



THE MOSELEY SOCIETY

The Moseley Society History Group

The History of Moor Green Allotments Project

Final Report September 2016

The Project began in January 2016 and was completed at the end of August of the same year. The Moseley and District Allotments Association gave the Moseley Society History Group a grant of £2 360 to cover the costs of paid workers, materials, 500 booklets, three pop-up displays, website



articles, printed versions of the website articles and relevant documentation. These elements have all been delivered. In addition, we produced a large display for the AGM and 'Moseley in Bloom,' the contents of which have also been given over to the Association.

The Project involved research at a number of centres, including The Library of Birmingham Archives, Special Collections, Cadbury Library, the University of Birmingham, and the Planning Department. The Department of Geography at the University of Birmingham were generous in sharing their materials related to Professor Thorpe. Also consulted were a range of secondary texts, websites, and many other people with common interests and experience, too many to mention here. We looked at the origins of Moor Green Allotments and how they developed over time, their profile today and the picture given by the Minutes Book, 1933-1942, the only surviving twentieth century documentation the Association has. We did an in-depth family history of Rev Charles Edward Thomas Whitfield, the chairperson of the Allotments identified in these

Minutes, considered the people and places around the allotments and how Moor Green changed over time and reviewed the development of allotments both in Birmingham and nationally. This all proved a fascinating experience.

The Project has come in marginally under budget, partly because we were unable to take up all the paid hours and our volunteers are unwilling to be paid for their input. Indeed, more work was involved than anticipated at the planning stage and this has meant a considerable contribution by volunteers. The under-spend will go some way to support the work of the Moseley Society History Group and that of their volunteers and is very much appreciated.

The possibility of calendars was discussed, but not included in the project. However, a draft calendar, using images unearthed during research, was produced, costs were explored and appropriate companies suggested. The costs involved in this preparatory work have been absorbed by the grant. We have agreed to follow up on the production of calendars and organise 250 by the end of September 2016 invoicing the Association directly for any further expenses.



The 40th anniversary of Moor Green Allotments was celebrated with a special show on Saturday 3rd September. The Lord Mayor, Councillor Rice, was the guest of honour and planted a tree to commemorate the occasion. The event also marked the end of the project and the launch of the booklet,

which will be distributed along with the calendar to all allotment holders. The Lord Mayor was very interested in the history project and very complimentary not only about the Allotments but also about the volunteering spirit and strong sense of community that is evident there.

We have enjoyed doing this project very much indeed. It has contributed greatly to our understanding of the area. We feel that it has been a great success.

Janet Berry