

Bod-Kin

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**Journal of the
Bradford Family History Society**

BRADFORD FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.bradfordfhs.org.uk

**A member of the Family History Federation and the
Yorkshire Group of Family History Societies.**

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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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Front cover picture – Image source <https://www.spiralcellars.com/stories/how-vintners-fought-to-save-their-wine/> (see page 18)



The Editors

Happy New Year to all BFHS members.

It's that time of year again when the Society's documents and reports for the year just gone are published in the Bod-Kin in preparation for April's Annual General Meeting (AGM). In addition, you have provided a brilliant assortment of articles.

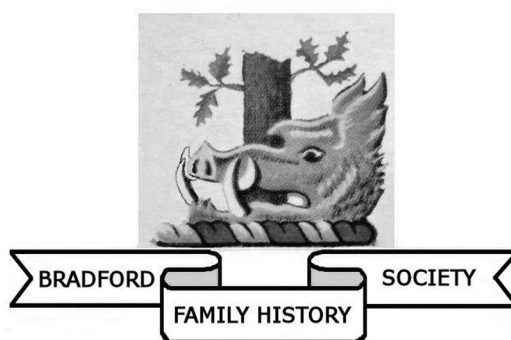
2026 has started well with two excellent presentations. Helen Baggott's talk on 'The Victorian Legacy – the lives of our ancestors through postcards' got us thinking about a theme for June's issue of the Bod-Kin. Do you have a store of postcards or photos at home that have helped you to piece together the life of an ancestor or to break through a 'brick wall'? We hope so because the theme for the June issue will be '**Photos and Postcards**'. We are looking forward to seeing what you make of it.

Poetry has figured in several editions of the Journal over the last two years and has prompted many positive comments. Do you have a poet in your family? Perhaps their work helped in your research or commented on Bradford's social history. You may be a poet yourself, writing about your family or Bradford's past, and are willing to share your work. We look forward to receiving your poetic contributions and hearing the stories behind them.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is part of our lives and can be a useful tool in the genealogist's arsenal, as demonstrated by one of this issue's articles. This issue of Bod-Kin is illustrated with some AI generated images – can you spot them?

We look forward with anticipation to receiving your articles.

The cutoff date for the next issue is **8 May 2026**. No article is too small or too large. Articles over six pages long may be serialised or placed whole on the Society's website.



BRADFORD FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**To be held via Zoom MONDAY 20th April 2026
at 7.30 pm.**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence

Confirmation of the minutes of the last AGM held on 28th April 2025

2. Matters arising
3. Chairman's report
4. Secretary's Report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Election of Officers and Committee
7. Any other relevant business

* * * * *

To be followed by a talk on 'Exploring the Secret World of your Freemason Ancestor' with Yetunde Abiola

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

held on 28th April 2025 via Zoom

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

1. Apologies

Ken Kenzie

34 members attended

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 15th April 2024 were confirmed as a true record, proposed by Anne Robinson, seconded by Derek Dyson, passed unanimously.

3. Matters Arising

A suggestion for the decrease in attendances at meetings was given by Jackie Depelle for consideration by the committee. To allow non-members to join the Zoom meetings but paying a higher price and to allow members to transfer from meeting to another if they cannot attend. The latter is already done since this part of the Zoom process is manual, so members can be added to subsequent meetings easily.

4. Chairman's Report

Printed in Bod-Kin March 2024.

5. Secretary's Report

The Secretary's report was read out and will be printed in the Bod-Kin June 2025.

6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was read out will be printed in the Bod-Kin June 2025, together with the accounts.

The accounts have been passed to the accountants. The accountant's version will be signed off by Gill Overend (retiring Treasurer) and will then be sent to HMRC and Companies House. The accounts were agreed by the meeting.

7. Election of Officers and Committee

Single nominations for the following Officers were received:

Chairman: Sue Steel

Treasurer: Stewart K Varley

Secretary: Bobbie Hipshon

A proposal to accept the nominations for officer posts was made by Jackie Depelle, seconded by Gill Overend and passed unanimously. There were 11 nominations for the vacancies on the Committee. The nominations were: Anne Attfield, Bill Boldy, Andrea Brown, Derek

Dyson, Gordon Holmes, Anne Luciw, Gill Overend, Shirley Sura, Sally Tetlow, Pat Whitford-Bartle, and Liz Wright. The constitution allows for 9 other committee members plus secondees as needed.

A proposal to second the Bod-Kin editors to the committee Anne Luciw and Liz Wright was proposed by Anne Attfield and seconded by Shirley Beaumont. The proposal was passed unanimously.

The other 9 nominations for committee posts were proposed by Liz Wright, seconded by Ruth Bourne and passed unanimously.

8. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.

Treasurer's Report and Accounts for 2025

Stewart Varley



I took over as treasurer from Gill Overend during 2025 and I wish to place on record my thanks to Gill for the work that she did and the seamless handover to myself.

Subject to audit, the accounts show an excess of expenditure over income of £630.

The recurring income (excluding project income) has reduced by £1120 (15.6%). It is interesting to note that there is no cost for subscriptions received by standing order and bank transfer, but for cheques banked and receipts via Paypal and GenFair the charge / commission can range from 3% to 8%.

