

Moseley Rd Photographic Studios

There were several photographic studios on the Moseley Road and many of the carte de visite photos from them are still on sale today on Ebay.

353 Moseley Road. Gregoire

Earliest to open a business here was **Jonathan Gregoire**.

In the 1871 Census he was living at Emdale Place, George St, with his wife, three young children and a domestic servant. His occupation was listed as Photographer.



By 1879 he had moved to 353 Moseley Rd when he is listed there together with Madame Gregoire, Professor of French. His business in Moseley Road lasted until at least 1892 and he died in 1894 at the age of 60. Many of his cards stated he was "from Paris" which was true. Both he and his wife were born in France



Balsall Heath Local History Society Gazette

JULY 2020



Telephone: 07565 194822

Email:

info@balsallheathhistory.co.uk

Web:

www.balsallheathhistory.co.uk &
www.thelostchildren.uk

Facebook: Balsall Heath Local
History Society

Next meeting.

We hope to resume regular meetings in September but, as yet, nothing can be confirmed. When meetings resume there will probably still be restrictions. Details will appear here, on the website and our Facebook page when we know.

354 & 466 Moseley Road. Wells & Dyche

Next on the scene was **Arthur Wells**, whose granddaughter was recently in touch with us. She believes her grandparents lived at 354 Moseley Road until 1919, when they moved a bit further up the road to 466, about where Redstone Academy is now.



Arthur's granddaughter has also sent us a lovely photo of the front of 466 Moseley Road, showing the sign for the Wells Studio.

Later the Wells moved up to 244, Alcester Rd, the other side of Moseley Village, where they were bombed in the Second World War.

The next occupant of the 354 studio is very well known to us: **Ernest Dyche**

who features in our book, "Stars of Balsall Heath". He moved in after Arthur Wells, in 1919. Ernest died in 1973 and the business was continued by his son, Malcolm, until 1989. The Dyche collection of photos in the Library of Birmingham, is world famous, providing a wonderful reflection of newcomers to the city from far afield. However, we have also had an exciting contact recently from someone who has made a handsome donation to the Society of an extraordinary metallic relief panel which was produced from a Dyche photo.

Val Hart

Dyche: Keeper of Family Moments.

Family connections bring the work of the photographic studios to life. We were excited to be contacted by Andrea Fitter who has kindly donated this picture of a young girl marked with the emblem of Ernest Dyche.

Andrea wrote "The girl is called Jean Harris and she lived in Clifton Road, Balsall Heath. The photo was given to one of my uncles named John Milbanke who



lodged with Jean's family when he first came to Birmingham at the beginning of WW2". The brevity of just 13 hand written words on the reverse side are a gift to the historian. Written by Carol, the wife of John Milbanke, they tell us who, where and when. Andrea adds "I would presume it was taken in the late 30s or early 40s as that was the time John lodged with the family before joining the navy".

Jim Fitpatrick

Reaction to Mary St memories in May's Gazette.

Colin P, "This is a lovely article, my dearest friends lived in and around Mary St. We used to meet up at the disco at the Carnegie boys club in Moseley".

Harry the barber, known as 'H' was likely to have been 'Horace' Watkins. Michael F

remembers that 'H' put a plank across the arms of the chairs to bring us boys up to 'cutting level'. John H remembers that his half-brother Brian Dix swept the floor for the barber, and John himself did a paper round for 'Bert'.

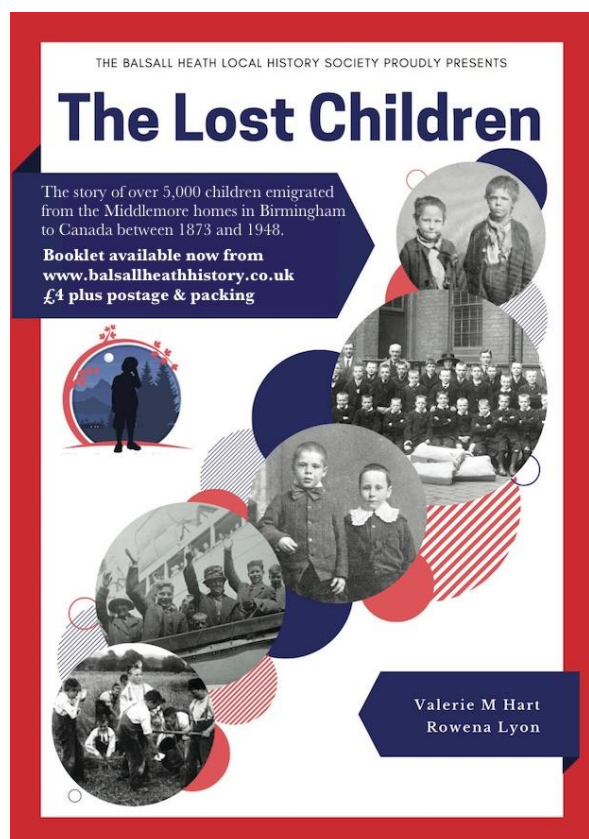
Can you help?

We have a 2nd request for any information about, or anyone that worked for Axon Motor Rewinds.

The company premises were at No 536 Moseley Road between Clifton Rd and Runcorn Rd. And close to the Congregational Church. Mick Wright seek employees who would have been colleagues of his wife



The Lost Children



Do not forget that the book is now on sale through our website at a cost of £4 plus post and packing. It is selling well, both in the UK and Canada.

Latest news from the Fairbridge Gazette

The Middlemore Emigration Homes entered into a partnership with Fairbridge in 1925 and emigrated children to Fairbridge Farm Schools in Canada and Australia until 1948.

In 2011 the Fairbridge Society merged with the Princes Trust which is now facing calls to join Australia's child abuse redress scheme because of its links to the Fairbridge Society, which is facing claims under the scheme. The Prince's Trust has confirmed it has reinstated Fairbridge as an independent body, and a spokesperson said,

"The Prince's Trust is providing Fairbridge with funds, to give victims and survivors the opportunity to make claims and it is also our hope that Fairbridge

will sign up to the Australian redress scheme."

Val Hart