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THE MOSELEY SOCIETY

Caring for an historic area of Birmingham

Charity no. 512211

Autumn 2016 Newsletter

Much has been going on in Moseley since the last Newsletter. Open Gardens; Moseley Festival; Jazz, Funk and Soul as well as the recent Folk Festival have kept us entertained. As you will see from our Programme Card, there is plenty to look forward to, including Heritage Open Day.

Boundaries, Building and Brexit Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE)

Fantastic news - the final recommendation from LGBCE shows that all the tweaks Moseley suggested to the revised plans, issued in May, have been accepted with more besides. A map can be found at <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/5688> As you can see Balsall Heath Park is no longer in Moseley Ward, but both sides of Swanshurst Lane and of Green Road, the Wake Green Road houses opposite St Bernard's School and Birches Close have all been included. This will mean that, providing the government goes ahead with the proposed changes, Moseley will keep its natural boundaries and be a two councillor ward. Thanks go to the fantastic support of the residents of Moseley as well as to the hard work of local groups, including the Moseley Society, who rejected the original plans with such vigour!

Meteor Ford/Marshall's

Whatever we are going to call the new construction that is appearing at the corner of Oxford Road, we can't ignore it. You may have read recently that the NHS has got to make £20bn worth of savings. We won't know how this will affect the proposed medical centre for several months. The M&S store will be a 'Food Court' as the business is rebranding itself. The additional retail unit will be let once the building has taken shape. The traffic arrangements are still being debated.



Unless the EU referendum passed you by, you will know that Birmingham as a whole was divided by the Brexit vote. However, Moseley, together with the other wards in Hall Green Constituency voted, with a large majority, to remain in the EU. Whatever your views are, we hope that you will agree that Moseley is a special place to live and that you will continue to support us and other groups that are so active in the community.

Moseley Society Meetings

As you will see from the Programme Card, there is an exciting and varied list of talks and events.

Tuesday 4th October - Sarehole Mill and its water supply. Dr Jim Andrew

Thursday 20 October - The REP at War. Ginny Hartley and Jane Winder

Thursday 17 November - Where are the boys? The first day of the battle of the Somme. Andrew Hamilton.

All meetings, unless otherwise stated will be at the Moseley Exchange starting at 7.30.

Local History Group

For most of this year the History Group has been working on the project for the Moor Green Allotments Association. The resulting official booklet on the History of the Allotments commemorates 40 years since the Allotments Association was

formed and the redesigned site was opened.



Displays and posters, such as this, have also been produced and were used at the Celebration Day on 3rd September attended by the Lord Mayor.



The booklet was well received and you can read about the research on the Allotments' and our own websites. <http://moseley-society.org.uk/local-history/projects/the-history-of-moor-green-allotments/>

The History Society has received a generous donation of £100 from Graham Underhill for the Group's research on his family's involvement in WW1. Ten new articles have been completed based on the St Mary's WW1 memorial for the Battle of the Somme 1916, which will be published online shortly.

A second visit to KES to see their updated WW1 exhibition based on the Battle of the Somme and other events of 1916 has been confirmed for 14th October at 4.30 pm. and a flyer will be sent out shortly. The schedule of History Group evening talks for 2016/2017 has been finalised.

Verity Montague-Smith

Verity has spent all her life in Moseley, but is on her way to live near her son in Essex.



She has been a keen member of the Local History Group, keeping them on their toes and providing them with wonderful memories of her childhood. We wish her well.

Heritage Open Day in Moseley Sunday 11 September

Allow plenty of time, as there is even more to see this year. There is a very exciting addition to the attractions – **Highbury Hall**. The newly formed Chamberlain Highbury Trust is opening Joseph Chamberlain's family home, in Yew Tree Road, from **11am – 4pm**. There will be tours of the house and gardens. Chamberlain's wildlife walks, Edwardian bicycles, bee keeping demonstrations and a café.

Then between **2 – 5pm** there is another chance to follow the trail that includes **Moseley Park and Pool** with its **Icehouse**, part of the 18th century building at **Moseley Hall Hospital** and the **Dovecote**.

At the same time things will be happening in **St Mary's courtyard garden, off St Mary's Row**, including a blacksmith demonstrating his skills. Apparently it was the site of a smithy in times gone by.

Moseley Village Bicycle Stands

We had hoped by now to be able to secure our bikes to new bike stands in the Village. We are assured that the installation will happen, but there has been a delay in 'releasing the funding'. The project is not just for Moseley and it's likely that stands in Kings Heath will be given priority.

Cheval Blanc

This new wine bar has opened recently. It comes from the same stable as its

neighbour the Dark Horse and the Prince of Wales Pub.

