



36 Grove Avenue, Moseley
Birmingham, B13 9RY
0121-449 2133

e-mail: all-enquiries@moseley-society.org.uk
website: <http://www.moseley-society.org.uk/>

THE MOSELEY SOCIETY

Caring for an historic area of Birmingham

Charity no. 512211

Winter 2018 Newsletter

We hope you had a good Christmas and stayed in good health to enjoy the festivities.



Real winter did hit us a couple of times at the end of the year. It was very decorative, but getting about on foot was treacherous!

Membership

Subscriptions are due. If you haven't already set up a standing order, you will receive a reminder from the Membership Secretary in due course. We are always grateful for your support. There are various reasons why you personally have chosen to join the Moseley Society, but other residents who are not members often ask what the Society is for. In this Newsletter there are a couple of examples of what the Society does behind the scenes in planning and conservation issues, but we also support other local groups and get involved in local issues such as car parking, bus services and anti-social behaviour. And, of course, we arrange talks on topics of a wide variety of interest.

Moseley Society meetings

This year there is much of interest to look forward to. All meetings are at 7.30 at the Moseley Exchange unless otherwise stated.

Friday 19 January. Quiz night

Thursday 1 February at 2 pm

"World War 1 – Tales of Love, Laughter and Loss" Edwina Rees of the Moseley History Group

Tuesday 20 February

"Birmingham Conservation Trust and the Coffin Works" David and Pam Humphries

Tuesday 6 March

"Works of exceptional beauty and outstanding merit" The Story of The Barber Institute Collection". Professor Michael Cullen

The December talk by Dr Terry Slater was about the **St Agnes Conservation area**. Dr Slater and others have been working hard to produce a St Agnes Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan. This sounds a rather dry document, but it is an amazingly important one. It includes records of the external features, dates and architects of all the houses in the Conservation area. Once this document has been approved the City Council Planning department will be able to refer to it when planning applications are submitted.



©Bob Edmonds

St Agnes Conservation Area is one of the finest examples in Birmingham of a residential estate built largely in the Arts and Crafts tradition between the late 19th

century and 1930's, it was designated in 1987 to protect this architectural jewel. It was extended in July 2009 and that was when the Article 4(2) Direction was introduced. This gives legal protection to houses within conservation areas and aims to protect their special qualities. The new document includes a proposal to further extend the Conservation Area (CA). In the past leaflets about the area have been produced by the Moseley Society Local History group and others, but no official Character Appraisal and Management Plan had been drawn up. The City Council Conservation Officer, Andrew Fuller, supported the need for such a document, but it was not high on his list of priorities. Thanks to volunteers, with encouragement and donations from the Moseley Society and St Agnes Road Residents' Association, a draft document has been created.

As a researcher of historical geography at Birmingham University, Dr Slater has always taken a keen interest in the CA, and offered to extend work he had already done a decade or so earlier to produce the current draft. Many of the photos were taken by local resident and architect Bob Edmonds.

The next stage is to edit the draft and put it into a format that fits in with the Planning Department's guide lines. It will then be put to a public meeting some time towards the end of March. If it is agreed, it will go back to the Council. Once accepted, it will form part of the wider planning policy framework.

Moseley Society History Group

A new article on the History of Wintersloe School has been published on the website. The Group is keen to hear from anyone with further information or who would like to help with the research.

Research into men killed in action during World War 1 is continuing and the group, with several other contributors, is organising an exhibition on WW1 to commemorate the centenary of the Armistice. It will be held at Highbury on 16th September as part of Heritage Open Day.

Additional research is being carried out on Humphry Repton who put forward plans for the design of Moseley Hall parkland,

with the aim of producing a leaflet to mark his anniversary in 2018.

M&S Foodhall

One of the first trolleys to be rolled out was by a family from Moor Green Lane, Abhilash, Anu and Arjan.



Fiona Adams, on behalf of the Moseley Society, had an official invitation, and a cup of coffee, at the opening of the Foodhall on 27 September. There are still a couple of empty retail spaces on the ground floor, and work continues on the flats above. Following the first spell of snow and ice, a pipe burst in one of the flats which flooded a dry goods aisle. After having to be closed for a day in the run up to Christmas, M&S staff salvaged all the goods that were fit to be passed on to local charities.

The car park is usually busy, but it's difficult to say whether the vehicles all belong to M&S customers or it's being used as a free local car park. Charges are likely to be introduced at some time.

Post Box pile up – St Agnes Road



©Peter Ledbetter

Sometime in the early evening of Wednesday 27 December, there was a hit and run accident at the corner of Colmore

Crescent and St Agnes Road. The victim - a much loved 100 year old letter box - the perpetrator escaped. The only evidence was some tyre tracks, but no witnesses came forward. Not a red letter day for the box or for those of us who used it and always enjoyed having the excuse to visit that corner of Moseley. A local councillor and members of the Residents Association are working to get a replacement.

The Village

You may have noticed the work done by artists living in Church Avenue on the boards on the half-finished building at **46/46a St Mary's Row**. A great improvement, but it didn't take long for them to be tagged. A planning application for a Greek café/deli was turned down.

