



A Public Display



We held The Moseley Road exhibition in Balsall Heath Library during the first week of May. It attracted plenty of interest and one or two have followed this up since, and hopefully our happy band of Heathans will increase. We didn't take any pictures in the Library but during lunch, over the road at Café Ort, we ran into our old friend Stan

Newton from the Print Works who was thrilled to find someone (me that is) who was nearly as neatly turned out as he is. Stan is never without his top hat, or indeed his camera and so away he snapped.

June Events

Birmingham Lives History Fair is on **Sunday 10th June** 11 – 4 at Trefoil House on Ellis Street, Holloway Head. We will be there with displays and artefacts and so will many other local history groups. Free entry to this annual event.

Cannon Hill Open House Detectives Day is on **Saturday 16th June**. We will also be at this event and there is an added bonus for us as Tony Fox is displaying the Holder family research by the late Nell Wilkins who was a member of our Society. This is also a free entry event and is well worth a visit to see the house. Tony did a great job with last year's event so this is one to look forward to.

SEND FOR A PIANO PLAYER: HARRY ENGLEMAN



Harry Engleman was a pianist and band leader who is best remembered for his work in the pre-war years. He was born on 17th January 1912 at 58 Harbury Road and was educated at Tindal Street School. He was born into a musical family as his father Joseph was a noted composer, pianist and violinist. Harry's first professional engagement came when he was just 14 years old. The pianist at Balsall Heath Picture House (later The Luxor) was ill and Harry stepped in as the relief pianist. By the age of 17 he was pianist in his father's orchestra at The Grand cinema.

His appeal and status as a popular entertainer were sealed from the 1930s onwards. He broadcast regularly on Children's Hour and during the war years he appeared on Workers' Playtime, before joining up with RAF. Harry formed his own Dance Time Orchestra in 1936, cutting many popular recordings such as "Tango Time". He also played in duos and trios and also had his own quintet. He appeared at the London Palladium as top of the bill and performed at many Midlands venues in a career that spanned several decades.



THE MILLERS OF BELGRAVE ROAD



Phil Wheeler sent us some interesting photographs of 312 Belgrave Road. Home to the Miller and Surrall families from 1914 to the 1930's. Phil added the following: *"Kate Caus(i)er is a great-grandmother on my Moms side. She may be the one in the photo of the front of the house, but I don't know. I suspected that she may have been still alive in 1940, as I have mom's 21st birthday cards, and there is one from 'Gran'. She was the only grandmother alive then. She married William Henry Miller, who allegedly 'left for the South African gold-rush', leaving her with two boys William Henry and James M. Miller, to bring up.*



Eventually she met Herbert Surrall and they had five boys. in 1901 & 1911 they were at 99, Sherbourne Road. William Henry Miller (junior), married in 1915 and then lived there, Mom was born in 1919. The soldier may be William Henry Miller's (junior) brother, James M. Miller, born 1890. By 1911 he had changed his name to Surrall and, as

such, married in 1915. I think there was a to-do over it!"



Nightingales In Balsall Heath

Shirley O'Mara writes to us: *"My mother, Gladys Bromley, was born and brought up in Mary Street by her parents Tom and Lily Bromley. Now aged 86 she is suffering from dementia so, as you can imagine, her memories are very precious. Lately she has started to mention a family she knew called the Nightingales who ran either a pub, or more likely an off licence, in Balsall Heath in 1947/48. She was good friends with their son Jimmy. I am trying to find out more info especially if this is actually correct as it means Mum is recalling details. Do you have any records or contacts that could help me at all?"*

A look at the Electoral Roll confirms there was indeed a Nightingale family in the area. They lived at 21 Richmond Terrace off Homer Road and they **do** include a James Nightingale. Does anyone out there remember the Nightingale family or indeed the Bromleys?

NEXT MEETING: 28TH JUNE

WINTERBOURNE VISIT

No meeting at The Venture in June as the Society is on a trip out to Winterbourne House and Gardens. The house has been restored to its Edwardian Arts and Craft splendour and is set within seven acres of beautiful botanic gardens which are home to over 6,000 plant species from around the world. Winterbourne is a rare surviving example of an early 20th century suburban villa and garden. The house was built in 1903 for John and Margaret Nettlefold, of Guest, Keen & Nettlefold. **The June Gazette will be sent out via email and printed copies will be available at the July meeting – along with the July Gazette**