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THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY

Birmingham & West Midlands Group

Spring 2009

The national society responsible for the study and protection of Victorian and Edwardian architecture and other arts.





Chairman's Message



▲ Stephen Hartland - Chairman

I am delighted and honoured to have been elected as Chairman in succession to Barbara's Shackley excellent eight-year tenure. I think we have a very strong Regional Group and the feast of interesting events and talks that Nina Hatch and the Programme Committee continue to arrange for us is testament to this.

Education is one of the main thrusts of The Victorian Society, but campaigning for the protection of our Victorian and Edwardian environment is surely our most important activity in pursuit of our statutory duty.

The labours of the Casework Committee under the Chairmanship of Joe Holyoak and with the wise counsel and hard work of our Architectural Adviser, Tim Bridges, is to be applauded. We have our successes and, of course, we have our failures.

One of the many challenges that all societies and similar organisations face these days is attracting new members. I am very pleased to see the number of new members on page 10 and I bid them a warm welcome.

However, membership is something that I think we need to increase our focus on. Members are the life blood of a group and we need to maintain them and increase their numbers.

So please, wherever you can, encourage your friends, relatives and associates to join the Society. Gift membership is one of the many ways of doing this, as many people join after considering it for some time, but haven't quite got around to it. I hope that during my chairmanship we will see our regional group increase

and I will make every effort to make it so.

Turning to current matters, the news that Birmingham City Council has decided to abandon the enforcement of planning regulations through the recent removal of an article 4.2 direction in the Ideal Village Conservation Area is highly disappointing.

This direction under the Planning Act was made to prevent inappropriate alterations to properties in the area, particularly the introduction of new doors, windows, roofs, driveways and garden boundaries in unsympathetic materials.

The Ideal Village in Bordesley Green, which lies just 1½ miles to the east of the city centre, was built by the Ideal Benefit Society, which was founded as a mutual self-help group in 1893.

Following their success at Rowntree garden village at New Earswick, near York, architects Barry Parker and Raymond Unwin were instructed to design a landscaped garden village and it was built over an 18 year period between 1905 and 1923 (the Great War having stopped work between 1914-18).

The design of the houses varies across the village, but it is nicely punctuated with gables and



spires, particularly on street corners all of which combine(d) to make a very attractive street scene, complemented by tree-lined streets and gardens enclosed by low stone walls and privet hedges. All very worthy of maintenance – or at least that is how it was, when it was designated a Conservation Area in 1990, with the support of local residents.

Since its designation as a Conservation Area the Council have apparently done little to enforce planning regulations in the Ideal Village. Period windows have been replaced by many and varied forms of incongruous UPVC windows and attractive low stone walls and privet hedges have given way to inappropriate high brick walls with railings and gates, all

of which have seriously detracted from the character of the Conservation Area.

It is highly unfortunate that the City Council has failed from the outset to produce a character appraisal for this area, and to enforce planning rules, despite attempting to implement the article 4.2 direction as planning policy since 1996.

▼ *Ideal Village - House with original windows and door intact*





Enhancing the character of homes in a conservation area in accordance with an article 4.2 direction has strong economic credentials and attracts a premium, so it is a pity that this aspect of heritage conservation could not have been more fully explained to residents, rather than allowing them to see the restrictions in a negative light, as it seems the article 4.2 direction was unpopular in the area since it was first approved by the City Council.



▲ Ideal Village - Traditional and modern starkly contrasted.

Of course, it may be argued that the City Council through the staff of Planning & Conservation should have in any case ensured that the restrictions were adhered to in the Ideal Village conservation area from the start. It is now therefore even more important to ensure that similar directions in other conservation areas across our region are not removed or eroded in this way. Councils in Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Dudley are all actively designating conservation areas, which include many significant listed and unlisted Victorian and Edwardian buildings. The appropriate measures should not only be put in place, but actively enforced, to ensure that alterations and



▲ Ideal Village - Oh dear! Incongruous uPVC replacement windows which fight with each other for dominance.

new development fulfil the expectations of the Guidance to the Planning Act (known as PPG 15) that they should “preserve

and enhance the character of the conservation area.”

