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THE MOSELEY SOCIETY

Caring for an historic area of Birmingham

Charity no. 512211

Autumn 2015 Newsletter

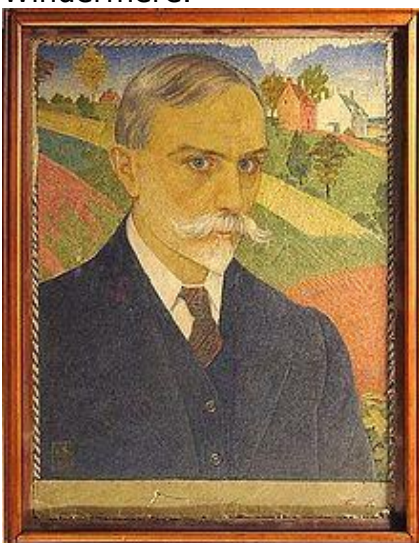
You will notice that WW1 features from time to time in this newsletter. For some, the battle for the heart of Moseley needs to be fought. Hopefully, no lives will be lost, but there is anxiety that local independent traders are under threat from the arrival of food chains. [See below]

Moseley Society Meetings

As you will see from the Programme Card for 2015-16, we have a really interesting selection of speakers booked for the season. Unless otherwise stated they will be at the Moseley Exchange starting at 7.30 pm.

Thursday October 15 – The Proactive Pacifism of Evelyn de Morgan, Vernon Lee and Joseph Southall during the First World War

- **Dr Richenda Roberts**. Dr Roberts is currently teaching at Birmingham University's Department of Art History, Film and Visual Studies and has recently co-curated an exhibition of Evelyn de Morgan's anti-war paintings at Blackwell, the Arts and Craft House on Lake Windermere.



Self portrait of Joseph Southall, a Quaker and pacifist who attended the Birmingham College of Art.

Thursday November 19 - Stolen Lives - Andrew Hamilton. The story of a generation who died in WW1.

Local History Group

is on the move - The archives can no longer be housed at the Moseley Exchange, so they have found a new home at the United Services Club, Church Road.



Members of the Group expect to be around at the Club on Wednesday afternoons, but it is advisable to check by email that someone will be there.

[moseleyhistory@moseleyexchange.com]

You are welcome to come along to the Local History Group Tuesday evening monthly meetings at the Exchange. The next date is October 6 followed on December 1 with a talk by Edwina Rees on her WW1 research.

The WW1 theme continues with a visit of the group to the Imperial War Museum on September 20.

Edwina Rees organised a trip to the Great War Exhibition at King Edward School in Edgbaston, which is held in the recently renovated Memorial Chapel. The names of the School's former pupils who died in the war are on display together with other fascinating artefacts and a film of Tolkien's Great War which considers the impact of the conflict on the author. The Exhibition

will continue for the next 4 years, developing displays to mark some of the key events. In July 2016, the topic will be 'The Battle of the Somme' - a visit by the Moseley Society Local History Group will be arranged next autumn. For more information go to www.kes.org.uk/great-war-exhibition

Birmingham Heritage Week 10 - 17 September

Birmingham is running its own heritage week which includes the **Heritage Open Day** events in Moseley on Sunday 13 September between 2 and 5. As we mentioned in the last newsletter, we have devised a free trail, which includes a visit to parts of Moseley Hall, the Park and Pool, the Icehouse and Dovecote. For more details go to the Moseley Society Website: <http://moseley-society.org.uk/>

For the first time, St. Mary's Church is taking part in Heritage Open day and they need your help. In the late 1970's many of St Mary's gravestones were laid flat or dismantled to form the paving walked on today.

It's not known what gravestones and monuments remain and they would like to record this information. This will be a hands-on activity involving photography, the logging of inscriptions and any stone carvings, cross reference against burial registers, a prior survey of inscriptions by the Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry, a map of locations from 1903 and in some instances taking a rubbing of the inscription.



There will also be an opportunity to learn how to interpret a graveyard - from angels to an anchor and chain, ivy to a broken column. Follow our informative self-guided trail of this tranquil place. For more information or to volunteer, contact the church office 0121 449 2243, e-mail stmarysheritage@livings.me.uk or check out www.moseleybenefice.org.uk.

During the Birmingham Heritage week there will be opportunities to visit places Birmingham-wide, including Moseley Road Baths and Balsall Heath Library. More details from <http://birminghamculture.org/heritage-week/heritage-week-10th-17th-september-2015>

Dovecote and Icehouse are open on Sunday 13 September and Saturday 26.



On the August Bank Holiday weekend at the Icehouse, Moseley Society Member, Kate Booth gave a demonstration of traditional ice cream making, using salt to chill the mixture. Samples were available for tasting!

The Dovecote Garden entered the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' category in the Heart of England Awards. The garden needed a lot of work to prepare for the judges' visit. The Moseley Society team responsible for the garden are always looking for volunteers to keep this delightful 18th Century garden under control. There are regular gardening sessions on the 1st, 3rd

and 5th Sunday mornings from around 11 am.

