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THE MOSELEY SOCIETY

Caring for an historic area of Birmingham

Charity no. 512211

Summer 2017 Newsletter



The planters and hanging baskets are adorning the Village, work is progressing apace at the junction of Oxford Road, St. Mary's Row and Wake Green Road, and the election is over!

Moseley Society Events

We finished our official programme of talks with our AGM on 18 May. The Committee presented the Annual Report and Accounts at the meeting, which had been circulated previously. After the formal business Izzy Knowles told the meeting about Moseley Alternative Giving Campaign. She explained how it was set up in response to concerns about homelessness, begging and anti-social behaviour. The idea behind the scheme is that instead of giving money directly to the people begging on the street, where it is so difficult to know if someone is in genuine need or a professional beggar or someone with an addiction who may self-harm if given cash. There are collection boxes at various locations in Moseley where you can donate and a group that allocates the funds to help individuals. There is a Facebook page at <https://en-gb.facebook.com/MAGC-Moseley-Alternative-Giving-Campaign-1158319284245076/> and here is the link to make a donation <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/moseleyalternativegivingcampaign>

At the meeting **Mike Marlow** announced his retirement from the Committee. Mike has been an active member since 2008. He has been the Treasurer, managed the website and gave valuable technical support for the Society's submission to the recent Ward Boundary Review. The good news is that he has agreed to remain a member of the Marketing, News and Membership Sub-Committee.



Mike started life in the town with the longest pleasure pier in the world and home of the Shrimpers – Southend-on-Sea. Before arriving in Birmingham he studied and worked in Durham, London, Liverpool and Essex. He worked in local authority planning departments with responsibilities covering demographic and socio-economic trends, land and development, surveys, information systems and analysis - an extremely useful background for the aims of the Moseley Society. Mike with Janet and their sons Matthew and Ben moved to one of the Conservation Areas of Moseley 30 years ago. His interests include travel, walking and sports. Hopefully his involvement with Moseley Golf Club and the proximity of Edgbaston Cricket ground will keep him and Janet in Moseley for a long time.

Moseley History Group

In an upstairs room of the All Services Club on Thursday mornings, you will find a dedicated team of local history enthusiasts researching the archives for stories of Moseley people and places.

They need your help on a couple of projects. Firstly do you have any bags from shops that used to be part of the Moseley scene. As you will see they already have a small collection, including Pabari which was established in 1985.



Also, do you know of anyone who attended Wintersloe School? It was a private boys' school in the Wake Green Road which probably began about 1889. The group have some magazines from about 1911. If you know anything that might help them in their researches, do get in touch with Jan Berry at jan19berry@btinternet.com

On June 29 an American couple, Graham and Linda Richardson, are coming all the way from Simi Valley in California to Moseley to hand over a photo, its frame, a postcard and a newspaper cutting. The portrait is of Lt William Furze who married Beatrice Law in 1915. Sadly, he didn't survive the war. Edwina Rees, from the Moseley History Group, had already researched the Furze family and so was delighted when she heard from Graham, recounting the story of how the artefacts had come into his hands. Fifteen years ago, on a visit to Stratford, the frame caught his eye in an antique shop. It was many years later that it was opened to reveal the postcard and the wedding announcement. He decided it should be

returned to the family. As there are no direct descendants known locally, the Moseley History Group will be the custodians adding a touching personal story to the family history.



Graham and Linda Richardson with the photo

Dovecote and Icehouse.

Both of these are open to visitors during the afternoon of the Farmers' Market. We expect to open the Icehouse during the Moseley Festival Street Fair on 1st July. The Dovecote and its garden will be open on Saturday June 24 during the Moseley in Bloom Open Gardens' weekend.

Moseley in Bloom

The hanging baskets and planters in the Village are installed by the wonderful people at Birmingham Parks and Gardens. The £10,000 needed to make this possible is raised by MiB, mainly through its Open Gardens Weekend. From 12.30 to 5.30pm on 24/25 June some of Moseley's hidden gems will be there for you to visit. Some public spaces, such as Moseley Park and Pool and St. Mary's churchyard will also be open to visitors. Apart from the flowers, there will be music, displays of artwork, teas, cakes, Prosecco and PIMMS.

See www.moseleyinbloom.org.uk for more details.

On your visits to back gardens keep a note of any front gardens you pass that might be suitable for MiB's Front Garden Awards to be judged later in the summer. If anything catches your eye, get in touch with Jean Gilkison at jean.gilkison@gmail.com

St Mary's Churchyard

This will also be open on 24 June as part of the Moseley in Bloom experience. It's an opportunity to see the progress they have made in the renovation of the churchyard following their successful lottery bid in 2015. There will be plenty of pre-bookable activities associated with their work on improving bio-diversity and wildlife habitats. For more information contact Becky Greenhill on 07974 432 230 or email stmarysheritage@livings.me.uk

24 June is going to be a busy day and to add to the list is the next **Farmers' Market and Arts Market**. The Park and Pool and the icehouse will be open and teas will be served at the Tennis Club as part of the Open Gardens' weekend.

