



A Knight To Remember

The Awards Evening organised by Balsall Heath Forum at the Church Centre on 12th June was a great success, showcasing the efforts of local people. The MC for the evening was Abdullah Rehman, whose usual dry wit kept everyone smiling. He recounted some touching and wonderful stories of community effort and engagement, which were heard by a large and extremely appreciative audience. The programme was given added interest and diversity with a performance of a scene from Romeo And Juliet (by famed local play-write William Shakespeare), some poetry and a rather fine closing banquet. Special guests, in this Jubilee year, were Queen Victoria, Prince Albert and Edward, Prince Of Wales. To the delight of her adoring subjects Her Majesty "knighted" Sir Richard Atkinson for his services. Carry On Dick, she seemed to be saying – and The Gazette echoes that. The ceremony was captured for posterity by court photographer Peter "snapper" Cole.



July Events

Balsall Heath Carnival is here again. On **Saturday 7th July at Pickwick Park**. We will be taking part in the procession and running a stall and tea tent. All volunteers are welcome and if you are interested get in touch with myself, Val or any of the committee. The Carnival theme this year is Sport and The Olympics - which should make for an intriguing set of costumes.

St Martin's Flats & Highgate Reunion is on **Saturday 21st July at Cobb's Bar on Sherlock Street**. The event runs from 1 – 9 and we will be there with displays on the area plus our native Balsall Heath. There will be many other displays and a film-show too. For more details on the event contact Lisa Karim at lisakarim@hotmail.co.uk

The Walk Through Time along the towpaths from Brindley Place to Smethwick is on **Sunday 22nd July**. Meet at 10:30 in Brindley Place for this dramatic and musical day out. There will be a canal boat with supplies and as transport for the weary. For those not performing there is a charge of £5 although we have concessionary rates for the young, elderly and unwaged.

TURKISH DELIGHT?

Frank Smith was born in Harborne and was one of three "Brummies" on board MGB314 during the St. Nazaire Raid in 1942. Gun trainer Smith received the DSM for bravery and his "oppo" Bill Savage, as the gun layer, was awarded the VC, though sadly he was killed in action. In the late 50's Frank joined his younger brother Chris in playing for a football team based at The Turks' Head pub on Highgate Street. "We got to the cup final for our league", says Chris, "It was a hard game, Frank was carried off first and then so was I! I was centre forward and every time I scored a goal there was a pint, but only one per match - not for every goal. The secretary of our team used to collect the money for an outing at the end of the season. All paid so much a week. He used to come down the pub every week saying "The charra's ordered". We turned up for the coach and there was no coach!" Sadly for the Smith brothers there was no sign of the secretary or their money either.

PUB FOOTBALL IN HIGHGATE