



The Balsall Heath Local History Society was founded in 1979 with the aim of promoting interest in our local history. We feel pride in our area and value its strengths – past and present. To meet our aims we work with local schools and community groups organising exhibitions and events. We have also produced several publications. We are a registered charity and rely on grants and donations to achieve our aims. For more information on our work, or to volunteer and help please contact us.

FULL STEAM AHEAD

Balsall Heath's first Railway Station



Photo: D. J. Norton

Camp Hill Goods was originally opened by the Birmingham and Gloucester Railway in 1840 as a passenger station and the terminus for the line, until an extension was opened several months later to Curzon Street. The Station continued as a Goods only station with the extensive opening of other passenger stations on the line, including Camp Hill & Balsall Heath Station in 1867, and closed to all goods traffic in 1966. Above we see Camp Hill goods station in the distance with its distinctive grain warehouse dominating the skyline).



Camp Hill Goods Station site today - off John Kempe Way, Highgate

- SUMMER EVENTS WITH BHLHS**
- April 16th to 18th:** Who Do You Think You Are? (Birmingham NEC)
 - May 8th and 9th:** When The Lamps Went Out (WW1 play at St Paul's)
 - May 21st:** History Society AGM
 - June 6th:** BALH History Day.
 - June 11th:** History event at Lordswood School
 - June 28th:** Birmingham Lives History Fair
 - July 4th:** Balsall Heath Carnival

TAKING THE TRAIN

There are two scenes in the Theatre Group play now in production – “*When The Lamps Went Out*” where a station is the setting. At the time of the First World War Balsall Heath was served by two stations – Camp Hill & Balsall Heath and Brighton Road. As the feature above details there was a station already at Camp Hill, before it was replaced for passenger service by the new Camp Hill station. In the play we have used Brighton Road as our station, as it was more central to Balsall Heath. Next month we will take a look at Camp Hill & Balsall Heath station, with some beautiful detailed images of the platforms.