

On the factory floor in the Twenties



Kate Bigford at work.

THE BLACK Country landscape was once dominated by places of work of all shapes and sizes, from sprawling iron and steelmaking plants employing thousands, down to the smallest backstreet engineering companies, with just a handful of staff.

We think that this atmospheric image on left is probably associated with a firm in the latter camp, where enamelware was clearly the main product on offer.

These ladies are seen putting the finishing touches to enamel washing up basins.

However, the name of the company is not known, although we have an idea of its approximate location, thanks to the suppliers of this (and more images, on page 21) — Pat and Terry Jordan of Coseley.

Enamelling

This picture shows two ladies working in an enamelling factory, probably in West Bromwich and was likely taken in the 1920s or 1930s.

The lady nearest the camera, enamelling a basin, is **Kate Bigford**, but we don't know the identity of her colleague.

Pat and Terry do not know the name of the factory where Kate worked but they do know that it was originally in Wolverhampton, and in the 1920s the company relocated to West Bromwich—where Kate continued to work for them.

Can anyone throw any more light on this company?

Message of love sent to Miss Bagley



WITH February 14th fast approaching, love is definitely in the air, so what better time for our columnist Dianne Pye to share some of her collection of vintage Valentine cards with us?

This charming example was sent to Miss L. Bagley, of Tettenhall College, Wolverhampton, all of 101 years ago. Who was the much-loved Miss Bagley we wonder? More on page 9....

Gathering of Wulfrunian workers young and old

HERE is another photograph which harks back to the Black Country's industrial heyday. It shows a group of well turned-out factory workers from somewhere in Wolverhampton.

Most of the menfolk, though donned in working clothes, are wearing ties, and the boss at the centre highlights his superiority with a bowler hat. Can any readers identify a family member amongst the group, and can anyone name the company who employed them?

This photograph came to us courtesy of Mrs Patricia Corns, nee Edwards, of Wolverhampton, and was found with others in her Granny Sephton's house. Another photograph shows workers at 'Integral', Wolverhampton, also in the pre-war days, and this will be printed in a near future edition.



Wolverhampton working folk of around eight decades ago.

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