

Balsall Heath Local History Society

THE GAZETTE

SEPTEMBER 2019

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THE LOST CHILDREN

The Lost Children Exhibition was Launched on Friday 13th September.



We were delighted to welcome The Vice Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands, Dr. Beverly Lindsay; the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Councillor Mohammed Azim; and authors, Patricia Roberts-Pichette and Pat Skidmore who flew in specially for the event. The event was also attended by a number of descendants and relatives of children who were emigrated to Canada by the Middlemore Homes. Most notable of these was Pat Skidmore also from Canada and daughter of a child migrant.

The Exhibition has been a great success. So far over 300 people have visited us and left comments. Many people had never heard of the work of The Homes.

NEXT

The Exhibition at the Birmingham and Midland Institute finished on Sept 22nd but **the main panels are now installed in St Martin's in the Bullring Church and will stay there for four weeks.**

National Home Child Day in Canada is being celebrated on Sept 28th with Beacons of Light illuminating buildings and bridges all over the country. We, too, in Brum are illuminating- St Martins Church will be lit up and also Belbroughton Church, where John Middlemore is buried in the churchyard..

Also on Sept 28th we will be performing The Middlemore

Dramatic

Lecture

again .at

St Paul's

Venture,

10

Malvern

Street,

Balsall

Heath,

B12 8NN

All

welcome.

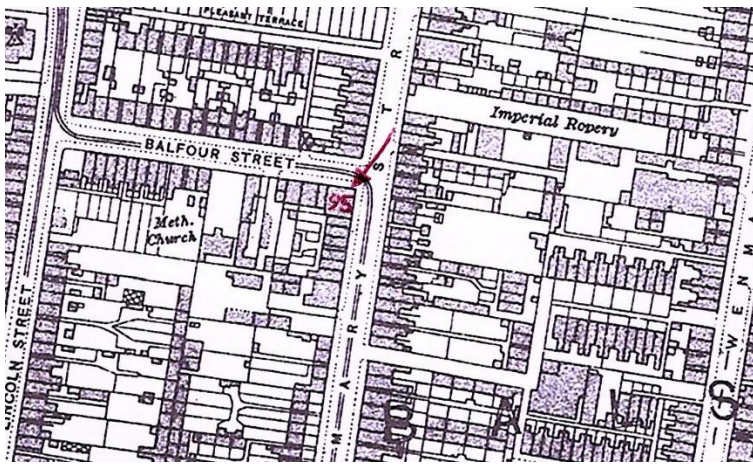


Then we are planning a Workshop for relatives and descendants on Saturday, October 5th at 2 p.m at St Martin's as a response to numerous requests by visitors to the exhibition.

Please book for this event to: info@balsallheathhistory.co.uk

95 Mary St

My parents Patrick (Paddy) and Sarah lived at No 95 Mary St Balsall Heath when their first child (me) was born in 1942. They were Irish and economic immigrants living in a room in this large building. They soon moved to a house further up Mary St. Because of this I was never aware of the significance of the building during the time I lived in Mary St (1942-55).



In recent years while chatting to people about their experiences of Balsall Heath and Mary St in particular, several have, without prompting, referred to the building as 'The Cup', and believed it had once been a pub. Our attempts to find historical references to the 'The Cup' failed. And then a new clue came to us from an unlikely source.

There is a lovely piece of history contained in a handwritten journal in our office at Balsall Heath Local History Society (BHLHS). It is the minute book of the Stanton Cricket Club. Never heard of it? You're not on your own. The book covers the club's history between

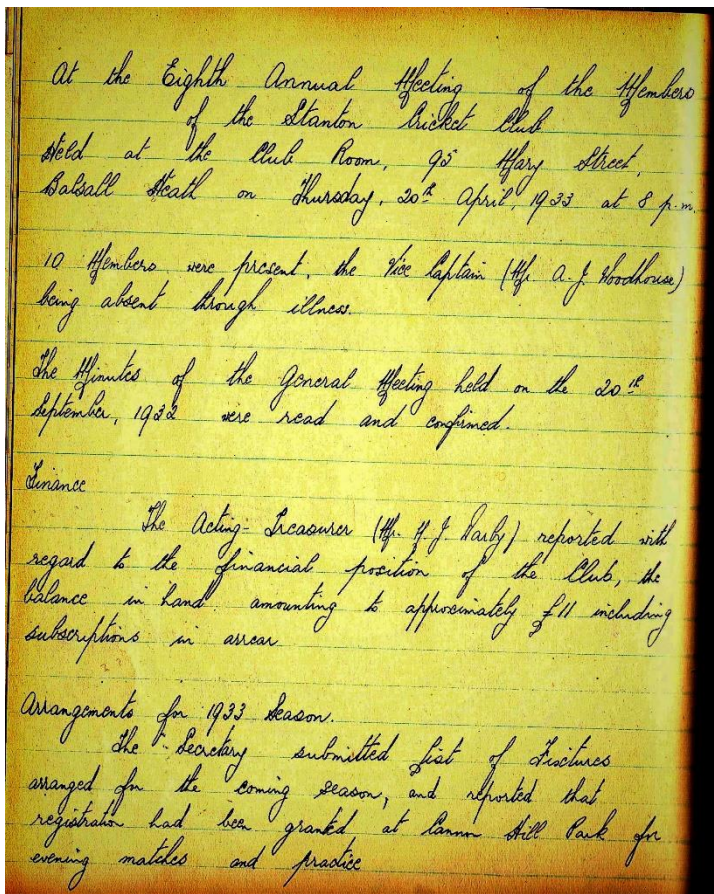
1926 and 1933. Meetings took place in member's homes, in Mary St, Harbury Rd, and Cannon Hill Rd. The 8th annual meeting was held in the club room at 95 Mary St. However, there is no mention of it being a pub.

Seemingly at a dead end, we then had the luck to meet with Marie McMahon. She had grown up while actually living at No 95 and can remember details such as the wide door at the corner of the building with its semi-circle steps and the sign over the threshold 'The Golden Cup'. With this correction of the name researching now brought fruit! Annual licensing sessions from the 1860s records the accommodation for "four horses, and the rent of £21" J.F.

Other Events

Wednesday October 16th

Heathfield Road community centre, Kings Heath
Kings Heath Local History Society presents
Maddocks' miscellany of local history, by Barry Maddocks.
£3 visitors,



Next meeting.

Thursday October 31st

The speaker will be Marie Fogg on "The Smalbroke Family of Birmingham"
7 p.m for a 7.30 start.
St Paul's Venture, Hertford St.
Visitors and new members always welcome.