Similarly, recurring expenditure (excluding project expenditure, C.D.'s stock and laptop written off) has increased by £372 (6.3%).

It has been decided that most of the computer expenses, principally the hire of Sage accounting software, last year - £744, will be eliminated. I will do the bookkeeping / accounting. In addition, we will change from a limited company to an unincorporated association from 1st January 2026. The audit fee, as such, will not exist, although it will be necessary to "recruit" an independent verifier to check my work. Is there anybody out there? Savings, as a result of the above, should amount to £1200.

The cost of printing and mailing the Bodkin for the final edition of the year was £2.60 per copy. (5297)

Bradford Family History Society Ltd

Profit and Loss account for the year ended 31/12/25

	2025	2024	% change
<u>Income</u>			
Subscriptions for the year	4555	5348	-14.8
Publications	399	542	-26.4
Bookstall	0	4	
Meetings			
- door receipts	185	173	6.9
zoom receipts	509	595	-14.5
Donations received	0	18	
Interest received	406	494	-17.8
Project income grant	0	1215	
	<u>6054</u>	<u>8389</u>	<u>-27.8</u>
<u>Direct Expenditure</u>			
Stock of C.D.'s written off	0	679	
Bodkin	2921	2919	0.1
Meetings Zoom			
- fee	156	156	0.0
Room hire	270	180	50.0
Speakers expenses	380	459	-17.2
Misc. other expenses	0	53	
Project expenses	200	1215	-83.5
	<u>3927</u>	<u>5661</u>	<u>-30.6</u>
<u>Overheads</u>			
Insurance	107	107	0.0
Printing & stationery	0	0	
FFHS subscription	152	152	0.0
Computer expenses	744	598	24.4
Advertising, publicity, fairs & travel	100	55	81.8
Website expenses	641	538	19.1
Donations	0	30	
Legal & professional	34	13	161.5
Audit	730	600	21.7
Laptop written off	160	0	
Bank charges	89	92	-3.3
	<u>2757</u>	<u>2185</u>	<u>26.2</u>
Total costs	<u>6684</u>	<u>7846</u>	
Excess of income over expenditure	<u>-630</u>	<u>543</u>	

Balance Sheet as at 31/12/25

	31/12/2025	31/12/2024
<u>Fixed assets</u>		
Computer equipment	0	160
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Debtors (Genfair)	15	0
Bank current account	68	947
Bank deposit account	16707	16201
	16790	17148
<u>Current liabilities</u>		
Honoraria	600	600
Audit fee	760	600
Subscriptions in advance	602	680
Meeting room fees	30	0
	1992	1880
Net current assets	14798	15268
Net assets	14798	15428
<u>Capital and reserves</u>		
Accumulated fund at start	15428	14885
Profit / (loss) for the year	-630	543
	14798	15428



Chairman's Report for 2025

Sue Steel

This year's report is one of many thanks and gratitude.

2025 saw some significant changes to our committee. After many years Gill Overend stood down as Treasurer. Her dedication, help and support throughout the years has been invaluable and very much appreciated. She has helped us keep on track through venue changes, speaker issues, changing legal status to Ltd. Co. and of course everyday payments. A huge 'Thank you' from us all.

This of course left a big gap to follow, and I was quietly panicking until Stewart Varley stepped in. In the few months of his tenure, he has successfully

transferred the role to himself and made several suggestions for saving money going forward. Again, Stewart, thank you for your help and I hope you will be with us for many years.

The other change was our legal status. After suggestions and lots of debate the Society will be changing from a Ltd. Co. to an unincorporated association. In fact, by the time, you read this we may have achieved this. This was to reduce costs as the membership numbers fell, running costs increased and risks remain very low. Another 'Thank you' to all involved with the discussions, decisions and making this happen and that includes all our members.

Unfortunately, our membership number still continues to reduce. In December 2024 we had 417 members. In November 2025 we had 384 members of which 95 of these are internet members. A reduction of 33 members, some due to no longer researching Bradford, with sadly others due to illness and death. We do get new members throughout the year so hopefully not too many losses over 2026. The membership is discussed at committee meetings, but we do need people to take any suggestions forward. Pop Up stands are extremely expensive and attendance at Family History Fairs not overly successful. But we will try and increase publicity going forward.

I would like to take the opportunity to remind members that I will be stepping down as Chairman by April 2028. Please do get in contact if you are interested in helping.

As ever, a big thank you to all the committee members for their continued hard work, commitment and support in 2025 – Stewart, Gill, Bobbie, Andrea, Sally, Bill, Derek, Gordon, Pat, Anne A, Anne L, Shirley and Liz. Members continue to be well looked after by Andrea; the 'Bod-Kin' continues its huge popularity through Anne L and Liz; and Shirley for keeping me sane.

Lastly, 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)



Minutes of Extraordinary General Meeting **held on 17th November 2025 by Zoom**

Meeting Opened: 19.30 p.m.

1. Apologies:

Anne Attfield, Pat Whitford-Bartle

8. Society Status Change:

After discussion and review of the Society's status during the June and September Committee meetings, it was decided to make a proposal for change at the

Society's 17th November EGM. This was so any agreed actions could take place by the end of 2025, the Society's year end.

