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THE MOSELEY SOCIETY

Caring for an historic area of Birmingham

Charity no. 512211

Winter 2016 Newsletter

Very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. We hope, however you celebrate the festive period, that it is a peaceful and joyful time.



Once again, thanks to the funds raised jointly by Moseley in Bloom and Moseley in Lights, there are some festive illuminations on the lampposts and the tree on the green in the village.

Subscription Reminders

We usually tuck these discreetly at the end of the Newsletter, but we are being more up front this time as we are only a few weeks away from the renewal date of January 1st. As we mentioned in the previous Newsletter, we do have a number of people who haven't yet paid for the current year. Those people will be receiving a paper reminder with this letter. We suspect that the emails sent out earlier in the year may have either gone into junk mail boxes or the attachment was difficult to open.

We would like as many people as possible to 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. Please use your name and part of your address as your reference on the Standing Order.

If you are confused as to whether you are up to date with your subs, do get in touch using the contact details above.

Moseley Society Meetings

We have had several meetings since the last Newsletter with topics ranging from Sarehole Mill and its water supply to an illustrated talk on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. In October we had a fascinating two-handed presentation of the Rep at War.

On December 6 Jan Berry and Josie Wall told the meeting about their work on the history of allotments with a special emphasis on Moor Green. Their painstaking research revealed some fascinating facts about the changing use of allotments, reflecting the social changes over the last couple of centuries.

Looking forward to 2017:

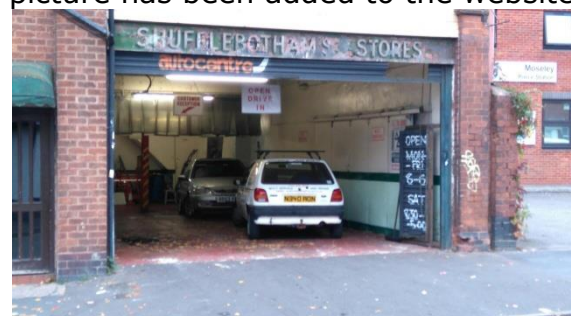
January 20 – *Quiz Night*. Please make contact to enter or join a team.

February 7 - the Local History Group will talk about their *WW1 project*.

February 23, the speaker is Stephen Hartland and the topic is *Birmingham Statues*.

Local History Group

You may have joined Ray Tier on his Ghost Signs walk during the Moseley Festival. Since then, another has been revealed on the garage in Woodbridge Road. Hopefully you can make out 'Shufflebotham's Stores'. It is unlikely to remain uncovered, but the picture has been added to the website.



Following the summer break the History Group has now resumed its work on the 1916 WW1 casualties commemorated on the St Mary's memorial - all 32 of them. The Moor Green Allotments project is complete and can be seen on the website – www.moseley-society.org.uk The group continues to meet on Thursdays at the All Services Club.

Boundaries

This time it's the changes to the Parliamentary constituencies that we are challenging. The proposals made by the Boundary Commission for England seem to have little or no connection with the agreed ward boundaries that we fought so hard to achieve. Local community groups have once again joined forces and submitted suggestions that make more sense and link communities that have more in common. We have also written on behalf of the Moseley Society.

Moseley Village

Taxis stopping in St Mary's Row on double yellow lines approaching the lights are impeding the flow of traffic trying to get across the lights. It is difficult when you are eventually on the move to take a note of the DVLA number and taxi licence number, but reporting them to the Taxi Licensing Department is probably the only way to stop it happening.

Meteor Ford site/M&S Food Hall

Work on the site is due to finish in the Spring/Summer. The Food Hall should be open by the summer. The proposed medical centre is probably not going to be occupied by Wake Green Surgery and the use of that wing of the building is unclear.

Bicycle Stands



We are pleased to report the arrival of some extra bicycle stands in Moseley. The design might not suit anyone with a basket on the back of the bike, but at least there is somewhere to tether one's trusty steed!

On the subject of bikes, the planned cycle lane on the Alcester Road has been shelved. Research in London shows that un-segregated cycle lanes led to an increase in the deaths of cyclists so Birmingham has decided to concentrate on creating fully separated cycle routes where possible.

Village Carpet Centre



Jamshed Khan, who together with his partner Mohammed Irshad, has decided to roll up the carpets and take a well-earned retirement. The shop opened in 1984 and he can name on one hand the other premises that are still around from that period. All he would say about the future of the site is that it would be a 'dessert shop' and we would be very happy!

We are told that the rumours of the imminent closure of the dry cleaners are not true.

Planning and Licensing

The Texaco Garage in Alcester Road was sold recently by the Co-op to Rontec. There was a licensing application for 24 hour alcohol sales, although following representation from West Midlands Police it was reduced to a request to open until 1am. Together with local residents we objected and the Committee refused the application, so the business can continue to sell alcohol until 23.30 but not later. The sale of fuel will once again be a 24 hour business. We haven't objected to an off-licence application by Village News, or

the licence application by Zindiya, due to open in the old Luker's bakery in Woodbridge Road for trading between 12.00-23.30.