Moseley Village

Pottery and Pieces – internal work continues to create flats above the shop, but we don't know what use the ground floor will be put to.

Hair so Rare has just opened in St Mary's Row. It will specialise in Afro and European hair.

Meteor Ford/M&S



Spot the join! The exterior of the M&S/Marshalls/ex Meteor Ford building is taking shape and blending in. What is going to happen to the interior? Regrettably, the medical centre is probably not going to happen and planning permission has been given for a commercial use on the ground floor and more residential accommodation above. The latest news on the opening of the M&S Foodhall and café is that it is expected in September/October.

Car Park

In spite of vigorous objections, the council has introduced evening parking charges in the Moseley car park. So the only time you can park for free is between midnight and 8am or 6pm to midnight on Sundays.

The cost is as follows:

Monday – Saturday	Sunday 8 am - 6pm
Up to 2 hours £1.10	Up to 2 hours £1.00
Up to 4 hours £2.30	Up to 10 hrs £2.00
Up to 24 hrs £4.50	

There is also the delicate question of the toilet, which has apparently been used for drug taking. It seems to be inactive and likely to be removed in the near future. It provided accessible toilet facilities for people with disabilities and was also a stopping off point for the 35 bus drivers.

Moseley Hall Hospital Car Park

Having heard a rumour that parking charges were to be introduced at the hospital, we alerted residents living nearby and they have been very active in surveying the current situation and making suggestions about how improvements could be managed. The hospital authorities have begun a consultation process and are also considering ways in which more parking spaces can be provided on site.

Planning and Licensing

BT has resubmitted an application for the new ATM/phone box outside the One Trick Pony Club using a traditional K6 Red kiosk designed by Giles Gilbert Scott. Work at Pitmaston for the Church of Scientology is underway and there has recently been a planning application submitted with details of the signage that will be used. There are also current planning applications that would see the dry cleaning shop on Victoria Parade converted to a pastry shop and 2-4 Woodbridge Road a restaurant during the evening and selling retail food during the day.

You may have seen that the Patrick Kavanagh pub has been refurbished by Punch Taverns. The original plan was to paint the sage coloured walls black and to paint signs directly onto the first floor brick work and both these aspects were altered. An application to add to late night opening hours met with stiff opposition from the

neighbours and Punch Taverns, having arranged meetings with the objectors, withdrew most of the proposals that had caused alarm. A revised licence has been granted, with some additional conditions which aim to give neighbours an easier way to complain if there is late night noise from the pub.

Moseley Festival 30 June - 9 July

You may already have the Moseley Festival Programme detailing what's on offer. It starts on Friday 30 June with an Art Gallery Launch at Maison Mayci, a Quiz at the All Services Club and a concert at St Columba's Church.

The Street Fair is on Saturday 1 July and we look forward to seeing you there. Come and join one of the guided walks. Ray Tier from the Moseley History Group has taken 'Transport in Moseley' as this year's theme. They will start from our stall on the Green at 11.30 and 2.30.

To round off the Festival during the weekend of 7 - 9 July, there's the Mostly Jazz Festival at the Park and Pool.

Moseley Bog and Joy's Wood

Join Tony Sames on a guided walk at Moseley Bog and Joy's Wood Nature Reserve to celebrate National Meadows Day on Saturday 1 July, 11 am to 1 pm.

Heritage Open Day

Following last year's successful open day Highbury Hall will be opening its doors on Sunday 10 September. The dovecote will be open from 2 - 5pm on Saturday 9 and we are hoping to organise a special event at St Agnes to highlight the work Dr Terry Slater has been doing to further research the Conservation Area. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the introduction of Conservation Areas.

Moseley and Kings Heath Open Studios

We are pleased to say that there has been enough positive interest for the organiser, Owen de Visser, to go ahead and plan the event over two weekends in September. These will be 16/17 and 23/24. The concept, which is not unique to Birmingham or the UK, is a way of artists showing their work in their own homes or

studios. The artists will be able to keep all the money they make from sales, as there will be no commission to pay. There will be a small fee for being part of the weekend, but entry will be free for visitors between 10 am and 6pm.



More information on the internet at: <http://artsbrum-com/open/studios/>.

Wake Green Playing fields

In our Spring Newsletter we reported the welcome sight of waxwings in the car park off Windermere Road. Last month there was a gathering of a different sort when about 70 residents met to confront cabinet member Councillor Lisa Trickett about the rumours that the playing fields were about to be turned into a cricket pitch with a pavilion restricting the access of those who use the area for other activities such as dog walking or football. She tried to reassure people with words to the effect that the council will work with local residents to agree a plan that secures open access, supports current uses and protects the environment.

Moseley Road Baths

The Moseley Road Baths Action Group is still working to keep the baths open beyond the due closure date in July. The long-term hope is that a new part-staff, part-volunteer model could start from January next year, but the pool needs to be kept open until then.

New Members

We are pleased to welcome Amy Commander and Louis Hudson as new members of the Society.