This project focuses specifically on Leicester, and in particular on London Road.

Possible Areas of Research –

Identifying names from Leicester city war memorials and researching personal information about them. Only some of the city war memorials have been recorded in full by the Leicestershire and Rutland War Memorials Project, so we are hoping to add to their database. We will be photographing the memorials over the next few weeks.

- Researching the experiences of soldiers in the Leicestershire Regiment, Leicester Yeomanry and other regiments in which Leicester men enlisted.
- Identifying and researching personal records of Leicester men in Royal Navy, Royal Flying Corps, and Merchant Navy.
- Identifying links between Gurkha, Sikh, and other ethnic regiments, and Leicester.
- Identifying names and personal history of members of auxiliary services - Royal Medical Corps, nursing staff, ambulance crew etc. during the war.
- Researching experiences of conscientious objectors.
- Researching whether there are any links between the secret services and Leicester.
- Identifying names and personal details of Leicester men and women who returned from the war.

Life in Leicester during the war – as far as possible, focusing on London Road

- Locating photographs and descriptions of Leicester during the war. We are hoping to organise walks through the city, for children and adults, asking participants to stop at specific places located in the photographs to discuss the city then and now.
- Researching the role of women in employment - munitions factories, driving buses etc.
- Exploring the war time experiences of women involved in the suffrage movement.
- Researching home life – housing, food, morale, mass media etc.
- Researching impact of the war on children.
• Researching places of entertainment - music halls, pubs, cinemas etc. – if possible on London Road.
• Locating photographs and information about hospitals taking in wounded soldiers. particularly the Fielding Johnson Hospital.
• Researching role of professional photographers, on London Road if possible.
• Researching rise of spiritualism during and post war.
• Researching YMCA Archives – letters from soldiers at the Front, their role in giving accommodation to soldiers on their way to the front.
• Locating photographs and finding information about London Road Railway Station, transport for soldiers and return of wounded soldiers.

Post war in Leicester – research may focus on:

• Experiences of men returning from the war – housing, employment, impact on family life.
• Experiences of those returning home wounded - hospitals, convalescent homes, family life.
• Homelessness amongst returning armed forces.
• Leicester Workhouse – returning men unable to work due to wounds, women with no husbands to support them, impact on children.
• Impact on women – change in family relationships, finance, employment.
• Impact on children and family stories handed down over generations.

Please feel free to discuss with us any particular interests you may wish to research. We will work with you in identifying sources of information. We are happy to arrange meetings in the Records Office, Leicester Library, YMCA, University of Leicester etc., and also more distant locations as appropriate, eg National Archives, Imperial War Museum etc.

The outcome of the project will be an exhibition in the summer of 2014. With this in mind, please keep online or hard copies of documents, photographs, information etc. which could be part of the display. Obviously we will discuss this in more detail nearer the time. We appreciate that you may have limited time to devote to the project we are happy for you to contribute as much or as little as you are able to.

We are looking forward to working with you.

Sue Mackrell and David McCormack  email  jessntab@aol.com  01455 631230

www.crystalclearcreators.org.uk