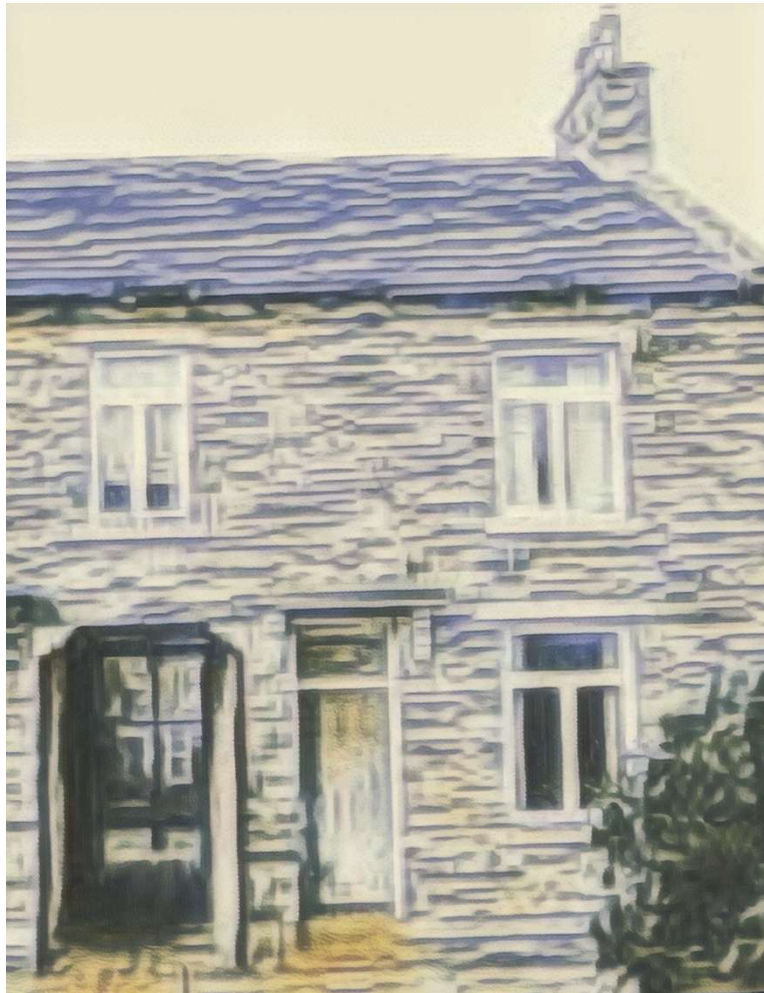


Bod-Kin

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A Yard with an Entry
© E Smith

**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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The Society does not accept responsibility for the views expressed in the articles.

Journal of the Bradford Family History Society Editors

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The Editors

As usual at this time of year, the March issue is taken up in part with the documents and reports for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held in April. The Treasurer's and Secretary's reports are not included, but copies will be provided at the AGM and printed in the June edition of the Journal.

We hope you enjoy the other articles, which include two about Bradford men who chose to make a life outside the UK.

The spotlight is on Bradford this year as it celebrates being chosen as the UK's City of Culture 2025. With that in mind, the theme for the June Bod-Kin will be '*Bradford and its People*'. Do you have a story 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? We look forward to receiving your articles – *no article is too small*. The cutoff date for the next issue of Bod-Kin is 5 May 2025.

Do you have a story to tell but are not sure how to write it? Get in touch via the e-mail or postal address above and we will help to write it up.

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Front cover picture – shows the entry (passageway) into the back yard of a Bradford back-to-back house. See page 7.



From T'Chairman

Sue Steel

Welcome to the first of our magazines for 2025. Don't forget it is YOUR magazine and all articles however small are most welcome. Do you have a query, a brick wall, some old books or certificates you don't want or best of all a huge break through you'd like to share – just let Anne and Liz know.

Doesn't it come around quickly, but it was renewal time once more. Memberships were due on 1st January 2025. If you know of someone who hasn't renewed, please can you gently remind them. After March we actually start to remove members who haven't renewed from our lists as part of the data protection rules. Obviously, after this you can always return as a member, but it would be as a new member and a new membership number. Also have a think about your membership type (maybe for next year). Do you really want a printed copy of the magazine, or are you content with a digital copy? If so, it is only £10 for an Internet Membership. Your benefits are the same you just don't get a printed copy of the magazine. Also, it helps to reduce our printing and posting costs.

In 2025 we will be looking for new committee members. I always like to see new faces during committee meetings bringing new ideas and suggestions to the group. You don't need to live in Bradford to be a committee member as we have meetings via Zoom as well as in person. Committee meetings are 5 times a year and last for between 1 and 1½ hours. Come and join in a lively group and help us run the Society. Just let me know if you are interested.

We also want a new Speaker Finder for 2025. Our past Speaker Finders have been superb, but we all choose the speakers and the topics we want to hear. So having a new Speaker Finder every so often brings someone else's take on things. You are given lots of advice and help in order to do this essential job. It only lasts a few weeks as well, between September and November. You also do not have to live in Bradford, just need to be on email. Give it a thought and let me know if you are interested.

Is anyone interested in carrying out some transcription work, in the comfort of your own home? We are choosing some of our CDs to place on Find My Past again. These will be just the Monumental Inscriptions not necessarily all the contents of a CD. But once on Find My Past, every view of a record from the Society earns us a royalty. Just a little but it all adds up. I supply everything and

you can do the transcriptions at your own pace. Again, if interested let me know. You will be helping the Society and the wider Family History community.

As ever, I keep the website up to date with events and news items. So please do take a look every now and again to see updates on the Archives and Library, as well as any changes to our meetings and speakers throughout the year.

If you have any questions or comments please get in touch. I love to hear from members whatever they have to tell me.

(4097)



Bradford Family History Society Annual General Meeting

To be held via Zoom MONDAY 28th April 2025
at 7.30 pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Confirmation of the minutes of the last AGM held on 15th April 2024
3. Matters arising
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 'Researching History from Newspapers' with
Denise Bates

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

held on 15th April 2024 via Zoom

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

1. Apologies

Pat Whitfield-Bartle, Lorraine Birch, Marilyn Gardner, Ken Kenzie
32 members attended

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 17th April 2023 were confirmed as a true record, proposed by John Parker, seconded by David Broomfield, passed unanimously.

