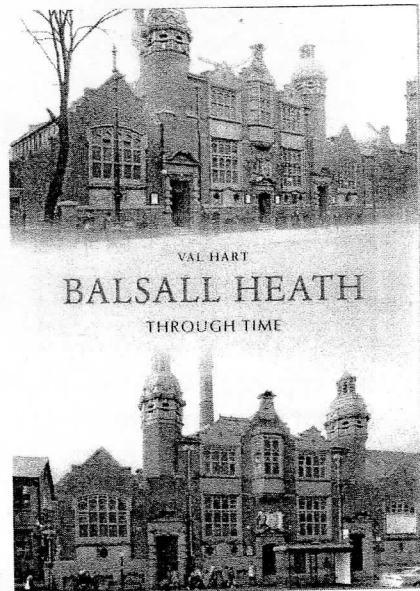


## BALSALL HEATH THROUGH TIME

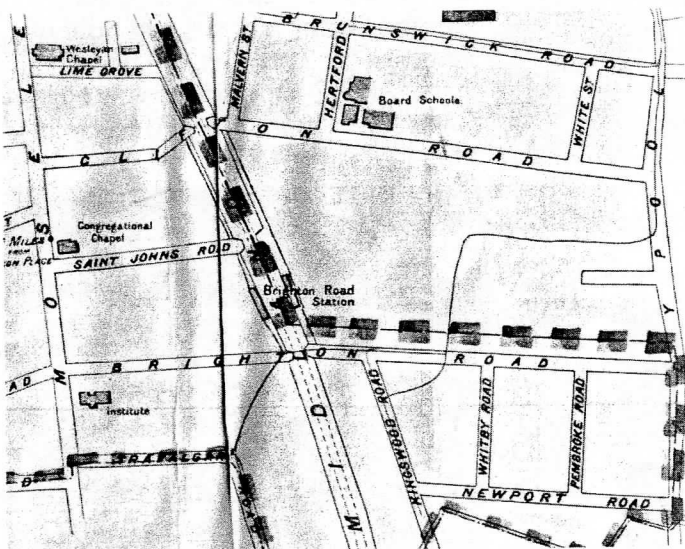
Val's new book is "out". It is part of the "Through Time" collection which contrasts then and now photographs. On the back cover Val explains that: *"This book illustrates some of the major changes that have taken place since 1939. Some of our older buildings remain, some have been adapted for different uses and now there are also new schools, health centres, businesses, houses and community centres, as well as green spaces..."*

The book itself is well set out and attractive and printed on high quality glossy feel paper. All of the modern pictures are in colour, while the old ones have been treated with sepia toning that have brought out the detail and given uniformity. It is the quality of the reproduction of the old images which immediately impresses. Then there is the pleasure of comparing the then and now versions of the pictures for similarities and changes. The captions, as you would expect from Val, are extremely well written, entertaining and informative. The book is priced at £14.99 in the shops but we have negotiated to have it available for £10.



NEXT MEETING: 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH

...AND THEY'RE OFF!



Birmingham is not a place one associates with horse racing but, as Chris Pitt explains, there have indeed been several locations used through the years. One was on the site of the present Runcorn Road.

In "Balsall Heath – A History" Val Hart explains that: *"This survived as open space till 1905 and even featured a small racecourse which ran in a loop from the railway to Ladypool Lane and back."*

*This map from 1888 shows the area in question. Saint John's Road to the left became the*

*Moseley Road end of Runcorn Road. To the right of Brighton Road Station is the racecourse area and the site of what became most of Runcorn Road. You can see the Ladypool Road end of Runcorn is already marked in place but un-named.*