

THE BREW 'US BUGLE & BIRMINGHAM HERITAGE HERALD

BRINGING YOUR PAST UP TO DATE Issue 52 December 2021

LADYWOOD
HISTORY
GROUP



THE COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM.

Wishing you a merry Christmas and a bright New Year.



THE BREW 'US BUGLE 20th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

The Ladywood Bugle was first produced in December 2001, and as we celebrate our 20th anniversary we look back over previous issues of the magazine which has told the story of the changing face of Ladywood to a wide readership.

Regular readers will notice that there is a new masthead to this issue— with the addition of the words 'Birmingham Heritage Herald.'

We've decided to add this as over recent issues we have included stories of a wider interest to readers outside Ladywood. Now this magazine will actively encourage contributions from anyone with a story to tell about Birmingham's rich and varied history.



Please send in your stories and memories about Ladywood ...
and Birmingham, as we're often told:
'There is life in Birmingham outside of Ladywood, you know!'

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.

Norman Bartlam Editor

Albert Trapp Chairman Ladywood History Group



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An aerial view of the St Mark's Street area as it looked shortly before demolition.

A 1930s Christmas

by Edie Ockford

I was born in 1923 and lived with mom, dad, three brothers and two sisters in Anderton Street, and later Garbett Street before we moved to a bigger house in St. Mark's Street in about 1936. I still live in Ladywood today.

We were always poor and so Christmas Day wasn't much different to any other day of the year. We used to put an empty stocking at the foot of our bed in the hope that we would get a present or two, but we knew we were going to get a few nuts, an apple and orange and a few pennies. We usually never had chocolates or anything like that. One year though Mom got into debt when she bought me and my sister a velvet dress from Sid Butts' drapery shop in Anderton Street not far from where we lived.

Sometimes Mom's sister bought us a present like a handkerchief or a pair of socks. One year one of my sisters, Trudie, had a crock-faced doll and she kept it on a bedside table. Sadly it fell off and was smashed. Trudie was the only one to ever have a doll. My brother Sid, who is now in Australia, once had a bike from Clews of Monument Road. It was paid for weekly, this too ended sadly because it was stolen later in the year.

We didn't have a Christmas tree but we made some decorations to hang up in the house. Dad took the wooden rims from apple tubs, which he got from Hickman's greengrocers. He trimmed them up with fancy paper and made bell shapes. We hung one up in the house. Dad used to make up to fifty of these bells shapes and we used to go knocking on doors to sell them for about five shillings to people in the neighbourhood. We had orders from pubs, especially The Bell in Anderton Street and The Robin Hood at the bottom of Garbett Street. Sadly most of the money went to Dad and he spent it all in the boozier. We had no turkey for Christmas dinner; we just had ordinary meat usually from Houghton's on Broad Street. For Christmas tea we had bread and margarine followed by jelly and custard. The evening was like an ordinary night because we didn't have a piano, not even a wireless so, we made our own games. So

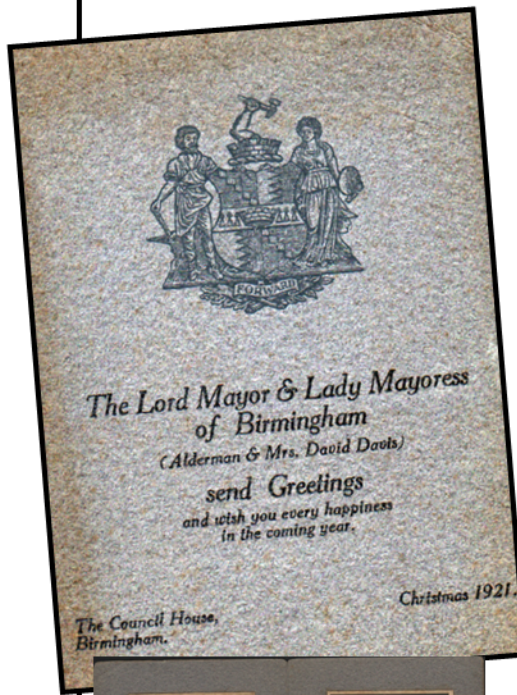


Christmas night was usually spent playing tiddlywinks or snakes and ladders, which had been given to us, second-hand. During the day we used to watch the other kids playing with their new toys, but we were happy in our own way because we knew that our mom really loved us.

