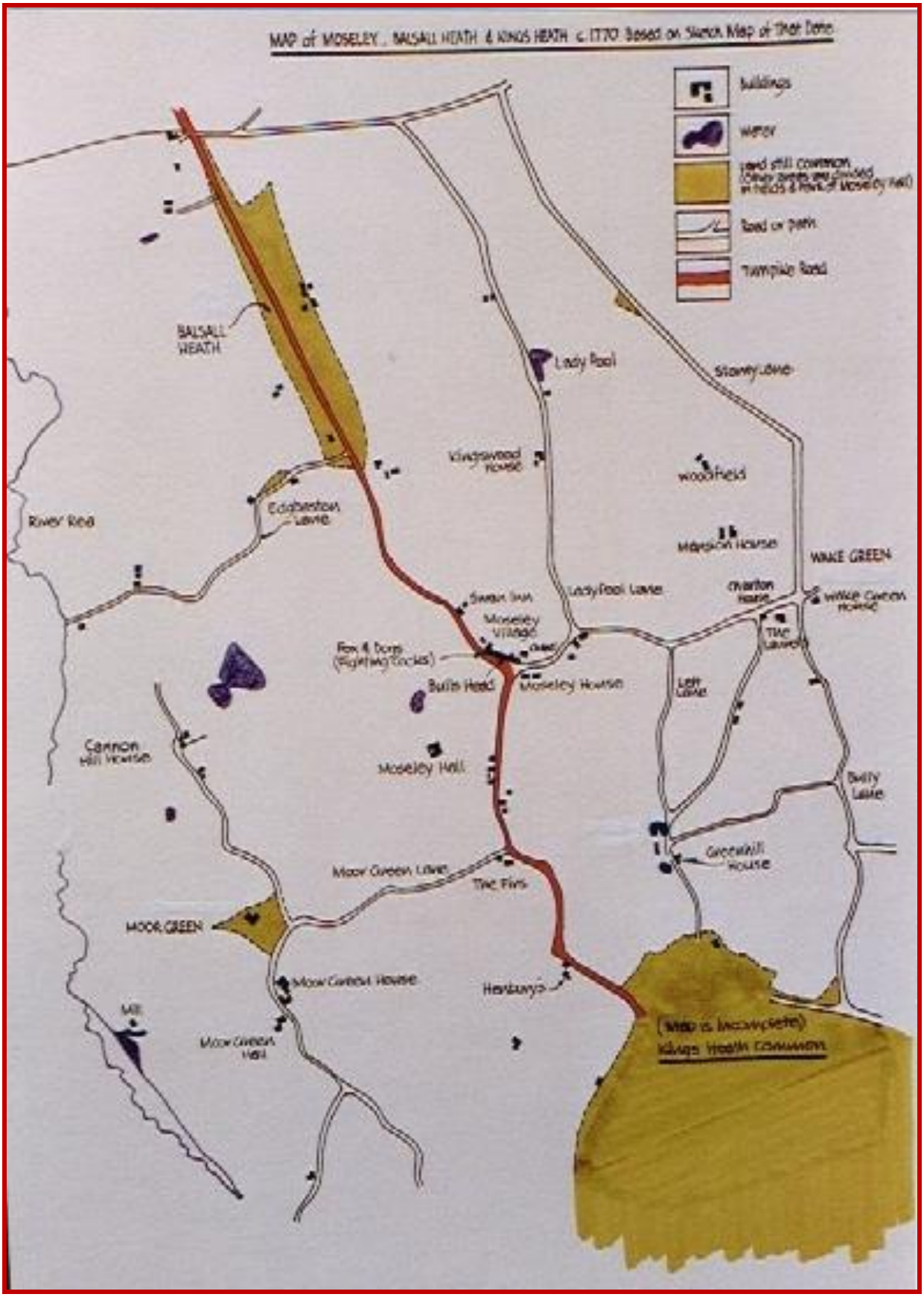
VICTORIAN MOSELEY

THE MOSELEY SOCIETY

Formed to protect a unique area of Birmingham Charity No. 512211

heritage lottery fund


MAP of MOSELEY, BALSALL HEATH & KINGS HEATH c.1770 Based on Sketch Map of That Date
Buildings
Water
Land still common
Road or path
Turnpike Road
BALSALL HEATH
Lady Pool
Stoney Lane
Kingswood House
Woodfield
River Rea
Edgbaston Lane
Mansion House
WAKE GREEN
Swan Inn
Lady Pool Lane
Overton House
White Cannon House
Moseley Village
Fox & Dogs (Fighting Cocks)
Bulls Head
Moseley House
Lea Lane
Cannon Hill House
Moseley Hill
Bailey Lane
Greenhill House
Moor Green Lane
The Firs
MOOR GREEN
Moor Cannon House
Hanbury's
Mill
Moor Green Hall
(Map is incomplete)
Kings Heath Common

VICTORIAN MOSELEY

Moseley in the early years of Queen Victoria's reign was still a village, independent from the town of Birmingham. It was noted in a trade directory of 1850 as *'pleasant and romantic'* and in another of 1868 as " *A village two and a half miles south from Birmingham and three and a half miles north east from Kings Norton, on the high road to Evesham, in the western division of the county of Worcestershire … The village is pleasant and possesses fine scenery ... The population in 1861 was 1491 …"*
('Kelly's Trade Directory' 1868)

A Moseley resident reported that
"*He* (Father) *was born in 1874 in Woodbridge Road, Moseley on the site of the Police Station. He walked across the fields to Moseley National School. ... He must have walked across the wooden bridge across the station, across Church Road, which would have been a country lane and across probably two fields to the school*."
(Oral History Interview, 'The Collection').

But things were changing ….

