HIGHBURY
A Brief History & Guide
The Chamberlain Highbury Trust
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Detail of design for the landscape at Highbury
by Edward Milner, 1879
Courtesy of the Library of Birmingham
Introduction

Highbury was the home of Joseph Chamberlain, industrialist, reforming Birmingham Mayor and controversial national and imperial politician. It was the family residence until his death in 1914. The house and its surrounding 30 acre estate form one of Birmingham’s most important heritage sites. The Grade II* listed house was designed by the prominent Birmingham architect J H Chamberlain in a Venetian Gothic style and was completed in 1879. The grounds are listed Grade II on Historic England’s Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest.

In 1932 the property was given in trust to the City Council ‘for the benefit of the people of Birmingham’. Unfortunately, over the years the building and its gardens have gradually fallen into disrepair.

The Chamberlain Highbury Trust was established in 2016 to unlock the heritage of Highbury through the careful and authentic restoration of the house and grounds. The Trust’s primary aim is to make Highbury fully accessible to everyone and make sure it regains its rightful place in Birmingham’s historical and cultural landscape.
The Chamberlains

Joseph Chamberlain (1836 – 1914)

Joseph Chamberlain was born in Camberwell in London in 1836. At the age of 18 he moved to Birmingham to join the wood screw-making company of his father and his uncle, John Nettlefold. Promoted to partnership, his energy and business acumen contributed to the spectacular success of the company which was soon producing two-thirds of all metal screws made in England.

The Chamberlains were Unitarians and political radicals and so Joseph had been brought up with a strong belief in helping to improve the lot of the poorest members of society. He was particularly concerned with improving and extending the school system and campaigned for the introduction of free, compulsory, secular education for all children. In 1867 Chamberlain co-founded the Birmingham Education League with George Dixon and Jesse Collings. This soon became the National Education League, holding its first Conference in Birmingham in 1869 which proposed a school system funded by local rates and government grants, managed by local authorities subject to government inspection.

In 1869 Chamberlain became a member of Birmingham Town Council and in 1873 he was elected Mayor. In this role he set about a process of transformation which was to later earn it the accolade of the ‘the best governed city in the World’. He set up new municipal water and gas companies which not only significantly improved the health of the population but also generated funds for new public services. Under his leadership the council undertook extensive slum clearance and constructed a brand new urban boulevard, Corporation Street. His administration also built a substantial number of new schools as well as new public libraries, swimming baths and municipal parks.

Chamberlain later became one of the founders and the first Chancellor of the University of Birmingham, which gained its Royal Charter in 1900. In 1876 Chamberlain became a Liberal Member of Parliament for Birmingham. He served as President of the Board of Trade between 1880 and 1885 but resigned in 1886 in opposition to Gladstone’s Irish Home Rule bill. His opposition led to his creating a new Liberal Unionist Party which completely split the Liberal Party.

In 1895 the Liberal Unionists joined a coalition government with the Conservative Party. Chamberlain served as Secretary of State for the Colonies during the Second Boer War (1899-1902). However, in 1903 he resigned from the government to campaign for tariff reform. His position gained the support of most Unionists but resulted in a split in the Conservative Party and their defeat by a landslide in the 1906 election.

A charismatic, domineering figure, Chamberlain’s career in national politics was controversial and ultimately unsuccessful - he never achieved his ambition to be prime minister and managed to split both of the main political parties. However, he was brilliant grass-roots political organiser and a highly effective Colonial Secretary. His influence on the country’s political landscape was such that Winston Churchill commented that it was Chamberlain who ‘made the weather’. In 1906 Chamberlain suffered a stroke and withdrew from active political life. He died in his London home in 1914 and was buried in Key Hill Cemetery, Hockley.
Personal Life and family
Joseph Chamberlain was married three times and had six children. His first wife Harriet was the daughter of a successful Black Country iron founder, Archibald Kenrick. They had two children, a daughter Beatrice and a son Austen. Sadly Harriet died two days after giving birth to Austen in 1863.

In 1868 Joseph married Harriet’s cousin Florence. They had four children, Neville, Ida, Hilda and Ethel. Tragically Florence also died during childbirth in 1875.

Joseph’s six children were brought up by his sisters until his eldest daughter Beatrice was old enough to take care of her siblings. As a parent Chamberlain was caring but reserved. Austen in particular felt his relationship with his father remained distant for many years because he reminded him too much of his mother.

