

Newsletter

Summer 2025



In this Newsletter we celebrate the lives of two people who are no longer with us but have been a positive force in Moseley. You can also read about activities that are contributing to make Moseley an interesting and diverse community. Thanks to Moseley in Bloom and the Litterbusters volunteers, the blue furniture in the Village has recently been repainted and the hanging baskets and troughs of flowers are flourishing.



Our thanks to members who were able to attend the **Annual General Meeting** in May. After the formal business there was an opportunity for members to view items from the History Collection which is now in the Moseley Exchange. The display attracted considerable interest. There was a general discussion about the need to employ an archivist to help conserve and digitise items in the Collection and some of the records created by The Society since its formation in 1979. Thanks to legacies from former members, there are funds available and there was general agreement that expenditure on such a project would be worthwhile.

Fiona Adams expressed concern that the memory of John Williams was fading. A founder member of The Society who played a significant role in Birmingham 13 Magazine and led the transformation of the Moseley Park & Pool Private Company to become the charitable Moseley Park & Pool Trust. If you have any memories or information do let us know so we can build up a picture for the website.

In 2012 we commemorated the life of long-time member of the Moseley Society Lady Constance Perris, with this chair at the entrance to Amesbury Road, halfway up Salisbury Road. Current member, Roger Woods, noticed that it was in a sorry state and kindly took it home for restoration. The plaque reads: *This seat is for the benefit of those for whom the hill is long and steep; to commemorate Constance Perris whose life benefitted the Moseley Community.*



Roger Woods with the restored Constance Perris Chair

MOSELEY VILLAGE

A couple of the empty premises are being re-invigorated. What was Imlees and Begum, is now **Chaa Biskut** – another café.

Opening soon in what was Lab Forte and Pottery and Pieces is an exciting new addition to Moseley - The **Double Six**, a board game café featuring hundreds of board games with something for everyone from the

dedicated hard-core gamers to a child friendly 15-minute game. Two of the directors of this new start-up live in Moseley and the chance to open somewhere in the Village was too good for them to pass up. There is a growth of board games cafés nationwide. It seems people are looking for experiences rather than just food and drink, prompting them to set aside their devices and engage or re-engage with board games.

The sheer variety of games on offer nowadays is amazing partly accelerated by the pandemic.

The opening hours of the licensed café will be noon till 11pm Tuesday to Friday and 11 am to 11pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Food will be served until 9pm with a host of small place dishes that are ideal for eating alongside a board game.

THE DOVECOTE & ICEHOUSE

The theme for this year's Heritage Open Week in September is Architecture, which seems appropriate for these two buildings in our care which continue to open on the afternoon of the Farmers' Market as well as special occasions such as Open Gardens and Heritage Open Days (20th and 21st September). Some additional guided walks will be added to the Birmingham Heritage Week programme.

A new sign for the Icehouse designed by Chris Rice is ready to be installed and the Dovecote is waiting for the results of the recent visit from the judge of 'It's Your Neighbourhood' competition. It was a beautiful day, and the garden looked lovely thanks to the efforts put in by the volunteers as the view from the top deck of a number 50 bus can confirm.



The Dovecote as seen from the 50 bus

We have been asked for permission to include a photo of the Dovecote for the University of Birmingham Prospectus. Naturally, we agreed!

