

BALSALL HEATH LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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BALSALL HEATH CITY FARM

The Farm began in 1970 with just a few chickens to provide local inner city families with access to animals they would otherwise not see. Since then it has constantly expanded to become the environmental education resource which it is today. The photographs here date from the tenth anniversary in 1980.

Prince Charles visited as some of the local clubs involved had received grants from Royal Trusts. No doubt he took a keen interest in the farm and might have picked up a few tips. He told the crowd:

"I've been moved by all that you have done to make me feel so welcome. You have a wonderful community spirit here in Balsall Heath which you have proudly demonstrated for all to see...keep up the good work and I'll be back to see how you are getting on".

True to his word he did indeed return.



The Society is putting together an exhibition on the history of the farm. This will be displayed at the Farm Open Day on Saturday 19th March. Does anyone out there have any farm memories to share?

OUR BALSALL HEATH

I WAS MONTY'S DRESS WOMAN

Jim Fitzpatrick has been interviewing the Bartley family about their time in Balsall Heath. Here we have Elizabeth Mckean (nee Bartley), born in 1944, with her memories.

"Our large Irish family moved from Stratford Road to Mary Street in 1949. Early memories are of Trams running down Mary Street, the milkman delivering by horse and cart, and us kids playing 'Statues' in the street. This game involved one person facing a wall with their back to the