EXPANDING MOSELEY

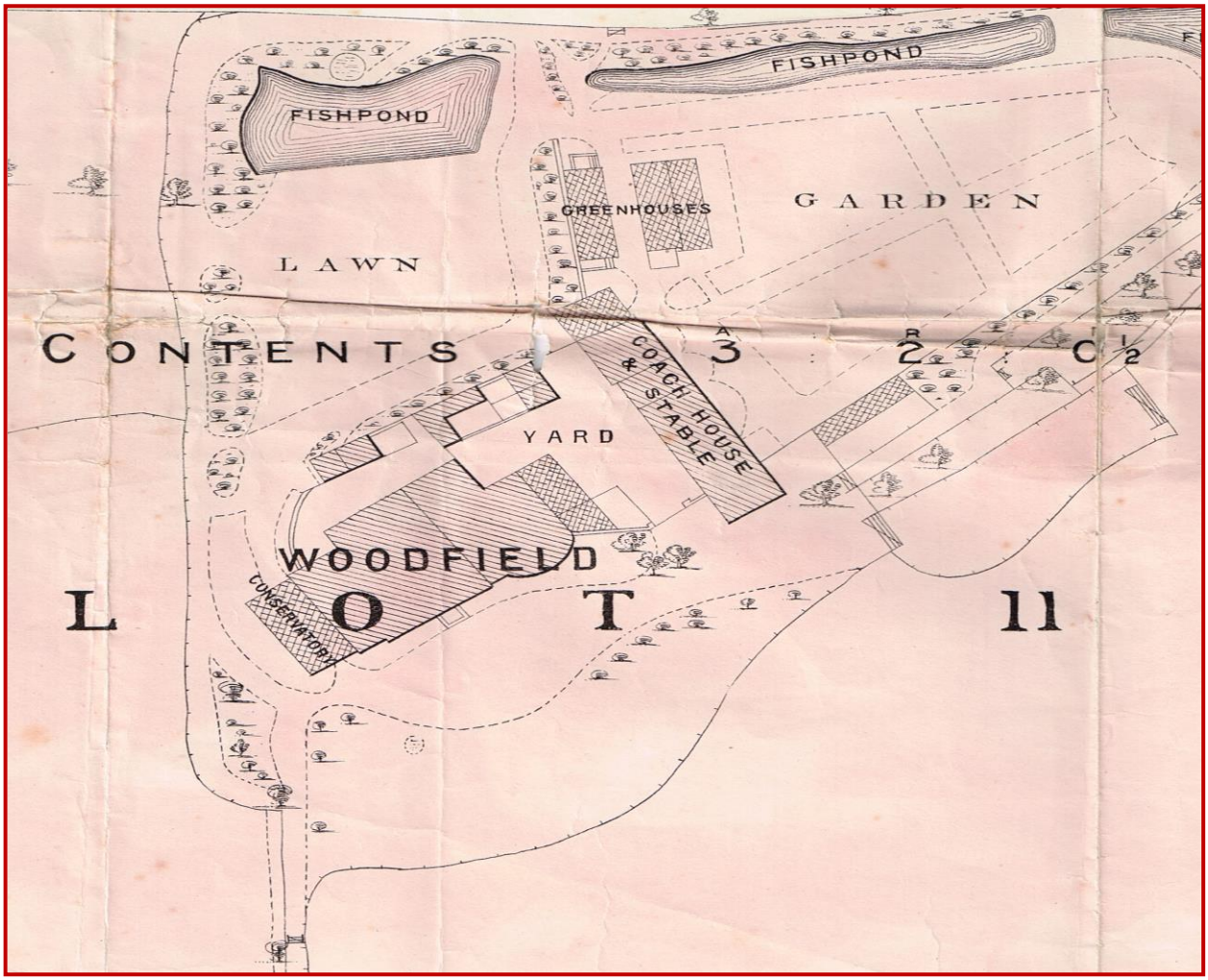
Birmingham was growing rapidly in the nineteenth century as industry expanded and its population grew. There was little planning or housing legislation and no environmental control, resulting in piecemeal, high density housing development and appalling conditions. Those with the means wanted to escape the overcrowded, polluted and insanitary conditions. Wealthy residents began to move out to the surrounding areas, and villages like Moseley were an attractive alternative.

Moseley was on a hill giving wonderful views over the Cole and Rea valleys and such hill sites were considered at the time to be particularly healthy places. Moseley also had plentiful supplies of good clean water in springs and deep wells, as well as the rivers Rea and Cole, and this was an important issue for health at the time.
(The Moseley Society. "Moseley Village Walks from the Dovecote". p1)

As well as its picturesque rural environment, Moseley was also close to Birmingham, making commuting easy, but far enough away to preserve a sense of a country retreat.

There was the added attraction of well-established persons of rank with substantial estates, such as James Taylor, wealthy button manufacturer, of Moseley Hall.

In the 1860s and 1870s especially, Moseley was developed as a residential area for Birmingham businessmen and manufacturers. Many of those who moved out to Moseley at this time were middle-class, successful and well-to-do.
(G. Hearn. 1974. "A History of the Church of St. Anne, Moseley, Birmingham. 1874-1974. p9)



Plan of Woodfield, 1877, bordered by Woodfield and Sandford Roads. From 'The Collection'

Building plots, like Woodfield above, came onto the market when established families, such as the Blaneys, the Andertons and the Taylors, sold their estates.

Picture of Woodfield. From 'The Collection'

The new residences included detached or semi-detached homes of various sizes, with large houses in Park Hill and Wake Green Road, for example, and smaller ones such as in Oxford Road and School Road. These houses were financially accessible only to the better-off, thus preserving the middle-class nature of the area and preventing the encroachment of small, cheap, tunnel-back villa terracing. Their extensive gardens preserved Moseley's 'green' environment and long leases ensured good maintenance.

Another factor which helped to maintain the residential nature of Moseley was that there were no canals nearby. Elsewhere, factories and workshops were being built along the network of canals that spread out from the city

Nineteenth-century residents included the Chamberlains, the Cadburys, Sir John Holder and Alfred Bird, the Digbeth custard-maker.
(The Moseley Society. 'Moseley Personalities', Volumes 1-3; 'Moseley Trail', p21)

However, smaller houses were needed to accommodate those moving into the area to provide services to the growing population, as well as for the lower middle classes, such as clerks. They also desired a cleaner environment and were increasingly able to commute to their jobs in Birmingham. Much of this cheaper housing was around the village centre in, for example, Church Avenue and Tudor Avenue, an area formerly known as Welch's Hill.

