



Balsall Heath
Local History Society

THE GAZETTE JUNE 2013

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The Balsall Heath Local History Society was founded in 1979 with the aim of promoting interest in our local history. We feel pride in our area and value its strengths – past and present. To meet our aims we work with local schools and community groups organising exhibitions and events. We have also produced several publications. We are a registered charity and rely on grants and donations to achieve our aims. For more information on our work, or to volunteer and help please contact us.

LIFE'S RICH PAGEANT – A dramatic success!

The three performances in June of the latest production from the Birmingham History Theatre Group were very well received indeed. The play was an entertaining mix of live performances, songs and pre-filmed "Pathe News" style video that showed how the 1938 Birmingham Pageant affected people from widely different backgrounds.



For those who missed the performances, or those who would just like to see it again, we are planning to put it on for another run in autumn this year. Many thanks to all those who came and supported it and to all those who helped create the play. (Pictures by Ian Edwards & Jake Stewart)

July Meeting: Thursday 25th 7:30

The Venture (on Malvern Street by the farm)

A History of Handsworth Park 1882 - 2012 by Simon Baddeley



BALSALL HEATH IN COLOUR

Some early pictures have come to light taken by one Mr D.Norton, including two pictures from Balsall Heath.

Above is the top end of Mary Street taken in September 1955. This view is still largely the same today – only the businesses have changed. Below is the Congregational Church at the corner of Moseley Road and Runcorn Road. This image was taken in July 1956, during the demolition of the church which had been hit during the war. These, so far, are the earliest colour images surviving of Balsall Heath.

CARNIVAL TIME

This much looked forward to annual event is on **Saturday 6th July**. Last year was sadly rained off as were so many events during the 2012 British “summer”. The Society will be taking part in the procession and will be running two stalls at the carnival itself. One will be a Diamond Balsall Heath display tent and the other will be a tea tent complete with tables, chairs and a team of “nippies”.

Butterflies, Bees, Bugs & Blooms

Balsall Heath Carnival Needs Volunteers!

Saturday 6th July, Pickwick Park, St Paul's Road, Balsall Heath

Contact Clive Phillips on 464 4376 or email clive.phillips@stpaulstrust.org.uk

You can volunteer to help from 6.30am to 7pm (as much or little as you like!)

We need help in the morning, during the afternoon and during the evening.

There is a lot to pack away and many hands make light work!

PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION

June saw two big exhibitions for the Society. First up was the Birmingham Lives History Fair on Holloway Head. Below left are some of our volunteers at the Fair. Below right is the ever popular Victorian washday display, this time at the Diamond Balsall Heath exhibition held at St. Paul's.



ALL HANDS TO THE PUMP!

On **Saturday 13th July** the Theatre Group will be appearing at the Pump House on Brasshouse Lane, Smethwick from 12 – 3.

This will essentially be a shortened version of last year's popular canal walk from Birmingham to Smethwick. We will be doing a variety of the historical sketches from that walk, along with some of the canal songs. There will be plenty of chance to join in the fun by singing along, joining the Home Guard and capturing the escaped convict!