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THE MOSELEY SOCIETY

Caring for an historic area of Birmingham

Charity no. 512211

Summer 2018 Newsletter

Moseley witnessed the dramatic storms of last month, which caused such devastation to parts of the city. The MCDT office was flooded following theft of lead flashing the night before the deluge. Even if most of our homes were spared the worst, our gardens were flattened and some trees blown down. But, thankfully, there are plenty of opportunities over the summer to see how a bit of sun and TLC have revived our parks and gardens.



Highbury Park Friends have launched their tree trail, Birmingham and the Black Country Wildlife Trust have been in Moseley Bog celebrating dinosaurs and Moseley in Bloom's open gardens weekend is happening at the end of the month.

Moseley Society Events

We finished our official programme of talks with our AGM on 17 May. The Committee presented the Annual Report and Accounts at the meeting, which had been circulated previously. Three Trustees were re-elected for another three years. Following the meeting there was a discussion about future plans for Moseley. It included a possible writing, book and music festival to be organised next year by the Oxfam Book Shop and the re-opening of Moseley

Station. Concern was raised about the increased need for parking when it reopens, which, the most recent meeting on the topic has been told will be in 2021. Heritage assets, such as the cast-iron road signs were talked about as well as the extension of the St Agnes Conservation Area. The Minutes of the meeting will be sent out by email – please contact the Secretary if you would like a paper copy sent to you.

History Group

Plans for the co-operative WW1 Exhibition for Heritage Open Day at Highbury on 16 September continue.

The Humphry Repton Poster Exhibition continues in the cow house at the dovecote throughout the summer. A duplicate set of posters is in Kings Heath library during June and will be seen at various places after that. There will be a chance to catch it for one day only at St. Mary's Church when they have their open day on 30 June which will include a history section.

On 23 June, the day of the Moseley Festival Street Fair, Ray Tier will be leading a couple of walks on the theme of Moseley Hall. They will start at 11.30am and 2.30pm from the Moseley Society stall on the Green and will include a visit to the cow house.

Dovecote and Icehouse.

Both of these are open to visitors during the afternoon of the Farmers' Market. In addition, the icehouse will be open during the morning of the Moseley Festival Street Fair on Saturday 23 June. The dovecote and its garden will be open on Saturday 30 June during the Moseley in Bloom Open Gardens' weekend. The team of gardeners at the dovecote are busy preparing for the judging of RHA 'It's Your Neighbourhood' scheme, which earned them marks in the Outstanding category last year.

Councillors for the Moseley Ward

On 3 May, the Labour candidates Martin Straker-Welds and Kerry Jenkins were elected as Councillors for the newly created Moseley Ward.

The Liberal Democrats were in second place, followed by the Greens and Conservative candidates.

We'd like to wish the retiring Councillor, Claire Spencer, good luck in her new job with the West Midlands Combined Authority as Senior Policy Advisor for Public Services and Inclusive Growth, where she will be part of the Public Service Reform Team.

Moseley Festival 22 June -1 July

The Street Fair is on Saturday 23 June and we look forward to seeing you there. Come and join one of the guided walks with Ray Tier (see History Group for details). Information on all the events is at www.moseleyfestival.org.uk

The **Mostly Jazz, Funk and Soul Festival** follows the Moseley Festival on the weekend 6 – 8 July.

The **Moseley Folk Festival** is from 31 August – 2 September. Both festivals are in Moseley Park and Pool.

Moseley in Bloom – Open Gardens



Pink petunias adorning the planters round the green in the centre of the Village, paid for with money raised by Moseley in Bloom. The main fund raising event is Open Gardens weekend. This year it's happening on 30 June and 1 July. Local gardens are open from 1.00 – 5.30 pm. Tickets will be on sale from Friday 22 June from A Painted Room in Alcester Road and Moseley Gifts and Gardens in Oxford Road and on

Saturday 30 June at the Farmers' Market and various gardens on the Saturday and Sunday. Apart from the glorious gardens, there will be teas and cakes, Prosecco and Pimms, music and artwork adding to the occasion. See www.moseleyinbloom.org.uk for more details.

Destination Churchyard - St Mary's Church

– Saturday 30 June 10 am–3 pm Storytelling, trails (including a tortoise trail), craft activities, beekeeping, local history and cream teas (1-3pm) are all happening in the beautiful surroundings of St. Mary's Church and churchyard.



Moseley Village

Sorrento Lounge, which replaced Prezzo, is up and running. The old HSBC building has a banner announcing the arrival of Dares Bar and a small 10 bedroom hotel. It's expected to open by Christmas. The ATM/phone box has been removed and will not be replaced. Pottery and Pieces is looking more and more derelict and work on the interior has halted.

Planning and Licensing

**50 School Road, Moseley, B13 9SN
2018/03462/PA**

The site behind the huge hoardings at the corner of Paton Grove and School Road is the subject of a planning application for a 2/3 storey building with 14 apartments and 14 parking places.

We were disappointed that we have had to object to these plans as we were led to believe that spacious flats were planned. Instead a massive building is proposed to contain 14 units with minimum space and insufficient parking spaces. There is no convenient on-street parking in the area,



we feel the only solution is to create fewer, larger flats in a building more in scale with the street scene.

