



**THE MOSELEY SOCIETY**

Caring for an historic area of Birmingham

Charity no. 512211

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## Autumn 2020 Newsletter

Last year's Autumn Newsletter featured an image of Morris dancers heading for the folk festival in Moseley Park and Pool. This year, in spite of restrictions, the power of music has been felt in many corners of Moseley. During the lockdown, musicians of all ages and abilities from Oxford Road gathered at a distance to play old favourites to their neighbours. The Misfits could be heard at similar times in neighbouring streets and throughout August, weather permitting, musicians were invited to busk in Moseley.



Joshvadesilva – copyright Pete Davies

What has **the Moseley Society** been doing since the last Newsletter in January? As members will know, it has been a major player in the transmitting of Coronavirus related news through the Local News compiled by Fiona Adams. The content varied. Early on Moseley residents were swapping ideas for surviving the lockdown including games to play with grandchildren

online or where to get vegetable seeds. We were able to pass on links to websites giving official information and guidance. Local shops and businesses, including bike shops and bakeries, lucky enough to continue trading, were able to pass on their news via the Moseley Society. Once again this showed the importance of our membership. We were able to use the list of signed up members to circulate the latest news without delay and are glad that many of you have been able to pass it on to neighbours.

All this information has been included in the widely circulated Moseley Together bulletin and website. Moseley Together is supported by the team at the CDT (Community Development Trust) led by Lorna Brewster. They have agreed to take over the production of Local News, as unfortunately, it looks as though there will be a need for it for some time to come.

### Memorial Page on the website

As Covid-19 spread across our community we opened a page on our website for everyone who wished to record and remember the lives of people in Moseley who have died, either as a result of Covid-19 or other causes. If you would like to add a name and an obituary to this website, please contact us via the contact details at the top the page.

### Talks and Events

Reluctantly, we have decided that we will have to postpone all talks in the old format. However, we are exploring ideas of holding some online.

### Farmers' Market

Market traders have been returning to Moseley over the last few months and Saturday 29 August the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary was marked by the presence of a TV recording team. It is expected that the programme will be broadcast in January.

## Moseley Society History Group

It's still not possible for the History Group to have their weekly meetings at the All Services Club but they have continued to work from home. Regular monthly articles have been appearing in the Moseley B13 magazine and interesting stories still land on its virtual desk. Recently they had a request from members of the Midland Aircraft Preservation Society (MAPS) [m.a.p.s.foundersgroup@gmail.com](mailto:m.a.p.s.foundersgroup@gmail.com) Founded in 1967 they are compiling a detailed history of their activities. In 1973 MAPS managed to acquire the oldest surviving example of Britain's first jet fighter to enter service, a Gloster Meteor F.4 EE531.

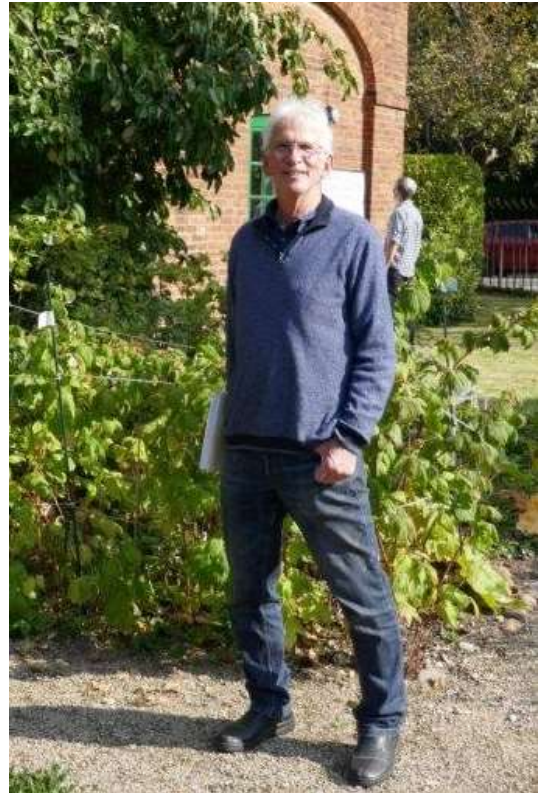


Meteor Ford agreed to sponsor the repainting, the transport of the plane and reassembly in the forecourt, where it was displayed together with a Spitfire. It attracted great excitement at the time and MAPS would be interested in any images that local people may have taken in 1973, or memories of its brief association with Moseley.

