



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

Summer Newsletter 2022

Vibrant towers and hanging baskets filled with stunning summer flowers are brightening up the centre of the Village. Offering a place of peace and tranquillity is the churchyard of St Mary's Church.



Moseley Society AGM

On 11th May, the Committee presented minutes and reports to members of the Moseley Society. Two long standing Trustees, John Dring and Robert Orme, announced that they would be standing down. Kirsten de Vos and Charles Wall volunteered to become Trustees and were elected and welcomed as new members of the Committee. Robert and John were thanked for their contribution to the Moseley Society over many years. Following the official business, we were all able to mix freely and to enjoy a glass or two with refreshments provided by Maison Mayci. The Committee List and Planning Policy accompany this Newsletter.

Moseley Society History Group

The History Group has continued to conduct its research from home. It has been meeting every month at the Moseley Hive,

which has attracted a couple of prospective new members. New projects are proposed to document the history of the memorials inside St Mary's Church; to produce a photographic record of the ever-changing commercial properties in the village centre and to tell the stories of the achievements of Moseley women, both those who were famous and those living ordinary lives. Articles continue to be submitted to B13 Magazine each month by Jan Berry and Edwina Rees and have been subsequently uploaded to our website, along with other recent documents. <http://www.moseley-society.org.uk> The Group provided displays for the stall at the Moseley Festival Street Fair on 16 July and Ray Tier led a guided walk around the village. New poster displays are also being planned for the Heritage Open Days events in September at the dovecote and icehouse.

Moseley Village Station

Following the recent poll, this is the name of our new station which should be seeing a couple of trains an hour stopping to pick up passengers from late 2023.

Moseley Ward Meeting

On 15th June Councillors Kerry Jenkins and Izzy Knowles were joined by Helen Bradbury of the West Midlands Railway Executive and Steve Balliston, the Project Director for the company appointed by Transport for West Midlands to build the three stations. A report from Sgt Tom O'Keefe of the Neighbourhood Policing Team was circulated.

Having the police station back again just round the corner in Woodbridge Road, has its advantages. At a recent Farmer's Market, someone snatched the takings from one of the stalls. He was chased up the road and was met and apprehended by uniformed officers charging out of the station.

Moseley Festival We joined other groups on the green in the centre of Moseley to welcome visitors and have an opportunity to talk about the Society and sign up new members. We were interested to find out what local residents liked about living in Moseley.

Dovecote and Icehouse

We opened the dovecote and icehouse a



week earlier than scheduled due to the road closures for the Commonwealth Games' Marathons. However, there were many interested and interesting visitors, including two ferrets on their leads! The remaining dates for the openings are 27 August and 24 September. During the Heritage Open Days of 17/18 September, both dovecote and icehouse will be open on the Saturday morning and the Sunday afternoon.

Commonwealth Games

Evidence of the Games was all around us, including road closures! I suspect most of us enjoyed the atmosphere, especially if you had been lucky enough to attend some of the events or get into town to take a selfie with the bull in Centenary Square.

If you live in certain parts of Moseley, you would have heard the cheers from the T20 women's cricket matches at Edgbaston or popped down to watch the Marathon runners run past the lake in Cannon Hill Park or join in with the crowds to cheer on the Baton Relay at Swanshurst Park on the eve of the Opening Ceremony.

Shop Fronts in the Village

Those of us who remember Peter Clark Antiques in St Mary's Row with its original shop front will be pleased to see that after being empty for a few years, the shop has been tastefully restored by Baker Street

Cakes. Whether by design or accident we were delighted to see how well it adheres to the Shop Front Guide as mentioned in our last newsletter.



St Agnes Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan

The CAAMP document and new boundary was adopted from Monday 1 August with the inclusion of most of Grove Avenue into the Area.

Robert Orme



Robert will be delighted to see the St Agnes CAAMP finally agreed, as he has spent much time over the past few years contending with council cuts and Covid restrictions to liaise with the Planning Department. He will be the first to admit that there were several other residents involved in the Plan, but

they, and we, will sorely miss Robert and Angela when they leave Moseley for a more rural residence. They are leaving a beautiful Arts and Crafts house in St Agnes Road, where they have lived for over 50 years. They were instrumental in setting up the St Agnes Residents' Association which brought the community together to deal with planning issues, successfully campaign for the declaration of the St Agnes Conservation Area in 1987 and to form a social network which thrives today. His connection to the Moseley Society started with helping to raise funds for the Dovecote restoration in 1982. He has been on the Committee ever since with a spell as Co-Chair and has played his part in setting questions for the fiendish Quiz.