3. Matters Arising

Constitution Changes: The proposed changes were printed in the Bod-Kin March 2024. The changes were all cosmetic and updated them to include Zoom meetings and different methods of payments. There were no fundamental changes to the way the Society runs. The Constitution changes were accepted unanimously.

4. Chairman's Report

Printed in Bod-Kin March 2024.

5. Secretary's Report

Printed in Bod-Kin March 2024.

6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report and accounts were circulated by email to members prior to the meeting. These to be printed in Bod-Kin June 2024. The accounts have been processed by the accountants. The accountant's version will be signed off by Gill Overend after this meeting. These will then be sent to HMRC and Companies House. A proposal to accept the accounts was made by Shirley Sura, seconded by Neil Rhodes 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 Jackie Depelle, seconded by Anne Attfield and passed unanimously.

There were ten nominations for the vacancies on the Committee.

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

A proposal to accept the nominations for committee posts was made by Gill Overend, seconded by Liz Wright and passed unanimously.

8. Any Other Business

Sue Steel explained that as the Society was in deficit for another year, the committee were exploring the possibility of increasing Society subscriptions. That is the Individual and Family/Overseas memberships to increase by £2. The increase was to cover the increasing cost of postage.

She asked members for their opinion only. A final proposal would be printed in the Bod-Kin in June 2024 and an EGM (*Extraordinary General Meeting*) called in September to discuss and vote on the proposals.

The members at the meeting stated that £2 increase was acceptable. It was also questioned what the forecast of the Society would be if no increase was made at this time. That is how many years could the Society continue without an increase given our current financial state. This will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.

Chairman's Report 2024

Sue Steel

2024 was another busy year for the Society. Our Heritage Database went live (finally) and I hope members have taken the opportunity to have a search through the names. We carried out some transcription work; whereby two of our CDs were transcribed and sent off to the Family History Federation to be added to Find My Past; another visit to Ilkley Primary School to talk to Year 5 about Family History; and of course we had our usual fantastic programme of talks. So, thank you to our transcribers – Derek Dyson, Andrew Hepworth, Richard Tetley, Ray Greenhough, Eileen Carter and Aileen Kerr; our Speaker Finder - Shirley Sura;

and Anne Attfield, Bobbie Hipshon and Pat Whitford-Bartle for accompanying me to Ilkley Primary.

Unfortunately, our membership number continues to reduce. In December 2024 we had 417 members, but on 20th January 2025 we had 271 members who had renewed, this includes 2 honorary, 64 internet and 19 overseas members. Hopefully, by the time you read this our membership will be up to 2024 levels, as the week covered in snow and ice in January seriously affected the arrival of renewal cheques.

The attendances at meetings were also down slightly in 2024 as well. Thursday mornings attendees were down from an average of 33 in 2023 individuals to 29, whereas the Monday evening attendees were down from 37 to 32 individuals. Please do let us know if you have any preferences for speakers or topics at any meetings. Or even things we could do to make out meetings better. Some members have asked if we recorded our meetings and the answer, I'm afraid is no we don't. This decision is constantly reviewed, but we really need more volunteers to help hold another pre-recorded meeting if this is to go ahead.

As I mentioned in September's edition of the Bod-Kin I will be stepping down as Chairman by April 2028. It seems a long time to go but it will be here quicker than we think. We are therefore looking for a new Chairperson – let me know if you fancy the job. It can be hard work but it is rewarding and fun.

But before that, 2025 will be a challenging time as well as I hope a successful time for Bradford. It is Bradford's City of Culture year and I hope everyone is enjoying the various events being put on to celebrate. The National Science and Media Museum re-opened after refurbishment in January. The New Darley Street Market is due to open in Spring 2025. But West Yorkshire Archives (Bradford) closed its doors to the public in October 2024 and Bradford Local Studies is due to close as well. Both are to be re-housed somewhere else in Bradford. Venue and re-opening dates have yet to be disclosed. A very sad loss (however temporary) to Bradford researchers. We will keep everyone up to date on progress as soon as we know more. Keep an eye on our News items on the website.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the committee members for their continued hard work, commitment and support in 2024. Especially Andrea, Bobbie and Gill in their roles as Membership Secretary, Secretary and Treasurer. A particular thank you also goes to our new Bod-Kin editors, Anne and Liz who succeeded in producing brilliant Bod-Kin editions throughout the year.

But again, 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. Without you our Society would not be here.

(4097)

Please note: the Treasurer's and Secretary's reports will be provided for the AGM and printed in June's Bod-Kin.

A Yard with an Entry

Sue Carson

A Yard with an Entry

A yard with an entry- oh that's where the 'gang'
Can lean and swap tales when the weather goes hang,
Bring out the soapbox and squat by the wall,
And watch the bright curtain when thunder rains fall.
Spread out the 'weekly' and read out aloud
The best of the jokes to the rest of the crowd
And hark! How the wind and the rain both applaud!

A yard with an entry- now that's what we call
A gem of a run for the kid with the ball,
The bowler can send down a ball that is dim
Which the batsman can't see till it's right onto him.
Which is why, when they're farmers, long long afterwards,
And you ponder the reasons a technique affords
"The best batsmen surely come out of those yards!"

A yard with an entry- no other yard quite
Compares with the one which is half out of sight
And half in the vision, where one looks along
The cool length of tunnel and hears the bright song
Of sun dappled leaves flowing over the wall
Or tossing along in a sunshiny squall
While the blue sky beyond watches over it all!

A yard with an entry- oh maybe beyond
The longest of tunnel (our eyes scarce respond)
Our playmates of yesterday save as a place
And turn to peer back down the tunnel a space
Just in case some old "chum" is adrift on the road,
A soft prayer to help and a tear for the load-
Oh pray for my entry safe into the yard!

Alice Marguerite Holroyd

See Sue Carson's article in the December 2024 edition of Bod-Kin for more information about Alice Holroyd.

