



THE MOSELEY SOCIETY

Caring for an historic area of Birmingham

Charity no. 512211

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Spring 2016 Newsletter

Boundary Commission - What now?



(photo Will Baldwin)

Hands up those who don't agree with the proposals from the Boundary Commission to divide Moseley as we know it into five different wards!

The meeting on January 16 showed the strength of feeling about the proposed boundary changes. Over 400 people signed in. They heard statements from the local groups, Councillors and Roger Godsiff MP. People attending were encouraged to write with their views to the Boundary Commission, the Minister for Communities & Local Government and their local MP.

The Moseley Society and Moseley Forum joined forces to compile a comprehensive reply to the Commission. It was based on the area outlined in the Moseley Supplementary Planning Document. The team involved included Mike Marlow, Fiona Adams, Izzy Knowles, David Isgrove and Helen Rehman.

A copy of the map showing the distribution of Moseley Society members which was sent to the Commission, together with the letter from the Society, is on our website.

The results of all our efforts will be known on May 17 2016

MOSELEY SOCIETY MEETINGS 7.30 AT MOSELEY EXCHANGE

Quiz Night - unfortunately we have had to cancel the already postponed event. We hope it will be back next year!

Thursday March 17 "The Pen Museum" a talk by Robert Stanyard.

Robert used to work at the Pen Museum, a former Victorian pen factory, in the Jewellery Quarter. During the 19th Century, 75% of everything written in the world was with a 'Birmingham' pen. The development of the steel pen reduced the cost of writing and enabled the spread of literacy throughout the world.

Birmingham was at the forefront of this trade until it declined in the 1950's with the invention of the biro, and at one time there were around 100 factories in the Jewellery Quarter area. The Pen Museum is dedicated to preserving and promoting the legacy of this trade and there is ongoing research into its social, historical and technical aspects.

Thursday April 21 "The Young Turner: His art, alternative families and the women in his life".

Following on from his career as an Oncologist, Professor Mike Cullen has recently graduated with an MA (with Distinction) in the History of Art from Birmingham University.

Thursday May 26 Annual General Meeting

The Committee will present the Annual Report and Accounts at the meeting. If you would like to nominate yourself or anyone else for the Committee or one of its sub-groups, or find out more about what is involved, please contact the Secretary.

The topic of the accompanying talk will be the new Chamberlain Highbury Trust.

Thursday February 25

The most recent talk was on a topic that we should all be concerned about with the ever increasing world population - **"Can Technology alone feed 11 billion people"**. The talk explored some of the challenges facing agricultural scientists as food production has to be at least doubled again to feed an additional 4 billion people through the 21st century. **Professor Trevor Hocking** has worked extensively in South East Asia, studying sustainability in low-input farming systems and the talk was illustrated with scenes from this work with village communities over the past 25 years. Finally the talk returned to the impact in developed societies, including urban areas of the U.K., and contemplated some food scenarios for future generations in Moseley.

The Moseley History Group is continuing its research into WW1 with the publication of a number of new articles and is about to start a new project working with the Moor Green Allotment Society on the history of Moor Green Allotments. A guided tour by Terry Slater of St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham has been organised for 23rd June. If you are interested please let Ray Tier know by 30 April.
r.k.tier@btinternet.com

Dovecote and Icehouse will be open to visitors again on the afternoon of March 26. From now until the end of September the openings will coincide with the Farmers' Market. We welcome volunteers to act as stewards on those afternoons. It's a very rewarding and enjoyable experience! Please get in touch with Fiona Adams or Helen Minovi if you would like to help.



The team has worked in the Dovecote garden throughout the winter, dodging the rain, storms and frost. Seven new roses have been planted in the two rose beds. The types chosen should give a longer flowering season.

Much of their energies have been spent on pruning and on getting the beds tidied ready for new growth. Lots of cutting back means lots of debris. They compost as much as they can, but are often left with a scruffy heap of woody remains. They are investing in a shredder to try to reduce the pile. The usual team of loyal gardeners - Roy Cockel, Helen Minovi, Bez (Eden Berrey), Gill and Dave McGillivray would very much like more help. They meet on Sunday mornings on the first, third and fifth Sundays, towards 11.00.

MOSELEY VILLAGE

Bicycle Racks

As part of the drive to make life easier for those cyclists amongst us, new racks will be installed in various locations round Moseley. They will be mainly in pairs and should be installed by July.

Pottery and Pieces - the building has been acquired by Lee McDonald who is behind several ventures in Birmingham including the Rainbow Venues and the Digbeth Dining Club. We understand that he won't be doing anything for at least 9 months.

Meteor Ford

We should probably stop calling it that as it is many a year since there was a car on the site! However, there was a digger, but when we contacted the developer he implied that nothing had been signed yet.

Planning

We continue to monitor and comment on planning applications that affect Moseley. If you wish to know more about our responses, do get in touch. In the meantime, here are a couple of planning issues that have arisen recently.

97 Alcester Road - HSBC. The plans are for bar/restaurant/cafe for the ground floor and a hotel for the 1st and 2nd floor.

Whilst we welcome the idea of a small hotel (with certain restrictions and conditions) we expressed our concerns about the prospect of yet another place to wine and dine with large outside terraces open into the early hours.

104-106 Alcester Road. We welcome the plans to locate the main office of Ashram Moseley in Moseley and support the construction of a single story building behind what was "Moseley & District Churches Housing Association".

