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THE MOSELEY SOCIETY

Caring for an historic area of Birmingham

Charity no. 512211

Summer 2019 Newsletter

As usual in the summer months in Moseley, there is plenty going on. Open Gardens, the Moseley Festival, music in the park and Heritage Open Days. In this Newsletter we are looking back at the life of one of our much-loved Moseley residents and reporting on our celebratory AGM.



There was a slow response to our **40th Anniversary AGM invitations**, but in the end there were over 60 members who gathered on **Thursday 16 May** in the Red and Orange Rooms at the Moseley Exchange. Formal business was over fairly speedily and so there was plenty of time for reminiscences from 4 of the longest serving Trustees – Fiona Adams, Roy Cockel, Paul Lindley and Robert Orme. Fiona highlighted some of the changes she had experienced, including the typing of the minutes. She could just fit 6 carbon copies into her typewriter! Paul, who was very involved in the restoration of the Dovecote, reminded us of the state it was in when the Moseley Society took over. Robert challenged members to a few questions about Moseley that were in past quizzes. Members didn't manage to get them all correct by any means! We celebrated with some bubbly and then tucked into a delicious spread, provided by Maison Mayci. There was only one of the

tartlets and a tray of savouries left when the party ended at about 9.00 pm.

Future Meetings

The next season's meetings are in the planning stage. The first events on the Agenda are part of the Heritage Open Days/Birmingham Heritage Week. On Saturday 14 September the Dovecote and the Park will be open from 2-5pm. On Saturday 21 the History Group will display their archives at the All Services Club in Church Road. They'll be on hand between 12 and 4 pm to advise on how people can conduct their own research. It's a great opportunity to see what the group are working on now and over the past decades.

Congratulations to the Parks and Nurseries Department

In our previous Newsletter we told you about the talk on **How to Win a Chelsea Gold** by Darren Share. Well, they did it again with their eighth consecutive Gold for their display recognising the need for action on plastic pollution.

Moseley Society History Group

One of the great delights for the members of our History Group is when they hear from someone who has read a story they have been working on and gets in touch with them and, when on occasion they can meet up, this is the icing on the cake!



This happened recently when Jim Hone and Edwina Rees went to the National

Portrait Gallery to meet Jessica Svenningson one of the great grandchildren of Dora, Lady Garvagh, who featured in one of the WW1 researched stories. Jessica, who lives in USA emailed the History Group: *"I want to thank the Moseley Society for all the extensive work they have done collecting and articulating such detailed information on the many characters in Dora's life and writing such a wonderful article"*. At the meeting, they were able to learn much more about Jessica's family, including her grandmother who had served in the WAAF. In exchange Jim and Edwina gave her more images from their research.

<http://moseley-society.org.uk/local-history/>

The Group continues to work on its documentation of some of the beautiful **stained-glass windows of Moseley** and would like some more examples.

Of course, strict anonymity will be preserved, and we will not disclose the address or the names of owners in any display. Would you be willing to send them photographs of any stained-glass windows you have (along with your name address and email address so that they can contact you)? Alternatively, they could come and photograph them for you if you wish. moseleyhistory@gmail.com

Dovecote and Icehouse

Both buildings will be open as usual on the afternoon of the Farmers' Market for the next few months.

The Dovecote garden relies heavily on volunteers and no more so when recently Helen Minovi and her team were preparing for the Heart of England 'It's Your Neighbourhood' assessment on 26 June.



Enjoying a well-earned cup of coffee and cake after their mammoth session in the garden are Helen Minovi, Geoff and Andy Barnbrook, Andy Devey, Gill McGillivray, Paul Lindley, Izzy Knowles, Roy Cocker and, taking the picture, Fiona Adams and 'Bez' a stalwart of the team.

Mary Stopes-Roe

Some of you may remember the delightful afternoon we spent with Mary Stopes-Roe in conversation with Ray Cocks in 2013. We asked Ray to write the following tribute to her, following her death in May.



"Mary died on 10th May and many readers of this note will have been amongst those who attended the very positive celebration of her life at the Memorial Service held at St Mary's on 12 June.

Mary combined a warm heart with notable talents. In addition to her love for her late husband, Harry, her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, she had a spontaneous interest in other people. In her early days she read History at University College London, and later obtained a degree in Psychology at Birmingham which led on to further research in that subject. Always active and involved in the community, she was for many years a Magistrate with a strong interest in Birmingham itself - although the governance of the city at times somewhat tried her patience. One of her remarkable achievements was to emerge as a distinctive personality despite having two particularly forceful relatives. Her husband was the son of Marie Stopes the advocate of contraceptive services.

Whatever her achievements in this work, it has to be said that in her private life Marie Stopes was not always easy company for those who were close to her. Fortunately, Mary had a loving and joyful relationship with her famous father, Sir Barnes Wallis the distinguished aeronautical designer. Mary was a committed Anglican and it was appropriate that at her Memorial Service there was a reading from the King James' version of the Bible. Her ashes will be taken to a cliff in Cornwall near the favourite place for family holidays and they will be deposited beside those of her beloved Harry."

The Village

Maison Mayci is now open on Friday and Saturdays until 10 pm, offering a French style menu.

