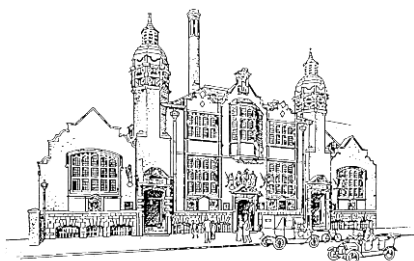


Balsall Heath Local History Society Gazette

SEPTEMBER 2025



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Web: www.balsallheathhistory.co.uk
www.thelostchildren.uk
Facebook: Balsall Heath Local History Society and lostchildrenproject
Membership of the Society costs £15 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 £4 for visitors.
Sept 25th at 2 pm at the Creation Centre (ex Tram Depot) The speaker will be Paul Jacques on Birmingham and Warwickshire Home Guard.
Refreshments will be served at 2:00 p.m.followed by a speaker
Coming soon
30th Oct Mary Bodfish, speaking about James Keir, a Scottish chemist, geologist, industrialist, and inventor; is a lesser known member of the Lunar Society

“Balsall Heath in Changing Times. 1960s to 1990s”

Project Launch



This was a splendid occasion held on September 21st. Mick Turner himself flew over from Ireland specially for the event and received a Thank You card from Balsall Heath as well as heartfelt applause. He made a short speech, recalling the time he spent in the neighbourhood taking photographs and contributing to the Balsall Heathan newspaper.



Over sixty people came along to share memories and look at the displays. They included many who lived, worked and volunteered here in the past as well as current local residents. We were particularly pleased to welcome Mrs Kapasi from the Bohra community.



Another celebrity guest was Gill Atkinson, Dick's widow, who travelled from the Wirral to join us, which was also very much appreciated. In 1968 in the old St Paul's church hall she started a preschool playgroup which later became St Paul's Nursery, still flourishing today, now in Malvern St.



Other notable attendees were Ron Ford, a long term resident, who for many years was a hard working volunteer and a lynch pin of the Carnival; Pat Johnson who, with Albert, ran the local 59th Birmingham Scouts group, as well as being a key member of the Local History Society since 1980; Paul Stocking, who was one of the first teachers at St Paul's School from 1975; Joe Holyoak; Polly Feather, Joy Ashworth; and many more.

The hall was filled with displays which were much enjoyed



Patrick Baird, our Chair, started the event with introductions and Val Hart gave a brief description of the aims of the project. Then came Pat Wing, ex Police, who worked with Dick in the 1990s and who is currently Chair of St Paul's Trust. He reflected on the prostitution which was so much a part of the area's story, and how it was ended.

Dr Steve Ball followed with an entertaining account of his early career as Charlie the Clown in Balsall Heath which led to the foundation of the Language Alive Theatre in Education Company and a glittering personal career.

After that Richard Albutt spoke, describing how he became involved in St Paul's Community Theatre which was creating plays and drama events based on local history in the 1980s and 90s. The current Birmingham History Theatre grew from these roots. The description of his journey from slightly interested bystander to Director struck a chord with many people in the room who had found themselves drawn in as volunteers.

Many people took part in the walking trail which toured the area around Clifton Road and St Paul's Road, where so much changed in the 1980s and 90s.



Many thanks to all the volunteers who made this event possible, especially Haqi Ali, Pat Johnson, Patrick Baird, Judith Millington, Josh Hart, Pat Moore, Mariam Haqiqat, Sue Rose, Christine Turner and our guest speakers.

Photographs taken by Haqi Ali.

About "Balsall Heath in Changing Times"

The Project aims to record and preserve memories from people of diverse backgrounds, linking these with the Mick Turner Archive of photographic images. This composite picture will be shown in an Exhibition, touring displays, a published booklet, and a 10 minute film, as well as online on our website, Facebook pages and Youtube.

VH

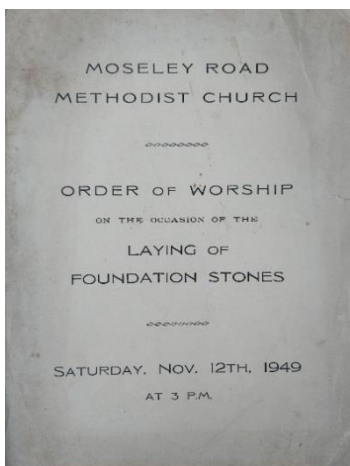
MOSELEY ROAD METHODIST CHURCH – Part 3

Part 2 of the history of Moseley Road Methodist Church appeared in the July edition of the Gazette. That article took the story up to the time of its Diamond Jubilee in 1932. It was apparent that at that time there was great hope for the Church and its future. Sadly, those hopes and dreams were shattered on the night of Saturday October 26th 1940 when the Moseley Road building was severely damaged by a bomb and the Sunday School buildings at the rear were destroyed.