An explanation was given as to why a change to the status of the Society was being proposed and the Extraordinary General Meeting details were given in the Bod-Kin magazine September 2025 Volume 16 Number 3.

The change was given in the Journal to ensure all members received 30 days-notice of the EGM and proposal.

After reading the proposal stated below, a discussion was held. Since becoming a Ltd. Co., the membership has fallen to 384 hence the income of the Society has fallen as well. By closing the Ltd. Co., the Society's accounts will not need to be signed off by accountants from 2027 saving around £600. We can also cease using SAGE software from January 2027 saving around £600. The Society would also save around £35 a year from not dealing with Companies House. The risk identified if someone or another company sued the Society for data breach or copyright breach was deemed to be very low (which has always been the case). In other words, the cost versus the risk was found to be too high.

Becoming an Unincorporated Association does mean that the Society will still need to have a presence with HMRC and complete tax returns. Stewart Varley, the Treasurer, has knowledge and experience of such an association and will complete the HMRC tax return on our behalf. The annual accounts going forward will need to be scrutinised by an independent person. No other changes are necessary.

The discussion also touched on Community Interest Company (CIC) and a change in Society's subscriptions.

After the discussion the following proposal was made and voted upon:

To close Bradford Family History Society Ltd. Co. from 31st December and the Society to become an Unincorporated Association from 1st January 2026.

Proposed by Sue Steel

Seconded by Shirley Sura

Agreed unanimously by the meeting (36 attendees)

9. Next Steps:

Sue Steel to arrange a meeting with the Ltd. Co. Directors and Members to ensure they agree with the proposal. They are all aware of the discussions.

Stewart Varley, Sue Steel and the committee to action the proposal and let members know the progress in the March 2026 edition of the Bod-Kin magazine.

The meeting closed at 19.50 p.m.

We Say Goodbye to Our Ltd. Co.

Sue Steel



Some years ago, we became a Ltd. Co. by Guarantee to protect committee members from having to personally pay any fines given to the Society. Making the society a Ltd. Co. meant we had a legal entity and thus any fines incurred were payable by that entity. Fines could have been from data protection issues, copyright issues, cyber problems or anything else really. At the time the committee and members thought this was a good idea.

But things do change. We have had a large reduction in members, increased costs and still very low risks regards the fines mentioned above. Consequently, we asked whether the Society still needs to be a Ltd. Co?

After many discussions, articles in the Bod-Kin on the subject and an Extraordinary General Meeting in November 2025, it was decided and agreed by members to close the Ltd. Co. on 31st December 2025. Instead, we will become an Unincorporated Association.

Becoming an Unincorporated Association does mean that the Society will still need to have a presence with HMRC and complete tax returns. Stewart Varley, the Treasurer, has knowledge and experience of such an association and will complete the HMRC tax return on our behalf. The annual accounts going forward will need to be scrutinised by an independent person (as they have been since the start of the Society). No other changes are necessary.

We have also looked at Liability Insurance to protect our committee members from fines resulting from data protection issues, copyright issues, cyber problems or anything else really.

The overall result being that we will save money - no accountants fee from 2027 and no monthly charge for the accountancy software SAGE from 2026, whilst the committee is still being protected from any financial risks from fines imposed as mentioned above.

A big thank you to the other Directors – Bobbie Hipshon, Gill Overend and Lorraine Birch. Also, to the official members of the Ltd. Co. – Sally Robinson, Andrea Brown, Liz Wright and Anne Luciw. Their support during our annual meetings was greatly appreciated even if they only lasted 10 minutes.

(4097)

Secretary's Report for 2025

Bobby Hipshon



2025 has been a testing year for the committee with most facing challenges, either physically or impacting directly in their personal lives. Fortunately, we seem to be rallying, and the committee will be a full complement again for 2026/7, when we start the new year as an Unincorporated Association rather than a Limited Company as explained by Sue.

We welcome a new treasurer, Stewart, who has taken over the accounting from Gill, who remains a member of the committee in a less challenging role. I would also like to thank her personally and on behalf of all of us, for the dedication she has shown to the society over the time she has been treasurer and hope her health will allow her to remain a valued member for years to come.

A worrying development for the Society is Sue's decision to stand down as Chairman before April 2028. As yet we have no one who feels able to step into her shoes. I have toyed with the idea but unfortunately have come to the conclusion that, unlike the president of the US, I am too old to be taking on what is a challenging role mentally (I'm almost 75). I feel that it needs someone who can give it a youthful (or at least middle aged) injection. If you feel you can help in any way, please, don't be shy in coming forward – all it needs is someone to co-ordinate the various roles we already have in the first instance, and to stand as a figurehead for Bradford Family History. Of course, Sue is much more than that and we will miss her greatly. As Society Secretary (although not much more than a minute taker) I am hoping to be around to help transition someone else into the role (as I'm sure will Sue).

Project work has been limited this year, but we continue to tick over with submissions to Find My Past which brings in a little income when accessed through their site. We do not, however, operate as a profit-making organisation and any income reflects in the continuation of low membership fees, which now do not quite cover our costs. Membership, therefore, continues to be EXTREMELY good value for your money.

