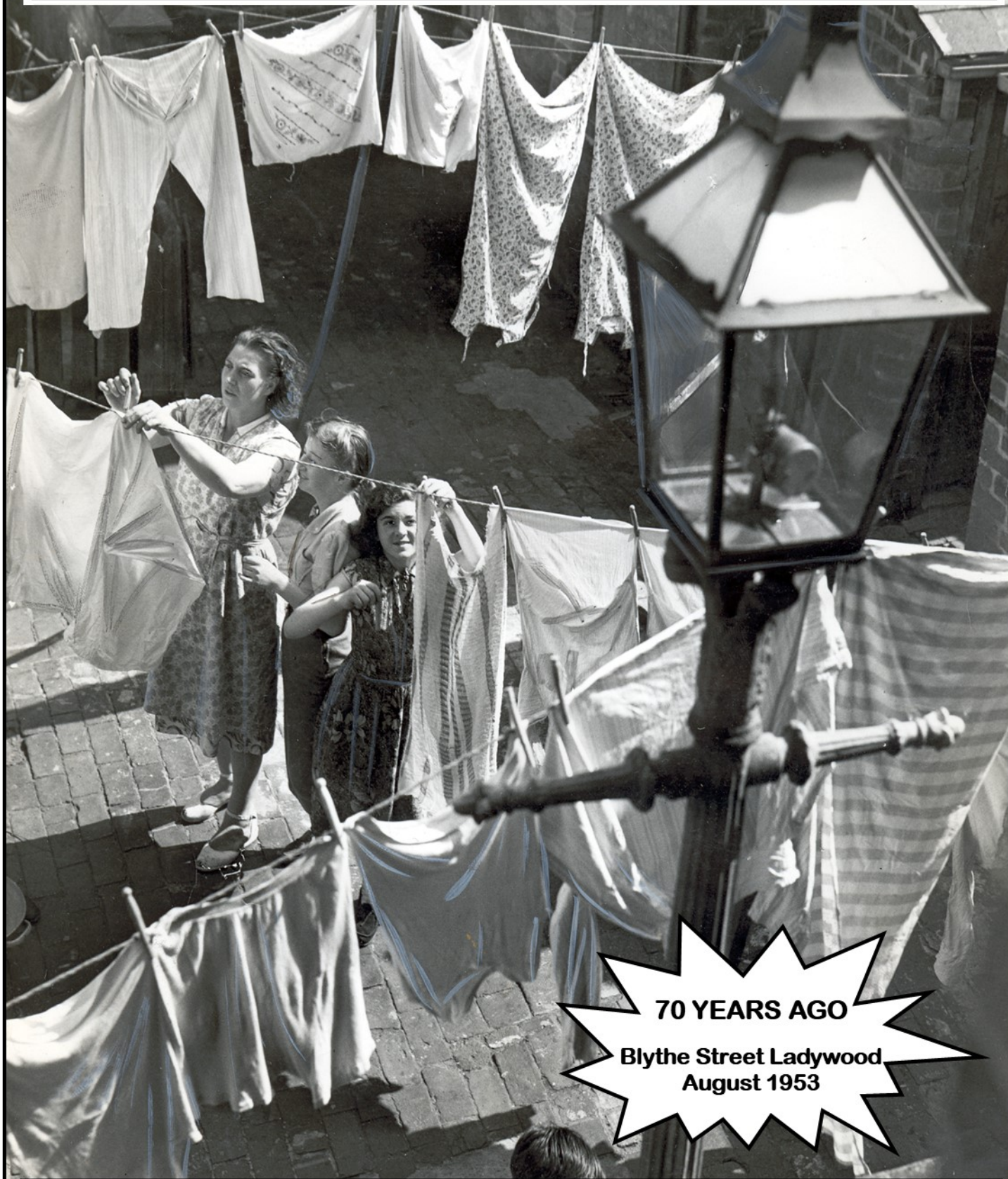


THE BREW 'US BUGLE & BIRMINGHAM HERITAGE HERALD

BRINGING YOUR PAST UPTO DATE Issue 57 August 2023

LADYWOOD
HISTORY
GROUP



70 YEARS AGO

Blythe Street Ladywood
August 1953

LADYWOOD HISTORY GROUP brewusbugle@hotmail.co.uk

WELCOME

Welcome to issue 57 of The Brew 'Us Bugle, the long running magazine of The Ladywood History Group, which was first produced in 2001.

