

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARGARET PENDRY



On March 29th 2024, Margaret Pendry celebrated her 90th Birthday.

On March 18th Margaret was joined by nine other members for a celebratory meal at The Red Lion, Kings Heath. She was presented with a garden plant arrangement and flowers. A good time was had by all.

We wish Margaret many more healthy and happy years.

Margaret is a longstanding and much

valued member and former committee member of Balsall Heath Local History Society.

Over the years, Margaret has played an active part in all of the activities of the Society. She particularly enjoyed serving in our Tea Tent at the Balsall Heath Carnival. The Tea Tent was a very popular feature of the Carnival from 2011 to 2019. (There was no Carnival in 2012 because of poor weather.)

Margaret has also given her support to the Society at many exhibitions, including Birmingham Lives and Heritage Open Days. She has willingly given up her time to talk to people who attend and who wish to learn more about Balsall Heath.

Margaret regularly attends the monthly meetings and we are all grateful to her for serving the refreshments at the evening meetings, along with Diane. Although she has not been able to attend the recent daytime meetings, it will be good to see her again when the meetings return to their usual evening time slot at the end of April.

Balsall Heath Local History Society Gazette

APRIL 2024



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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 pm. Refreshments will be served from 7 p.m to 7:15 p.m. Coming soon

Thursday 25th April 7pm for 7.30pm. Richard Churchley talking about Place names in Warwickshire and Worcestershire

Thursday 30th May 7pm for 7.30pm. Keith Clenton talking about Birmingham city centre



Balsall Heath Carnival – The Tea Tent July 2nd 2011



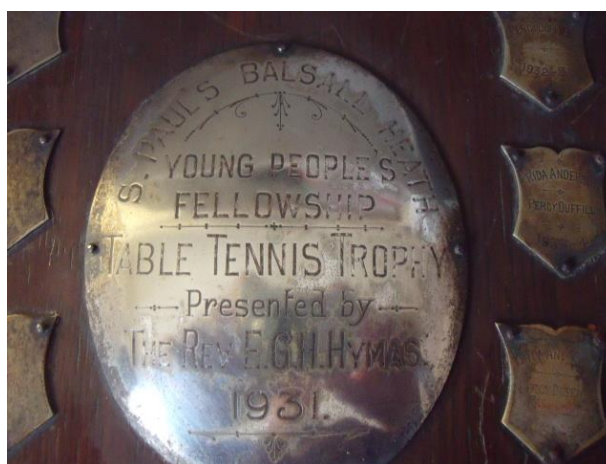
Balsall Heath Carnival – The Tea Tent July 4th 2015



Balsall Heath Local History Society at Moseley Rd Art School October 2017

ST PAUL'S TABLE TENNIS TROPHY 1931

Clive Brazier has sent some photos of a Table Tennis Trophy which is in his possession. This trophy was presented to the Young People's Fellowship at St Paul's Church, Balsall Heath by the Rev. E G H Hymas in 1931.



The names of the winners of the trophy in the small shields are difficult to read, but Clive has provided a list of the names.

Top

Frida Anderson and Philip Slade 1931-2

Clockwise

Percy Duffill 1932-3

Frida Anderson and Percy Duffill 1933-4
Frida Anderson and Percy Duffill 1934-5
Frida Anderson and Howard Ellis 1935-6
5 vacant

Howard Ellis (Ernest Howard Ellis) was Clive Brazier's father-in-law. He was a stalwart of St Anne's, Park Hill, where he was a sidesman.

Do any Gazette readers know any more about this trophy or any of the names mentioned?

JH

March 2024 The Bull Ring by Mike Byrne

On March 18th 2024 Mike Byrne gave an interesting talk about The Bull Ring. Mike stated that the talk was going to be about 'The Shopping Experience'.

The talk was illustrated with a large amount of photographs and etchings.

The first market charter was granted to Peter de Bermingham in 1166. It is not clear where the name Bull Ring came from, although there was a ring in the market for tethering bulls. It is known that until it was banned in 1773, bull baiting took place there. Archaeological exploration in the early 1960s revealed evidence of various trades having taken place over the years including butchers, clothiers and tanners. Sheep remains were found, but no pig remains.



In 1835 a new Market Hall was opened. It was an amazing building, measuring 365ft long and 108ft wide. Within the Market Hall, there was an elaborate fountain, which had been installed in 1851. This was later moved to Highgate Park. In the mid 1930s a huge, mechanised clock was erected over the Market Hall office. Unfortunately, the clock was destroyed when the Market Hall suffered severe bomb damage in 1940. It was left roofless, but opened for trading two months later. The building was finally demolished as part of the reconstruction of the Bull Ring in the early 1960s.