(4127)

Members' Notice Board

In this section you can leave a brief message (2-3 sentences) to request help with research, share information, and other relevant topics. Send your messages to Bodkin@bradfordfhs.org.uk or in writing to 5 Salisbury Road, Bradford BD12 0AA,

- Old Postcards - Sue Carson (4127) has a number of postcards to give to a good home. They include six with sepia-coloured pictures of York Minster and a dozen with coloured or black and white pictures of the Lake District, all dating back 50 years or so. For more information contact Sue by email at d.carson@sympatico.ca.



Bradford Historical & Antiquarian Society Day School

Saturday 17th May 2025

The Bradford Historical and Antiquarian Society is holding a Day School event at the Bradford Club, Piece Hall Yard, Bradford to help celebrate the City of Culture 2025. The theme of the day will be Bradford Firsts.

There will be a number of speakers including George Sheeran, Bill Broady and Irene Lofthouse, stalls from local history groups, a book stand for local authors, the Historic Towns Trust Maps, a children's competition prize giving and a buffet lunch and refreshments. The cost is £30 per person and booking is essential. The deadline for bookings is 30 April 2025.

The booking form, which includes full details of the day's activities and how to pay, is provided below. Further information and copies of the booking form can be obtained from Sue Steel at sue.steel@hotmail.co.uk. See also the Antiquarian website <https://www.bradfordhistorical.org.uk>

Bradford Historical and Antiquarian Society

presents



BRADFORD FIRSTS

A Day School

at the Bradford Club in Piece Hall Yard

on Saturday 17th May 2025

9.30am to 4.30am



Outline of the day

Introduction

Some Bradford Firsts

George Sheeran

Sir Titus Salt – first to develop alpaca spinning

Bill Broady

The Independent Labour Party – a Bradford First

**Over lunch
find out about**

**Historic Towns Trust Map of Bradford
to celebrate 2025 City of Culture**

Schools Competition Presentation of prizes

Irene Lofthouse

Meet some Pioneering Bradford Women

Cost: £30 (Includes a Buffet Lunch and Refreshments)

BRADFORD FIRSTS DAY SCHOOL BOOKING FORM

NAME(S) PLEASE PRINT		
ADDRESS		
POSTCODE	PHONE/EMAIL	
NUMBER OF PLACES	CHEQUE AMOUNT (MADE PAYABLE TO BHAS)	AMOUNT PAYABLE BY BACS
DIETARY REQUIREMENTS		

Send to Sue Steel, 9a Grove Avenue, Shipley, BD18 3BG by April 30th 2025

Any queries sue.steel@hotmail.co.uk

Bank details: Account - Bradford Historical & Antiquarian Society. Sort Code 05-03-13. Account No 32628861

Please enclose a SAE if requiring a receipt or directions to the venue

Calling all Members with HUDSON Interests

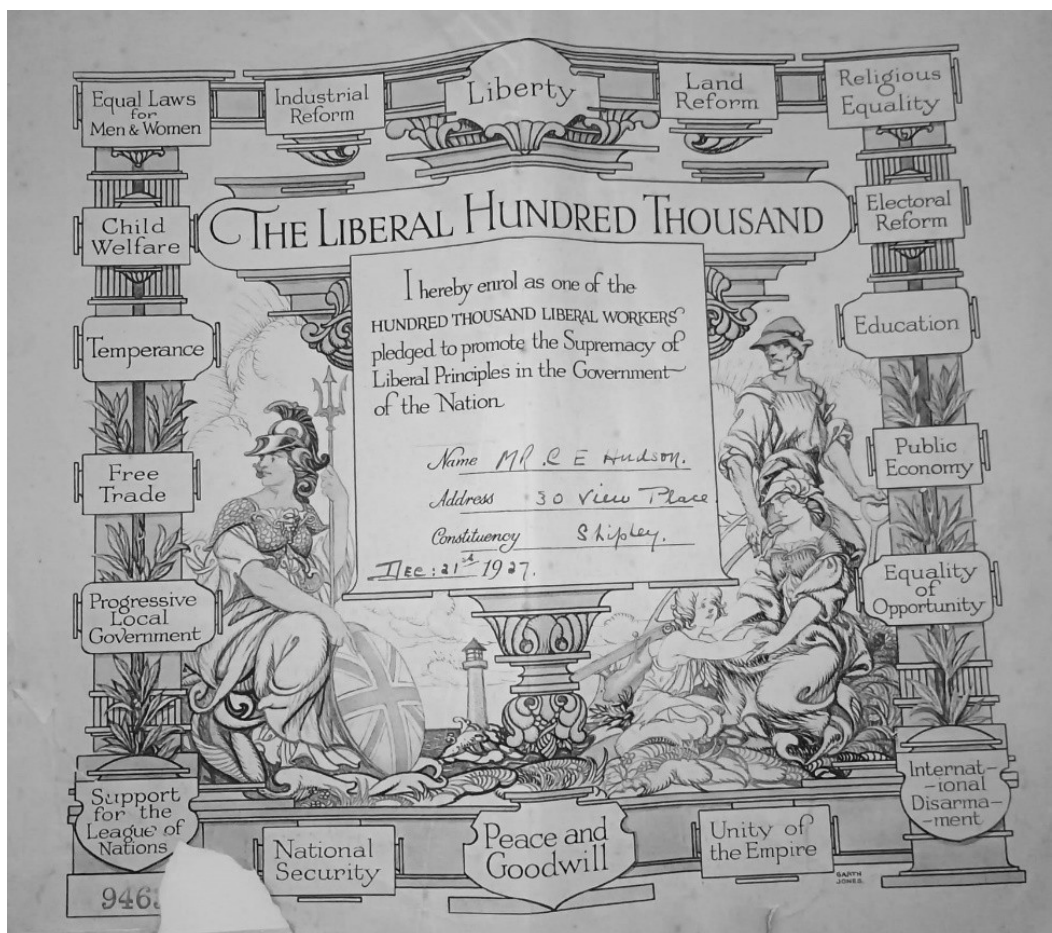
Sue Steel

Have you a Mr C E Hudson from Shipley in your family tree?

I have in my possession, courtesy of Aireborough Historical Society, a certificate for Mr C E Hudson of 30 View Place, Shipley dated 21st December 1927 (see image below). It is headed 'The Liberal Hundred Thousand' and was a pledge to promote the Supremacy of Liberal Principles in the Government of the Nation.