In 1888 Chamberlain married 24 year old Mary Endicott (1864-1957), a member of a prominent American family. Although they had no children and despite Mary being 31 years younger than her husband they enjoyed a very happy marriage. Mary’s engaging personality and society connections played a significant role in supporting and enhancing Joseph’s later political career. After he suffered a stroke in 1906 Mary nursed him until his death in 1914.

Austen and Neville Chamberlain
Joseph’s two sons, Austen and Neville, both followed in his footsteps and entered politics.

Austen led the Conservatives in the Commons in 1921–22 (the Liberal Unionists having merged with the Conservatives in 1912). As Foreign Secretary, he negotiated the Locarno Pact (1925), aimed at preventing war between France and Germany, for which he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

After initially working in business, Neville was elected a Birmingham city councillor in 1911 and was Lord Mayor between 1915 and 1917. After becoming an MP in 1918 he went on to serve as Chancellor of the Exchequer (1923-4 and 1931-7) and Prime Minister from 1937-1940.
In 1878 Chamberlain bought 25 acres of agricultural land at Moor Green near Moseley, four miles south of Birmingham city centre, to build a new house and gardens.

The house and grounds were named after the Highbury area of London, where Chamberlain spent most of his childhood. Highbury’s suburban location was perfect in that it was far enough away from the city centre to feel rural, but close enough for ease of access. The creation of the new estate also demonstrated Chamberlain’s political ambition, as well as his growing wealth and social status.

The new mansion was designed by the prominent Birmingham architect, John Henry Chamberlain (no relation). The house, its entrance lodge and the gardener’s cottage were all completed by 1880, when the Chamberlain family took up residence.

The estate was originally landscaped by Edward Milner, a pupil of Joseph Paxton, and further work was carried out by Edward’s son, Henry. The house and pleasure grounds were constructed at the top of the site, commanding extensive views, whilst a circuit path led round the perimeter and enclosed an area of meadowland, used for grazing stock from the Chamberlain’s newly built hobby farm.

In addition to the farm, the Chamberlains introduced many new features to the grounds including a Dutch garden, an Italian garden and a rock garden. By 1885 Highbury had a Palm House and Fernery, which led through to a range of thirteen glasshouses for Joseph’s orchid collection and other exotics. In 1894 the estate was enlarged by the addition of a further 42 acres to the south, leased from the Chamberlain’s neighbour Richard Cadbury.

In 1888 Chamberlain married his third wife, Mary Endicott, and the years that ensued were a golden age for Highbury, with the house providing the setting for political meetings and large-scale entertainment, as well as acting as a refuge for Chamberlain from the hurly burly of national politics.

During the First World War Highbury was used as an auxiliary hospital. After the war it became a treatment centre for disabled ex-servicemen until 1932. The glasshouse range was replaced by pavilions used for additional accommodation in 1922.

In 1934 the Joseph Chamberlain Memorial Museum was opened in the Library. A public park was established adjacent to Highbury in 1921. Comprising some 75 acres, and including part of the Chamberlain’s estate and the former Henburys estate, it was known as Highbury Park from 1933.

In 1919 Joseph’s son Austen had gifted the original estate to the Highbury Trustees. In 1932 they in turn gave Highbury in trust to Birmingham City Council as sole Trustee ‘for the general benefit of the citizens of Birmingham’. By 1940 the Palm House, pavilions and stables had been demolished and replaced by Chamberlain House, an extension to the home for elderly women which had been established at Highbury in 1933. Today Chamberlain House forms part of Uffculme School.
The House and its Design

J H Chamberlain, architect of Highbury

The architect of Highbury was John Henry Chamberlain (1831-1883) — who although he shared his name was not related to his client. Chamberlain was renowned for his gothic style of architecture decorated with natural motifs, inspired by The Stones of Venice, John Ruskin’s influential work on Italian medieval architecture.

J H Chamberlain had gone into partnership with William Martin (1828-1900) in 1864 and together they designed 29 schools for the Birmingham School Board. Perhaps the best known is the Oozells Street School, now the Ikon Gallery (completed in 1877). Other projects included extensions to the Birmingham and Midland Institute and the rebuilding of the Free Library which opened in 1882. Sadly the Library was demolished in 1974 but Chamberlain’s Shakespeare Memorial Library, with its oak bookcases and naturalistic ornamentation, is now housed in the Library of Birmingham.