THE HISTORY GROUP

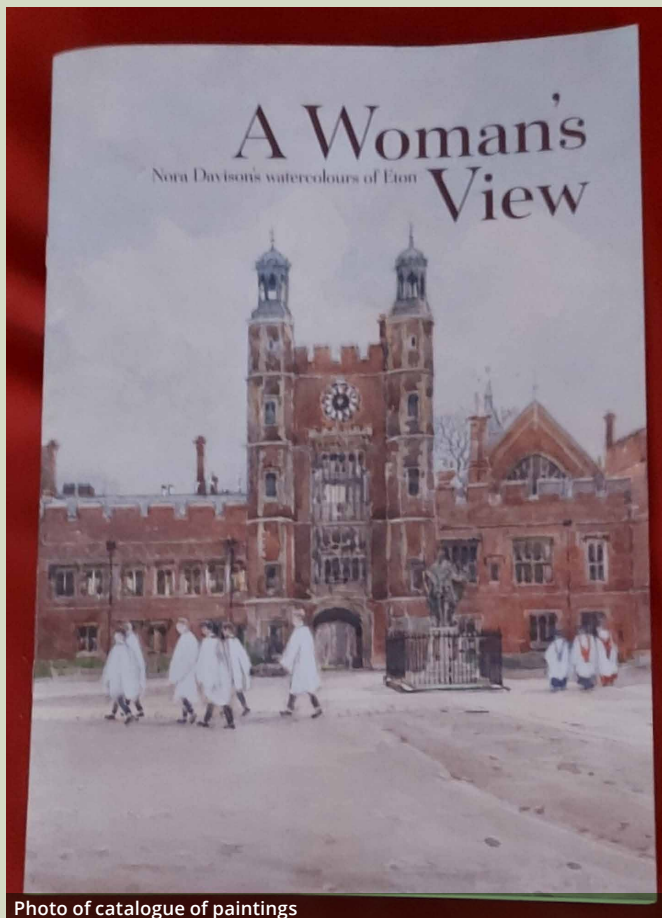


Photo of catalogue of paintings

The History Group has lately uncovered the interesting history of Moseley's first vicar who was struck by lightning and his watercolourist daughter whose paintings were favoured by royalty including Queen Victoria. Nora lived in Eton and painted many watercolours of Eton College, forty-four of which remain in the school's private collection. The fuller story of the Rev. John R Davison and his demise is on our website. <https://moseley-society.org.uk/local-history/>

Another addition to the website arose from a conversation at the AGM. Andrew Craig, the son of the doctor living on the corner of Chantry Road in the 1950s, has written a very interesting and entertaining account of his boyhood in 1950s Moseley. Andrew paints a nostalgic picture of his boyhood adventures and experiences in the days when Moseley was bustling with a wide variety of shops. We are keen to hear from any other members who have memories of the 50s or 60s. To our grandchildren these decades are now history, and we need to preserve recollections of those days while there are still people around who can remember them!

Wish to unsubscribe? Please email all-enquiries@moseley-society.org.uk

THE BELLRINGERS MOSELEY

In 2009 an appeal was launched to raise £140,000 to replace the 8 old steel bells in the belfry of St Mary's with 10 traditional bells made from bell metal, installed in October 2012. It's not only the 'top drawer' bells that attract bellringers to Moseley, but also the strong 'tower' with a teaching ethic. A 'tower' refers to the place where a bellringer usually rings as well as the place where the bells hang! Simon Linford is the Tower Captain at St Mary's. He has been President of the Central Council of Church Bellringers and Master of St Martin's Guild. St. Martins Church in the Bullring, the diocesan church of the West Midlands, is the only church in the UK with a ring of 16 bells, attracting many visitors from the world-wide bellringing community.

Simon was in the choir at his father's parish church in Staffordshire before joining the band of bellringers as a boy. This

route is not so common now, so one of the challenges is to attract new members. Bell ringing is a physical as well as a mental activity, so youngsters learn fastest. To attract young potential ringers, Simon has plans to take a portable belfry in the school holidays to a local school playing field! In the meantime, he runs the Brumdingers a youth band open to anyone aged 10+ who is interested in learning to ring or already ringing. They recently took part in the Ringing World National Youth Contest which was held in Birmingham and came top of their group.

The band of ringers at St Mary's (who also ring at St Anne's) are from all backgrounds and at all levels of competence; a few answered the call to 'Ring for the King' – an initiative to recruit and train bell ringers in time for the coronation of King Charles 111 in 2023. One of the 'rookies'

admitted she naively thought it would be easy to learn to ring in a few weeks. She did contribute on the day and is now a regular member of the band.

It's good to know that this truly English tradition is alive and well in Moseley. If you are a lapsed ringer or tempted to join the band, get in touch with Simon at simonhippo@hotmail.com



Bellringers of St Mary's led by Simon Linford including some Moseley Society members. Photo: Charles Wall