Designation of a Conservation Area should safeguard its character for the future, but it seems that The Victorian Society has to be as vigilant as ever in lobbying for proper application of regulations by those who have a statutory responsibility to enforce them. ■

Stephen Hartland



Our Front Cover shows the venue (55 Colmore Row, Birmingham) for our Book Launch Symposium on 26th September.

By kind permission of Wragge & Co, the Birmingham & West Midlands Group has been granted the use of the Banking Hall at Wragge & Co for our Book Launch Symposium on Saturday 26th September 2009.

The Banking Hall, which is not open to the public, is a riot of classical ornamental plasterwork and a magnificent venue for the launch of our long-awaited book. If you have not yet booked your place, we strongly urge you to do so, as numbers are limited.



The Group Annual General Meeting

On 12th February 2009, Barbara Shackley delivered her eighth and last Chairman's Report, and soon after she stood down as Chairman.

Barbara commented how she felt that the years had passed very quickly and that she had very much enjoyed the chance to contribute something to the Society.

It is not appropriate to restate Barbara's entire report here, but there are some salient points that Barbara thought worthy of highlighting which follow in abbreviated form.

How much of Birmingham Conservation Department's aims have been achieved? They were outlined in the 1987 document "*Conservation in the Environment, A Strategy for Birmingham*".

The document stated that its aims were:

- To protect and improve the historical and architectural environment and ensure that buildings of quality are maintained.
- It is the duty of each generation to act as custodian for the next generation and so develop a critical awareness to recognise not only buildings of obvious value but others which may be overlooked.

- Create an opportunity to raise the knowledge of architectural history by talks, books and visits.
- The conservation of Birmingham's historic features can have considerable economic benefits by attracting tourism and visitors.

This was very positive and encouraging from The Victorian Society's viewpoint. However, in a subsequent document of 1999 it was suggested that although there was now a stronger legal and policy framework to protect the historic environment, the financial resources of the City and English Heritage to fund conservation had been significantly reduced. It was suggested that there was now a need to look at partnerships between the public, private and voluntary sectors to fund regeneration.

So what has happened since then? To us it has seemed that the City's commitment to conservation has been diluted. The Conservation Area Advisory Committee has been reduced to a Conservation Heritage Panel with fewer opportunities to discuss planning proposals. There has been a dearth of new Conservation Areas, although we know that a list of suggested ones has been gathering dust in a cupboard for years. We have been dismayed at the proposal to have continuous television transmission in Victoria Square which we think is inappropriate and tasteless. The proposal, (won by one vote only), to replace the National Westminster bank in Colmore Row with an enormous tower is disappointing. This proposal will destroy much of the character of the Victorian Civic Centre that provides such a high-quality environment to the city centre.

Why has this change of policy happened? It is possibly the

▼ From Left to Right: Dr Colin Cunningham, Society Chairman; Barbara Shackley, outgoing Regional Chairman; Stephen Hartland, incoming Regional Chairman





result of a change in emphasis of the members of the Design Panel of the City. In 1990, the Local Government Officer who was responsible for decisions was an Architect and if not, possibly a Planner. Now, the Officers in charge are more interested in Economic Development. They are heavily influenced by Developers and are attracted by large, aggressive “landmark” or “iconic” buildings, often towers, all of which look similar. If this continues the City will look exactly the same as many others and will have lost any individuality. It was said by the City that they couldn’t afford to pay the high salaries of Architects and Planners who were all taken by the private sector. Maybe today, the lack of opportunities in this sector could change this situation and an Architect could be appointed again to head the Planning Department!

Barbara finished by thanking all of the committee members for their helpfulness, skill, efficiency and commitment. Of course it was most appropriate at this AGM that Barbara’s work was applauded and our new Chairman, Stephen Hartland did this, pointing to Barbara’s inimitable way of conducting meetings and her ability to praise and compliment and act as diplomat when the need arose.

Barbara was presented with flowers and a John Lewis Gift Token. Thank you Barbara for 8 years of invaluable hard work. ■

Events

▶ **Saturday
May 16th 2009
‘Gems of
Handsworth’ - a
walking day in
north Birmingham**

An itinerary and booking form is enclosed with this mailing. Among the highlights of the day will be a guided walk in the Park with Simon Baddeley and a unique opportunity to see inside Handsworth Hall (1880 – 81 by J.L.Ball & Goddard). (see photo of Handsworth Park Gatehouse on page 7).