The high point of the Martin and Chamberlain partnership was the Municipal School of Art in Margaret Street. The building was completed in 1885, two years after J H Chamberlain’s sudden death. However, it was built to Chamberlain’s designs and features his familiar use of naturalistic decoration.
Highbury's design & decoration

Built by the Birmingham firm of John Barnsley & Sons, Highbury is a fine example of J H Chamberlain’s gothic design style. The external appearance of the house is asymmetrical with roofs at different levels, elaborately decorated chimneys and timber-framed dormer windows. The hard red brick is decorated with terracotta mouldings and carved stone work, enlivened with a wide range of naturalistic motifs including vines, strawberries, lilies, laurels and sunflowers.

The interior of the house is notable for the quality of its woodwork, including inlaid and marquetry ceilings and floors. In the hall the wall hung cupboards have rich detailing as do the library fittings in Chamberlain’s study. The bookcases on the upper landing are notable for their bird finials. All of this was executed by William Barfield of Leicester to J H Chamberlain’s designs. The firm of John Hardman & Company of Birmingham was responsible for the elaborate brass light fittings and the window glass.

Chamberlain’s original design drawings for the house survive and are held by the Library of Birmingham.

The House today

Given it was used for institutional purposes for 70 years the bulk of the house has survived remarkably well. In particular, most of the decorative interiors of the main reception rooms remain intact.

However, the house did undergo a number of alterations in the 20th century. The biggest loss was the run of glasshouses, most of which were demolished to make way for temporary accommodation in 1922. The other main casualties were some of Highbury’s original service quarters. The stables and coach house were demolished before 1940 to make way for Chamberlain House, as was the single storey range of the house which contained the laundry and washhouse.

The Grounds

The original landscape design for Highbury was by Edward Milner (1819-84). In 1879 Milner produced a plan for landscaping what was then 25 acres of ‘greenfield’ agricultural land. Highbury was one of several commissions Milner undertook for the Chamberlains, together with his son Henry (1845-1906) who continued his practice.

Milner’s plan featured a circuit path around the perimeter of the estate with the mansion and glasshouses to the north east of the site and a kitchen garden beyond. Along the circuit path there were several points of interest, including a pond with a small island, and a long meandering lake with two islands, the path crossing one of them via two bridges. In the pleasure grounds next to the house the plan shows heart shaped beds and a rosary (which were never executed). The house itself boasted a formal garden consisting of a broad terrace and a semi-circular lawn planted with topiary.
Milner’s design provided a template onto which the Chamberlains added further elements. Soon after the initial laying-out the central part of the parkland was enclosed by estate railings so that it could be used for grazing farm stock. In 1894 the grounds of Highbury were further extended when Chamberlain leased forty-two acres to the south of the lake from his neighbour Richard Cadbury. The additional land had originally been part of the old Henburys estate which Cadbury had acquired when he built his new mansion, Uffculme, in 1891.

The Chamberlains took an active interest in the gardens, which by the end of the 19th century were so extensive that they required a team of eighteen gardeners to maintain. Between 1900 and 1906 they laid out an Italian Garden, a Dutch Garden and a Rock Garden on the western side of the estate. A Tea Garden was added in 1904 to the south of the pleasure grounds below the house.

But perhaps the highlight of Highbury in its heyday was a series of glasshouses on the east side of the house. Constructed to house Chamberlain’s celebrated orchid collection, there were fourteen in 1896 and twenty-five in 1903. These were demolished in 1922 to make way for accommodation pavilions for convalescing soldiers. The pavilions themselves were demolished before 1940 to allow the construction of Chamberlain House, a home for elderly women. This now forms part of Uffculme School.

After Joseph’s death the estate was put into trust in 1919 and in 1921 the trustees leased 15 acres of the grounds to Birmingham Corporation for use as a public park. The 42 acres of the old Henburys estate previously leased by Chamberlain were purchased by Birmingham Civic Society from the Cadbury family and donated to the Corporation in 1923. The Highbury estate was given to the people of Birmingham in 1932 and it was known as Highbury Park from 1933. However, the gardens and grounds immediately adjacent to the house were not included in the area of the public park and remain separate to this day.

