He was helped by Ethel who stayed at home as a housekeeper. Arthur would soon retire to a cottage in the Yorkshire Wolds on Easingwold Farm at Hutton Cranswick. The family had no previous connection to East Yorkshire. The farm belonged to their next-door neighbour in Thornton, a Bradford wool merchant.

Maria Allen, 1839 -1910 my great-grandmother, was born in Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, the oldest child of the 14 children of William Allen who was described as a tin plate maker and beer tender in 1871, and Maria Williams. By 1860, when her sister, Ann Mary, was born, the family had moved to Upton cum Chalvey, near the Thames and a part of Slough. The area was expanding rapidly during that part of the 19th century, especially after the introduction of the railways.

William and Maria worked hard to support their growing family. In 1871, at age 12, Maria was a scholar, living at home with her parents and 5 younger brothers and sisters, also living with the family were a general servant, an apprentice, and two general labourers who were boarding with them.

By 1878 Maria was living in Kensington, at the home of John Allen Wright, a Colonel in the Bengal Staff Corps and his wife, Georgiana. She was a housemaid aged 22. In September that same year she was married at All Saints Church, Kensington, to Arthur Edward Smith, who was by now a railway signalman. The marriage was witnessed by William Allen, her father, or possibly her brother who was also called William, and Mary Ann Allen, her sister. All parties were able to sign their names. She died at Thornton, Bradford aged 60 on 9th February 1919. I am told that she had been in poor health since the birth of her last child when they were living at Queensbury station.

My research led me to believe that my great-grandparents were both hard working and ambitious. Arthur worked for several railway companies in a variety of roles, eventually coming to South Yorkshire where he progressed from signalman to station master serving at several small stations. The railways were booming at the end of the 19th century and offered plenty of opportunity for a bright, hardworking young man. Slough, where he grew up, had an important

station on the Great Western Railway from London to Bristol, and which had some illustrious visitors due to its proximity to Windsor. Arthur's older brother also worked for the railway at Paddington but seems to have left after a few years, possibly due to ill health. Maria lived nearby. I assume they knew each other for some time by the time they married.

Her father, who worked with tin plate, must have been involved in the construction of railway engines and carriages. I am in touch with several of his many descendants and have been told that he invented a steam brake for steam engines of a type still in use today. Certainly, the family had a bigger than average property. It is reasonable to agree that he used the money he was paid for his invention to build his house which he called The Cylinderies. The invention was not patented. In his later career he worked as a gas fitter, installing gas lighting in railway carriages. According to his obituary, he was also a bell ringer for many years, learning this skill at Chipping Norton and remaining involved until his death at age 89.

The railways were booming at the end of the nineteenth century, giving opportunities for ambitious employees. The Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway, which amalgamated with the Great Northern Railway, opened the line which connected Bradford, Keighley, and Halifax between 1874 and 1878. Arthur was not the first station master at Queensbury, but the station was relatively new and served an important junction. Queensbury station was isolated, and access was difficult because of the steep hill up to the town. Arthur and his wife welcomed the opportunity to move to Thornton.

They were very keen that all their children should have a good education. They made use of the free train travel which came with his job to allow their family to attend grammar schools in the district. My grandfather was a pupil at Hanson Grammar School and his sister, Ethel, went to Keighley Girls Grammar School. I am told that the family were respected and also considered rather posh because of their southern accents. The children were encouraged to work on the railways. Two of them became station masters. Arthur W. was station master at Selsey, on the south coast which had a tramway connecting it to Chichester. Percy was Bawtry station master, south of Doncaster, on the main London to Edinburgh line. Gordon was a signal man also on the main line at Bawtry. Albert, who was too young to serve in the First World War, joined the army. Only my grandfather and his sister remained in the local area. My grandfather looked to the woolen trade and became company secretary for the New Zealand Wool Company and Ethel, who until his death in 1933, was her father's housekeeper. Later she worked as companion and housekeeper to the headmistress of Bolling Grammar School.

As station master, Arthur Edward had a substantial house so was able to provide good accommodation for his family and could pursue his love of gardening, especially when living at Thornton. He also loved wild birds and would trap and keep songbirds. Something we couldn't accept today.

He had no strong attachment to this area, or, it seems, to any place. The family were able to access free train travel and holidays were taken in distant resorts such as Bournemouth and Great Yarmouth. As a widower in 1921 he retired to the Yorkshire Wolds where he was happy to enjoy a simple life without electricity or piped water. His transport was a horse and trap.