It is nice to continue to see a mixture of face to face and Zoom members each month, and, although membership continues to fall slightly as a whole, we still have a healthy attendance to meetings. I continue to be grateful for the friends I have made, and continue to make, through Bradford Family History – we all have a shared history which should make us all feel 'at home' with each other.

Thank You I remain your servant for another year.

(4606)

A Nice Find On-line

Mary Twentyman

Over the past few weeks, I've been doing some research on people who lived in central Bradford in the mid-1800s. Using Ancestry to find their burials I was often directed to the Find a Grave website where one particular researcher gave lists of whole families buried and ages at death. They quoted as the source 'Copies of Inscriptions on Headstones in Churchyard of Bradford Cathedral', 1950. A very generously suggested that:

"The title 'Copies of Inscriptions on Headstones in Churchyard of Bradford Cathedral', 1950, refers to historical transcriptions of gravestones, likely compiled by local genealogists like Arthur Blackburn, with modern versions available from the Bradford Family History Society and FamilySearch.

As we at BFHS were not around in 1950, I decided to look at the Family Search website and eventually found a link to download the whole document at

<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/item/528960-copies-of-inscriptions-on-headstones-of-bradford-cathedral-bradford-yorkshire-england>

It looks to have been done by the Mormons, as it says the booklet was copied and typed by the British Mission 1950. This predates the additions to the Cathedral in the early 1960s and making the adjacent garden at Cathedral Close would have meant the removal of many graves.

The booklet has 34 pages and lists dates of death and sometimes births and burial dates. Often there are relationships, but no copies of inscriptions as you might expect. The entries seem to be in random order, but the document text is searchable, and it's proved a valuable check on ages and relationships. Download it and have a look – you never know who you might find!

(1135)



From East Anglia to Bradford

Judith Bentley

My paternal great grandfather and his family were called Knights, or maybe Knight. Throughout the years both forms have been used even amongst brothers. Most of my family kept the 's' so that is what I shall use.

My great-great-grandfather, Solomon Knights, was an agricultural labourer from Suffolk who migrated to Bradford with his wife, (nee Harriet Footer) and his large family of seven sons and one daughter, sometime between 1871 and 1881. At this time there were changes to agricultural practice and many people chose to move to cities to find work. On the 1881 and 1891 censuses, Solomon is shown to be working as a gardener in Bradford and living on Ingleby Place. By 1901 both he and Harriet had moved to Roundthorn Place in Girdlington and were supported by their family. They both passed away in 1905 aged 69 and 75 respectively.

Their home village in Suffolk was Thelnetham, situated on the south side of the Little Ouse, the river which marks the boundary between Norfolk and Suffolk. Both Solomon and Harriet were born and married in the village, about six miles east of Diss. Although Solomon had spent all his life living in the same village, his father, Adam, was born at Fersfield near Kenninghall in Norfolk. All the Knights family are described on records as agricultural labourers. Harriet was also born in Thelnetham as were previous generations of the Footer family. The village today is possibly smaller than it was then. It is renowned for its restored nineteenth century windmill and its calcareous wetlands, an area of special scientific interest known as Bug's Hole. Interestingly this is where Harriet and her mother were living in 1851 prior to her marriage to Solomon.

In 1881 the family lived in Bradford at 19 Ingleby Place, Horton. Solomon, who would have had experience working the land, had found work as a gardener. (1881 and 1891 censuses). By 1905, both he and Harriet had moved to Girdlington where, in 1905, they died aged 69 and 75 respectively. In 1881 three of the children, Charles (21), Arthur (20) and Elijah (18) were working as cotton warp dyers, Jesse (15) was an errand boy and Albert (13), Jacob (10) and Mary (8) were at school. There was also a 10-year-old nephew, Alfred Knights, living with them.

My great-grandfather was Elijah. He married Martha Ann Jennings, who was from Bradford, in 1886 at St Peter's church, later to become Bradford Cathedral. In 1991, they were living at 33 Ingleby Place with most of his family living on the same street. Parents Solomon and Harriet lived next door to them at number 31, Arthur and his wife, Ann Eliza and their son, George Henry, were at number 37. Charles and his wife, Emily Jane and their 5 children were at number 39 and Albert and his wife, Jane and their daughter, Emma, were living at number 7.

Living with Elijah and his wife, Martha Ann Jennings were my grandmother Charlotte Kate Alice aged 1 month always known as Lottie, Beatrice 3, David 2, a maternal uncle Herbert Jennings aged 21, grandmother, Elizabeth Jennings (nee Greenough) and Charlotte K A Jennings, a cousin from Manchester who was aged 32 and a nurse. She must have been there to assist after the recent birth. My grandmother was named after her.

During her old age, grandma Lottie spent a lot of time talking to me about her childhood. She described the house on Ingleby Place, which must have been crowded as it was a two-up-two-down back-to-back house with just two bedrooms and only an outside toilet. The parents and the newest baby slept in one bedroom, with the rest of the family in the other, a room with two beds, one for boys and the other for girls. There were always more girls than boys with eventually 5 sisters sleeping together in the one bed. Their numbers sometimes swelled by visiting cousins who came to stay when their parents were going through difficult times.

