

Commemorating the centenary of the end of World War One

Help available from the Moseley Society Local History Group

Many local schools will be commemorating the centenary of the end of World War One this year. Remember 11th November 2018 falls on a Sunday. Please also note that new events are being organised all the time so this list may become out of date rapidly. The Moseley Society has a thriving History Group the members of which can offer help and advice to primary and secondary schools.

1. We have a website <http://moseley-society.org.uk/local-history/projects/ww1-project/> which has details of the resources available and biographies of local people killed in the war. These include a list and photograph of ten known Moseley memorials, a 'Roll of Honour' from Wintersloe, a Moseley school and a spreadsheet of the 198 names of those who appear on the memorials in alphabetical order. There is also a series of biographies based on the stories of local people and their family experiences in WW1 including Percy Jeeves, of P G Wodehouse fame, who played for Moseley Cricket Club in 1912-13 and Lieut T. E. Mitton, the brother of Tolkien. There is information on conscientious objectors, the Women's Volunteer Reserve, a gallery of WW1/WW2 photographs and some local oral histories from WW1. There is also an online booklet 'Moseley at War, WW1' at: <https://moseley-society.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Moseley-at-War-WWI-booklet.pdf>
2. A number of our members are doing research on local people. Many teachers are familiar with how to research people who served in the Great War. A lot of information is available online. A starting point to research those who died in the war is the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website (www.cwgc.org). There are many companies that offer an online research facility e.g. www.ancestry.co.uk or www.findmypast.co.uk. They do charge! Members of the Moseley History Group can offer advice and assistance but do remember that we are all volunteers and our time is limited. The IWM has a facility for members of the public (and therefore school pupils) to upload details of those who they have researched (www.livesofthefirstworldwar.org). There is also a search facility to explore the details of millions of men and servicewomen already added.
3. There are a number of "official" websites for the commemoration; www.1914.org and the www.gov.uk/centenary-commemoration. Both are run by the Imperial War Museum and list many national events.
4. The Institute of London in London hosts a website www.centenarybattlefieldtours.org, which has a lot of interesting material, including teaching resources. The Institute hosts the government programme to send one teacher and two pupils from every school on a free tour to the Western Front. You may have already accessed this. The programme is being extended to 2019, with a possible new focus on literature. It also hosts the Legacy110 project.

Schools which can show involvement of 110 members of the community in their events will receive an award. The Institute co-ordinates the work of a nationwide network of specialist Leaders in First World War Education, who have a brief to spread good practice and support other schools. The nearest one to Moseley is based in Derbyshire. It may be worth contacting him. Details are on the website.

5. There is also a new website, which seems official, called www.brunopeak.co.uk which lists planned activities for Remembrance Day. This includes bagpipes, church bells and beacons. The website includes a very good downloadable booklet.
6. There are many other websites. One often used by the members of the group is www.longlongtrail.co.uk. This is a free website with a lot of detail about the British armed forces.
7. The Royal British Legion have set up an excellent section of their website (www.britishlegion.org.uk) called "Thank you". Schools can sign up to receive regular updates and the RBL are encouraging/helping schools to sign up for Heritage Lottery Grants.
8. There are likely to be events organised locally as part of the commemoration. At the moment initial planning meetings have taken place hosted by Birmingham Museum and Library. Watch out for further details in due course.
9. Although the Birmingham Hall of Memory is currently closed it has a good website (www.hallofmemory.co.uk) with a roll of honour listing most Birmingham soldiers who lost their lives.
10. There is now reconstructed World War One trench at Kingshurst Academy, which is available for KS2 & KS3 pupils from other schools to visit. The website is www.ww1trenchexperience.co.uk.
11. A number of theatre groups offer WW1 themed activities to schools such as the Big Brum Theatre Company (www.bigbrum.co.uk).
12. YouTube has a continually changing collection of useful film clips such as The Great War Channel or WW1 Uncut: Dan Snow
13. There are memorials in the local area listing the names of Moseley people who died in the war. You can find most of them listed on the www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk website. There is also the War Memorials Trust which exists to help maintain war memorials and promote educational activities around them. They have an excellent website with many educational resources at www.warmemorials.org.
14. Many churches have "official" Commonwealth War Graves in them. You will be aware that St Mary's Church has its own, external war memorial. Brandwood End Cemetery in Woodthorpe Road (B14 6EQ) has 108 CWG's from WW1.
15. The Moseley History Group are also involved in the Heritage Open Day at Highbury Hall on Sunday 16th September. This year there will be many displays about World War One. Highbury Hall itself was used as a hospital during the war.

16. There are lots of free on line teaching resources. There is a good collection on the TES website www.tes.com (just type in World War One teaching resources in the search facility). You have to register but you can get limited access for free.
17. Unfortunately Moseley is some distance from museums with displays on the Great War. The Fusilier Museum at Warwick (www.warwickfusiliers.com) has a small display but a visit there can be combined with other attractions in Warwick (www.vistwarwick.co.uk) including the Yeomanry Museum (but this is only open on a Saturday). The museum of the Staffordshire Regiment, near Lichfield, has a re-created World War One trench that is very popular with school parties. Further afield the Imperial War Museum (www.iwm.org.uk) has just built a new Great War Gallery which is well worth a visit. The IWM has a facility for members of the public to upload details of those who they have researched
18. There are a number of national bodies dedicated to the study of the Great War such as the Western Front Association (www.westernfrontassociation.com) or the Gallipoli Association (www.gallipoli-association.org). They often have local branches, with volunteers who can offer advice. Some have dedicated education officers.
19. Some of the members of the group are former teachers who are able to come into schools to speak at assemblies or even to take one off lessons. We have access to artefacts and resources that will aid understanding. To enquire about using us use the email address below.
20. There will be a number of Armistice Day parades in the area, organised on or around the 11th of November. The local media will give details. Why not organise your own? The local British Legion can often provide ex-servicemen or women with colours. Why not organise a service in your hall or playground?

For further help contact the Moseley History Group via
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