

Newsletter No 4 May 2015 Six Streets History
Report on Trip to IWM North, and Six Streets Women



World War 1 British Troops with Horses
From relatives of a Six Streets Resident, by kind permission



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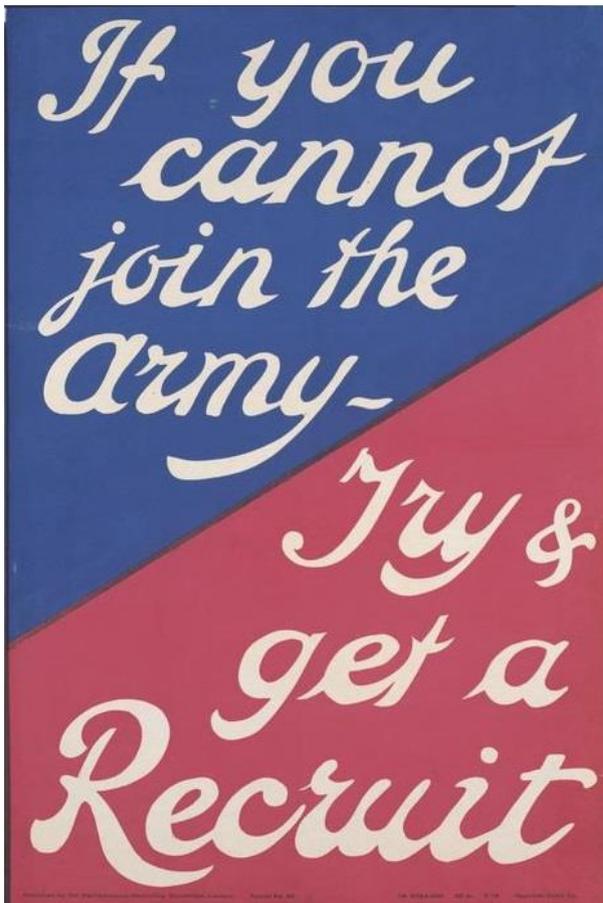
Six Streets History Newsletter No 4

This Newsletter brings you a report on the **Six Streets Trip to the Imperial War Museum North** which took place in April, and was much enjoyed by a group of local residents including families with children.

We also introduce an exciting development in our research into the **roles of women in World War 1**, with some records being released by the Red Cross with regard to the contribution of women to nursing and other activities during the war.

All who are interested are invited to our forthcoming **AGM** on 22 May 2015, details below.

Six Streets trip to Imperial War Museum North – 19 April 2015



Thirty nine neighbours and friends enjoyed a coach trip to Manchester to visit the Imperial War Museum North. Set in the regenerated area of Salford Quays, the museum is an impressive modern building with views across the waterways to Media City, ITV Coronation Street studios and The Lowry.

We went to visit the exhibition "From Street to Trench" which runs until the end of May.

With the local "Pals" regiment so much a part of the history of the North-West, the museum told the story of how local communities were affected by the First World War. "Pals" battalions consisted

of men who had been recruited together, and were allowed to serve together with their friends.

Telling the personal stories of ordinary men and women through photographs, letters and memorabilia was very moving, with the use of film and frequent listening posts to hear first-hand accounts of people who had lived through the times. One recording reminded us that with no radio, people relied on newspapers, often locally produced, for all their news and often had little interest in world events – an interesting reminder of how the world has changed.

The story was widened to tell what it was like for women drafted into war work – working in munitions factories, food production and textile manufacture are just a few examples. The story about how men were encouraged to volunteer was an important part of the story and one large wall of the exhibition was covered with colourful recruitment posters.

Several of our group commented about how the telling of individual stories made the exhibitions throughout the museum so interesting and very different from the Imperial War Museum in London. We are hoping to adopt a similar approach in our own exhibition planned for the Arts Trail this summer – the museum had enviable resources with many objects, photographs, film and sound recordings to make their stories come alive.

Children from our group enjoyed the activities that are on offer daily, with a session on animals at war – getting off the coach when we arrived back in Derby one of the youngest in our group was clutching a picture of a tortoise – everyone knows about horses and pigeons – but surely not tortoises? I never found out so I guess it means another trip to Manchester to find out!

Diane Moss

Image: Recruitment poster Imperial War Museum © IWM (Art.IWM PST 5096)

Six Streets Women

So far, much of our research has concentrated on the men who went away to fight, so it was with some excitement that we heard that the Red Cross have started to release their records of First World War volunteers, many of whom were women. The Red Cross organised units called Voluntary Aid Detachments, known as VADs. Volunteers were trained in first aid and nursing.



Photograph of VAD Nurses

© British Red Cross Museum and Archives

Although only surnames A to G have been released so far, we have already discovered five women from our area who volunteered – mostly as nursing assistants or cooks, but one woman on Bromley Street volunteered to do sewing and knitting.

The other interesting discovery through these records is that there was an Auxiliary Hospital on Duffield Road (near Highfield Road) – one of the many buildings converted for use as a hospital or nursing home for wounded soldiers. Over the next few months we will be continuing our research as further records are released. Information we have so far will be featured in our History Trail during the Arts Trail.