Some years my sister and me were given tickets for a Christmas party at Belliss & Morcom. It was really a party for the children of the workers but they invited a number of poor children like us. I remember we were so excited that Edna, my sister and me were running and I pushed her to hurry her up. She tripped over outside the Nico factory on some of the grating, the kind that had a number of glass squares in them. She cut her herself and still has the scar today! Belliss & Morcom gave us all presents at the end of the party and there were at least 300 kids there. I had a 'Little Red Riding Hood' book, other girls had different books and the boys had Meccano.

A lady who I will never forget held another party. She was called Miss Olive Race and her party was held at Moseley Road Institute. You had to save farthings and take them along with you. She collected them and gave them to a charity. There were hundreds of kids there and we sang songs, and watched them do tap dancing for us. We were given a little present each such as tiddlywinks or a writing book. Then we had to get the tram back to town and walked back to Ladywood from there and back to reality. As the years rolled on our lives got much better and we all vouched that when we had children they would never have a life like we did, and they haven't. They have the love of a Mom and Dad".

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE LORD MAYOR 100 YEARS AGO !



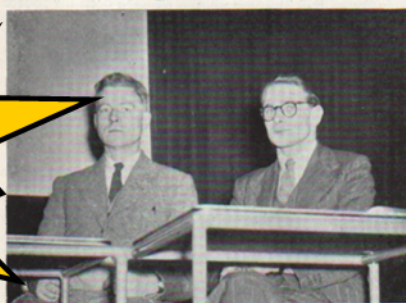
This was the Christmas card sent out by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham in 1921. It depicted the Council House complete with state of the art cars and a scene of what it looked like 'fifty years ago', that's 1861. At that time that the street was called Ann Street and Bryan's was a pastry cooks' shop. A decade later it was demolished for the construction of the Council House. Joseph Chamberlain, who was three times Mayor of Birmingham and father of Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, laid the foundation stone in June 1874. By 1879, the date of its completion, the building had cost £163,000. The building is currently closed whilst major improvements of its electrical and mechanical installations are completed.

THIS MONTH IN OUR HISTORY:

- 3 December 1895: The Birmingham Technical School opened in Suffolk Street to educate the city's industrial workforce. Many of the workforce returned there later to sign up for the First World War.
- 6 December 1964: Holloway Circus underpass was opened to outgoing traffic for the first time.
- 7 December 1951: The National Dog Show opened at Bingley Hall. An Afghan hound from Huddersfield became the first Afghan to become supreme champion.
- 9 December 1992: The final section of the Middle Ring Road opened between Icknield Street and New John Street. Highways Committee councillor, Matt Redmond, with help from Santa and children from Brookfield School, opened it.
- 11 December 1940: Birmingham suffered its longest air raid of WWII, lasting thirteen and a half hours and killing 263 people.
- 17 December 1949: Opening of BBC transmitter at Sutton Coldfield, serving a radius of sixty miles.
- 27 December 1853: Charles Dickens stepped onto the stage at Birmingham's Town Hall, settled into a large armchair and began his first ever public reading – A Christmas Carol.
- 27 December 1951: The Alliance Assurance Co on Colmore Row introduced electric shocks to beat starlings.
- 27 December 1951: Bingley Hall Big Top circus featured a 40 foot roof, 18 year old girl and her sister who 'swung by her knees from a trapeze.' Hazel was one of the Tiller Girls at the Palladium. 'At first I was terrified but I love it now' she said!
- 27 December 1951: Birmingham had its first police dog when PC J Ford went on patrol with his dog Flash.
- 29 December 1906: Benny Green scored the first goal at St Andrew's against Preston North End. Benny was rewarded for his efforts with a piano! The first match at the ground was a 0-0 draw with Middlesbrough that was played three days earlier on Boxing Day. There had been heavy snowfall overnight, and dozens of volunteers, including members of the club's board, worked all morning to clear the pitch. The game finally kicked off an hour late.

