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THE MOSELEY SOCIETY

Caring for an Historic Area of Birmingham

Charity no. 512211

MAY 2013 NEWSLETTER

The reports of the arrival of spring in our last Newsletter were greatly exaggerated! However, there are signs of renewed and new life in Moseley. The Moseley in Bloom campaign has been launched, the Moseley Festival is only a few months away and the Dovecote and Icehouse are now open to visitors on the afternoon of the Farmers' Market. And you will soon have the opportunity to see what and who is behind the pink door at No 169 Alcester Road.



We do hope you will be able to attend the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of the Moseley Society at 7.30 on Thursday May 16 at the Moseley Exchange. After the formal business, Austin Barber, university lecturer and Chair of the Regeneration Group, will talk to us about the Big Plan for Moseley. Formal consultation is about to begin and this will be an opportunity for members to offer their views on the document that has been four years in the making. We value your opinions on this and other topics raised in our Annual Review.

We were pleased to welcome two new teams to the delayed **QUIZ** which was won by Spurgeon's Tabernacle. There were eleven teams in all.

Those of you who braved a very cold night in March to hear Steve Peacock's talk were rewarded with a fascinating glimpse at what goes on **BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE ARCHERS**. He showed photos of the studio including a staircase made up of 3 strips: concrete, carpet and metal. A studio manager runs up and down the appropriate strip to create the desired sound effect. There is also a board with lots of doorbells annotated with the name of the property!

On a more serious note Steve mentioned that the Farming Today team had recently moved to Bristol, along with other factual programmes. As a result, Birmingham and the Midlands seem to be seriously unrepresented in BBC productions. A Campaign for Regional Broadcasting Midlands has been launched. You can find out more and sign a petition by going to www.crbmidlands.org.uk

MOSELEY SOCIETY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Local Historian: Christine Mann has taken over from Chris Sutton as our Local Historian and will be working at the Moseley Exchange on Mondays and Tuesdays from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm. She will need your help! Why not call in or email and see what might interest you. You can follow up any particular interest and give as little or as much time as you can spare. (moseleyhistory@moseleyexchange.com)

Visit to Worcester Archives: There will be a guided tour of Worcester Archives on Monday May 20th starting at 11.00 am. This is open to all members of the Moseley Society and the Moseley Society Local History Group. You can book your place via our email above or by phoning Janet Berry (449 0727). We currently have spare places.

PLANNING

The long awaited planning application for change of use from offices to religious education college and place of worship at **Pitmaston** has been submitted. Hopefully those of you with an interest in the future use of the building have had a chance to comment on the application.

There are three main reasons why this application causes us concern. Firstly, the loss of employment potential, then the increase in traffic at an already dangerous junction and finally, the loss of green space as a result of additional parking needs.

PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS

Following opposition from backbenchers Eric Pickles is to offer a compromise on the proposals to allow larger extensions to be built without permission. The move to allow local authorities to opt out has been rejected in the House of Commons.

WHEELIE BIN UPDATE

Councillor James McKay reports that the trial runs in Brandwood and Harborne are going well. There has been a good response to the open-access consultation and interim results should be published soon. There is still time to get involved by going to the website: www.opinionresearch.co.uk/birminghamwheeliebins Paper copies are available in libraries and neighbourhood offices.

Following concerns, reassurances have been given that all properties will be assessed for their suitability for the bins. He also assures us that all the bins for the pilot areas have been manufactured in the UK and not Germany!

Dr Jim Andrew of St. Agnes Residents' Association attended a special forum on the impact for conservation areas. We await the outcome of all this consultation with interest.

POLICING IN MOSELEY AND KINGS HEATH

Sergeant Tom O'Keeffe and his Neighbourhood team reported that on the whole reported crime figures in 2012/13 were down on the previous year, albeit with a slight increase in house burglaries. The S222 injunction is progressing well with the majority of business owners supporting an extension. We will be forwarding their weekly updates to all members on our email lists.