Any new reader may be unfamiliar with the term Brew 'us, or brew house. A brew house was the name given to the building in the backyards and courtyards of the old Victorian and early Edwardian houses which once were a feature of the streets of Ladywood. It was in these buildings the women (always women in those days) did the washing and stopped for a chat with neighbours. News and information was exchanged there. From time to time the men folk used the buildings to brew their own beer. The title reflects these historic structures, and although we can't provide the beer, we can supply the news and information!

Normally we would encourage readers to call into Spring Hill Library to see our extensive collection of photographs and memorabilia of things 'Made in Ladywood', but unfortunately the library is currently closed due to long term heating issues. We hope to have an up date on the situation in the next issue.

In the meantime if you have any old photos or memorabilia that you would to share with us you can pop into the Prince of Wales pub on Cambridge Street behind the ICC and leave a message with Jo, the landlady and, of course, have a drink in the process!

You may like to know we run a fortnightly General Knowledge quiz in the pub with a percentage of the proceeds going to the Ladywood History Group. Next quizzes: Tuesday 12th and 26th September. See you there?

Recent issues of this magazine plus video stories about Ladywood and Birmingham in general can be seen on our website www.tntnews.co.uk. Why not log on and have a look!

Norman Bartlam magazine editor and Albert Trapp chairman Ladywood History Group August 2023

Contact us: Email: brewusbugle@hotmail.co.uk Norman Bartlam on facebook @ladywoodnorm on twitter
Website: Our website is run in conjunction with TNT News www.tntnews.co.uk

PUB SHOWS IT IS KEEN TO PROMOTE THE LOCAL HISTORY OF THE AREA

The Prince of Wales received two new photos recently and already both have taken pride of place in the pub. The first depicted former landlady Nancy, with a group of drinkers, including cricketer Bob Willis. They helped save the pub from demolition during the years that the ICC was being planned. I wonder if the planners concerned with drawing up the demolition visit the pub for a pint? Nancy's daughter Jill is pictured at the pub with the photo at a reunion of former customers which was held back in April.

The second photograph shows a large aerial view of the ICC area during construction. It was presented to the Ladywood History Group by Pat and John Sever. Pat was councillor in charge of the ICC project at that time and was always keen to involve local residents and schools in ICC related activities. John was MP for Ladywood 1977 - 1983. It was great to meet up with them again and thanks for the photograph.



LADYWOOD
HISTORY
GROUP



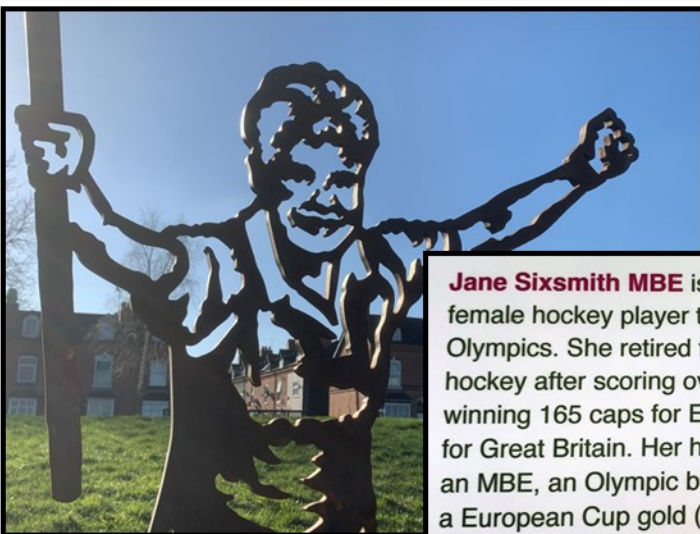
OSLER STREET SCULPTURES

Thanks to funding from the Department for Transport, and Sustrans, a number of steel figures have been installed across some of the country's most popular cycle paths in recognition of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee year.

The latest installations have appeared in the Osler Street playground in Ladywood, featuring Lenny Henry, Ellie Simmonds and Jane Sixsmith, names apparently chosen by local residents. (although no one we spoke to knew anything about it until the sculptures appeared) but at least they add a bit of interest to the landscape!



Ellie Simmonds OBE is a British former Paralympian swimmer. She competed in the 2008 Summer Paralympics in Beijing at the age of 13, winning two gold medals. Ellie won further gold medals in the 2012 and 2016 games, setting a world record in the 400m freestyle in London and a 200m medley world record in Rio.



