



***BHLHS** was founded in 1979 with the aim of promoting interest in our local history. 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.*

## BALSALL HEATH IN CAMERA

Some scarce images from Balsall Heath. Let us know your memories of these!

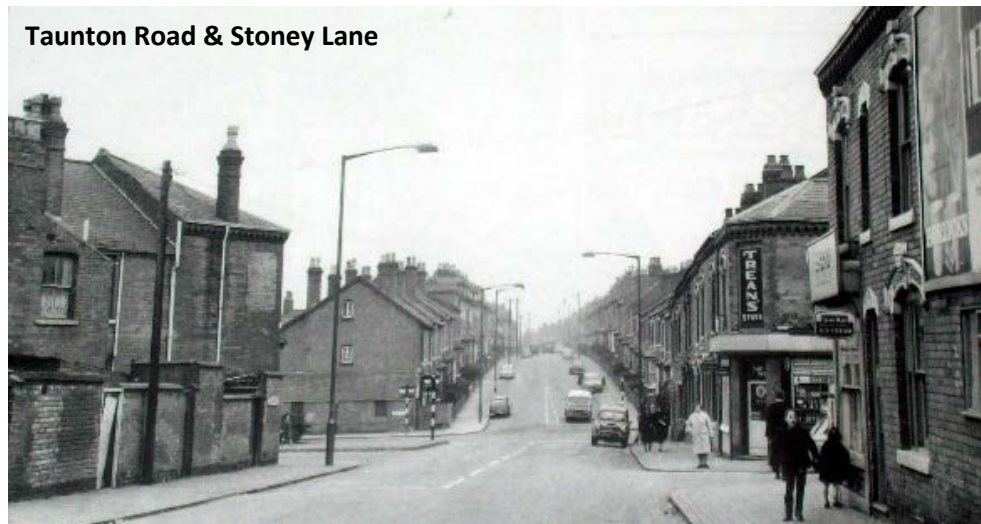
**Clevedon Road – bomb damage**



**Court Road**



**Taunton Road & Stoney Lane**



## NEXT YEAR'S SPEAKER PROGRAMME

Bron Salway sent me this list for next year. The April speaker has yet to be confirmed.

**January 26th** – Maggie Cotton – Wrong Sex, Wrong Instrument

**February 23rd** – Mike Byrne – Moseley Bog Through Time

**March 30th** – Alan Tumber – Nowt as Queer as Folk

**April 27th** – To be confirmed.

**May 25th** – Colin King – Grace O'Malley: Irish Pirate Queen

**June 29th** – Cliff Kirby-Tibbits – The History of Jabez Cliff and Co

**July 27th** - AGM

**September 28th** – Ned Williams – Pat Collins – King of Showmen

**October 26th** – Janice Andrews – 1951 Festival of Britain

**November 30th** – Dr John Page – Edwardian Gardens

**December 14th** – Richard Churchley – Christmas Songs Through the Ages

I will supply more information on the topics above in the newsletter before each meeting. It looks like another diverse and superb list of topics next year, and we hope to see you all there.

## EX-WAITER HERO HONOURED



In October, we recorded how Seaman Albert Hopkins, a Balsall Heath man who 14 months ago was serving as a waiter at the Midland Hotel, Birmingham, was the first member of the Allied landing party to set foot on the beach at Dieppe, how he was wounded in the operation and awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

Since then he has taken part in the operations at Oran, and has been torpedoed and rescued by a liner. While on survivor's leave, he has been honoured by his former colleagues on whose behalf Councillor Victor Horton, a director of the Midland Hotel, to-day presented him with a wristlet watch and a sum of money

(Above) *Birmingham Mail* 8<sup>th</sup> December 1942  
(Below) *Evening Despatch* 18<sup>th</sup> September 1939

## Recruits off with a smile



These recruits are in high spirits as they left Moseley and Balsall Heath Institute recruiting centre to-day before leaving Birmingham.

## NEXT MEETING

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 7:30

The Venture

(Malvern Street by the farm)

**Wrong Sex, Wrong Instrument**

by Maggie Cotton

Now retired, and no longer silenced by a contract, Maggie Cotton presents a player's perspective of life inside a professional symphony orchestra, describing how she became the first female percussionist in what was then a staunchly male-dominated world. Now retired after forty years with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Maggie gives a fascinating and humorous insight into every aspect of her working life.

## BRAVE A.R.P. BOY

### RESCUED SIX PEOPLE TRAPPED IN CELLAR

The story of a Birmingham boy's bravery during an air raid on Birmingham is revealed by the award of the medal of the Civil Division of the O.B.E. for meritorious service to Jack Reynolds, an A.R.P. messenger, of 52, Edgbaston Road, Balsall Heath. He crawled into a cellar by a small aperture, at risk of personal danger from falling debris and structural collapse, and rescued six trapped people.

The official report states:—"He succeeded in rescuing four persons, three injured and one uninjured, and then reported that there were two who were too heavy for him to move. A rope was passed to him and a sheet of iron. He tied the rope round the people's waists, and using the sheet of iron as a slide, these two were drawn up through the aperture. Undoubtedly the boy's action saved these persons' lives."



JACK REYNOLDS.

Reynolds is employed by a Birmingham firm of wholesale milliners,