The way of thinking at the time of the 1960s redevelopment of The Bull Ring was that the car is king. In line with this thinking, the inner ring road enclosed The Bull Ring and the whole of the city centre. Pedestrians were channelled into a maze of subways. The super modern new development was officially opened by The Duke of Edinburgh in May 1964. The development included an indoor market, an outdoor market with brightly coloured canopies over the stalls and a spacious indoor shopping area, spread over several floors. This area included space for exhibitions, a wide variety of shops and even a banqueting suite, The Mayfair. The up-to-the-minute car park offered an auto parking service and nearby was the enclosed bus station. This is remembered for its strong smell of choking diesel fumes and fish because of its proximity to the fish market. Manzoni Gardens were created in the location of the demolished Market Hall complete with the popular statue of King Kong. (More will be written about King Kong in a separate article.



This version of The Bull Ring Shopping Centre lasted for almost forty years.

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, the area was again cleared and in 2003 the new Bull Ring opened. This time the car was not King and the priority was given to pedestrians with the emphasis being on bringing light into the area. The new development boasted a large John Lewis store and Debenhams also moved in. Both of these stores have now gone. Marks and Spencer recently vacated their spot in High St, where they had been since 1904 and moved in to two floors of the former Debenhams store. It has a completely different feel to the old store and there is no café. Other floors will be opened up soon, housing a new concept called Soccer Social. This would appear to be catering for the younger generations. This and the lack of an M&S café point to a lack of interest in the 'grey pound'. A popular feature at the entrance to the Bull Ring from High St is The Bull. The wall mounted bull from the 1960s Bull Ring has vanished without trace.

The talk ended with an opportunity for members to ask questions or talk of their memories. One member remembered the large bomb case in the shell of the Old Market Hall, which was used as a collection box. Also remembered was the escapologist by Nelson's statue.

Jenny Hodson

Fire at the old Clifton Junior School

A serious fire broke out on the afternoon of April 22nd and the building is now wrecked. What a sad end to one of Balsall Heath's first Board Schools.



(Image: Nick Wilkinson/Birmingham Live)



A part of our heritage has gone up in smoke.

Val Hart

The School opened in 1878 with 3 separate departments. This building housed 426 Junior children with the Boys upstairs and the girls downstairs. The Infant School was in the separate building in Hertford St. Many thousands of children passed through its doors. The new Junior School in St Paul's Road opened in 2000 and after that St Paul's Trust made extensive use of it until 2016. Since then it has been empty.

Other Events

Midland Ancestors Heritage Event – Local & Family History Fair
The Main Hall, King Edward VI High School for Girls,
Edgbaston Park Road Bham B15 2UB
Saturday 13th July 2024 10:00 – 4:00

Labour, health & sunshine:
the Alpine sanatoria
of the 1920s

From the late 19th century, the Alps were a sanctuary for tubercular patients. Supervised by Auguste Rollier—the "Sun Doctor"—many recuperated through fraternity, labour, and the healing power of the Sun...

Dr. ILARIA SCAGLIA
senior lecturer
@
Aston University

18:00
Wed 22 May
@ BPHA
2nd floor, BMI
9 Margaret Street
Birmingham
B3 3BS

**Birmingham
People's History Archive**
2nd Flax, Birmingham & Midland Institute, 5 Margaret St, Birmingham B3 3BS

LA SANTE PAR LE TRAVAIL AU SOLEIL

a day of activities and inspiration for Birmingham Retrofit Action Week

Retrofit Balsall Heath

Balsall Heath Church Centre ☩ 100 Mary St, Balsall Heath B12 9JU

Sat 18th May 10am → 6pm

گرم گھر Casas ecológicas Tithe Éicea

cut fuel bills ☀ improve our neighbourhood 🌿 green our streets
warmer homes 🏠 reduce carbon 🌍 care for our world

stalls 🦋 children's activities 📺 exhibitions 👍 advice 🚲 bikes

Muslim, Christian and other faith perspectives on the climate crisis
and what we can do 🌍 [Al-Mizan](#) & [Laudato Si](#)

vegetarian halal food 🥗 prayer space 🕌 wheelchair accessible ♿

full programme - please book on [this link](#) or QR:



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गर्म घर البيت الأخضر

गरे घर green homes



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