In the early part of the twentieth century the family moved into a bigger house on Cumberland Avenue, Lidgett Green, apparently on the advice of the doctor. There were eventually seven children altogether. Martha Ann, who liked to be called Marthann, was very strict. Everyone had their jobs. Tuesdays and Thursdays were baking days so on those days the boys went to fetch the flour before school. On Fridays my grandmother had to black lead the stove before she could go to school. She deplored this because she was a keen pupil and won a George Wharton prayer book for her efforts. She felt that she might have been awarded a bible if her hands hadn't been so dirty that they spoiled her books. On Saturday morning grandma also had the job of cleaning the outside toilet.

Martha Ann, who never went to school, had to send her children, but, if they were needed to help at home, she kept them away. My grandmother loved reading and had to hide her books from her mother. Reading was seen as a waste of time. Martha Ann herself signed her name with a cross yet was not totally illiterate. I am told that she liked nothing better than sitting down to read the News of the World on Sunday afternoons when the family were at Sunday School. My grandmother's education finished at twelve (she attended Princeville school). Initially she worked in a cigarette factory in Manningham where she had to straighten out tobacco leaves, but she soon started to have headaches accompanied by vomiting, a prelude to the migraines she suffered from all her life. She left the tobacco factory to help at home by caring for her younger sisters. Later, she found work in a posh dress shop in Kirkgate where she learned to embroider the panels on the front of Edwardian lady's dresses. A skill she was always proud about.

The family's health was taken very seriously. Beatrice, the oldest daughter, went to work as a weaver at Lister's mill in Manningham but she and her friend left because they had developed tuberculosis. It was due to concern for her that the family left Lidgett Green and moved to Thornton where they rented a house

on Station View, opposite the station. Her father hoped that his daughter would thrive in the cleaner air to the west of Bradford. Sadly, that was not to be the case and Beatrice died at the age of 25. She was buried in Scholemoor cemetery. No other children in the family went to work at Lister's mill. Another daughter, Clara, also suffered with poor health having survived rheumatic fever at the age of 4. She never went out to work like the other girls and was treated with great care. She was discouraged from marriage by her parents, but she was an attractive young woman and, at the age of 27, she married James Knapton, a quarryman from Egypt near Thornton. She had a daughter, June, but her health deteriorated eventually passing away in July 1936 at the age of 32, when her daughter was only 4 years old.

Elijah progressed well in his work at Crossley and Co, Warp Dyers on Cemetery Road. On the 1901 census, he is described as a foreman cotton warp dyer and by 1911 and living at 42, Cumberland Road, Lidgett Green and he remains a foreman. In the 1921 census, at the age of 58, he is described as head cotton warp dyer living at 562 Thornton Road, Thornton. Thornton was a convenient place for him to live as he could travel on the tram each day to Four Lane Ends before walking the short distance to Crossley's on Cemetery Road. Thus Elijah, born in rural Suffolk and starting his working life as a crow scarer at the age of 7, was to spend his adult life living and working in the dyeing industry related to textiles and in urban Bradford. He then became a commuter before retiring to a smaller house on Albert Street in Thornton before his death at the age of 76 on 11 July 1939 during surgery for prostate problems.

There are still descendants of the Knights living in Bradford and beyond. Both Elijah's sons followed their father into the dyeing trade. David and his wife made their life in Huddersfield where, in 1939, he was working as a laboratory assistant (dyestuffs), Harold and his wife went to live in Nottingham where he was a foreman cotton dyer on the 1939 register. He was badly affected by gas when he was serving in the army in Belgium during the First World War and always had trouble with breathlessness. The four surviving sisters all married locally, with Lottie, Edith and Beth living well into old age.

Some cousins emigrated. My grandmother kept up correspondence with her American family, and in the 1970s Bertha and Bert came to visit from their home in California. It was they who awakened my interest in researching family history. They spent much of their stay in East Anglia, where they researched the Knights family, most of which I have subsequently been able to verify. They claimed that the family descend from a cousin of Robert, the leader of Kett's rebellion against rural enclosures in 1549. I have, however, only been able to trace the family back as far as Adam Knights 1721 to 1768 and his wife, Tamaris, who lived in Winfarthing. I can find no evidence to link them to the Ketts. It would be amazing if I could, but unless I find inspiration, I must accept that I will never know and the American cousins are now long gone. (5118)

Women's Sports – The Ancient and Modern Game of Golf

Jackie Depelle

An idea of how to contribute to this topic requested for the December Bod-Kin didn't surface until reading the interesting articles printed in Volume 16. Only knowing my maternal Grandmother I don't have any recollection of female sporting activities for that generation other than some element of shooting at some time. This was evidenced by a rifle pellet embedded in her hand which I recall vividly moving around under her skin!

My mother played golf for many years as member of the nine-hole Fulneck Golf Club founded in 1892, a key element of the remaining green belt between the major cities of Bradford and Leeds. I believe she was introduced to the hobby/sport on marriage, and certainly golf was a major aspect of my childhood. My father was very active in The Yorkshire Rabbits Golf Association and The Bradford and District Rabbits Gold Association hence we regularly travelled to weekend mixed foursome events around the county. Nothing particularly unusual in this so far, though in those days ladies' golf didn't have much of a profile, no high value earnings in prize money or sponsorship income as today. What did become out of the ordinary was when I started to play as a child with cut-down golf clubs carried in what I don't recall. There was a fledging Junior Boys' Section in due course, at times supplemented by pupils from Fulneck School who had private lessons after teaching had concluded. Only once did I have a female companion when the daughter of an adult male member joined me for a while but that was very short-lived.

