



THE MOSELEY SOCIETY

Caring for an historic area of Birmingham

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Winter Newsletter 2021

We hope this newsletter finds you safe and well. Our thoughts go out to those of you who have been affected by the virus. Hopefully, the vaccines have reached your corner of Moseley so that those eligible and willing have been in receipt of their first jab.

Snow temporarily closed some of the vaccination centres, but it did produce some amazing sculptures and a great deal of fun!



Local News

Fiona Adams received many appreciative messages when she handed over her role of providing the almost daily bulletins in the **Local News** to the **Moseley Together Team**. She did it just in time as she has had to temporarily reduce her role in the Society due to family responsibilities.

Moseley Together is supported by the Community Development Trust based at Moseley Exchange. They are now starting to send out two newsletters a week. The Wednesday edition will focus on the latest coronavirus health and guidance updates and other news items relating to the wider City of Birmingham as well as local reminders. The Saturday newsletters will feature all the other local news and activities. They hope sending the newsletters more frequently will help to promote all the lovely things going on in our

community. Please subscribe to Moseley Together Newsletters at <https://moseleytogether.org.uk/>

There's an interesting idea for a discussion in the 23 January edition entitled **Community Catalysts: Valuable not Vulnerable** which seems to be particularly relevant to the more mature members of the Moseley Society who are categorised as Vulnerable because of age but who would like to be using their skills and strengths. Maybe you already are. Do share your experiences and join in the conversation with Rhiannon: rhiannon@moseleyexchange.com

The Moseley Together team, supported by the Community Development staff, were incredibly busy in the lead up to Christmas and continue to work with volunteers and members. Among other things, they were a collection point for toys and food which they passed on to distribution centres. Like the rest of us, Lorna Brewster, the Chief Officer of the CDT and her colleagues have had to keep changing their plans to fit in with the new guidelines. They are planning a website especially targeting local businesses.

Moseley Society Talks and Events

As we mentioned in our last newsletter, we have been considering ways of bringing talks to you. On Thursday 28 January the History Group invited members to join them for an online talk called *Spitfires and Universals* - Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of Operation Overlord in WW2. They told the personal stories of two local men, a spitfire Ace, and a Universal Carrier Driver who took part in the historical event. 43 members signed on and were able to join virtually. We hope to hold more online talks in the future and welcome suggestions. Sadly the annual quiz was abandoned for the moment. In the meantime, Robert

Orme has set a few questions for you based on local events and personalities. Some of our regulars may recognise the questions from previous quizzes, but we hope you will enjoy them. Answers at the end of the newsletter.

1. Which classic car marque was named after two brothers who lived in Moseley?
2. Between which years was Moseley Railway Station in use?
3. What is the oldest built structure in Moseley?
4. What is the link between 53 Wake Green Rd and Birmingham Rep?
5. When was the last rugby match played at the Reddings ground?
- 6 Who are the 3 saintly ladies of Moseley?
7. Who first put meat on the bones of the Moseley Festival?
8. Which is Moseley's oldest pub?
9. When was the Moseley Conservation Area established?
10. Why is Weatherspoons Pub named after Elizabeth of York?

Moseley Village

We've loved seeing how so many of the businesses in Moseley have adapted quickly and creatively to Covid restrictions. One of the good things of having more time has been to be able to wander down into Moseley to discover and support local businesses from bread shops to Moroccan/Italian takeaways, coffee shops and local supermarkets. Other local businesses including take-aways and yoga have gone online. Check their websites for more details.

St Mary's Row



Preparations are under way in the old Pottery and Pieces building to house the hair salon Lab Forte which is currently in the Alcester Road.

The photo below is of St Mary's Row looking down towards the crossroad. W J Spurrier came to Moseley in 1861 and a few years later he wrote: *the roads were lanes; except a few groups of cottages, there were only the large residences and a few mansions, all of which are standing to the present day - all but **Moseley House** which stood opposite the Parish Church... The owners sold to builders who erected a three storey terrace of shops and the small terraces of artisans' dwellings behind.* (Including the Pottery and Pieces building).



There's plenty more to discover about Moseley Village from the local history group section of the Society's website. [moseley-society.org.uk>localhistory](http://moseley-society.org.uk/localhistory)

At a recent meeting of the Moseley Forum there were continuing discussions about the slip road in Moseley Village and how to incorporate it into the green without adversely affecting the shops and the residents. This is a long term project and would probably involve replacing the lights with a roundabout which would be costly.

Dovecote

The dovecote garden's team report that: *Thanks to regular Sunday morning sessions at the dovecote, and much hoe-hoe-hoeing before Christmas, the garden looks well-tended and tidy.* To enable social distancing, the regular team usually focus on the same areas each visit. Recent snow

and rain has interrupted the work, but they will be back and have once again entered the RHS 'It's Your Neighbourhood' competition in the summer.