LOOKING TO
THE FUTURE
70 YEARS
AGO ...

Evening Meeting on Atomic Physics



A. R. Morcom Esq., D.Sc. (Tech.) Zurich and G. L. Munday, Esq.
B.Sc., A.Inst.P. Photo by B. W. Baker

The purpose of this evening's assembly was to introduce to our members some of the technical theory behind the modern aspects of Atomic Physics. To enable this to be done, the Gaumont-British "Atomic Physics" instructional film was shown. To bring this knowledge to the widest possible audience, tickets were made available to the technical personnel of many local firms, technical institutions, colleges, and municipal departments.

So at 7.0 p.m., 3rd December, 1952, in the Canteen Concert Hall, Mr. H. A. Whittall welcomed the assembly on behalf of the Apprentices' Association, and introduced Dr. Morcom as Chairman for the evening.

Dr. Morcom in opening the meeting remarked on the interesting nature of the subject chosen, particularly with regard to its possible future in the generating of power in large quantities. Belliss & Morcom as power plant engineers, he said, were naturally specially interested. Just as important also, were the solving of engineering problems by the radio-active properties available. Dr. Morcom hoped that, whatever the listeners' viewpoint, they would find these films of interest. To help the audience along with the film

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B & M NEWS, SPRING 1952

Belliss & Morcom was a major employer in Ladywood.

The company made steam compressors which were fitted to machinery used in buildings across the world.

They were at the forefront of industrial innovation and as such held a seminar for workers and representatives from other local companies to look at the development of atomic physics!

commentary and questions, the Apprentices' Association had been very fortunate in obtaining the services of Mr. G. L. Munday, B.Sc., A.Inst.P., a Research Physicist from the Birmingham University.

Dr. Morcom then introduced Mr. Munday, who spoke briefly of his intention to comment after each film, and answer questions while the problem were fresh in the person's mind.

The film shown, explained step by step in a clear manner, the stages by which the present conceptions of the nature of matter and of the structure of the atom have been reached. Considerable use was made of animated diagrams to illustrate conceptions on the behaviour of atoms and sub-atomic particles, which could not have been effectively shown in any other way.

The films fell naturally into five parts:

Part I. The Atomic Theory . . . which starts with the theory proposed by John Dalton in 1808, and outlines the progress of the nineteenth century, bringing in Faraday's early experiments in electrolysis, Mendeleeff's Periodic Table, and ending with ideas of the size of molecules and atoms.

Part II. Rays from Atoms. This part demonstrates how cathode rays were investigated and the electron discovered;



Audience at Atomic Physics Meeting
Photo by B. W. Baker

how positive rays were found and their nature established, and how X-rays were found and quickly put to use. The work of Sir Joseph Thomson was emphasised.

Part III. The Nuclear Structure of the Atom . . . illustrates the early work of Becquerel and the Curies on radio-activity, and showed how Lord Rutherford's work in this field led to his theory of the Nuclear Structure of the Atom.

Part IV. Atom Smashing—the Discovery of the Neutron.—In this part, the research tools of Nuclear Physics are described, and shots of the extraordinary machines used to bombard atoms are shown.

The work of the Joliot Curies, and Sir James Chadwick in the discovery of the neutron is explained. The splitting of the Lithium atom by Cockcroft and Walton in 1932 is discussed, and a speech by Professor Frisch who was closely concerned in this work. The climax was reached with the showing of scenes at the A-bomb plants in America, and the ruins of Hiroshima.

Part V. Uranium Fission—Atomic Theory.—The film finally brings in events leading up to the discovery of uranium fission. The sequence includes a speech by Professor Frisch who was closely concerned in this work. The climax was reached with the showing of scenes at the A-bomb plants in America, and the ruins of Hiroshima.



