

Moseley Society/History Society visit to the Great War Exhibition at KES on Friday 3rd July 2015



The visit commenced with a talk by Paul Golightly, the Head of History at the school, on how the upper corridor of the original school building in New Street was relocated stone by stone in 1936 and rebuilt in the early 1950s as a Memorial Chapel. The Chapel, a Grade II* listed building, was designed by Sir Charles Barry in the 1830s, who employed Augustus Pugin for aspects of the interior design. The Chapel has been recently renovated to host the exhibition, opened in November 2014 on 'King Edward School and the Great War' commemorating the 100th anniversary of WW1

Paul then introduced us to the content of the exhibition which includes the names of 245 of the School's former pupils who died in combat in the First World War. They are commemorated on bronze memorial plaques on the wall together with a personal biography for each name via a virtual Roll of Honour. There is also a supporting display of artefacts and memorabilia showing the involvement of the Old Edwardians in raising the Birmingham City (Pals) Battalions and a film of 'Tolkien's Great War' which considers the impact of the conflict on the author and how his experience on the Western influenced his writing.

The exhibition will run for four years and develop throughout that time to mark some of the key events that took place 100 years previously. On the 1st July 2016 the School will be opening a new exhibition based on 'The Battle of the Somme'. **A return visit for Moseley Society/History Society to visit this new exhibition will be taking place sometime in September/October 2016**

If you missed this tour and would like to book a visit to the KES Great War exhibition at another time, please visit the KES web site:

<http://www.kes.org.uk/great-war-exhibition>

To view Tolkien's Great War film on line, the web site address is:

<http://www.kes.org.uk/tolkien-great-war.html>

Written by Edwina Rees