Retrospective planning for the platform in front of Prezzo was refused while the proposed flats next to the Prince of Wales have been given planning permission, in spite of the concerns raised by Keith Marsden and others.

Moseley Unbloomed!



One of Moseley's plane trees lost its top half in the winds of a few weeks ago. You will notice that it has now disappeared altogether. We are assured it will be replaced.

Dovecote and Icehouse



Roy Cockel and Helen Minovi busy preparing the dovecote garden for the judging of the *It's Your Neighbourhood* category in the Heart of England awards. There was a lot of work to be done and their own gardens were somewhat neglected. Help is always needed and if you like gardening and have some spare time the team is there towards 11 am on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month. It's a lovely spot and it is often used by people from Moseley Hall Hospital. There are a couple more chances to visit the Dovecote itself and the Icehouse.

20 mph Speed Limits

The signs are up and the limit signs are painted on the relevant roads, but the final go-ahead has not yet been passed by the Council. It's somewhat confusing as some 20 mph limits around schools are already in force.

Moseley in Bloom

The decision not to compete for a Heart of England in Bloom award hasn't diminished the quality of the displays in the heart of the village. The Parks and Nursery Department have excelled themselves.

The money for the hanging baskets is raised locally from some businesses, Friends of MiB and from the proceeds of the Open Gardens' weekend. This year that event was one of the most successful ever, in spite of the erratic weather.

As we have mentioned before, the emphasis this year was to focus on the RHS's *It's Your Neighbourhood* scheme. The idea is to get people together to clean up and green their neighbourhoods. There were 12 entries this year and the results will be announced in Ludlow on 20 September.

Maybe it's this initiative that has inspired people to improve public spaces. You may have noticed that there has been a burst of guerrilla gardening, including this pallet garden in the car park.



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

All this happens thanks to a small and dedicated group of volunteers. Newcomers are always welcome to join the team. At present they need someone with technical expertise to help with the website as well as gardeners to assist maintain the beds in

the carpark. For more information get in touch with jean.gilkison@gmail.com
If you are tidying up your garden and are dividing plants, please don't forget to save them for the MiB plant swap at the Farmers' Market on 29 October.

Moseley in Lights

Money raised for Moseley in Bloom is shared with Moseley in Lights. There will be lights this year. However unless someone steps forward to organise it there won't be an official switching on ceremony.

Moseley Road Baths – Watch Day 30th October 12 – 6pm

The Friends of Moseley Road Baths are holding a (hopefully) mega open day at the Baths. The event is called Watch Day as it is part of the programme of events relating to MRB's listing on the World Monuments Fund Watch List. It is also the Baths 109th birthday, and possibly the last one where it will be open for swimming for quite a while, with the council expected to decommission swimming there sometime next summer and no alternative currently in the offing.

Steve Beauchampe of the Friends of MRB – (sbeauchampe@hotmail.com) would like to hear from anyone who would like to set up a stall. Simon Inglis will be giving a talk on the development of baths and pools in the Victorian and Edwardian period. They don't charge for stalls but all stallholders are being asked to bring cake to mark the birthday.

St Mary's Church Moseley Concert Tuesday 13 September

The Schola Cantorum of Oxford is the city's 'leading mixed voice choir' and the programme will include a wide range of items, from the Renaissance to the present day. Tickets cost £12 (£7 concessions) available in advance from the Parish Office or at the door.

Independent Funeral Business

We in Moseley like to support independents, so we were interested to hear from Nick and Caroline Whittle who have been serving the bereaved for over two decades and now are taking the first steps towards a long standing goal of owning their own funeral business.



Although funeral directors in the area still trade under family names, they are now mostly corporate. Nick Whittle feels that by remaining independent they can offer much more choice. Their ultimate aim is to set up their business in Moseley. In the meantime they will use the vehicle fleet and Chapel of Rest of a long-established West Midlands Funeral Director. So although they don't yet have premises in Moseley, from mid-October they will be offering a funeral service to residents here and can be contacted via the website (www.sylvia-anne.co.uk), by phoning 0121 493 7944 or emailing info@sylvia-anne.co.uk

New Members

We are delighted to welcome Nick & Caroline Whittle and Revd Duncan & Mrs Katrina Strathie as members of the Society.

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

We are about 3 months away from the next subs renewal. There are a few of you who haven't renewed this year and we would be grateful, if you wish to remain members of the Moseley Society, that you send us your £10!

It would be a great help if members could 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. 1st January is the date when subscriptions are due.

The recent response to the Boundary Commission report shows what an important part we play in Moseley and the more members we have, the more clout!