



Balsall Heath
Local History
Society

THE GAZETTE

April 2018

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Successful Heritage Lottery Bid

The Story of the Children's Emigration Homes.



Mary Jane, Ernest, and Sydney S., as they appeared when received into the Homes in September, 1908.



Mary Jane, Ernest, and Sydney S., as they appeared four months later in January, 1909.

The Balsall Heath Local History Society has just received £32,100 from the Heritage Lottery Fund for an exciting project concerning the Children's Emigration Homes. These were founded by John Middlemore in Highgate in 1873 and are an important aspect of Birmingham's heritage.

We aim to make contact with living relatives of people who were in the Homes and to raise awareness through displays, talks, work with schools and an exhibition. We will be looking for volunteers to help us in a variety of roles which will offer an opportunity to enhance skills.



A PARTY OF GIRLS ABOUT TO START FOR CANADA.

Literally thousands of destitute children spent up to a year at these homes before being sent off to be settled with farmers in the backwoods of Canada. They were part of a much larger picture of child emigration, but

this project is to concentrate just on the Middlemore Homes.

There is huge interest in Canada, where it is estimated that over 10% of the current population are descendants of Home Children. However, there is relatively little awareness in Birmingham of the work of the Children's Emigration Homes and the impact they have had on the lives of people today.

We also aim to link this work with stories of people coming in to Balsall Heath and Birmingham, to explore the general theme of immigration and emigration.

Next meeting.

May 31st

Bob Green – "One, two buckle my shoe" Growing up in the 1950s

Ghost Streets of Balsall Heath

The photography of Janet Mendelsohn

Presented in association with Flatpack Film Festival

10 March – 28 April 2018

In the late 1960s American filmmaker and photographer Janet Mendelsohn spent several months documenting the everyday life of Balsall Heath, as part of her studies at the University of Birmingham. These images are a vivid record of the community at a time of rapid change, and many of the streets depicted were demolished soon

afterwards. The exhibition visually explores a social housing crisis, poverty, migration and the experience of childhood in the area.

Building on a brief pop-up exhibition in summer 2015, Ort Gallery now present a selection of these amazing images in the neighbourhood where they were taken. The exhibition will be supported by a resource room exploring some of the stories behind the pictures, and a programme of events and screenings culminating in the 12th Flatpack Film Festival (13-22 April 2018).

Do you have memories of Balsall Heath in the late 60s? We'd love to hear from you!

Contact josie@ortgallery.co.uk

Journeys to Balsall Heath.

Exhibition at Balsall Heath Library from April 3rd.

Understanding the people that live in an area, and knowing the journeys that they, and their families have taken, helps us to understand the differences and similarities between us, as a community. 'Journeys' is piecing together a tapestry of stories and memories, with a common theme, which is Balsall Heath.

This ongoing project will explore the places that people who live here now have travelled from, and where people who once lived here have gone to. It's part of weaving the tapestry that defines Balsall Heath's colourful and vibrant community, which has a blend of cultures unlike any other inner city area around Birmingham.

Other Events

The Birmingham & Midland ~History Fair will take place at the Birmingham & Midland Institute on Margaret St on 12th May from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is £1. Those scheduled to appear include BMSGH (Midland Ancestors), Friends of Key Hill & Warstone Lane Cemetery, and Local Historian, Presenter & Author Andrew Lound. There will also be tours of the building.

There will be a History Walk at the Lickey Hills on 5th May. The title is 480 million years of history in two hours. A walk through time starting in pre-history, then Roman Britain, a quick stop with the Normans and Middle Ages, finishing with the Second World War and

home in time for a brew! It starts at 1p.m. from the visitor centre.

The Natural History Museum's famous Diplodocus, known as Dippy, is taking a road trip to Birmingham from 26th May – 9th September 2018. The British icon is on a mission to inspire five million natural history adventures, encouraging families to explore nature on their doorstep.

Dippy on Tour will be a free ticketed event. Advanced booking is strongly advised as this will be a very popular exhibition.

The full skeleton cast in its displayed pose is an impressive 21.3 metres long, 4.3 metres wide and 4.25 metres high.

There is an opportunity to Dine with Dippy as shared dinner party on 7th and 14th June 2018, or a venue hire booking. It is advised to book as early as possible.

Moseley Road Baths

World Monuments fund has a video entitled "saving Moseley Road Baths up on Youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/user/worldmonumentsfund/videos>

