

**THE MOSELEY SOCIETY**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON**  
**WEDNESDAY 21st MAY 2025, 7.30 p.m.**  
**at Moseley Exchange.**

Geoff Rees welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting that this was the 47<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of The Society.

There were 26 members present.

1. APOLOGIES had been received from Jean Gilkison & Trevor Hocking, Charles & Sharon Wall, Lesley Tosh & Nigel van Wijk, Anthony Collins, Bob & Lois Edmonds, Ian & Gill Binnie, Lucy Kenny, Anne Gilbert, Tom Russell, Rory Murray, David Whittingham, Joyce & Chris Elliott, Mike and Jan Marlow, Elizabeth Southall, Gill & David McGillivray, Liz & Nigel Blakey, Linda Gresham, Ann Burness, Kerry Jenkins, David Taylor, Carole McKeown & David Low.
2. MINUTES of the last AGM held on 22 May 2024 had been circulated in advance and were available at the meeting. They were taken as read and agreed by all present.
3. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORTS.  
Members of the Committee were introduced and especial mention made of Jean Gilkison who is retiring from the Committee. Jean had been a Trustee from 2011 until 2017, but had agreed to stay on as a co-opted member. Her many contributions include better organisation of the way the Society responds to planning applications while generally encouraging the Society to take action and keep up to date. Jean had been Chair of the Moseley Regeneration Group and also Co-chair of Moseley in Bloom.

The Annual Review containing reports of the different aspects of the Society's work had been circulated in advance and was also available at the meeting. Geoff and Helen thanked everyone involved, saying that particular thanks were due to Georgina Sheldon for her skill in designing the Annual Review. This year there had been so much to report that the text had crowded out photographs. While the reports mention at least 30 people by name, there are many others who volunteer for the Society at the dovecote and icehouse and in delivering newsletters.

There were no questions.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS.  
Copies of the full report and accounts to 31 December 2024 had been circulated in advance and were available at the meeting. Roger Woods commented on the healthy bank balances and asked if there were plans for spending any of the funds. In response Fiona Adams and others explained that while there are plans to make some improvements at the dovecote we are still waiting for the Hospital Trust to make proposals for a new water supply, replacement trees, alterations to the lean-to etc. The Society is hoping to add gutters to the cowhouse but needs the approval of the Trust before a joint planning application can be made. Fiona pointed out that, meanwhile, when something has needed to be repaired or improved, Paul Lindley invariably finds a way of doing it himself, thereby saving The Society expenditure.

Fiona said that the intention has always been to use the legacy from Graham Underhill to improve access to the Moseley History Collection and this would be part of the discussion after the formal meeting.

The report and accounts were adopted unanimously on a vote proposed by Helen Minovi and seconded by Sally Wright.

5. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES.

The agenda set out the information that this year Helen Minovi and Geoff Rees are offering themselves for re-election. This offer was approved unanimously, having been proposed by Carol Miller and seconded by Jack Wilson.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

6.1 Fiona Adams said she was aware that the memory of John Williams was fading. He had been one of the people who had founded The Society; for decades he had played a significant role in Birmingham 13 Magazine; he had run the Moseley Business Association and been instrumental in organising the change from the Moseley Park and Pool Private Company to a registered charity, Moseley Park and Pool Trust. She encouraged people with memories or information about John to contact her so that we could at least add information about him to our website.

6.2 Geoff Rees said that the Committee always welcomed suggestions about ways the Society could use its funds.

6.3 Geoff Rees expressed thanks to our two excellent Ward Councillors.

6.4 Diana Woods asked if progress had been made in providing ideas for walks or history trails for visitors who will arrive at Moseley Village Station when it is finally open. Ray Tier and Edwina Rees that there are already some walks available from the Society's website. Fiona Adams showed the draft design for a new poster to be erected by the icehouse and designed by Chris Rice. This has a QR code linked to the icehouse entry on the Birmingham Heritage Forum website and could provide a model for a sign that could be put up by the station. Carol Miller said that the group that had already expressed interest in 'adopting' the station was about to reconvene and she could raise this there.

6.5 In response to a question about this year's floral displays, Carol Miller said that Moseley in Bloom's plans had been more difficult than usual to organise due to the City Council's financial problems. However, the plants were due to be in place by mid-June. Izzy said that there was always scope for The Society to sponsor planters if it wished to do so.

There were no further questions and Geoff thanked everyone for attending. The meeting was concluded at 8 p.m.

Following the meeting Ray Tier, Edwina Rees and Fiona Adams described some of the items in the Moseley History Collection. Some had been brought down and were on display and details of others were projected onto the screen. Items on the screen included examples of Graham Reeves' research into who lived in which house in Moseley; details of the copy of the 1857 Map of Birmingham compiled and drawn by Charles

Henry Blood that had been donated by Fred Price and some more recent material including the posters illustrating the Society's chronology that had been produced by Roy Cockel for the 25<sup>th</sup> and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversaries.

Ray said that there were many photographs and newspaper cuttings that needed to be indexed and he had brought examples from the Collection.

Edwina described how the donation by Chris Gascoigne of the Roberts clock, now in use above the Reception Desk at Moseley Exchange, had led her to investigate the Roberts family history. Through genealogical research she had been able to contact a great grand-daughter of the family. She encouraged everyone to read the article on the website <https://moseley-society.org.uk/local-history/buildings-and-streets/> and said she would be glad to show others how to do such research.

Edwina said that she was researching more about Dame Hilda Lloyd following the donation to the Society of the sales details for Woodnorton House, built on the site of The Firs. Dame Hilda was a member of the Shufflebotham family who had lived at 10 Moor Green Lane – next door to Daisy Murcott whose collected papers are also part of the Collection. Following up an inquiry by Eton College regarding Nora Davison, a watercolour artist, it was discovered that she was the daughter of the Rev Davison, the first vicar of St Mary's Church Moseley. As a result, invitations were received for the opening of the 'Nora Davison Exhibition' at the college on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. A brochure for this exhibition of forty-four of her works is to be added to the archive. The story behind the Davison family is also on the Moseley Society website.

There was a general discussion about the need to employ an archivist to help conserve and digitise items in the Collection and also some of the records created by The Society since its formation in 1979.

Izzy Knowles said she had some films taken during the turning on of the Christmas Lights and she would like to find a way of having those stored and made publicly available.

Jack Wilson said that he had been responsible for records of Joy Fifer's 'Save Our Bog' campaign which had contributed to the creation of the Urban Wildlife Group. Some of the records are now with the successor organisation, the Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust, but they could also be made available in the same way.

There was general agreement that expenditure on such a project would be very worthwhile.

Refreshments were served and members had an opportunity to see the items on display.