



# THE MOSELEY SOCIETY

Caring for an historic area of Birmingham

Charity No. 51211

## Winter Newsletter 2024



### MEETINGS

Since our last newsletter, we have organised two talks and a pre-Christmas gathering at the Moseley Exchange.

On October 25, an appreciative audience listened to Patrick Fuller talk about the Mitton family, his connection to them, as well as his time working in the Jewellery Quarter.

Jim Andrew gave an interesting talk about BSA (Birmingham Small Arms) and WW2 on November 15. At the beginning of December, we hosted an afternoon of seasonal activities, including a reading from Dickens, a short quiz, another diverting story, and plenty of goodies to eat!

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**W**e realise that 2024 started a few weeks ago when there were already signs of spring, with the lighter evenings and the appearance of snowdrops. Nevertheless, we send you all our very best wishes for a happy, prosperous, healthy, and peaceful New Year.

We hope you enjoy our new-look newsletter. The layout and design are thanks to a new member, Georgina Sheldon, a designer who offered to help us. We do appreciate it when members reveal their hidden talents!

Behind the scenes, the Moseley Society continues to contribute to life in Moseley in several ways. The planning group is continually trying to keep up with applications for anything from extensions to existing dwellings, flues that belch out fumes towards the neighbours, to applications to build a hotel. Contrary to some assumptions about us, we are keen to support plans that enhance Moseley. We rely on members to help us by keeping an eye on their neighbourhood. We also support Moseley in Bloom and the Christmas lights displays. We take part in the Moseley Festival and Heritage Open Days, and this year we joined other groups to decorate a Christmas tree in St Mary's Church (above).

# The History Group

The History Group is another source of pride for the Moseley Society. In the history section of the Moseley Society website, you can find links to the many articles produced by them. [www.moseley-society.org.uk/local-history](http://www.moseley-society.org.uk/local-history)

The group meets once a month, usually on a Thursday morning, at various locations and would love to meet anyone who is interested in joining in its research or exploring its archive. The time and place of its next meeting is given on the group's website. To find out more, you can contact us by email at [moseleyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:moseleyhistory@gmail.com).



Edwina Rees is an active member of the group. We asked her to tell us why she finds the research so rewarding: *One of the great pleasures of being part of the Moseley Society History Group is making connections with the families of the men and women whom we have researched, written about, and then published on our website. It has enabled us over the years to update our articles with personal details such as family photographs and other information. In June 2017, Linda and Graham Richards from California presented us with a WW1 photo of William Furze from Moseley that they had found in an antique shop in Stratford!*

*Recently, we heard from the Lowenthal family who had seen an article relating to Private Joseph Leslie Collis, whose name*

*is commemorated on the WW1 memorial at St Mary's Church. A box of photographs, medals, letters, and artefacts relating to him was discovered by the Lowenthal family, who believe that it was originally passed on to their grandfather, Private Collis's best friend. We were able to add to our initial research, and the box and its contents is now with the Dorsetshire Regimental Museum.*

*We are here to help Moseley residents connect with their own family's past or the history of their house. We can guide you through the initial research process or help solve those puzzling questions and dead ends that often occur. If you are already an experienced researcher, we would love to hear from you, as we have at least two current projects you could help us with: 'If Walls Could Talk: The History of St Mary's Church Moseley through its Monuments' and 'Moseley Women'. We are also happy to give access, by appointment, to our wide-ranging archive to those who have their own interests and topics they would like to look into.*

The group is very keen to hear from anyone with librarian skills who could help organise and catalogue the archives more effectively to make them easier to access and find information. If you are interested, do get in touch via the email above.

We have some copies of Janet Berry's fascinating book on the **History of Moseley 1850 - 1900** still available for sale at the special price of £12.50 direct from The Society; use the contact details at the bottom of the letter. The book is also on sale at The Heath Bookshop in Kings Heath (in King's Court, near the HSBC Bank and opposite WH Smith/The Post Office).

## DOVECOTE & ICEHOUSE

Our involvement with these two iconic structures started in the 1980s with the Dovecote. We became involved with the mammoth task of clearing the Icehouse in Moseley Park and Pool in 1997. The Dovecote has recently benefitted from renovations to the Alcester Road entrance to Moseley Hall Hospital. The railings have been repainted, and the old lean-to has been repaired.



The woodland running alongside the drive has been cleared and will be incorporated into the 18th-century garden to be looked after by the tireless team who maintain it. Their efforts were recently rewarded by being judged Outstanding (Level 5) in the RHS It's Your Neighbourhood Awards. Pupils from SS John and Monica Junior School were also enthusiastic about their visit to the Dovecote and the Icehouse in November.

