

# Newsletter

## Winter 2025/26



Greetings to you for the New Year. Since our last newsletter, we've had heatwaves and flooding as well as snow. We have no control over the weather, Low Traffic Neighbourhoods or the opening of Moseley Village Station, but we hope you'll enjoy reading about the activities that The Society and our members are involved in. And if you are not yet a member, we hope this letter will encourage you to join.

We're hoping that the opening of the stations will bring visitors to Moseley to sample our culinary delights as well as admiring our wonderful examples of Arts and Crafts architecture or visit the icehouse and dovecote which are maintained by the Society and will re-open to visitors on 28 March.



### MOSELEY & KINGS HEATH PLACES FOR PEOPLE

On 16 January Transport Projects reported on the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) needed to bring in the permanent Low Traffic Neighbourhoods in parts of Moseley and Kings Heath. Over 900 responses were received and the TRO cannot be approved as proposed. Instead, revised plans are being drawn up and, beginning in March, there will be a further consultation on the new plans. This is likely to be a drawn-out process because of the local elections in May, including pre-election purdah.

A separate TRO consultation about changes to parking on the High Street in Kings Heath was approved in November and work

on that is likely to begin soon.

The Moseley Society committee accurately reflects the range of views on LTNs, and we have therefore chosen not to express a 'Moseley Society opinion.' Some of us live in roads that have been greatly improved by closures and we no longer have drivers racing past at top speed with exhausts popping while others live in roads to which the racers have been diverted. Some have chosen to give up owning cars and others absolutely depend on them to be able to get around. We have no doubt that all these views will be expressed in the run up to the local elections in May.

### PROGRAMME OF TALKS

Our Programme this year started with two talks which drew large audiences. Alison Millward's story started with Moseley Bog and ended with Chamberlain Highbury Trust while Susan Humphrey was able to paint a picture of her grandfather Neville Chamberlain.



Alison Millward

Our next planned talk open to members and non-members is on **Wednesday 11 March** at 7.30 pm at the Moseley Exchange. David and Pam Humphries' talk "A Glass and a Half" is an outline of the history of chocolate in Europe and the USA. Given our close proximity to Bournville, the Cadbury story naturally features quite heavily!

The AGM will be on **Wednesday 20 May, 7.30pm** at Moseley Exchange.

# CHANGES IN PLANNING POLICY AND IN MOSELEY

The Government is consulting on changes to the NPPF – the National Planning Policy Framework. We are members of Civic Voice but that umbrella body for the civic society movement is in crisis and can no longer afford to employ staff. It is therefore dependent on volunteers and has assembled an expert panel to respond to the consultation and we are keeping in touch with their conclusions.

We would welcome more people with planning experience to join us so if you know of such people in Moseley, please encourage them to join the Society and volunteer.

Meanwhile previous alterations to the planning system continue to ensure that Moseley is not

short of places to drink coffee and eat desserts. Since the changes to 'Use Classes' in 2020, planning permission is not needed for a change of use of most high street premises and so it is only market forces which determine how many cafes can be eaten in what was once a shopping centre.

The most significant recent local development is the granting of permission for a hotel to be built behind the Village Inn, following a protracted process and many objections from people living near the site. The Society objected to some of the details of earlier versions but not to the principle of having a hotel. We hope that the combination of the new railway station and a hotel will bring trade to Moseley – including its many cafes.

## THE HISTORY GROUP

The local history archives are now in their permanent home at the Moseley Exchange. Among the artefacts on display is a Richard Roberts' clock, now in Reception, and an example of Matthias Watts' Moseley Ware, shown here displaying information about the business. His business was based in St Mary's Row but traded all over the world. The group have used some of their research to set up a display on the ground floor of the Exchange with articles and photos of people associated with Moseley.

Edwina Rees has been researching a local man, Major John Kinsman Brodie, who served in both World Wars, ending up in a POW camp in Singapore in 1941. His only child Judith married Barry Charles Roger Griffiths in 1953. Barry followed his father into the veterinary practice at 96 Alcester Road (now Fiveland). The couple had two children, a daughter and a son born in 1954 and 1956 respectively. Edwina is very keen to get in touch with them to complete the amazing story of their grandfather. If you can help in any way, please contact her by email: [all-enquiries@moseley-society.org.uk](mailto:all-enquiries@moseley-society.org.uk)

You can find a treasure trove of articles, including one about Highway Robbery in Moseley, in the Local History Section of the Moseley Society Website. <https://moseley-society.org.uk/local-history/>



Wish to unsubscribe? Please email [all-enquiries@moseley-society.org.uk](mailto:all-enquiries@moseley-society.org.uk)



# GREENHILL GALLERIES

We are grateful to Neil Collins of Greenhill Galleries for helping to restore the Matthias Watts' picture frame which is now at the Moseley Exchange.