MOSELEY IN BLOOM

The launch of the national campaign in April was on a cold and windy day. So instead of planting the vegetable seeds provided by the RHS to start the year of Edible Gardening

[<http://www.rhs.org.uk>], the volunteers in Moseley marked the occasion with a clean-up. This year will see a major focus on litter with a photographic competition, open to all, to raise awareness of the problem. The title is The Good, the Bad and the Ugly. For more details go to <http://moseleyinbloom.org.uk/>

The website will give you more details of the **Open Gardens weekend** on 29/30 June and also for the **Moseley in Bloom Garden Talks** at the Exchange. They start on 20 May with Organic Gardening by Colin Brain, followed in June and July by Bee-Keeping (John Gale), Birmingham City Council's preparations for Chelsea (Mike Hinton) and a talk on Essential Perennials by Jonathan Sandilands.

If you'd like to help in this year's campaign, do get in touch via the website or talk to them at the Farmers' Market. And don't forget to keep your hedges trimmed and front gardens blooming if you are on the route of the **Entente Florale** judges in July. [See March Newsletter]

MOSELEY FESTIVAL

The annual Festival will run between 12 and 21 July with the Street Fair on Saturday 13. We will certainly be there. Ideas for events are being submitted. Final plans will be circulated locally and will be published on the website: (www.moseleyfestival.org.uk)

MOSELEY VILLAGE

On the Alcester Road at either end of the village you can find a couple of interesting and unusual enterprises run by two young women. **WEIRD 'N' WONDERFUL – Pets and Reptiles**



Melissa Tumulty with Matilda, a skunk - one of the many rescued pets and reptiles that are now living in Moseley on the Alcester Road just past Woodbridge Road. Trained as a youth

worker, Melissa was always an animal lover. Her home was bursting with other people's unwanted pets, so she decided to set-up shop in Moseley. She now combines her two passions. Apart from taking in Burmese pythons, iguanas, bearded dragons, loads of rabbits, a few guinea pigs and a parrot, she runs educational sessions with schools, young offenders and adults. Not all the pets are for sale, but some are waiting for suitable homes.

GUTHRIE & GHANI

Lauren Guthrie [Great British Sewing Bee finalist] and her husband Ayaz Ghani have been busy transforming 169 Alcester Road, the old Asman Carnegie Boys Club, into the bricks and mortar version of their online haberdashery, fabric and yarn store.

The couple open their pink door on Saturday 27th April to reveal the amazing transformation of the once run-down 1898 mock Tudor building. They plan to run workshops and courses and hire out their creative studio. Lauren has written blogs, packed with photos, on the progress of the restoration work and her journey in the Great British Sewing Bee Contest. To read more about Lauren and Ayaz go to the website:

www.guthrie-ghani.co.uk/blog/category/renovations

ICEHOUSE AND DOVECOTE

You can visit the Icehouse in Moseley Park and the Dovecote at Moseley Hall Hospital from 2.30 on 4th Saturday in the month to coincide with the Farmers' Market starting on 27 April and to be followed by 25 May, 22 June, 27 July, 24 August, and 28 September.

In the Cow House you will find an exhibition about Moseley during WW11, prepared by the Local History Group – appropriate, as the Cow House was used as an ARP station!

In the Dovecote garden, work on the new duck pond is complete and has been filled by buckets of rain water to the optimum level. No ducks, but plants have been added and should soon be growing. There's always work to be done and whether you are happy weeding or have more advanced skills, the team would welcome help on 1st and 3rd Sundays starting at 11 am. They have also accepted the challenge of sowing some of the RHS edible plant seeds.

CAR PARK

Our monthly clean-up of the Car Park happens in all weathers (well nearly!) on the Sunday following the Farmers' Market. This photo gives you an idea of the task the volunteers sometimes have to tackle.



Maybe this should be our entry to the Good, the Bad and the Ugly Photo competition!

