



## Six Streets History Derby



## Six Streets History Newsletter No 5

This Newsletter looks back at the Six Streets History event which took place alongside the Six Streets Arts Trail on 27 and 28 June 2015. Many of our readers will have visited the streets during that event, to see the panels of information displayed outside houses where residents during the World War One years included men who served in the armed forces, women who contributed to the war effort in various ways, a conscientious objector and a family of German origin. At the end of each street was a list of that street's servicemen.

We also had a display at the Broadway Baptist Church Hall, showing a complete set of the panels, the soldier's and nurse's uniforms pictured above and a selection of information and objects, some on loan from the School Library Service ([information below](#)).

During the event, free advice on researching family history was available from Kevin Brown. More information on this is given below.

We also list a few places which might be of interest to visit during the summer, and some forthcoming events.

# Reflections on Six Streets History Trail 27 - 28 June 2015

Report by Diane Moss

## Street Panels

Thank you to all of you who were able to support the Arts Trail and History Trail in the last weekend of June.

As part of the open house event we held a pop-up exhibition around the area - attaching information panels to hedges, lampposts, railings and gates – some people were kind enough to “host” information panels in their front windows.



It was great to

see people wandering around the area reading the panels, enjoying the work of local artists and chatting to friends and neighbours.



## Display at Broadway Baptist Church Hall

We had an exhibition area at Broadway Baptist Church, where copies of all the exhibition panels were grouped together for - as many or as wished.

We had Kevin “Relative hand to offer to start the military ancestor as well general family

has a special interest in Conscientious Objectors from the First World War, and was thrilled to meet someone from the church who had a relative in Leicester who had been handed a white feather in 1916 when conscription was introduced.

We also had a small display of artefacts from the time, watched over by a “[VAD nurse](#)” and “soldier”.

*Objects and uniforms photographed by kind permission and lent for display by [Derbyshire and Derby School Library Service](#), Tel 01332 371921.*



were grouped people to read few as they

Brown of Strangers” on advice on how researching history of an as more history. Kevin

The history team had great fun trying to get the mannequins dressed in replica costume!

It was great to meet and talk to people about our project – in some cases we were able to find out extra information or we met descendants of those we have researched.



*This photograph is of Ernest Hallam who lived on Statham Street and later at 58 Park Grove. He taught at several schools in Derby, eventually becoming headmaster of St Paul's School Chester Green. This picture shows him in the uniform of the Royal Garrison Artillery, with whom he served from 1916 to late 1918. (Photograph by permission of J Coulstock & W W Winters)*



Ernest Hallam's granddaughter came all the way from Hertfordshire to view our exhibition and visit the area again – she just missed meeting members of Chester Green Local History Society who will be able to give her more information on the school where Ernest taught when he returned from the war.

Over the course of the weekend we had 344 visitors at the Broadway Church Hall exhibition. For those who did not make the trail but would like to read the profiles of the Six Streets residents involved in the First World War, we will gradually be putting up these on the Six Streets website on the history page [“Lest We Forget”](#).

## Researching Family History



Photograph © Kevin Brown, [Relative Strangers](#)

Alongside our display we were fortunate to have the services of Kevin Brown of [Relative Strangers](#) who was on hand to give free advice on tracing your family history, whether military or just historical.

**Forthcoming Family History Course**  
and Other Services offered by Kevin Brown

Kevin is hoping to run a WEA course locally on researching family history, if there

is sufficient interest. Details as follows:-

*"Family History" is a beginner's course but welcomes the more experienced too. Probably over 7-11 weeks. Cost between £45 and £80 but free places available to any in receipt of means-tested benefits. Includes learning about census, civil registration and how to use Ancestry effectively.*

*If interested please email me at [relativestrangers@live.co.uk](mailto:relativestrangers@live.co.uk) or phone 07913 239769 with name and contact details and days/time that you are available. A course will be planned to fit in as many folk as possible.*

*Too busy to go to a course? I can research your family history or locate a lost friend or relative for a fee. 10% discount to all 6 Streets supporters.*

## **"About Ordinary People with Ordinary Lives"**

### **Evaluation of our History Trail Event**

More than 600 people saw at least some of the 34 information panels when walking through the six streets area during the Arts Trail weekend on 27 and 28 June, and many more while they remained on display until Thursday 2 July. 344 people visited the WWI exhibition at Broadway Baptist Church.

Respondents of our Evaluation Questionnaire scored the event at 9.2 out of 10 for information and knowledge gained.

Evaluations and comments included:

*Gave me a real sense of how people relate to local history.*

*Very useful speaking to the genealogist.*

*The street displays made the history very locally relevant – ie next to houses we know.*

*We are thrilled to have the story of someone who actually lived in this house – that we have just moved into – and to know their story.*

*It is so good to see the panels near the actual house where someone (who served in WWI) lived, to think of them stepping out of that door to go to war, or possibly coming home on leave or for good. It does make it feel so real.*

*It was interesting reading the stories because it wasn't history about big people but about ordinary people with ordinary lives which the war changed for ever.*

*Keep up the good work!*

# School Library Service

## Derbyshire and Derby City Library and Museums Loans Service

As you can see from the photographs of our exhibition room at the Broadway Baptist Church, we were fortunate to be able to borrow, very locally on Kedleston Road, the two mannequins, the replica costumes, and a variety of posters and original artefacts relevant to our own research project.