Arthur and Maria, Ethel, Gordon and his wife, Irene and my grandparents are all interred in Thornton cemetery.

(5118)



The Smith Family: L to R back row - Gordon, Dora, Arthur W., Ethel, Percy, Sydney Front: Arthur Edward, Albert, Maria



Queensbury Station, early twentieth century



The Cylinderies, Maria Allen's family home in Upton-cum-Chalvey, Slough

How My Family Came to Bradford

Vicky Furness

My father, Edward Cuthbert Reeder (Ted) came to Bradford in 1938. His father, William Charles Reeder, was a Church of England parson, as was his grandfather. Ted only met his grandfather, Rev Charles Reeder once in Northamptonshire who he remembered had a broad Yorkshire accent – the Reeders were from Huddersfield.

My grandfather, William, had a ‘weak chest’, so sought a curacy in Cornwall as the climate seemed suitable. There he met and married Granny, and two sons were born, Alan and Edward. The Lizard Peninsula was rather remote for the boys as careers beckoned, so a move needed to be made nearer to civilisation. Grandfather had been educated at Christ’s Hospital School, London, on a bursary as the son of a poor parson, and he was able to use some influence. The parish of Horley, Surrey, was in the gift of Christ’s Hospital and Rev. William Charles Reeder was instituted as Vicar in 1934. It was a big parish with a better stipend.

Uncle Alan entered Lincoln College, Oxford to study law, and the same was expected of my father, but he wanted to be an engineer, so failed the entrance exams. At last, he was allowed to start a course in Minor Mechanical Engineering at the Regent Street Polytechnic, London.

By 1938, the parish work was too much for Grandfather. He developed double pneumonia and died with gangrenous lungs. Granny and the sons had to vacate the Vicarage within a month. She was left £200 and no pension. Ted realised he had to start earning money, but this was the 1930s. Alan had a friend at Oxford called Alan Thompson, whose father was head of Woolcombers Ltd, Bradford. He kindly pulled some strings, and Ted left his course after one year and moved north. He first lived at the YMCA in Forster Square, with the trams rattling past.

After war service, Ted went to evening classes at Bradford and Huddersfield Technical Colleges studying Boiler House Practice. His skills kept the coal fired boilers creating steam to power the machinery at branches all over Bradford. He completed 40 years’ service with Woolcombers Ltd, surviving several take over and redundancy scares.

As a parson’s son, Ted was interested in people’s welfare. He became a voluntary church youth fellowship leader in Baildon, where we lived, then in Wrose. He fell out with one vicar after another who saw the young people as church fodder. He moved to the infant Bradford Physical Handicapped/Able Bodied Youth Club (PHAB) as leader, and later as chairman. The Club had the support of the Bradford Youth Service with whose officers he had a good rapport. Bradford PHAB is 60 years old this year, and I continue to do a bit of fundraising.

(4091)

My Family's Journey to Bradford

Pat Whitford-Bartle

My father's family name is Polish (Luty which means February), but I was unable to trace the family back to Poland. All the family I could trace came from North Yorkshire, around the Pateley Bridge area. Samuel Luty was born in 1706 and buried in 1791 in Ripley Churchyard. I think he was married three times and had at least 9 children. His son Thomas Luty, baptised in 1761, was a farmer and his grandson John was a weaver and linen bleacher. John was baptised in 1792.

John's son was George, a carter and bobbin maker, and my great-granddad. George was born on 30 May 1843. He had a bobbin mill but, sadly, it burnt down. George brought his family to Bradford looking for work. His brother John, born in 1839, went to Leeds, also looking to find work. One of George's sons emigrated to Boston, USA early in 1900 and eventually settled in Maryland.

George's son, Harry Luty, was my grandfather. He served in WWI when, so he told me, he had to look after the horses. He was a lovely man, and I loved to hear his stories. He used to talk about 'Wipers' and 'Passion Dale' and how lucky he was to survive with only an injured leg. Years later I realised the places he mentioned were really Ypres and Passchendaele. I would have loved to be able to tell him about our Polish connection, but he died in around 1962 and I didn't start my research until 1978.

