



a skip recently. The picture shown came from the British War Memorial Association. It was taken in January 2015 by someone called B V P Larkin. If you know where the picture was taken, who BVP Larkin is, or what happened to the memorial Tindal Street School would be interested.

## A Star Rises.

Balsall Heath Local History Society has a new publication, 'Stars of Balsall Heath'. Yes, that right, BH has its fair share of famous people.

In Book 1 we have researched and recorded the lives and events of eleven of them.

I had the pleasure and honour of working on Alan Deakin's story, star footballer for Aston Villa and England (1941-2018). During that research we had a letter in which a moment in time is revisited when it became apparent that Alan was destined for stardom. He was to become one of Mercer's Minors' at Aston Villa and go on to play for the England under 23 team. Tony May, a peer and school friend of Deakin, has told us of a chance meeting he had with Alan. Both lads lived in Mary St and attended the same school. Tony writes, "The last time I saw Alan Deakin I was walking down Belfour Street (off Mary St), I noticed he had his football boots over his shoulder. I asked him if he was going down to Calthorpe Park to practice. He said I'm going to work and that he had just joined Aston Villa. This didn't surprise me as he was better at football than me, in fact he was better than most of us. I wished him good luck and we went our separate ways. Alan was one year younger than me, also we went to the same schools – Mary Street infant and Dennis Road secondary modern. He was also a good cricketer, up to county standard. That was the last I saw of him."

That meeting would have been during the 1956/57 season of league football, when Alan was just 15 years old.

There are ten more people featured in our 'Stars' booklet, who make for a fascinating read, and all with solid connections to Balsall Heath.

It could make a great stocking filler present for yourself or that ex-pat and friend of Balsall Heath you know. £2.00 each (£3.00 posted)(J.F.)

(The Deakin family, Alan, Tony & Mike on back row, Phyllis & Fred in front)



## Events

4<sup>th</sup> December 2019 7:00 p.m.

Newcomen Society

ThinkTank, Curzon Steet  
B4 7XG

How Technology Transformed the  
Country House

LIKE A WELL-OILED MACHINE?

Dr Ian West shows how & where  
modern domestic comforts were  
pioneered

## Next meeting.

**Thursday December 19<sup>th</sup>**

The speaker will be Mike Watkins  
on "Remembering the Swinging  
Sixties"

7 p.m for a 7.30 start.

St Paul's Venture, Malvern St.

Visitors are welcome. There is a  
fee of £3 for the evening for non  
members or £1 for members.

Membership of the Society costs  
£10 a year.

Tea and coffee are provided at  
the beginning of the evening at no  
extra charge.