



THE MOSELEY SOCIETY

Caring for an historic area of Birmingham

Charity no. 512211

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Autumn 2017 Newsletter

The winds and rain have certainly blown us into autumn. Although there have been weeks of uncertainty about bin collections, with no end in sight, there is some positive news about litter. M&S has set a date for the official opening of its Foodhall, although the future use for the rest of the building is not entirely clear.

Moseley Society Meetings

The programme card for 2017/18 is now ready and we hope you will enjoy our variety of topics from local history to a garden suburb via the Quiz and the Adventures of Sabrina Sidney. We have included an afternoon meeting in February; otherwise the talks will begin at 7.30 pm and they will take place at the Moseley Exchange. The talks are free and refreshments will be served. Donations are always welcomed.

Moseley in Bloom joins us for the first talk on **Tuesday 10 October**. Horticulturist **Howard Drury** will tell us how to **Make 2018 a Great Gardening Year**.

Tuesday 14 November - Barbara Nomikos and Rachel West will give us insight into **Moor Pool Garden Suburb: Harborne's Hidden Gem**.

Tuesday 5 December - Dr. Terry Slater will share some of his vast knowledge about the **St Agnes Conservation Area**

History Group



Members of the history group as filmed by BBC for a Midlands Today transmission. They meet on Thursday mornings at the All Services Club in Church Road and are involved in several projects at the moment, including a new one on Wintersloe school magazines and further articles on men who died in WW1. They would be delighted to have some help with their researches. There's plenty of information about the group on the website <http://www.moseley-society.org.uk/>

M&S, Marshalls, ex-Meteor Ford

After all the rumours, it must be a great relief to the developer, James Marshall, that the M&S Foodhall is to be officially opened at 10 am on 27 September. As to the rest of the building, planning permission has been given to change the use of the proposed medical centre, with flats above and retail or a restaurant below. At present the flats are destined for 55s and over, but there is some thought that they might be more suitable for first time buyers. Do let us know what you think.

There are encouraging discussions about the landscaping of the site which will involve Moseley in Bloom. The trees from the mural have been transferred to the wall along the car park. The future of the chestnut tree is literally in the balance because of safety reasons (it is leaning precariously towards Oxford Road). The developers are keen to keep it and the situation will be reviewed before any more drastic measures are taken.

Heritage Open Days / Birmingham Heritage Week in Moseley

We opened the Dovecote to visitors on Saturday 9 September. We welcomed over 60 enthusiastic people, some who had travelled from a considerable distance to come to Moseley. The last chance to

visit the Dovecote and Icehouse this year will be on Saturday 30 September.

Moseley Village

We have lost count how many places there are in Moseley where you can get a cup of coffee! Starfish in Woodbridge Road is the latest venue to join the list.



The news we have of three of the empty premises in the Village is that Pottery and Pieces is to become the second outlet for Loki Wines which started in the Great Western Arcade, Java Lounge is taking over the carpet shop to create a dessert shop and Colours (ex-dry cleaners) is to make French pastries.

The Village pub has permission to retain its glass walled seating area, but with strict conditions to try to prevent noise nuisance to neighbours.

The Car Park

Welcome news – the City has found a way of providing a regular cleaning service for all its 30 suburban car parks. This is a major achievement as the Moseley Society has been asking for this since 1979. However, the regular volunteer sessions on the Sunday following the Farmers' Market will continue. Hopefully it won't be such an arduous task. Things have got very bad in the carpark and churchyard with the increase in rough sleepers and drug use, although co-ordinated work by our Neighbourhood Police officers and those offering services to help rough sleepers has just resulted in the father and son sleeping in the tent in the car park accepting an offer of accommodation. We hope this works out for them. The following photo was taken in the car park.



Begging and Rough sleeping

Apart from the carpark, a few weeks ago rough sleepers took up residence at the Dovecote garden.

Consultations are on-going about the renewal of the Public Space Protection Order. There is a proposal to extend the Order to include 'positioning to beg'.

It is emphasized over and over again, that is not a good idea to give money directly to street beggars as there are other ways to help. Moseley has set up its Alternative Giving Campaign. If you were at our AGM you would have heard Izzy Knowles talk about it. The money donated goes to help people who have housing issues or mental health problems and could end up living on the streets. There are various collection points throughout the village.

Big Belly Bins



You may have noticed this new arrival outside the One Stop shop in Billesley Lane. If they work, these bins are a really good idea. They are solar powered with the power used to compress the litter. When full it sends a message to the Waste Management Depot! Unfortunately this one was faulty but appears to have been mended. They were hired by the city and put in various locations in the centre, but

never worked well there as the litter collectors couldn't resist emptying before they needed it and had sent their 'I'm full' message. We've been given the Hall Green District trial bin to see if it works as it should in a suburban location.

