



# Moseley in Bloom- February 2022

## the blooming news

Welcome to the February edition of our newsletter, we can't believe how this year is flying! Please do remember to let us know about your garden projects and any other horticultural projects you are involved with. You can send items of news and photos and any information about forthcoming events by email to [doctorcarolmiller@gmail.com](mailto:doctorcarolmiller@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you, Kerry Jenkins and Carol Miller (Editors).

### Introducing our joint secretaries for MiB

Sabreena Mahrouf is a keen gardener, a mum of twin girls and a hand surgeon. She loves her job but is equally passionate about gardening and often spends time distracting/boring her patients about gardening whilst operating! She is a member of the Open Gardens group and the Schools Project and loves being involved in the Pop Up Sales where she is meant to look after the card reader but can easily get distracted chatting to the other helpers and customers in search of the best tips and tricks in the garden. She also provides a home for leftover plants in her allotment and home. She has always loved upcycling and can often be seen dragging home treasures from skips and front gardens. Growing food has become a recent passion and she loves Potager gardens: food and flowers - who could ask for more?



Marci Green was born in the USA and raised in the Arizona desert - not very green but gorgeous, nonetheless. She graduated in Sociology and Politics from Arizona State University, spent a year in California, came to Brum for her Masters and Phd and taught Sociology at the University of Wolverhampton. She loves desert gardens but now also enjoys the lush greenery here. She has visited Botanical Gardens in China, Mexico, and Italy - and returned to Birmingham enlivened and inspired. Having joined MiB a few years ago, she was interested in working with schools and is now chair of the Schools Gardening Project, helping youngsters engage with nature.



### A greener Moseley in Bloom

We are committed to developing more sustainable planting practices to restore and maintain the environment and reduce waste. We would like to plant more sustainably and encourage pollination. We also want to encourage more tree planting. We will increasingly ask for peat free growing mediums and encourage home composting. With all of this in mind, we would like to know how gardeners in Moseley are gardening for the environment. We would love to hear your ideas and experiences, perhaps with tips for others on composting, planting or caring for the garden. If you have questions on anything 'green' we can put them to the Moseley gardening community via the Newsletter. In this way, we can progress our aim to make Moseley cleaner and greener.



### Itchy green fingers?

Are you itching to get out into the garden, especially when the sun is shining? The organisation 'Meadow in my Garden' says that we should resist this urge until temperatures are consistently above 10C. They say that many butterflies, bees and other pollinators are currently overwintering in the dead leaves and hollowed out stems of last year's plants. If we clean our gardens now, we will literally be throwing away this year's beneficial pollinators. Take note! Find more tips here: <https://meadowinmygarden.co.uk>



Find Moseley in Bloom on Facebook and Twitter @moseleyinbloom and on Instagram @moseley\_in\_bloom  
More information is available on our website at <https://www.moseleyinbloom.org.uk/>

## February wildlife gardening jobs

1. Leave food for hedgehogs - Leave out water and meat-based dog or cat food for hedgehogs that have come out of hibernation early in mild weather, as they'll be hungry.
2. Clean out nest boxes - Clean out nest boxes to make way for prospecting birds, which usually start looking for places to raise their young in mid February.
3. Plant a wildlife hedge - Buy bare-root plants to create a mixed, native wildlife hedge. Species such as dog rose, guelder rose, hawthorn, hazel and wild plum make fantastic hedges, providing food, shelter and breeding opportunities for wildlife.
4. Buy crocuses and primroses - Buy pots of flowering crocus and primroses to feed bumblebees roused early from hibernation.
5. Avoid turning the compost heap - Even if conditions are mild, avoid turning the compost heap until April.

## Agapanthus in search of a new home!

White well established agapanthus in planter needs south facing aspect. Grown from a Madeiran bulb it produces several flowers. Owner has moved to east west aspect and sadly wants to give it away. Please contact Margaret on 07836 526 777.

## Raising the roof!

On Friday night 26th November, during Storm Arwen, Moor Green Allotments lost most of its clubhouse roof. This effectively sabotaged what promised to be the best Winter Fayre they had held for a long time, scheduled for the very next day. The fayre would have given an opportunity to raise funds after the Covid shutdown. Members turned up instead on a very cold Saturday to help with the first fix by stripping off the old roof, rigging up battens and polythene to make the place reasonably waterproof and then clearing away the debris - a phenomenal job done at speed and a real testament to their spirit of community. The Council contractors came three days before Christmas to do a better temporary fix. It is estimated that a new roof will cost several thousand pounds and it is unlikely that the Council can bear all the cost. Members are now focused on creating a fund to save their clubhouse. The first 'Raising the Roof' fund raising event will be on the afternoon and evening of 26th March. There will be a swing band in the afternoon with tea and cakes and a rock band and hot food in the evening. The bar will be open from early afternoon and is open to anyone as long as you sign in as a guest. For more information please contact Max via email at: [madahal.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:madahal.secretary@gmail.com)

## A zero waste shop for Moseley

We announced the great news that the Clean Kilo was coming to Moseley in our last newsletter and we are thrilled that the shop opened on the 5th February. The new shop can be found at 11 St Mary's Row and sells a huge range of foodstuffs, cleaning products, toiletries and more, and you are encouraged to use your own containers. We very much welcome this business to Moseley where it will greatly help us to meet our aspirations to reduce waste and in particular, to significantly reduce single use plastic.

<https://www.thecleankilo.co.uk>



## A cleaner, sparklier Moseley!

What a lovely surprise it was to see the streets being jet-washed in the centre of Moseley. When MiB used to enter the Britain in Bloom campaign, we could request jet-washing every year before the judges came and it made a huge difference removing chewing gum and other nasty stains from the pavements and everything sparkled. That was probably nine or ten years ago. Thanks to MiB member Izzy for the dramatic photo of the action! It really is an amazing transformation and big thanks to our Moseley Councillors for organising this via ERDF funding awarded to Birmingham Council and to Ramora for carrying out the work.