Jane Sixsmith MBE is the first British female hockey player to compete in four Olympics. She retired from international hockey after scoring over 100 goals and winning 165 caps for England and 158 for Great Britain. Her honours include an MBE, an Olympic bronze (1992), a European Cup gold (1991) and a Commonwealth silver medal (1998).



Sir Lenny Henry CBE is an actor, comedian, singer, presenter and writer from Dudley. He has received popular and critical admiration for comedic and dramatic roles on both stage and screen. In 1985 he co-founded the charity Comic Relief and in 2015 was knighted for services to drama and charity.



Daredevil John Gale fixes the plaque

RUM RUNNER HONOURED

The latest blue plaque by the Civic Society has been erected on Broad Street. It is located on the walkway near the Soloman Cutler on Broad Street, the location of the former Rum Runner Club, home of the group Duran Duran.



This row of buildings included the following:

- 1 The former B.B.C. studios which later became offices and a car showroom & garage.
- 2 Lieno's. This was a furniture centre.
- 3 The Royal Navy Careers Centre.
- 4 The Rum Runner.

THE RUM RUNNER. This was a nightclub where the singing group Duran Duran were discovered. The club was their fan club headquarters in the mid 1970's.

INTERNATIONAL DURAN DURAN CLUB

273 BROAD STREET, BIRMINGHAM B1 2DS, ENGLAND



31 AUGUST, 1943.

st month:

Here is a group of British prisoners at Stalag VIII B E.250, Germany. Second from the right (front row) is Gunner Alexander Duthie. His wife, who lives at 33, Springhill-passage, Ladywood, Birmingham, thinks other Midland lads may be in the photograph.



THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

August of 80 years ago

Spring Hill man, Alexander Duthie, was pictured in the local press.

He was a prisoner of war in Germany.

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THE BREW 'US BUGLE & BIRMINGHAM HERITAGE HERALD

Issue 57 July 2023 Regeneration Supplement

LADYWOOD
HISTORY
GROUP



How previous regeneration plans changed Ladywood



Mmm, where is this taking us?

Local councillors urge residents to voice their opinions to developers as a Central Ladywood Regeneration programme is drawn up. It's a serious issue, your home and your community could be changed even more dramatically than in the schemes of the 1960s and 1990s.

THE CHANGING FACE OF LADYWOOD

A huge consultation project is about to get underway to determine the future shape of the central area of Ladywood. The community is constantly changing and for many older residents this latest regeneration will be the third major upheaval that they will have been involved in. During the early 1960s residents were told what was going to happen, in the changes of the 1990s residents were actively involved in drawing up the plans.

Now, the City Council has chosen St Joseph Homes Ltd, part of The Berkeley Group Plc, who are said to be one of the country's leading housing, and mixed-use developers, to be its development partner for what will be a £2.2bn regeneration of 60 hectares Ladywood, which could take up to twenty years to complete.

Council tenants, social housing occupiers and home owners are being invited to come forward to form a steering group to help influence the plans.

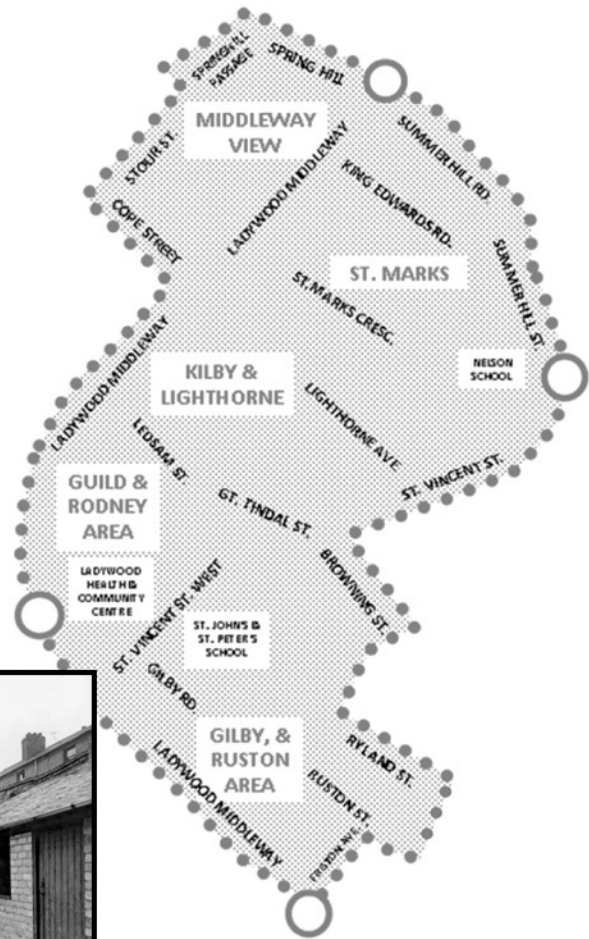
Here is a reminder about the CLR principles and objectives