Left to Right: Messrs. A. B. Barman and W. Pemberton, Miss Holland
Messrs. J. Motterham, H. A. Whittall, A. R. Morcom, G. L. Munday
M. J. Bealing and S. J. Ralphs

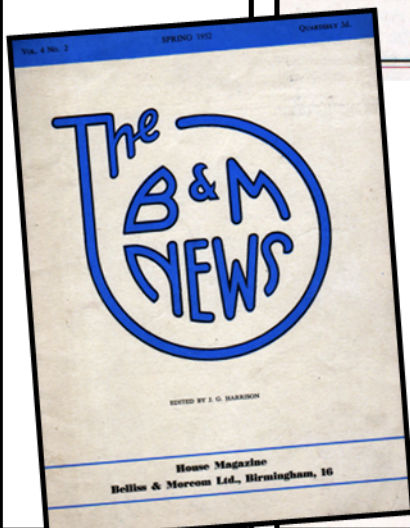
Photo by B. W. Baker

Refreshments were taken during the course of the evening, and at the completion of the films Dr. Morcom called for questions. The learned audience soon provided them, with Mr. Munday fluently giving explanations with a complete command of his subject. The meeting concluded at 10.0 p.m. with the customary acknowledgments.

Special thanks go to Dr. Morcom and Mr. Munday for the very able manner in which they conducted the evening's programme. Also thanks to the extra efforts of Messrs. Ward and Morgan, of the Economic League, in providing excellent screening and projection arrangements.

The Apprentices' Association pass on their apologies to intending visitors who were unable to obtain tickets. Plans were made to use the full seating capacity of 250. The call for tickets was overwhelming, with over 500 tickets being demanded. The great response to this show, clearly indicates the awareness of to-day's engineers to the problems of Atomic Physics.

It is our sincere hope, that engineers keep this scientific knowledge in correct perspective and will ultimately guide the practical applications into peaceful uses. Is it the beginning of a new era for engineering?—or "ill conceived application", which could mean the "beginning of the end".



Note the text refers to the event taking place on 3 December 1952, but this was a typo as it was 1951 and was featured in the Spring 1952 issue of the works magazine The B&M News

**DAME ELIZABETH
CADBURY.**

DEATH AT 93.

**"FRIEND OF ALL" IN
NORTHFIELD.**

By none will Dame Elizabeth Cadbury, whose death at the age of 93 occurred on Tuesday night, be mourned more than by the people of Northfield, to three generations of whom she had been a personal friend. After her marriage in 1888 to the late Mr. George Cadbury, son of the founder of the chocolate firm, she lived for a time at Woodbrooke, but then moved to The Manor House, Northfield, and devoted herself whole-heartedly to preserving the traditions of the "village." She took a particular interest in Tinker's Farm Secondary Modern Girls' School, to which she was a frequent visitor since it was opened, as a mixed school, in 1931—it changed to its present status in 1933. She had the art of identifying herself with whatever company she found herself in, and in speaking to the girls she invariably made them feel that she was one of themselves. She rarely missed the annual May Queen ceremony, which, to her, was a direct continuation of the May Day ceremonies in the days when the district was the "North Field" of the parish of Bromsgrove.

Her indomitable courage was revealed by her determination to distribute the Sports Day prizes at the School when, in her 82nd year, she had fractured a thigh. Indignantly refusing a suggestion that she should give the trophies in the ground-floor boys' school hall, she insisted, although the limb had not properly set, in climbing with the aid of a stick the three flights of stairs to the girls' assembly hall. She astounded the school by remarking that, as she was shortly going to Geneva, she proposed helping the leg to mend by bathing in the ice-cold waters of the lake—and, needless to say, she carried out that intention. A great believer in the efficacy of cold water, she took a cold bath daily when past four score and ten.

She always set before herself the ideal of the good neighbour, and when the Allens Cross Estate was first developed, she welcomed the parents of the girls, in a meeting at the School, as their interested neighbour. It was this, as much as anything, which converted the heterogeneous collection of families, coming into an entirely new district, into a compact and friendly neighbourhood. She and her family were actively connected with the provision of the Allens Cross Community Centre.

70 Years ago ...

ELIZABETH MARY CADBURY

June 24th, 1858 — December 4th, 1951

Elizabeth Mary (Dame Elizabeth) Cadbury died at her home, the Manor House, Northfield, on December 4th, 1951. She was in her 94th year.