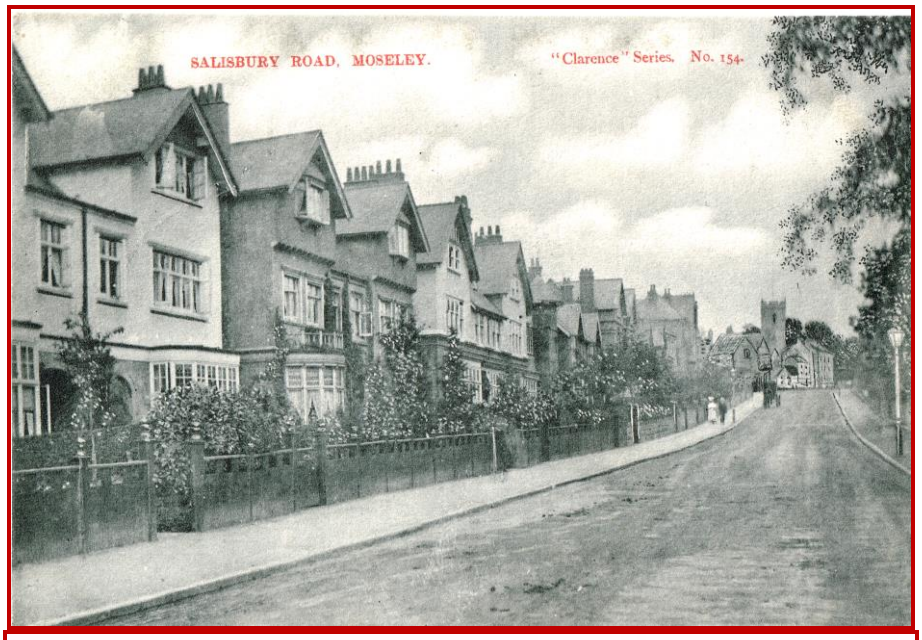
"The present year has seen the development for building purposes of the sandpits on Welchs Hill, and a large number of houses of small rental are to be shortly erected. So far, however, Moseley has been an exclusive suburb, the residences being chiefly large villas - mansions better describe many of the modern homes - but there is a tendency in these days, with the development of the tramway system, to give the artisans of Birmingham an opportunity of enjoying the purer atmosphere of the district by erecting dwellings suitable to their requirements."
(Article on 'Old Moseley (Worcestershire)' from the 'Birmingham Mail' of 15th October, 1903)

The same article looks back on fifty years of change in Moseley:

"The cutting up of the several important estates has largely contributed to the change. Probably the greatest development has been made on either side of the old village, stretching on the one hand away to Sparkbrook and Hall Green on the Anderton, Greenhill, and other estates and on the other, to what is known as the Taylor estate and Moseley Park. It is only a few years ago since 'The Rookery', a graceful line of trees along the Alcester Road, was felled to make way for a row of well-built shops now known as Victoria Parade."

"On the same estates Park Road, Park Hill, Chantry and Salisbury Roads have been cut, and in conjunction with the development of the adjoining Russell estate the Reddings will ere long be handed over to the builder. Fortunately, the Moseley Football Club hold an unexpired lease of that part of the Reddings on which the game is still played, but 'The Reddings' fields and footpaths are soon to disappear."

(Article on 'Old Moseley (Worcestershire)'
from the 'Birmingham Mail' of 15th October, 1903)



Later, in 1911, the Moseley Society Journal would bemoan 20 years of "*ruthless onslaughts*" with "*deplorable effect*" in Moseley. It recalled "*when this suburb was just a delightful retreat from the noise and cares of the city and its whirl*." Now it was "*a continuation of, rather than apart from, the city's bustle and noise … and the wild birds for which Moseley used to be famous have sought more sequestered haunts*."

However, the Journal goes on to describe "*A beauty spot where woodland scenery, unspoiled by man, may be enjoyed; where wild birds and water fowl breed unmolested and one can at will sit in some shady nook, feeling altogether apart from everyday things, or enjoy out door games among the most delightful surroundings.*"
('The Moseley Society Journal', November, 1911)

This, of course, was Moseley Park and Pool, still a hidden gem of Moseley.

MOSELEY PARK AND POOL

The same Moseley Society Journal goes on to explain how there were plans to cut *"… more new roads out of Chantry and Salisbury Roads, filling up the pool, and erecting houses thereon. This irreparable loss to the district was, however, most fortunately averted by the public spirit of nine local gentlemen:"*

In 1898 these gentlemen bought 14 acres of land around the pool and landscaped the area.

This provided an environment where "*little ones may be sent with their nurse and enjoy to the full the benefits of pure air and beautiful surroundings, a place moreover which … is free from many objections which unfortunately belong to public parks.*"

To help cover the costs of upkeep, local people were encouraged to take out annual membership at the cost of one guinea. It remains the case to this day that "*It is to the interest of the residents of Moseley that this beauty spot be preserved for this and future generations ...*"
('The Moseley Society Journal', November, 1911)

MOSELEY AT LEISURE

Moseley Pool provided opportunities for impromptu skating in the winter, as did Coldbath Pond and Swanshurst Park Pool:

"*The skaters on the Moseley Hall pool will, I am sure, take their pleasure with the added zest when they learn that, by the liberal generosity of Mr. Hadley, one half of the money taken for admission will be handed over to charities, and in addition to this the whole takings on Sunday last, amounting to £12 5s 6d., were devoted to the relief of distress prevailing in the immediate district. I hear that something like one thousand pounds has already been taken at the gates for admission; it is indeed an ill wind that blows no one any good.*"
('The Moseley Society Journal', February 1895)

This activity obviously continued over the years, as a later Moseley Society Journal reported "*…merry scenes are witnessed and some fine exhibitions given by local experts*."
('The Moseley Society Journal', November, 1911)

Moseley also boasted a skating rink behind the Trafalgar Hotel but as the population increased, so did more formalised sporting opportunities.

In the 1850s, cricket was played by Moseley and Balsall Heath Cricket Club but, between 1861 and 1891, the population swelled by almost five times and the village was soon able to field its own teams.

Established	
1864	Moseley Cricket Club
1873	Moseley Football Club
1880s	Moseley Park Lawn Club

(N. Hewston. 2009. 'The History of Moseley Village'. pp36/37)

Moseley Park had "*beautiful lawns*", which offered "*exceptional advantages for tennis and bowls, the green for the latter being considered a really first-class one*."
('The Moseley Society Journal', November, 1911)

Moseley Quoit and Bowling Club, which met at the 'Fighting Cocks' was already in existence, and remained so for over 90 years until dwindling numbers forced its demise in 1964.

Tennis clubs were also to be found, such as Newton Lawn Tennis Club.

Photograph of Newton Lawn Tennis Club, Belle Walk, 1899

Another 'green' oasis was formed in 1892, when Moseley Golf Club was founded, on land rented from Billesley Farm. This remains an attraction to this day.