On my mother's side, her grandfather was George Henry Rhodes (known as Henry) who owned a cutlery company. The name 'Rhodes' may have come originally from the French 'de Rhodes'. Henry was widowed with grown up children when he fell in love with a young serving girl. His family was furious, so Henry and his new wife moved away from Sheffield to Bradford where they had two boys and two girls. The family went from being well off to destitution. When Henry became ill his wife wrote to the family asking for help to pay for a doctor. Two of Henry's sons from his first marriage travelled from Sheffield to Bradford, bringing a doctor with them. They arranged to take Henry and the three eldest children back to Sheffield, where they said they would care for them. However, I found workhouse records for Henry Rhodes, Florence (9), George (7) and William (5) in Sheffield. Henry's wife was left in Bradford with their two-year-old daughter to cope alone. Seven years later, Florence (now 16) had left the workhouse and returned to Bradford to care for her siblings after her mother died from malnutrition. Thankfully, all the children survived. The youngest, Fanny, was my grandmother.

(2980)

Mykola Luciwn, His Journey to Bradford

Stefan Luciwn

My father, Mykola Luciwn, was born on 11 August 1920 in Drohobych, Galicia, and grew up in the newly re-established nation of Poland, although culturally he was Ukrainian. His was a close-knit rural community in western Ukraine, close to the region's capital city, L'viv. Given the choice, he would have remained his whole life in Drohobych, but WWII intervened.



Mykola Luciwn

Mykola's grandfather was a farmer under Austrian rule, but the family lost their land when they came under Polish rule. They turned to wood cutting and forestry to earn a living. Ironically, their new profession later saved the family from being whisked off to the German labour camps, as happened to many neighbouring families, or being relocated to the USSR. Both armies needed wood to provision their troops during WWII, so the Luciwn's was a reserved profession.

In 1939, the Red Army occupied Mykola's homeland and conscripted all suitable males into their army. Mykola (now nineteen years old) escaped because of his occupation. Then in June 1941, The German army invaded eastern Poland via the western Ukrainian border. Mykola's hometown was one of the first areas to come under German occupation. The Germans regarded the local population as a source of labour, and they transported entire families to Germany to work in their mines and factories, including Mykola's Uncle Pylak's family. Again, Mykola's family were saved by their occupation and allowed to stay, albeit under a harsh occupying regime.

The Germans decreed that people from the occupied nations, who were not Jewish, automatically became citizens of the Third Reich. Germany's fortunes took a turn for the worse in 1943 when their troops reached Stalingrad and German soldiers were forced to either surrender or face death. After the disastrous loss of men and equipment, the Germans plugged the gaps, by 'inviting' members of the occupied countries to join their army. When an insufficient number of men volunteered, the Germans started to forcibly draft people into their army. At this point they drafted Mykola. Under German law, as a citizen of the Third Reich, refusal to accept the draft would have made Mykola subject to court-martial and execution. The Germans also threatened men's families to ensure their cooperation. Mykola never saw his family again.

Mykola received combat training and joined the newly formed Ukrainian SS Galizein Division (or 'Halychina' as Mykola pronounced it). Mykola and his fellow Galician Ukrainians went to the front line in Drohobych. They faced the Russian army, fighting alongside German troops. When the Russians

overwhelmed them, the Germans pulled out, leaving the Ukrainians to fend for themselves. After being trapped in a pocket, Mykola and his friends broke free and attempted to return to the German lines.

Mykola and his friends emerged, staggering dazed and disorientated, straight into the arms of the Red Army. They were fortunate not to be shot on sight, as some Ukrainians had been. Instead, they were taken prisoner, marshalled to the rear of the column and marched down to the railhead. When they reached their destination, a Red Army Sergeant met them. This man had been born in Drohobych and pressed into the Red Army during the Russian occupation of the area in 1939. Having recognised Mykola and his comrades, he dismissed his men and took the prisoners to the other side of the tracks. He told them to scarper, and they made it safely back to the German lines. Later, Mykola learned that they had a lucky to escape as the Russian soldiers shot the rest of the prisoners.

By 1945, the Germans had lost the fight against the Soviets and Mykola and his comrades embarked on a long retreat through Yugoslavia and into Austria. The native Germans only allowed their fellow countrymen to travel in their vehicles. Recruits from the newly conquered regions had to make their way on foot. When they reached Austria, they came up against the Red Army and Yugoslavian partisans. Their Ukrainian general knew they could not win, so, rather than retreat into Germany, they surrendered to the Allies. Having first been disarmed, they were allowed to enter Italy via Austria, where they once again surrendered. Mykola was interned in a prisoner of war camp in Rimini. A kind Red Cross employee completed an identity card in the name of Mykola Luciwi, but I suspect that his name was written incorrectly. Mykola's English family and Ukrainian friends always called him Nick, implying that his name might have been Nicolai.