▶ **Tuesday
May 19th 2009
St Bartholomew
Church, Wednesbury
7.30pm**

Tim Bridges will be talking on ‘Black Country Churches’ to help the fundraising appeal following the recent theft of lead. This has been an obvious connection to his new book (which will be on sale!).

▶ **Saturday
June 20th 2009
A Coach Tour to
Hampstead Garden
Suburb
9.00am depart
from Birmingham City Centre
Likely return time 8.00pm**

We are delighted that David Davidson, historian for the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust, has agreed to act as our host for a day in the area of North London founded in 1908 and described by Pevsner as ‘the most nearly

▼ House on Erskine Hill by Sir Edward Lutyens





▲ Handsworth Park Gatehouse (see visit to Handsworth on 16th May, opposite)

perfect example of the unique English invention... the Garden Suburb'.

The built environment of the Suburb encapsulates a unique blend of Arts & Crafts, Queen Anne and Georgian style homes as well as 2 Lutyens churches. ■

Look out for booking details in a separate flier soon to be sent out to all current members of our group.

Casework News February 2009

▶ **BBC Screen Victoria Square**

We have objected to another application by the City Council for this highly unsuitable addition to the fine city street scene in Victoria Square. It would seem that the setting, with listed Victorian buildings in the conservation area, which will provide the high quality of the backdrop to be shown during the broadcast of live events,

constitutes the fundamental reason for continuing to consider this venue over Centenary Square. In our opinion it would be much better located there. Something about geese and golden eggs comes to mind!

▶ **Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield**

Despite the economic downturn, we have recently



commented on several individual proposals for new large homes within this conservation area of significant Arts and Crafts houses, many in expansive grounds. We have generally felt that the new developments would have a negative impact on both the conservation area and the setting of listed buildings. These new homes would, on the whole, extend across plots, display large garage facilities to the frontages, and have doors, windows and other features designed "in the spirit of the Arts and Crafts Movement", yet which in our opinion are poorly detailed and unworthy of their beautifully designed early twentieth century neighbours. We hope our objections to

such developments in Luttrell Road, Bracebridge Road, Ladywood Road and Barker Road will continue to be supported by refusal of planning permission by the City Council.

▶ **Red Lion, Soho Road**

An update. One of our top ten threatened buildings for 2008, this wonderful Grade II* listed pub by James and Lister Lea remains closed and vulnerable after over a year since time was last called. Vital repairs are still necessary to the staircase, and high levels of security must be kept in place to ensure that this pub does not go the

catastrophic way of other listed Victorian pubs in Birmingham such as the Bellefield or the Duke of York. We would like to see a new occupier continue to run the Red Lion as a pub or establish a restaurant. The Barton Arms in Aston makes an excellent and highly successful model. A solution is needed urgently!

▶ **Eastside Locks**

Although we had many objections to this mixed use scheme, now approved, next to the canal at the north end of the Warwick Bar Conservation Area, we have welcomed

▼ *Belmont Works, Belmont Row (Built 1899. The factory is locally listed and is in the Warwick Bar Conservation Area)*





proposals to restore the locally listed Belmont Works. The works will remain as a key Victorian building in an otherwise almost totally redeveloped part of Birmingham. The building was badly damaged by fire two years ago, and the surviving ruinous structure remains a source of concern, and we urge all parties to proceed as quickly as possible with restoration. It is a shame that the proposed surrounding new buildings with their canyon like streetscapes with timber and copper clad facades are unlikely to form more complementary neighbours to this traditional brick and terracotta Birmingham factory.

▶ **Beorma Quarter, Digbeth.**

We have been consulted informally for some months on proposals for this significant site opposite the east end of St Martin's Church. The planning application has now been submitted for a 30 storey tower on the site together with a new square and redevelopment of the cold store, a listed building of 1899 by Ernest Bewlay. Some of our thoughts have been incorporated into the current scheme, but a number of objections still remain. The impact of such a high tower on the church, and on an area with buildings of generally less than four storeys in height, is of great concern. We are opposed to the loss of a rare though unlisted music hall building, and

the partial demolition of the cold store itself. Economic pressure for development in Birmingham at present is playing a strong role in the debate over this site.