On a more serious note, the state of the car park is a real problem. But recently responsibility for maintenance has been transferred to Hall Green District so there is an opportunity for more local control of both revenue and cleaning.

SOME ISSUES RAISED BY OUR MEMBERS

From time to time, we hear from members with particular concerns. We thought you'd like to hear about them and welcome your views.



Just missed the No 1 – how long do you have to wait for the next one? According to the schedules, another one should be along in 15 minutes with the due time lit up on the panels at the Church Road and Salisbury Road stops. Moseley resident Sandy MacRae has been saying for years that the service is unreliable and he would be interested in your experiences of the No 1 service.

He would like to collect data and hopes to recruit a team of volunteers to observe and record the actual bus departures in both directions over a substantial period. If his assessment of the service is proved correct, he would then use the information to persuade the

company to improve it. To find out more, offer your views or to volunteer, contact Sandy on a.w.macrae@blueyonder.co.uk.

Hygiene - One aim of the Moseley Society is 'to conserve and enhance the built, natural and historic environment of Moseley' which is why our observations of activities in and around Moseley tend to concentrate on the exterior impact of planning issues. One of our members feels that we should also take note of reports on the hygiene of local eateries and has directed us to a website which gives more details - <http://ratings.food.gov.uk>. Just type 'B13'

Crime Stoppers Campaign - Rex Bird, who lives in north Moseley, wrote to us in March to find out if we knew anything about the Crime Stoppers posters that had sprouted in his area. It seems that this national charity had decided to target the area without consulting any of the local societies, residents' associations, police or planning authorities. Rex eventually found the person in charge of the campaign who agreed to remove the posters. However, as we go to print there are still some in Church Road.



His main point is that these posters stigmatise an area. Who would want to buy a house in a neighbourhood allegedly plagued by drug dealing? Surely it is better to talk to the people who know the area, including the police, to work together on a solution. Does it remind you of *Operation Champion* and the spy cameras? Rex's email is: rex@rexbird.co.uk.

SPONSORED GARDENING

Last May, some Moseley gardens benefitted from a couple of hours work from volunteers raising money for the charity Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust in memory of a friend's 3 year old daughter. They plan to do

the same this year, but on a bigger scale, so are looking for anyone who could spare a few hours during weekends in May to join the team. You don't have to be an expert, just prepared to get your hands dirty! To find out more contact Merron Simpson on 07973 498603 or merrons@hotmail.co.uk Once the team is gathered, they will be in action during May. If you'd like them to help you for a donation, get in touch with Merron.

SAREHOLE MILL

Over the winter the mill has undergone major restoration and refurbishment, including desilting of the millpond and sluice gates. The Grade II listed building has been refurbished and the Victorian bake house restored.

Throughout the summer there will be organised activities for families. Some are with a Tolkien connection like the Middle Earth weekend in May. Others, like the bread making demonstrations, are connected to the working of the mill itself. Sarehole Mill is open from Tuesday to Sunday until the beginning of November. More details on the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery website or by phoning: 0121 777 6612.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you haven't yet renewed your subscription, we look forward to hearing from you. We would encourage as many of you as possible to set up standing orders for 1 January.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- April 27 Farmers' Market.
Opening of Guthrie & Ghani
Icehouse and Dovecote Open
- 28 Car park Clean-up
- May 16 Moseley Society AGM
- 20 Talk on Organic Gardening (MIB)
- 22 Local History Group Meeting
- 25 Farmers' Market
Icehouse and Dovecote Open
- 26 Car park clean-up
- May 25- June 2 Cannon Hill Spring Fair
- June 16 Edwardian Weekend
Cannon Hill Park
Farmers' Market
Icehouse and Dovecote Open
- 22 Car park clean-up
- 23 Local History Group Meeting
- 26 Open Gardens Weekend (MIB)
- 29/30 Moseley Festival
- July 12-21 Farmers' Market
Icehouse and Dovecote Open
- 27 Car park clean-up
- 28