



THE MOSELEY SOCIETY

Formed to protect a unique area of Birmingham

Charity No. 512211



LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

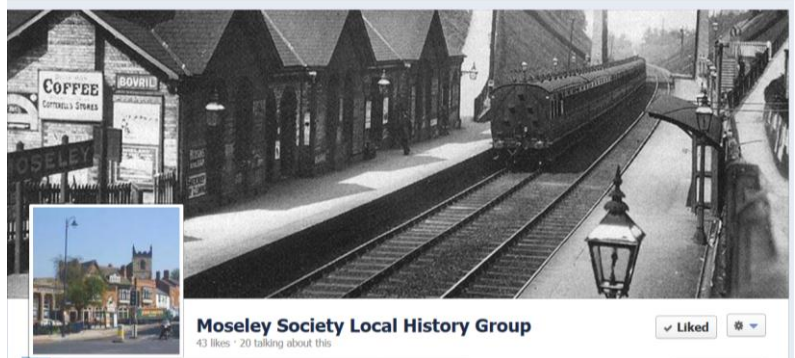
JUNE 2012

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HLF PROJECT:

WEBSITE & FACEBOOK

The new website for the History Group is under development. It will be "going live" on the Internet in July and full details will be in the next newsletter. The website will carry contact information, details of current events and a selection of articles and photographs. In the meantime our Facebook account is active and is already attracting interest. If you are signed up for Facebook then why not follow us? Simply search for Moseley Society Local History Group.



JULY EVENTS

We will be having displays at two events in July. Angela and Verity kindly sorted out the existing display boards in the flat cabinet and these will form the basis for what we take out. The display boards are ready in the Red Room for a selection to be mounted.

The first event is the **Moseley Street Fair on Saturday 7th July from 11 – 3**. We are having a display inside The Exchange in the downstairs public area. Christine Mann is going to be there and we are hoping for some volunteers to be present to answer questions and drum up interest. There will be stalls outside in the street so it may be we need someone on the Moseley Society stall to alert people to our display in The Exchange.

The second event is **Moseley Community Games on Saturday 14th July from 12 – 4**. This is taking place inside Moseley Park and is likely to be very busy. The Games are intended to provide a great opportunity to bring the community together to take part in sporting and cultural activities inspired by, and in celebration of, the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Fiona Adams is suggesting we have a display in a gazebo near the Icehouse. Christine again is going to be there for this and we would welcome anyone who wants to come along for all or part of the event.

Please contact myself, Christine or Janet Berry for further information on either of these events.

EXCHANGE DISPLAYS

While on the subject of displays we have had four boards delivered which will form the basis for a permanent History Group display at The Exchange. Inside the Red Room there will be a notice board with the History Group details and current events plus the odd photograph. Downstairs will be selections of photographs, organised thematically. Already proposed for these boards are Moseley on Maps, Greetings from Moseley (based on the delightful postcard collection), Moseley at War, and Victorian Moseley. Anyone interested in helping select, print, caption and laminate images are welcome to get in touch.

ORAL HISTORY ARCHIVES

Frank Gresham has been indexing the transcriptions which were made of a series of Oral History interviews. One of the strands we are exploring for the HLF project is Moseley at war and it was fascinating to discover memories particularly from the First World War. Some of these interviews were recorded years ago when there were still many alive who remembered the War clearly, and we are fortunate that the History Group recorded them. Some memories from the First World War on the home-front in Moseley:-

“He (Joseph Chamberlain) lived in Highbury and when it came to the war there was a hut constructed in there with beds for convalescent soldiers at that time. It was heated by paraffin heaters, the thing caught fire and they were all burnt”. *(Mary Kaighan)*

“I first remember Sorrento (hospital) in 1914 when the Germans had overrun Belgium and Belgian refugees came over to this country and we had flag days for Belgian refugees - that was the thing for money to keep these Belgian refugees and you took your collecting boxes to Sorrento which was empty at that time and it was used as a depot for things like that”. *(Mary Kaighan)*

“In 1914 or 15, on the corner of Queensbridge Road was all fields at that time, and on the corner there they made one big field and plotted it out into allotments for people to grow vegetables”. *(Mary Kaighan)*

“It was the time of influenza when young people were going down like flies after the First War, people weren't nourished, and you had a job to get food”. *(Mary Kaighan)*

“The day Armistice was declared... it was a lovely bright day. I can remember skipping down the road. “Oh, we've got a holiday today because the war's over.” And I can remember being taken by my mother and father and aunt down to the green where they lit a bonfire and all the young teenagers were dancing round the bonfire”. *(Joy Atkins)*

“One thing that sticks in my mind was the Zeppelin coming over and everybody was gawping up at this Zeppelin until someone suddenly saw the sign on it which told them it was German. My mother took one look and ushered us down the cellar”! *(Mrs Geipel)*

“I can remember the Zeppelins coming over at the beginning of the First World War. They came right over the lower end of Moseley. They went towards Birchwood Road”. *(Mrs Haden)*

“Soldiers coming home from the trenches from New Street station, just as they were, covered with mud, absolutely one mass of mud. Kit bags hanging on their backs absolutely worn out, I can remember that now. Just occasionally we would see one stray one coming home at first, that was terrible wasn't it? The soldiers used to go through to France from Brighton Road to Moseley. You could hear them all singing 'Tipperary'. We used to see another troop train going through. It was every two or three hours. Brighton Road, Moseley and Kings Heath went straight through to France I suppose, terrible”. *(Mrs Haden)*

NEXT MEETING: MOSELEY PARK

WEDNESDAY 25TH JULY 7:30

Instead of a meeting in the Red Room we are having a summer trip out, weather permitting, with a guided tour of Moseley Park. Roy Cockel is our guide for what will be a most enjoyable evening. Meet at the Park Gates (off the Alcester Road) at 7:30.

