

WORDS OF PEACE

The legacy of peace in Birmingham
during and after World War One

KS2





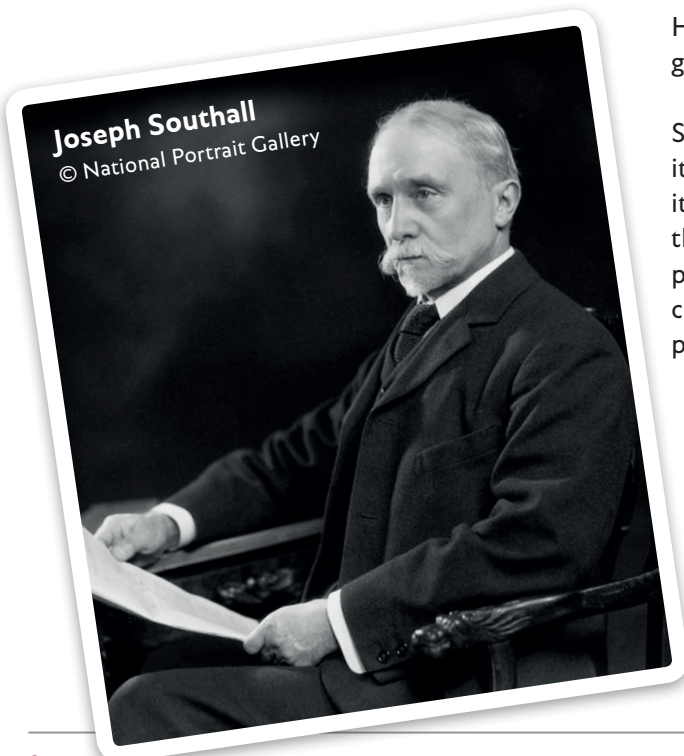
When World War One started on 28th July 1914 many people in Birmingham were excited and thought it was the start of a big adventure. Young boys enlisted in the army and wives and mothers proudly encouraged their sons and husbands to sign up before it ended.

However there were many who did not want to go to war...

Some men did not want to fight as they thought it was wrong to kill. Others did not want to go as it went against their religious beliefs, particularly those who followed Christadelphian or Quaker practices. Some just believed that negotiation could solve problems.

Can you name a famous Quaker family from Birmingham?

(Hint they make very good chocolate...!).



The men who refused to fight

From 1916 young men were conscripted into the army as soldiers. Those who refused to fight had to attend something called a tribunal, so that the government could decide what to do with them. These men who refused to fight for moral or religious reasons were known as conscientious objectors. At the tribunal many were offered alternative work which did not involve killing but would still help the war effort.

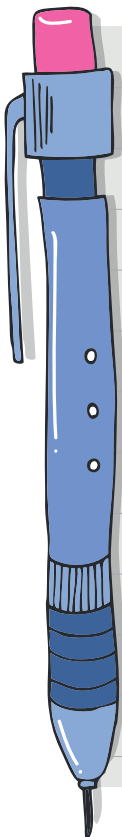
Can you think of three jobs they might be asked to do?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)



If men refused the work offered, they were imprisoned or sent to hard labour camps where they had to do very tiring, physical work. Conditions were poor, and even after release, the men were treated as cowards and had trouble finding jobs.

Imagine you have been sent to a hard labour camp. In the space below, write a short letter to your mother explaining why you would chose to go a hard labour camp rather than fight. Remember to use emotive and persuasive language, your mother might be very upset with your decision!





The Quakers

Many Quakers in Birmingham decided to undertake practical tasks to help promote peaceful activity during WW1 such as visiting conscientious objectors in prison, writing letters and helping families to find work.

Can you find the names of all the Birmingham Quakers below who undertook peaceful activity?

BARROW CADBURY
ELIZABETH CADBURY
EVELYN STURGE
GEORGE CADBURY
GERALDINE CADBURY
HARRISON BARROW

HENRY LLOYD WILSON
JOSEPH SOUTHALL
JOSEPH STURGE
MARY STURGE
WILLIAM ALBRIGHT

N H E Q L E C C Y G J X V E X T T E Y G
O A P G M U U K G G M F G D H U B G E L
S R B W R X I R C E W R H G A A R R C R
L R Z S M U N T R Y U A I G R A A R C R
I I R Q E M T H L T D R Z R J L L T R X
W S Z A B O U S S Q B H O A D Y N S U E
D O X V Q V V Y N L P W V I V C I H F Z
Y N Z U A N R S A Y C Q N G N W B P Z W
O B P V Z A F M S A L E G R L L B E F C
L A Y P M X A I D N C E G W X S F S V P
L R Z K K I T B H A R J V Y K E K O K T
Y R H W L Z U K D I Z Z J E X J W J A H
R O K L Y R U B D A C H T E B A Z I L E
N W I J Y R U B D A C R G R O E G Z F J
E W U E Q R J O S E P H S O U T H A L L
H K Q V Y G C L H P W S R A D M V N H S
Q X Z E O I D O K C J T H G N L Z G V Y
H A R I Z X I S S N I J H Z P W F I H P
L H R D K D B H G A L E J H B J E H E X
C G K D W O X O A D F R R F A O O F G H



The Quakers were also very active in helping refugees. Geraldine Cadbury ran a Belgian maternity hospital in Edgbaston where a large number of Belgian children were born during the war, and along with Evelyn Sturge and Dr. Mary Sturge, ran a Belgian school, the Birmingham Ecole Belge.