Moseley's cricket club was a prized asset, but in 1894 was "*badly in want of funds. This should not be. The premier club of a district like Moseley ought to be well and substantially supported. It is feared that if a good supply of the "needful" is not forth-coming, the Club will next season be deprived of many advantages it now enjoys."*
('The Moseley Society Journal', November 1894)

Moseley Football Club enjoyed much success too and, in 1888, *"were the first team to defeat the first-ever tourists, the Maoris."*
(www.moseleyrugby.co.uk./history)

The same year, they were able to upgrade their ground at the Reddings, as reported in the Dart:
"The new covered stand at The Reddings has been commenced. It will be free to all members .."
However, *"Ladies not members will be required to pay half a crown a season."*
('The Dart' October 30th, 1891 - 'Tittle Tattle by Mollie')

The ladies also had their own activities, such as the Moseley Ladies' Cycling Club, formed in 1896.

Apart from sporting activities, Moseley boasted its own 'Social Club' and enjoyed a proliferation of clubs and societies, offering literature, amateur dramatics and music.

There was a Shakespearian Society, a Musical Society, a Book Club, an Amateur Drama Society, a Choral Society, the Moseley and Balsall Heath Literary Association, a Working Men's' Club, a Working Girls' Club and the Moseley and Kings Heath Gentleman's Club, to name but a few.
(N. Hewston. 2009. 'The History of Moseley Village'. pp38/39)

Naturally, the church too played a major role in village life and St. Mary's Church was the hub of religious and social life throughout the period.

One of the sporting clubs famous in the nineteenth century was Moseley Harriers athletic club, which was considered *"the leading athletic club"* of Birmingham. For four successive years (1881 – 1884) the club won the prestigious team championship.

HENRY MANDER OLIVER

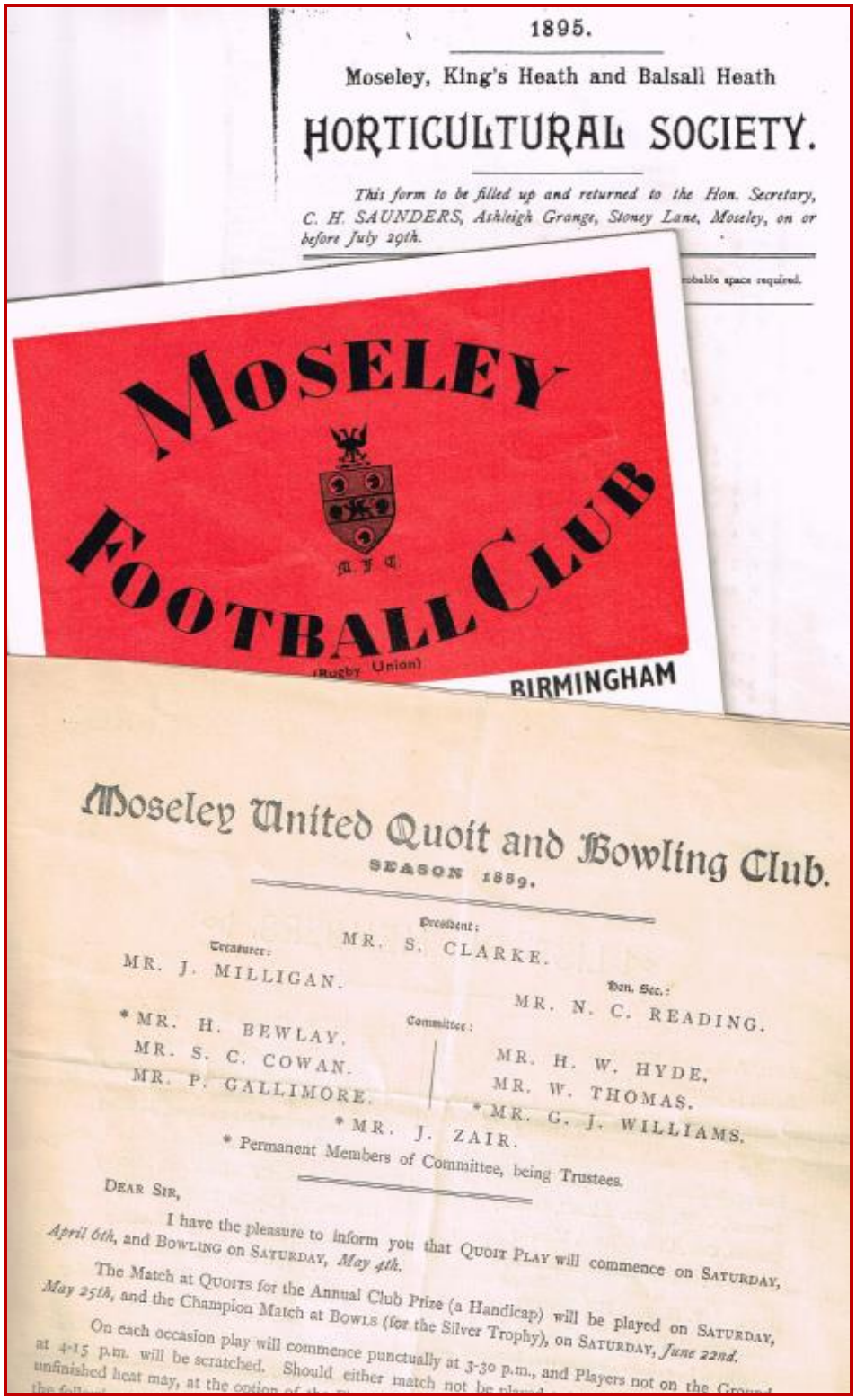
The successes of the Moseley Harriers were held to be largely due to the efforts of one man – Henry Mander Oliver.

Born in London in 1855, Oliver was demonstrating serious athletic talent in his teens. Moving to Birmingham in 1876, he joined Moseley Harriers and by 1879 was being hailed not just as a champion athlete, but as Team Captain, Handicapper and Club Secretary.

He went on to hold this latter post with the Midland Counties Cross Country Association and the Midland Counties Amateur Athletics Association. He was also part owner and editor of 'Midland Athlete' magazine.

Unfortunately, the magazine incurred debts and in 1887 Oliver was convicted of embezzling from his employer and imprisoned. The Harriers disbanded shortly afterwards and never re-formed.