Moseley Hall Hospital

Recently there has been a public consultation on the need for a hundred extra car parking places at the hospital. If the plans go ahead it will mean the loss of a large part of the green space at the rear of houses in Reddings Road. The public right of way between Amesbury Road and the Alcester Road will remain, but as a narrow path. A green travel plan is due out next year. This would outline alternative ways of getting to the hospital without the use of cars and so there would be less need for extra car parking spaces

The Juniper Centre is on the same site as the Hospital. Recently it was discovered that the land at the back was slipping and needed to be shored up. Unfortunately there were some recently planted trees exactly where the earth moving equipment needed to be. Amongst them were three walnut trees which had been given to the Centre by Elfriede Pisolkar and her daughter Ellen. Walnut trees have always been special to Elfriede and when she left her London home to move to Birmingham she brought some walnuts from the tree in her garden. Those at the Juniper Centre were grown from three of the nuts and so are very precious. They have had to be moved and will need a lot of TLC to survive.



Elfriede Pisolkar with a fully grown walnut tree. Hopefully those at the Juniper Centre will reach maturity.

Pitmaston

A few years ago, the Church of Scientology bought the Listed Building to convert it into a new centre for education and training. There are some issues that have arisen as the conversion reaches conclusion. Residents in the nearby roads are concerned about the traffic impacts of main gatherings and special events at Pitmaston.

Residents in the new houses and apartments built in the grounds are anxious that there is proper signage at the entrance so it's made obvious that they are not part of the Church of Scientology.

The administrators of the new centre may not be aware of the importance for local nature of the gardens that were part of the original house that was replaced by the present building. Although uncared for, there were some special heritage fruit trees, woodland of historic interest and a pond of great importance to amphibians. There used to be a special crossing sign for toads in Moor Green Lane in early spring.

Moseley in Bloom



© Lynne McPeake

Moseley gardens come in all shapes and sizes from the grand to the quirky. In June locals and visitors had the opportunity to visit twenty-six gardens and public spaces. It was the most successful Open Gardens weekend so far, raising over £8,000 to contribute to next year's floral displays.

Earlier this year the MiB team worked with Ashram Housing Association and residents of Newport Road in Moseley to plant up planters in their front gardens. The planters were built with the help of members of the Kings Heath Shed. The

resulting community effort was entered in the *It's your neighbourhood* scheme run by the RHS.

The Moseley in Bloom's own prizes for front gardens and business premises will be presented at the annual awards ceremony on 7 November at the All Services Club.

Moseley in Lights

Some of the money raised by Moseley in Bloom through local business donations goes towards the Christmas lights. Last year there was no official switch-on event. Hopefully there will be this year. If you would like to get involved or find out more you can get more information from [http://adamstyler1982@googlemail.com](mailto:adamstyler1982@googlemail.com) <https://www.facebook.com/MoseleyinLights/>

Moseley Road Baths

The swimming pool has been given a reprieve until March 2018 to give the action group more time to come up with a solution for the future of the building.

Windermere Playing Fields



The fields will be in the Moseley Ward when the boundary changes happen next May. It's a popular area for dog walking, impromptu games of football, learning to ride a bike as well as more organised cricket and football matches. You may remember that there was a possible move to build a cricket pavilion and pitch on the fields which would have restricted their use. As we reported in the summer, this is not happening, but to keep an eye on things, a Friends of Windermere Fields has been launched. If you'd like to be on their mailing list or even to join them, go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/268037717014707/>

Self-Build Houses

There is a proposal for a residential development of self-build houses on a plot in the Alcester Road, Balsall Heath. There is a MOT garage and workshop currently at the rear of the site and there could be issues for access. In principle, it seems a good use for the plot to develop along the current building line.

Open Studios - Moseley and Kings Heath

Just a reminder that you will have another chance to view the work of local artists in their studios or homes over the weekend of 23/24 September.

<https://artsbrum.com/open-studios/>

Sunday 19th November, 1-2pm at the MAC, Cannon Hill Park

Advance notice of an interactive talk on the subject of sovereignty arranged as part of the Being Human Festival, arranged by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. Dr George Kyris (Political Science and International Studies, University of Birmingham) will be leading this event.

Transport -Trains –rail Franchise

The preferred bidder for the new West Midland passenger rail franchise is West Midlands Trains Ltd. There are also some encouraging signs that point towards the re-opening of the Moseley station.

However, for the foreseeable future, if we want to avoid using a car, are too scared to ride a bike or it's just too far to walk, we will have to rely on the local bus service to take us into the city centre. A consultation has taken place about several local services and there is a suggestion that the No1 bus might be split in two with half the buses going to the QE hospital and the other to Five Ways. If there are changes, they will probably be introduced later in October.

New Members We are delighted to welcome Magdalena Szemla; Alistair & Emily Allen; Laura Carter; Pete Davies & family; Clare Kennefick; Martin Chapman & Katherine Lambert; Catherine Ardagh-Walter; Hugh Smallwood & Priscilla Jenner; and Anthony Collins as members.