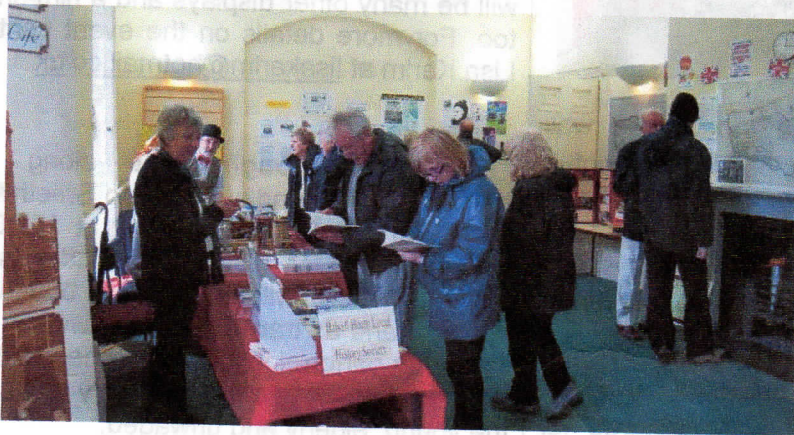


This annual Fair, proved as successful as ever with large numbers attending. This time our two stalls were together and these - plus a big photo display on the stage behind - made for an especially eye catching appearance. The shopfront tables, and especially the sweets, were popular too. Well done to all involved and especially Keith Clenton who does so much work behind the scenes to keep the History Fair running year in and year out.



A Full House in Cannon Hill Park

The Open House Day at Cannon Hill House on 16th June was another popular day, which seems set to become an annual event. Aply organised as ever by Tony Fox and The Friends Of Cannon Hill Park, it attracted large numbers, including the Lord Mayor – Councillor John Lines, who were all glad to find a bit of Balsall Heath in the house for the day. Thanks to all those who volunteered and helped out at this event and the History Fair.



NEXT MEETING: 26TH JULY

NEWMAN BROTHERS COFFIN FACTORY

Newman Bros was a family-run factory in the Jewellery Quarter. The firm made some of the world's finest coffin furniture, including the fittings for the funerals of Churchill, Chamberlain and Princess Diana. The very last sets of cast brass gothic handles from this factory were used on the coffins of Cardinal Basil Hume and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. Production stopped here in 1998. What is left behind is an extraordinary, frozen picture of the life of a Victorian factory. It's more than just a building with artefacts, Newman Bros closed so recently that historical memories and skills still survive through the old workforce. Birmingham Conservation Trust have got a Lottery Grant to develop the site which is now Grade II listed.