Please do contact me (chairman@bradfordfhs.org.uk) if this man is part of your tree and you would like the certificate.

(4097)



Bradfordians Making a Life Overseas

These two articles are about men from Bradford who chose to make a life and raise a family in another country.

Ben Stables' article is an account of the life of Hardy Jowett whose commitment to missionary work led him to spend much of his life in China. He experienced first-hand the social upheaval in China during the late 19th and early 20th centuries which, from time to time, forced him to return to England.

*John and Malcolm Cowburn describe their Uncle Sam's escape from life in a crowded and disease-ridden inner-city area, the lot of the working class in England in the early 20th century. He was drawn by the promise of clean air and open spaces to settle in New Zealand. Most of the article is taken up with Sam's first-hand account of the 1931 earthquake which for a while drove him out of his new home, and striking photographs of the sights and implications of the earthquake. This is an abridged version of John and Malcolm's article. The unabridged version, which includes more detail, source references and photographs can be found on the BFHS website (Bradfordfhs.org.uk) in the **Members' Area** (login required) under **Resources/ Useful Articles/ People**.*

From Bradford to Beijing: The Life of Wesleyan Missionary Rev. Hardy Jowett (1871-1936)

Ben Stables

Hardy Jowett was born in 1871 in Droylesden near Manchester, the third of eight children, most of whom were born in Manningham, Bradford. The extended Jowett family can be traced back to the Thornton area of Bradford. Among Hardy's first cousins was the Labour politician Fred Jowett (1864-1944).

By the time of the 1881 Census, Hardy and his family were living at 164 Farfield Street in Manningham and his father was working in the textile industry as a warp dresser. Hardy attended Farfield Jubilee Hall (Wesleyan Methodist Chapel) on Farfield Street.

Hardy's father died on 22nd April 1890 aged 50 years and was buried at Heaton Cemetery in Bradford. The 1891 Census shows the family living



Hardy Jowett as a young man. © Telegraph and Argus, November 1936

at the same address as in 1881, but by now almost all the children were able to work. Hardy, aged 19 years, was working as a commercial clerk but most of his siblings were working in the textile industry. He worked variously for S. R. Myers and Co. Ltd. of Colliergate in Bradford, Lister and Co., Ltd., Manningham Mills, and later in Wilsden.

China (1890s)

Hardy was sent out to China early in the 1890s as the representative of a large Yorkshire woollen firm. On returning to England for his first home leave, he entered a Wesleyan theological college, and by his early 20's, Hardy had become a Methodist preacher. In June 1893 he conducted the Sunday School Anniversary services at the Tabernacle Chapel in Shelf. He learnt Chinese before being appointed as a Missionary to China with the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society.

On 16th February 1895 Hardy arrived at Shanghai before departing for the Wesleyan Mission at Hankow in the newly 'opened' province of Hunan. Open meaning open to foreigners. Hardy lived in China during one of the most fascinating periods in its history. From 1860 foreign missionaries were able to go deep into the Chinese interior in pursuit of converts. Riots followed and in 1870 a large-scale massacre took place in Tientsin as a result of rumours that Catholic nuns were cutting out children's hearts and eyes to make medicine. In 1891, riots in the Yangtze Valley left a number of foreigners dead. Occasional violence was suffered by many foreign missionaries, and in 1899 while in Ping Jeong Hardy was harangued and attacked with stones, barely escaping with his life. In October 1899, he departed Shanghai for England. Violence against foreigners began to intensify throughout China around this time leading to the bloody Boxer Rebellion (1899-1901) which saw the foreign legations in Peking under siege and many deaths.

Hardy was at home with his family at 180 St. Leonard's Road in Allerton on Census Night 1901. He was described as a Wesleyan Missionary in China. His mother Elizabeth died later that year. Hardy stayed in England for a few years, during which time he was ordained, before returning to China.

Pingkiang, Changsha, China (1903-1910)

In 1903 Hardy was appointed to the Hunan District of the Wesleyan Mission as Superintendent. He also spent some time in Japan amongst Chinese students who went to study abroad, bringing new ideas back to China. During this period, many conversions were made to Christianity amongst the Chinese students.

Hardy married Catherine Alice Wheatley (1882-1972) at Hankow on 28th January 1910. Catherine was a missionary with the Wesleyan Society based at the David Hill Girls' Boarding School in Hanyang. She was in the 'Women's Auxiliary' of the Wesleyan Mission in Wuchang District from 1904 until her

marriage in 1910. Her father was Rev. Timothy Wheatley, a Wesleyan Minister in Surrey.

The Consulate marriage register gives Hardy's residence as Changsha. Hardy and Catherine's civil ceremony was performed at the British Consulate in Hankow, with a religious service at the Wesleyan Church in Hanyang performed by Rev. G. G. Warren assisted by Rev. George L. Pullan. A second ceremony appears to have taken place the day after the civil wedding. Hankow, now Hankou, was one of the three towns later merged to become modern-day Wuhan city, the capital of Hubei Province. Hanyang is now a district in Wuhan.

Home (1911-1912)

In 1911 the Qing Dynasty came to an end with the founding of the Republic of China, but in practice warlords controlled many areas of the country. Hardy was one of the last foreigners to visit the last Emperor in the Forbidden City before he was forced to leave Peking (now Beijing).

The Jowetts began their journey home on 28th January 1911. Their steamer Monteagle stopped in Yokohama then left for Canada on 4th February. The ship "ran into a terrific storm" but safely arrived in Canada on 18th February. Their departure from China was well timed, missing much of the upheaval during the revolution which established the Republic of China.

The next stage of their journey was from Canada to Ireland. On the night of the 1911 Irish Census on 2nd April 1911, Hardy and his wife Katharine (note the spelling change) were staying with two Methodist sisters in Belfast. They had reached England by May 1911 when Hardy addressed an assembly of 9,000 people in the Albert Hall, London, and aroused his audience to a high pitch of enthusiasm. Then in September 1911 Hardy preached at Trinity Wesleyan Chapel in Stockport. He was elected a member of the Royal Asiatic Society in November 1911 and in December 1911 he preached at Otley Wesleyan Chapel.

