



*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.*



*The Birmingham Theatre Company invite you to a walk through time on Moseley Road*

**Sunday November 30<sup>th</sup> 2pm** is the date for your diaries. We assemble at the Ort Café, which is on Moseley Road right opposite the Baths and Library.

Our previous walk on the Moseley Road was in 2011 and took a longer route. This time it will be more compact running from the School Of Art up to the old tram depot and Robinson's Removals. The walk will feature our usual mix of historical characters from the past, and very possibly a song as well.

**The event is absolutely FREE** and will also include chance for a wander around the upstairs gallery at the Old Print Works, which you may recall hosted our exhibition there in 2011.

Pictured right is the Air Raid Warden from the 2011 walk. He just had time for a quick chat while getting changed from his day-job as a doorman. The siren sounded and he left for his position atop the Library clock tower.

## REALITY OF POVERTY

The Daily Mail online site recently featured the work of photographer Nick Hedges. Nick spent three years visiting slum housing in Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds and London. The images were taken as part of a campaign by Shelter to highlight the plight of deprived members of society. Three of the pictures, featured here, were taken in Balsall Heath.

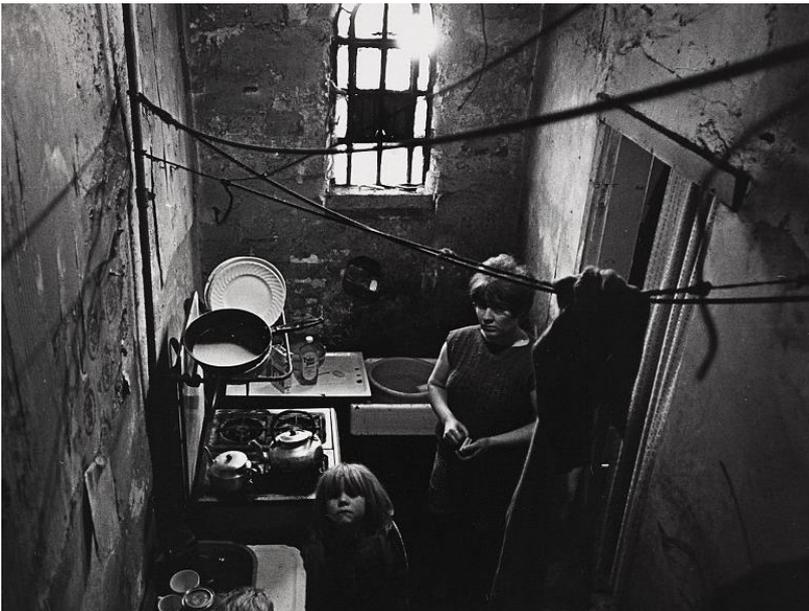


**(Above right):** Mrs M huddles with her four young children in the council house that they share with her husband in Balsall Heath. Their home has no bathroom, no hot water and the inside walls are running with damp. The children slept on sodden seat cushions covered by a couple of old 'macs'. They are pictured in January 1969, when a thick layer of snow lay outside and the windows were broken

**(Below):** A young girl tries to soothe a crying infant by holding it close to her chest. The pair stand in front of peeling, moulding wallpaper in what Nick described as a 'substandard property' in Balsall Heath in June 1969



**(Below):** A woman and her child look up from the kitchen of a council-owned property in a slum in Balsall Heath, in November 1969. Above them a makeshift washing line is tied to the exposed water pipes attached to the peeling, damp-ridden walls in the dank room



## THE HOWLES OF BALSALL HEATH

A recent query, by email, from Robin Howle who hopes some of you out there may be able to help...

*"Does anyone remember the HOWLE family who lived at 24? Hampden Street, Balsall Heath and the MARTIN family next door; also the GREEN family from 42 Edward Road, just up from the police station?"*

*My adoptive father, (I was born in 1941) was Herbert Charles Ernest HOWLE, known as 'Ernie' and my adoptive mother was Frances Eugene Mary HOWLE, nee GREEN, known as 'Fay'. By the time they adopted me, in 1942, they were living in a new council house out at the Maypole. If anybody wants to contact me then please do so."*

Robin can be contacted at: [rahowle@yahoo.com](mailto:rahowle@yahoo.com)

## HALE AND HEARTY

Jenny Austin, from Friends of Moseley Road Baths, writes:-

On **1st November** we are hosting a visit to the Baths by the family of the original architect of the baths, William Hale. The same architect was responsible for other local buildings. Just thought you might be interested to meet them - they are a big party, about 15, they are having lunch at Ort and Steve is taking them on a Baths Tour afterwards.

For more information email Jenny at:-

[contact@friendsofmrbs.co.uk](mailto:contact@friendsofmrbs.co.uk)

## NEXT MEETING

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November 7:30**

The Venture

(Malvern Street by the farm)

**Life In 600 AD**

by **Richard Denning**

**RICHARD PRESENTS YOUR HANDY ANGLO SAXON SURVIVAL GUIDE!**

Let's say that you found yourself in 600 AD. Could you survive? What do you know about these years? Do you know what to wear, how to train with weapons, what food to grow and how to cook it?

Fear not, Richard will guide you.

**WELCOME TO 600 AD ...**

## BRUMMAGEM TRIBUTE

The latest issue of Carl Chinn's splendid "Brummagem" is out and features the tribute to **Bernard Jackson** that we printed here back in June. Carl was very fond of Bernard and had great respect for his immense local knowledge.

If you cannot find a copy in the shops, and would like to buy one then send an email to Carl at [carl@brummagem.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:carl@brummagem.fsnet.co.uk)