The Grounds Today
Following the departure of the Chamberlains from Highbury in 1915, much of the garden statuary and other ornaments were removed to the Bury House at Oddham in Hampshire, the new home of Joseph’s daughters Ida and Hilda.

Today the Highbury landscape is relatively intact but has lost much of its definition. A number of the key features like the original drive and the pleasure grounds to the south east of the house are heavily obscured by the overgrown trees and shrubs. Vandalism has also affected many of the surviving ornamental features and none of the original wooden garden buildings remain.
A Tour of the House

The Hall
The magnificent two storey hall occupies the whole central area of the house. It was originally furnished with informal groups of upholstered chairs and tables which could be easily moved to enable the room to be used for entertaining the large numbers invited to the Chamberlain’s receptions and dances.

The central brass downlighter was made by the famous Birmingham firm of John Hardman & Co. It was originally lit by gas but the fittings were converted to electricity in the mid-1880s when Chamberlain installed what was probably the first private supply in a Birmingham private house.

The walls are richly decorated with marquetry panels, blue and white tiles with a design of passion flowers and gold and white plaster panels of horse-chestnuts and sunflowers. The five oak wall cabinets were originally used to display oriental china and illuminated rolls and caskets presented to Chamberlain.

In a recess below the the stairs there is a brass grille for the central heating system that was installed when the house was built.

The Dining Room (now the Dorothy Lloyd Room)
The Dining Room is the only principal room not situated on the south front of the house and was mainly used for entertaining in the evening.

The marquetry ceiling inlaid with panels of shamrock and ivy is the work of William Barfield of Leicester, who was responsible for all of the fine woodwork throughout the house. Barfield was originally made for Joseph Chamberlain's home of Southborne in Edgbaston. They were relocated following the Chamberlains move to Highbury. They now contain a collection of books of the type Chamberlain was known to possess, the original collection having been dispersed in 1915.

The fine marquetry ceiling of Walnut, elm and sycamore has designs of horse-chestnut and ivy leaves. The subjects in the top lights of the bay window are Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, Caxton and Baskerville. The window was designed and made by John Hardman & Co who were responsible for all the decorative glasswork at Highbury.

The Breakfast Room (formerly the Morning Room)
This small room was used by the Chamberlains as a private breakfast room.

Its plaster ceiling and cornice decorated with swallows has a lighter decorative treatment than most of the other rooms which were intended for entertaining. The buffet (sideboard) was made for Joseph Chamberlain and is decorated with his initials.

The Library
This room was Joseph Chamberlain's library. Following the donation of the house to the city, it was opened as the Chamberlain Memorial Museum in 1934.

The elaborate carved bookcases by William Barfield were originally made for Joseph Chamberlain's home of Southborne in Edgbaston. They were relocated following the Chamberlains move to Highbury. They now contain a collection of books of the type Chamberlain was known to possess, the original collection having been dispersed in 1915.

Above: The Library, c1905
Right: Buffet featuring Joseph Chamberlain's initials

The marquetry ceiling of Walnut, elm and sycamore has designs of horse-chestnut and ivy leaves. The subjects in the top lights of the bay window are Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, Caxton and Baskerville. The window was designed and made by John Hardman & Co who were responsible for all the decorative glasswork at Highbury.
The Morning Room (formerly the Boudoir)
The boudoir was used by the ladies of the house as a small sitting room. It is decorated in the 'Adam' style with a ceiling and deep cornice in flowered gesso work. The same decorative treatment is applied to the doors.

The Drawing Room
The Drawing Room was used for receiving visitors in the afternoons and for entertaining guests after dinner.
The room extends through a colonnade of alabaster pillars into a bay which originally had two windows on either side of the doorway giving views into the Palm House.
The ceiling has painted motifs, inlaid panels of satinwood and walnut, and the doors and dado are of walnut with panels of sycamore.

The Galleried Landing
The richly decorated landing extending around the Hall at first floor level provided access to the principal bedrooms. It also functioned as an additional library and picture gallery for the Chamberlains.

The Carnegie Room
(formerly Mrs Chamberlain’s Bedroom)
This is the largest of the twelve principal bedrooms of the house and has magnificent views of the gardens.

It is now furnished with a suite of geometric inlaid furniture dating from the late 1870s.