## Dovecote and Icehouse

The team have been busy throughout the last few months and the dovecote garden has been looking lovely. The gardens were open on Sunday 20 September as part of Heritage Open Days. It was a lovely afternoon and we were very pleased to be able to welcome so many visitors. Careful precautions had been taken to ensure the visitors and the volunteers were safe.

One of the people who came along was Ian Brown, the designer of the garden in 2002. The gardens of Moseley Hall were originally designed by Humphry Repton, but the area round the dovecote wasn't suitable for a grand landscape affair. In his researches, Ian found designs of an 18<sup>th</sup> century town garden in a book by Jennifer Potter called *Lost Gardens*, which he used as inspiration.



Ian Brown – Copyright Paul Lindley

The concept was to have a formal garden with symmetrical beds with appropriate planting, together with herb and kitchen gardens and a wildflower area. All of which are now well-established, including the quince, medlar and mulberry trees.

**Moseley Park** was also open and around 200 people came specially for the chance to enjoy Moseley's hidden gem, travelling from around the city and further afield.



The photo of Fiona Adams in the Park was taken during filming by the TV company that is making two films about the Farmers' Market on its 20th Anniversary where they followed some of the stall holders from their farms to the market. Their interest in the Park and Icehouse was sparked by one of the production team who grew up in the area.

## **Moseley Community Development Trust (CDT)**

Lorna Brewster and her team have been transforming the building and organisation in response to the pandemic. The tenants and co-workers are returning, and some regular room hire users are discussing how they can restart their groups. The CDT has been the contact point for the Moseley Together team. The councillors and volunteers managing the website and social media worked from home, but the Exchange building provided a base from which the parcels could be distributed to vulnerable people by the network of volunteers who had responded so quickly at the start of the pandemic.

## **Changes in Moseley Village**

Since our previous newsletter, Boots has closed, Pizza Express will not re-open and A Painted Room is moving to York Road in Kings Heath. The Bohemian is under new management and there is an advert for staff at a new restaurant due to open in the Corals premises. Originally change of use was refused but under new Use Class regulations designed to support the high street, the new Use Class E covers most businesses, so permission is no longer needed for a change of use. There is also some interest in opening a restaurant in the former newsagent's in St Mary's Row.

## **Planning**

The Planning sub-committee has been incredibly busy throughout the last few months. In addition to the never-ending flow of applications to look at and comment on, they have been learning about the changes to Use Class orders and Permitted Development. The Government's White Paper will, if enacted, sweep away much of the Town and Country Planning Act that has controlled land use and development since 1947. Much time has been spent studying the revised plans for Moseley Station. We did circulate our response by email recently – the most significant change was the use of a roundel instead of traffic lights at the entrance to the drop-off point with St Mary's Row and Oxford Road.

The application, with an officer's recommendation to approve, is due to be

decided by Planning Committee on 24 September.

There is a proposal for a fruit and veg stall to trade by the car park where the public toilets once stood, and The Fighting Cocks is applying for permission to provide seating on the pavement outside from 9am to 9pm.

## **Moseley in Bloom (MiB)**

<https://www.moseleyinbloom.org.uk/joinus/friends/>

The weekly Moseley in Bloom newsletter, compiled by Carol Miller, which has been accompanying the Local News, is winding down at the end of the month.



The 'exotic' roundabout at the bottom of Salisbury Road, which was a Moseley in Bloom initiative, has had a good clean up with the help of the Parks and Nurseries Department.

