



Balsall Heath
Local History Society

THE GAZETTE *APRIL 2012*

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MAY DAY! BEVAN'S BOYS (AND GIRLS) GATHER IN CALTHORPE PARK

May Day is also International Workers' Day which is an annual celebration of the international Labour movement. It has seen demonstrations, marches and rallies throughout the years, including this one held in Calthorpe Park in 1952. Speaking to the crowd is the Labour politician Anuerin Bevan. Amongst his many achievements as Minister of Health and Housing were the National Health Service Act of 1946 and the building of thousands of new homes in post-war Britain. By 1951 he was Minister of Labour but resigned in protest at fellow cabinet member Hugh Gaitskell's introduction of prescription charges for dental care and glasses – brought in, it was said, to partly cover the cost of British involvement in the Korean War. Later that year the Labour party lost the General Election.



By the time he appeared at the Calthorpe Park rally he had published his book "In Place Of Fear", which looked at the balance of power in the country. His beloved Labour party, now in opposition, had split into two camps with Bevan leading the left wing group known as "Bevanites". By 1959 he had been elected Deputy Leader of the Labour party but ill health caught up with him. Having entered hospital for treatment of an ulcer he was found to also have stomach cancer. He died in 1960 at home on his farm in Buckinghamshire.

A poll conducted by Culturenet Cymru placed Bevan 1st on the list of 100 Welsh Heroes. This image was used on our Digital Balsall Heath website and has been picked up by a new museum, dedicated to Bevan, opening in Tredegar.

MOSELEY ROAD EXHIBITION

This exhibition starts on **Saturday 28th April** and runs through to the following Saturday. Members will have already seen most of the photographs on view but this is another opportunity for local people to become acquainted with their home. Many came to last year's exhibition at the Print Works but having this in the local library will attract those who have popped in there on other business. If any Society members wish to come along then you are most welcome.

The library is open 9-5 every day except Wednesday (when it is shut) and Thursday (open 12 – 7).

BALSALL HEATH LIBRARY



WEDDING BELLE IN BALSALL HEATH



Dave Samman returned with two more photographs. These are of a wedding at Paul's Church probably in the early 1970's. Unfortunately Dave doesn't remember who either of the happy pair are, so if any of you happen to know he will be glad to hear from you. Only the left image is of St Paul's. The posed picture below is definitely not St Paul's – but where is it? And why are they posing outside what looks like another church?



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The photograph (left) is from 1973 of the charity netball team put together by staff of David Wiseman (plumbers) of Moseley Road. Where are they now!?

NEXT MEETING: 31ST MAY THE AGM AND OPEN EVENING

The Annual Review of the year and election of Committee members is here again. Meeting time is as usual at 7:30 and will kick off with the AGM itself, followed by an Open Evening meeting with updates on what the society has been involved with and recent research. We are inviting anyone to come along with Balsall Heath memorabilia on the night. At past Open Evenings we have had people bring along some superb photographs and memorabilia connected with Balsall Heath. It is an opportunity to have a leisurely look at hopefully more of the same plus the Society's collections.

In addition we will have the Digital Balsall Heath website up for viewing and also a re-showing of the MACE films which were put together from old Balsall Heath news items. These have proved very popular at previous showings.