

THE BREW 'US BUGLE & BIRMINGHAM HERITAGE HERALD

BRINGING THE PAST UP TO DATE Issue 59 February 2024

LADYWOOD HISTORY GROUP



BRMB RADIO BEGAN 50 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

BRMB Radio was the UK's fourth independent local radio station (after LBC, Capital Radio and Radio Clyde) and it began broadcasting from a studio in Aston – the former ATV studios- on 19 February 1974.

The name BRMB was not an acronym, but simply a collection of letters from the words Birmingham and Broadcasting.

The first voice heard was that of newsreader Brian Sheppard and the first programme presenter on air was TV announcer Kevin Morrison. His first record was 'Feelin' Groovy'.

Many of the presenters in the pictures below became household names, most notably Tony Butler and Ed Doolan. In later years Les Ross, Tom Ross, Jeremy Kyle and Nicky Steele were equally well known. Les still broadcasts today on Boom Radio!

The government changed the rules of governance of the independent local radio stations and today most are neither independent nor local in the original sense. After 38 years BRMB was re-branded and is today known as Free Radio Birmingham.



Switch on to
261
on Feb 19

Your independent local radio station for music, news and information. 261m Medium Wave and 94.8 MHz VHF-Stereo

The sound way to spend your day.

Tony Butler is credited with introducing the football phone-in and his presentation style became the stuff of legend.

'Get your prayer mats out'
'Hail Atkinson'
'On yer Bike'

FOR THE BEST IN SPORTS NEWS!
LISTEN TO **Tony Butler**

.6-15pm Mon-Fri
2-7pm Saturday

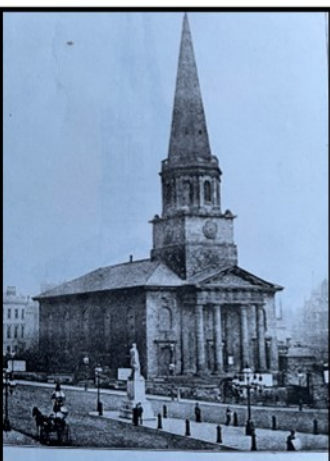
261 Medium Wave 94.8 VHF Stereo



24hr RADIO
sounds Friendly!



New Street



**‘Knock, knock.
What’s there?’**

**‘Parts of a city
centre church
demolished in
1899.’**

‘Eh?’



Galloways Corner replaced the church. That area then became an area of open grassland until 1990.

Christ Church, which stood on Victoria Square was demolished in 1899, but even today parts of its structure are being found. Bugle reader Simon Cox has sent pictures of four knobs from the front door of the church which are fixed to a piece of wood from the floorboards of the church! The remarkable find comes from the collection of relative Adrian Fox who in 1986 wrote that the proceeds of the sale of the church were used to fund the building of St Agatha’s Church in Sparkbrook. The door furniture and shield were later found at a house in Washwood Heath and reassembled as they look in the photograph.



ORIGINAL WRITING UNDER THIS TRANSCRIPTION

These 4 Knobs, Rose & Escuchson are from the front Door of "Christ Church" Birmingham which until 1899 stood at the top of New St built in 1803 & 1813 till 1899 Purchased 24 Jan^y 99 (See "Old & New Birmingham" pp. 295, 299, 306. "Birmingham Faces & places" Vol. VI. p.19.) The Oak on which the same is mounted is part of one of the Church floor boards. J.W.C. Jan^y /06



Photographs from Simon Cox

HELLO AND WELCOME ...

Welcome to issue 59 of The Brew Us Bugle and the second of our new monthly format. Thanks for the feedback from those who commented that the new format makes the magazine more newsy and helps us bring the past up to date as we celebrate the rich history of Ladywood, and Birmingham in general, through the pages of this publication.

Sadly, our postal base, and home of our extensive memorabilia and photo collection, is still out of bounds at the moment as the city council continues to be unable or unwilling to repair the heating system at Spring Hill Library which has now been closed for over a year.

You can meet us to share your Ladywood memories at the excellent The Prince of Wales' pub behind Symphony Hall. We hold fortnightly fund raising quizzes there. The next quizzes are Tuesday 27 February 2024 and 12 March 2024. 7.30pm. See you there.

We have two items of sad news to report in that two people associated with our group died recently.



Angela Grant was the face and voice of local history at Spring Hill Library and for many years was a popular member of staff who al-

ways had a friendly greeting for all visitors.

Vicky Jones nee Timms, who was born in Clark Street, was a much loved friend of the Coffin Works Museum and was a leading member of the Smethwick Heritage Centre.



We send our condolences to the families of both ladies, they will be much missed.

Albert Trapp Ladywood History Group chairman
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Drop off letters/memorabilia etc via Jo at The Prince of Wales pub on

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY: FEBRUARY IN DAYS GONE BY

A real blast from the past!

20 YEARS AGO



There was a lot of TNT in the air when Flint Tower, a block of flats on Icknield Port Road at Dudley Road, was demolished in February 2004. The block contained 38 one-bedroom and 38 two-bedroom properties. This is now the site of Summerfield Police Station. The photo shows the block and the Davenports owned Bricklayers' Arms pub in 1973. Scan this QR code to watch the TNT News report of the demolition of the block.

