

Heritage Open Days 2023

BOOK LAUNCH - Keeping up appearances in Victorian Moseley

Saturday 16th September 2023. 10.00 am – 4.30 pm

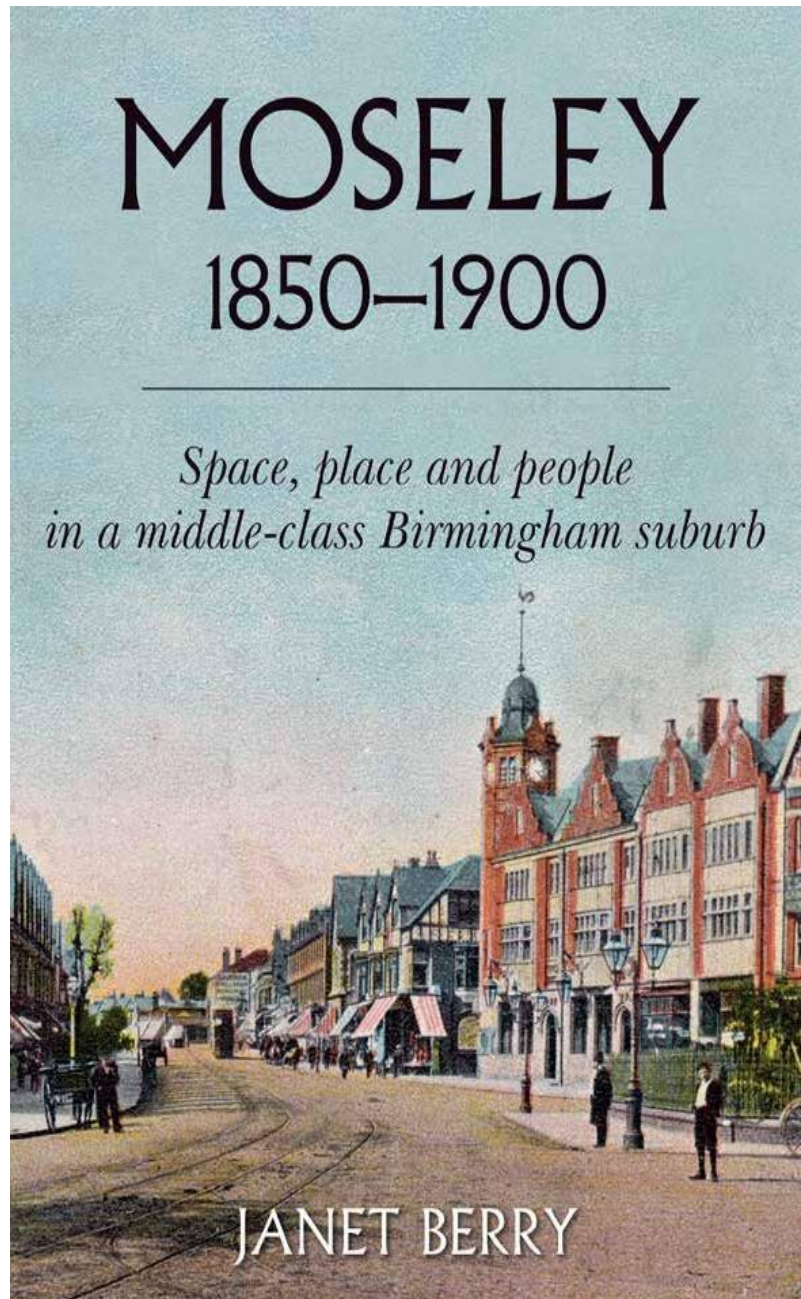
at The Moseley Hive, 93 Alcester Rd, Birmingham B13 8DD

This is a special event with a dual purpose – as a book launch for Janet Berry's new book "**Moseley 1850 – 1900: Space, place and people in a middle-class Birmingham suburb**" and as an opportunity to celebrate the enormous contribution Janet Berry has made over more than fifty years by researching, recording and publicising the history and heritage of Moseley. Janet has lived in Moseley since 1968 and throughout that time has been an active member of the Moseley Society and of its History Group in particular. In 2012, she took the lead in bidding for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and successfully won a grant of £25,000 to help develop the Society's Local History Archives and Resource base (known as 'The Collection'). She enthusiastically led the subsequent project which produced a large archive of documents, artefacts, displays and booklets backed up by a substantial website, supporting educational sessions for local schools together with local talks, walks and workshops. She was a well-known figure at local history fairs in Moseley and beyond and was regarded as the ultimate authority on any questions relating to Moseley's history. She will be greatly missed when she leaves Moseley this summer to live closer to her family.

Janet Berry has a doctorate from the University of Birmingham for which her thesis was a study of Moseley's development as a suburb and she has published a number of scholarly journal articles. This led her to produce this book embodying much of her earlier research, which is the subject of the book launch on Saturday 16th September.

Copies of the book will be available to buy on the day at the special discounted price of £12.50 (compared with a normal retail price of £16.99)

There will be a talk by Janet Berry with refreshments in the afternoon.





Moseley 1850 – 1900:

Space, place and people in a middle-class Birmingham suburb

During the second half of the nineteenth century, Moseley, a small hamlet south of Birmingham, developed into a flourishing middle-class suburb. Drawing on a wealth of primary sources, Janet Berry's ambitious research asks why and how this particular suburb grew and who was instrumental in its development. What influenced the types of houses that were built and the styles of their gardens? How did residents experience life in the new suburb? How did they create a community?

In analysing an extraordinary quantity of records, Dr Berry builds a notably nuanced portrait of a place and its people that goes beyond stereotypical images of the Victorians. The suburb was a physical, social, cultural, and psychological space where people conveyed messages about their identity. Relationships, lived experiences, and responses to change are all revealed. The economics of buying or renting accommodation in Moseley are addressed, showing what was involved in setting up a single-family home, the key marker of belonging to the middle class.

Aspects of this, such as how the interiors of homes were demarcated, decorated and furnished, have not previously been considered in the context of suburban studies to any extent. Additionally, this book has a particular focus on the suburban middle-class woman, her achievements and opportunities, roles and responsibilities, both inside and outside the home.

By the first decades of the twentieth century Moseley had become part of the metropolis of Birmingham. This engaging account of the process from village to fully integrated suburb will be of interest to urban historians in general and as a historical record to residents of Moseley and the wider Birmingham area.