There are signs of work starting on the Davenport's **Dares Hotel & Bar** at the back of building on former HSBC bank.

Brioche – the French style patisserie has opened its doors.

KIN in St Mary's Row, has recently relocated from Harborne. On sale are some lovely Scandinavian style household goods and furniture (online).

The M&S building still has units to let, but we believe there are planning applications for a Japanese restaurant, an orthodontist and a funeral parlour outlet.

Moseley in Bloom

Good news for the future of Moseley in Bloom - long-term residents Amy Maclean and Benita Roberts have volunteered to take on the role of co-chairs. Amy has opened her garden over several years. She is keen to expand the work of MiB in local schools. Its Schools Project is already well-established and they want to encourage more young people and youth groups to get involved with all things sustainable and environmental.

Benita adds "We're so excited to be leading this amazing committee, who have worked tirelessly for over fifteen years, to ensure that Moseley is an attractive and sustainable place to live. We're determined to make a difference and we are very much hoping to build on collaborations all over the village so watch this space!"

Their obvious enthusiasm and energy is catching, so if you are interested in getting involved in this community action group or just to share an idea to enhance Moseley in any capacity, please get in touch.

Amy Maclean on amy@themacleans.org or Benita Roberts on benitaroberts21@gmail.com
www.moseleyinbloom.org.uk

Jean Gilkison and Trevor Hocking have achieved so much in their 4 year tenure leading the MiB team. For the last couple of years Jean has been leading the Open Gardens team, which is a big undertaking.

Moseley B13 Magazine

MOSELEY
B13
MAGAZINE

Another important contributor to the life of Moseley is the Moseley B13 Magazine. Sophie Painter who edits the magazine and John Northam, the designer, are leaving at the end of the year for other commitments. These are vital roles for the continuity of the magazine. It has been in existence in various guises since 1973, longer than the Moseley Society! At present it's a glossy coloured version, which is sold in shops and businesses and focuses on the people, events and issues that affect the community. Apart from the roles of Editor and Designer, they are keen to expand their team to include more lovers of Moseley keen to volunteer their time and talent. Find out more from Sophie at editor@moseleymagazine.co.uk

Plastic Free Moseley

Plastic is very much on our minds at the moment, but most of us are at a loss to know what to do to curb the use. We re-use plastic bags or carry fabric shopping bags and conscientiously collect the wrappings and containers from our weekly shop and trustingly place them in the recycling bins, but there are others in Moseley prepared to go further and initiate more proactive action. Ben Lee, Holly Roberts and Graeme Hodges of Plastic Free Moseley organised a mass unwrap at the Co-op on 25 May. 32 People joined them to remove the containers and wrapping from their purchases and filled a trolley with 122 pieces of pointless plastic packaging.



Apparently, fruit and veg made up over half of the plastic left behind with snacks and dried products making up the rest. The team were very grateful to the Co-op for their support especially in tidying up after the event and recycling what they could. Keep a look out for other initiatives to try and rid Moseley of unnecessary plastic.

Moseley Meeting 26 June

There were a small, but dedicated number of attendees at the meeting which was mainly to brainstorm ideas about planning for the environment and making it better for the community. Les Williams from the Council waste management team was able to shed some light on the lack of re-cycling bin collections. It turns out that at present there aren't enough vehicles or personnel. He is working hard to resolve the problem and asks people to **keep recycling**.

Moseley Festival

The Annual Moseley Festival runs from Friday 5 to Sunday 7 July. We will be at our stall on Saturday 6 and will be displaying our chronology posters celebrating our involvement in Moseley over the past 40 years. Ray Tier will be leading a couple of walks on the Architecture of Central Moseley.

Heritage Open Days

Take place from 13-22 September, with **Birmingham Heritage Week** running from 12-22. In addition to the events

organised by The Moseley Society, Highbury Hall will be open on Sunday 15. <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/> already has 46 events listed in the Birmingham area. The BHW website will be up in August.

Moseley Society at 40 – the Third Decade – a selection of the events involving the Society

- Formal Opening of Icehouse by Chris Upton
- New wooden staircase for Cow House
- Launch of regular monthly Farmers Market
- Publication of 'The Great Walls of Moseley'
- Purchase of old Post Office building as home of recently established Moseley Community Development trust
- Appointment of Street Wardens
- Final plans for 18th C period garden sustaining wildlife approved for Dovecote area.
- One of the first Alcohol Restricted Areas in Birmingham introduced
- 25th Anniversary of the Society on 8 July 2004 at Highbury Hall
- Centre 13 closed
- Moseley Conservation Area extended
- Tornado swept through parts of Moseley on 28 July 2005
- Moseley in Bloom began and awarded a Merit Award
- The Society campaigned for Central Moseley to have a Special Policy as part of the City's Licensing Policy
- A synthetic calf took up residence in the Cow House
- In 2008 the Dovecote garden was included in Moseley in Bloom Open Gardens with over 200 visitors.

New Members We are glad to welcome Mrs Valerie Eskinazi; Simon & Karina Butler; Adam Western; Sue Thompson; Sarah Rees; Janet Small; Robert & Maria Gwynne; David Walker; Barbara Beaton; Nati & Michael Knight; Myra Watson; Angela Cranshaw; Wendy Alabaster; and John Clarkin.