Her association with Bournville began in 1888, when she married the late George Cadbury, partner with his elder brother, Richard, in the business of Cadbury Brothers, and himself the Founder of the Bournville Estate. She maintained her connection with the social side of the factory after her husband's death, but was more closely associated with the Estate. She succeeded George Cadbury as Chairman of the Bournville Village Trust after his death in 1922, and took an active personal interest in its work and in the communal life of the neighbourhood.

Elizabeth Cadbury was a friend of Tinkers Farm Girls' School in Northfield and these extracts are from the school's photo album referring to 'Our good neighbour.'

THE MANOR HOUSE,
NORTHFIELD,
BIRMINGHAM.

June, 1950.

The girls of Tinkers Farm School.

Thank you very much for your kind message of congratulation and goodwill for my birthday: I have been most touched by the thoughts and kindness of my many friends.

It was a very happy day: in the morning greetings from my family and friends, and in the afternoon a delightful time with hundreds of happy Bournville children and their parents at the annual Village Festival.

Eliz. Cadbury



Dame Elizabeth Cadbury, celebrating her 92nd birthday to-day, reads letters and telegrams of congratulation. With her are her daughters, Mrs. G. Heyland (left) and Mrs. D. Lambert, and her grand-daughter, Miss C. Lambert.

"Our good neighbour"

LADYWOOD 100

100 STORIES FROM THE LADYWOOD AREA COMMEMORATING THE WAR THAT ENDED 100 YEARS AGO

December 1917

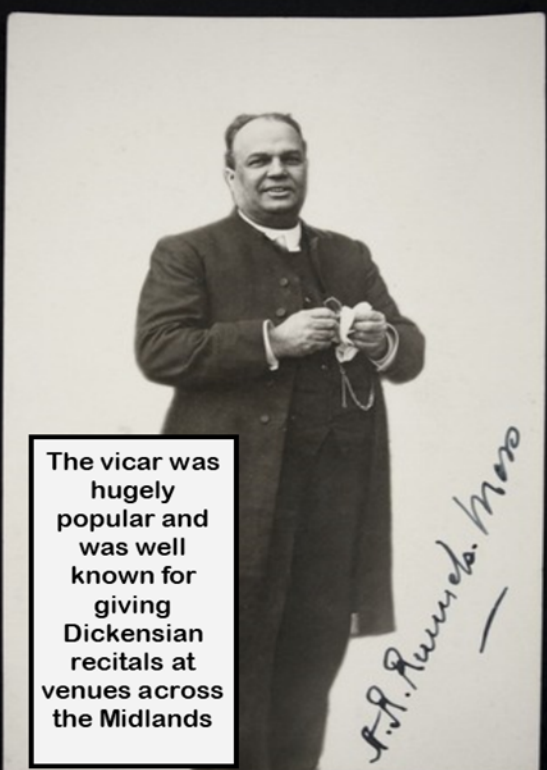
Son of the vicar of St John's Church killed in action

Cyril Gower Runnels Moss of the RFC was shot down in flames after leaving Poperinghe aerodrome near Ypres, on an Offensive Patrol over the Western Front on 5 December 1917

Cyril was the son of Arthur Runnels Moss, the vicar of St John's Church 1888-1921



2nd Lieut. Cyril Gower Vincent Runnels-Moss, Royal Flying Corps, (Machine S. P. (a. m. B/2470), missing December 5th, 1917.



The vicar was hugely popular and was well known for giving Dickensian recitals at venues across the Midlands

A. R. Runnels Moss

In Memory of
Second Lieutenant
Cyril Gower Vincent Runnels-Moss

70th Sqdn., Royal Flying Corps who died on 05 December 1917

Remembered with Honour
Arras Flying Services Memorial



The vicar also lost another son, Eric, who was a member of the Royal Field Artillery

