



THE MOSELEY SOCIETY

Formed to protect a unique area of Birmingham

Charity No. 512211



LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

July 2013

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Moseley Festival: History Walks and 'Moseley at War' Booklets Launch.

By Josie Wall

On Saturday 13th July the Local History Group had a display on the Moseley Society stand at the Moseley Festival. The display was about Moseley during World War II with images and memories of local people. We also had some fascinating war-time artefacts including a baby's gas-mask and an air-raid warden's helmet.

The 'Moseley at War' booklets were hot off the press! We had 250 of each 'World War I' and 'World War II' and they proved to be hugely popular. In fact we distributed the entire first print run, except for a small number which were held back to ensure that volunteers and committee members who couldn't make it to the festival got their copies. Due to this success we are hoping to get a second batch printed soon, funding permitting!

We also ran two Moseley History Walks at 10am and 2pm 'around the block' from Victoria Parade and the park, down Woodbridge Road, Church Road and St Mary's Row. Christine Mann and Rob Brown informed us of the history of this part of Moseley and pointed out some of its hidden gems! The tours were enjoyed by all who attended and we'd like to thank the guides and attendees for braving the scorching weather!



Thanks also go to Janet Berry for running the stall and co-ordinating the day, and of course we couldn't forget to thank all the volunteers who came down to help with booklet distribution.

Current displays:

'Moseley Now and Then'
Prince of Wales Pub - until August

'Moseley At War'
The Dovecote - until September

News and Announcements

Britain's Muslim Soldiers



NO EVENING TALK IN AUGUST

As in previous years we'll be taking a summer break!

The next meeting will be in September when we will be celebrating the completion of the HLF-funded project.

On Tuesday, 23rd July, Jahan Mahmood gave a fascinating presentation on the contribution of Muslim soldiers during the two World Wars. Thoroughly researched, with rare images, this was an inspiring, thought-provoking, hugely enjoyable event, enhanced by humour and personal stories of individual soldiers. An added bonus was Jack Weston's demonstration of a variety of weaponry, from sten guns to bren guns.

Jahan made connections between past experiences and characteristics of life in the areas from which Muslim soldiers originated, in the war zones in which they operated, and the political situations in which we find ourselves today. This forms the basis of his encouraging and hopeful programme of work with Muslim youths in Birmingham.

Undoubtedly, though, the presentation very much enhanced our appreciation of the considerable contribution of Muslim soldiers to the positive outcomes of both World Wars and was a fitting finale for our Heritage Lottery programme of evening meetings.

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 3rd Tuesday of the month (except August). Look out for announcements in the Newsletter and on our website at <http://www.moseleyhistory.co.uk/meeting-and-events.html>

End of Project

You are invited to a buffet on Monday September 23rd 2013, 12.30 for 1.00 p.m., in the Orange Room at the Moseley Exchange, to celebrate the achievements of our Heritage Lottery Fund Project. Please let Christine know if you are coming.

Although the project is nearing its end, this does not mean that all the work is done! On the contrary, there is potential for ongoing digitalisation of the history archive for some time to come, so there is still time for you to get involved with 'The Collection'. If you would like to help us with scanning or creating databases or joining the working group to look to the future, please contact Christine.

Also, anyone who is interested in researching any aspect of Moseley history is encouraged to come and explore 'The Collection'; we have a fantastic range of resources. Please contact Christine to arrange a visit.