

Newsletter

Summer 2026



We begin this Newsletter with a warm welcome to the new members of the Moseley Society. We hope to meet you at one of our meetings or Open Days. A big thank you goes to established members who encouraged friends and neighbours to join. Please continue the good work and pass this letter on when you have read it.

Moseley attracts people with many life experiences, and we can always use their expertise. At present we are keen to find someone with knowledge of town planning to help us at a time when the system is undergoing major changes and the City's Planning Department is so depleted. Do get in touch if you think you can help.

In our newsletters and emails, we hope to reflect our involvement in Moseley as well as informing you of activities and news that might interest you. Please let us know if you have any stories to share that we could feature in future newsletters.

The QR code (right) 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.



MEETINGS

All roads lead to Moseley. We can all guess why School Road was so named, but what about Russell Road or Anderton Park Road? Come to the meeting at **7.30 pm on Wednesday 14 October** at Moseley Exchange to find out. Members and non-members are welcome at Moseley Society meetings.

The next Moseley in Bloom plant sale at the Dovecote will be on **Sunday 18 October** from 2-4pm.

MOSELEY VILLAGE

In our newsletter last summer, we were heralding the imminent arrival of **'The Double Six'** a board game café in St Mary's Row. Sadly, despite their efforts to keep this independent enterprise going, the owners' dream ended in July, and it was closed with immediate effect.

Other changes include the **Moseley Dance Studio**, which has had a rebrand with a new café and Reformer Pilates. **Feal (previously The Coach House)** is offering Pilates and a wellness sanctuary. **Juices4Life** has opened at 109 Alcester Road, and a new convenience store is now open in the former Moseley & District Churches Housing Association office.

Several of the shop fronts in the Village have not followed the conservation area guidelines, so it's a great pleasure to be able to congratulate **Turk Nazz** which has had a smart new wooden shop front fitted (to comply with planning enforcement), and **The Pub at Moseley** on the work it has done to repair and repaint its frontage.



AGM

At the AGM on 20 May we welcomed Matt Coneys Wainwright, who already volunteers at the icehouse, as a new member of the Committee.

Following the meeting, Fiona Adams talked about Blue Plaques in our area with suggestions for possible people or events for new Blue Plaques. The Society is seeking members to help with research for this and about buildings that should be added to the Local List.

There will soon be a new Blue Plaque in Moseley because of research done by Birmingham Civic Society's Heritage Committee. The plaque will be installed in conjunction with an exhibition 'Discovering Lisel Haas'.

Lisel lived on Grove Avenue, and some of us took our children to her photographic studio there, having been enticed by the portraits displayed on her advertising board in St Mary's Row. Lisel was a member of The Society and a reader of B13 Magazine until her death in 1989.



William and James Baldwin. Photo: Lisel Haas (1898 - 1989)

You can find details of the exhibition at the Library of Birmingham here:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/events/event/5516/discovering_lisel_haas_exhibition

BIRMINGHAM GARDENERS' FAIR

The Village came alive with the first **Birmingham Gardeners' Fair** on 9 August. This enterprise was organised by the Moseley Farmers' Market team with help from Kings Norton and Kings Heath markets. Plant nurseries from as far afield as Leicestershire and Nottingham mingled with some familiar market and craft stalls. It certainly attracted a good crowd, some of whom had arrived by train. The organisers hope to make this a regular event.



Birmingham Gardeners Fair

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Congratulations to Izzy Knowles and Philip Mills on their re-election as our Councillors. Izzy is Deputy Cabinet Member for Transport. As Deputy, she doesn't have the power to take decisions, but she will see all the papers and attend Cabinet. Philip is a member of the Corporate and Finance Overview and Scrutiny Committee. At a joint Moseley Forum and Ward meeting there was a question-and-answer session with the Councillors, followed by Lucy Kenny, CEO of Moseley Community Trust, who reported on the rebranding of the Trust and gave details of the Community Investment District.

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

MOSELEY VILLAGE STATION

The long-awaited re-opening of the railway line to passengers between New Street and Kings Norton, calling at Moseley Village, Kings Heath, Pineapple Road (Stirchley), finally happened on 7 April. A press release at the end of June gave the number of passengers using Moseley Village Station as 45,613.

Only people who have paid for tickets can be counted – people travelling after 9.30am with concessionary passes can't be included until the conductors have the necessary gadgets to read the cards! The process for the contractors to hand the three stations over to West Midlands Railway and Network Rail would require the production of 800 documents and is still not complete. This makes dealing with teething problems, including the unreliable lifts, more complicated. We've heard various explanations for the number of cancellations, including that the train drivers who were trained on the route are all



experienced and therefore more likely to be called at short notice to deal with problems elsewhere.

