



**THE MOSELEY SOCIETY**

Formed to protect a unique area of Birmingham

Charity No. 512211



## LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

January 2013

**Chris Sutton:** Moseley Exchange, 149-153 Alcester Road, Moseley B13 8JP **Tel:** 0121 449 8585 **Email:** [vcgcbham@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:vcgcbham@yahoo.co.uk)

**Web:** [www.moseleyhistory.co.uk](http://www.moseleyhistory.co.uk)

### Working with schools

As part of our HLF funded project we worked with two local schools, Moseley Church of England and Park Hill Primary, assisting them with their study of Moseley.

#### Moseley C of E

It was "Heritage Week" at Moseley C of E and Janet Berry and Angela Barnbrook put together a terrific series of activities for the school. The diary ran like this:-

#### Monday 26th November: Year 4 Moseley at War - Year 5 Local Settlements - Year 6 The Dovecote

The Year 4 class was "evacuated" to the Exchange. En route we met Rob Brown at St. Mary's Church where he showed us the damage done during the air raid and the war memorials. At the Exchange we took groups down into the air raid shelter (*pictured*) which still exists below the Post Office. Meanwhile in the Red Room we had dressing up in WW2 costumes, artefacts, an air raid shelter and some worksheets. It all went well and provided a varied and entertaining look at the war.

In the afternoon I gave a talk to Year 5 about how Moseley had been settled and expanded and the children did an exercise where they looked at old pictures and new pictures of Moseley and spotted the differences. Meanwhile over at the Dovecote Year 6 got a guided tour and talk about one of Moseley's most celebrated buildings.



#### Tuesday 27th November: Year 2 Moseley Buildings

Moseley has changed over the years but there is still much that is familiar. The children went on a guided tour of the village shops area and looked at images from Moseley in the past. What has changed and what has not was the theme.

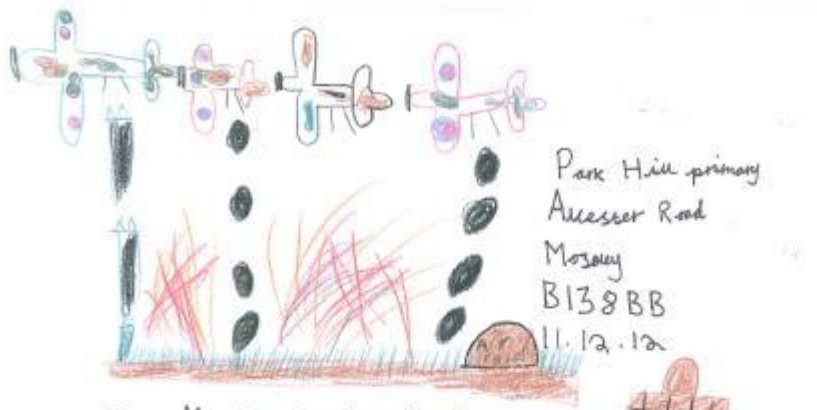
#### Tuesday 27th November: Year 1 Moseley Village Jobs

The children had made hats for a favourite job and suitably (h)attired we went out and split into groups to go and see who does what in Moseley, why they do it and do they like doing it! Street warden Graham met us on the green and spoke about a day in the life of a warden. He then introduced us to the local bobbies who fielded questions with great aplomb. Several local shops agreed to be interviewed about their work and all were most gracious hosts. Big thanks then to Village News, Pottery & Pieces, Domestica, Moseley Travel Centre, Chamberlains, Halfords, Baggeleys, Winspers, Colours Dry Cleaners, Pabari and The Post Office. We gathered together for a break in the Exchange which is home to many workers who share the office space and where Gerald McAvoy was waiting to speak to the children about why he uses the Exchange and what he does.

## Park Hill and the war

For the two Year Five classes at Park Hill we repeated the wartime exercises. While one class looked at the artefacts and costumes in class, the other went out to see St Mary's and the air raid shelter at the Exchange. The shelter hasn't changed too much since the war and still has ARP notices in place along with an air filter system and (to the children's delight) a secret escape route. The following week we swapped the exercises so each class got to experience both. Seeing the children trying on clothes and handling wartime items was a pleasure. There really is no substitute for actually touching the past!

The children sent some wonderful letters and pictures of the two days we were with them:



Park Hill primary  
Aldersey Road  
Mosely  
B13 8BB  
11.12.12

Dear Mosely Historical Society!

Thank you for coming into teach us about the second world war. We really enjoyed you at our school and we hope you can come again. A special thank you to Mrs Chris for organising all of this for us.

To be honest, I quite liked the trip - it was interesting please can you send back a letter so we know what you think of us. My <sup>parrot</sup> ~~parrot~~ part was going into the air raid shelter.

My other parrot part that we done in the class room was turning the air raid siren so it makes a loud noise!!!



## Other comments from the children

**"Although I didn't think it would be fun you guys made it worthwhile."**

**"My favourite part was when I pulled the lever on the grenade."**

**"I enjoyed going under the table which was meant to be an air raid shelter."**

**"The best bit was when you had to remember a name from the war memorial and go inside the church and find the name you had remembered."**

**"I enjoyed dressing up in WW2 clothes."**

**"I liked it in the dusty old shelter."**

**"The siren was so loud I thought I was going to bleed."**

**"I am thrilled you did it all out of kindness and not out of money."**



## HLF Project Computer Course

The input from volunteers on the project has been invaluable. We have had people in doing cataloguing and indexing (*see pictures to the right*) and we are extremely grateful to them.

One of the intentions with the project was to provide training and tuition on key areas of computer use – these being the Office suite of programmes, Family History and how the Moseley History Group online suite can be used and updated.

The course details are below, you don't have to come to every one but hopefully you will want to come along to at least one of them:

### Time:

10.00 – 12.30 am.

### Dates:

Session 1: Monday March 11th

Session 2: Monday March 18th

Session 3: Monday March 25th

Session 4: Monday April 8th

Session 5: Tuesday April 9th

Session 6: Monday April 15th

### Content:

#### **Sessions 1 & 2: Using the computer to research Family History.**

**Detail:** Accessing and manipulating a range of websites (including Free BMD, Free CEN, Ancestry, Findmypast, Genes Reunited and the National and Local Archives) and Family Tree programmes to record your findings.

#### **Sessions 3 & 4: Collating, tabulating and presenting research findings.**

**Detail:** Spreadsheets, photographs, articles and booklets. We will also look at Oral History interviewing (hardware and software) and scanning and digitising old photographs.

#### **Sessions 5 & 6: Developing Moseley Society Local History Group Website.**

**Detail:** Accessing and contributing to the Moseley Society Local History Group website, Facebook and Twitter. How to set up a Blog will also be covered.



### **February 27<sup>th</sup> 7:30 in the Red Room 'St Mary's, Moseley - the Medieval Church - Exploding the myths'**

**Rob Brown** is here to talk about St. Mary's Church. Rob has done an excellent job of sorting through all the existing material relating to the church and has spent many hours putting it together for a forthcoming history. I have read Rob's first draft and it is a thorough, well written and lively piece of writing. Rob says his talk involves: *"The debunking of popular misconceptions as a result of recent (the last 40 years) inaccurate interpretation, guesswork and invention. I have always had a touch of iconoclasm in me, especially when they are false icons in the first place!"*

Rob will be using copies of some original source material and publications and will be covering the period from Domesday to the Reformation and as far as the Restoration – time permitting. This should be a fascinating evening looking at one of Moseley's most iconic buildings and the people who have been associated with it.