Eventually, by the time I started work, ladies' access to golf courses was still strictly limited especially the 19th hole! It wasn't until part-time hours enabled me to play on weekdays that more competitive events opened up including travel to other clubs representing at various times Fulneck Golf Club, Bingley St Ives Golf Club and latterly Headingley. There was also an increased profile for girls by then with several local players representing the county and making a name for themselves.

With this background to my own junior golf days I was fascinated on a recent lunch visit, last year to a course in North Yorkshire during school holidays. It was amazing and wonderful to see the equipment Grandparents were unpacking from their cars, properly manufactured Junior sized golf clubs, small trolleys though I didn't spot any that were battery operated! Perhaps they are out there, and I have to say on that particular day I didn't spot any girls though there were ladies on the course. Looking recently at Fulneck Golf Club's website I see they

launched their Junior Golf Academy - Latest - Fulneck Golf Club¹ in 2025 with an image of a young girl driving off on the 3rd tee! How times have changed – excellent!



*Practice green and 1st fairway Fulneck Golf Club, Nr Pudsey,
West Yorkshire Summer 2025: Author's collection*

For information on ladies' golf see:

- a) [The history of women's golf - Daily Sports](#) suggests that Mary Stuart, i.e. Mary Queen of Scots was the first female golfer. During her reign from 1542 – 1567 the famous St Andrews Golf Course was built with their website [The St Andrews Golf Club | The Home of Golf](#) declaring their inception in 1843. Incidentally where my parents celebrated their Silver Wedding. Apparently the term “caddie” came about following Mary's using the word “cadets” for her assistants.
- b) [History of Women's Golf – https://womenonthetee.com/](https://womenonthetee.com/)

Further reading: The First Hundred Years. Fulneck Golf Club 1892 – 1992

1st (and only?) Female President of the Club : 1904 – 1937 Lady Tempest of Tong Hall

1st Lady Captain : 1922 – Mrs V M Tullie

1st Lady President : 1904 – 1935 – Lady Tempest of Tong Hall

So, I wasn't quite the female trail blazer I thought!

(2929)

¹ <https://fulneckgolfclub.co.uk/latest-news/junior-golf-academy-latest/>

For Textiles Snug and Warm

Sue Carson

For Textiles Snug and Warm

Brighthouse and all Spenborough
And breezy Birkenshaw,
Are links along the woollen trail
Of ridge or valley floor.

Not far away in Bradford streets,
Are warehouses secure,
Whose quotas know the Darling Plains
And the high Yorkshire moor;

And lorries come the old trade route,
Piled tower high with bales,
Warm fibres for the spinning sheds
To jerk the weighbridge scales.

Now will those evening lights shine out
Where drooped the rusted cranes,
Warm curtains glow down garden paths
That glisten in the rains;

While flocks night-graze the circling heights
On farms when autumn moon's at full,
Above the hundred-thousand lights
At anchor through the realms of wool.

Alice Margueite Holroyd

(4127)



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

An Orange, a Bottle of Red and Home Leave in Bradford 1945

Malcolm Cowburn & John Cowburn

Bradford, its people and places endured much hardship during the Second World War. Local industries turned their production to help the war effort²: Lister's Mill produced silk parachutes, the Avro factory at Yeadon was building bombers, Jowett's the motor manufacturer quadrupled its workforce (mainly with women workers) and switched from making cars to manufacturing items such as aircraft components, motor generators, fire pumps and an anti-mine flail for the Sherman tank³. With such activity it is not surprising that Bradford became a target for the Luftwaffe, particularly during 1940-1941. However, whilst it seems clear that the city was bombed, the extent of the bombing is contested. In 2000 the Telegraph & Argus (T&A) described the worst night of bombing being 31st August 1940 when approximately 120 bombs were dropped on the city⁴. Yet, in the BBC's Archive 'WW2 People's War' P W Price, using his own experience and reference to official communications, contests the severity of the bombing described in the T&A's account⁵. Without further research it is impossible to reconcile these accounts, suffice it to say Bradford was bombed during World War 2. The *Bradford Directory 1940-41*⁶ lists 65 public air raid shelters 'in or near the city centre' providing accommodation for up to 11,580 people.

Whilst the frequency and severity of bombing may be unclear, the city ensured that people were aware of their nearest shelter.