▶ **St Barnabas, Erdington**

We are being consulted in pre-application discussions on the rebuilding of this Grade II* listed church by Thomas Rickman of 1822 with an east end by J. A. Chatwin of 1883, following the devastating fire in October 2007. Sadly, all the interior fittings including the stone font have been extremely badly damaged or totally destroyed, though the reredos on the chancel east wall has largely survived. Whilst this is an exciting opportunity to enhance the potential of this church in Erdington's main street, we wish to see as much of the existing fabric as possible retained to preserve the

character of Rickman and Chatwin's building. Just one of the Victorian stained glass windows, depicting the Good Shepherd, is left. It was saved because it was located behind the concrete and steel of the meeting rooms built into the west end of the nave in the 1970s. We understand that this glass is to be restored and relocated to another window in the restored body of the church, which will be very welcome.

▶ **Holy Trinity, Sutton Coldfield**

We are also being consulted at the pre-application stage on plans for a wide-ranging reordering of the interior of this Grade I listed mediaeval church, which has a complex history reflected in its architecture and remarkable furnishings. These include much important Victorian work. The north aisle is of 1875 by Yeoville Thomason and the west vestry is

▼ *St Barnabas, Erdington*





of 1900 by W.H. Bidlake. Much of the fine woodwork at the east end is seventeenth century from Worcester Cathedral, but was brought to Holy Trinity in 1874 when the Cathedral was restored by Sir George Gilbert Scott. Proposed interior and exterior alterations to the church have been developed over many years, and we have also commented on previous designs. Current plans affect the pews, galleries, organ, pulpit and chancel furnishings, along with the Thomason north aisle and Bidlake vestry. Together with other heritage organisations, we continue to welcome dialogue with the parish on this scheme through the Diocesan Advisory Committee

Moor Pool

Hidden from view from main roads, Moor Pool remains a little known but charming residential area by the Chad

Brook in Harborne. The estate was laid out from 1907 following the principles of a garden suburb, to provide better quality housing by the Harborne Tenants. The initiative came from John Nettlefold, then Chairman of Birmingham's Housing Committee. Moor Pool is a fine surviving example of such a suburb.

The estate is now a conservation area and some of the houses and the central community buildings are statutorily listed. However, we are concerned with plans to build new houses on sites currently occupied by garages, which were previously allotments. There are flooding issues on one site and current plans show overdevelopment of all three. Any new development here must be of a sufficiently high quality design to be worthy of this special location. ■

Tim Bridges

New Hope for Repairs to Kates Hill Church

Campaigners seeking to save St John's Church, Kates Hill have learned that, subject to final agreement of a schedule of works, they may be given permission to start work on essential repairs to the church building.

St John's Church Preservation Group, formed in 2007 has been involved in lengthy discussions with St John's Parochial Church Council and the Diocese of Worcester. A St John's Church Steering Group headed by the Archdeacon of Dudley has been set up consisting of representatives from the Preservation Group, The Diocese of Worcester, the St John's Church Parochial Church Council, English Heritage and St Thomas's Ward Councillors.

The church was originally closed in November 2002 on safety grounds, but subsequent surveys carried out in 2005 and 2008 showed the 169 year old church building to be structurally safe and capable of repair. The St John's Church Preservation Group is seeking to raise the estimated £16,000 costs of the work and is urgently seeking donations and new helpers to help implement their fundraising action plan.

There is more information on the St John's Church Preservation Group's website: www.savestjohnschurch.zoomshare.com

Welcome to Our New Members

The Birmingham & West Midlands Group is pleased to welcome the following new members:

- Michael Adams, Lichfield, Staffordshire
- Gill Binnie, King's Heath, Birmingham
- Gillian Brown, Balsall Common, Coventry
- J. Carpenter, Worcester
- Christine Dalton, Great Barr, Birmingham
- Mr A. Doherty, Northfield, Birmingham
- Mary King, Malvern, Worcestershire
- Mr J.P. Lethbridge, Ward End, Birmingham
- Jennifer Morris, Kenilworth, Warwickshire
- Mrs Y. O'Hara, Claverdon, Warwickshire
- Miss J. Vaudeau, Moseley, Birmingham



Arts and Crafts in the East

By Phillip Anderson

All Saints Church, Brockhampton, near Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire (W.R. Lethaby, 1902) is justly celebrated as one of the finest buildings of the Arts and Crafts movement. Its thatched roof, weather-boarded bell tower and walls of the local red sandstone make it the quintessential English country church. The interior with its concrete ceiling and sharply angled arches has a more modernist feel.