Mykola in Rimini Italy 1946 (third from left)

Mykola's arrival in Bradford

In February 1948 Mykola. was sent from the camp in Italy to Glasgow by sea from where he was transferred to Ely POW Camp. Then on 5 July 1948 he was sent to Pingley Farm Camp in Brigg, Lincolnshire where he was employed as a farm worker and member of the Land Army.

Mykola was discharged from Pingley Camp on 18 January 1949. He set off by train for Liverpool but got on the wrong train and eventually got off in Bradford. On the platform, he bumped into his uncle, Mr Pylak. The Pylak family had chosen to settle in England as refugees after they were released from a Germany labour camp by the Allies. Mr Pylak offered Mykola a place to stay in his own home.



*Mykola front right - Christmas celebration
prisoner of war camp in Ely*



*Mykola standing at the back
1947 Pingley Farm.*

Mykola got work as a builder's labourer. Like other Ukrainians and immigrants in general, he had to take the worst jobs in order to earn a living. He continued to live with the Pylaks until 1954 when he met Doreen Bentley, in a Bradford pub while she was out with her friends. They spent a lot of time together going out to local pubs and the cinema. Doreen and Mykola were married on 11 December 1954 at the Bradford Registry Office, and I was born in 1955.



Doreen Bentley

Like many Ukrainians, Mykola had received only a basic education. Ukrainian immigrants in England established a network of Ukrainian Clubs to support each other and keep their culture and language alive. They also established the Orthodox Church of Ukraine in the UK. In 2018, the Church was officially separated from the Russian Orthodox Church and given its own Patriarch. Through the club, Ukrainian people gained an education, learnt to speak English and supported each other. My brother and I went with other British-born children of Ukrainian immigrants to the club every Saturday to learn about our parents' culture, to speak Ukrainian and to write in Cyrillic Script. The Orthodox Christian Church followed the Julian calendar, unlike western Europe, which uses the Gregorian calendar. As a result, Ukrainians living in Britain celebrated Christmas, Easter and other religious festivals thirteen days after the rest of the country. That was until last year when the Church moved to the Gregorian calendar. My children and grandchildren thought it great fun to celebrate Christmas and Easter twice when they got two lots of presents.



*Mykola Luciw front left on a Ukrainian
Club outing.*

Mykola and Doreen bought their first house at 9 Norton Gate, Bradford. In 1960, the council placed all the houses and shops in Norton Gate and the surrounding area under a compulsory purchase order. They destroyed the buildings to make room for the widening of Manchester Road, the construction of a roundabout at Odsal Top, and the building of new houses. Mykola and Doreen were able to buy 14 Deneside Terrace, Bankfoot, for £900 with the compensation they received.

Mykola took his responsibility as a father seriously and required obedience from me and my siblings. He was a strict disciplinarian with us boys, as most fathers were at that time, but showed a softer side to our sisters.

Our friends found Mykola frightening and were always wary when calling for my brother and me. He had managed to bring a bayonet with a German swastika on the grip with him to Britain. He kept it very sharp and used it in the kitchen when making sandwiches. If a knock at the door disturbed him in his food preparation, he would invariably go to the door with the bayonet in his hand. One can only imagine what a young child thought when this man, holding a large, sharp knife in his hand, came to the door and grunted in heavily accented English, "What you want?". My friends feared him initially, but later discovered he was not as intimidating as they thought. Nonetheless, they were careful not to upset him.



*Mykola, my brother and me
Bowling Park*

Mykola eventually got work at Croft Engineering in Bradford, operating a lathe. He did not have apprenticeship papers, so he was on lower pay than his colleagues while doing the same job. After a while, a job came up at the RMI Phoenix Foundry in Bingley, which was much better paid, although it was harder work. I eventually got a job in the Foundry working with him and saw firsthand how hard he worked.

Mykola saw his four children reach adulthood, attended their weddings and welcomed two grandchildren into the family. He continued as a committed member of the Bradford Ukrainian Club, but was sad that he did not get to see his homeland again.