Hardy and Katharine's first son Christopher Hardy Jowett (1912-1980) was born at 66 Filey Avenue, Upper Clapton in London in 1912. He was baptised at the Downs Road Wesleyan Chapel in Clapton on 3rd March 1912. Christopher was educated at Oxford University and became a diplomat. In April 1912, Hardy preached at Shelf Witchfield Chapel while visiting his family in Bradford.

China (1912)

The family returned to China in 1912 where their second son, Edward Pearse Jowett (1913-1989), was born on 24th December 1913 at Hankow. Edward was educated at St. John's College, Cambridge and went on to work as a doctor at Okehampton in Devon.

The First World War (1914-1920)

During the First World War, Chinese people were recruited to work as labourers for the allies. Hardy, with his knowledge of the Chinese culture and language, was an asset to the army. Although it is not known when he originally enlisted, he was appointed temporary 2nd Lieutenant in the Labour Corps in May 1917.

On 5th July 1918, Katherine left China for England with her two sons. They arrived in London on 9th September 1918 where they lived at 26 Loveday Road in Ealing, London. Hardy had joined his family by May 1919 when he attended the Wesleyan Foreign Missionary Society annual meeting in Tunbridge Wells.

By 1919, Hardy was already trying to improve the lot of the Chinese people, reporting on the ill effects of military law enforced against the Chinese causing dissatisfaction among the unskilled Chinese labourers. He apparently served as a 'Technical Officer.' His rank was later Temporary Lieutenant (acting Captain) and he was mentioned in the dispatch of the 16th March 1919. He served as Staff Captain with the General Headquarters (GHQ) from July 1919 to 1920.

He was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal and the Bronze Médaille de la Reconnaissance Française for support to the victims of war in 1924. He was also awarded the Order of the Striped Tiger (Order of Wen-Hu) 5th Class by the Republic of China. His younger brother John William Jowett (1880-1962) served in the Royal Garrison Artillery. His other siblings were probably too old to serve. In later years, Hardy was said to have been a member of Toc H, the Christian movement which began at Talbot House as a soldiers' club in Poperinge.

Hardy was then sent to France where he remained until March 1920 after which he and his family returned to China via England, arriving on 22nd May 1920. Their entry on the ship's passenger list states that they were heading for Shanghai. By this time Hardy was losing his faith and his work for the Wesleyan Mission was curtailed. According to a Foreign Office file, "...for intellectual reasons, Hardy resigned his position as a Wesleyan Minister and on demobilisation in 1920 joined the Colonial Civil Service of Weihaiwei as District Officer and Magistrate".

Weihaiwei (1920-1923)

Hardy was appointed Junior District Officer and Magistrate to the Government of the Weihaiwei Port in July 1920. Weihaiwei, on the north-eastern coast of China had become a British colony in 1898 but was returned to China in 1930. Hardy was quickly promoted to Acting Senior District Officer in June 1921. The North-China Herald reported that in 1922 Jowett compiled the government report for Weihaiwei and that "the shadow of impending dissolution" hung over it because the situation in China continued to be unstable. In March 1923, he wrote from Government House, Port Edward, Weihaiwei to the Secretary of State for the Colonies forwarding a request for compensation from the proprietor of a

school who would lose their property when the port returned to Chinese sovereignty.

Weihaiwei was returned to Chinese rule on 1st October 1930. The Jowett family departed Weihaiwei in October 1930. Hardy was offered a government position in the South Seas, but preferring to remain in China and joined the Asiatic Petroleum Company

Peking/Peiping (1924-1936)

After leaving Weihaiwei, Hardy Jowett went to the Chinese capital Peking (also known as Peiping). Upon his arrival in Peking in 1924 until 1931 he served on the Executive Committee of the China International Famine Relief Commission (CIRC). In 1926/1927 he was elected to the committee of the China International Famine Relief Commission. In 1927 and 1931 he was the treasurer. By December 1927, Jowett had received letters from “Chinese in various parts of China, Honan, Shensi, Fukien, etc, etc.” The letters described “conditions of human suffering including rape, torture, robbery, burning of villages and murder of innocent villagers by burning among other methods...[by] Northern troops or Nationalist soldiers and robbers and bandits.” He sent the letters to prominent individuals including his cousin Fred Jowett and hoped to publish them to raise international awareness of the situation.



Hardy second from the left on the second row from the front - meeting of the China International Famine Relief Commission March 1925. Source: The North-China Herald and Supreme Court & Consular Gazette, 25 April 1925, p.136.

Hardy was soon reporting on Chinese affairs to the Foreign Office. On 28th November 1924, Hardy wrote from Peking to his friend Sir R. W. Perks in London about the general situation in China. Sir Perks forwarded the letter to the Foreign

Office who dismissed him as misinformed, but their own file on Hardy noted “exceptionally good knowledge of the language and customs of the Chinese”.

In 1926, Hardy’s address was given as 97 Morrison Street (now known as Wangfujing) and 63 Tung Tsung Pu Hutong in Peking. He continued to collect intelligence on developments within China and wrote letters back to England sharing his concerns, which continued to be dismissed by the British Government.

By 1927 Hardy was employed as the manager of the Asiatic Petroleum Company (North China) in Peking. He continued to act as a sort of intelligence officer in Peking and kept the Company informed on what was going on in high political circles.

He was involved with a number of other organisations in Peking, and occasionally with the British Government. In 1927, he was Honorary Secretary of the Peking Club, probably meaning the Rotary Club. He was also a member of the French Club in Peking and the ‘Cercle Sino-Francais.’ He was appointed as part of the British Delegation to the ‘Institute of Pacific Relations’ conference held at Kyoto in October 1929. In 1931 and 1932 he was the chairman of the British Chamber of Commerce in Peking. In 1932, he was elected president of the Anglo-American Association of Peiping. He was also President of the Wen Yu Huei Society which published ‘A brief survey of the Chinese Judiciary’ in 1919.

Hardy retired from his position with the Asiatic Petroleum Company in 1933 but remained active in other areas, including his position on the executive council of the Chinese Political and Social Sciences Association.

