

Balsall Heath Local History Society

THE GAZETTE

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Tel: 07565 194822 Email:

info@balsallheathhistory.co.uk

Web: balsallheathhistory.co.uk

Facebook: Balsall Heath Local History Society

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/balsallheathlhrs>

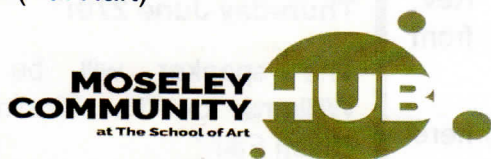
The Lost Children Project. Another Balsall Heath connection.

This week in the Archives I looked at the Management Committee minutes and came across another interesting Balsall Heath connection. In 1899 the Homes were seeking to recruit a new Superintendent and Matron for the new receiving home, Fairview, in Halifax, Nova Scotia. They interviewed various couples and decided to appoint Mr & Mrs Lloyd of Mary St, Balsall Heath at a salary of £100 a year on top of board and lodging for themselves & their children. They also agreed to pay for the freight of their goods.

The Ancestry website reveals that this was Llewellyn Lloyd and his wife Helen who had two children, Herbert and Edith who were living at 140, Upper Mary St.

The 1901 Canadian Census shows them living in Halifax and indeed, the Management Committee Minutes make reference to Mr Lloyd visiting emigrated children.

However, in 1906 the whole family returned to England and in 1911 were living at 10, Strensham Road, Balsall Heath in quite a large house. Llewellyn was aged 60 by now. His son, Herbert, was aged 24 and had married in Canada. His wife, Olive, was living there but had been born in Halifax. They also had two children, Charles and Helen, aged 1 & 2 both born in Birmingham. The Lloyds stayed in Birmingham after that. I am intending to revisit the records to see why they returned. (Val Hart)



It is thrilling that the refurbishment of this building has now been completed, thanks to a 1.7 million grant from The Heritage Lottery fund as well as other funders. An opening day was held on May 8th and it is all set for a bright future.

The former Moseley School of Art, in Balsall Heath, erected in 1899, was designed by the leading local Arts and Crafts architect William H. Bidlake. It was the first purpose-built art school in the country, having been created as a branch of the Birmingham School of Art and had many famous alumni including: Pop Art co-founder Peter Phillips, UB40 singer Ali Campbell and Fleetwood Mac's Christine McVie, Trevor Beattie, Norman Pett, Earl Falconer, Brian Travers and James Brown (UB40).

There were strong protests at the time of its closure in 1976 but it was eventually bought by the British Association of Muslims, although it was already in a poor state at that time. They refurbished the building so that it could be used by the community but the extent of the maintenance that was possible within its own incoming resources, was however limited and some building elements continued to deteriorate significantly. It has been on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register for the past 20 years.

The building is now owned by the Moseley Muslim Community Association who aim to reconnect the building to its heritage as a centre for creativity and inclusivity. The plan going forward is to provide a combination of workspace to generate income, and community space.

More information is available on the website:

moseleycommunityhub.org.uk