



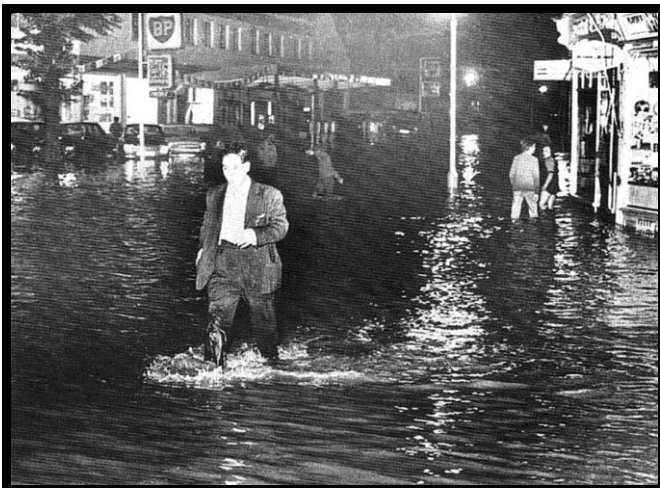
40 years ago: Clevedon Road 1973

The image below left is of Clevedon Road on 5th November 1970. Within three years the Council had started demolition of these properties which were now beyond reasonable repair or suitable for habitation. The process of rehousing families though was not without problems. The right hand picture was taken on 20th May 1973 for the local press. Tenants from the back-houses were protesting about the terms of the Council's Compulsory Purchase Order and rehousing proposals. Nearly all of the houses shown behind them are boarded up and derelict. The number one single that week was *See My Baby Jive* by Wizzard – not much of that going on in Clevedon Road that week!



40 years ago: Edward Road 1973

No it wasn't a heavy downpour! This was a burst water main on Edward Road on 8th September 1973. Does anyone know the intrepid chap striding towards us? Perhaps he was heading off on a date inspired by that week's number one single, *Young Love* by Donny Osmond.



February Meeting: Thursday 28th 7:30
The Venture
The History of Moseley Road Fire Station

John Agar from the West Midlands Fire Service Community Heritage Group is our speaker for this meeting. John's book about the station came out last year and is available in our Archives. John himself was a sub officer at the station in the 1960s and his talk is sure to be a lively and entertaining one.

Telephone : CALthorpe 1118/9

Heath & Pond
LTD.

"ATHOL" & "HEPON"
SPANNERS, SOCKETS

ATHOL WORKS
445-7-9 Moseley Road
BIRMINGHAM, 12

Telephone CALTHORPE 2985

H. DENHAM

High Class Car Service
DAY AND NIGHT

- ★ WEDDINGS A SPECIALITY
- ★ DANCE AND THEATRE PARTIES
- ★ COUNTRY RUNS, Etc.

127 Brunswick Rd.
SPARKBROOK

60 years ago: 1953

40 years ago: A new library for Birmingham! 1973

A real sense of déjà vu. This picture from 5th May 1973 shows the new library nearing completion for a 1974 opening. There it is to the right of the picture while the somewhat grander looking “old library” in Ratcliffe Place was being emptied and subsequently demolished. If I can hang on till 2053 I might get to see the next one being built! Those of you with fond memories of either of the libraries could *Tie A Yellow Ribbon Round The Old Oak Tree* as Tony Orlando & Dawn did - they were top of the “hit parade” when this was taken.



Those who wish to use Birmingham Archives now have to wait till September when the new “new” library opens. In the mean-time the University of Birmingham Library (Tel: 0121 414 5828) is well worth a look. The below link takes you straight to their online search page as well as details of their opening hours:

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/libraries/search.aspx>

The main library has an extensive local archive collection. This can be searched online and you get 138 results back for “Balsall Heath”. These include *“The Sanitary Condition of Moseley and Balsall Heath, near Birmingham – The Lancet, 1873”*. Or if not that then what about *“Our Lord's testimony to the truth and authority of the Old Testament : a sermon preached in St. Paul's Church, Balsall Heath, Birmingham on the first Sunday after Trinity, 1863 by the Rt. Rev. Charles Wordsworth”*.

If these are not to your liking then there is plenty more on offer including some choice collections such as the papers of Joseph Chamberlain and Oswald Mosley.

Get Carter!

Denis Carter was introduced to our website and newsletters by his brother who contacted us re Bissell Street. Denis shares some of his own memories:

“May I add a few words of gratitude for the interest in my old district? We 4 brothers lived in Bissell Street about 1939 to 1951. My father Syd Carter would frequent the pub called the Beehive in the same road. The River Rea was at the bottom of our yard blocked by a wall, but as children we climbed down to the river via rope and walked to Cannon Hill Park.

We did not have running water or electric in our small back to back house and we shared the outside toilet with 3 other families and the outhouse that had water. Families who had disputes settled them by fisticuffs outside for all to see. I remember we had a Guy Fawkes bonfire out in the middle of the street and we kept the fire going for at least 4 days until the police stopped the children from adding fuel to the fire.

The picture house called The Triangle was our favourite cinema and we children would go on a Saturday morning all excited to see Gene Autry cowboy films.”



Diamond Balsall Heath phones homes

“Calthorpe 2985”. “Is that Denham’s – the high class car service?”... “At your service madam”. Back in 1953 she might have been one of the lucky ones to have a phone at home. My nan’s rarely ever rung and it was rarely used to ring out on either. If it was dialled it would be my granddad ringing his transport company or my nan ringing the doctor. Phone boxes are fast disappearing but there used to often be queues for their use – and woe betide you getting someone to ring you back on one! Do you remember your first phone or using a phone box?