



BHLHS was founded in 1979 with the aim of promoting interest in our local history. 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.

ONCE MORE ONTO THE CANAL PATH

We are pleased to announce that the Birmingham History Theatre Group will be running a Canal History Trail on Sunday 25th June. This will run along the same lines as the previous ones—a trail “through time” in which walkers will meet an assortment of historical figures from the past and also get a chance to join in with some hearty canal songs.

The canal in question will be the Kings Norton “loop” and the walk will start at Bournville Station and finish at Northfield Park. The cost is £6 per person, or £4 concessions. Good walking shoes are advised, as is a waterproof jacket. We are hoping to have the canal boat “Ellen Gee” along in a vital support role—refreshments and toilet!

The start time is 11:15 meet-up for an 11:30 start. Finish time will be approximately 14:30, or maybe a little earlier. For more info ring 0121 689 2584 or 07749994077. If weather is inclement please ring to see if walk is going ahead.



Five years ago this band of travellers walked to Smethwick. Come along and be part of the 2017 walk around Kings Norton.

FAMOUS HEATHANS COMING SOON!

The first volume on Famous Heathans is nearly complete and should be available for purchase in June. More information in our next issue.

NEXT MEETING Thursday 29th June 7:30

The Venture (Malvern Street by the farm)
The History Of Jabez Cliff And Co.
by Cliff Kirby-Tibbits

This Walsall based company started with the Cliff family in 1793. George Cliff followed his father into the trade and his son Jabez, the only surviving child of the family, carried on the family tradition. Jabez was a family name, and in 1873, another Jabez Cliff started up his own saddlery business in Portland Street, Walsall. But tragedy struck in 1881, when the typhoid epidemic that engulfed Britain claimed Jabez and his two sons. The company would have collapsed but it was rescued by Jabez’s wife, Mary, and his daughter, who kept the business going. In 1882, Mary remarried, to Frederick Joseph Tibbits, a skilled bridlemaker, so the company could now produce saddles and bridles. Their only son, Jabez Cliff Tibbits, joined the company in 1902, and it went from strength to strength.

The company was among the top five saddlery businesses in the world. They were a major exporter of saddles and other leather goods all over the world. They made ceremonial equipment for many military units round the world, including the Royal Horse Artillery, the Household Cavalry and various Police Forces.

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