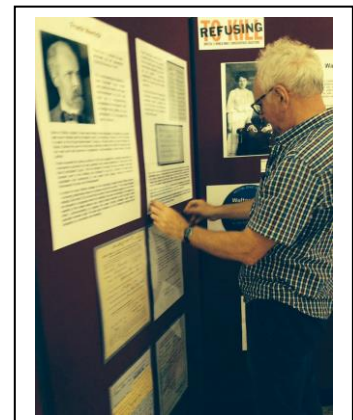


The Refusing to Kill Project

Our first project for schools is largely based on the *Refusing to Kill: Bristol's World War 1 Conscientious Objectors* research which considered the men from the Bristol area who refused to fight in World War 1. As well as providing additional information about the national context, this webpage includes some of this local research.

Conscientious objectors (COs) claimed this status for moral, religious or political reasons. Some joined the military in non-combatant roles, some agreed to take non-military roles, some spent much of the war in prison, often under harsh conditions. Other men went underground using secret networks in Bristol and around the country. As well as telling the story of the COs, our research looks at the organisations and networks of women and men across the city who supported them and how COs were treated both during and after the war.



Setting up the exhibition

A *Refusing to Kill* exhibition toured the city in 2017-18, with venues including Bristol Cathedral, the Central Library and Bristol Archives. This was followed by the publication of the booklet [*Refusing To Kill – Bristol's World War 1 Conscientious Objectors*](#) (Bristol: BRHG, 2019).