('The Midland Athlete', September 24, 1879, pp. 494/5)
(W. Morgan. 'New Dictionary of National Biography'. 1997)



Many of the clubs and groups met at Moseley and Balsall Heath Institute, which has been described *as "the cultural focus of both Balsall Heath and Moseley for many years"*, attracting the likes of Charles Dickens and Oscar Wilde.
(V. Hart "Balsall Heath. A History" p.65)

MOSELEY AND BALSALL HEATH INSTITUTE

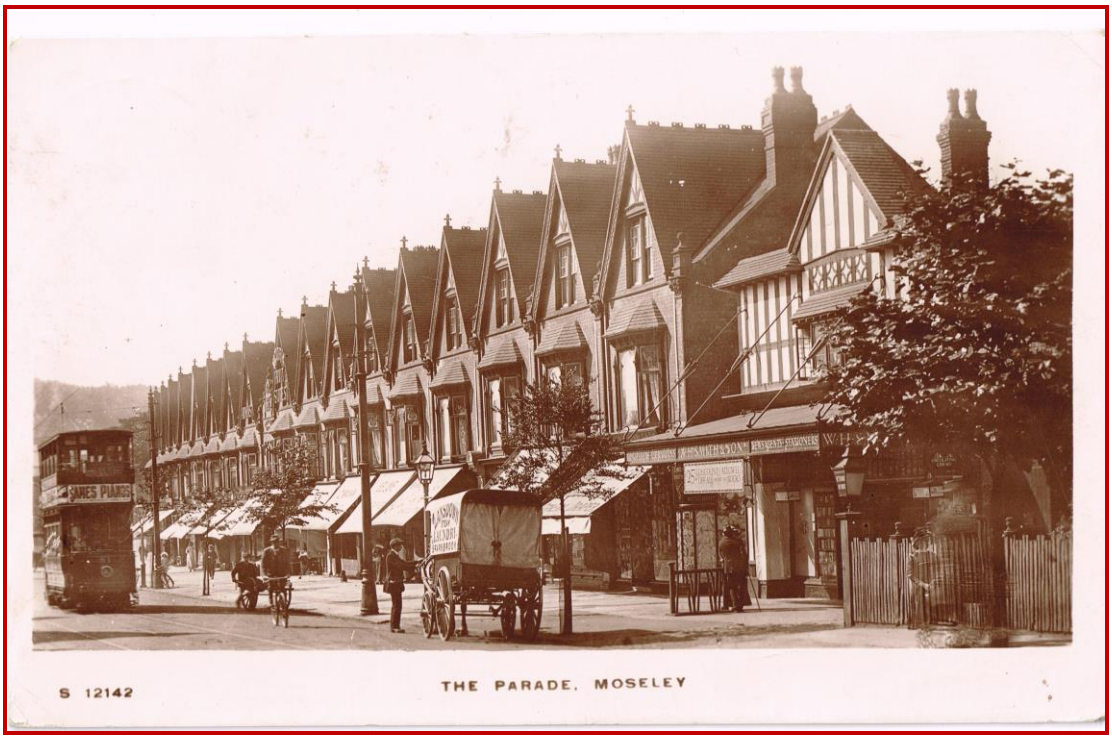
Built by local builder John Bowen, and opened in 1883, the Institute was often the venue for fundraising events:

"The Bazaar in aid of the funds of St. Mary's and St. Agnes' Churches is to be held in the Moseley and Balsall Heath Institute on November 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 24th next. Great preparations are being made, and a big result is anticipated… An excellent programme of "side shows" has been arranged … The Hall is to be fitted, draped, and decorated by Liberty and Co., who will doubtless perform their duties in their accustomed artistic manner."

However, a note of caution was sounded:
"Bearing in mind the presence and active occupation of a party of pickpockets at one of our recent Bazaars, it is to be hoped, the Committee on the present occasion will take due precautionary measures. Hard cash flies quite fast enough at these affairs without having it surreptitiously appropriated."

('The Moseley Society Journal'. Vo.l 1, No. 10. Nov. 1894
Local Gossip by "Paul Pry, Junr.")

SHOPPING IN MOSELEY



The growth of Moseley resulted in an influx of people providing facilities and services to the expanding population. From two commercial premises in 1840, provision increased to about 14 in 1867 and about 37 by 1890. More retail accommodation was provided by the building of Victoria Parade in 1901, which housed two bakers, three drapers, a butcher, fishmonger, corn dealer, fruiterer, photographer, bookseller, wine dealer and umbrella maker. Later, by 1910, commercial properties numbered 122. During the preceding 20 years, the number of drapers alone jumped from one to ten, grocers from two to eight and butchers from one to five. There also appeared a music shop, a photographer and a supplier of artists' materials.

(N. Hewston. 2009. 'The History of Moseley Village'. p30)
(I. Begum. 1995. 'Shopping in Moseley')

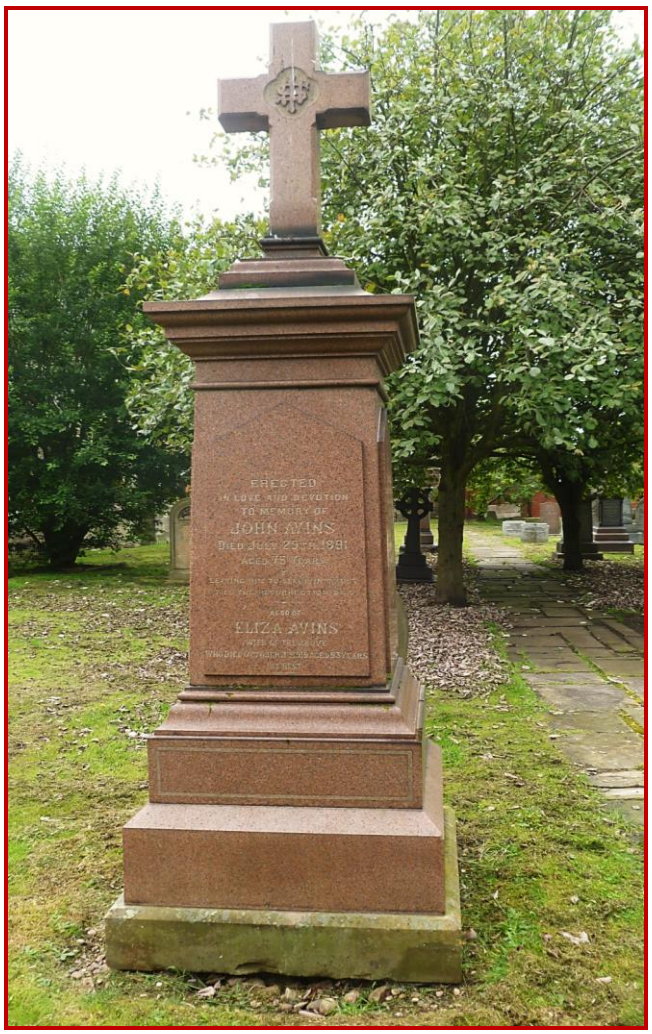
MOSELEY PHILANTHROPISTS

Charity fundraising, largely through philanthropy, churches and chapels, was part of everyday life in Victorian England. William Francis Taylor of Moseley Hall gave the land for the building of St. Anne's Church and building costs (£6-£7,000) were borne by Miss Rebecca Anderton of Anderton Park, Wake Green. She also supported the establishment of St. Agnes' Church, (dedicated in 1883). These sister churches of St. Mary's, along with new Non-Conformist places of worship like Oxford Road Baptist Church (1888), were needed to support the growing population and new communities.
(G. Hearn. 1974. "A History of the Church of St. Anne, Moseley, Birmingham. 1874-1974. p10)

When Richard Cadbury moved to the village in 1883, he rented Moseley Hall. He bought it in 1890 and the following year he donated it to Birmingham City Council as a Convalescent Hospital for Children. Moseley Hall continues to serve the community as part of the NHS.