The church certainly charmed four Japanese property developers who happened to visit it as tourists, because they decided to build a replica in Osaka, Japan. Remarkably this building is not being constructed on solid ground, but in an atrium on the 21st and 22nd floors of a tower block!

▼ *All Saints Church, Brockhampton, near Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire*



▲ *View of the inside of All Saints Church, one of the finest buildings of the Arts and Crafts movement*

It seems that there is a vogue in Japan for getting married in a western-style church and many Japanese couples travel to Europe in order to do so.

Standing above 20 floors of ordinary retail and office accommodation, the replica church will form part of a wedding hotel.





Alongside the church will be reception rooms, a restaurant and a photographic studio.

On the floors above will be bedrooms and honeymoon suites to provide a complete wedding package.

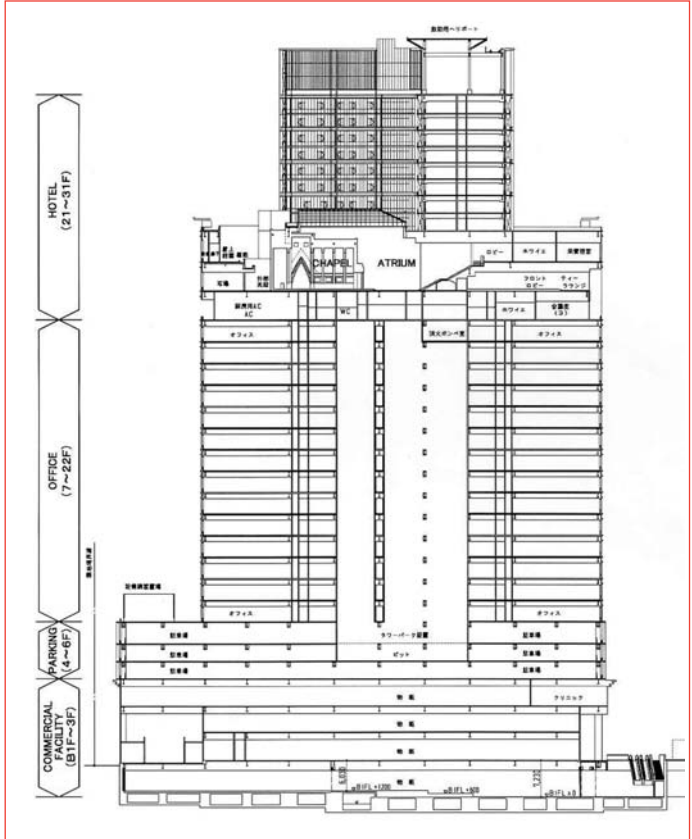


▲ Replica of All Saints Church's inside in Osaka, Japan

In March this year the Japanese architect and his colleagues came to Brockhampton to take detailed measurements and, although there will be some small modifications such as the door being moved from the south to the west end, it appears that the new church will mostly be a faithful copy both inside and out. Even a replica of the churchyard lych gate is being installed.

The new church is scheduled for completion in July 2009. Images of it can be seen on the parish website:

www.brockhampton.com.



▲ Plan showing the Osaka's replica of All Saints Church

E-Mail addresses

Have we got your e-mail address? If you'd like to drop us a note with your e-mail address we can use this for sending details of our forthcoming programme and reminders for imminent trips and lectures.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Regional News?

The Group Executive Committee is very cognizant that we have a lot of members in the region outside of Birmingham, so we would be delighted to hear of any suggestions for articles or features outside of the City of Birmingham. Get your thinking caps on and contact the Editor.



Updates

Lodge Hill Cemetery

Following our appeal for information in our last Newsletter, we had a positive response from Chris Pickford, who tells us:

The cemetery at Lodge Hill, Selly Oak, was laid out at a cost of £15,000 for Kings Norton and Northfield Urban District Council.



▲ Bromsgrove's Parkside School was built 1909-1912 to the design of A.Vernon Rowe

▼ Lodge Hill Cemetery Chapels



The official opening took place in January 1895. The chapel was designed by F.B. Andrews and consecrated on 24 June 1895. It had a bell in a turret above the archway linking the two chapels. The bell (cast by Charles Carr of Smethwick in 1895) was removed from the tower in about 1956 and presented by the City of Birmingham Parks Department to St.Gabriel's, Weoley Castle, where it was hung in a new turret in 1957.