Imagine you are Evelyn Sturge. Write a message of welcome to a Belgian child on the postcard below. Try and make it friendly and comforting, as many of the children would be scared about the war and living in a foreign country.

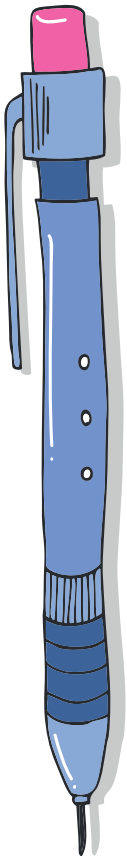
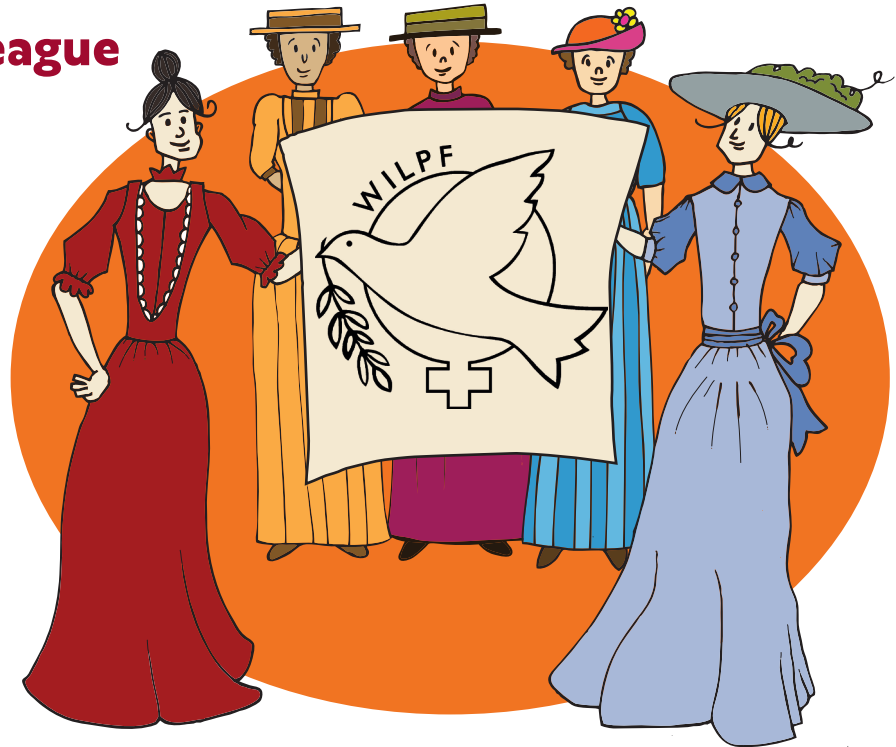


Women's International League

In Birmingham there was a group of women who were part of a larger organisation called the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. They had many meetings and organised protests which encouraged people to use negotiation and communication to solve conflict, rather than fighting.

This was their logo in 1919.

Can you draw below your own logo which might promote peaceful causes?





Many men also protested against going to war. William Holliday would make speeches every week in the Bull Ring during World War One.

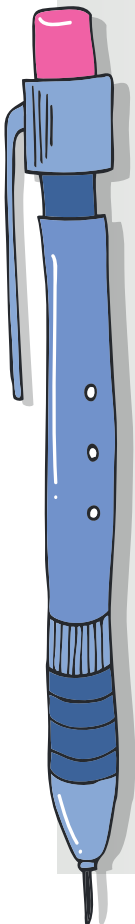
Known as Bull Ring Billy, he was imprisoned twice, the second time in 1916, when he died, leaving behind a wife and eight children.

What do you think Bull Ring Billy might have said as part of his protests?



Today, many people know of friends or relatives who have been involved in a war, and times are not peaceful. Some children in other parts of the world grow up knowing nothing but war, with many seeing members of their family killed due to conflict.

How many recent wars or conflicts do you know of?
Write them down in the space below.





Today, people promote peace through many different forms of expression. Many artists use music and dance to show the importance of peace or the horrors of war.

In groups of four or five can you do the following:

1. Think of a song that is peaceful?
2. Think of a song that supports war?
3. Create a short dance routine for each piece of music



Tips

Think about actions which are associated with war and peace – hand gestures, actions, symbols...

Think about the speed of movement for each piece, is one slow or fast?

Think about how your face should look – are you happy, angry, sad?





In 1919 a man named Romain Rolland wrote a moving international peace manifesto called 'Declaration of the Independence of Spirit'. He asked people to reflect on the horrors of World War One and think of ways in which they could work together in the future to maintain peace. Many people, including Indian Poet Rabindranath Tagore signed the Declaration in support.

In the leaf below, can you write your own 'pledge for peace'? Think about why peace is important and ways in which we can keep the world peaceful.





Notes

Lined area for writing notes, consisting of 25 horizontal lines.

Links

Words of Peace blog:
<http://sampadwordsofpeace.wordpress.com>

Sampad
www.sampad.org.uk

National Portrait Gallery
www.npg.org.uk/

Birmingham Archives
www.libraryofbirmingham.com/archives

Words of Peace written by Dr Sian Roberts
and Katy Wade with contributions by
Preeti Kailey, Jacob Gahir, Scarlet Wade
and Kristina Juškienė

Photos by Janette Bushell
Illustrations by Leo Thexplorer
Designed by Dave Walsh Creative