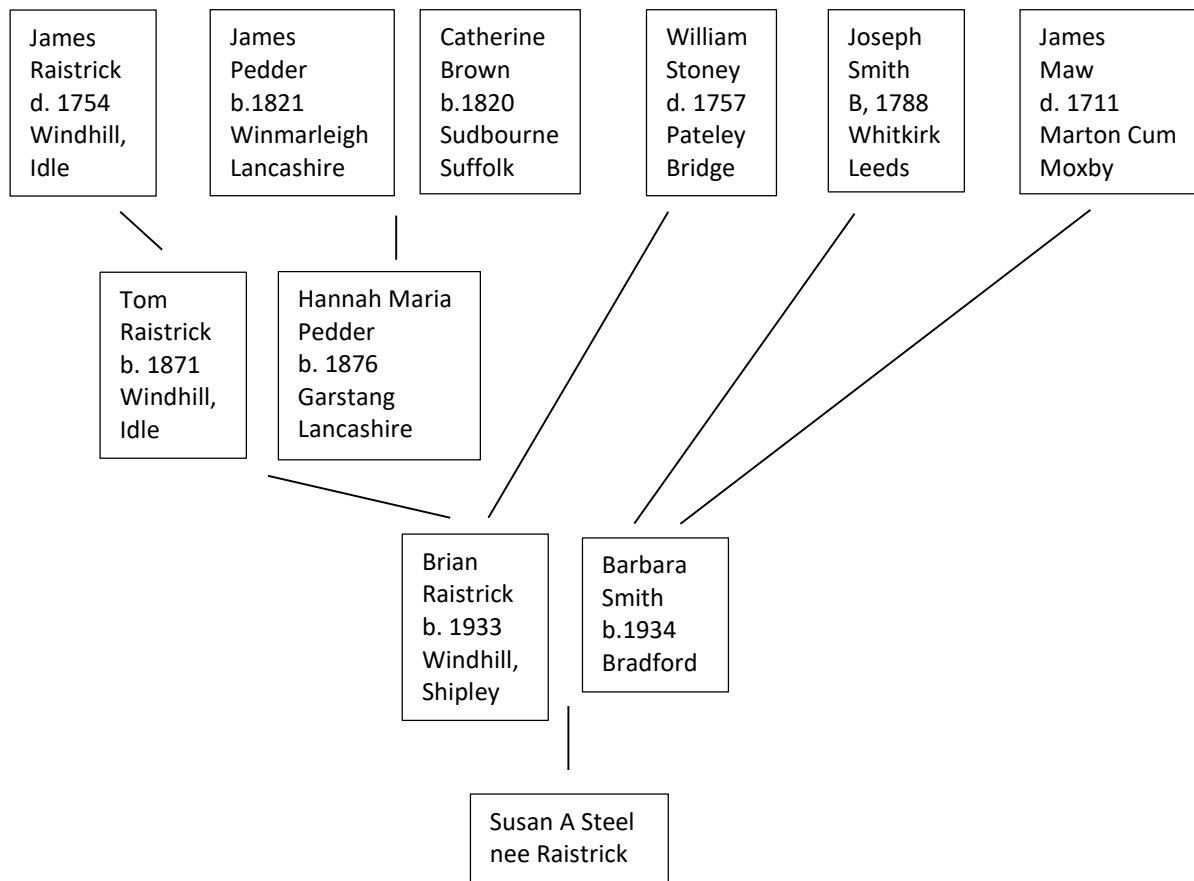
Mykola died on 24 December 1998 at the age of seventy-eight in St Luke's Hospital, Bradford of Ischaemic Heart Disease. His life was tough, but he found happiness in his final years with his children and grandchildren. He was successful in passing on to his sons an appreciation for the Ukrainian culture and religion, and in my case, the language. (5233)



*Mykola's grave, North
Bierly Cemetery*

Where Did My Ancestors Come From?

Sue Steel



I have just checked my four grandparents' lines to as far back as I can to see where they originally came from. Raistrick and Stoney are my paternal grandparents' lines, with Smith and Maw my maternal grandparents. (Note: The family tree above omits many generations for simplicity and my great grandfather, Thomas Maw was illegitimate so there is a line missing).

James Raistrick my 7x great grandfather died in 1754 in Windhill. At that time Windhill was part of Idle but is now part of Shipley, Yorkshire. It is incidentally where I grew up. I'm unsure what James did as an occupation but his son James Raistrick, my 6x great grandfather born in 1719 worked as a clothier. So my direct line didn't really move in or out of the extended Bradford area. But he was the only one.

