

December meeting : Flappers, Fashion and Fun

Following a 45 minute talk and a round of Q & A's, Lynda and Pam dressed as flappers will give a Charleston demonstration and then encourage people to join in. They simplify the steps and call out instructions so everyone can join in if they wish. Replica and some authentic photos etc are passed around during the talk. It's even more fun if the audience dress up in anything glittery. Feather boas can be bought quite cheaply. A limited number of masks will be available if you want to make it a masquerade.

Heritage at Risk

Historic England have published an updated list of Heritage Buildings At Risk. There are two entries for Balsall Heath. One is The Moseley Road Baths, (Grade II*) which still needs a lot of repair, although much as been achieved towards this.

The other entry is the Baptist Church in Edward Road. (Grade II)



This beautiful church was built in 1900 at a cost of £6000 to provide a new home for the Baptist congregation which had been founded in 1873 in Balsall Heath Road. The building is a fine example of the Birmingham terracotta school, combining Romanesque with Perpendicular details.

The Lost Children: Echoes of the First World War

On the outbreak of war in 1914, The Middlemore Homes decided that they saw no need to stop the planned emigration of children. However, they did agree to receive the children of soldiers or sailors killed or permanently incapacitated owing to the war. By 1918 this policy had become more flexible and they admitted on a temporary basis, not for emigration, soldiers' children who were: motherless, beyond mothers' control or where the mothers had "fallen into evil ways".

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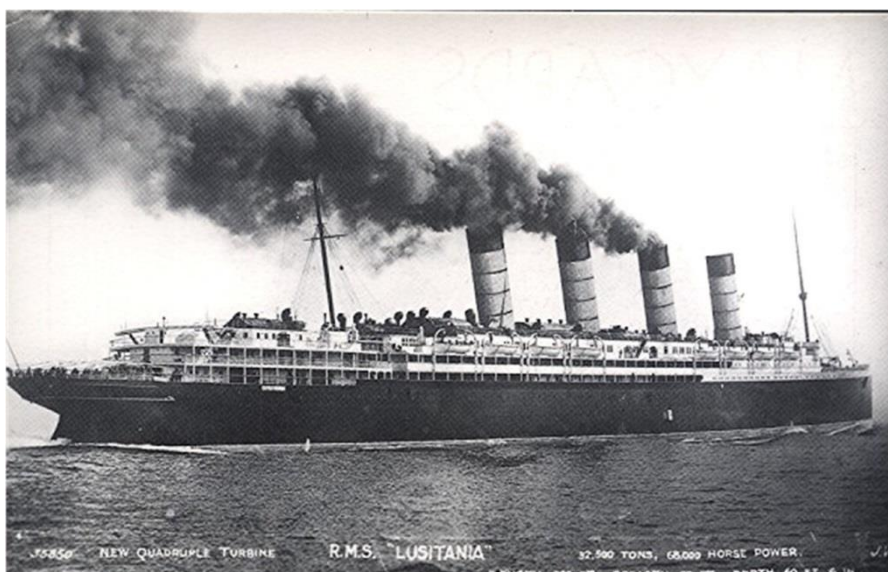
Facebook: Balsall Heath Local
History Society and
lostchildrenproject

Membership of the Society will cost £12 a year from Jan 2022. No subscription will be renewed to taken until then. Membership will then run from January to December each year. Fees at meetings will continue unchanged: £1 for members and £3 for visitors. Refreshments will be served from 7 to 7.20 pm at the start of the meeting.

Next meeting.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, December 16th at St Paul's Venture, Malvern St. B12 8NN at 7 for 7.30 p.m. The Speaker(s) Lynda Sharpe and Pamela will be presenting, "Flappers. Fashion and Fun." For more details see left

The sinking of the Lusitania on May 7th 1915 was a great shock. It was a passenger liner en route from New York to Liverpool when it was torpedoed by a German submarine about 11 miles off the coast of Ireland. 1200 people died.