Greenhill Galleries, at the corner of Greenhill Road and Billesley Lane, opened on 23 November 2003, the day that England won the rugby world cup - a date that keen rugby supporter Neil will always remember! His background and training were in Visual Cultures. Greenhill Galleries was originally going to be an art gallery as well as framing pictures. Neil's daughter, a talented artist, is joining him in the business and they are

planning to exhibit more art.

He has been in Birmingham since 2001 and enjoys being part of the community helping out where he can. He is a sponsor of Birmingham and Moseley Rugby Club and frames memorabilia for them and the Warwickshire Cricket Club. Most of his customers are private and he is prepared to frame almost anything, including a deactivated AK-47 rifle! The business is open Tuesday to Friday from 10am to 5pm and on Saturday 11am to 1pm. The Gallery contact numbers are: 0121 449 4606 / 07780687353.



Neil Collins

## MOSELEY BECOMES A COMMUNITY INVESTMENT DISTRICT

The Community Development Trust has gained funding to establish a CID aimed at regenerating high streets. There will be a SpotLIGHT celebration of light, creativity and community during the last weekend of half term, **Friday 20 – Sunday 22 February**. The dovecote is included and an artist will be working with visitors to create images projected onto the building. The event will vary over the three evenings and will run from around 4pm to 7pm each day. Make sure you are signed up to the weekly newsletter to find out more details of this and everything else the CDT does: <https://moseleycdt.com/>

## ST. ANNE'S CHURCH HALL

St. Anne's Church in Park Hill Moseley was built in 1874 and is a grade 2 listed building with a church hall that was added in 1924. The main hall is still in use for activities including ballet classes and one-off events such as the community run Christmas Day Together. The last time the interior was redecorated was over 40 years ago but during 2025 a team of 7 women volunteers have been working in shifts and have already renovated and repainted the foyer, the accessible toilet and the 'council room'. This room is the perfect size for meetings of up to 50 people and is available for hire. To book a room ring the office at St. Mary's Church in Moseley (0121 449 2243).



Two of the volunteers, Kate Stocks and Bridget Langstaff brightening up the kitchen.



## John Underwood 1936-2025

John Underwood died peacefully in September. A man of great warmth and energy, he played an active part in the Moseley Society for over 20 years, encouraging the rest of us to be braver at putting the Society forward, particularly with local businesses. In the 1980/90s he and his son ran the Moseley Sports shop in St Mary's Row. He trained as a teacher and worked in Adult Education, in Aston, Handsworth and then in Billesley, Kings Heath and Moseley. He was a magistrate, and, in his retirement, he volunteered to teach prisoners in Winson Green, now Birmingham Prison. He was always active in Moseley life, and in the 1980s he organised the Moseley 'Marathon' for the Moseley Festival during the Dave Cox years. In his younger days John was a keen and gifted athlete. Latterly, he would be a spectator, preferably with a glass of red wine in his hand! He was passionate about rugby. His wake was held at Kings Norton Rugby Club where he was an Honorary Life Member. He will be remembered for his enthusiasm, his love of life and his family, including somewhat unruly large dogs.

## NEW MEMBERS NEEDED!

Thank you for the support you've given as members of the Moseley Society. We hope you will agree that a strong community is vitally important, especially in these depressing times that leave us feeling somewhat helpless. The Moseley Society is looking to the future and would like to invite people to join us in this venture. While Moseley has plenty of people who demonstrate the benefits of volunteering by staying active long after retirement age, we do need to start recruiting a new generation to join us.

When you've read this, please pass it on to one or your friends or neighbours and enrol them as members. We know the strong community spirit here is one of the reasons people choose to move to Moseley. Caring for the built environment is the remit of the Moseley Society and all other civic societies. We have been able to influence planning policies and decisions in the city since 1979. The Society was formed when Tesco was given permission to demolish several shops like Maison Mayci and build the concrete horror that is now the Co-op! We've been monitoring planning issues ever since.



Moseley village 1980's

January is time for renewing membership. If you don't have a standing order, please check that you are up to date with your membership. This QR code links to the 'How to join' page of the Society's website where you can join and where existing members can find the information needed to set up a standing order.



## NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome Jessica Williams, Jane Richards, Nathan Fage, Rahul Rana & Hannah Steele, Stephen Pihlaja, Daniel & Estelle Rowe, Nicolas East, Revd Angela Hannafin, Derek & Jennie Thomas as members of The Society.