It is surprising how many people don't realise that these buildings are looked after by the Moseley Society. To rectify this, we are planning new signage that will include the history of the buildings and hopefully attract the attention of passersby. We open these buildings between March and September.

# Moseley Village

The Moseley Hive is now under the umbrella of the CDT (Community Development Trust).

The bi-weekly emails from Moseley Together give details of the variety of activities that already take place ([www.moseleytogether.org.uk](http://www.moseleytogether.org.uk)). However, the building, inside and out, is in need of renovation and alteration to make better use of the space.



The architects at Wellspace have been given the challenge of imagining how a revamped Moseley Hive could look. There was an opportunity to see and comment on their ideas in December.

The front of the building will be more inviting, including a kiosk on either side of the entrance. Inspired by the original W. H. Smith design, the kiosks could offer a space for a business to trial a new idea. The plans include improving the passageway between the estate agents and the Hive and opening up the side of the building. At present, Lorna Brewer, the Chief Officer at the CDT, is fully occupied applying for grants and other sources of funds. It may take time, but it will be a wonderful, purpose-designed community asset. We will keep you informed of developments.

Some other buildings in the centre are looking in need of repair. We have heard that the empty HSBC building is not being maintained, and water is infiltrating into the office of the shop next door. We have seen a For Sale sign on Flakes and To Let notices on a section of what was Sainsbury's, the Bohemian Pub, and the Coach House. So, we welcome the news of a significant new application for Trenleigh House, the building on the corner of Alcester and Woodbridge Road (where Shufflebotham's were situated). The plans are for flats on the first and second floors, with traditional shopfronts being reinstated on the ground-floor businesses.



## ASSORTED PLANNING ISSUES

In case you haven't already noticed, the road layout on Alcester Road near the Post Office was changed without warning at the end of last year. The single yellow lines where we could park after rush hour are now double yellow lines. We understand from Councillor Izzy Knowles that this will be reversed; it was implemented without proper consultation, and the Traffic Regulation Order is therefore invalid.

As we go to press, a new application for a hotel to be built behind the Village Inn has been submitted.

A Licensing Application for entertainments to be held at Pickwick Cricket Club was refused, and the club is appealing the decision at the Magistrates Court.

## MOSELEY STATION UPDATE

Some of the partnership representatives failed to answer questions at the November Moseley Forum meeting about the stations. The Moseley Forum website now has its post-meeting letter outlining all the outstanding questions. [www.moseleyforum.org.uk/moseley-village-train-station](http://www.moseleyforum.org.uk/moseley-village-train-station)

If you are not already on the Moseley Forum mailing list you can sign up here [www.moseleyforum.org.uk](http://www.moseleyforum.org.uk) and receive notice of meetings.

The next will be on Tuesday 30 January, 7.30pm at Moseley Exchange, when the topic will be the finances of Birmingham City Council.

# Birmingham Moseley Rugby Club at 150

On November 15, 2023, there was a re-play match between the Birmingham Moseley Colts and King Edward's School to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the club's inaugural match against King Edward's on November 15, 1873!

It all started in the 1870s, with the Havelock Cricket Club wanting a winter sport after the cricket season had finished. The year after the inaugural match, the side took to the field in their signature red and black jerseys, calling themselves Moseley Football Club and adopting the rugby code. At the beginning of the 2016/17 season, the club became Birmingham Moseley Rugby Club, which has been based at Billesley Common since 2005.

The history of the highs and lows of the club have



Photo: Chris Lowe

been documented in a book celebrating the anniversary. Red & Black is available from the online shop at: [www.moseleyrugbyshop.co.uk/products/red-black](http://www.moseleyrugbyshop.co.uk/products/red-black)



It's a treasure trove of fascinating facts about the club.

Details of fixtures and tickets for matches are on line at [www.moseleyrugby.co.uk](http://www.moseleyrugby.co.uk) or at the gate on match day.

## MEMBERSHIP

It's the time of year for membership renewals. Thank you to those of you who have set up standing orders; it is very helpful to us. Members who renew annually and haven't yet paid their fee will receive a reminder from the membership secretary soon. You will find all the information you need to set up a standing order here: [www.moseley-society.org.uk/more-about-the-society/how-to-join](http://www.moseley-society.org.uk/more-about-the-society/how-to-join)

## NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome Georgina Sheldon and David Morley as new members.

## THE RETURN OF THE WAXWING

As you may have heard, this has been a waxwing year! So, much to the delight of many of us in Moseley, the waxwings visited us couple of weeks ago. They were at their usual haunt in the car park by

Windermere Fields, but the flock was also spied in some Moseley garden trees before they moved on to the next area rich in berries.



Photo: Alex a friend of Windermere Fields