William Stoney also my 7x great grandfather, died in 1757 at Pateley Bridge, Yorkshire. He may have been a lead miner or agricultural worker; unfortunately, I cannot say for definite. The family moved from Pateley Bridge to the Thirsk area and later Masham, North Yorkshire. It was my 3x great Uncle George Stoney

who first moved to Bradford in the mid-19th century. He was married to Betty Binns on 9th July 1848 at St Peter's Church, Bradford (the cathedral). He was working on the Midland Railway as a porter in 1851 and thus may have moved to West Yorkshire for work with the arrival of trains. His brother, Edmund Stoney, my 3x great grandfather followed him into Bradford and was in Manningham working as a sawyer in 1851. Both brothers quickly became inn keepers, as that occupation must have paid better. It wouldn't have been unusual for family members to follow each other around the country as information of better paid work was communicated back home.

Joseph Smith, my 4x great grandfather (yes, I didn't get any further back than this) was born in 1788 and lived in Whitkirk, near Leeds, Yorkshire. Joseph was a miner and moved to nearby Halton, not that far from Temple Newsam. It was his son, Charles Smith who moved to Bradford, settling in Eccleshill in 1849 after changing his occupation from coal miner to engine tender. An engine tender oversaw the operation of the steam engine which powered the factory machinery. I believe Charles moved to wherever he could find work. Though why he came to Bradford rather than nearby Leeds is unknown.

James Maw was born in the 17th Century (exact date unknown) but died in 1711 in Marton Cum Moxby, North Yorkshire. He was again my 7x great grandfather. His son, another James Maw was born in 1697 in Marton near Sinnington, North Yorkshire. The family were farmers, probably working tenants. The family continued to live around Ampleforth and Sinnington before my 3x great grandfather, William Maw, moved to Low Moor, Bradford. He worked as a plasterer there in 1841. William had worked as a plasterer in York in 1835, maybe originally as an apprentice. Although I haven't found an apprentice indenture as yet. The family stayed in the Cleckheaton, Low Moor, Oakenshaw area until well into the 20th century.

But the greatest movers into Bradford come from the ladies of my paternal line.

Hannah Maria Pedder (my great grandmother) was born in 1876 in Garstang, Lancashire and my 5x great grandfather, Richard Pedder was born in the mid-18th century (exact date unknown) in Winmarleigh, Lancashire. The area is south of Lancaster and north-east of Blackpool, in the middle of nowhere! Richard was a husbandman, working with animals on the farm and married in nearby Garstang, Lancashire. The family were in the surrounding area on the edge of the Forest of Bowland for a century or more. It was **James Pedder** (born 1821), Hannah Maria's grandfather who first went to Laisterdyke, Bradford working as a wool comber in 1841. He married **Catherine Brown** in 1844 at St Peter's Church, Bradford (the cathedral). Catherine came from Sudbourne, Suffolk, arriving in Bradford with her father, William Brown between 1820 and 1844. The Browns may have moved as part of a scheme by Bradford to attract rural labours to the mills of Bradford. The Pedder family moved back and forth a few times over the Pennines, before Hannah Maria married and settled in Windhill,

Shipley marrying into the Raistrick family. I assume the family moved across the Pennines via Clitheroe, Gisburn, Skipton and down the River Aire valley.

Everyone seems to have moved into Bradford between 1840-1850 during industrial expansion and innovation. The lure of the industrial town must have been overwhelming. They all came from rural areas - from clean air, fresh vegetables, space in the countryside to smog, less food and bad living quarters. It is easy for me to say they were 'daft', but the reality was many country dwellers moved around this time as the 1846 corn laws, poor harvests and awful weather conditions meant rural occupations were simply not paying enough to feed a family. The expanding railway network opening up places and opportunities that were unheard of a couple of generations ago.

It's a good job they did move, otherwise I wouldn't be here today.

(4097)

The extraordinary story of Percy Monkman, entertainer and actor of 20th century Bradford.

Martin Greenwood

When you stand in City Park on a sunny day with City Hall in the background, Bradford's major cultural venues for this special year of 2025 look impressive - to the left, the splendid old St George's Hall, around the corner to the right the refurbished National Museum of Media, the still exotic Alhambra Theatre and now Bradford Live to be finally opened this autumn after a complete renovation of the old Odeon cinema.

Yet for most of the 20th century the City possessed another important cultural venue, hidden a mile away on the edge of Little Germany. Here in Chapel Street stands the Bradford Playhouse which today is a down-at-heel building only advertising last year's pantomime. Known then as the Bradford Civic Playhouse, it enjoyed the reputation of serious amateur theatre to a high standard and one of the best in England

One person who played a significant contribution on its stage was my maternal grandfather Percy Monkman (1892 - 1986). He was born at 6 Bavaria

Place in Manningham into a working-class family with strong Yorkshire roots on both sides. His father, the sixth child in a family of 12, just about made a living selling fruit and vegetables off a horse and cart around the local streets. After Percy was born, the eldest of five boys, his father managed to progress to a corner greengrocer's shop on Toller Lane.