The room is so-called because following Joseph’s death in 1914, Mary Chamberlain married William Hartley Carnegie, a canon of Westminster Abbey, in 1916.

Miss Hilda’s Room
After 1888 this was Beatrice Chamberlain’s bedroom.

Mr Joseph’s Room
This was the sitting room of Beatrice Chamberlain. As Joseph’s eldest daughter she had the privilege of her own sitting room.
The Pleasure grounds

The House’s main garden faces south and its elevated position meant that it would originally have enjoyed views across the park and the meadows beyond (although these are now completely obscured by the dense planting). The garden features a terrace walk with steps down to a semi-circular lawn. A path runs around the edge, with clipped box and holly.

To the south and east of the lawn, paths wind through a densely overgrown area of mature specimen trees and shrubs. This area was the site of the Rhododendron and Elizabethan Gardens which were laid out after 1880. A stone viewing platform of gothic design dating from c1880 survives in the undergrowth some 100m to the south-east of the house. This was conserved in 2012.

Entrance Lodge

The original entrance to the Highbury estate was via a gateway at the junction of Shutlock Lane and Yew Tree Road. The entrance with its elaborate brick and stone gate piers and lodge cottage was designed by J H Chamberlain. From here the original carriage drive ran roughly parallel to Yew Tree Road for c200 metres to the west side of the Hall, concealed from the road by a raised bank. The route of the drive can still be made out, although it is heavily overgrown.

The Circuit Path

The Circuit Path is one of the key features of Milner’s 1879 plan for the landscape at Highbury. Beds of rhododendrons, roses, herbaceous plants and bulbs were planted alongside the path. Rhododendrons were also used along the drive, on the south side of the lake and in a rhododendron garden to the south east of the house which was planted with hybrid specimens.

In 1902 a new shrub garden was made in an area of former meadow between the lodge entrance and a branch of the circuit path. ‘The Flowering Tree and Shrub Garden’ had choice specimens set in grass and winding mown grass paths.
Oak tree pond
This small pond, made from a former mari pit, was created in 1879 as part of Milner's original landscape design. The oak tree next to the pond, which pre-dates the creation of the Highbury estate, originally had a seat and was a favourite spot of Joe Chamberlain's. Milner retained some forty trees from the original hedgerows to give the new estate an impression of greater maturity.

A formal 'Dutch Garden' planted wholly with bulbs was made to the east of the Italian garden in 1903. Now lost, this garden was designed by Joseph Chamberlain and based on one he had seen on his continental travels. The area was used for growing vegetables during the Second World War. The avenue of Wellingtonias was planted as part of Highbury Arboretum project 1993.

The Rock Garden with steps leading up to the Italian Garden, c1903

Italian Garden steps today

The New Gardens
From the Entrance Lodge the circuit path leads down an avenue of mature lime trees to the 'New Gardens' which were laid out by the Chamberlains between 1901 and 1906.

The upper part, the Italian Garden, is surrounded by a beech hedge and contains a tiled path and pergola, with herbaceous beds to either side. The garden originally featured iron gates from Sienna (added in 1904) and a terracotta fountain (1906) but these were removed when the Chamberlains left Highbury in 1915. Two former hedgerow oaks were incorporated into the garden, originally adorned with ornamental seats. Steps lead down into the Rock Garden, laid out to Joseph Chamberlain's own design by Messrs Pulham and Sons. The rockwork comprises just a few beds adorned with groups of stone blocks.

An elaborate terracotta balustrade originally separated the two gardens. The balustrade may have been inspired by the ones at Hatfield, the seat of Lord Salisbury, where Joseph and Mary Chamberlain were frequent visitors.

The Lake
Milner created the lake from the nearby Shuttuck Stream around 1879. It originally featured cascades at either end, a Swiss-style boathouse and summer house with a thatched roof.

The lake initially formed the southern limit of the Highbury estate but in 1894 Chamberlain leased 42 acres of the old Henbury estate which extended the boundary as far as the Birmingham & Gloucester railway line.

Meadowland
The central part of the Highbury estate consisted of meadows. When the Chamberlains established the hobby farm this area was enclosed with estate railings to provide grazing for livestock. The beech copse was planted in 1879 to Milner’s design.