Create a family-focused Central Ladywood set within a high-quality environment, connected by a well-designed network of streets and public spaces and supported by local amenities and facilities.

We aim:

- To secure high quality, sustainable new homes as part of a well-designed neighbourhood;
- To provide a safe and attractive network of connected public open spaces and pedestrian routes;
- To create a new local centre with facilities and amenities to serve the local community;
- To enable the enhancement of the canal through improved access and greater levels of utility and interface with development;
- To create improved connections across the Middleway including boulevarding;
- To create a complementary mix of commercial and other uses to support a vibrant, active neighbourhood;
- For new, high quality social housing;
- Ensure that the existing community is retained and involved in the development of the new neighbourhood.

This is an extract from a letter sent to all homes in the new regeneration area



By the early 1960s much of Ladywood was a mass of back-to-back terraced houses. Many were built close to factories.



Ruston Street 1961



Part of the St Mark's area c.1960 and 1995



Post war plans, generally drawn up with little consultation, saw the inner city redevelopment plan which separated housing and residential areas and introduced public open space.

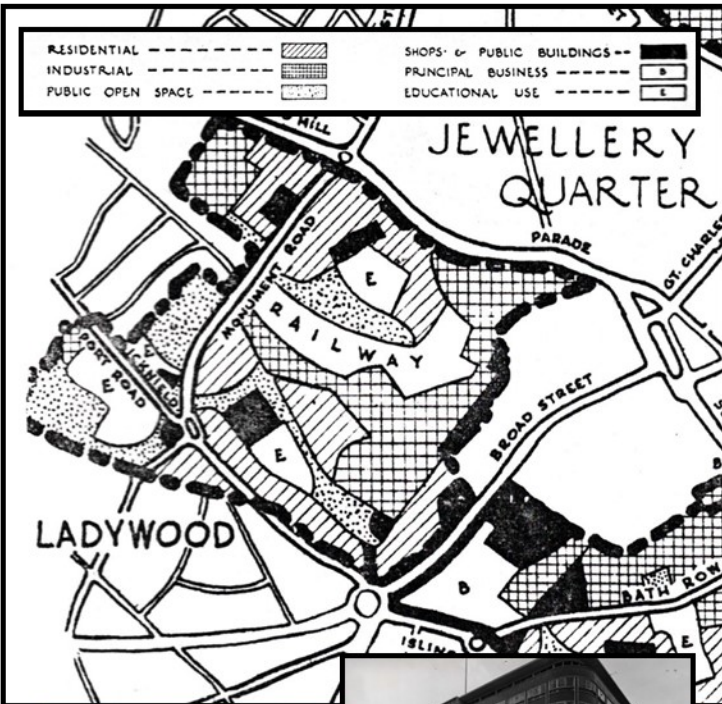
Progress on redevelopment was often slow and frustrated residents took to the streets to complain about housing and environmental conditions.

Often better housing was demolished first and residents were left in older dwellings which rapidly deteriorated, leading to local vicar, Canon Norman Power to call the community 'The Forgotten People.'

The new houses included indoor toilets and bathrooms. Outside loos and tin baths were confined to history. Spot the bath in the picture on the front page!

The community of Ladywood disintegrated as many thousands of people were moved out and the plans resulted in a much lower population density.

Many of the residents who stayed, and newcomers, were housed in flats for the first time. Many of the blocks of flats were named after cathedral cities, suggesting they were the 'new cathedrals of the skies' and a nice place to live. At first they were but they did little for community cohesion and the quality of the buildings deteriorated and flats were soon generally disliked.



Bush House, the city's Housing Dept on Broad Street was a busy place in the 1960s and 1970s!



