



Presents
A First World War Open Day

Saturday 6 May 2017 from 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

Come to Vestry House and St Mary's Church, Walthamstow, to learn about the Great War and its effects on Waltham Forest. As well as exploring the wonderful exhibits and archives kept at Vestry House and the memorials in the church, you will be able to:

- **meet Great War experts;**
- **meet some First War soldiers, ask them about their experiences and hear about a Tommy's life at the Front;**
- **visit the local parish church with its War Memorials;**
- **hear about local people's experiences and about the many casualties buried in local cemeteries;**
- **hear the stories of how people's ancestors fought and survived the war;**
- **discover the major contribution local industry made with the 'B' buses which carried to the troops to the Front;**
- **learn about two forgotten local heroes; J. B. McDowell, one of the men who filmed 'The Battle of the Somme' and Haydn Mackey, the war artist whose work hangs in the Imperial War Museum;**
- **find out how to build your own First War memorabilia collection;**
- **learn how to use local research to create a First War blog;**
- **meet locally based authors (subject to availability) including Phil Sutcliffe; Steven Jenkins; Alan Simpson; Graham Millington; Malcolm Doolin who will be signing copies of their books;**
- **find out about the work of the Royal British Legion, Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the Living Memory Project, *The Unremembered*;**
- **have your medals valued by Antiques Road Show expert, Mark Smith;**
- **read about medical support at the Front;**
- **see why local schools still value the importance of visiting the Western Front;**
- **search for your First War ancestors on line;**
- **explore the local Roll of Honour;**
- **read local newspapers from the war years;**
- **hear the music of the time;**
- **buy second hand books;**
- **meet other local history groups and hear about their programmes;**
- **see the Significant Seams Poppies created for the Centenary;**
- **learn about war time theatre and plays written during the war;**
- **read about the contribution Indian troops made to the conflict;**
- **hear about the recording of Waltham Forest's silent film heritage from Hollywood E17;**
- **and more.....**

East London Branch Western Front Association and Vestry House Museum

During the day, a series of talks which will be given in the Community Room and the church including

Waltham Forest during the Great War by Graham Millington;

The Walthamstow Buses that went to the Front : AEC & the Great War by Neil Houghton

Haydn Mackey, M.M., war artist and other medal winners by Mark Smith

Recording local casualties in the Waltham Forest cemeteries and the stories behind them by Roy Berg, Kathleen Partington, Barbara Durack, Jacqueline and David Baker

The Walthamstow Roll of Honour by Chris Hunt

Milk women, potato digging and telegraph boys – life around Queen's Road in the Great War by Lissa Chapman,

Collecting the Great War by Neil Pearce

An underage volunteer's own story of surviving Gallipoli, the Somme and eight months as a POW; readings from the story of his father's war, by author and journalist, Phil Sutcliffe

My dad and tanks by Pauline Gurling

Researching local First War History and building a blog by Alistair MacLellan

The Walthamstow man who filmed The Battle of the Somme by Malcolm Doolin.

Visitors can come for all or part of the day. The event is free with collections for linked charities. Refreshments will be available for a small donation.

If you would like further details of the event or would like to take part, please contact the organiser, Malcolm Doolin on Malcolm@astraeeducation.com or 07710877072.

Vestry House Museum is in Vestry Road, Walthamstow, a short walk from Hoe Street and the railway, underground and bus stations. St Mary's Church is a two minute walk from Vestry House.



Coming soon

'The Battle of the Somme', the historic 1916 film made at the Front before and during the first day of the Somme campaign by Geoffrey Malins and Walthamstow film maker, J.B. (Mac) McDowell, will be shown at 7.00 p.m. on Thursday 29 June 2017 at Walthamstow Assembly Hall, Forest Road. The film will be accompanied by the modern orchestral score composed by Laura Rossi for the film's 90th anniversary in 2006 and preceded by talks from Laura and Dr Toby Haggith, Senior Curator at the Imperial War Museum, who led the restoration of the film.

Tickets on sale at www.wfculture.eventbrite.com. £8 full price/ £5 concessions.