

Philip, Duke of Edinburgh 1921 -2021

Much has been said about the Duke of Edinburgh in other places but this is material that came from people and events in Balsall Heath over the years. .



You may have seen, in our exhibitions, a photograph of people apparently queuing outside a carpet shop. That was the first of a sequence taken in December 1977 when the Duke arrived to inspect some housing association properties on

Ladypool Avenue. This is the story that came with it in the Heathan. "Residents of Ladypool Avenue may well have felt it was all happening at once when the Duke of Edinburgh, the Lord Mayor, and local M.P. Ray Hattersley all dropped in at once. They had a few friends with them, too, as you can see from our reporter's photograph.' St. Paul's School got into the act, in the shape of little Sylvia Morris (right-hand side looking very cheerful), whose Gran lives in Ladypool Avenue.



Gran achieved instant fame by forgetting to take out her curlers for the Duke. She not only achieved instant fame but also the gift of a nice winter coat from a department store in town which thought she deserved a reward for her gay abandon."

The Duke visited again in late 2005. This is John Newson's piece on the event from a resident's perspective.

"It was November 2005, a few months after the Tornado had ripped down Ladypool Road on its way across Birmingham. Prince Phillip, had been invited and agreed to visit the area. Some of us residents had invitations to the event at the Lahore Karachi restaurant, which smelled of fresh paint and flowers for the day, I noticed. The Prince

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Next meeting.

The Committee has decided that we should aim to restart monthly meetings from June this year, following the guidelines for easing restrictions. However, there may well be some change to the government's timetable so we are proposing to make the meeting at the end of June an outdoor one, visiting a place of interest. More news to follow.

Membership of the Society costs £10 annually and can be bought via the Donate button on the Society website. Thank you to all who have chosen to subscribe this year in spite of the lack of meetings. We hope to hold our AGM in July as usual.



congratulated Council and emergency workers for their work in this natural disaster and presented them with awards, as had been arranged. When he spoke with the residents, however, we had noticed that the tornado was being spoken of as something past, but Rohan Green said we were still living with it, and would he like to see the damage in the next street. The Prince immediately agreed and strode off, with the residents and his security man, followed by the mayor and dignitaries, for an alternative resident-led tour down Birchwood Road and Alder Road. These were still covered with scaffolding, plastic, rubble, fallen fencing; some months after the event. The Prince asked probing questions, and remarked that a lot needed sorting out!

I got the impression of a man who, although part of the establishment, was sceptical about those “in charge” and interested to learn about the experience of people on the ground, whether they were getting a fair deal, and to use whatever influence he had to get problems fixed. We cannot

know whether the Prince gave feedback to the City Council about his visit, however they did later contribute to the Tornado Hardship Fund of the Birmingham Foundation (having at first said there was no hardship), allowing for small grants that helped residents to get their homes back together. Many such affectionate stories are being shared at the death of Prince Phillip.



In memoriam: Edna Shaw, who died recently.

Edna was the chair of Mary Street Residents Association, and was heavily involved in her local community. She led with vigour, encouraging others to join in, cleaning up the litter, planting open spaces with shrubs and trees, creating a community garden in her close, chastising householders who didn't keep their gardens tidy and campaigning tirelessly on behalf of other residents. Edna was a phenomenal and resolute lady who devoted much of her life to others. If there was an Edna in every street then there is no doubt that the world would be a better place. May she rest in peace.

Patrick Wing MBE JP

A picture paints a

In February's Gazette with the summary of Dennis John Jukes Heath.

The Jukes' presented the results him on his 90th Birthday.

His son, Warren, says “he had a prepared. He loves the memories will be doing more work now with



thousand words.

help of his family we carried a life in connection to Balsall

of our combined research to

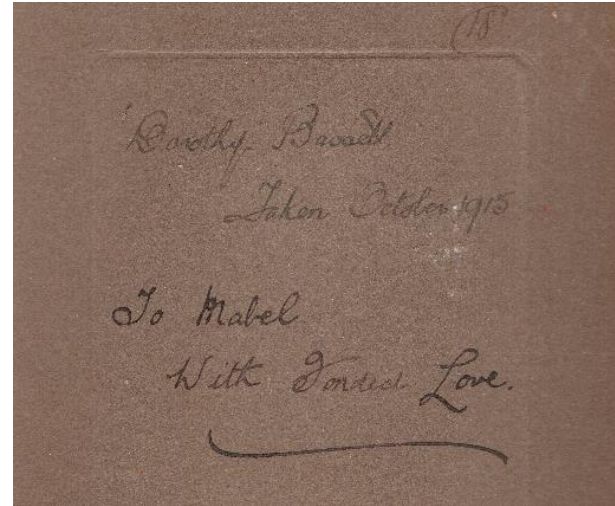
great time with the book we that we have triggered, and we him!



A Donated Photo

This charming photo has been sent to us by someone in America. It was taken by Walter Swift of 270, Moseley Rd in 1912.

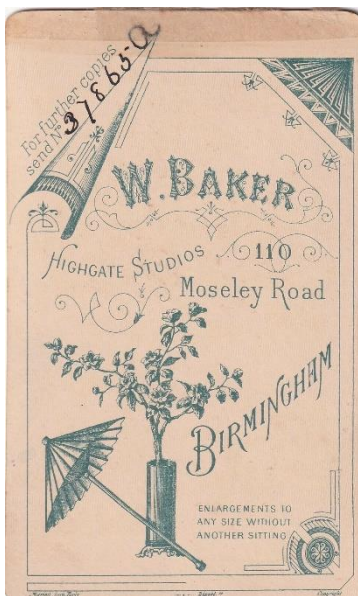
On the back is the inscription:
"Dorothy Bassett
Taken October 1910
To Mabel With Fondest Love."



Any suggestions about the identity of Dorothy Bassett would be gratefully received.

William and Walter Baker,

Moseley Rd Photographers.



. William Baker seems to have embarked on photography after an earlier occupation as a Hairdresser. In 1878 he is listed on Bordesley Green as both Hairdresser and Photographer.

By 1883 he was established at "Highgate Studios", 110 Moseley Road.

His son, Walter was also involved in the business. When he married in 1885, his residence, as well as his fiancée's, is given as 110 and his profession, as well as his father's, is given as "photographer".

By 1892, Walter also had his own studios at 89 Moseley Rd. In 1894 Moseley Road was renumbered and so the original studios at 110 became 213 while Walter's place became 159.

William seems to have retired in 1899 and the place at 110 was given up. Walter kept the name, however, for number 159.

Walter obviously did well. By 1901 he had moved to Salisbury Rd, Moseley. However he died soon after, probably about 1906.

It would be lovely to find that "Baker & Swift", photographers of the donated photo, were related to these earlier Bakers but I have not been able to trace any connection.

Val Hart