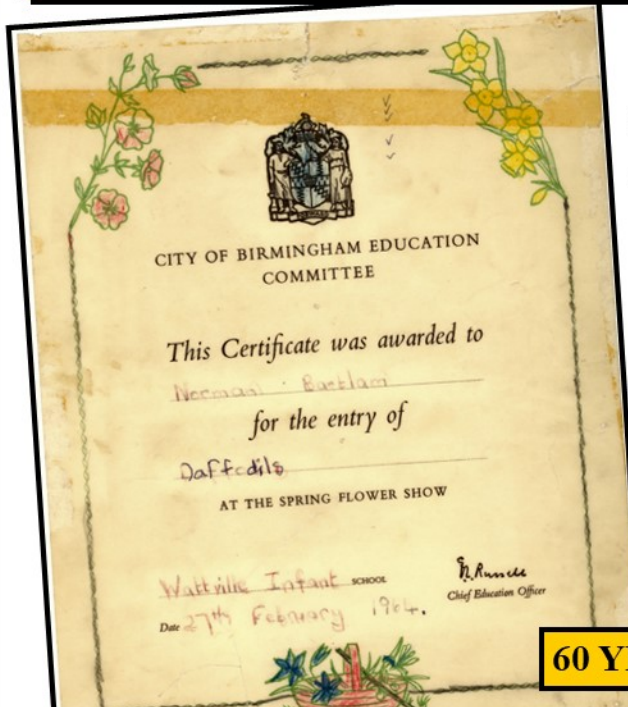
FEMALE WALKING COMPETITION.

To the Editor of the DAILY POST.

Sir,—A so-called walking competition for females in Bingley Hall has been advertised. As the advertisement was withdrawn for two or three days, it was hoped that the performance was abandoned. Renewed public notification, however, with the hints that some women of recent notoriety would take part, suggests the desirability of a peremptory prohibition of the proposed disgraceful exhibition of "lovely woman" being put a stop to. Have the proprietors of Bingley Hall no sense of the impropriety of such an exhibition?

Your obedient servant,
ALLAN GRANGER.

140 YEARS AGO in February 1884



This certificate for growing daffodils was awarded to Norman Bartlam at Wattville Road Infant School, Handsworth.

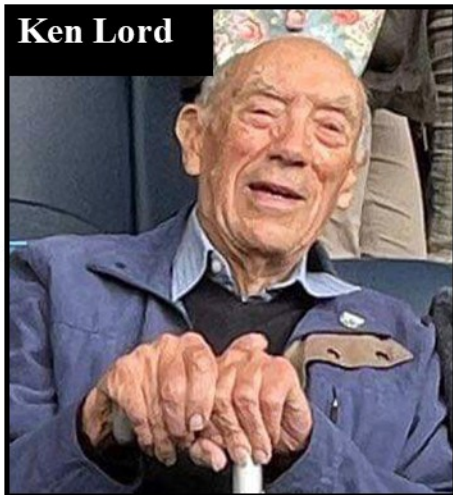
It was presented in the week of his sixth birthday, in February 1964.

Send us your certificates from days gone by.

60 YEARS AGO

70 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH: 61,000 FANS SAW ALBION IN 5th ROUND F A CUP BATTLE

West Bromwich Albion fan Ken Lord has been watching his team for 80 years and is currently writing his story for a book to be published later this year.



**The Hawthorns
February 1954
Ken Lord is in there...**

Here he recalls the best game he ever witnessed at The Hawthorns. It was a dramatic FA Cup tie in February 1954 when Albion beat Newcastle United before going on to win the FA Cup at Wembley.

Albion spent the first three post war years in Division 2 and then promotion came meaning we played in Division 1 from the 1949-1950 season. That sowed the seeds for the 1954 team which won the FA Cup and nearly won the League under Vic Buckingham.

Vic Buckingham brought a new type of football, and he realised that the players he'd got under his wing would suit his style of football. It was a close passing style with the ball on the ground affair. Now and again there was a long ball but that was it. His was a system which Tottenham played – possession football. Albion had a good defence and a forward line that was scoring goals for fun. He got them playing beautiful football, they took the game by storm that season.

At one stage in the season one of the sports writers got carried away about the way Albion were playing and he suggested to the England manager that he should just pick the whole team for England. But he couldn't do that because we'd got an Irishman and Scotsman in it! Jimmy Dudley was a Scotsman and Paddy Ryan was an Irishman,

In the early rounds of the FA Cup Albion beat Chelsea, Rotherham, Newcastle, and Tottenham. Then we beat Port Vale in semi-final before going to win the final against Preston North End.

In 1954 I was doing my National Service so could not get to many games. I did, however, get to the 5th round tie against Newcastle United, and what a game it was! It was the game when Ronnie Allen got a hat trick in a 3-2 win. It was probably the best game I've ever seen at the Albion, it had everything that a cup tie should have, both teams attacking, playing brilliant football, with beautiful goals. And your heart was in your mouth until a few minutes before the end.

The best goal was when George Lee took a corner and Allen was standing on the edge of the penalty area and as the ball came over, he caught it on the volley, and it went right into the top corner. The crowd went mad! It was a beautiful goal to give Albion a 3-1 lead.

Albion went 3-2 up and Newcastle, were attacking and never let Albion out of our half in the last ten minutes. Even the goalkeeper came down to the corner like they do these days. I kept thinking there's now only five minutes to go. It was the longest five minutes of my life but some good defending kept them out and that was it.

There was a huge attendance of 61,000. That was the biggest crowd I have been in at the Albion ground. How they got that many in I'll never know. We were like sardines, luckily as I was in the Brummie Road End I had a good view. Every time something happened you got squeezed in because everybody was against a crash barrier. I got in front of one so thought I would be safe, and of course I was, even though it was a crush and sometimes I was wondering whether one of them would collapse.

I survived and so did the Albion and we went on to win the cup at Wembley.