Thanks to Chris for this most illuminating information.

Parkside School, Bromsgrove (1909-1912, Vernon & Gadd)

In our last Newsletter Jennie McGreggor-Smith reported on the campaign to get this very attractive "Wrenian Baroque" former school spot-listed.

We are happy to report that this campaign has been successful and the building has been listed Grade II.

Well done to Jenny and her valiant efforts.

Birmingham Statues Titbits

Edward VII Statue (Albert Toft, 1913, Grade II)

We are pleased to report that the contract for the restoration of the Edward VII statue has been awarded to Cliveden Conservation who will also arrange for the restoration of the bronzes. The statue is to be removed from Highgate Park shortly, once money is released from the Planning Department. The Victorian Society has a five figure amount to contribute to the cost, which was raised two years ago, included £10,000 from the generosity of Targetfollow Group plc.

Thomas Attwood (John Thomas, 1859, Grade II)

The statue is in store, but a proposal has been formulated, as part of the Big City Plan, to re-locate the statue of Thomas Attwood to a site at the fork in



the road as you travel from Sandpits up the hill towards Paradise Circus (around Summer Row) so that it would be in a prominent place as a gateway to the city centre. The money for the restoration would then come from the Big City Plan pot of money.

Sparkbrook and Harborne are also vying for the statue and the Casework Committee are due to discuss later on in April to determine the Society's view of the proposals.

located in a niche in the Art Gallery and in due course Mr Bright is to be cleaned up and put on display in the Museum & Art Gallery. He currently has a cement wash, which will have to be removed.

George Dawson (Thomas Woolner, 1881, Grade II)

The surviving statue, wrought from Carrara marble, is not a very good likeness, but the plan is to locate him in the new Library of Birmingham, in acknowledgment of his role as a proponent of the free library movement.

Queen Victoria (Thomas Brock, 1901 – cast in bronze in 1951 by William Bloye, unlisted)

Queen Victoria's sceptre capital has been missing for some years which detracts from the overall look of this focal piece. However, its sister statue in Worcester (Birmingham's is a larger copy of this) has recently been restored, to include a new sceptre capital and orb cross. We are therefore liaising with Worcester Council on Birmingham's behalf to get the missing part replaced.

Sir Robert Peel (Peter Hollins, 1855, unlisted)

The statue stood at the top of New Street for 70 years, for sometime being surrounded by cast iron railings topped with ears of wheat (to commemorate Peel's involvement



▲ Queen Victoria statue (Thomas Brock, 1901 – cast in bronze in 1951 by William Bloye, unlisted)

in the Repeal of the Corn Laws). It was relocated to Calthorpe Park in 1925. Then in 1963 the statue was moved to be outside the Police Training College on the Pershore Road, Edgbaston, but without its plinth, which remains in Calthorpe Park.

At long last the view is crystallising that the separation of the plinth and statue was unwise and placing outside the Police college is of no relevance, since his statue was erected to commemorate the Repeal of the Corn Laws and not for his involvement in setting up the **Metropolitan Police**. Suitable places in the city centre are to be looked at and the Society is to assist in this. ■



▲ Thomas Attwood Statue (John Thomas, 1859, Grade II)

John Bright MP (Albert Joy, 1887, unlisted)

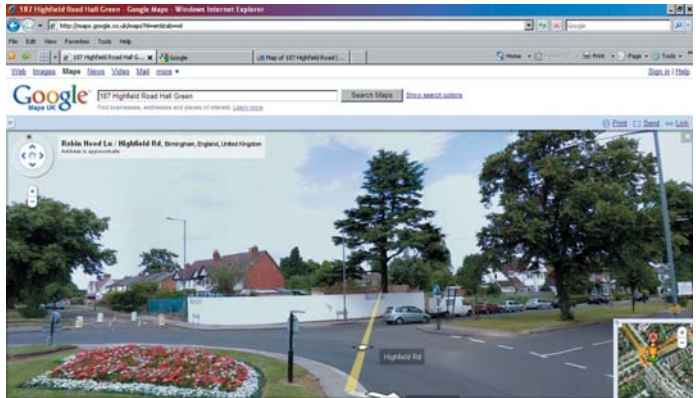
This statue, commissioned by The Birmingham Liberal Association, has spent far too much of its existence in store. The sculptor intended it to be



Conservation Protection & Enforcement Tools?

