

January 2024 Monthly Meeting
The History of Selly Manor and Minworth Greaves



After our AGM we were delighted to hear Daniel Callicott , the Heritage Manager at Selly Manor Museum, part of Bournville Village Trust (BVT) , tell us about 2 historic buildings on the site. They were recognised as significant symbols of ‘ bygone times’ by George Cadbury in particular and saved before being potentially lost to developers as the city of Birmingham expanded into the green spaces. Selly Manor or Selly Cottages was a 3-dwelling building from the 15c. Through various historical records we learned about some of the inhabitants from 1476 to 1907 when George Cadbury paid £6,000 (approx. £2.5 million today) to move the timber and brick building a mile to Bournville garden village with the help of William Alexander Harvey, a young architect. It opened in 1917 as Selly Manor Museum. We also saw images of some of the notable items in the collection, which certainly deserves a visit in person! In 1921 Minworth Greaves, a cruck framed medieval building was bought for £25,000 by George and rebuilt as a hall by his son Laurence in 1932, and now open to the public also.

Daniel also gave us a potted history of the Cadbury family history and the ethos behind the development of Bournville Village, whilst showing us some of the beautiful and varied buildings on the site- schools & adult education spaces, churches from different denominations, shops, leisure facilities and of course housing ,all set in green space and parkland. A blueprint to be aspired to and preserved by the BVT to this day.

If you didn't manage to catch the talk or would like to revisit it, it's available as a Zoom recording.

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/-Vuu3DgBZyy7CR1TY5O9-q8F_5hVb40ijd3pWQuzPyxfa8HOzJ1T1LRPdAZ60FVN.bzL2tA38bXMB9k9n
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