

# Newsletter

## Summer 2024



We hope you've been enjoying the months since we last met at the AGM.

Most of our newsletters start with a greeting and snapshot of the natural world to be found in Moseley. However, there's something else sprouting in the Neighbourhood – telegraph poles!

On May 20, wooden poles started appearing in Reddings Road, without warning, installed by BRSK an Alternative Network Provider (Altnet). It's part of a nationwide drive to increase broadband speeds. In urban areas broadband is normally brought to our homes via underground fibre connections. These poles support wires that deliver the broadband and are an alternative to underground cables. They are a cheaper and easier option for providers of high-speed broadband. Permitted Development Rights apply, which means the siting of poles do not require planning permission or prior approval from the Local Planning Authority (LPA). However, the operators are required to give the LPA 28 days notification prior to installation and to notify, and consult with, residents affected. This is supposed to allow time to check that the installation is Permitted Development and suggest any reasonable conditions, especially details of siting in Conservation Areas and near Listed Buildings. There have been many complaints nationwide about BRSK's record especially its community engagement.



A member of our Planning group and resident of Reddings Road has been challenging BRSK about the inadequacies of their survey and lack of consultation, which has meant several poles having to be re-sited. Rural areas and areas without good broadband are supposed to be the priorities for this roll out, not roads with existing services. Also, installation should be underground where possible. She has also been to see our MP and is writing to Sir Chris Bryant, the Minister with responsibility for telecoms to ask for better scrutiny and accountability of this company under the relevant Act.

A different firm, Fibrecore, submitted planning notifications for a forest of poles that will go around the traffic lights in St Mary's Row, on the Green and by the wall of St Mary's Church – 21 locations in total. All these applications were quickly 'seen and noted by the Authority' despite the many issues raised by the Planning Group.

### THE AGM

There were 27 members present. The AGM began at 8.15pm, following the visit of Douglas Wright, High Sheriff of the West Midlands, accompanied by a group of Police Cadets. Before the meeting the High Sheriff had been introduced to members of the Society and its Committee and to our Ward Councillors, representatives from Moseley Community Development Trust and some of the charities based at the Exchange, Moseley Forum, Moseley in Bloom, the Parish of Moseley and from the Interfaith group. He had made a brief presentation congratulating us on our community spirit and encouraging further volunteering. Refreshments were served before the meeting, allowing more time for people to meet the High Sheriff.



Douglas Wright and Geoff Rees

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## Programme

On 10 September, 2pm at Moseley Exchange, Ian Binnie will give a talk on "1944 and all that", repeated on Zoom at 7.30pm. Ian's talk is based on the research done by members of the History Group into the biographies of Moseley men who died during the crucial year of 1944. Each event is free. There is no need to book for the afternoon event. Booking is required for the Zoom talk. To receive the Zoom link please email Ray Tier on [rkt16@btinternet.com](mailto:rkt16@btinternet.com)

On 23 October, 7.30 pm at the Moseley Exchange, Trevor Hocking will give an illustrated talk about "The Climate Crisis: reducing our energy use and carbon footprints-effectiveness, costs, energy and cost-saving" Trevor is an Emeritus Professor of Applied Biology and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology. He and his partner Jean have first-hand experience of electric cars, solar panels, solar batteries, retro fitting of insulation and installing a heat pump in their 1930s house in Moseley. We'll be able to find out how effective all these actions have been.

Birmingham Heritage Week runs from 6 – 15 September. The list of events <https://birminghamheritageweek.co.uk> is amazing, including a Street Art Running Tour, Afternoon Tea at the Assay Office and a visit the Ice House and the Dovecote. They will be open on Saturday 14 September in the morning and on Sunday 15 September in the afternoon. There's no need to book for these two Moseley visits, but some of other events are already sold out.

## THE DOVECOTE & ICEHOUSE

The dovecote garden is flourishing, edged by beautiful floral displays. We've welcomed many appreciative visitors to monthly open afternoons, Open Gardens, and an assessment visit for "It's Your Neighbourhood" by judge Paul Steed (results in September.) The team are particularly pleased to host Moseley in Bloom to use the dovecote garden for its Pop-up Plant sales. The next plant sale is due sometime in October.



Contractors at Moseley Hall Hospital have laid new paths through the previously very overgrown and never visited area by the hospital drive. This and other parts of the garden are providing scope and inspiration for new projects, so the garden is more than ever "work in progress" and a worthy challenge for our wonderful team of volunteers. Perhaps you would like to join in?

The Icehouse - The two academics, one from Newcastle and the other from Royal Holloway University, who are researching a book about refrigeration visited in June.

When the weather has been reasonable, the icehouse has continued to attract large numbers during the usual open days: 51 on 27 April; 116 on 25 May; 114 on 29 June and 139 on 27 July.