The Middlemore Homes House Committee were appalled, particularly as they had an emigration voyage planned for May 18th. However, by a vote of six to two it was decided to go ahead. Life insurance was arranged for Mr Jackson and Mr Plenderleith who were to accompany the party. The trip went as planned with 84 children on board. A further 80 children were emigrated in 1916 but then there was a ban on the emigration of women and children and trips did not resume until 1920.

Meanwhile over 500 men who had been emigrated by Middlemore as children, enlisted. At least 63 of them died. The Annual Reports say: "We record with pride that many of our old boys have returned to England with the Canadian contingent to fight for their country and its honour in this fearful war. They do not cease to be Englishmen when they are settled in Canada; they merely move from one part of the Empire to another."

Val Hart

Holder & Bishop Ltd. Can you help?



This gentleman with a glass of cheer is the late Arthur Claud Bishop 1897-1973. His grandson Richard Newsholme has contacted us to see if we can help him with more info or photographs of a company that his grandfather had been a director of around the years 1930 to 1965. The company was: **Holder and Bishop Ltd** Raven Works at 166 Balsall Heath Road.

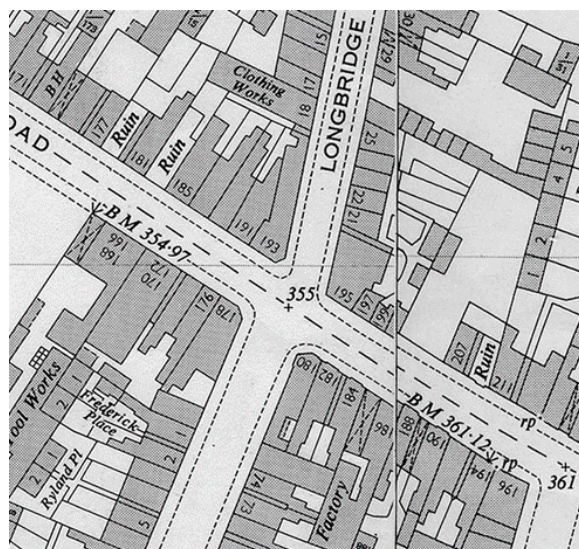
Richard has been able to gather some information about Arthur

and his company to get us started.

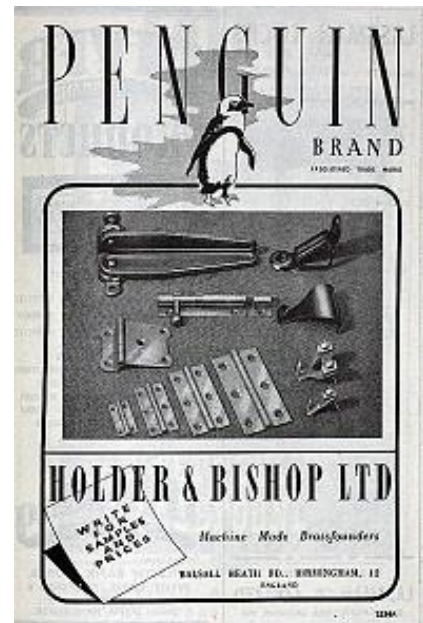
On this map Balsall Heath Road is on the diagonal left to right. Nos 166 & 168 are shown as one building and can be seen left middle, next to the letters B M.

The white triangle on the left of this building was the bomb peck which became the home of the Balsall Heath Panthers Cycle Speedway Club. Behind those frontages the words *Tool Works* can be seen. Holder & Bishop were tool manufactures.

The firm was incorporated in 1938 and for those that would like a better idea of where this was on Balsall Heath Road, the building marked 'B.H' top left, locates where the M & B pub, the Lyttleton Arms Pub stood at No 173.



Our team were able to find something on 'Holder' of the company, he was Horace Holder 1897-1971 Born in Birmingham, he was director and works manager.



Advertisement 1951

The nearest we have to a photo of the works is in this one taken from the junction Balsall Heath Rd and Longbridge Rd. From the corner with Upper Cox St five units are taken up by the Co-op. At the end of the row is No 166/168 (with the car parked in front). Did you or any relation of yours know of Holder & Bishop? Any photos out there?