There has been much talk in the media about Google Street Map of late, with people questioning its efficacy and pointing to breaches of civil liberties and loss of privacy. Whatever the merits or otherwise, from a viewpoint of conservation enforcement it is a valuable addition to our armoury as it offers snapshots in time of locations that might not have otherwise been captured in photographs.

In our Summer 2008 Newsletter under Casework News (Page 12) we expressed our surprise at the application to demolish 187 Highfield Road, Hall Green. However, looking at Google Street View (August 2008) you can see that sadly this mid-Victorian house has now been lost. Conversely, use of Multimap



▲ Site of 187 Highfield Road as seen on Google Street View

Birds-Eye view (2004), you may also still see the house surrounded by trees.

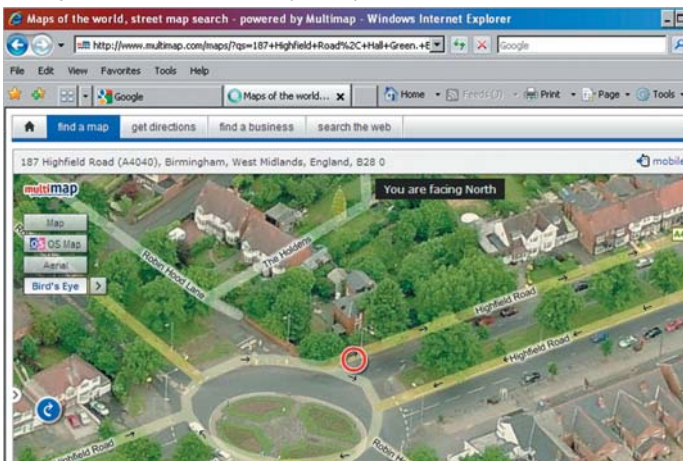
Such historical snapshots will prove exceedingly useful when enforcing conservation policies, as often an unscrupulous owner will contravene planning regulations and argue that they have been in situ for a number of years. Google Street View gives us a snapshot as of August 2008

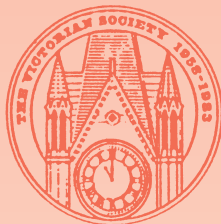
and Multimap Birds-Eye view is a snapshot of 2004.

Trees in Conservation Areas will also be helped by these internet utilities, as they are all mapped thanks to satellite technology and we can now prove that they were there in August 2008 or in 2004. ■

▼ 187 Highfield Road, Hall Green

▼ Highfield Road as seen on Multimap Birds Eye View





THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY

Birmingham and
West Midlands Group

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Photographs of Victorian Architects sought

The long awaited publication of our "Birmingham's Victorian Architects" book is imminent and we are trying to finish off the images for our publishers, Oblong, to set up. In reviewing the set, it seems inconsistent that we have the portraits of most architects, but are missing some and would very much like to include them, as Birmingham Library's portrait collection does not have them.

We are therefore appealing for anyone who can locate pictures of the following architects:

- Charles Edge
- J. L. Ball
- Mansell & Mansell
- T. F. Newton
- Edmund Butler (of Crouch & Butler)
- Nichol (of Essex Nichol & Goodman)
- Peacock (of Cossins, Peacock & Bewlay)

▼ *John Cheatle, grandson of A. E. Cheatle.*



▲ *A. E. Cheatle*

- Frederick Martin (of Martin & Chamberlain from 1884 to 1900 also Martin & Martin 1900 to 1917).

In fact, we were after A. E. Cheatle as well, but following a round-robin, Anthony Collins immediately contacted his friend John Cheatle, who is the grandson of A. E. Cheatle. Needless to say, John was readily able to supply photos of his grandfather as a young man and in later years, which we can now include in our book. So thank you to John Cheatle and Anthony Collins.

If anyone has ideas or information where we might obtain the remainder, please contact Robin Fryer:

E-mail: robin.fryer@victorian-society-bham.org.uk

Website: www.victorian-society-bham.org.uk