On the following morning, some thought that was the end for the Moseley Road church, but others pulled together and by the afternoon a temporary chapel had been created. However, a more permanent solution was needed. Plans were made for the damaged church to be demolished and for a new church to be built. Just over nine years since the bombing, the Foundation Stones of the new church were laid. A ceremony was held on November 12th 1949. The attendees assembled at the entrance to the temporary church in Lime Grove and walked in procession to the site. The Foundation Stones were laid by the following:- Miss Moon, who was the oldest member of the congregation and formerly a member of the Cherry Street Church.

Mr F.G. Ratcliff J. P. of Dorridge, who was a great nephew of Lt. Col. Ratcliff, who laid one of the original foundation stones.

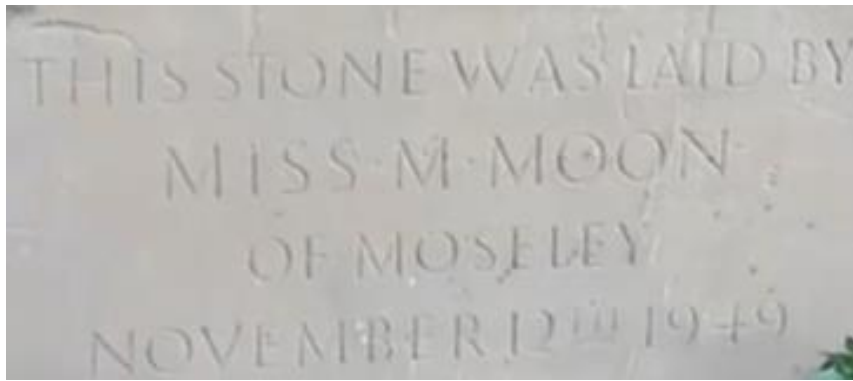
A member of the 10th Birmingham Company of the Boys' Brigade (the company belonging to this church).



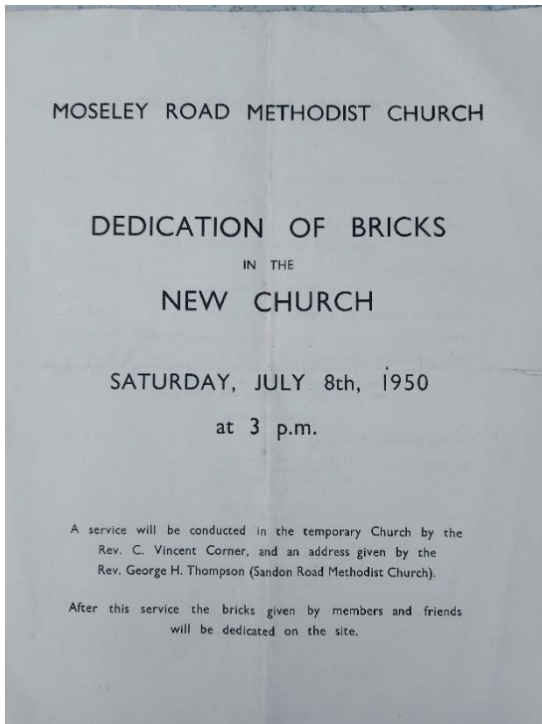
The Order of Service



Miss Moon laying the Foundation Stone.



Members of the congregation and friends donated bricks for the new building. A special service was held for the Dedication of the Bricks.