Six Streets History AGM

Friday 22nd May, 10 – 11am at 34 White Street, Derby DE22 1HA

If you are interested in hearing more about the group or getting involved, please feel free to come along. Refreshments will be provided and we hope the formal business won't take too much time. Come along and hear about progress, recent and ongoing developments and the achievements during the past year.

The meeting also provides a forum for members to put forward their ideas for the future.

ARTS TRAIL 27 - 28 JUNE 2015 10 AM - 5 PM

in the Six Streets area off Kedleston Road, Derby DE22

**with History Exhibition at Broadway Baptist Church, Broadway,
Derby DE22 1BP**

HISTORY TRAIL

As part of the Arts Trail weekend we will be showcasing our discoveries so far. There will be a pop-up street trail with information panels featuring local men and their families. Some of our panel locations will be featured on the main Arts Trail guide but all around the area you will find information panels and leaflets about our project.

EXHIBITION AND ROADSHOW

We are also hosting an exhibition at Broadway Baptist Church all through the Arts Trail Weekend – come and meet the team and find out more – you can also talk to us about our project and what we hope to do next and, if you are interested, find out about getting involved.



Members of Six Streets History Team
with Community Heritage and Archive Group Award for Innovation (2012)

Are you interested in researching YOUR Ancestors and their part in World War One?



© Kevin Brown, [Relative Strangers](#)

During the weekend Genealogy consultant Kevin Brown of “Relative Strangers” will be on hand to offer advice on how to get started on discovering your family’s involvement in World War One.

Kevin can advise you on what sources and websites to use and the best way to start.

Kevin has been involved in researching men from the Six Streets for the history group but he also has an interest in Conscientious Objectors and has started to help us find out more about a man from Kedleston Road who was a CO during the 1914-18 war.

Kevin will be available on Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday.

100 Years Ago

April 21: **The first use of poisonous gas** in the First World War, at the Second Battle of Ypres. Details in [Derbyshire Lives article Gas! Gas!](#)

May 31: The first **Zeppelin raid on London** kills seven and injures 35. British morale is shaken as Germany demonstrates it can attack the capital at will.

June 4: The Third and final **Battle of Krithia** begins at **Gallipoli** as Allies attempt to push inland from their beach-heads. British losses amount to 6,000 men.

June 30: German troops use **flame throwers** for the first time against the

British lines at Hooge, Ypres.

August 4: Germans **annex Warsaw**.

August 6: Allies land two divisions at Suvla Bay, **Gallipoli**. They opt not to take the strategic heights overlooking the beaches and are eventually pinned to the coast by Turkish troops.

August 16: A **U-boat bombards Whitehaven**, proving that Britain's maritime defences can be breached by German submarines.

August 21: The **Battle of Scimitar Hill, Gallipoli**, is the final British offensive in the Dardanelles. They are repelled and lose 5,000 men.

If you have any information about people who lived in Six Streets during World War 1 please contact us at

6streetshistory@gmail.com

Trace Local Servicemen from WW1 on Imperial War Museum Website

Lives of the First World War

Find out who went away to fight from our area, listed under the Community named Six Streets Derby.



Kedleston Road in about 1914 (reproduced by kind permission of "Picture the Past" and Derby City Council)

Would you like to get involved?

Are you interested in helping to research local history and helping to find out more about the impact of the First World War on our area?

We are a small, friendly team and we have begun to compile evidence of the variety of local people's experiences during the war. We are seeking

More men will be added as our research progresses.

[Lives of the First World War IWM Website](#)

Forthcoming Event - Railway Exhibition in York 2016

A major new Exhibition is planned at the [National Railway Museum, York](#), from July 2016, reconstructing an ambulance train and exploring the experiences of nurses and injured soldiers travelling on them. If you might want to go to this within a local group please let us know - we will check back with you nearer the time.

volunteers aged 16 and over (up to any maximum age!!) who can contribute and gain from becoming involved.

If you have a few hours a week to spare or occasional times when you can help, we would be very pleased to discuss options with you. Please contact Chris at 50 White Street, on 01332 725568, or email 6streetshistory@gmail.com

The range of tasks available includes:

- using resources, especially local Derby newspapers of 1914-1918, at the Local Studies Library.
- using online research resources, especially family history related, from your own home and at times convenient to you.
- helping occasionally with the preparation and running of a small number of events locally, and visits.

We are a small neighbourhood group formed in 2010 and part of Six Streets Derby, a community group active in Wheeldon Avenue, Parkfields Drive, Park Grove, White Street, Statham Street, Bromley Street and immediate surroundings. We are always happy to welcome new members to our group - for example our current focus is on researching personal histories of the men from our area who fought, but we are happy to include in our project other aspects that interest people. Subjects we want to explore further include women's roles and whether tribunals for exemption from military conscription affected any families in this area.

If you would like to know more please go to www.sixstreetsderby.org.uk and to get involved please email 6streetshistory@gmail.com – Thank you for your interest.

The views and opinions expressed in this Update are not necessarily shared by the Editorial Team, Six Streets History Derby or Six Streets Derby.

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