Nevertheless, Mayor of the West Midlands Richard Parker was delighted with the number of passengers using the trains and joined the celebrations for the reopening of Moseley Village Station at the family fun day on 18 July. He visited the Moseley Society stall at St Mary's Church with a display relating to the history of transport in Victorian Moseley, including the station and a copy of the 1906 timetable.

DOVECOTE & ICEHOUSE

Both the Dovecote and Icehouse continue to attract visitors to Open Days, with visitors to the Icehouse particularly interested in discovering how ice could stay frozen without the use of electricity. One technique was to plant trees to shade icehouses. How lucky we are that Moseley is such a leafy suburb! Our trees brought relief in the hot weather. Those of us with gardens were grateful for their shade as we anguished over which plants to try and save and mourn the loss of others. Luckily, there were still corners of colour, including in the Dovecote garden.

In August it was visited by Mike Hinton, Birmingham City Council Parks Manager, to judge the garden for the RHS 'It's your neighbourhood' awards. He was very positive about all aspects of the garden and congratulated the team on the efforts they had made. There is no access to water at the

Dovecote, and in the absence of rain, essential water has to be transported in large containers, so it must be used very sparingly, for instance, on the new native hedge by the Cow House.

However, the judge noted some plants that were flourishing in the drought conditions, including lavender, rosemary, bay and the roses with their hips. He suggested that other gardeners might be interested, as we could all be looking for drought-resistant plants in the future.

Luke Alder, one of our appreciative visitors to the Dovecote, found a shady corner and quietly sketched the building through the branches of the trees. He's from Moseley, and his family still live here. He's a teacher of Art and Drama and has travelled and worked all around the world, including Hong Kong. Luke's delightful sketch is now in the Cowhouse.



HISTORY GROUP

Each month in the Moseley B13 magazine, you can find an article researched and written by Edwina Rees and other members of the group. The subject in the March edition was Professor Buller. A Moseley Society member got in touch to say that he was at school with Professor Buller's great nephew. This connection led to some new research and the article in this September's edition of the B13 Magazine.

The Society's website has all the articles and research done by the group. It was through this that the great, great granddaughter of Robert Edmondson, Laura Russell, found out that his name is listed on the War Memorial in St Mary's Church. Laura's father has Robert's letters from the front and several pictures of him in his full regalia as a piper. The group is going to meet with him.



Film and TV crews have recently been spotted in Moseley, which has long been used as a location for television and cinema. It is easy to see why. Moseley is a diverse, vibrant suburb, rich in Victorian and Edwardian architecture, attractive green spaces and historic buildings.

The Moseley Society works to protect this distinctive character, supporting development that respects the area's heritage and challenging proposals that do not. Our website, <https://moseley-society.org.uk>, explains this work in more detail, with links to the relevant sections:

- › We monitor all planning applications and try to be constructive even if making critical comments.
- › We maintain the historic dovecote and icehouse on the former Moseley Hall estate.
- › We run a programme of events on a variety of topics.
- › We publish regular newsletters, send out regular emails with updates on local news and events.
- › We have an enthusiastic Local History group which researches our history and organises talks, walks and school visits to raise awareness of Moseley's heritage.
- › We collaborate with other organisations such as Moseley in Bloom and Moseley Community Trust, participate in Moseley Ward meetings and the Moseley Forum and play an active part in local events such as the Moseley Festival.

BIRMINGHAM HERITAGE WEEK

You can see all the events taking place in the city here: <https://birminghamheritageweek.co.uk/> This runs alongside the country-wide Heritage Open Days cultural festival <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/> from 11 – 20 September. We look forward to welcoming visitors to the Dovecote and Icehouse on Saturday, 19 September, 11am – 1pm and Sunday, 20 September, 2 – 5pm. The theme for this year is 'Exploring daily working life through the ages'. As the Dovecote was originally part of a farm, we are organising

children's activities related to life in the farmyard. Clarence the calf will be there, and he might have a udderly amazing companion!



NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome as new members Holly Crofts & Adam Zindani, Neil & Julia Campbell, Emma Sale & Duncan Anderson, Dr Sajid Muzaffar, Analah Fawcett & Emma Dutton, Frank Brophy, Neil & Cathy Campbell, Debbie & Tauny Southwood, Surinder Pun, Rob Lawley, Jake Tucker & Emily Buchan, Matthew Coneys Wainwright, Maria Kelly, Neal Robinson, Simon Cleary & Karen Slater, Steve & Anne Lamprey and Ian Sanderson.