



Balsall Heath Local History Society

Throw A Lifeline to Moseley Road Baths



On 30 October 1907, Moseley Road Baths first opened for public swimming and so, at the end of this month, the Baths will be 110 years old. Unquestionably one of Birmingham's most important heritage buildings, Moseley Road Baths is also one of the nation's most significant swimming pools - it is the oldest Grade II* Listed Building still open for public swimming.

The newly formed Moseley Road Baths Community Interest Company (MRB CIC) now has 6 months to develop a workable model for swimming, enabling it to take over operational responsibility for water activity from April 2018.

But, if the future of swimming at Moseley Road Baths is to be secured, they need your help!

They have launched a Crowdfunder appeal aiming to raise an initial £13,552 to train 8 volunteers in lifeguarding and swim teaching as well as customer services. The funding would ensure that when the group take over the Baths, swimming will continue to be enjoyable and safe.

The Crowdfunder site is

<http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/swimming-for-the-future-of-moseley-road-baths>

The Business Plan shows that the Baths can break even within three years but, in the first year, they need to raise £75,000 to help pay for essential things like heat, light and water

The Baths are a really significant part of our Balsall Heath heritage and it would be good if members of the History Society could support them as much as possible.

More information about what's currently happening can be found on this website:

<http://www.friendsofmrbc.co.uk>

THE GAZETTE

NOVEMBER 2017

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Monyhull Hospital history project needs help



The Charity CASBA is looking for people to help record experiences of people with learning difficulties, their families and those who supported them on their journey from Monyhull Hospital to life in the community. There are volunteering opportunities for Oral History and Heritage volunteers who will receive training so that they can help the project to record and preserve the stories for future generations to learn from.

The project also wants to get in touch with people who lived or worked at Monyhull Hospital, or cared for those leaving the institution when it was closed down. Please contact Joe Peacock, Heritage Project Co-ordinator 01214750777 or email casbaheritage@btconnect.com. The website is www.casba.org.uk

Balsall Heath Past Present and Future Exhibition

The exhibition at the old Moseley Road Art School was a brilliant success. We managed to assemble an amazing array of displays of photos, maps and artefacts from our collection which took us from the early nineteenth century to the Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Plan (2013-2031). There were interactive challenges too- an Artefacts quiz which was enjoyed by many, an opportunity to dress up and be photographed and an Antiques Challenge. It was really exciting to see so many visitors. Most came from the immediate areas of Balsall Heath, Sparkbrook, Moseley and Kings Heath but also some people came from further afield in quest of their roots- Henley in Arden, Halesowen, Redditch, Oldbury, Wombourne, Droitwich.. for example.

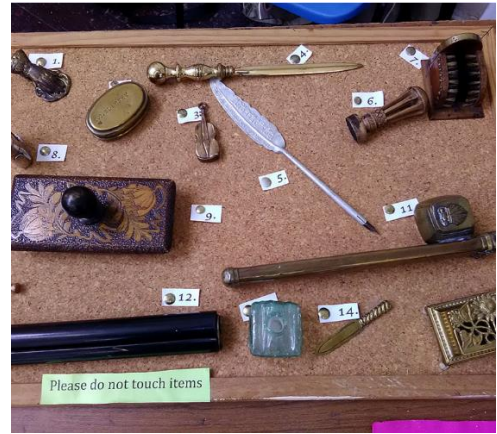
We also had some very pleasing donations including a pile of St Paul's Parish magazines from the 1880s and many visitors had stories to tell. An extraordinary number of people seemed to have some connection to Sherbourne Road!

A special feature of the Exhibition was the free Cream Tea for the Over 50s on the Wednesday afternoon, funded by Ageing Better. To our delight it was literally over 50 as over 50 people poured into the doors for this treat as well as a chance to look at the displays and discuss interesting items..

Comments in the Visitors' Book showed much appreciation. "Wow-Excellent and inspiring work. Well done for sharing such heritage treasures with us." There were many requests for "more please" so I think this will now be on the plan for next year.

The Moseley Muslim Association who hired us the space were really welcoming and expressed an interest in working with us in the future. So well done all those people who gave up so much time and effort to make it all happen. A big Thank You.

We should also acknowledge that the exhibition was made possible by a grant from Comic Relief's Community Cash Fund. So a big thank you to them too.



ANTIQUES CHALLENGE ANSWERS.....

1. Paper clip
 2. Snuff box
 3. Vesta (match) box
 4. Paper knife
 5. Dip pen (advertising)
 6. Ink stamp/seal
 7. Pen brush or wiper
 8. Travelling inkwell
 9. Blotter
 10. Propelling pencil
 11. Pencil case and inkwell ('qualamdam')
 12. Ruler
 13. Ink bottle
 14. Book mark
 15. Stamp box.
- Winners were: A. Johnson and H. Morell identifying 13 out of 15 items correctly.

Next Meeting.

The next meeting of The Balsall Heath Local History Society will be on Thursday, November 30th at St Paul's Venture at 7.15 for a 7.30 start. The speaker will be Dr John Page, telling us about Edwardian Gardens.

Goodbye to Chris Sutton.

It is sad to announce that Chris, our Development Worker for many years, has now resigned for health reasons. He has contributed much to our work and we are all sorry to see him go.