Prezzo is due to leave Moseley and will be replaced by Moseley Lounge, part of Loungers Ltd, the Bristol based company that runs Loco Lounge in Kings Heath.

Loki, the wine shop, which was due to move into the Pottery and Pieces premises, has withdrawn. We have no firm information about a possible replacement.

24 hour Gym, planning permission is being sought for a self-service 24 hour gym above the Co-op. The people who wished to revive it as a snooker hall appear to have withdrawn their interest.

Woodbridge News The licence was revoked in February 2017. Just before Christmas an application to reopen the business with a different manager was refused by Licensing Committee, following objections from West Midlands Police, backed up by residents and The Moseley Society. Following separate action taken by Planning Enforcement officers, work has begun to deconstruct part of the illegally high rear extension at the property.

Planning

A few years ago, when they became available on-line, we stopped including lists of local planning applications in the Newsletter, but have continued to inform you of important and controversial issues, which include the future of the now demolished buildings in Anderton Park

Road. Ever since the Sorrento Maternity Hospital closed twenty four years ago we have watched these buildings (that housed out-patients and the world's first milk bank) be neglected and allowed to fall into disrepair.

Some of you may have already read the comments we sent in an email from Fiona Adams on 29 December on the recent application for the redevelopment of the Sorrento site. It's well worth a read and is another example of what the Moseley Society gets up to behind the scenes! Let us know if you wish to read our comments and we will forward a copy of our letter to the Planning Department. This is the reference if you wish go on to the Council website. **2017/07395/PA about 124-130 Anderton Park Road, Moseley, Birmingham B13 9DQ**

You can comment on the application up until the point when a decision is made, unlike licensing applications which have an absolute deadline.

Tony Thapar and Moseley CDT



©William Baldwin

Just before Christmas Tony Thapar was offered a job of 'Capital Manager' with the Big Lottery. That describes a new type of role overseeing capital projects funded by Lottery grants, but it could be a description of what Tony has done for Moseley since 2000. During 1999 a steering group, including people from The Moseley Society, Moseley Forum and

Moseley & District Churches Housing had been meeting and taking advice from consultants. The upshot was that Tony, who came to us with a background as a Landscape Architect, helped establish Moseley Community Development Trust (MCDT) and he has steered it ever since. It owns the Post Office building, bringing responsibilities as well as opportunities, and in his unassuming way Tony has been the architect guiding the landscape of Moseley. He was successful in applying for funds, when they were available, to employ Street and Neighbourhood Wardens. He has led the Moseley Community Alcohol Partnership (which started the Alternative Giving Campaign) and also the Moseley Regeneration Group. The first co-working space in the city was opened at Moseley Exchange thanks to Tony's foresight. The building now also contains offices for businesses that started in the co-working space as well as others, including local charities.

Tony's continuing love of plants has been evident to all who come into the building. He has been able to share the experience he has gained in Moseley from the various development trust networks he has been involved with and we wish him well as he joins the Big Lottery where he will help other groups with their capital projects.

Moseley in Bloom



© Jonathan Smith

Lorne Court in School Road was declared winner of the Moseley in Bloom **Evergreen Elders** category at the prize giving on 7 November. Other prize winners included Nima Delicatessen, Maison Mayci, O'Brien Estates, 7 Laburnum Grove, 88 and 38 Reddings Road and 16 Salisbury Road.

RHA It's your Neighbourhood scheme is one way in which MiB is encouraging local groups, some beyond the borders of Moseley, to gain recognition for the work they do in streets, schools, allotments or gardens open to the public which are cared for by volunteers. These are assessed on horticultural achievement, environmental responsibility and community participation. The Dovecote garden was assessed as 'Outstanding'. If you would like to find out more about the scheme do email Carol Miller at doctorcarolmiller@gmail.com.

Open Gardens Weekend 30 June/1 July 2018 Amy Ashton, who has done a fantastic job over the past couple of years, has decided to resign as coordinator. In the absence of anyone volunteering to take on the role, the Committee has to decide the best way to go forward with the event. There have been various suggestions and a decision will be made in the New Year.

As you may be aware the money raised goes towards the hanging baskets in the Village. The price of these has been increased by approximately one third by Birmingham City Council's Parks and Nurseries, so MiB will concentrate on the centre of the village, but will be looking for sponsorship from local businesses and groups to fill in the gaps.

Friends of Moseley Road Baths – have enough money to train 8 volunteers in their quest to keep the baths open. For more information about progress so far: www.friendsofmrbs.co.uk/aboutmrbs-actiongroup

Cannon Hill Park and MAC Car Park In spite of vociferous protests, charges for parking your car have been introduced at the car parks surrounding Cannon Hill and the Nature Centre. The initial charges have been set at £2 for the first four hours and £3 for the day. This may not deter people using it as a park and ride to get into the City, but families just wanting a stroll might go elsewhere or park in the local streets. Another frustration is the location and complexity of the ticket machines.

We hope to see you soon at one of our meetings – in the meantime best wishes for 2018.