Sorrento - Anderton Park Road. The dormant saga of the old Sorrento Hospital buildings in Anderton Park Road has stirred into life again. Machinery was spotted recently, in front of the neglected buildings, which immediately set alarm bells ringing. Are the houses about to be pulled down? Has planning permission been sought/granted recently? As far as we can ascertain it hasn't. In a response from the Principal Enforcement Officer it appears there was Cabinet authority to attempt to acquire the site either through compulsory purchase or by agreement with the developer. He was not willing to sell and basically the cost of acquiring the property compulsorily would be huge, especially as the owner would fight it in the courts and expect compensation. Local Councillors are hoping to find out more from the developers.



Ex-Sorrento - a sorry sight

Licensing

We appreciate that there is a balance to be struck between the commercial needs of restaurants, bars and pubs and residents in the centre of Moseley. To keep that

equilibrium we need to know about new licensing applications.

Unlike planning applications, notice of which is sent to people likely to be affected, those for licensing can only be found on a 'Blue Notice' on the premises and for, one day only, in the local press.

You can check the Birmingham City website for new/current applications by Ward by following the link

<http://publicregister.birmingham.gov.uk/Gen/Terms.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fDefault.aspx>

PSPO (Moseley and Kings Heath Public Spaces Protection order)

This is able to perform some of the functions of the s222 order that was pioneered in Moseley. It will be on the Agenda of the Moseley & Kings Heath Ward Community Partnership meeting on March 8 at 7pm at the Moseley Exchange.

It is important that anyone affected by anti social behaviour in the centre of Moseley responds to this consultation which will conclude on March 11.

<https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/place/9634850e>

20 mph Speed Limits

Colourful marks on pavements indicate where the new signs will appear before the end of March. The new limit comes into effect when the work is complete.

Moseley Hall Hospital Car parking charges

We heard recently that car parking charges are to be introduced at Moseley Hall Hospital from 1st April. Hospital staff will be asked to pay a monthly fee to park on site. This will obviously have an impact on the residential streets around the hospital.

Moseley in Bloom will kick off the season with a plant sale at the Farmers' Market on March 26. Also on sale will be the extremely popular *Blooming Marvellous Cakes* - a collection of recipes from the cakes made for the Open Gardens' weekend.

This year's event will be on June 25/26 when the gardens to visit will range from the tiny to the larger ones typical of Moseley. People love visiting gardens of all types, so if you are willing to open your garden it doesn't have to be up to 'Chelsea

standard'. Help of all sort is needed on the day, so if you would like to contribute to the success of Moseley in Bloom, do get in touch with Amy Ashton on 07982 714530 or email amy1704@hotmail.co.uk

Chamberlain Highbury Trust (designate) On Wednesday February 24 there was a meeting of stakeholders at Highbury. The intention was to gather all interested parties to hear what they wanted to happen to the house and estate and how they might be involved. The comments were very supportive of the proposed new Trust, although different concerns were raised from parking to the condition of the park and gardens. Once the legal niceties have been completed the City Council will hand the Estate to the Trust on a 25 year lease.

St Mary's Church Moseley

Saturday May 7 at 7.30

**Organ Restoration Appeal Opening
Celebrity Concert: David Briggs.**

Jane Briggs, a long standing Moseley resident and member of the Moseley Society has put us in touch with her son David who has generously offered to launch the Organ Restoration Appeal for St Mary's in Moseley on May 7 with a concert, to which you are all welcome.

David is Artist in Residence at St James Cathedral in Toronto and gives recitals all over the world, but it all started here in Moseley. "The St Mary's organ is the first major instrument I ever experienced, as a young choir boy aged 9. If I recall, I played for the Moseley C of E Carol Service one year and Miss Mosson (the then Deputy Head) said that it sounded as if I was really enjoying myself (I suppose I must have been 10 or 11). My brummy reply was "Yes, Miss, I'm trying to make the organ sound like Notre-Dame!"

The organ had its last overhaul in 1967 and the time has come to give it another lease of life. David feels that this beautiful instrument is part of local heritage and will inspire and move people for generations. We will keep you informed about the Organ Appeal when it has been officially launched.



David Briggs at the famous organ in St Sulpice, the second largest church in Paris.

Sunday March 20, 2-5pm **Come and Sing Stainer's 'Crucifixion'**. Rehearsal followed by the performance at the 6.30 service.

Moseley Rugby Club

From June this year the Club will be known as "Birmingham Moseley".

Moseley Road Baths

Saturday March 5, 1.30-4pm.

Open afternoon: an opportunity to explore the wonderful hidden spaces, beyond the normal, publicly-accessible areas.

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome Pat Franklin, Professor & Mrs M D Kilby, Gordon Will & Joy Turner, Simon Charlton, Wendy Dew, Richard Ardern & Emma Bowen and Nick Jones. Recently we discovered (and fixed) a problem with the on-line form on our website. We know from a recent bank statement that 5 new standing orders have been set up but the details of the new members have not come through to us via the website. We think we have traced 3 of them but are still trying to contact Stephen Metcalfe & 'Mrs Deborah Patric'. If anyone knows them please let them and us know.

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

We thank members who have set up standing orders. If we have not received your subscription that way, a renewal form is either attached to this letter or will have been sent to you by email from Geoff Williams, Membership Secretary.