The buildings need attention and Paul Lindley has been very busy patching up the woodwork in the cow house and the stairs to the dovecote. It's always a pleasure to welcome visitors to the dovecote and if and when the rules permit, we will do so again.



Photo of the gardens taken at the MiB Open Gardens Weekend a few years ago.

Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTN)

These have been in place for several months with mixed reactions. Residents in Oxford Road, Greenhill Road and Billesley Lane in Moseley have noticed an increase in traffic following the partial closure of School Road. They have been closely monitoring the flow and speed of traffic and **Better Streets for Moseley** has been asking local residents for their comments.

<https://betterstreetsformoseley.wordpress.com/ltm-phase-2-survey/>

The second phase of the LTN has now been published. The boundary will be Wake Green Road and Yardley Wood Road rather than Oxford Road and Billesley Lane. Until the traffic modelling specialists can come up with a plan, traffic may still be a problem for the streets on the current boundary.

St Agnes Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan

Unfortunately, we have to report that slow progress is being made with the St Agnes CAAMP (CA Appraisal and Management Plan) complicated by City Council procedures and the difficulty of holding a public consultation exercise during a pandemic.

Planning

The Lockdown has not stopped planning applications which are considered and commented on by the Planning Group. The quality of applications and the recent changes to Permitted Development Rights have made it difficult for the Group to object to some of the applications for house extensions which might have been questioned in the past. One recent example has been in Boundary Drive. 126 Billesley Lane has been another preoccupation of the group as plans have been submitted for 'restaurants' but are more likely to be take-aways.

Recently, there was a **mini Hall Green constituency open meeting**, chaired by Councillor Sharon Thompson, to discuss the private rented sector including HMOs (houses of multiple occupancy). The proliferation of these is causing concern city wide. There is supposed to be a restriction on the number of HMOs in any given area.

Draft Birmingham Design Guide

In their introduction to the design guide, the City Council wrote: *Birmingham is at an important juncture in its evolution. As the need to address climate change becomes increasingly critical, the city must transition into a zero-carbon environment, with future investment and developments playing an important role in helping the city achieve this.*

To help guide elements of this transition and create healthy, high quality places across Birmingham, the City Council has produced the Draft Birmingham Design Guide.

Although the date for comments has passed, there is still an opportunity to view the details of the draft design guide.

www.birmingham.gov.uk/designguide

Moseley in Bloom

Moseley in Bloom is in positive mood. It has just acquired some new high vis jackets and, come what may, is determined to make sure that there will be floral decorations in the Village in 2021.



Three schools have applied to join their scholarship programme and MiB will be helping them in their plans to green up their playgrounds. The bulbs in modal filter boxes, planted by Moseley in Bloom volunteers, in School Road, Cambridge Road and Poplar Road are showing signs of emerging. The pop-up sales that happened in front drives raised more money than the stalls at the Farmers' Market. So they will be continuing throughout the year.



We suspect a lot of us with or without dogs to walk have become more familiar with and have come to appreciate the wonderful houses in the streets of Moseley. An additional pleasure during our evening strolls over Christmas and the New Year were the amazing display of lights and window decorations. Moseley in Bloom and the Christmas lights teams managed to pop cards of appreciation through some letter boxes as a thank you for lightening up the local streets. Some households have decided to continue with their lights for the

time being, other roads have decided to decorate their windows with spring scenes.

Thanks to the efforts of Izzy Knowles and others, we did have a Christmas tree and some lamppost lights in the Village. Unlike some other areas of Birmingham, illuminations in the Village are entirely funded by local businesses and groups including the Moseley Society. The lights themselves come from the City Council stock, which is looking a bit tired! Moseley in Lights would love to hear from anyone who could help fundraise for and organise the displays in future.

Farmers Market

The market has kept open through the most recent lockdowns with strict guide lines and a one-way system. On a couple of occasions the weather was more of a hindrance than the virus! You may remember the filming of the market earlier in the year. If you haven't yet seen the results they can still be viewed on the BBC. The programme is *The Farmers' Country Showdown* and the Moseley Market editions are on Series 5: Programme 1 and 10

Answer to Quiz Questions.

1. Lanchester
2. 1867 – 1941
3. The tower of St Mary's
4. Sir Barry Jackson
5. 2000
6. Mary, Anne and Agnes
7. Dave Cox
8. The Bull's Head
9. 1983
10. Elizabeth of York is said to have gifted land in St Mary's Row to St Mary's Church.

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. Apologies if you receive a letter and have already paid. We are always grateful for your support. Thanks to everyone who is eligible to complete a Gift Aid declaration – please contact us if you need a form.

New Members:

We are pleased to welcome as members Rachel Hinks and Terance Glasspool.