The Hobby Farm
Soon after the Highbury estate was laid out Chamberlain established a hobby farm to the south-east of the kitchen gardens. The farmyard was built on a 5 acre plot known as the Spring Meadow which was acquired separately from the original estate purchase. An ornamental dairy with thatched roof was built in 1890 to hide the rickyard from the mansion. Jersey cows were the main stock kept, as well as pigs and poultry, and sheep were added c1890. Little survives of the farm other than the foundations of some of the buildings.

The boundary treatment with the neighbouring Uffculme estate was altered in 1904 when the service lane was realigned. A wall was constructed on the eastern edge of the pleasure grounds to provide additional privacy. The new wall was made of reused industrial crucibles and is 20 feet high on the service lane side.

The Kitchen Gardens
Like any country estate, Highbury would have achieved a significant level of self-sufficiency thanks to vegetables from the kitchen garden and meat and dairy products from its hobby farm.

The kitchen gardens lay 100 metres east of the house, screened from Yew Tree Lane by a tall brick wall. They were established at the same time as the house, and their development continued in the 1890s when further ranges of glasshouses were erected. Today the only surviving elements of the kitchen gardens are the brick wall and Gardener’s Cottage on Queensbridge Road (both dating from c1880) and an apple and pear arbour on an iron frame which is located within the Four Seasons Gardening project (open to public).
Chamberlain House (Uffculme School)

Chamberlain House, which is now part of Uffculme School, stands on the site of Highbury’s original glass houses. The glass houses were constructed to house Chamberlain’s celebrated orchid collection. During Highbury’s heyday in 1903 there were twenty-five of them, but they were demolished in 1922 to make way for accommodation pavilions for convalescing soldiers. The pavilions themselves were demolished before 1940 and replaced by Chamberlain House which was originally built as a home for elderly women.

The Western end of Chamberlain House’s car park on Yew Tree Road occupies the site of Highbury’s original Stables and Coach House, also demolished before 1940.

Above: Detail of J H Chamberlain architectural designs for the Coach House
Opposite: The Italian Garden today
The Chamberlain Highbury Trust was established as an independent charity in 2016 to preserve and restore the house and grounds and give them a sustainable future.

The Trust aspires to make Highbury fully accessible to everyone and to regain its rightful place in Birmingham’s historical and cultural landscape.

Highbury is situated in Birmingham’s Moseley and Kings Heath Ward and borders Sparkbrook, one of the most deprived wards in a city with high levels of deprivation. The Trust is therefore committed to working with its local communities to make a positive social and economic impact.

Developing socially diverse leadership is a priority for the Trust, with nationally only 23% of board members being women and only 5% from black and ethnic minority backgrounds. Increasing participation from young people is critical as Birmingham is one of the youngest cities in the UK with over 40% of its population under the age 25 years.

The Trust therefore aims to develop Highbury as a unique learning resource to encourage young people from all backgrounds to take inspiration from the Chamberlain family heritage. This experience will enable them to critically reflect upon leadership in all its forms and to take their place in the future of the region and country.

Detail of Ordnance Survey map of Kings Heath (Warwickshire XIX.1 - Birmingham) showing Highbury, 1916

Reproduced by permission of the National Library of Scotland
The Highbury Restoration Project

The immediate goal of the Chamberlain Highbury Trust is to raise the funds to restore the House and Grounds, and to create a wide-ranging programme of activities which draws upon the major themes in the history of Highbury.

Although superficially in reasonable condition, the house requires treatment of dry rot, roof repairs, new leadwork and rainwater goods, masonry and brickwork repairs and re-pointing, joinery repairs and local structural repairs. Some of the fine decorative interiors in the principal rooms have also suffered damage and so require restoration.

The Grounds require significant works to reinstate the original setting to the house. These include demolishing the eyesore 1960s caretaker’s house, reopening the original driveway, removing inappropriate planting and conserving historic features like the crucible wall, gateways and the terracotta balustrade.

The house also requires a range of essential improvements and new facilities. These include the complete renewal of the building’s mechanical and electrical services, a lift to improve circulation and access, a dedicated new learning space for educational groups and a tea room and toilets for visitors to the house and grounds.

The physical works will be accompanied by a wide range of activities and engagement, including new interpretation about the history of Highbury and the Chamberlains, formal education programmes, talks and tours, study days and courses, exhibitions and performances.