Percy and his brothers benefitted from compulsory education introduced from the 1870s at one of the city's first elementary schools at Drummond Road, built by the new Bradford Schools Board. Intelligent and lively, he was to become the first in the family to take and pass an exam (for banking) and started work at Beckett's Bank (later the Westminster Bank) at the bottom of Cheapside opposite the then prestigious Midland Hotel by the Midland train station.

Percy was to spend his entire working life in that bank, progressing eventually to chief cashier, except for four years around the Somme in World War One. But everything else about Percy was totally unconventional. By night, at weekends, on holidays he transformed himself into an entertainer, actor, artist and cartoonist whose work was regularly acclaimed by the public and held in great respect by colleagues.

Amazingly, Percy's lucky break that shaped this second life came in France in early 1916.

When war broke out in 1914, Percy was 22 years old, with already five years in the bank. With talk of military conscription in the air, he volunteered in 1915 and became a stretcher-bearer in the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC). At the start he was quite bored, being trained down in Catford, south-east London, a long way from his Bradford home, waiting for things to happen. Once stationed near the Somme, he spent a few weeks removing dying and injured men on stretchers from the mud of the battle front.

Then one day, out of the blue, he spotted a poster for a concert party in a nearby village hall and with it an opportunity. After all, now 23 years old he had for several years collected a large number of jokes and funny stories, and, from a few pre-war performances, he knew how to make people laugh.

People needed entertaining in such dark days behind the front line. He found the organiser, asked if there might be a role for him, was auditioned and invited to join. This moment was to open up a new life for him. In a later article about Percy, the writer claims that *'At one such concert a General laughed so much at Percy's performance that he broke his chair. After the show he took Percy aside and said that he was wasted where he was and would be transferred to the Entertainments Division.'*

He ended up, indeed, being transferred to another part of the army where the concert party he joined entertained soldiers night after night for two years. Percy estimated that he participated in around 300 such shows, often in cramped and difficult conditions.

Coming back to Bradford after demobilisation, he continued working for the bank as a cashier and doing his sideline as an entertainer. With a business card

advertising himself as a ‘humorous entertainer in North of England concerts’ he performed some 10 to 20 times a year. However, he was clearly looking to branch out and in 1935 he had another slice of fortune. A new amateur theatre had just opened in the Little Germany quarter of the city, founded by an old boyhood friend from the next street and in the same football team. This was J B Priestley, by now a novelist and playwright with a fast-growing national reputation.

No sooner had Percy joined the theatre than its building that had started as Bradford Temperance Hall in 1837 and become a permanent cinema in 1909 burnt down, destroying all records and possessions. The Playhouse was now homeless for two years and its viability in jeopardy.

Thanks to Priestley’s generosity in donating book royalties, supported by some energetic fund-raising by Percy and others, a new 299-seater theatre was opened in January 1937, equipped for both films and plays. It became known as the Bradford Civic Playhouse.

In November 1938, the production of *When We are Married*, a new J B Priestley play, was a landmark event. All the local press reviews came to the same conclusion: the production was a resounding success. It was a sellout every night of its two-week run and eventually played 66 performances after five separate revivals over 20 years. Only three members of the original cast from 1938 appeared in the final revival of 1958. One was Percy, who played one of the three leading male roles, a highlight of his life on stage.

Just when the theatre was establishing itself, WW11 broke out and the theatre now faced another crisis, this time prompted by the war, from reducing membership with petrol rationing and losing actors from call-ups to military service. Despite forecasted losses, performances remained successful and the theatre stayed open for the duration of the war.

The war was, in fact, an extremely busy time for Percy and some of his stage colleagues. In 1940 he became the Chairman of the newly formed Bradford Voluntary Wartime Entertainers Association. He soon created and led a concert party representing the Civic Playhouse. This group took shows of music and comedy in the evenings and at weekends to troops, hospitals and workers in Northern Command (of the British Army), across the whole of Yorkshire. All the while, Percy continued to participate in the regular stage productions.