Angela is part of the Art Group that exhibit annually in Woodbridge Road. We hope that she will be able to set up a workshop to continue making her special jewellery. They are not moving too far, so hopefully they will be back on regular visits to Moseley.

John Dring



John started life over the border in Wolverhampton. He trained as a Chartered Town Planner and began working for the Birmingham City Council Planning Department in 1964. After retirement in 1997, he joined The Society, offering to help with planning issues and was immediately recruited to the Planning Group. They have relied on his wisdom and knowledge and he in turn has enjoyed annoying his former colleagues! In his view, the Government's drive to encourage businesses and enhance the economy, including the relaxation of planning

regulations to cut out a lot of red tape, has gone too far. The Moseley Society often has little opportunity to be involved in controversial schemes especially those regarding changes of use and house extensions.

He and Hilary have been in Ashfield Road since 1987 and she has made a beautiful garden which, this year, was on show once again for Open Gardens. They probably won't move far as John needs to be within striking distance of Edgbaston Cricket Ground and the hospitality of Moseley!

Moseley for Ukraine

At the Hive on Wednesday mornings there's a drop-in support centre for Ukrainians and their hosts. Some are living locally; others have travelled in by bus from further afield. Marina and her mother Tatiana arrived a few weeks ago from Dnipro via Bulgaria and are living in Longbridge. 15 year old Marina speaks good English and is very talented digital artist. She has just left Art School in Dnipro. The way she tells her story and her pride and gratitude to the people whom she has left behind is so moving. Both mother and daughter love what they have seen of Moseley.



Alena, one of the organisers of Moseley for Ukraine, said sometimes there are up to 50 or 60 people on a Wednesday morning. It's an opportunity for the mainly women and children to get together and get help from visiting experts from places such as job centres. There are English classes available and other activities organised by local volunteers. There are already 150 people who are in the system. The work that the team from Moseley for Ukraine has done to match up families and guests, as well as offering support, is incredible. If you are interested in finding out more, go to the website:

<https://www.moseleyforukraine.org/>

The Eco houses of Moor Green Lane



By the time the Church of Scientology moved into Pitmaston House in Moseley, much of the adjoining land had already been developed into flats and these four Eco Houses. They were completed in 2014 and were of a uniform colour. As you pass by, you will notice that they are now looking delightful in pastel colours reminiscent of a West Country fishing village! When the houses needed a fresh coat of paint, one of the residents suggested painting them different colours. Only one of the original owners has left, so there is a wonderful sense of continuity and community. In the photo in front of their green house are Sue and Eamon and Dexter the dog, who actually belongs to Pete and Steve who live in the pink house. Kate, the owner of the yellow house has built a sewing studio in her garden and Mike and Cathy, in the blue corner, have a delightful back garden and are glad that they left a large and draughty house in another part of Moseley for their snug eco home.

If you'd like to find out more about the area, Edwina Rees, of the Moseley History Group

has written an article telling the story of the Development of the John Arnold estate which led to the building of Pitmaston and the development of Goodby Road, available here: <https://moseley-society.org.uk/local-history/>

Moseley in Bloom – Open Gardens

Sunday 17 July was the day that 18 Moseley gardens were open to visitors. Once again, it was a very successful community event thanks to the hard work of the organisers and volunteers.

It was the start of the heatwave, but that didn't seem to put off many people. It possibly reduced the sale of alcoholic beverages and sticky cakes, but soft drinks were obviously in demand. There was a plant sale in one of the Mayfield Road gardens with plants from the city council and donations from the Botanical Gardens. The money raised from these sales added to the plant sale at St Columba Church prior to Open Gardens, which raised about £750.

Recycling soft plastics in Moseley

M&S have recently installed a bin, near the newspaper stand, where we can recycle soft plastics. The Co-op in the centre of Moseley, also has a bin for soft plastics. At the Moseley Exchange, you can recycle bread bags and crisp packets, as well as other things that wouldn't be described as 'soft plastic' including spectacles, Pringles boxes and dental product containers.

Moseley Road Baths

The Baths may be surrounded by scaffolding and dust sheets, but they are open for swimming. The Baths are mainly run by volunteers and there are opportunities to help with reception, lifeguarding, administration, maintenance, swimming teacher or events. If you'd like to be involved, send an email to volunteer@moseleyroadbaths.org.uk

New Members

We are pleased to welcome Adrian Spray, Bridget Langstaff, David Ayres, Jane Naylor, Elizabeth Southall, Guy Russell, Sarah Nation, Oliver Gillman, Ann Bruton, Jon Sapey, Eamon Grant and Ruth Fisher as members of The Moseley Society.