# THE HISTORY GROUP

The History Group has been kept fully occupied during the last three months moving its entire Collection from the All Services Club, where it was previously kept, to the top floor corridor of the Moseley Exchange. This was a major exercise conducted with help from Paul Lindley and his capacious estate car and Richard Ardern, Building Manager at the Exchange.

The three cupboards and cabinets transported across from the ASC were supplemented by smart new cupboards and filing cabinets provided by the Exchange which look more professional than the assortment of furniture acquired for our use

at the ASC. Many thanks go to the ASC for the use of their room for the last ten years or so, but unfortunately the location there suffered from damp problems and limited accessibility. Their next challenge, which the Group has already embarked on, is to update and expand the catalogue to reflect the new storage locations and make it easier to trace the documents and artefacts we are searching for. The Group will be meeting roughly once a month in one of the rooms at the Exchange. If you are interested in joining, or have a query, get in touch with them via the contact details on this letter.



## The Station – Consultation Event

A team from Transport West Midlands (TFWM) were at the Farmers Market on 27 July. They were displaying maps and leaflets explaining the details of the planned stations at Moseley, Kings Heath and Pineapple Road. Naturally, there was interest from people who didn't know much about the proposal. Those of us who have lived through the conception and problems faced along the way (badgers, walls, wells, ordinance, rotting foundations of previous stations) were disappointed, but not totally surprised, to learn that the delivery date had been postponed until Autumn 2025.

[Have Your Say Today - Camp Hill Line - Commonplace](#)



Tom O'Neill Head of Rail Delivery at Transport West Midlands (TFWM) who was leading the team from TFWM at the farmer's market on 27 July.

## MOSELEY VILLAGE

The news may have reached you that Maison Mayci is up for sale. Remi and David Faveau have decided that it is time for a change - too young to retire. They have been in the catering business in the area for 20 years. Maison Mayci opened in 2010, and the bakery moved to the building in 2019 just before lockdown. The cafe is thriving, and as they can't make any plans until they find a buyer, we can continue to enjoy the delights of Maison Mayci.

The Bohemian has re-opened as the Pub in Moseley - a family run business.

Greggs is still interested in opening in the old Sainsbury's site alongside Coffee#1.

# Moseley Community Festival

Moseley Community Festival was disrupted by the weather, especially on the Saturday. Sunday saw the closing of King Edward Road to allow for stalls and music. On sale was a fantastic chocolate cake created by Maison Mayci for the occasion.

The Moseley Society came up with the idea of launching a video competition to celebrate

the 50th Anniversary of the Festival. We wanted people to make a two-minute film about Moseley – what they liked about it and what they would change. Unfortunately, we ran out time, but hope to launch it in time for the results to be ready for next year's festival. If anyone has had experience of setting up a video competition, we would love to hear from you.

## LORNA BREWSTER

Lorna has been the CEO of the Moseley Community Development Trust for over 6 years. Moseley has been her home on and off since she was 4 years old. She was a pupil at St Bernard's in Wake Green Road and Swanshurst School. Studies, travel and work took her away, but she is always happy to return to her favourite corner of Birmingham. Lorna has been described as a passionate, positive and enabling person – always on her toes, willing to change direction to fit the circumstances. This included the Covid pandemic where she amassed over 400 volunteers from the Moseley community. 'Moseley Together' which is still running, was able to keep people in touch with what was happening during lockdown. Its purpose now is mainly to let us know what is happening at the Hive. For Lorna the Hive is a special place, a



wonderful community asset now owned by the CDT. People are so engaged, and it is amazing to see what the power of the community can achieve. It's the backing of the voluntary sector in Moseley as well as her wonderful team that, Lorna claims, has helped her achieve so much in her time at the CDT. Now, she has decided to stand down and let someone else take over. She says it's a wonderful job for someone to come to.

Wine Glasses. Just to remind you that we have a free loan service for wine glasses. Covid put an end to entertaining and we haven't had a request since then! If you are planning a party and would like to borrow our glasses, get in touch with Sally Wright – [sally@sallywright.co.uk](mailto:sally@sallywright.co.uk)

## Legacy

Deborah Taylor was a well-known resident of Moseley for many years, who died last year shortly after moving to Shropshire. Deborah and David raised their family in St Agnes Road and were both very active in the community, including the Moseley Society. Deborah worked as a physiotherapist at Moseley Hall Hospital. Deborah left money in her Will to be donated to various charities including £1,500 for The Society. We remember her with great affection and will use the gift to celebrate her.



Deborah Taylor

## NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome Graham Higgins, Norman Hinkley, Ciaran & Jodie Clinton, Jay Jackson, Sabreena Mahroof and Tahir Ali MP as new members.