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## THE MOSELEY SOCIETY

Caring for an historic area of Birmingham

Charity no. 512211

### Summer 2016 Newsletter

Moseley must be confused at the moment – one minute split into several fragments and then, after reflection from the Local Government Boundary Commission, more or less stuck back together again! In one corner part of its heritage is being demolished (Sorrento) and in another work has started on its future (Meteor Ford).

The Moseley Society is obviously delighted that the LGBCE was convinced by the arguments set out by the various groups and many individuals and acknowledges the importance of community cohesion. The details of the new proposals are on our website and we will be responding that we welcome the proposed two-member Moseley Ward but would like the north eastern boundary to be as proposed by the community (i.e. not including Balsall Heath Park in Moseley Ward). The same applies to the eastern boundary – the community had proposed that both sides of Green Road, together with the cul-de-sacs of Burke Avenue and Keel Drive that run off it, should be included in the new Moseley Ward and we are asking the LGBCE to make this small alteration to their proposal

We think that as many of you who are willing and able should reply to the Commission before 20 June. We can't be sure that things won't change again if another area decides to challenge the decision with as much force as we showed earlier in the year!

#### Meteor Ford/M&S

M&S finally signed the contract at the end of April and work has started on the site. It will be at least 12 months before the M&S Food shop will be completed and kitted out. Meanwhile, there are unanswered questions. Who is going to occupy the other retail unit? What about

the medical centre? Will there be a change of use for the flats, opening them up to a wider range of occupant and what about the parking across the road? The developer, James Marshall, is still in negotiation over some of these. What we can say is the chestnut stays unless it decides it has had enough.



The mural by Mohammed Ali (recently honoured with an MBE) is being preserved as best as possible. It is now painted yellow and black.

Moseley in Bloom will be consulted over the landscaping.

#### Sorrento Hospital

The destruction of the old outpatient buildings in Anderton Park Road is in full swing with no plans yet submitted for any redevelopment.

#### Moseley Society Annual General Meeting 26 May

The Committee presented the Annual Report and Accounts at the meeting. These had been circulated previously, together with the revised constitution. Following some discussion, these were accepted by members.

Paul Richards of the newly formed Chamberlain Highbury Trust outlined what had been achieved so far by the Trustees and illustrated some of the many problems – leaking roofs and the formal gardens overgrown by self-seeded trees and vegetation. Members entered into a lively discussion of options for the future of the house, its gardens and the Park. There will be an opportunity to visit the Hall on Heritage Open Day, Sunday 11 September, between 11 and 4 and to meet the groups already active in the Park, including the bee keepers.

### **Local History Group**

Much skilled, hard work has been done to research the history of Moor Green Allotments. There will be booklets, displays and articles for the Allotments and local history website pages. Work continues on the WW1 project with an interesting group of articles about the Underhill family, with a view to publishing articles on the web pages about the 1916 casualties commemorated on the St Mary's war memorial.



The Royal Navy memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum near Alrewas.

The Local History group organised a trip to this impressive site at the end of May. There will be a trip to Birmingham Cathedral at the end of June and as part of the Moseley Festival there will be a guided walk on *Moseley Businesses and Ghost Signs* starting at 2 pm, and repeated at 4 pm, from the Moseley Society's stall.

### **Dovecote and Icehouse.**

Both of these are open to visitors during the afternoon following each Farmers' Market. We hope to open the Icehouse during the Moseley Festival. The Dovecote and its garden will be open on Saturday June 25 during the Moseley in Bloom Open Gardens weekend.

### **Moseley in Bloom**

We are told that the Open Gardens weekend (25/26 June from 12.30 to 5.30 pm) is set to be bigger and better than ever. There are 33 gardens and special spaces in Moseley this year and they perfectly display the variety Moseley gardens have to offer. The west side of Moseley will open on Saturday and the east side takes its turn on Sunday. Other attractions this year include a Pimms tent, a Queen's jewel trail, local musicians and the Blooming Marvellous Recipe Book. Tickets are £5 for a day and £8 for the weekend and will be on sale at various venues over the weekend. The money raised will go towards the hanging baskets that decorate the village.

For various reasons, it has been decided to give the Heart of England in Bloom competition a miss for this year. The team is focussing their efforts on promoting the RHS It's Your Neighbourhood Scheme. This is a scheme for volunteer led community gardening groups which are focused on cleaning up and greening up their local area. This year's entrants for the Scheme are: 98A School Road Gardening Club; Billesley Lane Allotments; Church Avenue and Stanley Place Residents' Association; Friends of the Edible Garden (Kings Heath); Kings Heath Village Square; Lenchs Close Sheltered Housing; Lorne Court Sheltered Housing; Maple Dene Sheltered Housing; Moor Green Allotments; Moseley Car Park (Moseley Society and Moseley in Bloom); St Agnes Road Residents Association and The Dovecote Garden.

### **Planning and Licensing**

The last few months have witnessed some major planning and licensing issues which we have brought to the attention of the residents most affected. There has been a concerted effort, with some success, to have changes made to proposed opening hours at One Trick Pony not far from Chantry Road in Moseley village.