John Avins was typical of many Moseley residents, who had the time and money to contribute. A notable philanthropist, he subscribed and donated to Birmingham hospitals and charitable institutions, such as The General Hospital and Blue Coat Charity School. He also gave to local charities, for example, 'The Poor of Moseley and District'.

He also established the John Avins Trust to support hospitals and quasi-medical institutions. This still operates today.



John Avins memorial in St. Mary's Churchyard

THE VILLAGE GREEN

Moseley Village 1870

One of John Avins' local roles was as a member of the Moseley Village Green Committee.

Ownership of, and responsibility for, Moseley Village Green was a contentious issue during the late 19th century. The Blayney family had inherited the land comprising Moseley Village in the late 18th century. They began to sell the land in the 1840s and by about 1882, the Green belonged to W.D. Wilkinson.

Fearing it would be built on, the parishioners engaged solicitors to investigate the title deeds, with a view to buying the Green themselves. Finally, "… *a satisfactory price was arranged at which Mr Wilkinson is, we understand, inclined to give up his claim to the land."*
('Birmingham Daily Post' July, 1883 –
as printed in 'The Birmingham Post', 2 July, 1983)

That was not the end of the story, however, as the Moseley Village Green Committee then found themselves with ongoing maintenance issues:

"Again of Moseley Green, it is still a wildness and inhabitants are hinting that the committee have lost heart and despair of beautifying a spot which is so hopelessly disfigured by those hideous tall Scotch railings."
('The Birmingham Gazette', 3rd September, 1885)

It is obvious that problems continued, as St. Mary's Church Magazine in 1893 notes that:
"The Chairman stated that no funds exist for maintenance of the Green."
('St. Mary's Church Magazine', January, 1893)

It seems the Committee decided to relinquish responsibility for the Green, as a letter from Birmingham City Council confirms that:
'Moseley Village Green was a gift to Kings Norton Parish Council on the 23 June 1897, to be dedicated for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of Moseley as open space.'

Clearly, the ownership of Moseley Village Green is not in question today, as the letter states that *"The land is held by the Leisure Services Committee."*
(Copy of letter from B'ham City Council Dept. of Planning & Architecture – 3rd April, 1996)
(Information and excerpts from articles in 'The Collection' by Fred Price.)

EDUCATION IN MOSELEY

Another of Moseley's many attractions during this period was its abundance of educational establishments. Birmingham's first National School was founded in Moseley in 1828. Built on land leased from James Taylor of Moseley Hall, it was managed and supported financially by local gentry. A local government report expressed the opinion that Moseley children were *"not of the class who required elementary schools."* The site in School Road is now retirement flats.
(F. Price. 1998. 'History of Moseley National School'.)
(A. Fairn. 1973. 'A History of Moseley'. p59)

As well as this, there were many private schools, for both boys and girls. In the 1850s & 1860s, these included Miss Charlotte Thrupp's boarding school, also on School Road, Hannah Sansome's Classical and Commercial School at Woodbridge House and Miss E Boyce's Boarding School in Wake Green. There was also Woodroughs School for Boys accessed via School Road, on land now occupied by the Moseley Church of England Primary School.
('Kelly's Directory of Birmingham'. 1896)

Another important educational establishment was Spring Hill College. This huge, Gothic-style building was erected in the 1850s, and would have attracted a Non-Conformist community.

SPRING HILL COLLEGE

Spring Hill College was "a particularly significant expression of the material and spiritual self-confidence of the Nonconformist community at its zenith."

Founded to train young men for the ministry, the college became obsolete when Oxford and Cambridge opened their doors to Non-Conformists, and the site was sold in 1892.

The grounds were re-opened as 'Moseley Botanical Gardens' and the building altered to become 'Pine Dell Hydropathic Establishment'. This failed commercially and closed in 1900. Several incarnations later, the recently restored building has reverted to its original purpose as an educational facility.

(Gaskin C, Vlaeminke M, Gaskin K. 1998
'Moseley into the Millennium. The Story of Moseley School')

Despite Moseley's reputation as a healthy place to live, there could still be hazards, and in 1872, 96 cases of fever and diarrhoea were recorded in Moseley and Balsall Heath, of which ten were fatal. Dr. Ballard of the Local Government Board was sent to investigate.

FEVER IN MOSELEY

Dr Ballard found evidence that the wells supplying *"water for domestic use to the greater part of the population were also much polluted with sewage or excremental matters."* However, this *"failed to explain the peculiar distribution of the fever,"* which *"had attacked families residing in the best villa residences in Moseley."* He concluded that these people bought milk from sellers who were diluting their supplies with water from polluted wells.

Dr Ballard requested that the wells be disabled and stand-pipes erected instead. He also advised that soiled linens, clothing, drains and toilets were regularly disinfected.

He further recommended the provision of proper sewers, *"the frequent and systematic removal of the excrement of the population"*, *"a sufficient supply of wholesome water"*, and *"a place of the nature of a cottage hospital"* to house contagious sufferers.

(Report by Dr Ballard, upon an Outbreak of Enteric Fever at Moseley & Balsall Heath, near Birmingham. Local Government Board, Medical Department, April 1873. Parliamentary Reports 117. Public Health 1873)

TRANSPORT TO MOSELEY

The development of transport was crucial to Moseley's growth. Moseley was close to Birmingham, located on the main road to Alcester, a turnpike road since 1770, which ensured a passable surface for travel to Birmingham for work, shopping and entertainment, by horse, carriage or on foot. In 1815, coaches were running between Birmingham and Moseley twice a day, three days a week.