Dovecote Garden

The team has had a really successful year with a Moseley in Bloom *Special Achievement Award* to add to their *Outstanding Achievement* in *It's Your Neighbourhood Heart of England awards*

The prizes and recognition have given them a lot of encouragement to continue making improvements to the garden. They intend working throughout the winter - and welcome helpers and visitors on Sunday mornings (1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays from 10.45.)

Moseley in Bloom

On November 3, the All Services Club in Church Road was bursting with anticipation and enthusiasm as MiB's own awards were announced. The prizes were presented by Darren Share, a leading light of the award winning Birmingham Parks and Gardens.



Photo Trevor Hocking

A huge cheer went up for Nima's Delicatessen as the *Star Shop winner*. A full list of the winners is on the MiB website.

Looking forward to 2017:

February 16, 7.30 at the Moseley Exchange - a talk by Drs Bill and Marilyn Hammerton on *Chinese Gardens and the Landscape that Inspired them*.

When they retired from the medical profession, the Hammertons turned their

talents and energies to a long-standing interest in Chinese and Japanese gardens. They have transformed their Victorian back garden into a stunning oriental garden.

March 10 MiB *Quiz Night* at the All Services Club.

June 24/25 Open Gardens Weekend

Policing

Moseley and Kings Heath neighbourhood policing team has been reduced in strength. Sadly Sgt Anna Wilson has been moved to Acocks Green although Sgt Tom O'Keefe remains in charge of the remaining team of officers. He is based in Woodbridge Road, and will continue to keep us informed with what's happening in the area. Kings Heath Police Station is due to close in the New Year. The website has been revised: <https://www.police.uk/west-midlands/BEEB/> There is an interactive map showing where recent crimes have been committed.

20 mph Speed Limits

Are now in force and are apparently being enforced.

Green Waste Collection

It starts again in March and if you want to take advantage of a small discount, you need to book in on the Council website during December.

There is an offer by the Council to recycle your Christmas tree for free. The only problem is you have to take it to one of the local Country Parks (Lickey Hills, Sheldon, Sutton or Woodgate Valley) between January 6 - 31 between 7.30 am and 3.30 pm.

Alternatively, you can sign up with **St. Mary's Hospice** for their **Treecycling** scheme. For a suggested donation of £10 someone will come and collect your tree during the weekend of January 14/15. Book as soon as you can at www.careatchristmas.org or phone 0121 472 1191.

Moseley Road Baths Are Still Open

So please go and enjoy a swim there. The more it is used, the stronger is the case for keeping the pool open. An action group is trying hard to find a way to stop the

Baths from closing in June 2017, with help from Historic England and the National Trust. They are forming a Community Interest Company to explore the funding and other action needed to operate and renovate these unique historic Baths, but it's a huge challenge in a very tight timescale. If you want to find out more, please contact

karen@localisewestmidlands.org.uk

Chamberlain Highbury Trust



photo: Sarah Edwards

On Heritage Open Day in September, around 900 visitors were welcomed.

The initial plan for the Trust is to undertake major repairs and renovation of the house and grounds. To achieve this they will apply for Heritage Lottery Funding of just under £5million. This will be in two stages. An outline plan will be submitted and, if approved, a more detailed application will have to be prepared. If that is successful, then work would start in 2019. It's a long way off, and there is much work to be done to raise the money.

Simon Buteux - who was Birmingham Conservation Trust's Director and was involved in the creation of, and a great supporter of, an independent trust for Highbury, has moved to a new job with Historic England. Although the Trust was sorry to see him go, they are delighted to welcome Rachel Wassall as their new administrator.

Highbury Park

A few weeks ago in Highbury Park, you might have been surprised to see some young trees cut down with a chainsaw. It's still not known who did it, but it was certainly not a friend of Highbury. Up till now it hasn't happened again, but the

sight of someone with a chainsaw, who is not part of an official team, should be treated with suspicion and reported to the Police.



Sandra Howlett

Many Moseley residents will remember with affection and gratitude, Sandra Howlett, an inspirational music teacher, who died in September. She ran music making group classes, which introduced children to ideas of beat and rhythm, as well as a wide range of instruments. Some of these classes ran during summer holidays. She also ran regular recorder classes, and had the distinction of being the only teacher at that time with primary age pupils in the Birmingham Schools Orchestra Recorder Ensemble. Playing with the range of recorders (not just the familiar descant), the repertoire included medieval pieces.

Sandra also had many piano pupils. When she and her husband moved to Hampshire twenty years ago, she carried on with her own music teaching, and was a sore loss to Moseley.

New Members

We are glad to welcome Ian Cook and Adi Silvestro as members and also give a special welcome to Mr Stephen Metcalfe and Dr Desiree Besson. They joined in January at the time when there turned out to be a fault on the website and we have only recently discovered them.

We are still looking for someone who appears on the bank statement as 'Mrs Deborah Patric' but for whom we have no contact details. Please let us know if she has moved into a house near you.