BRICK DONORS		
1. Peter Whitehouse	31. E. C. Crain	101. Miss Sheppard
2. Sheila Holme	32. Mrs. R. C. Craine	102. Mrs. Boorman
3. Sandra Whitehouse	33. Janet Grant	103. Miss H. Batchelor
4. Martin Corner	34. Peter Grant	104. Miss A. Barden
5. Hugh Corner	35. Mrs. A. Davis	105. Miss N. Burden
6. Paul Corner	36. Mrs. E. Spawten	106. Mrs. Gillett
7. Miss B. Shaw	37. Derrick Pearsall	107. Mrs. Cleaver
8. Layne Isaac	38. W. Gabb	108. Miss E. L. Coussens
9. H. C. Lane	39. Mrs. I. B. Cox	109. Mrs. C. E. Eyden
10. Miss J. Carpenter	40. Hall Green Guild	110. Miss K. L. Thornhill
11. Mrs. M. Carpenter	41. Misses K. & A. Sears	111. Mrs. A. Hilliard
12. *Mrs. C. Jeffs	42. *Edward Smith	112. Fred. J. Adams
13. *Miss F. Edwards	43. 10th Dham Co. G.L.R. Cadets	113. Margaret Macleod
14. *Mrs. L. Edwards	44. Miss F. Parsons	114. William Guest
15. *George Edwards	45. H. Nutall	115. Mrs. W. Guest
16. Anne Baker	46. Miss Joan Tomlin	116. Mrs. W. Edwards
17. Jill Baker	47. Mrs. F. Taylor	117. R. H. & M. L. Andrews
18. Miss Olive Allan	48. King's Heath Youth Council	118. Sunday School Primary
19. Miss Ivy Smith	49. Gwyneth M. Illie	119. Sunday School Juniors
20. Miss A. Vaughan	50. Christopher J. Hommel	120. Sunday School Seniors
21. Miss B. Waddle	51. David J. Shrimpton	121. Sunday School Young People
22. Mrs. E. Hare	52. Valerie Newey	122. Miss Marjorie Bourne
23. Miss Welferson	53. David Newey	123. Miss Janet Bourne
24. Miss E. Welferson	54. Mrs. Vale	124. 4th Shirley Brownies
25. Miss M. Owe	55. *Nessey Simpson	125. Shirley Women's Fellowship
26. Miss L. Laies	56. *Mrs. E. R. Simpson	126. Sparkhill Wesley Guild
27. Miss A. Bradshaw	57. Mrs. Dodd	127. G. V. Woodley
28. Miss M. Hutton	58. A. Newell	128. Edson and Eric Morris
29. Miss F. Christine	59. Mrs. Williams	129. Moseley Road Youth Club
30. George Webb	60. Miss A. E. Jones	130. Miss M. V. Newman
31. Miss E. Moon	61. Miss J. Darby	131. *S. Vaughan
32. Mrs. F. Priest	62. Sister Alice Brennan	132. J. Kenzie
33. Miss D. Johnston	63. Maypole Church	133. Mrs. Kenzie
34. Miss F. Harrall	64. Miss Mildred Gabb	134. Ombersley Road W.B.H.
35. *Miss L. Moseley	65. Miss N. M. Fowler	135. Ombersley Rd. Sunday School
36. J. A. Radford	66. C. Pollis	136. Ombersley Road Girl Guides
37. J. & C. Milbank	67. Mrs. B. Pollis	137. *Miss F. L. Hemming
38. Miss J. Wheway	68. L. Hague	138. Miss S. A. Sanders
39. Miss G. Wheway	69. Mrs. M. Hague	139. Mrs. C. Leaver
40. A. Wheway	70. *Mildred Edwards	140. A. J. and N. M. Leaver
41. J. E. & N. Shaw	71. *Mrs. Kate C. Arowsmith	141. *George Mallard
42. *John Shaw	72. 10th Dham Co. Boys' Brigade	142. *Audrey Mallard
43. David Shaw	73. Annie & Harold Burnett	143. Mrs. Olive Barnsley Daniels
44. Alan Shaw	74. T. O. Bowen	144. Patricia Gosby
45. Christine Shaw	75. *Miss Ethel Bowen	145. Mrs. J. Jones
46. Miss Mary Baker	76. *Dennis Haycock	146. Mrs. N. L. Gabb
47. Ann Tomlin	77. *Horace Ward	147. Miss L. & E. E. Mountford
48. Miss Annie Moseley	78. 10th Dham Co. Life Boy Team	148. Miss Margaret Payne
49. Margaret Williams	79. Miss White	149. Miss E. M. Hall
50. Julia Williams	80. Janet Rennie	150. Dr. W. R. Maltby

Those marked (*) have been given in Memory

Part 4 of the History of Moseley Road Methodist Church will cover the opening of the new church.

JH

Birmingham People's History Archive presents

Decisions and Consequences

Saturday 4 October

10am-1.30pm exhibition and origami

1.30-2.30pm talk and living history workshop

At **All Saints Church** Vicarage Road, Kings Heath,
B14 7RA. Free event, no need to book, all welcome.



Find out about the Labour Party's response to nuclear weapons after World War 2, groups such as CND (the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament) and Birmingham events in those tumultuous times.

Farmers Market and All Saints Café also on 4 Oct 9am-2pm.



Birmingham People's History Archive bpha.online has materials about local, national and international working people's lives from the late 19th century on. The archive is on the 2nd floor of Birmingham & Midland Institute, 9 Margaret Street, B3 3BS.

Any questions? Contact gill@bpha.online

Kings Heath Local History Society
present an illustrated talk on
Ten Birmingham Women
By Henrietta Lockhart
Wednesday 15th October, 7.15pm to 8.45pm



[Image University of Birmingham](#)

This talk takes its starting point from Margaret Nettlefold of Winterbourne House and will shine a spotlight on a selection of women associated with her. Ranging from the 1890's to the 1920's, Henrietta will use archival sources to explore the varied lives of these women, all of whom lived through a time of massive social change.

Henrietta Lockhart is Curator of Museum Collections at Winterbourne House and Garden, University of Birmingham.

At the Community Centre, Heathfield Road, B147DB

Members are free. Visitors pay £3.00. Light refreshments are available for a small charge.