The staff are very helpful and are keen to encourage community groups and others to benefit from this service – you can find full details, including costs, on the [School Library Service](#) section of the Derbyshire County Council website.



## PLACES TO VISIT

*The history team are taking a break over the summer, but we thought you might like a few suggestions about places to visit.*



### Dunham Massey

*Photo: Role Play at Dunham Massey Stamford Military Hospital Exhibition*

[Dunham Massey](#) is the Stamford Military Hospital at Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 4SJ, Tel 01283 792333. This is a National Trust site.

In World War 1, the stately home and estate of Dunham Massey was converted into an auxiliary hospital – The Stamford

Military Hospital. During the period of the war, almost 300 sick or injured soldiers passed through this hospital. Luckily, the family who owned Dunham Massey kept and archived many detailed patient records, diaries, and artefacts: from these the National Trust have reconstructed a ward, the nurses' station and the dining/social area.

This exhibition is very creatively presented, with audio clips, written texts, (including some embroidered on pillows), patient summaries on each bed, and reconstructions of equipment such as that for draining open wounds, or shielding amputations. There are also short role plays performed whilst visitors are in the spaces, which give authentic and nuanced interpretations of scenarios which might have been common in most auxiliary hospitals, such as a nurse reading a letter to a soldier who has been blinded, or a recruiting sergeant visit to check if any of the patients can be released back to the Front soon, as manpower was desperately short.

Besides this WW1 related section, there are other rooms of interest in the House,

and there are also excellent gardens and a large deer park to explore.

Dunham Massey is free for National Trust members but has charges for non-members. Although quite a long journey (allow 1.5 hours by car) it is well worth planning a day visit. Do let us know what you think too if you go.

The "Stamford Military Hospital" is open Saturday to Wednesday until 11 November, but there may be timed tickets when it is busy so do check the website for full details, or phone to confirm.

## The National Memorial Arboretum

*Photo: The Royal Leicestershire Regiment Memorial, © David Faul, reproduced by kind permission of the [National Memorial Arboretum](#)*

The National Memorial Arboretum is set within 150 acres of maturing woodland within the National Forest on Croxall Road, Alrewas, Staffordshire, DE13 7AR (near Lichfield).



There is a self guided World War One trail, including specific regimental memorials, as well as poignant ones such as "Shot at Dawn".

Visit their website to get a full range of events and to check on the facilities. Children are welcome with a play area and kid's guide available. Guided tours are available; wheelchairs and scooter are available to hire.

Open daily (9 am to 5 pm in the summer months), entry is free, with parking £3.

## Kedleston Hall



*Photo: Items on display at the Derbyshire Remembers Exhibition*

Kedleston Hall, Derby DE22 5JH, is hosting an exhibition, [Derbyshire Remembers](#), which is a National Trust event, exploring the story of how the First War changed the lives of local people 100 years ago.

The exhibition, in the Billiard Room, was curated by Primary School children who selected themes that interested them, including "Horrible WW1 Hospitals", Trench Art, writing their own letters home from soldiers, role-playing the panels at Military Service Tribunals and reading newspaper accounts of the Zeppelin Raid on Derby City.

This is a really worthwhile visit for families. Fifth Word theatre company deserves recognition for the skilful design and coordination of the project, which they led in partnership with the National Trust, the Derbyshire Record Office, Derby Local Studies Library, Dale and Sudbury Primary Schools and some key volunteer adults. Booking is not needed. Normal admission prices apply (free to National Trust members). Details of opening times etc can be found on the [Derbyshire Remembers website](#).

## Derby Local Studies and Family History Library Re-Opened

The Derby [Local Studies and Family History Library](#) has now re-located to premises opposite the Council House, round the corner from Full Street at Riverside Chambers, and is open to the public again.

### *Would you like to get involved?*

Are you interested in helping to find out more about the impact of World War One on our area?

Our World War One project, supported by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, is a two-year project now in its second year, compiling evidence of local people's experiences during the war.

If you have 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](mailto: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.



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

***If you have any information about people who lived in the Six Streets area during World War 1 please contact us at [6streetshistory@gmail.com](mailto:6streetshistory@gmail.com)***

### **Forthcoming Event - Railway Exhibition in York 2016**

A major new Exhibition is scheduled 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 as part of a local group please let us know - we will check back with you nearer the time.

**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.**

***More men will be added as our research progresses.***

## What is Six Streets History?

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 - our current focus is on researching personal histories of people involved in or affected by World War One, and we are happy to include in our project 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 the [Six Streets and World War One](#) Section of the Six Streets website and to get involved please email [6streetshistory@gmail.com](mailto:6streetshistory@gmail.com).**

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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