



Balsall Heath Local History Society

THE GAZETTE

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Tel: 07565 194822 Email:

info@balsallheathhistory.co.uk &

Web: balsallheathhistory.co.uk &

www.digitalbalsallheath.org.uk

www.thelostchildrenproject.uk

Facebook: Balsall Heath Local History Society

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



Snackers – Mystery Solved?

In the January edition of the Gazette we raised the mystery of why the Eagle Pub of Mary Street, had the nickname of 'Snackers'. There were no immediate answers and we set our stall out to solve the mystery, and include it in a short series about Balsall Heath pubs. This turned out to be no easy task. We began with the picture in January showing the Eagle had a 'Snackers' bar, and our research showed that at least one of the past proprietors actually changed the pub's name to Snackers.

Google maps from September 2016 lets you look around the outside of the building. At this point the place is named both at the front and on the end of the building as "Snackers Bar".

So, the name 'Snackers' was strong enough locally for the licensee to want to change the name from the 'Eagle'. Our research then concentrated on the origin of the name. We corresponded with folk whom had relatives at the pub or had been a regular customer. One Peter May used the pub back in the 60's, tells us "the Eagle was the place for a quiet drink, rather than

the Coach & Horses across the road where a fight broke out on a regular basis".

Historically the Eagle had Darts and Pool teams, and a fishing club. Dennis Morell's aunt and uncle ran the pub for a number of years. One of the family has a picture of the fishing club members in the back garden. Alan Hemming knew of the family that managed the Eagle in the late 40's – early 50's and was allowed in that large back garden to be served crisps and lemonade after playing cricket in the park. Alan tells us that he used the No 39 tram (which passed by the Eagle) four times a day. And that brings us to one Bernard (Bunny) Larkin. Bunny is a retired West Midland Transport (WMT) driver. And he offered a possible answer to our quest.

The Eagle had a serving hatch, where soft drinks and food could be served directly to passing customers. Bunny told us "When the tram went by the pub going up the hill of Mary St, it was slow enough for the conductor to dropped off and go to the Eagle and collect 'snacks' and billy cans of tea. The terminus at that time was at the top of the hill and that's when they, the driver and conductor had their break".

Kings Heath library keeps a printed copy of midlandspubs.co.uk from some years back. This is from their description of the pub:- "The Eagle is colloquially known as Snackers

because donkey's years ago tram drivers used to stop outside and grab a snack from the serving hatch. The hatch was in fact the main counter at one time".

The 'Snackers Mystery' solved then? Or do you have another explanation? J.F



The Story of Butcher's Transfers

Can you help?

The Old Print Works now has some University Interns who are helping to track more info on the history of the company and the buildings. They are keen to interview anyone who worked there or has memories of the place

Please get in touch with: patrick@oldprintworks.org

Stars of Balsall Heath



Our new book Stars of Balsall Heath has now been printed and should be available for sale at the various places where the society has a stand over September as well as at the usual meetings. The book was written by various members of the group, sometimes with the participation of the

star. These are the life stories of some of the more famous residents of Balsall Heath over more than a century. We have some new characters and new pictures.

Midland Ancestors 

Local and Family History Fair

A new Birmingham focussed community event

Saturday 28th September 2019

10:00 till 4:00

At the
MAC

Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham B12 9QH

Featuring community groups, history groups, genealogy groups, small commercials, postcards, photographs, memorabilia, books, local artwork, souvenirs.



On site Parking



wi-fi available

cafeteria open for refreshments

Admission £2 on the door (includes programme)

For more information contact historyfair@mid-anc.uk

website - www.birminghamhistoryfair.uk

Midland Ancestors is the public face of the Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy & Heraldry which is a charity registered at the Charity commission No 505916


Events

September is Birmingham Heritage Week and the society will be at two separate events.

The Society will have a stall at the Midland Ancestors Local and Family History Fair at the MAC on Saturday 28th.