Hardy’s interests extended to Chinese art and in 1932, he was involved with starting a monthly magazine called “China Arts and Handicrafts” which was published from Chiang Tsa Hutong in Peking for \$2 a copy or \$16 per annum. In 1934, he was a manager of the Peiping Institute of Fine Arts. He was also involved with the College of Chinese Studies in Peking.

Katherine also had an interest in art and exhibited a lino-cut of the “City Gate at Peking” at the Shanghai Art Club in January 1934. In 1935, she was exhibiting her artwork at the Peiping Institute of Fine Arts. Some of Katherine’s works are reputed to have eventually come into the hands of Chairman Mao.

Hardy spent part of his time writing and in 1927 he wrote the foreword to the book ‘Sidelights on Peking Life’ by Robert W. Swallow. It is a light-hearted and educational look at Peking including information on everything from Chinese food to “the oldest profession in the world.” In 1929 he wrote the foreword to a book on the Chinese language called ‘Wenli Particles.’

Hardy was one of many taken ill with the flu at Peiping in February 1936 during bitterly cold weather. This came while he was recovering from an accident while on an important expedition on behalf of the Famine Relief Commission in the Autumn of 1935. He died at the German Hospital, now called the Beijing Hospital, in the Legation Quarter in Peiping on 20th July 1936. British probate

documents give his address as 72 Nan Ch'ang Chieh in Peking. The street is now called Nanzhangjie and runs alongside the Forbidden City. Probate was granted in Peking for administration of his effects of £264 9s in the UK. One of his last wishes was that his ashes should be brought back to Bradford where they were buried at Scholemoor Cemetery in November 1936. His small kerbstone grave can be found in the Consecrated area at Sec. Q, No. 13. The inscription reads:

*In Loving Memory of
Hardy Jowett
Who Died in Peking, 20th July 1936 in His 65th Year
He Lived Gladly and Died Bravely*



Hardy Jowett's grave at Scholemoor Cemetery © Sarah Hepworth

(5314)

‘... spread the news in the dyehouse I am OK’: the 1931 Hawkes Bay, New Zealand earthquake from a Bradfordian’s viewpoint.

John Cowburn & Malcolm Cowburn

Sam Whitaker was born in 1888 and raised in the Manningham area of Bradford. He was one of ten children having five sisters and four brothers. He was the eldest boy and had two older sisters Elsie Medina and Sophia. Sophia died before Sam was born and whilst he would not have been aware of her death, he would have

been aware of the deaths of some of his other siblings. Ernest died as a baby in 1893. Annie, his youngest sister, died aged just 3 years old in 1900. In 1911 he lost his older sister, Elsie aged 27, to tuberculosis. Norah a younger sister, aged 21 also died of tuberculosis in 1916.

Living in Bradford in the early 1900's the major industry was textiles. The Whitakers were all employed in the industry, mainly working at Lister's Mills. Sam trained as a textile (wool and silk) dyer; his father Sam was a tailor. Just before the outbreak of WWI, in 1914, Sam married his life partner Maud Wildman and sometime after, the couple moved from Manningham to Saltaire. Less than two years later, on 29th June 1916, Sam enlisted in the army and was sent to France as a Private in the 9th Durham Light Infantry. Sam returned to the UK and was discharged from the army in February 1919, returning to his job as a textile dyer.

The year following his return from war Sam and Maud's first child was born in 1920, a girl, Edna. The 1921 census shows the family living at 19 Fanny St. Saltaire as boarders. Sam is recorded as employed by 'Lister's & Co Silk Manufacturers' of Manningham. At this time Bradford was not a good place for the working class to live, for either their health or well-being. Within less than a month of the 1921 Census, the family were enroute to New Zealand aboard the *SS Athenic* with 300 other passengers. The family were leaving the UK to live in a country with cleaner air and less densely populated towns and cities. They arrived in Wellington New Zealand six weeks later on 29th August 1921. Maud would have been pregnant on this journey as their second child, Sam jnr. was born in January 1922.



Sam, Edna, Sam jnr. and Maud Whitaker circa 1924-25

Available electoral rolls from New Zealand, show that Sam and his family first lived and worked in Wellington, North Island, before moving to Invercargill in the South Island by 1925. The rolls show two addresses for Sam in 1931: one in Invercargill the other in Napier where he moved for work around 1930-1931.



Typical New Zealand house 1920-1930

Source: <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/state-house-1930s>

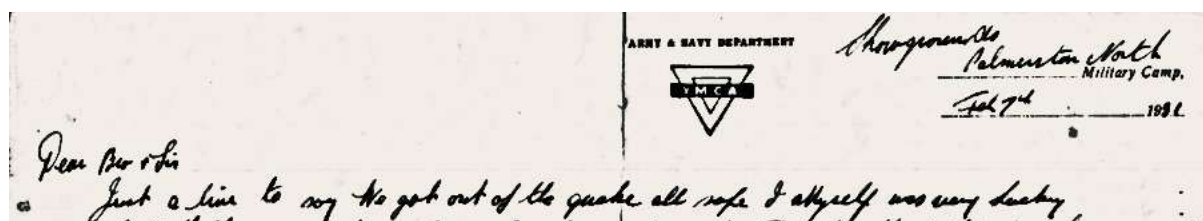
Tuesday 3rd of February 1931 would have started as a normal day with Sam (42), going to work at the Napier Woollen Mill, the children Edna (11) and Sam jr (9), to school and Maud (41) doing her household chores. At 10:47 am (10:47pm Monday in Bradford) an earthquake hit the region killing 257 people and injuring thousands. It registered 7.8 on the Richter scale (measured from low being 1 and the top of the scale being 10), with almost 600 aftershocks lasting to the end of February. Buildings in Napier and Hastings were totally destroyed, the landscape changed forever, but Sam and his family survived.

News of the earthquake had been reported in the UK press including the “Yorkshire Evening Post” with the headline “Terrible earthquake disaster in New Zealand” The report stated 100 dead and 1000 injured. This would have been a worrying time for Sam’s family in Bradford.