The theatre performed a wide range of productions – classics and world premieres, tragedy and comedy, English and foreign. It developed an enviable reputation as a repertory theatre, and Percy became one of its main contributors on stage. He often appeared in famous comic roles in comedies such as Shakespeare’s *Much Ado About Nothing* and Farquhar’s *The Beaux Stratagem*, but he also developed his range with more general roles in more serious drama such as *The Corn is Green* by Emlyn Williams and *Ghosts* by Henrik Ibsen.

Overall, the volume of his activity is startling. From Percy’s peacetime records and his wartime estimates we can confidently surmise over 1,000 concert

party performances. On top of this as an actor we know he appeared in 27 plays and nearly 160 performances between 1935 and 1955.

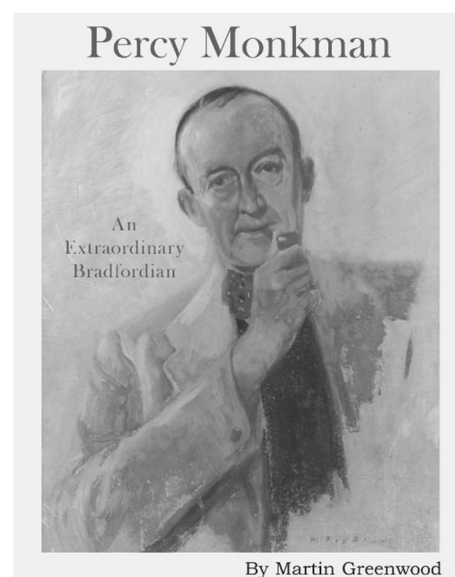
There are countless press cuttings about all his performances from the 1920s to the 1970s that are testament to his popularity on stage as a comedian and an actor.

Of particular note is the commitment to concert parties in the two world wars, comprising some 300 shows entertaining the troops behind the front line in Northern France (1916 to 1918) and another 600 shows for troops, hospitals and workers across Yorkshire (1940 to 1945). It is difficult to imagine many others matching such a strong contribution to the war effort in a non-combatant and purely voluntary role over both world wars.

It is no wonder that on 9 November 1974 (aged 82) he received the accolade of life membership of the Civic Playhouse on the 45th anniversary of the Civic's opening – only the fourth such honour over those years. It was marked by a special party, attended by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Bradford, where he was presented with a special cake decorated with Percy's caricatures of personalities from the theatre's past – he was also a talented cartoonist.



Percy (extreme right) in
When We Are Married



(5026)

Source: *Percy Monkman: An Extraordinary Bradfordian* (by Martin Greenwood) now in its second edition can be purchased from Amazon and The Great British Bookshop (www.thegreatbritishbookshop.co.uk)

Meeting Programme 2025

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

Hybrid Meetings will be held by Zoom and in person on the 2nd Floor, Mechanics Institute, 76 Kirkgate, Bradford, BD1 1SZ

The venue is small wheelchair accessible.

Zoom Meetings may be charged at £2 and all face-face meetings at £1.50 per member.

Morning Hybrid meetings open at 10:00 am with the formal meeting from 10.30 am.

Evening Zoom meetings open at 7:00 pm with the formal meeting from 7.30 pm.

Month	Date	Time	Description	Speaker	Type of Meeting
Jun	5	AM	The Manningham Mills Strike of 1890-91	Derek Barker	Hybrid
Jun	16	AM	The Walmsleys of Robin Hoods Bay, Father and Son - Artist & Writer. With ties to Shipley and Bradford	Jane Ellis	Zoom
Jul			No Meetings this month		
Aug			No Meetings this month		
Sep	4	AM	One Place Studies	Janet Barrie	Hybrid
Sep	15	PM	Mines and the Mining Community of Greenhow Hill, North Yorkshire	Malcolm Street	Zoom
Oct	2	AM	Some West Yorkshire Epidemics	John Brooke	Hybrid
Oct	20	PM	Open Evening – Bring along your questions, queries and stories	Sue Steel	Zoom
Nov	6	AM	Back-to-Back Houses in Bradford with a look at sanitation and clearances	Jude Rhodes	Hybrid
Nov	17	PM	Patchett - A canal family from Shipley	Sue Steel	Zoom
Dec	4	AM	Any more fares please - Stories of Bradford from my father's book.	Mary Twentyman	Hybrid
Dec	15		No Meeting		

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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Bradford City Hall and the Ramadan Pavilion © Andrea Brown



*Percy (top right) in WWI comedy troupe
© Martin Greenwood (see page 21)*



*Celebration cake for life membership of
Bradford Civic Playhouse (9 November 1974)
© Martin Greenwood (see page 21)*