"There are still living in Moseley residents who can remember the stir and bustle which was occasioned by the arrival and departure of the Alcester stage coach, an institution which died hard in spite of the powerful opposition of the railway."
(Article on 'Old Moseley (Worcestershire)'
from the 'Birmingham Mail' of 15th October, 1903)

From 1859 ten ‘omnibuses’ a day ran through the village and steam trams operated from 1887.

“Omnibuses to Birmingham from the Fighting Cocks ten times a day.”

(‘Kelly’s Trade Directory’ 1868)
(A. Fairn. 1973. ‘A History of Moseley’. pp45,55)

It was reported later that *“Even after the inauguration of the railway, omnibuses for a long time served the residents of Moseley and Kings Heath as the means of communication with the city.”*

(Article on 'Old Moseley (Worcestershire)'
from the Birmingham Mail of 15th October, 1903)

Not everyone was happy with the changes, however*:*

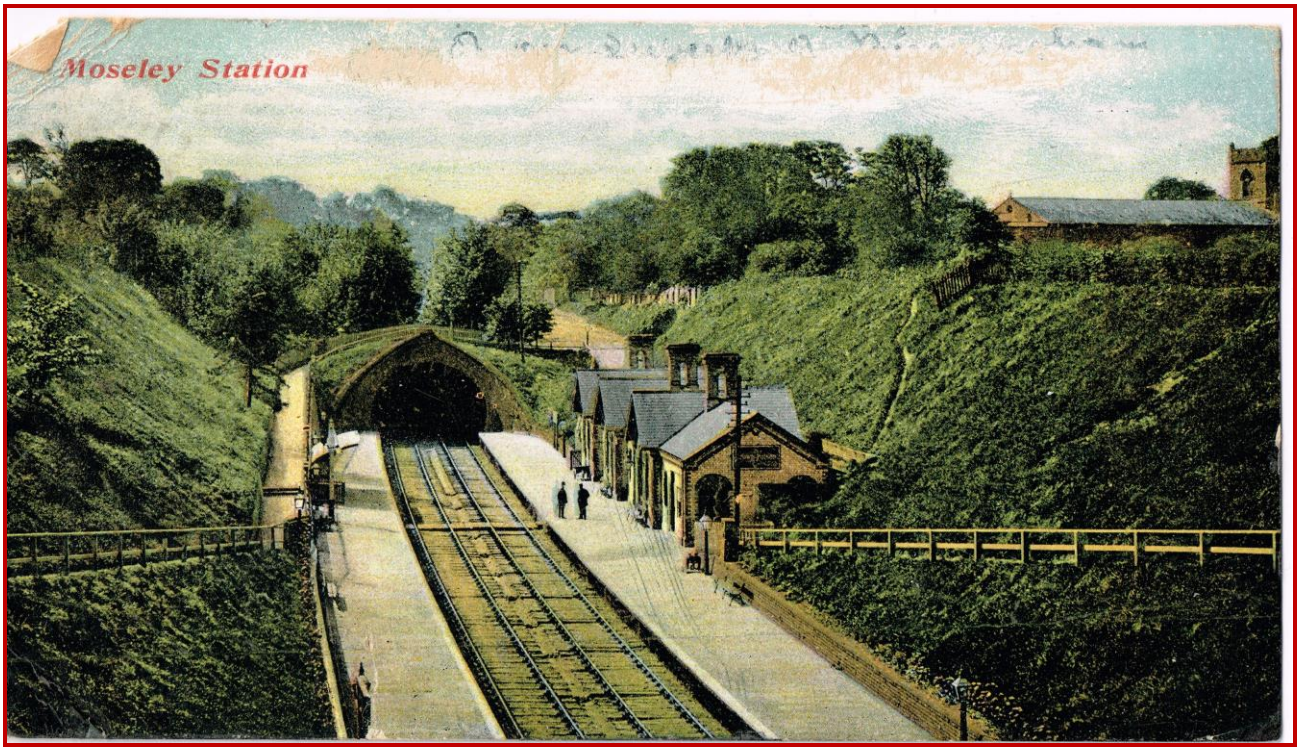
“As can readily be imagined there was a long prejudice against the tramways, which has been, and still is shared by the present vicar of Moseley. This gentleman, on the appearance of the first tram, registered a vow never to ride in one, a resolution which, we are told, he has unfalteringly maintained till the present day.”

(Article on 'Old Moseley (Worcestershire)'
from the Birmingham Mail of 15th October, 1903)

This was the Rev. W. H. Colmore, who set up an ‘Anti-Steam Tram Nuisance Society’.
(A. Fairn. 1973. ‘A History of Moseley’. p55)

"The Moseley people do not seem to take kindly to buses. One has been struggling desperately for the last month or two to run from Church Road to town and back again, but it has received so many rebuffs that it has at last given up the struggle. No doubt the excellent train services and the proximity of the steam tram have a great deal to do with this failure. Businessmen have to consider speed and convenience before pleasure."
('The Dart', July, 1891 - 'Tittle Tattle by Mollie')

The original railway through Moseley, the Birmingham and Gloucester, was authorised by parliament in 1836. The route had been surveyed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel back in 1832, but it took many years to raise the money to build the line and it wasn't until 1840 that the section linking Barnt Green to Camp Hill via Moseley was opened.



Although the parliamentary authorisation had specified a tunnel to protect St Mary's Church from vibration and noise, the directors pressed ahead with a cutting which was less expensive. Local people took the case to the Court of Chancery and the company were compelled to fill in the cutting as a tunnel; it is believed to be the first railway tunnel made in this way.