Carolle and Iman Tennis at Moseley Tennis Club

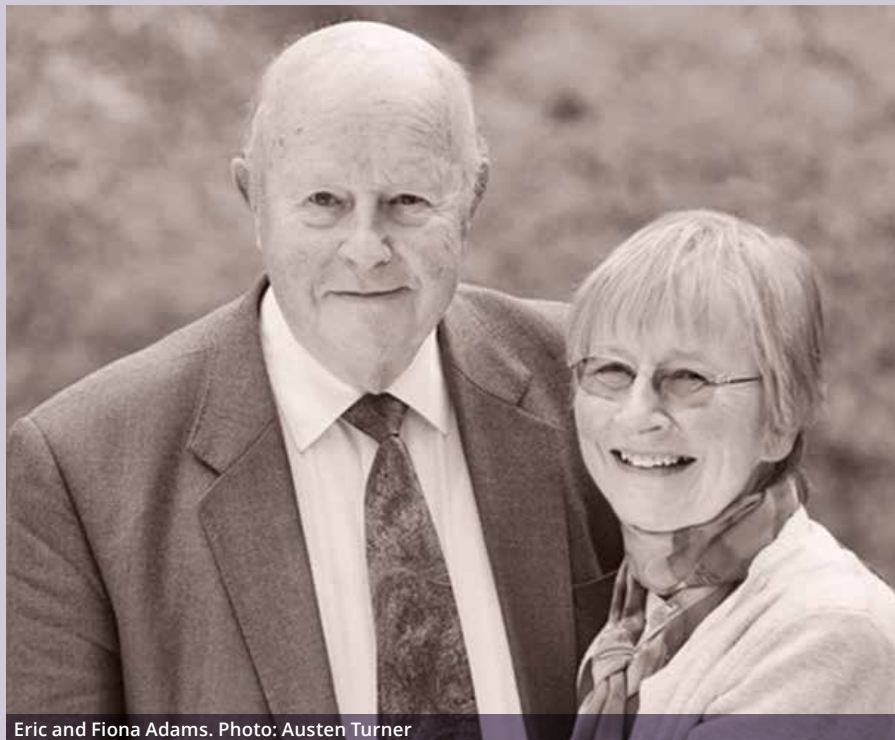
Carolle Forde Garcia and Iman Mahmood met on a tennis coaching workshop and decided to start a group with a pledge to break-down stereotypes and attract a diverse group of women. In 2023 they won an LTA national Tennis for All award for helping to 'Open up' tennis to wider communities. Since the programme began, they have welcomed 500 women and children, 80% of whom are from ethnically diverse backgrounds. The tennis coaching sessions are in term time on Wednesday morning at the Moseley Tennis Club and Thursdays at the Billesley Indoor Tennis Centre. Carolle and Iman would eventually like to encourage more women into coaching, but in the meantime the sessions offer women friendship, support with mental health and loneliness and a morning's exercise with much fun

and laughter as well as learning to play tennis!

To find them on social media go to @carolleandimantennis media.



Carolle and Iman tennis group at Moseley Tennis Club



Eric and Fiona Adams. Photo: Austen Turner

Eric Adams

19th November 1936 – 20th February 2025

Fiona Adams writes: My husband Eric died in February after several years of ill-health but a lifetime of helping other people – especially me. I met him in 1981 at the 'Moseley at the Crossroads' exhibition mounted by the Society to fight off road-widening at the traffic lights. To stop Salisbury Road becoming four lanes and Alcester Road five was one of the reasons the Society was founded. Ken Fisher had persuaded the Barrow Cadbury Fund to grant £500 for alternative traffic management plans and as Assistant Secretary at the Cadbury Trust Eric came to see how the grant had been spent. We had tried to get a Parish Council for Moseley – Eric and the Trust were supporting the National Association of Local Councils. We soon discovered we had many interests in common!

Eric retired in 2001 as Director of the Barrow Cadbury Trust. Having grown up in Leicester, he

had spent his working life first as a psychiatric social worker and then as a grant maker helping individuals and communities. His knowledge of communities across the West Midlands was profound. He started several organisations to support the voluntary sector via networks – and lunch! He also started networks for grant makers, including people he had met in Europe and North America. He helped bring Community Organising to the UK, had a particular interest in inclusive education and disability rights and, through the Troubles, led the Trust's programme in Northern Ireland.

While he was glad to retreat at home, encouraging me with my activities in Moseley, he was a quiet source of support to neighbours and friends. Since his death I have received many, many expressions of appreciation of his warmth, wisdom and fun.

Nick Booth

14th May 1965 to 15th April 2025.

Another loss to the community, his friends and family is **Nick Booth** who died at the age of 59 in April following an accident at home. Until his death he was Co-Chair of Moseley CDT, from his career as a journalist and through his social media surgeries and a multitude of other trustee and volunteering roles, Nick was a pioneer of empowering communities to make change and being a force for good. A Nick Booth legacy fund will be announced soon.

Moseley (and Balsall Heath) had been Nick's home since childhood. He appreciated it every day, its uniqueness, its creativity, its sense of community, its spirit. He loved its friendliness and the things that happened here to improve the lives of its residents. He had so many friends and made more all the time. His large, bearded presence will be greatly missed.



Nick Booth

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome Kate Millns; Lesley Tosh; Lucy Kenny; Catherine & Nick Jones; Haroon Mohammed; Mr Jabir Saleh & Dr Aiysha Jawaid and Lawrence Ockleford as members of the Society.