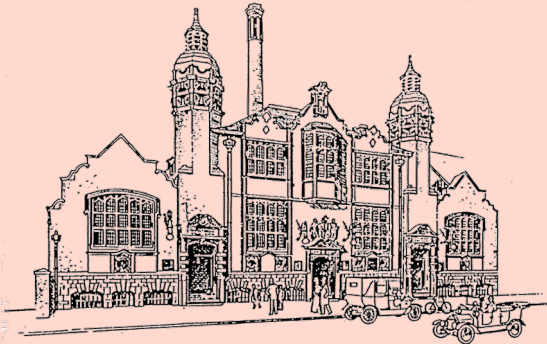


Balsall Heath Local History Society Gazette SEPTEMBER 2026



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<https://www.facebook.com/lostchildrenproject>

Membership Details

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.

NEXT MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

2 pm on Thursday,, Sept 24th at the Creation Centre
(ex tram depot) 582, Moseley Road, B12 9AA

Val Hart will be talking to people about the Balsall Heath in Changing Times project and showing a selection of photographs from the Mick Turner archive.

AUTUMN PROGRAMME

1. Thursday, October 29th at 2 pm

Simon Topman talking about Acme Whistles.

2. Thursday, November 26th at 2 pm

John Smith on The Wonderful World of Cinema

3. Thursday December 17th at 2 pm

Christmas Quiz and Society AGM

Heritage Week Review of our events

Sunday was the highlight of the week when Mick Turner flew in from Ireland and Liz Berry presented her poem "Psalm"





About 60 people attended this event which also featured film clips from MACE, (Media Archive for Central England) and a new film about the St Paul's Theatre groups, by Haqi Ali.



The Changing Times Exhibition was on display at this event and many people asked when they could see it again. It was actually its last public airing for the moment, as this week it has already been to The Old Print Works, St John's Hall, and the Creation Climbing Centre.

Books wanted

One of our members is running a book stall at the St H John's Parish Fair this Saturday, Sept 26th. Multicultural books specially welcome. Please drop them off at the Presbytery, 81 George St. B12 9RG



A Tribute to Joe Holyoak who died suddenly earlier this month.

This is Joe in July this year, conducting a hard hat tour of Moseley Road Baths in course of restoration

Goodbye Joe, and thank you

We have to announce with love and respect, the sudden death of Joe Holyoak; architect, urban designer, campaigner, and good friend to Balsall Heath. Joe was coordinator of the first Neighbourhood Plan, with the Balsall Heath Forum in 2015; it was the first in Birmingham, and he was working on the revision in 2026. He suggested the site for Joseph Chamberlain College and for the new housing on Belgrave Middleway. He saved the playing fields along Balsall Heath Rd. Joe was a key member of the Moseley Road Baths Alliance and still leading 'hard hat' tours this summer of the restoration works. He was constant in campaigning for a Balsall Heath railway station. He founded Friends of Balsall Heath Park. As a founding member of the Victorian Society, Joe had a city-wide role in the movement to save to clean and find new uses for many heritage buildings. His friends and colleagues are committed to continue Joe's work of carrying forward the best of the past, for a better future.

John Newson and John Christophers

In Memory of Joe

Joe has been a Heritage Guardian for Balsall Heath - continually watching out for the latest threats to our environment. Right to the end he was involved in campaigning, writing influential articles and contributing to working parties. Tributes to Joe are flooding in from all quarters. This one is from the Victorian Society

<https://www.victoriansociety.org.uk/regional-groups/west-midlands/joe-holyoak-1944-2026/>

The world will be a much emptier place without Joe. We send our utmost sympathy to Joe's family.

Val Hart



THE MOSELEY SOCIETY

All roads lead to Moseley – well some of them do!

A free illustrated talk by the Moseley Society History Group

Wednesday October 14th 2026, 7.30 pm to 8.45pm

At the Moseley Exchange, 149 -153, Alcester Rd., B13 8JP

The Moseley Society History Group have been researching the individual memorials inside St. Mary's Church, many of which date from the late 18th and early 19th Centuries. They have found out a lot of interesting material about many of the great and good. A number of them have roads or streets named after them. Come to the talk and find out about the Andertons, Russells, Colmores (not the really rich ones the Colmore Row in the city centre is named after) Dyotts, Madeleys and even the Walfords.

The Balsall Heath Local History Society is Registered Charity No. 1101945

The Old Print Works, 498-506 Moseley Road, Balsall Heath. Birmingham B12 9AH