We are hoping that discussions can also lead to changes to a proposed 5.2m fence around the Juniper Unit in the grounds of Moseley Hall. (Ref: 2016/04091/PA)

We are concerned about the platform constructed outside Prezzo. Retrospective planning permission is being sought. It is claimed that it will add 'vibrancy' to the area. Some see it as a step towards Moseley becoming a second Broad Street. If you feel it doesn't enhance the street scene and will be detrimental to local events such as the Moseley Festival street fair you have until 24 June to add your view to the Planning online website. (Ref: 2016/04487/PA)

Among other things we have objected to the planning application for extensions at 26 Moorcroft Road. According to existing plans, this is a domestic house. According to the signs and the website, it is also a physiotherapy business and we understand that the traffic generated is causing a nuisance to neighbours.

In spite of numerous and vigorous objections to the plans to demolish the existing house and replace it with a much



larger house at 5 Dyott Road, permission has been granted. There may be a chance to raise issues due to building regulations, but only from near neighbours. We suspect major engineering work will be needed to secure a large 4 storey house on what was once a sandpit. One of our members remembered playing there as a boy and some of his 'finds' can be seen in the cowhouse.

### **Moseley Village**

Pottery and Pieces is on the market again. It's up for rent or possibly sale. We are not quite sure why, but suspect the state of the building might have had something to do with it.

Unfortunately, the cycle shop has closed its doors. Hopefully the owner will continue to wield his spanner from another location. We will keep you informed if we hear anything.

A very smart looking nail bar HAUS&NAILS has opened in St Marys Row.

Recently members of the Moseley Society organised a very successful AGM for the Birmingham Heritage Forum at the Moseley Exchange. The glorified Ploughman's Lunch was entirely bought in Moseley shops and the Farmers' Market and that's before M&S arrives!

### **St Mary's Church**

The Organ Restoration Appeal was launched on 7 May with a wonderful concert and inspiring talk by the world famous organist David Briggs who was brought up in Moseley and whose family still live here (see Spring Newsletter). You can find out more about the Appeal from <http://www.moseleybenefice.org.uk/index.php/stmarysorganappeal>

St Mary's and St Anne's held two events on Saturday June 11 – an Art Exhibition and a Flower Festival.



The Dovecote garden team exhibited a display on one of the sills in the church.

**Helen Rehman** who many of you might remember, until the funds ran out, as one of the neighbourhood wardens, has found a new role in our community as Neighbourhood Partnership Innovator. She is based at and employed by Ashram Moseley Housing Association. Although she is still finding her feet, she is hoping to support ongoing and established community projects and to help inspire new ones.

## **20 mph Speed Limits**

Work on putting up the signs has been completed. Some roads in our area already have the limit, but the new sections won't become 'official' until they have been passed by the council and the Traffic Regulation Order finalised.

Speeding cars have appeared on the Agenda of the **St Agnes Residents' Association**. The worst affected areas seem to be round the church and down Dyott Road. Both these have recently rejuvenated surfaces with no speed bumps to impinge on the racers. Our local police are aware, but limited in what they can do unless they witness the event. Local residents are naturally apprehensive about standing on street corners taking videos. However, a check on offending cars' registrations has revealed a lack of tax and insurance in some cases.

## **Moseley Festival 1-10 July**

Details of this year's festival are widely available and the brilliant brochure may have already arrived in your letter box. As usual, there is an amazing selection of events to suit all ages and interests. Although officially starting on Friday 1 July, there are events in the preceding weeks, including Elgar and Rum on 18 June and a Moseley Sing Along at the Prince of Wales on 30 June. The Moseley Society will be part of the Famous Street Fair on 2 July. Our stall will be on the Green. Do come and visit us and see what we have to offer and also as the starting point for the walks led by Ray Tier of the Local History Group.

## **Trees in Moseley Park and Pool**

The Park & Pool Trustees are aware of a number of rumours concerning the Park. They have now posted information on their website to explain the Park's position in regard to recent work in the context of on-going developments. This can be found at <http://www.moseleypark.co.uk/tree-work-park-future-developments/>

**Moseley Hall Hospital Car parking Charges** – The news of the proposed charges led to the revival of the Reddings and Amesbury Roads Residents' association (RARRA). As a result of their

efforts the consultation period has been extended.

## **Heritage Open Day**

As we have already mentioned, Highbury Hall will be opening its doors on 11 September. We will let you know what activities the Moseley Society will be involved in on that day but are certain to need volunteers.

## **Queen's birthday honours**

We would like to congratulate a couple of people who have contributed to the enjoyment of life in Moseley.

As we have already mentioned Mohammed Ali, the artist who created the mural round the Meteor Ford site has been awarded the MBE for services to Art and Community Cohesion. Adil Ray, the creator of Citizen Khan, who switched on our Christmas lights in 2014, has been awarded the OBE for Services to Broadcasting.

## **New Members**

We are delighted to welcome Stef Kivell & Gareth Bowden; David Fouracre; Brian Goodkin; Fran & Leon Rowley; Dr Frank Spannuth; Colin Locock; Roy Clarke and Angela Cooper. Following the problems with the website-link we are still trying to contact Stephen Metcalfe & 'Mrs Deborah Patric'. If anyone knows them please let them and us know.

## **SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL**

If you have not already done so, you should be receiving a reminder. We will also be touch with you about Gift Aid, if you haven't already signed up and are eligible.

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. 1<sup>st</sup> January is the date when subscriptions are due.

The recent response to the Boundary Commission report shows what an important part we play in Moseley and the more members we have, the more clout!