Moseley in Bloom is excited to begin conversations with members of the 'Better Streets for Moseley' group as planters at 'modal filters' are part of the Low Traffic Neighbourhood Schemes. They hope to engage with streets and even some local businesses to offer support for making these important quiet areas of our neighbourhoods beautiful year-round.

If you have ideas or would like to be a part of these conversations, caring for new planters in our community, please email them to [amy.maclean@moseleyinbloom.org.uk](mailto:amy.maclean@moseleyinbloom.org.uk)

The Open Gardens films will remain available until the end of September so if you haven't finished viewing them, look now! [www.moseleyinbloom.org.uk/videos](http://www.moseleyinbloom.org.uk/videos)

## Low Traffic Neighbourhoods

Residents should notice a big difference in traffic as this scheme is introduced. There has been much publicity of the plans to cut down on pollution, make streets safer and encourage walking and cycling. The idea is to prevent through traffic in some streets, by introducing 'modal filters', one of which will be between the top of Cotton Lane and Greenhill Road. These can take the form of planters, bollards and signage. The initial phase will be primarily in Kings Heath but will also affect some of the roads in Moseley. Joe Green, Birmingham's Transportation Behaviour Manager, gave an online briefing session on Tuesday 8 September outlining the proposals for other parts of the city as well as Moseley and Kings Heath. There are mixed views about this scheme, especially from those living in streets that are expected to take the diverted traffic. Joe Green did emphasise that there would be a trial period. A recording of the presentation is available online along with responses to some frequently asked questions:

[www.birmingham.gov.uk/placesforpeople](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/placesforpeople)

Residents of the section of School Road between Paton Grove and Greenend Road are hoping to get permission to include the grass verges into their properties to ease their parking problems. There is a petition to try and prevent this happening.

## St Agnes Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan

The public consultation process is due to take place this year, subject to Covid-19 restrictions being overcome. We're not holding our breath as this has been promised for over a year.

## Chamberlain Highbury Trust

On September 13, as part of Heritage Open Days, the Trust held a small scale, open air exhibition and launched the gardens project at Highbury. Volunteers have already started work on reinstating the original driveway from the Lodge up to the house. Many trees and plants have been added since the original gardens were designed, so the idea is to restore the rhododendron garden, open up views between the lake and the house and improve the footpath

network to the east of the house. Find out more about the project and how to volunteer via their website

<https://chamberlainhighburytrust.co.uk/>

or get in touch with the Trust:

[chamberlainhighburytrust@outlook.com](mailto:chamberlainhighburytrust@outlook.com)

## John Bowen the Builder.

One of our members, Anthony Collins, is researching the buildings constructed by the Balsall Heath building firm of his great-grandfather John Bowen & Sons. He knows John Bowen built houses in Amesbury Road, Cromer Road, Strensham Hill, Park Hill and Wake Green Road. The firm is believed to have built many more that are as yet undiscovered. With the Birmingham archives closed, Anthony is wondering if those who know of the history of their homes might be good enough to be in touch if the name of John Bowen is mentioned on the plans or deeds relating to their homes.



John Bowen's house in Strensham Hill, which he named 'Rochford' after his village home in Worcestershire. It was designed by Osborn and Reading and built in 1883.

If you think that you can help please email Anthony: [anthonyrcollins@btinternet.com](mailto:anthonyrcollins@btinternet.com)

Tel: 07979 247400. The website relating to John Bowen is [www.johnbowen.org](http://www.johnbowen.org)

## New Members:

We are pleased to welcome as members Louise Collett, Jenny Hodder, Ceri Griffiths, Ian Trotter, Doreen Maynard, Dharmachari Mahasiddhi, Chris Loftus, Elisabeth Al-Khalifa, Christine Speculand, Kerry Jenkins, Sarah Yeomans, David Griffiths, Margaret Watts and Isabel Price.