Apart from the bombing, the black-out and fear of bombing and invasion, the other key feature of civilian life in Bradford and throughout the UK at this time was rationing. Michael Denham of the Geriatrics Society notes:

Rationing was achieved by issuing every man, woman and child, with a ration book containing coupons. To buy most rationed items, each person had to register at chosen shops. The shopkeeper had enough food for registered customers and when an item was purchased, the relevant coupon was cancelled . . . A typical weekly ration per person, when at its lowest level, was butter 4oz; bacon and ham 4oz; loose tea

² https://www.bbc.co.uk/bradford/peoples_war/ww2.shtml Accessed 9th November 2025

³ <https://historicvehicles.com.au/historic-car-brands/jowett/> Accessed 9th November 2025

⁴ <https://www.thetelegraphandargus.co.uk/news/8052197.the-night-terror-rained-from-the-sky/> Accessed 9th November 2025

⁵ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/38/a3894438.shtml> Accessed 9th November 2025 & <https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/50/a3964250.shtml> Accessed 10th November 2025

⁶ See <https://www.bradfordtimeline.co.uk/192549.htm> - 1940 Street List - Air Raid Shelters - Buses

4oz; sugar 8oz; meat one shilling-worth; cheese 1oz; preserves 8oz a month.

By 1942, most foods were rationed except vegetables, bread, and fish. Lemons and bananas disappeared but oranges were occasionally available (remember that episode in Dad's Army).⁷

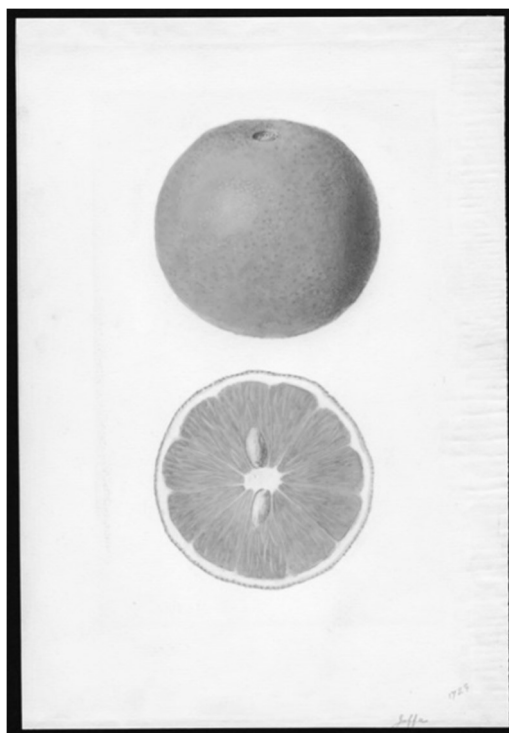
'Dad's Army', was a very popular UK comedy series about the Home Guard during World War 2. Its episode 'The Love of Three Oranges' humorously captures the scarcity of citrus fruit, especially oranges, in the UK during the war.

Our father, Ian Cowburn, was born in Westfield Street Manningham in July 1917 whilst his father, Firth, was in France with the Army Labour Corps. Ian was an only child and at the age of 7, he moved to Beamsley Road where he lived with his parents above their hairdressers shop near Lister's Mill. He attended Belle Vue High School, captained their Rugby team and in 1936 won a scholarship to Durham University to study English and train as a teacher. At Durham he was a successful middle-distance runner winning many medals. In 1939, as he was taking his final exams, he was called up to the armed forces. He enlisted on 12th October 1939 and was transferred to the Reserves to allow him to finish final exams.

In the late 1960s he wrote an unpublished detailed memoir of his time in the army during the Second World War. Much of this account uses and quotes from his memoir 'One soldier, one war from Hussar to I Corps' which we collated and privately published personal copies in 2021.

Ian commenced his army training in June 1940 at Catterick as a driver with the 51st Training Regiment Royal Armoured Corps and later joined the Tenth Royal Hussars. On Tuesday 30th September 1941 he boarded the troopship Empire Pride as a part of the 2nd Armed Battalion. On this ship, over a course of two months and two thousand miles he circumnavigated Africa, arriving in Egypt in November 1941. He remained in North Africa until January 1943 when he joined Military Intelligence and moved to the Lebanon and then to Europe. In North Africa he drove every vehicle the army used and was present at the retreat from Tobruk and the two battles of El Alamein (31st July 1942 and 23rd October 1942). Following his transfer to the Intelligence Corps his military engagement was covert and required him to develop links with local people including orange farmers in Palestine. As children, he would often regale us with stories of the size and succulence of the Palestinian Jaffa oranges.

⁷ <https://www.bgs.org.uk/resources/as-we-once-were-wartime-rationing> Accessed 7th November 2025



*Jaffa orange: J. Marion Shull,
Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons*

From June 1941 to April 1945 Ian had no home leave. In February 1945 in Belgium, he and his comrades attended a lecture by Major Sedgewicke-Rough:

Sedgewick-Rough had all the section into a large room for a lecture. There were some Canadians, a couple of Sections from the UK and US [I Corp Brigade HQ, 17 Section]. He told us all about the setup at I Corps Field and during the course of the lecture declared 'And then there's the question of home leave. Now I myself haven't had any for almost a year.'

Then he noticed he was getting one or two ironic smiles from 17 Section, and he spotted that Charlie MacLean, myself and a couple of the others who had been with the 1st Army were wearing Africa Star ribbons, so he continued,

'But I expect some of you can beat that by quite a bit, can't you?'. 'Yes, by about three years, Sir' we told him'.