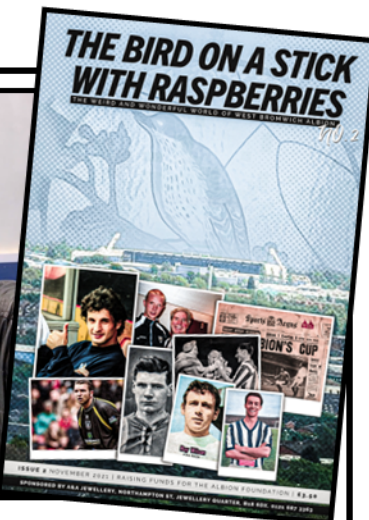
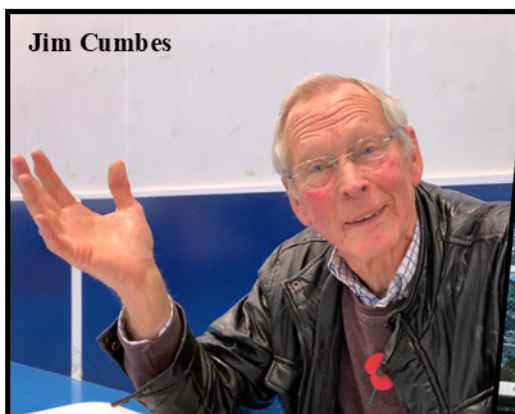
He was killed in action in July 1918





50 YEARS AGO ...

Jim Cumbes, the goalkeeper of West Bromwich Albion was transferred across the West Midlands to Aston Villa. He recalled the momentous occasion in an interview for the second issue of 'The Bird on a Stick with Raspberries'. This is a trivia/history magazine about West Bromwich Albion. Profits from the sale (£3.50) go to The Albion Foundation charity and copies are available on Ebay or from the Ladywood History Group.



JIM CUMBES WAS A MUCH-RESPECTED GOALKEEPER WITH TRANMERE ROVERS, WEST BROMWICH ALBION, ASTON VILLA AND SOUTHPORT, APPEARING IN AROUND IN 375 FOOTBALL LEAGUE GAMES OVER THIRTEEN YEARS BETWEEN 1965 AND 1978. HE ALSO PLAYED CRICKET TO HIGH STANDARD AND WAS A PRESENTER ON THE FLEDGING BBC RADIO BIRMINGHAM.

A moment in his footballing career, 50 years ago – in November 1971, made him one of the most talked players in West Midlands football in that era, for he moved from First Division West Bromwich Albion to local rivals Aston Villa, who were at that time in the Third Division.

Jim Cumbes was signed by Albion's FA Cup winning manager, Alan Ashman in August 1969 and established a between the sticks footballing rivalry with the man who would become a lifelong friend, John Osborne.

Early in the 1971 -1972 season local rivals Aston Villa who were on the lookout for a new goalkeeper at the time, as the present custodian, Tommy Hughes, was having a sticky patch, made an official approach to the Albion board in an attempt to get Jim to sign on at Villa Park.

Baggies' boss Don Howe told Jim that although he didn't want him to go, explaining he thought he still had a future at The Hawthorns, he felt obliged to let him know of Villa's approach.

Jim says he was not particularly keen to leave West Bromwich Albion, however, thought there would be no harm in talking to Villa and in the end, they persuaded him to sign on at Villa Park for a fee of around £35,000.

He recalls: 'They were in the Third Division in those days but, were desperate to get back into the topflight. They were struggling a bit, but they were determined to get up.'



'They came to see me on a Wednesday, and I signed on the Thursday - you had to sign before three o'clock on a Thursday in order to play on the Saturday.'

That Saturday, 27 November 1971, 27-year-old Jim made his debut for Vic Crowe's side, it was a memorable match because he kept a clean sheet and they beat Oldham Athletic 6-0 at Boundary Park. It was the Witton based team's biggest away victory since January 1932 - 12 years before Jim was born!

Over the years Jim returned on occasions to the Hawthorns to play for Villa against Albion and

kept a good relationship with West Brom fans, and still to this day attends Albion related events through the much-respected Former Players' Association and recently attended a book signing for Simon Wright's book 'Is This The New One.'

Jim notes: 'It's a funny thing because I was told when I moved that I would get a rough time when I went back but the fans were fabulous with me and they applauded me into goal! I was amazed really because I was expecting a real load of flak and it didn't happen. I think I was expecting to get some hostility as there weren't many people that moved between the two clubs - certainly not in those days. I have some marvellous memories of playing for both teams.'

Jim certainly took his chances at both West Bromwich Albion and Aston Villa and remains a well-known name in the history of both clubs.