Landscaping plan for Ladywood
Birmingham Post Reporter



Evening Mail and DESPATCH
Readers' letters
The stories that should shock our conscience



LADYWOOD REDEVELOPMENT AREA. The old street pattern has been obliterated to provide for an open layout of big tower blocks set in open spaces. Clearance began in April 1953 and construction in March 1954. Eventual population is estimated at 12,500, half the 1945 figure. It is difficult to say as yet how successful it will be. At present it looks bleak and draughty.

Suggestions from the workshop

New housing and improved open space - possible planning gain from Ledsam St. redevelopments

Continuing improvements to maisonettes

Improved crossing of Middleway

Priority Improvements to tower blocks - repairs, community room, defensible space

Continuing improvements to maisonettes

Drying rooms converted to community use

Improved crossing of Middleway

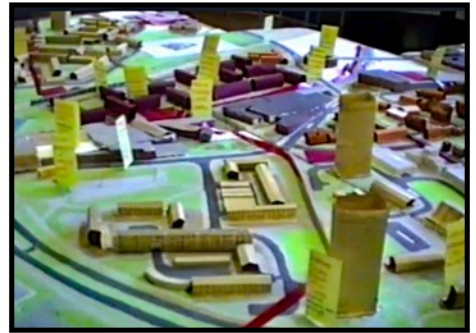
Redevelopment of industrial area - mixed uses with housing on Ledsam St.

Spine route improvements - paving, planting, lighting

Priority improvements to tower blocks - repairs, community rooms, defensible space

Environmental improvements to shopping centre - paving, seats,

THE EARLY 1990s REGENERATION FRAMEWORK



This was a residents' led initiative aimed at putting right the mistakes of the past and protecting Ladywood as a residential area with affordable rented housing.

A huge model of Ladywood was produced and people were invited to write down their suggestions for improvement. This resulted detailed plans being drawn up each area.

These pictures give an indication of the improvements made based on residents' suggestions.

LADYWOOD REGENERATION FRAMEWORK

PLANNING FOR REAL



Pitched roofs were added to blocks such as these on Springfield Street



Improvements to the heating, security and garages on Kilby/Lighthorne



The Gilby Road estate saw the removal of maisonettes (left) which were replaced with homes to rent from a social landlord (right).

As Ladywood gears up for a 21st century redevelopment the opportunity is there for residents to participate via a steering group, by attending various meetings or email:

LadywoodRegeneration@birmingham.gov.uk

Ask questions and give your opinions. It's your future!



**WE'RE
ALL
GOING
ON A
SUMMER
HOLIDAY**



LADYWOOD GOES ON HOLIDAY

**All aboard for a coach trip
from New Spring Street.
(Gloria McCormack collection)**

**Where to go when on holiday?
Why, the pub of course!
Regulars from The Crown pub
Cope Street in Blackpool**

**Gertie Grice of Coplow Street
with daughters Josie (8) and
Jean at Golden Sands Rhyll
in 1953**

LETTERS

This was once called the Letters Column, but given the ludicrous price of postage and the advent of modern technology it should possibly be called 'The Letters, emails, twitter, facebook and messenger column'!

Hi,
Hope I've got the right person. I live in Shetland but originally hale from Birmingham. My father was born in the Shakespearean Bar in Cregoe Street that my Grandfather's family ran from 1908 to 1915.
I was hoping to get access to a photograph I have seen of it and was wondering if you could help me.
Clearly if a cost is incurred I'm good with that. My apologies if I'm in the wrong place.
Yours, John.

John Spencer via Facebook messenger

Norman writes:

Thanks for your message and yes, there is a great photo of the pub, although not from 1915, I dare say the exterior had not changed much over the years. It was knocked down many years ago, probably in the mid 1960s. This is the junction of Cregoe Street and Great Colmore Street, Lee Bank.

The other photographs show a typical terrace on Great Colmore Street from 1904 roughly at the time your grandfather lived in the area and, although it is isn't very clear, this was the street during the winter of 1916 with a number of horses pulling a snow plough!