Events

Saturday 27th November at 2 p.m.

The Friends of the Fusilier Museum, Warwick

'Not wanting in enthusiasm'

Gill and Ian Binnie, with guests, present a Zoom talk about the Royal Warwickshire Regiment's involvement in the Boer War (1899-1902)

To register and receive the Zoom link contact
warwickfus@btinternet.com

Talks are free to members of the Museum. To others we would suggest a minimum donation of £5. To pay, simply go onto the Museum website www.warwickfusiliers.co.uk and use the "support us" and "online" donations tabs or use GoFundMe: <https://blt.ly/3dRonul>



Birmingham Museums lists various tours and open days over the next month including Sarehole Mill (£6 - £13 depending on content and extras i.e. Pizza), and Aston Hall see <https://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/whats-on> for details and bookings.

Those of you that would like to experience something like the Sarehole Mill tour that Jim Fitzpatrick reviewed last month should take a look at the £10 "Origins of Middle-earth: J.R.R. Tolkien and Sarehole Guided walk" on the 5th or the 19th of December.

Ghost Streets of Balsall Heath III

Hey! This series has brought a valuable lesson, when thinking of the Balsall Heath that we were raised in, I have learned that we do not have to think to apologise for our memories and broadcasting them to all and sundry. Our hesitation on the subject would be coming from not wanting to overpraise the district that had a vice reputation and a stock of slum housing.

But it turns out that present day city planners believe mistakes were made when replacing dense housing with grass verged roads believing at the time that this was what was needed, more space and a green outlook. The change of heart is explained in a message to the history society by architect and urban

designer, Mr Joe Holyoak. His words focus on an aspect we touched on in part II. 'The quietness of now in 2021 and the bustle of then'. There is a call to take us back to a closeness of community and local economy that existed before the bulldozers came. Joe does not mince his words about what the 'Non Place' represents.



Longmore St – Balsall Heath Rd Junction Sept 2020

“It represents an emptying-out of a local population, who have been forcibly migrated elsewhere - likely further out of the city, therefore adding to travel distances and times: *and the disappearance of a local economy and services*, making life poorer for those who remain. These changes are the opposite of a sustainable environment.

The replacement of buildings and people with grassed spaces in the 60s, 70s and 80s was a well-intentioned dogma, but misguided. Those green spaces in the photographs are not usable space, as in a park. They just represent empty gaps between occupied space, gaps which make places further apart, and therefore either make movement more difficult, and/or encourage residents to get in a car in order to travel somewhere.

The City Council is now promoting the idea of the "15 minute neighbourhood", by which is meant a place where everything that is necessary for a full life can be found within a 15 minute walk. It proposes a network of such places, and BH is explicitly mentioned as one. (The policy document is called *Our Future City Plan* and can be found online). Ironically, we used to have 15 minute neighbourhoods before redevelopment, and the streets in those old black and white photos represent one of them.” J.H. Nov 2021.

"The Disappearance of a local Economy and Services" (in Pictures)



The Triangle Cinema, F.W. Woolworth & Co, and Jigs & tools Ltd.



Wrensons, Longmore St & Belgrave Rd Junction. People remember their slogan "Wrensons Best Bacon" "I loved the smells, fresh ground coffee & cheese. The staff in white coats and the butter and sugar sold by weight. Deliveries by bike with the basket on the front" Note: comments from Birmingham History Forum 2004-6.



'Kitty' looks out from her corner shop in Sherbourne Rd. Here you could buy sweets, pineapple chucks and pear drops. Butter cut to size and vinegar dispensed into your own bottle. You could ask for 1,2, or 3 cigs and have them on 'tick'.



Looking east up Balsall Heath Rd, take a walk up there and you would find George Mason grocer and the Lyttleton pub. At the corner with Upper Cox St, the Co-operative. Then Monk's the pie and sausage maker. And a variety of shops in between. This was part of the "15 minute neighbourhood" we used to know so well. Wrap your memories of Balsall Heath in that thought, like a nice warm scarf around your neck. J.F.

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