

Annual Review

2025 - 26



Co-Chairs' Report Helen Minovi and Geoff Rees

At long last, despite the best efforts of badgers, bombs and wells, the Camp Hill line is open, and passenger trains have returned to Moseley, an event that will live long in the annals of what can be achieved by a determined and active community. Unfortunately, the past 12 months have not led to much improvement in the services provided by Birmingham City Council: the bin strike continues, and our Planning and Licensing report draws attention to other problems.

It is with great sadness that we record the untimely deaths of Councillor Kerry Jenkins and Nick Booth, Chair of Moseley Community Development Trust. Their very positive contributions to the community will be much missed, as well as those of long-standing stalwarts of the Society, John Underwood and Eric Adams.

Roy Cockel and Jean Gilkison both stood down from the committee. Roy joined in 1982 and his skills as an historian, photographer, plantsman, quizmaster, chairperson and trustee have been invaluable to the success of the Society. His high standards have kept us all on our toes and we are glad that he is continuing to contribute to the history group and using his profound horticultural knowledge to support the dovecote gardeners. Jean joined in 2011 and also served with distinction on the Regen group and Moseley in Bloom, and we have all benefitted from her ability to crystallise a rambling discussion with a pithy sentence. Once again, we give our grateful thanks to the current members of the committee who have continued to work on your behalf for the people of Moseley.

Secretary's Report Fiona Adams

Tuesday 7 April 2026 will be remembered as a significant date in our history, when for the first time since 1941 passenger trains stopped here. Building the new Moseley Village Station and altering the road layout have dominated community meetings and our lives for many years. The campaign led by Moseley Forum for a roundel, rather than traffic lights, at the entrance to the new station has been welcomed by almost everyone. However, the plans for Low Traffic Neighbourhoods in parts of Moseley and Kings Heath are now on hold until after the Council elections in May.

We continue our membership of Birmingham Heritage Forum, West Midlands Amenity Societies Association and Civic Voice which, because of lack of funds, is now being run by its trustees with no administrative staff.



Grandchildren of last Station Master welcomed to the station reopening.

Treasurer's Report Phil Williams

The report and accounts to 31 December 2025 were approved and signed by the Trustees on 9 March 2026 and the Annual Return to the Charity Commission completed. The accounts are available on the website and can be sent on request to any member by email or post.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Our main recurring income consists of membership subscriptions, accompanying Gift Aid, and interest on the legacies bequeathed to the Society in 2022 and 2024. Membership subscriptions have fallen in 2025 and this, in part, is due to members forgetting to pay. We would encourage

members to pay subscriptions by standing order. Details can be found on our website.

Expenditure exceeds income by £1,056 reflecting the completion of two projects – the signage and interpretation panels for the ice house and the dovecote. Other expenditure is in line with previous years.

BALANCE SHEET

Total funds have slightly decreased from £88,199 to £87,143 which are mainly represented by our bank deposits. The notice periods on our deposit accounts are short term (ranging from 0 to 95 days) to ensure that funds are readily available.

Marketing, News & Membership

Sally Wright, Fiona Adams, Kirsten de Vos, Helen Minovi, Geoff Rees, Ray Tier, Charles Wall, Geoff Williams.

Throughout the year the group have been concentrating on attracting new recruits to the Society. All members received a printed copy of the Winter Newsletter requesting that it be passed on to friends and neighbours not yet members of the Society, encouraging them to join. We are pleased to welcome 10 new members since January. Kirsten de Vos has worked tirelessly to increase our presence with the social media community with photos of past and advertising future events. We also have a QR code to facilitate joining the Society.



Moseley History Group Report

Ray Tier, Roy Cockel, Edwina Rees, Fiona Adams, Frank Gresham

Although the Collection of items is now housed safely at Moseley Exchange, little progress has been made in arranging them so as to make locating items easy. Getting advice on how to find and employ an archivist has proved to be more difficult than we thought, but we are glad to report that we have recently received an offer from someone who will attempt to produce a subject-based list on which a new catalogue can be created. Meanwhile the group of people that had been meeting at Moseley Exchange has decided to move to less formal meetings elsewhere. It is still hoped that they might produce some material about the topics they have discussed.

