



The Balsall Heath Local History Society was founded in 1979 with the aim of promoting interest in our local history. We feel pride in our area and value its strengths – past and present. 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.

DIAMOND BALSALL HEATH

Drive my Car – by Jim Fitzpatrick



Above is the original number plate from a Vauxhall Viva HB DL '90' (DL = Deluxe) bought in 1968 as a replacement for a Ford Cortina Mk1.



This rather grainy image is of the Viva parked in **Sherbourne Road** Balsall Heath. (circa '68) The original number plates was taken from the car and replaced with the new White (front) and Yellow (rear) plates. One of the black plates was kept back and stored in a garage for the last 40+ years.

The original 'Hire Purchase' agreement, as it was known back then. There is a surprising amount of information listed. The purchaser, James Fitzpatrick, was 25 years old. He had lived in his present address of Sherbourne Road Balsall Heath for 10 years (confirming a 1957/8 move from **Mary Street**). His bankers were the Municipal, which was to become TSB, and in the present day (2013) Lloyds Bank. The agreement allowed for a deposit of £250. 00 (part exchange value of the Ford Cortina). There were to be 36 monthly payments of £11.19s 6d. Of particular note is that there was a tax saving!

1960 TERMS FIRST COPY

SCHEDULE Agreement No. _____ Ap. 25

Buyer's Full Name (BLOCK LETTERS) James Fitzpatrick
Address (Owner/Tenant) 186 1/2 SHERBOURNE RD BALSALL HEATH B12 8NJ

Married/Single? S No. of Dependents _____ Country of Origin _____ How long there? 10 yrs Id. No. _____
Employer's Name and Address MUNICIPAL BANKERS 200 BRINDLEY ST BIRMINGHAM 11 Occupation Sheet Metal Worker

Bankers MUNICIPAL BANKERS Branch Address _____ How long there? 10 yrs
Existing or Previous Credit Transactions (Company and Ref. No.) 14 0 7 152 302 15 26 11 2

GOODS (New/Second-hand) VAUXHALL VIVA DL 1100 1500CC
Registration No. HOV 875 E Class No. 252 2332799 H.P./C.C. 1159
Date First Registered 16.1.67 M.O.T. Cert. No. _____ R.H./C.H. Drive A/R

DETAILS OF INSURANCE (must be comprehensive, see clause 2)
Name of Company: Co-operative Policy or Cover Note No. 014 2941266
Address of Branch or Agent: 18, DUNN'S ST, SHERBOURNE, BALSALL HEATH

PARTICULARS OF PAYMENT

Cash Price	(A)	£250 00	The Net Balance is payable by	36
Less Initial Payment	(B)	£250 00	consecutive monthly instalments of	
Balance of Cash Price		£00 00	£ 11 19 6	each, commencing on the
Gross Interest	(C)	£95 9 9	day of	19
Less Tax at the Standard Rate of 4 1/3 % in £		£39 7 9	and monthly thereafter on the same day on each	
Net Balance	(D)	£60 2 0	succeeding month.	
Total Purchase Price (being (A) + (C) + Option Money, £2)		£722 19 9		
Net Purchase Price (being (B) + (D) + Option Money, £2)		£60 2 0		

WARNING TO BUYER. If you are not presently paying Income Tax at the full standard rate or other substantial level you are advised to consider a normal Hire Purchase or Credit Sale Agreement.

SIGNATURE OF PARTIES

I, the Buyer, declare that (1) I have read and fully understand the above Schedule and the terms of Agreement on the reverse hereof and have been handed a copy.
(2) The cash price shown in this Schedule has already been made known to me separately in writing and the deposit shown has been paid by me in full.

Witness to Buyer's Signature
Address 186 1/2 Sherbourne Rd
Occupation: Sheet Metal Worker

Witness to Buyer's Signature (SCOTLAND ONLY)
Address _____
Occupation _____

Signed on behalf of CAPITAL FINANCE COMPANY LTD.
Date of Acceptance _____

This document contains the terms of a credit sale agreement. Sign it only if you want to be legally bound by them.

Signature of Buyer: J Fitzpatrick

His occupation was in Sheet metal (worker), working for Alldays & Onions of Birmingham 11. He was buying a Vauxhall Viva (1159cc engine) in January '68. His motor insurance was from the Co-Operative, and he was also noted down as being a single man.