The Whitakers were one of many families evacuated from the town, they were taken to an emergency tent camp set up on the showgrounds in Palmerston North, just over 100 miles from home. It was here, four days later on 7 February, that Sam wrote a letter to his sister and brother-in-law, Edith and Firth Cowburn, giving a firsthand account of the earthquake and its aftermath. The letter took six weeks to reach Bradford as the only mail service at the time was sea-mail.

The letter is an important survivor’s account that we have lodged with Hawkes Bay Museum New Zealand (www.mtghawkesbay.com) for their conservation and use in displays.

The letter is handwritten on two sheets of YMCA paper and can be difficult to read due to the lack of punctuation or paragraphs. Extracts from the text are reproduced below as written by Sam.



The heading of Sam's handwritten letter

*Showgrounds Palmerston North
Military Camp
Feb 7th 1931*

Dear Bro & Sis

Just a line to say we got out of the quake all safe I myself was very lucky as I nearly got the mill chimney on me as it was I got a cut on the top of my head [an inch and a half long] a nasty bruise on my right shoulder and 2 bruises on left leg above knee and small one on right leg. I would have liked to have sent a cable but we had very little money as it was not Pay day until the Friday.

Now the house was not too badly damaged only the chimney was off, the house was full of dust, but it is not safe yet as the road above it was cracked. So as there has been other shakes since we really can't say what it is like now.

The town itself was a complete wreck, what did not fall down caught fire and burnt out and the fire brigade was helpless as there was no water service the pipes was all burst or something as there was not one tap that you could get water from, and you will have seen the death toll is heavy. The hospital got a real wreck made of it, there was nurses & patients killed & injured and the screams was awful. We could hear them by the Mill as the Mill is at the Back of the Hospital in the gully. The Nurses' Home was a lovely place and it was wrecked, a few nurses in bed at the time and the nurses that was not hurt worked [very hard] some of them only their aprons over their nighties all day and all night they was just wonderful.

Now the Sailors of the Veronica, a small warship, was also splendid they only came in on the morning of the quake about 8 and this happened at 10:50 they sent a wireless message out and 2 more warships set off from Auckland

and got here at 7 am Wednesday morning full of provisions and medical supplies.

Now we got sent out of Napier on the Thursday and a Gentleman took us to his place at Waipukarua, we stayed the night there and came to Palmerston on the Friday everyone you met was just kindness wrapped up, and now we are at the showgrounds at Palmerston and billeted there and they are lovely to us. We get plenty of food & also clothes you need, they don't seem to be able to do enough for us this morning We was taken to a private house and got a hot bath and it was lovely.

Now the Technical College caught it bad, 40 or over was killed. The other schools happened to be out at playtime. We was real pleased when we saw Edna & Sam come home although we heard they was alright. I went to see them and could not find them they had set off home but they would not let them pass the hospital as it was too dangerous to do so.

We lived outside after that and slept on the grass and had to cook our food outside it was a trying time for the women & children and I never want to see anything like it again, the War was not in it as this only lasted a minute or two and the whole town ruined and then there was shake after shake. The people we first came out to, T. Atkinson, was buried and burnt to death. His wife, the lady I bought that big clock off at Windhill, is left with 4 Children. So, I must think myself lucky and I do. I never got my head dressed until 4pm as they had to much to do at the Botanical Gardens where they made the temporary hospital they was doing the operations under the trees with just sheeting over them and the doctors looked as if they had been killing sheep they was plenty of blood on them.

Well now no more just now, only you can spread the news in the dyehouse I am OK Love to all from Sam.

Sam's closing request in his letter to spread the news would have been to his old work mates at Lister's Mill.

Sam must have kept in contact with his sister Edith as their children were to become pen friends for life. Our father Ian and Sam's daughter Edna wrote to one another mainly at Christmas or birthdays. They finally met in the 1970's in New Zealand and then again in the UK. Edna was 1 year old and Ian 4 years old when the Whitakers left for New Zealand in 1921.

Sam survived WWI, the earthquake, the sadness of losing six of his siblings and both his parents before he was 40 years old. By 1935 the family had returned

to Invercargill, interestingly to the same address they left. He never returned to the UK. He died aged 68 years old and was buried in Invercargill. (5209)



Palmerston North showground shelter provision for evacuees
Source: <https://natlib.govt.nz/records/22542676>



The Emergency hospital in the Botanical Gardens
Source: <https://natlib.govt.nz/records/22683148>

Meeting Programme 2025

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

Further details of the 2025 programme will be available in the next edition of the Bod-Kin but also on the website.

Please note the date of the April Monday meeting – we have moved it due to the Easter holidays.

Hybrid meetings will be held via 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.

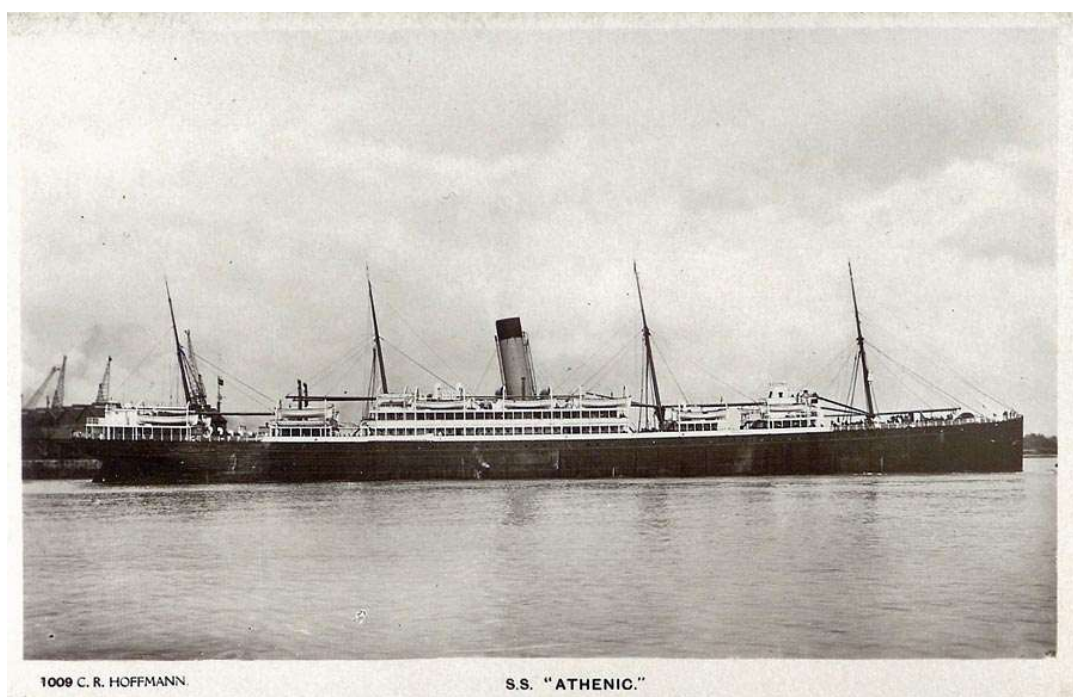
Morning hybrid meetings open at 10:00 am with the formal meeting from 10.30 am.