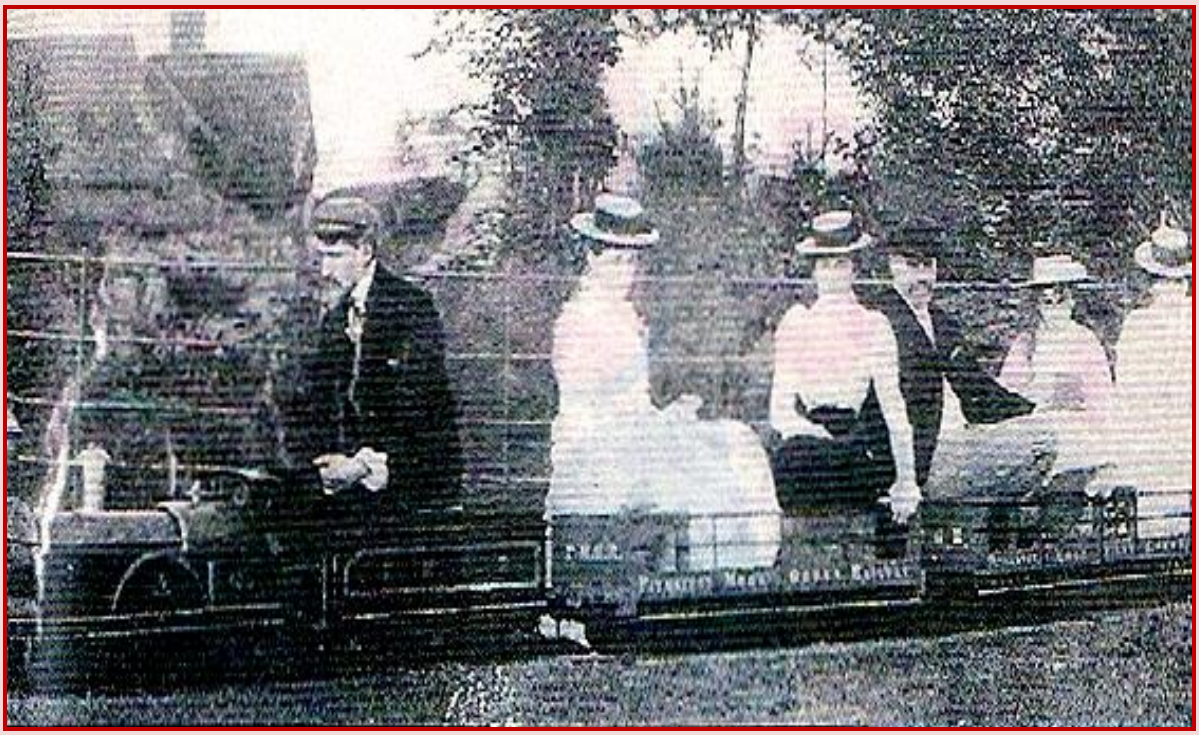
However, Moseley Village didn't get its own station until 1867. Prior to this, Kings Heath Station (near Queensbridge Road) was called Moseley Station.

Moseley station proper was close to the heart of the village, an advantage over other localities, like Harborne, Yardley and Northfield, where the station was distant from the centre. A wooden trestle bridge was built across the line at Woodbridge Road in 1849 and the present bridge was erected in 1894. Around 1877 thirty trains per day were going to Birmingham New Street Station.
(Extracts from article by John Hazlewood in 'The Collection')

A DIFFERENT TYPE OF RAILWAY

There was another railway in Moseley which attracted interest in those days, one which was considerably smaller and had little problem running on time – the model railway at Pitmaston:

"*... we made our way to the wagon sheds, where we found a G.N.R. loco getting up steam ... up a steady gradient, … our entry of the tunnel, twenty-five yards of darkness … a cutting, banks and bushes on either side,...we sped along until, on the curve approaching the wagon sheds again, with another warning whistle, the shutting off of steam, and the gentle application of the brakes, we pulled up in style …. A brief chat with Sir John Holder on the charms of model engineering,… brought a most delightful and interesting afternoon to a close.*"
('The Model Engineer and Amateur Electrician',
October 15, 1902, pp. 178-182 - photocopy in 'The Collection')



Several Moseley residents, like Sir John Holder, were known beyond Birmingham, and even nationally in some cases. Others may not have been recognised outside the village, but were no less notable for that.

TWO NOTABLE MOSELEY CHARACTERS

No records have been found as to when Moseley had its first beadle but we do know that Edward Dickenson (above left) took over this role in 1856 from William Halward of Moor Green.

It is unlikely that the Beadle had any official position in the civic world of the village outside the Parish Church and it is likely to have been a ceremonial post only, although he was also known as Clerk of Moseley so he may have had some association with the records of the church. One of the duties of a beadle was at funeral services, where he would walk in front of the 'mutes' with his staff draped in black silk.

Edward Dickenson died in 1883 and was buried in St. Mary's churchyard. His son-in-law, Charles Cross (pictured above right), was a pew opener and bell ringer, then joint Verger, before becoming sole Verger and Sexton.

He was described as the repository of our church traditions and the preserver of our customs. Stories gathered around him. A lady whose mother had recently been buried in the family grave asked him if there would be room for her also to be buried there. "Well, ma'am," he answered. "If you keep as you are, there will be room for two of you, but if you become like your mother, there will be room for only one."

Charles Cross died at the grand age of 93 in 1931. During his last years he was helped by his daughter, Charlotte Cross, born in the village in the 1860s. When her father died, she was appointed his successor and it is said that she was the first female Verger in the country. There is a small commemorative plaque on one of the pews in St. Mary's Church.

(Adapted from Rob Brown's article, 'The Beadle, The Vergers and the Choristers', March, 2013. Read the full article on our website www.moseleyhistory.co.uk)

OLD MOSELEY REMEMBERED

The changes to Moseley and its area were so marked that by the end of Queen Victoria's reign people were looking back fondly to a time when Moseley had been a "*typical English village*",

"*when it was possible to enjoy a pleasant country walk from Digbeth up to the once famous hostelry, the Fighting Cocks. Then the River Rae* (sic) *was a pellucid stream meandering through pasture land with hedgerows of sweet smelling hawthorn, interspersed with wild growing honeysuckle and rose.*"
(Article on 'Old Moseley (Worcestershire)'
from the Birmingham Mail of 15th October, 1903)

"*… the noise and bustle of tram cars, the swarms of suburban residents that emerge from the railway station (especially at certain times of the day), are fast wiping out the peaceful, pretty Moseley of my youthful days.*"
('A Tale of One City: the New Birmingham' from © **William Dargue 2008-2012** *A History of Birmingham Places & Placenames)*

There was no going back, of course. By the end of the nineteenth century, Moseley had been transformed from a completely rural community to a genteel outer suburb of Birmingham, which continues to attract people to this day.

This project was made possible by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and by the efforts of many volunteers, past and present.

The Moseley Society Local History Group:

. collects and manages archival materials,
. designs displays for local events,
. researches and produces local history booklets,
. holds monthly meetings with varied speakers.

If you would like to participate in any of these or to volunteer, please contact us on moseleyhistory@moseleyexchange.com

You can find us on
Facebook:www.facebook.com/
MoseleySocietyLocalHistoryGroup
Twitter: www.twitter.com/moseleyhistory
Our website: www.moseleyhistory.co.uk

'The Collection' is available for consultation by appointment.

THE MOSELEY SOCIETY
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BILLSELEY LANE

BELLE WALK MOSELEY