



THE MOSELEY SOCIETY

Formed to protect a unique area of Birmingham

Charity No. 512211



LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

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CHANGING TIMES

We are very sorry that Chris Sutton is leaving us, but we wish him all the best in his new job. Chris is moving to a new post with St Paul's Crossover in Bordesley Green. We thank him very much for all he has done to invigorate the Moseley Society Local History Group and make the HLF Project such a success.

The HLF project will continue to the end of September 2013, with Christine Mann taking over as Local Historian from April 1st 2013. Josie Wall will take over as editor of this newsletter.



Historians Christine and Chris outside the Moseley Exchange

Moseley Then and Now

The display of photographs contrasting views from 100 years ago with today will be at Balsall Heath Library from Monday 25th March. The "now" images were specially taken by Brett Wilde. Below is the Shufflebotham's store on the corner of Alcester Road and Woodbridge Road and the same site today.



NEW PROJECTS FUNDING

We have secured £1 000 from the Moseley Forum for a photographic and oral history project, 'Moseley Now and Then'. We are in the process of making further applications for this grant.

It is intended to apply to HLF via their new First World War centenary commemorative funding stream for a Moseley 1914 project. The image below shows wounded officers recuperating at Highbury during the war and is courtesy of the *Connecting Histories* website.



Trip to Worcester Archives

We have organised a trip on Monday 20th May as part of our HLF programme of activities. We are meeting there at 11am and will be getting a guided tour of what the Archives has to offer. Moseley used to be in Worcestershire and the Archives holds a lot of material relating to the area. Anyone who is interested in coming should contact us by phone or email as above.

MOSELEY WOMEN: Lisel Haas (1898-1899)

We have been compiling material on several women of note from Moseley. The photographer Lisel Haas was born to Jewish parents in Mönchengladbach, Germany. She developed her photographic skills working as a portrait photographer and also as a photojournalist and theatre photographer. Her special interest was urban childhood. In 1938, along with other Jewish businesses, Haas was issued with a notice on 18th October, stating that she must display a notice in her photographic studio's window saying that it was a 'Jewish business'. The ensuing campaign of suspicion and hatred led inevitably to businesses and homes being attacked, culminating in "*Kristallnacht*" (9th -10th November 1938) when the violence reached unprecedented levels. Haas duly abandoned her studio and left Germany with her father. Originally they applied to the United States for asylum but were turned down. Turning instead to Britain they arrived in Birmingham in December 1938.



• *William Baldwin with his brother and father - by Lisel Haas*

Her talent and ability was evident enough for her to obtain work in 1940 with Birmingham Repertory Theatre as an official photo call photographer. She photographed almost every production there at a time when many promising young actors appeared - including Albert Finney, Ian Richardson, and Derek Jacobi. After the war she expanded her work and set up a photographic studio with her German (non Jewish) partner Grete Bermbach at her home in 12 Grove Avenue, Moseley. Haas worked from here until she left Birmingham in 1962. Through the medium of photography, Haas attempted, as she told a Jewish Women's Group in Birmingham to create a "*universal language through which we are able to remember events and personal memories*". She believed that 'life' provided the link between her and her sitters, and gave the pictures their force and effect. Photography, she felt, was charged by life and by living.

The continuing theme of portrait photography of individuals and families was a constant in her life. Haas apparently only returned once to Germany, on a trip to collect some possessions which had been kept by a non-Jewish German woman during the war. The erasure of any memories or legacy of her time there was nearly complete and then total by the time her niece, Dorothy Williams, visited Mönchengladbach some years later in search of the family home. The house had been given a new name and number, and all traces of the Haas studio past had gone.

EVENING TALK

April 24th 7:30 in the Red Room at Moseley Exchange

Coleridge-Taylor: In Wake Green Road did Kublai Khan a pleasure dome erect?

Chris Upton visits for an entertaining and informative talk about Coleridge-Taylor and his Moseley connections.

Chris's books and his column in the Birmingham Post have made him a highly popular local history speaker.

MOSELEY WOMEN

Josie Wall writes:-

Beryl Chempin is a pianist and one of the most respected piano teachers in the UK. The Beryl Chempin Beethoven Prize for Pianists from the Birmingham Conservatoire is funded by and named after her, the winner goes on to compete in the Inter Collegiate Beethoven Competition making the prize very prestigious. She was born in Edgbaston in 1920 and now lives in Russell Road, Moseley. Chempin joined the Royal Society of Musicians in 1975 and holds a Fellowship of Music from Trinity College London, a Licentiate of the Royal Academy of Music and is an Honorary Fellow of the Birmingham Conservatoire. She has had a distinguished career, including teaching at the Birmingham School of Music, which was celebrated in 2004 by the performance of *Chempinesca*, a piano duet by David Briggs.

FRANK JONES

We have to report that one of our oldest and most enthusiastic members has passed away.

Frank lived in Oxford Road, a house he lived in all his life. He was interested in all manner of recording media and record players and loved to repair things.

Frank was a fascinating man full of memories of Moseley history. He will be greatly missed and we send our sincere condolences to his family.