There will be an exhibition and two talks in association with our Lost Children project. The exhibition will run from Saturday 14th to Sunday 22nd between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

There will be talks on the 14th by Dr. Patricia Roberts-Pichette Ph.D. at 2 p.m. and on the 21st by Pat Skidmore at 2 p.m. There will be volunteers at the exhibition throughout. All of these will be held at the Birmingham Midland Institute, Margaret Street, B3 3BS



Free Special Events




Booking Not Required

Saturday 14 September at midday
A one-hour lively 'Dramatic Lecture' performance. Expect pop-up theatre, singing, photography and lots more. Suitable for families.

Also on Saturday 14th at 2.30 pm
Dr. Patricia Roberts-Pichette Ph.D will be giving a talk on the Middlemore Homes. The leading expert on the Homes' history, she will be flying in from Canada specifically for this event.

Saturday 21st at 2.00 pm
Pat Skidmore, daughter of child migrant Marjorie Arnison, will also be flying in to give a fascinating insight into her family's experience.

Guided Tours available on Tuesday, September 17th & Friday 20th
11am and 2 pm. Maximum group size 12. Booking essential via Pauline@balsallheathhistory.co.uk

www.thelostchildren.uk
The Lost Children Project

Many other places in Birmingham will be having open days, events, and talks during heritage week. These are some of the closest:-

The Old Print Works will be open on 21st with a small exhibition of artefacts associated with the buildings history as a print works and guided tours around the building. The society should have a display in the upper hall of the building.

St. Alban's Church in Highgate will be open from 12th – 15th and 19th – 22nd for self-guided tours (leaflets available). They also have a free local trail leaflet.

Moseley Art School will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on 13th and 16th – 20th and have guided tours of the building.

Moseley Park, Pool, Icehouse, Dovecote, and Moseley Hall Gardens will be open between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. on the 14th.

The Moseley Society open their collection on 21st between Noon and 4 p.m. at Highfield House.

For more details of these events and others see <https://birminghamheritageweek.co.uk>

Next meeting.

Thursday September 26th

Ruth Lowe - Mary Quant Part 2. Her later life, career and designs. This timely talk is given while the Mary Quant Exhibition is staged at the Victoria and Albert Museum (Apr '19 - Feb '20).

In Part 1 of her presentation to us in October 2018, Ruth was able to show us many original pieces of fashion by Mary, and speak of garments already loaned to the V & A ready for inclusion in the exhibition. "Dame Mary revolutionised the High street-harnessing the youthful spirit of the 1960s"

Highly recommended J.F.
7 p.m for a 7.30 start.
St Paul's Venture, Hertford St.

Visitors and new members always welcome.

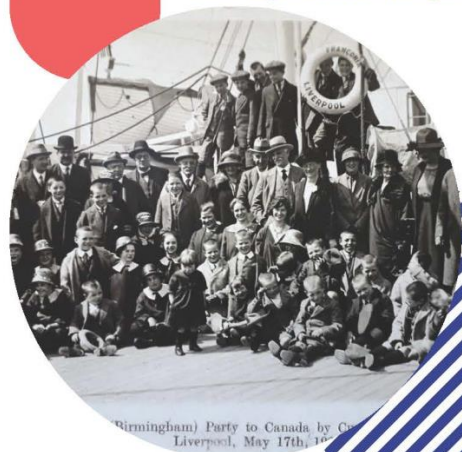
THE BALSALL HEATH LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY PRESENTS

The Lost Children Exhibition

Between 1873-1948 around 6,000 destitute children were emigrated from the Birmingham Children's Emigration Homes, to Canada. Some went to work on farms in the remote backwoods while others went to The Fairbridge Farm School.

Described as "gutter children or street Arabs" they lived in desperate conditions in the slum streets of the city and faced a bleak future. Sir John Middlemore, founder of the Homes, hoped to save these children from a life of grime, crime and poverty, while at the same time providing the colonies with 'good British stock'.

The future lives of these children varied enormously - there are tales of happiness and achievement as well as tales of great sadness. Come and learn about this hugely important, yet little known, aspect of Birmingham's heritage and follow the fascinating life stories of some of these children.



SATURDAY 14TH TO SUNDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2019
AT THE BIRMINGHAM & MIDLAND INSTITUTE
10 AM TO 4 PM DAILY