



## Balsall Heath Local History Society

## THE GAZETTE

SEPTEMBER 2018

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## Middlemore Homes and the Lost Children

This month has been busy with launch events and the beginnings of the new Middlemore Homes project.



The launch began with a Radio WM interview on 30<sup>th</sup> August. Between BBC's Adrian Lester, our own Val Hart and Patricia Skidmore, daughter and biographer of one of the emigration home children in Canada. This was followed by a launch for local TV with Carl Chinn at the back to backs that went out on both BBC

and ITV news. The most recent event was part of Birmingham Heritage week with a short parade, a song from the youth theatre, and a talk from Patricia Skidmore. The project worker, Rowena Lyon, has already collected stories from several ex-home children, short versions of which were displayed at the last event.



## Finding the lost children

The society's next event in this project is a workshop to be held from 2pm to 4pm on 28<sup>th</sup> September (the day after the regular meeting) at the Children's Centre. It will be a workshop on how to access various research materials related to the project with several guest speakers.

## Sad News

We have now brought our Victorian/World War 2 schoolroom to an end, with much sadness. The Northfield Link gave us notice to leave and we decided that its time had come. The School Curriculum has changed so that our classroom experience no longer fits well.

On a brighter note, we have managed to sell off our furniture and most of our equipment, but have kept one of the double desks for future use at exhibitions etc.

## A new grant

At long last we have heard from Tesco's Bags of Help. All the votes in stores have been counted and we have been awarded £2000 which is lovely. This is for Trails around the area and we have set up a small working party to develop this project.

## Reginald Brown. In Memoriam.

Reg died on September 26<sup>th</sup> after a struggle with cancer which he faced with immense courage. He was a much liked and valued member of the Society who always had some interesting comments to make and will be sadly missed by us all

## Restoration.

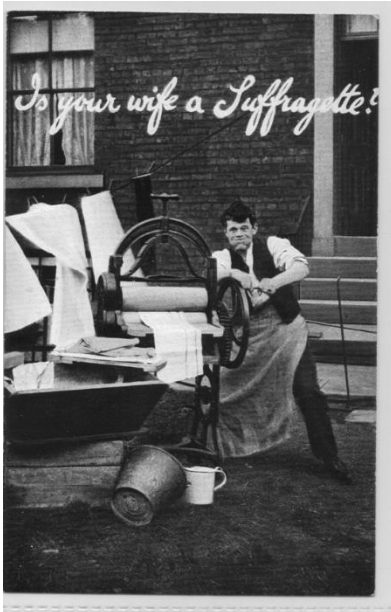
The rebuilding of the old Art School is almost complete and it should be

opening as a community centre fairly soon. The architects involved in this reconstruction are also involved in a project to restore the roof of the main pool at the baths and may be working on something about the old Georgian houses at the corner of Highgate Road soon.

## Events

Firstly, sorry for the mistake on last month's events. At the time Heritage Week were still building their site and included both last year's and this year's events. The tour of the baths was on that list.

October is Black History Month and there will be many events going on in Birmingham but, at the moment, very little has been announced and there is not much detail available on what is. Some of the more historical events are included here.



### Sunday 7th October Noon

Starting from the Council House.

The Long Road to the Vote: A guided walk with dramatic episodes and songs illustrating Birmingham's role in the struggle to gain the vote – by Chartist, Suffragist and Suffragettes.

Presented by the Birmingham History Theatre Company with

guest speaker, Don Hazzard.

Free event but donations welcome.

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October Noon – 7:00p.m.

Black History Activity Book Launch,

The H Suite, Ickneild Port Road, B16 0AA

Books of black history written for small children, "fun and edutainment". Also a presentation by Robin Walker on a history of African civilizations and a cultural market. Some parts of this event may be charged for.

### Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2:00p.m.-7:00p.m.

The Chris Bryant Centre - YMCA ,300 Reservoir Road, B23 6JB

An event "aimed at celebrating and cherishing memories". There will also be awards for local people and the launch of a befriending project.

### Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October 12:45pm – 13:30pm

Rotunda Gallery, Aston Webb, University of Birmingham, B15 2TT

An opportunity to see and touch some of the Danford Collection of West African Art and Artefacts. You can register on the Eventbrite website which is the only place advertising this event.

### Thursday 25th October 2018 6:30pm-8:00pm

'By Fire and Paint': the Birmingham Suffrage Story. A talk by Dr Nicola Gauld at Birmingham university.

### Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October 6:30pm - 9:00pm

Eastside Jazz Club, 200 Jennens Road, B4 7XR

The Birmingham Conservatoire's Ellington Orchestra play music from Duke Ellington. Tickets £6-£8 from Eventbrite website.

### Thursday 1st November 2018

#### 7:30pm-9:50pm

Great Hall - Aston Webb Building, Birmingham University – Tickets £5  
Remembering the Great War - An Evening of Words and Music

## Next meeting.

### Thursday October 25th

Ruth Lowe – Mary Quant through the 40s to the 80s.

7 p.m for a 7.30 start.

St Paul's Venture, Hertford St.

Visitors and new members always welcome.



# THE LOST CHILDREN

HOW TO FIND THEM!

AN EVENT TO CELEBRATE CANADA'S FIRST NATIONAL  
BRITISH HOME CHILD DAY

**FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 28th 2pm-4pm**

Balsall Heath Children's Centre, 10 Malvern Street, Balsall Heath, B13 8NN

Since the launch of our project we have been inundated with queries from descendants of migrant children trying to trace their relatives' history.

This FREE Workshop will cover:

Information on how to access the vast Middlemore Archives in Birmingham Library.

How to access other research materials: Passenger Lists; Census Data; Birth/Marriage/Death certificates; War Records; Newspaper Articles and useful websites.

**Guest Contributors:**

**Derek Savlin, Bernie McLean**

**Guest Skyper:**

**Patricia Roberts-Pichette in Ontario , author of:**

**"Great Canadian Expectations - The Middlemore Experience".**

For more info and to reserve a place contact:

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