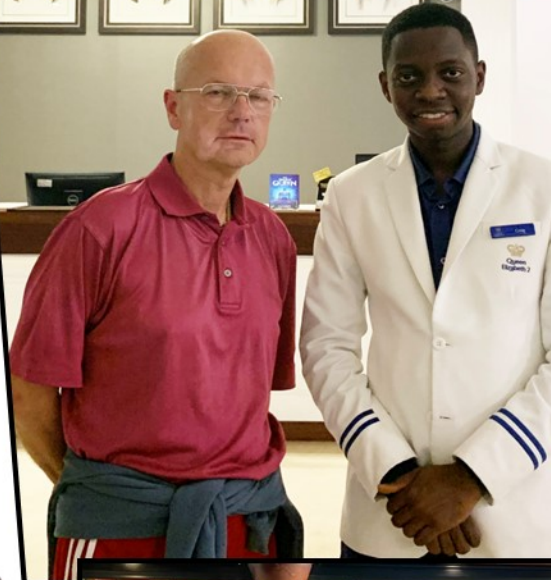


**A BIT OF BRUM
ON THE QE2!**

During last years World Cup a bit of Birmingham's history was revealed on the ocean liner QE2!

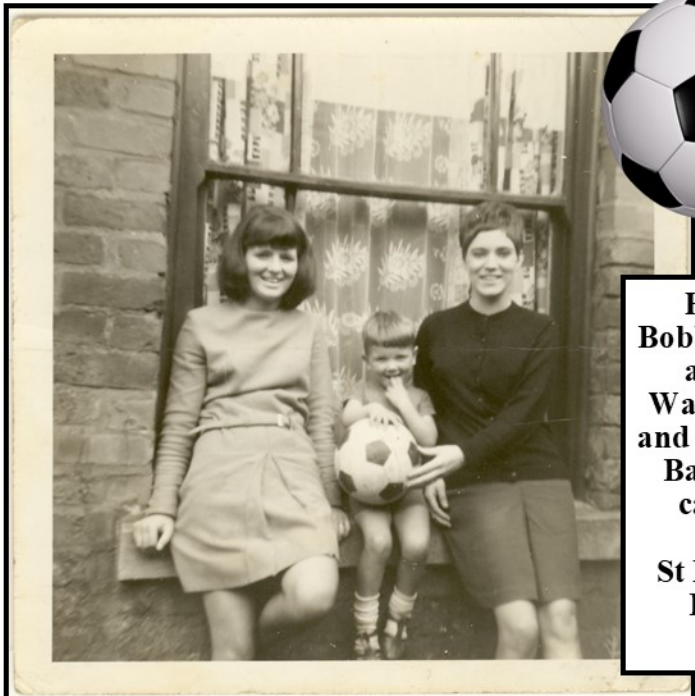
The vessel is now permanently moored up in Dubai as a hotel and tourist attraction.

I met up with the liner's immaculately dressed Heritage Officer, Craig, for a tour, and with the help of a few messages on twitter discovered more about a set of lanterns which bore the name William Harvie Birmingham, then celebrated the find with fellow tourists in the ship's bar!

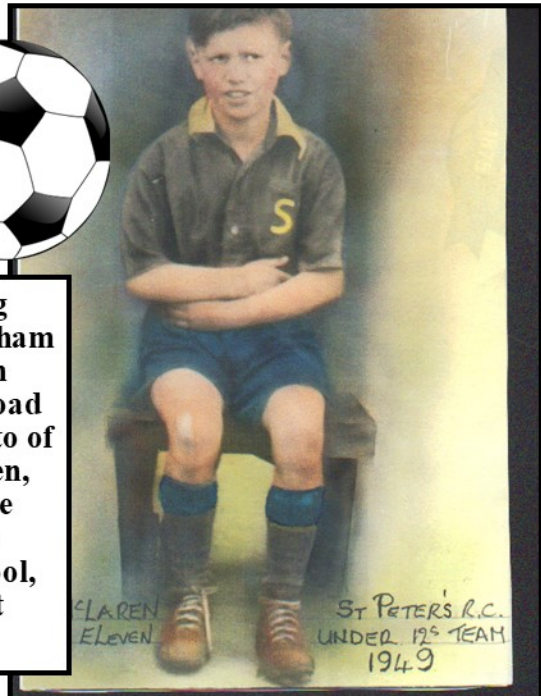




THE FOOTBALL SEASON IS BACK!!



Here's young Bobby Cunningham and family in Waterworks Road and a great photo of Barry McLaren, captain of the u-12 side at St Peter's School, Broad Street in 1949



CLAREN E LEVEN
ST PETERS R.C. UNDER 12'S TEAM 1949



LADYWOOD SCHOOL FC
E Whitehouse, Micky Burns, Tony Mooney, Denis Gregory, Tony Bryant, Chris Gauril, Tony Clark, Lionel Tweed. David Brown, Patrick Gordon, Loyd Clark, Mark Hancock. Ricky Codling, Peter Harrison