EXTRACT FROM REGISTRATION PARTICULARS

Registration No. **HOV 875 E**

(1) Make Vauxhall
(2) Model Vauxhall Viva
(3) Colour Black
(4) Type of Body Saloon
(5) Registered by J.C.F.
(6) Date of Registration 16 JAN 1967
(7) Date of Issue 16 JAN 1967
(8) Date of Expiry 15 JAN 1970
(9) Vehicle Category Motor Car
(10) Power 1100 cc
(11) Gross Weight 1159 kg
(12) Net Weight 1000 kg
(13) Max. Load 159 kg
(14) Max. Trailer Weight 0 kg
(15) Max. Trailer Load 0 kg
(16) Max. Trailer Braking 0 kg
(17) Max. Trailer Coupling 0 kg
(18) Max. Trailer Hitch 0 kg
(19) Max. Trailer Braking 0 kg
(20) Max. Trailer Coupling 0 kg
(21) Max. Trailer Hitch 0 kg

NEW REGISTRATION BOOK ISSUED
F 523266

Old style 'Log Book' for HOV 875 E, the car was first registered in January 1967. (Continued)

(DRIVE MY CAR continued)

The change of the final letter of the registration number was made just once a year and 'E' represented 1967. This formula became a problem for the motor trade as there was such a hike in sales at the start of each year. However this suffix number use continued through to 'Y' in 1982. The selling company was Small Heath Services of Coventry Rd Birmingham 10. Note! The post code system was in the making but was not yet prevalent at the time of the changes of address of the owner(s) listed on the log book. The colour of the car is given as 'Pinewood Green'. The car was finally sold on in 1980.

DIAMOND BALSALL HEATH EXHIBITION

The weekend of **Saturday and Sunday 22nd and 23rd June** will see a large exhibition of photographs and artefacts from Balsall Heath's past. Running from 11 till 4 each day the venue is St Paul's Centre on Hertford Street/ Clifton Road. Also open on both days will be the Victorian/ World War Two classroom.

Visitors will get the chance to chat to other former and current Heathans, and contribute to Diamond Balsall Heath – 60 years of stories and memories inspired by objects.



The Birmingham History Theatre Company

presents

LIFE'S RICH PAGEANT

**A play about
The Birmingham Pageant of 1938**

Tickets £5 concessions £3 from
St. Paul's Trust Office,
Hertford Street.

Friday 7th June 7.30pm

Saturday 8th June 2.30pm and 7.30pm

St. Paul's School
Hertford Street
Balsall Heath
Birmingham

June Meeting: Thursday 27th 7:30

The Venture (*on Malvern Street by the farm*)

Laurel and Hardy and their Birmingham connections by John Ullah

In the days of variety shows Laurel and Hardy topped the bill playing to packed houses on their tours around Britain. Their arrival in every town was a huge event with crowds gathering to see and meet them that surpassed that of the "Beatlemania" of the 60s. "The boys" appearances here are partly the subject of John Ullah's talk.



Also featured will be their long-time foil **Charlie Hall** who appeared in 47 films with them. Charlie was born on 19th August 1899, in a small cottage at 23 Washwood Heath Road, Ward End.

John Ullah runs the Birmingham "tent" of the Laurel and Hardy society called "Laughing Gravy". He is also the author of an acclaimed book on Charlie Hall called "This Is More Than I Can Stand". <http://laughinggravytent.co.uk>

LIFE'S RICH PAGEANT

This play is the latest production from the Birmingham History Theatre Company. It is a humorous look at the making of the historical pageant of Birmingham held at Aston Hall in 1938. We follow the ups and downs in the making of the event through a local family called the Bealings, the councillors and the pageant organisers. The performance is enhanced by specially created newsreel footage as well as film from the time. Suitable for anyone from the age of 10 upwards!

BIRMINGHAM LIVES HISTORY FAIR

This much looked forward to annual event returns on **Sunday 9th June (11am – 4pm) at the Girl Guide Headquarters, Trefoil House, Brownsea Drive, Holloway Head B1 1QL**. The event features displays, memorabilia and stalls from many local history societies and groups, including photographs from the Birmingham Lives archives. There will also be plenty of chances to open your wallets and buy some goodies.