The value of the mine of material available from the Local History section of the Moseley Society website continues to increase. During the year research by Edwina Rees and Ray Tier has been added to the website and published in B13 Magazine. Some of this material was also used to create an exhibition at Moseley Exchange. The lives of Major John Kinsman Brodie, Margaret Leighton, Dr Joan Lamplugh, Harry Gem and Professor Reginald Buller have all been researched and added to the website, thanks to suggestions from our members, contacts via the website, research into people named on war memorials and a walk in Moseley Bog. The webs of fungi that Prof. Buller studied are

a fitting metaphor for the web of information and connections that Edwina Rees uncovers when she starts on a new subject.

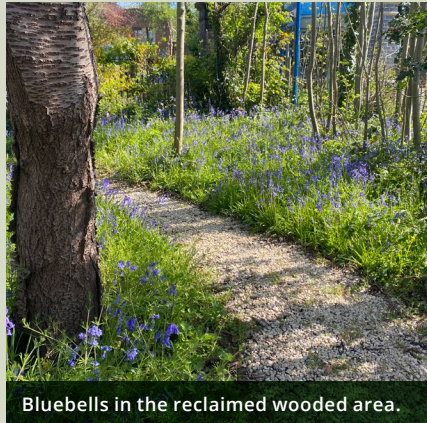
Thanks to Josie Wall's research about Dr Victoria Mary Crosse, available on our website, we were contacted by relatives of the late Professor Brian Wharton. They had discovered the diaries, photographs and notebooks of Dr Crosse of Sorrento. Our members Dr David Low and Dr Carole McKeown recognised their significance, particularly of Dr Crosse's travels on behalf of the World Health Organisation, and the material is now with the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

Dovecote Helen Minovi, Roy Cockel, Paul Lindley, Gill McGillivray and Geoff Williams

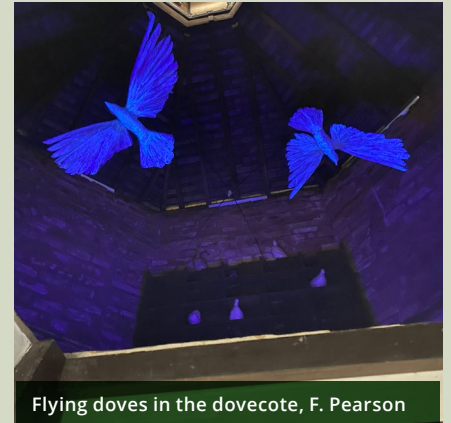
The 18th century dovecote, cow house and surrounding garden are maintained and developed by a loyal, hard-working team of volunteers and stewards, with some support from the hospital maintenance teams. We are hoping for lots of bluebells in the recently reclaimed wooded area. In November we planted native hedging whips along the fence by the telephone exchange. It is rewarding, therapeutic, creative work, much appreciated by hospital visitors, staff and patients. Our efforts were again recognised in the RHS "It's Your Neighbourhood" scheme with Level 5 Outstanding.

We open monthly on Saturdays from March to September. We also take part in Open Gardens, Heritage Open Days and host Moseley in Bloom's plant sales. In February the cow house became a magical workshop for children and adults, making shadow

puppets as part of "SpotLIGHT " a project of the Moseley Community Investment District. The event was led by artist Faith Pearson, supported by Cath Palgrave. The flying doves that Faith created now reside in the dovecote.



Bluebells in the reclaimed wooded area.



Flying doves in the dovecote, F. Pearson

Ice House Fiona Adams

Once again, thanks are due to Kate Booth and her team of volunteers who open the ice house for regular and special events, including the Folk Festival. It is with much sadness that we record the death of one of our regular guides, Anita Harding. Her enthusiasm encouraged us all.

A new information panel, researched and designed by Chris Rice, was erected by the main path above the ice house towards the end of the summer.



The new ice house information panel.