The project will also include a variety of volunteering opportunities, community events and provide training for staff, volunteers, local people and partner organisations.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Chamberlain and Highbury</th>
<th>Birmingham and the World</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1836</td>
<td>Joseph Chamberlain born in Camberwell, London</td>
<td>Birmingham and the World</td>
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<tr>
<td>1854</td>
<td>Chamberlain moves to Birmingham</td>
<td>Birmingham and the World</td>
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<tr>
<td>1861</td>
<td>Marries Harriet Kenrick (d 1863), They have two children, Beatrice and Austen</td>
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<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>Marries Florence Kenrick (d 1873), a cousin of his first wife, She and Joseph have four children, Neville, Ida, Hilda, and Ethel</td>
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<td>1869</td>
<td>Chamberlain elected a councillor for Birmingham</td>
<td>Birmingham Education league becomes the National Education League</td>
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<td>1873</td>
<td>Chamberlain elected mayor of Birmingham</td>
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<td>1874</td>
<td>Chamberlain elected as Liberal MP for West Birmingham</td>
<td>Chamberlain takes the Birmingham water and gas supplies into municipal ownership</td>
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<td>1878</td>
<td>Chamberlain purchases land near Moseley and starts building Highbury</td>
<td>Works commences on the construction of Corporation Street</td>
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<td>1879</td>
<td>George Cadbury establishes new factory at Bournville</td>
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<td>1880</td>
<td>Chamberlain Memorial constructed in Chamberlain Square</td>
<td>Chamberlain Memorial constructed in Chamberlain Square, designed by Martin &amp; Chamberlain</td>
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<td>1886</td>
<td>Chamberlain resigns from Gladstone’s government</td>
<td>Gladstone’s 1st Irish Home Rule Bill defeated</td>
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<td>1888</td>
<td>Marries third wife, the American Mary Endicott (1864-1957)</td>
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<td>1889</td>
<td>Chamberlain enlarges the Highbury estate</td>
<td>Birmingham granted city status by Queen Victoria</td>
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<td>1894</td>
<td>Chamberlain appointed Colonial Secretary</td>
<td>Conservative – Liberal Unionist Coalition win general election</td>
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<td>1899</td>
<td>Outbreak of Second Boer War (ends in 1902)</td>
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<td>1900</td>
<td>Chamberlain appointed Chancellor of the University of Birmingham</td>
<td>University of Birmingham receives its Royal Charter</td>
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<td>1901</td>
<td>Death of Queen Victoria</td>
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<td>1903</td>
<td>Chamberlain resigns as Colonial Secretary</td>
<td>Chamberlain Clock constructed in Jewellery Quarter</td>
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<td>1906</td>
<td>Chamberlain suffers a stroke and withdraws from politics</td>
<td>Conservative - Liberal Unionist Coalition defeated by a landslide in the general election</td>
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<td>1914</td>
<td>Chamberlain dies</td>
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<td>1919</td>
<td>Austen Chamberlain (Joseph’s eldest son) gifts Highbury to the Trustees of the Highbury estate</td>
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<td>1921</td>
<td>Public Park created from 75 acres of the Highbury and Uffculme estates (known as Highbury Park from 1933)</td>
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<td>1925</td>
<td>Joseph’s elder son, Austen (1863-1937) wins the Nobel Peace Prize for negotiating the Locarno Pact between France and Germany</td>
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<td>1932</td>
<td>Highbury trustees transfer the estate to Birmingham City Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>Joseph’s younger son Neville Chamberlain (1869-1940) becomes Prime Minister</td>
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<td>1939</td>
<td>Outbreak of Second World War</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>Highbury Palm House, hospital pavilions and Stables demolished and replaced by Chamberlain House</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Highbury undergoes restoration by Birmingham City Council</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Chamberlain Highbury Trust established</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Further reading

Peter Marsh
Joseph Chamberlain: Entrepreneur in Politics
(Yale, 1994)

Richard Jay
Joseph Chamberlain, A Political Study
(Oxford UP, 1981)

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Joseph Chamberlain: International Statesman,
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Tristram Hunt
Building Jerusalem: The Rise and Fall of the
Victorian City (Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 2004)

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Reekes, A.E., Two Titans, One City:
Joseph Chamberlain and George Cadbury
(History West Midlands, Alcester, 2017)

Reekes, A.E., The Birmingham Political Machine:
Winning Elections for Joseph Chamberlain
(History West Midlands, Alcester 2018)