

## News from the History Group - June 2016

The History Group has been working hard on its latest project, the history of the Moor Green Allotments, which is being conducted for Moor Green Allotments Association. Booklets and displays are being produced, as well as articles both for the Allotments' and our own websites. Work is proceeding apace on the WW1 project including a recent interesting group of articles about members of the Underhill family, with a view to publishing articles on the History Group web pages about all the 1916 casualties commemorated on the St Mary's war memorial by Armistice Day. In addition the Group continues with its own research into a variety of local topics, often prompted by individual requests, and will be running a stall at the forthcoming St Mary's church event. Two more Tuesday history talks have taken place - one by Kate Iles on Lunatics and their ladies (the wives and daughters of the Lunar Society) and the other by Liz Palmer about the history of the Greenhill area of Moseley - both very well attended by appreciative audiences. Following on from the visit to the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas on 24 May (see separate article), a guided tour of St Philips Cathedral Birmingham by Terry Slater has been organised for 23 June. Finally on Saturday 2 July the Group will be leading a guided history walk around Moseley Village with the theme of 'Moseley businesses and ghost signs', starting at 2.00 and 4.00 pm from the Society's stall at the Moseley Street Fair, as part of the Moseley Festival.

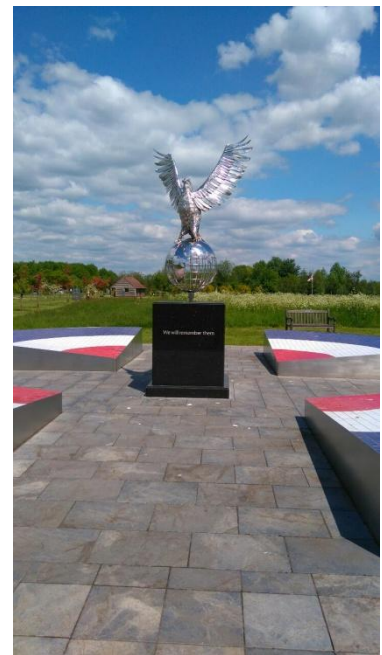
### Visit to the National Memorial Arboretum.

On 24 May a visit took place to the National Memorial Arboretum near Alrewas, organised by the History group. The Arboretum, which lies within the National Park was begun in 1997 and was officially opened in May 2001. It was developed on disused gravel workings at the confluence of the Rivers Tame and Trent and now occupies 150 acres containing 30,000 trees and more than 300 memorials commemorating those who have given their lives in service to the country or have otherwise died in tragic circumstances. The sheer size and scope of this national centre of Remembrance is impressive and although guided tours



National Memorial Arboretum - Royal Navy Memorial

are available by land train it is only possible to appreciate the memorials at close quarters and enjoy the beauty of the trees, rivers



National Memorial Arboretum - RAF Memorial

and wild life by exploring the site on foot, which involves a considerable amount of walking. At the end there is welcome refreshment in the form of a couple of cafes, soon to be joined by a larger visitor centre currently under construction. The centre is continuing to grow with new memorials being added and an extension planned on adjacent land and the beautiful surroundings will be further enhanced when the trees and shrubs reach full maturity. This all contributed to a very interesting and enjoyable trip.