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

Month	Date	Time	Description	Speaker	Type of Meeting
Mar	6	AM	Dad's reminiscences of Bradford in the 1920s and 1930s.	Malcolm Cowburn	Hybrid
Mar	17	PM	Domestic Sanitation with links with Bradford	Chris Herd & Linden Milner	Zoom
Apr	3	AM	Low Moor Train Depot & Bradford	Granville Dobson	Hybrid
Apr	28	PM	AGM followed by Researching History from Newspapers	Denise Bates	Zoom
May	1	AM	Flicks in the 50s	Geoff Twentyman	Hybrid
May	19	AM	A 'Shelf' of old Photos	Ben Stables	Zoom
Jun	5	AM	The Fulneck Moravian Settlement	Jackie Depelle	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. ©Bradford Family History Society



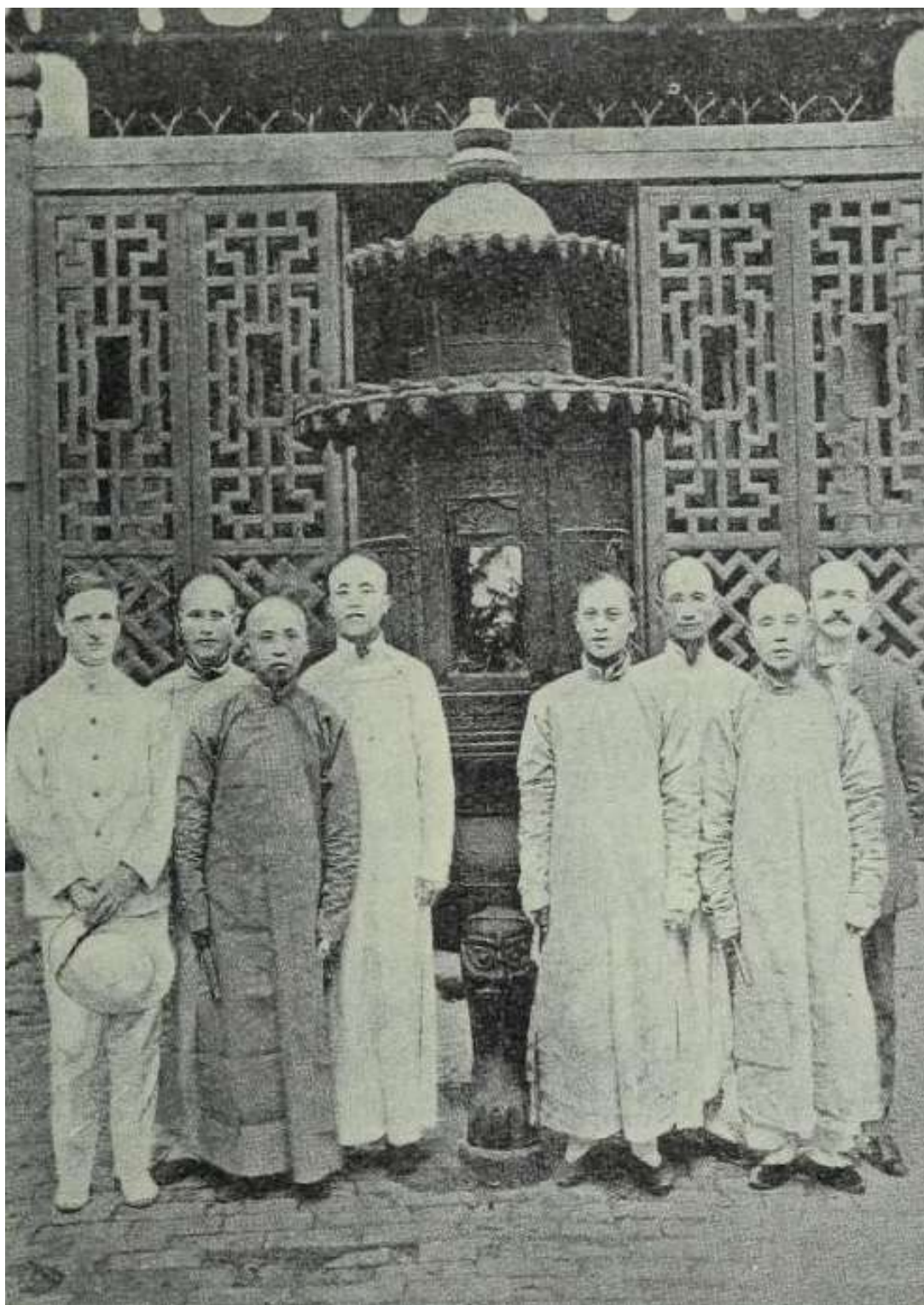
*Bradfordians Making a life overseas (see page 11).
Pictured the SS Athenic in Wellington harbour. Source: wikipedia.org*



The Nurses Home after the earthquake (see page 17)
Source: https://knowledgebank.org.nz/still_image/nurses-home-3/



Rescuers from the Veronica (see page 17)
Source: <https://navymuseum.co.nz/explore/by-themes/inter-war-years/rnzn-1931-hawkes-bay-earthquake/>



Hardy Jowett far left of a group visiting the Grand Temple of Mount Heng (see page 11)

Source: China's Millions (Toronto), June 1910, p.65