



**THE MOSELEY SOCIETY**

Formed to protect a unique area of Birmingham

Charity No. 512211



## LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

June 2013

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### **This month we are reporting on our wonderful trip to The Hive. Tour of Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2013.**

By Josie Wall

Our trip to The Hive, the new home of Worcester library, archives and archaeology services, was a fantastic and really informative day, thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. We began our tour in the self-service part of the 'Explore the Past' area, where digital and microfilm records can be consulted, including some records relating to Moseley from the era when the parish of Kings Norton was part of Worcestershire.



Next we visited Archaeological Services and were very impressed by the archaeological records. The information about every archaeological site in the county is available and can be found by consulting the digital map of Worcestershire with the help of a county archaeologist. This map contains details of how people in the past used the landscape and shows where to find the records of excavations, finds or other data. Unfortunately the map only covers the modern county of Worcestershire and so they did not have any records for Moseley. However, it is a wonderful resource and allows us to see at a glance the way people lived and worked across history and appreciate that traces of their lives can be found everywhere.

We also got to see behind the scenes of the archive! This included seeing the rooms where finds are kept stacked in neatly labelled boxes. We were able to handle some of them, including Roman pottery. We also got to see the temperature-controlled rooms where original historical documents and maps are kept, including official records like Shakespeare's Marriage Licence and more personal items, such as a letter sent from the Titanic. Our tour concluded with learning how they preserve and restore documents and maps, truly fascinating!



We were all very impressed with The Hive and fervently hope that when the New Central Library opens in September the services in Birmingham will be as good. Several people who visited Worcester expressed an interest in a similar tour of Central Library in the autumn so that we can find out for ourselves.

Anyone who might be interested in joining a group visit should contact Christine Mann.

(email: [moseleyhistory@moseleyexchange.com](mailto:moseleyhistory@moseleyexchange.com))

#### **EVENING TALK**

**Tuesday 23rd July  
24<sup>th</sup> in the Red Room at  
Moseley Exchange,  
7.30 p.m.**

**'Britain's Muslim Soldiers'**  
by Jahan Mahmood  
Come along for a fascinating talk about Muslim soldiers and the role they have played in the British Army.

#### **DISPLAYS**

**'Moseley Now and Then'**  
**Moseley Golf Club.**  
**Until 12<sup>th</sup> July**

**'Moseley At War'**  
**The Cow House**  
**Until September**

## **News and Announcements**

### **'Pool of Memories' by Steve Beauchampe**

Steve gave us a fascinating and detailed illustrated talk about the history of how Moseley Road Baths were built and their rare and unique architectural features, facilities, contribution to the war effort, life as a ballroom, role in school and club swimming and venue for various other events. You can buy his new book on the history of the Baths from the 'Pool of Memories' website.

If you missed this talk, make sure you don't miss our speakers in the future. Talks are now held at the Exchange on the 4th Tuesday of the month. Look out for announcements in the Newsletter and on our website at <http://www.moseleyhistory.co.uk/meeting-and-events.html>

### **History Fair**

We had a stall and put up a display at 'The Birmingham Lives History Fair' at the Girl Guides' centre on Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup>., which attracted a great deal of attention.

### **Upcoming Events**

**The Moseley Festival is almost upon us and we need volunteers to help man the stall on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July - even if you can only spare an hour, every little helps!** If you can't stay to help, please do stop by and have a look. We'll have copies of our new booklets 'Moseley at War: WWI' and 'Moseley at War: WWII' to distribute and a small display on 'Moseley in WWII' of memories of local people and artefacts from the period.

We are also planning a guided Moseley History Trail on the day, in the morning at 10am and afternoon at 2pm. The tour will muster at the stand before walking 'round the block'; up Alcester Road, along Woodbridge Road, down Church Road and St. Mary's Row, guided by Christine Mann and Rob Brown. As places will be limited, we will also be distributing information leaflets for the trail, also useful for those who can't make the guided walk times. The walks will be for a maximum of 10 people so please book to avoid disappointment (by email on: [moseleyhistory@moseleyexchange.com](mailto:moseleyhistory@moseleyexchange.com) or phone 0121 449 0727)

### **An Appeal For Volunteers**

In addition to our booklets about Moseley at War, we are also producing booklets about Victorian Moseley and New Communities in Moseley. We are searching for images to include; both from the collection and other sources but it is a big task! Anyone who'd like to help (and get their hands on our fabulous collection) will be welcomed with open arms; come along on a Monday or Tuesday to the Green Room at The Exchange.

Another task which our volunteers can help with is the ongoing digitisation of 'The Collection'. These are the archives of the Moseley Society Local History Group; a wonderful resource for those interested in the history of the area, one which we'd like to make more easily accessible, through the website. Digitisation also protects this resource for the future by preserving a record of documents and pictures. If you would like to help us with scanning or creating Excel databases please contact Christine Mann. There is something in the collection to interest everyone, so come and get acquainted!

#### **Very Sad News**

We are sorry to report the death of a long-standing member of the Moseley Society Local History Group, Ann Bold, who was also the author of a book about Moseley Church. Our condolences go to her friends and family.