As part of their work in Northern France Ian's Unit engaged with the local population, some of whom worked with them; one man was due to return to his home and the Unit had 'provided him with as much rations as he could carry'. He repaid the kindness shown to him:

Before he left us, he told us that he had been working on a farm not far away near a German Officers' Mess and when they had cleared out, he had

gone in and "liberated" a whole lot of French Wines and Cognac and Dutch liqueurs that he'd buried in the farmyard. He suggested that we went and got it, so off we went in the truck.



*Image source <https://www.spiralcellars.com/stories/how-vintners-fought-to-save-their-wine/>
used with permission (9th December 2025)*

In April 1945, Ian was finally granted Home Leave. Returning home after 3 years and 7 months was not easy for Ian or his parents:

Having been away since 1941 I was struck by how shabby and tired England looked. I don't remember much about the leave except going to visit one or two relatives. My mother had saved me an orange when they knew I was coming on leave, and she seemed disappointed when I didn't think much of it; it was a miserable little thing, but one of the first they'd seen since 1939. Of course, when I told them about the sacks full of Jaffas we'd been given in Palestine only four months before they saw the point. On the advice of our Frenchman that it was the best we had, I'd taken a bottle of Chateau Margaux that we'd liberated from the farm with me but

I'm afraid it was too dry for my parents' taste. A bit disappointing on both sides, them about the orange and me about the wine.

Much is written about the traumas and horrors of war, and it is clear from our dad's memoir he witnessed many distressing and disturbing things during his time in the army. This anecdote, however, tells a tale of the gulf that grew between families, communities and serving soldiers during wartime. Ian was away from England for over three years, in that time he visited numerous countries, lived on the edge in war zones in Africa, the Middle-East and Europe. Wartime was a rich, vivid, intense, and at times frightening experience for Ian, and the back-drop to it all was military camaraderie and friendship. War taught him to live in the moment, he learned the art of survival, co-existing with native populations who all wanted the war to end as much as he did, but who also enjoyed the human relationships that war provided. It is interesting that the soldiers in his unit ensured that the French worker, who was a part of their section, was provided with 'as much rations as he could carry' and he reciprocated their kindness. The excitement and colour of Palestine, the availability of large fresh succulent oranges and the contact with local populations all added colour and vitality to his life. This colour was lacking when he came home to England and to Bradford; here was drabness and austerity, rationing, air-raid shelters and black outs. Here oranges were not large and mouth-wateringly delicious, they were small and shrivelled. Military service had widened his world view and developed his tastes; no longer was a glass of sweet sherry-like wine a suitable companion for a reunion. His palate now developed a taste for fine French wine, whilst his parents remained largely abstemious except for a glass of sweet wine on special occasions.

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Meeting Programme 2025/26

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
Mar	5	AM	Emma Jane Ingham - Born of boat people, suffered a major industrial injury and had a long life.	Lorraine Birch	Hybrid
Mar	16	PM	My ancestors were Irish, or were they? The origins of Irish surnames.	Natalie Bodle	Zoom
Apr	2	AM	Henry Seebohm - a Bradfordian, who became one of the most important ornithologists and steelmakers of the Victorian period.	Paul Hobson	Hybrid
Apr	20	PM	AGM – Exploring the Secret World of your Freemason Ancestor	Yetunde Abiola	Zoom
May	7	AM	Fulneck, the long journey - Stepping back through history to explore how Moravians travelled to Fulneck and beyond	Mary Holmes	Hybrid
May	18	PM	Getting More Out of Family Search	Alison Spring	Zoom
Jun	4	AM	W. E. Forster: The Man who sent us all to School	Dr. Simon Ross Valentine	Hybrid
Jun	15	PM	Electoral Registers for Family Historians	Sue Steel	Zoom
Jul	2	AM	No Meeting		
Jul	20	PM	No Meeting		
Aug	6	AM	No Meeting		
Aug	17	PM	No Meeting		
Sep	3	AM	Life on the stage: the story of Sam Ranson and Blanche Slater who toured the country as music hall artistes.	Anne Mealia	Hybrid
Sep	21	PM	Buried deep but not lost forever: Discovering your Ancestor's final resting place	Linda Hammond	Zoom
Oct	1	AM	Looking Up in Bradford	Geoff Twentyman	Hybrid

Oct	19	PM	Researching' before 'a novel - The Mourning Brooch - A novel based on true life ancestry from 1839 to WW2 - Part 3	Dianne Page	Zoom
Nov	5	AM	Lawless Ladies: a thousand years of female criminals	Trish Colton & Diane Holloway	Hybrid
Nov	16	PM	Open Evening – bring your queries, problems and discoveries to the Zoom meeting	Sue Steel	Zoom
Dec	3	AM	The History of the English Canal System, including the now closed Bradford Canal.	Eric Jackson	Hybrid
Dec	21	PM	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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Baby of the North by Craig Dyson
© Anne Luciw

British Association for Local History Conference

Jude Rhodes



Local History around the Yorkshire Dales:

The British Association for Local History is delighted to present a one-day conference on local history around the Yorkshire Dales.

Join us in Grassington, North Yorkshire to explore the landscapes, buildings and people of the Dales on

2nd May 2026.

For more information go to: <https://www.balh.org.uk/yorkshire26>

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For Textiles Snug and Warm (see page 17)



Are you ready for a spring walk © Anne Luciw