

## WALK 2 From the Museum to Five Ways

Begin at the steps of the Museum and Art Gallery **8** and look to the left to Paradise Street.

This is where the Montserrat Co Ltd had offices. In 1857 Sturge established a 'free labour' plantation on the island of Montserrat. The company was re-floated in 1875, after liquidation, to safeguard the employment of the Montserrat workforce. A Birmingham-owned 'Montserrat Company' operated into the 20th century. John and Edmund Sturge, brothers of Joseph, ran a separate company establishing commercial scale lime cultivation in Montserrat to supply citric acid in their Birmingham works.

Turn to the right and go through Paradise Forum to Centenary Square **9**.

Bingley House, the home of the Quaker Farmer family from about 1770, was on the site of the present Symphony Hall and ICC. James Farmer took his brother-in-law Samuel Galton into partnership in his gun manufacturing business. Farmer lost heavily when Lisbon town was destroyed by an earthquake, as he had shipping commitments there.

Walk to the rear of Baskerville House, cross Cambridge Street and go left through the garden. Pass between the tower flats to Cambrian Canal Basin **10**.



Bingley House, by T. Rowcliffe, [WV:81/12568]



Cadbury's Works, Bridge St, 1847. [WV:large views]

Cambrian Wharf (1783) and Farmers Flight of Locks, named after James Farmer, link the Birmingham Navigation system and the Worcester Canal to the Fazeley (the Trent) and the Grand Union Canals (London and the Thames).

Cross the canal and keep on the west side until you are by the NIA and opposite the Sea Life Centre. Go over a Horsley iron bridge to your left and walk past the Malt House pub and on through the narrow canal tunnel. At the Bridge Street Wharf walk along the canal walkway keeping the Brindley pub on your left. Go over another Horsley bridge to the old shops/café side of Gas Street Basin **11**.

This important basin, still only used by 'cargo' type narrow boats, was the site of the first Cadbury works after the cocoa shop ceased manufacture. The wharf at the Bridge Street side would have been used for bringing coal and ingredients for chocolate drinks. Cadbury used the canal system for goods at their Bourneville plant until the 1950s.

The Farmers and the Galtons invested in the canal system enabling the various small canal companies to join together into the 'Birmingham Navigation' (now always called the BCN). This enabled their fuel to be brought and their goods to be carried more swiftly to the ports of Liverpool, London and Bristol.

If you have time, walk south along the tow path over a bridge and into The Mail Box, down an escalator and turn right into Severn Street where you will see the British School **12**. This was where the First Day School Movement began.

Retrace your steps back to Gas Street Basin and go through a small opening in the wall to Gas Street. Turn right and walk to Broad Street. Turn left and walk to the top end of Broad Street **13**.

The offices and warehouse of Joseph Sturge's business 'J & C Sturge' were here. He was a grain merchant who relocated from Gloucestershire to Birmingham in 1822.

It was often difficult for Sturge to balance 'morality' and 'profits'. It was for this reason his business refused to supply grain to be used for the production of alcohol in 1844.

Continue up Broad Street to a subway into the Five Ways roundabout. Take the left exit to Harborne Walkway to the statue of Joseph Sturge **14**.

The successful business run by Joseph Sturge and his brother Charles enabled Joseph to campaign against slavery. He also campaigned for votes for all adult males. Sturge began the 'Adult School Movement' and tried to prevent the Crimean War by visiting the Tsar in St Petersburg.



Gas Street Basin, 2008. [Photo: Brigitte Winsor]