Moseley in Bloom



Unlike the glorious weather for MiB's Open Gardens' Weekend in June, the day the Heart of England in Bloom judges arrived it chucked it down. However, there was a break in the weather for a photo of the valiant team who had turned out on the day to make sure there wasn't a speck of litter and that the hanging baskets were immaculate for the visit.

This time last year, MiB decided to scale back their activities owing to the lack of help and funds. However two Moseley residents, Jean Gilkison and Trevor Hocking offered to join the team and encouraged them to enter the competition this year. MiB have teamed up with Moseley in Lights to raise money from local business and have initiated a scheme for local residents to become Friends of MiB for £20 a year. The target for this hasn't yet been reached. To join up, pick up a leaflet at the Farmers' Market or go to <http://www.moseleyinbloom.org.uk/> or ring 07971 688412.

MiB are open to ideas for fundraising. In July, there was a very successful fundraising Classical Concert and Curry evening at Piquant.

Looking ahead, there's a Plant Swap at the Farmers' Market on 31 October. If, over the next few weeks, you are dividing, clearing or thinning out plants, bring them along to the stall and maybe pick up something new for your garden. Moseley in Bloom local awards will be presented on 3 November. More details nearer the time.

This award winning team do need more volunteers if they are to continue to improve the environment of Moseley and brighten up the streets of the Village.

Moseley Village

The secret of Moseley is out and the price it is paying is the arrival of food chains. Work has already started on the Bristol based Boston Tea Party which is replacing Halford's. M&S Simply Food is expected and there are rumours that Pizza Express and Costa Coffee are on their way.

There is obvious concern for the independent traders, of which we are proud, and there has been some discussion as to the best way to confront the problem. A suggestion has been made to boycott these chains. The Moseley Society continues to object to the change of use of empty properties when planning applications are submitted and would encourage members to do the same, although central government's relaxation of planning legislation has reduced the need for businesses to apply for many changes of use. Also do support the local independent traders. We don't want to lose our individuality.



Two of our independent establishments - a newly refurbished Lewis's - now more of an eatery than a deli - with a recently granted drinks licence. Daniels that was Nathaniels is still a bistro.

Planning

The Moseley Society, together with the Regen Group continues to monitor planning applications. We comment and send letters if we object to an application on the grounds that it is doesn't conform to local planning guidelines, or to support well thought out changes. Recently, we

have written to the Planning Department with objections for developments in Dyott Road, Russell Road and Alcester Road. If you want to know more, please get in touch with us at the above address.

We are pleased to see that 50 Wake Green Road has been bought and is being restored.

Ward Boundary Changes

The Local Government Boundary Commission has recommended 20 fewer Councillors in Birmingham. The Commission is asking for local people and groups for their help in drawing up new ward boundaries across the city to accommodate 100 Councillors. It means that there could be a tussle between areas to ensure they have enough residents to qualify for two Councillors. We do have a boundary that features in the Supplementary Planning Document [SPD] which would probably be accepted by the Commission. However we might need an extra group of residents to ensure we have the numbers for 2 Councillors. The Moseley Society is involved in discussions with other local groups. If you want to find out more go to:

www.birmingham.gov.uk/boundaryreview

Highbury Hall



A new charitable trust is being set up for Highbury. **The Highbury Heritage Trust** will be an independent trust which will shape the future of the iconic historic house and garden - the Birmingham home of Joseph Chamberlain. They are looking for a Chair and Trustees.

"Are you passionate about Birmingham's heritage? For those with the right qualities, this is an extraordinary opportunity to come in at the beginning of a transformational venture to unlock the potential of Highbury and run it for public benefit.

For more information and to receive a briefing pack, please contact:

Simon Buteux

simon@birminghamconservationtrust.org

Tel: 07973 498013

Closing dates for applications: 16th October 2015 for role of Chair (interviews 26th October); 30th October for role of trustee (up to 7). Open evening at Highbury for candidates: 8th October. Note: these are non-salaried posts."



No 1 Bus Route

The route will now operate between Broad Street and Gospel Oak only. The route between Gospel Oak and Haslucks Green Road will no longer operate. This is to 'improve reliability' - let's hope so!

New Members

We are delighted to welcome as members: David Sandison, Mr Sheri Tullah, Andrew Jackson, Roger Godsiff MP, Mari Thompson, Eden Berrey (known as Bez to the dovecote garden team), Maureen Mullen, Mrs Janet Rushton, Danielle Oum, Bob & Lois Edmonds, Jim Hone, Catherine Farmer & Michael Scott and Chris Skelcher & Barbara Webster.

Subscription Renewal

It would be a great help if members could set up a standing order for the annual subscription of £10, together with a donation if you wish to add one. The Moseley Society banks with Lloyds Bank. Sort code: 30-94-74 Account number 01127987. 1st January is the date when subscriptions are due.