Programme

Helen Minovi, Ray Tier

This past year we have offered an informative and enjoyable programme. Familiar contributors, Dave and Pam Humphries entertained us with "A Glass and a Half" – the history of chocolate in Europe and the USA. We had capacity audiences for talks by Alison Millward and Susan Humphrey. Alison's talk covered four decades of her career, her voluntary life and Moseley heritage. Susan, granddaughter of Neville Chamberlain, gave us a personal account of his life. In December we held a seasonal celebration including a quiz, lots of cake and a story written and read by Ray Tier.

Whatever the topic, the talks provide a good opportunity for members and visitors to get together.

Planning & Licensing

Fiona Adams, Frances Anderson, Frank Brophy, Bob Edmonds, Carolyn Hicks, Bridget Langstaff, Gill McGillivray, Carole McKeown and David Sandison.

Our group has been strengthened by the return of David Sandison and the addition of recently retired architect Frank Brophy. We aim to make a difference by reviewing current planning applications, making positive suggestions and only objecting if plans show no regard for neighbours or local character.

A significant licensing application was for an extremely loud music festival in Cannon Hill Park on Sunday 26 October. It went ahead because the licence was granted by a Safety Advisory Group, but without consulting Ward Councillors or the local Inspector of police. Although we were able to alert residents' groups to the application, none of us could prevent the traffic chaos and noise nuisance.



The way the licence had been granted revealed the problems we witness in many of our dealings with the Council, caused by lack of staff, or staff working remotely who do not know the City. The Planning Department no longer appears to have a physical office and we have no idea how anyone without access to a computer can see plans. However, if the proposals in the draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) are approved, consultation on planning applications may reduce.

We are grateful to Frances Anderson for responding to the NPPF consultation on our behalf. The proposals from Government would require consultation on the Birmingham Plan – but after that, proposals would go ahead provided they comply with the Plan and with Design standards.

This year the number of applications has decreased – from 190 to 159. Of those, 69 were for significant extensions to houses and 17 were for smaller extensions that mostly met the Permitted Development rules. Two properties, in Moorcroft and in Yardley Wood Roads, were the subject of multiple, contested applications. In one case demolition and replacement was allowed although the owner keeps trying to get larger and larger plans approved. In the other case, almost nothing remains of the original house or garden to the distress and great inconvenience of neighbours.

We could write a long, and either boring or, if not, libellous, book about the planning sagas of certain addresses in Moseley. Permission has now been given to build new dwellings on the land at the end of Grayfield Avenue overlooking the Camp Hill line. The properties built off Trafalgar Road and confusingly called Sarehole Mill Gardens continue to cause problems. Those buildings and the derelict offices in front of the Tram Shed in Moseley Road would each take a chapter in the book. However, work is now in progress at Moseley Road Baths and the Golden Lion Pub in Cannon Hill Park is being repaired and made structurally sound, although its long-term future is still to be decided and funded.

We remain concerned about the 7 applications for large garden 'outbuildings' and the 7 concerning HMOs and other institutional uses. The BRSK telegraph poles and wires were mostly removed from Moseley Conservation Area and works to update underground cables continue. There have been

no further applications for large telecommunication masts and an application for a BT Hub to replace the phone box on the Green was refused – a decision upheld on appeal.

2024-25 Committee

Helen Minovi & Geoff Rees, Co-chairs
Phil Williams, Treasurer
Fiona Adams, Secretary
Frances Anderson
Kirsten de Vos
Paul Lindley
Ray Tier
Charles Wall
Sally Wright

AGM Agenda

To be held on Wednesday 20 May 7.30pm at Moseley Exchange.

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last AGM held 21 May 2025
3. Presentation of the reports
4. Adoption of Report & Accounts to 31.12.2025
5. Election of Trustees
6. Any other business

Blue plaques and adding buildings to the Local List will be explored after the meeting.

THE MOSELEY SOCIETY REGISTERED CHARITY 512211

The Society can be contacted via the Secretary at 36 Grove Avenue, Moseley, B13 9RY. Subscriptions and letters may be handed in at Moseley Travel, 172 Alcester Road, near the public car park entrance in Moseley, while information about the Society is available next door at Domestica, or across the road at Moseley Exchange.

www.moseley-society.org.uk

Please contact us if you require a printed copy of the Annual Report.