

## In Memoriam. Bron Salway.



It is with great sadness that we have to announce that one of our long standing members, Bron Salway passed away on Saturday December 10th 2022. Bron had served on our Committee for many years and was responsible for organising our programme of speakers for our monthly meetings. We will miss Bron very much, not just as a fellow Society member, but as a kind and supportive friend.

Many people will remember her as she was a teacher at Heathmount School for many years and contributed to the community in a variety of different ways. She ran our Victorian and WW2 classroom and was a sparkling presence at Balsall Heath Carnivals. Always ready to help anyone, she made a difference to so many people's lives. Her joy in life, her sense of humour, her efficiency and her kindness, will stay with us as we remember her passing with heavy hearts. She will leave a big gap in all our lives.

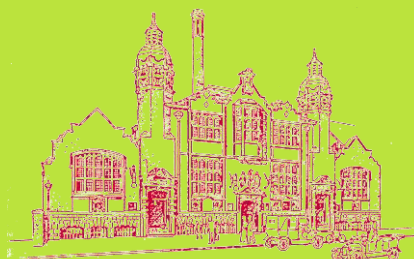
**The Funeral will be at 11.30 a.m. on Thursday, Jan 19th at Lodge Hill Crematorium. Family flowers only, Donations in memory of Bron can be made to Balsall Heath Local History Society .**

## A Reminder about Society Membership for 2023

Membership runs annually from January to December and costs £12 Gift Aid can be added to this if you sign up for it. Existing members will receive the forms via e mail but they can also be downloaded from our website: [www.balsallheathhistory.co.uk](http://www.balsallheathhistory.co.uk).

## Balsall Heath Local History Society Gazette

### DECEMBER 2022



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**[www.thelostchildren.uk](http://www.thelostchildren.uk)**

**Facebook: Balsall Heath Local  
History Society and  
lostchildrenproject**

**Membership of the Society costs £12 a year. Membership runs from January to December each year and application forms are available on the website. Fees at meetings are: £1 for members and £3 for visitors. Meetings are held at St Paul's Venture, Malvern Street at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served from 7 pm to 7:20 pm.**

**Coming soon**

**Thursday January 26<sup>th</sup> 2023**

**Val Hart and Jim Fitzpatrick –  
Old public houses of Balsall  
Heath**

## Watsons Florists 365 Ladypool Rd.

This article is the result of a contact made at the Local History Fair in September this year. We were approached by the great-grandson of Margaret Watson who started the Florist's shop in about 1902. In the photo below she is the lady standing on the right beside the greenhouse which was in the back garden. Presumably, she sold flowers which she had grown herself

The shop was on the stretch of the road between Brighton Rd and Newport Rd.



Margaret died in 1951 and her son Archibald took over the business. He had married Winifred Dancocks in 1924 and the photo below show her at work behind the bar at the Brighton Hotel, on the corner of Brighton Rd.



The family also sent us this wonderful photo of a charabanc in the 1920s, standing outside the Brighton Hotel ready for a trip. Archibald is the one standing third from the right with a cigarette and Winifred is standing next to him.



A big thank you to the family for sharing these photos. Val Hart



## Benjamin Grimmitt Appeal.

Good News. Thanks to many donations and a contribution from Benjamin's relative, we now have raised enough to pay for refurbishment of the gravestone in Brandwood End Cemetery for Benjamin.. Thank you to all who have made donations!

Val Hart

## The Plaque on 42, Church Road for Margaret Begbie Moffat Brown

Someone contacted us to ask if we knew anything about the person remembered in this plaque. It was apparently put there by the Moseley District Council of Churches Association after she bequeathed her house to them. It was the first house given to the Association.

The inscription on it reads:

"Remembered for her faith, her poetry, and her love of Moseley.  
And Lifetime service to this community"

Does anyone have any information about her?

Val Hart



## Moseley Road Baths Refurbishment Update December 2022



Following the announcement of further funds for the continuation of the refurbishment of the Moseley Road Baths, we saw the building go undercover in April this year (top photo) to facilitate work on the façade of the

building, protecting the brickwork and cleaning of the decorative Terracotta. With the covers lifted we can see the result of the work done so far.

The Intricate and beautiful design of the Edwardian Terracotta fascia can now be seen in all its glory. We noted when taking these photographs that there are several small panes of glass that are still in need of repair. Our inquiries into this led to us finding out that the windows are not part of the stages of refurbishment so far. This is expected to be addressed in a future phase of conservation. J.F.

## Balsall Heath Pubs With No Beer

The landscape of Balsall Heath has suffered the loss of yet another pub. The Eagle of Mary St B12 is no more. While the building is still there at No 189 & 191, it no longer looks like a pub, has no bar, does not serve beer, and never will again. Researching this fact has made us fully aware of the extent to which this has happened across the district. So much so, a short-run series of articles on the subject will follow in future issues of the Gazette. We will also be presenting a talk at our meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

This subject lends itself to illustration, as the 'then and now' photographs of the buildings involved tell the story in each case so vividly. Our comments alongside these photos will try to reflect something of the history of the building(s) and the people involved with them. In the main, this will not cover pubs where the building has gone altogether.



The Book 'Time Please! – A look back at Birmingham's Pubs', by Andrew Maxam, features the photo on the left here as "The Eagle c 1947", and "This beer house was a new purchase for M & B back in 1939 and was granted a full license in 1962. The pub's nickname is Snackers". The 2<sup>nd</sup> photo (right) shows the pub decked out as Snackers, likely a 50s image with its new windows and doors. In previous issues of the Gazette (Jan & Aug 2019) we have been able to explain the reason for the *Snackers'* nickname, the essence of which is due to Tram crews calling there for their lunch to be eaten at the terminus at the top of Mary Street.



2019 view inside the Eagle pub. There had been a change of ownership just prior to these photos being taken and the nickname of Snackers had been dropped.



The building today, (photos May 2022). That is a bedroom seen through the window at the bottom left. There is no bay window with decorated glass.

This can be shrugged off as a minor change in a quiet urban landscape. The Eagle, given its location just up the street from the crossroads of Mary St and Edward Rd and the undeniable presence of the Coach & Horses building standing proud on the corner, would not have even been cited by people giving directions by pub locations.

But this does reflect the enormous changes to the urban landscape. In his foreword for the book *Time Please*, Carl Chinn explains “[ -- ] we are in danger of losing one of its most important elements – its pubs, especially its back-street pubs. [ -- ] Pubs were more than a place to drink. They were social, sporting, and neighbourhood centres. [ -- ] Drawing their regulars from a small area, back-street pubs were embedded within their neighbourhoods and just as the local folk depended upon the pubs for a major facility so too did the pubs depend upon the people of the



neighbourhood.”

There are a number of buildings that were once well-attended pubs in our area. We shall be covering a good number of them in future issues of the Gazette. We are for instance not finished with the Eagle as we will be reporting people’s memories as customers. Just some of the pubs to be covered in the series are the New Inn, the Victoria (Runcorn), the Railway, Clifton (Clifton Rd) the Crown (St Paul’s Rd / Hereford). If you have memories of using these or any other pub you would like to tell us about, do get in touch. J.F.