Highbury Park Tree Trail

Green spaces and trees are hugely important to our wellbeing and we are lucky to have a good number of parks nearby. Highbury Park Friends (HPF) launched the new Highbury Tree Trail on 11 June at Highbury. They have produced a beautifully designed and informative leaflet to accompany the Trail which will soon be available to download from the HPF website www.highburyparkfriends.org.uk

It highlights some of the ancient, venerable and specimen trees of the Highbury landscape, and notes features of importance through the seasons. It is suitable for use by children and adults.

Moseley Bog

You may have heard that 'Dippy' the diplodocus is in Birmingham. He is on loan from the Natural History Museum and can be seen at the Museum and Art Gallery. There are several events related to the visit. One of these, organised by the Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust, was at Moseley bog on 3 June. The main theme was on birds, the only direct descendants of the prehistoric inhabitants of our planet. There were opportunities to try and make a bird's nest (impossibly difficult), identify the beaks of birds as well as uncovering fossils and creating your own.



Emma Sargent, Community and Education Officer with the Wildlife Trust and Michelle Perry a volunteer, who had been trying to create a replica blackbird's nest! The penguin's nest on the right of the photo was an easier task! If you would like to find out about the Birmingham and Black Country Wild Walk challenge go to www.bbcwildlife.org.uk/WildWalk

Heritage Open Days

This will span two weekends of 8/9 and 15/16 September. Dr Terry Slater will lead a walk in the St Agnes Conservation Area on Saturday 8 September. There will be limited places and we will let you know nearer the time how to book.

On Sunday 9 September, between 2 and 5pm, we will be promoting a Repton theme, with Moseley Park, the icehouse and dovecote all open.

Highbury will be open to visitors on Sunday 16 September.

Open Studios

You may remember two very successful weekends last September when local artists from Moseley and Kings Heath opened their studios to visitors. Owen de Visser is busy organising a repeat this year, which will extend to Selly Park and Stirchley. The weekends are the same as the Heritage Open Days: 8/9 and 15/16 September. For more information go to <http://artsbrum.com/open/studios/>

Moseley Road Baths

A charitable trust has taken over the running of Moseley Baths and it's open for business. It has support from various organisations, including the National Trust, but does need the swimmers amongst us to use the pool to justify its existence and volunteers to keep it open. See: www.moseleyroadbaths.org.uk/

Trains into Birmingham 2021 or 2026?

At a recent meeting in Kings Heath to set up a pressure group to work on the re-opening of local stations, it turned out that the West Midlands' Mayor, Andy Street, had the money in his budget to enable the re-opening of Hazelwell (Cartland Road), Kings Heath and Moseley stations. If this works out, a few existing trains would stop at

these stations and go into New Street. There would only be about one each hour, so it would be a temporary measure until the work on HS2 and the Bordesley Chords, with a more frequent service to Moor Street by 2026. There were lively exchanges at the meeting about car parking for people using the station to commute into Birmingham.

Queensbridge Road Depot

The derelict buildings near Queensbridge School were once part of Tennessee, a house belonging to Hilda Cadbury, now Anita Stone Court in Moor Green Lane. Hilda Cadbury was one of the founders of The Pocket Testament League, which still exists today. When she was at school she and her friends made pockets in their uniforms, so they could carry a copy of the bible or new testament wherever they went.

Until 2009 the Depot was used by the Parks Department and was, until recently, on the City's 'land for disposal' list. It has been withdrawn for various reasons, including the 'changing usage of the Chamberlain/Cadbury Estate'. There are various ideas for the re-use of the buildings, of historical interest to Moseley. An article on our website describes the life of Beatrice Cadbury, Helen's sister, and her time at Tennessee, including a photo of the house.

<http://moseley-society.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Beatrice-Cadbury-and-Kees-Boeke-rev.pdf>

John Williams – 'Mr Moseley'



Photo Shirley Jones

We probably need an entire Newsletter to pay tribute to John who sadly died recently. He and his wife Liz moved to Chantry Road in 1973 and their energy and enthusiasm

was soon evident. John was a founder member of the Moseley Society, Secretary of Moseley Traders and was behind the transformation of Moseley Park and Pool into a charitable trust. He was the editor of Birmingham 13 intermittently for about 25 years and he and Liz, a talented artist, were responsible for the restoration of the old school house in Woodbridge Road that houses the Woodbridge Gallery. George Macleod wrote about John Williams in Birmingham 13 when the Williams moved to Pershore in 2008. He finished the article with these words: *he was self-effacing, generous, good humoured, of unshakeable integrity, never shrinking from a challenge and has done an enormous amount for the benefit of our community. It is little wonder that he earned the soubriquet 'Mr Moseley'.* The funeral is to be held at Pershore Abbey on Wednesday 4 July at 11 am.

Harborne Society

One of our neighbouring Civic Societies has decided that their Society should be dissolved and will hold an Extraordinary General Meeting to confirm the decision.

The issue that led up to this is familiar to many societies and voluntary groups - an aging membership unable to recruit younger members to take over the management and organisation of the Society. However the Society can be proud of its achievements over the years.

Amongst the Moseley Society Committee there are several new hips and knees and various other signs of aging, so we are very grateful to members who volunteer to help out when we need it! There is such a reserve of talent and expertise in Moseley. Recently we have had help from one of our members over the new Data Protection policy. We welcome members of all ages as it adds to our clout when we are commenting on planning and licensing issues or dealing with boundary changes. Please do help us in encouraging the next generation to join.

New Members

We are delighted to welcome Deborah Moseley as a member of the Society.