



MOSELEY IN BLOOM / APRIL 2022

the blooming news



Welcome to our April newsletter and we have lots to tell you! We changed our Financial Year and so hot on the heels of our AGM in October 2021, we held another one on 28th March so that we are now properly synchronised. Because of the short timescale between the two AGMs there isn't a whole lot to report on the actual AGM other than to say we are solvent! We were also really happy to welcome new supporters to the meeting and formally elect our officers as well as re-affirming our trustees. We know many of you will be getting ready for summer and would love to hear about your gardens and other horticultural projects you may be involved in. Please send items of news, photographs and information to doctorcarolmiller@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you, Kerry Jenkins and Carol Miller.

Introducing MiB Trustee - Fiona Kessedjian

Fiona joined MiB in 2020 initially to volunteer with the Open Gardens Committee. She subsequently became involved with other projects and is now a Trustee. Fiona worked in the NHS for many years and appreciates the benefits that 'all things gardening' can have on our health and well-being. She loves to potter in her own garden and delights in the changing seasons and wildlife within. Moseley has many exceptional gardens but Fiona particularly enjoys smaller gardens and loves to catch a glimpse of creatively planted areas, for example, the pallet on Church Avenue.



Open Gardens

The date for **Open Gardens 2022** has been set for **Sunday 17 July** and as usual, we will be looking for the help from lots of volunteers to sell tickets, serve teas and generally lend a hand to ensure that the event runs smoothly. Volunteers will receive a complimentary Open Gardens ticket so they can visit other gardens when not on duty. Open Gardens would not be complete without the scrumptious homemade food that we sell alongside our tea and coffees every year. Offers of pastries, cakes, biscuits; savoury or sweet would be gratefully received. If you or anyone you know are willing to help, please do get in touch. We would need names, email, telephone number and availability during the day (morning/afternoon). If you can help us please contact us at sabreena@moseleyinbloom.co.uk. We look forward to hearing from you and thank you in anticipation of your help. Kate Stocks and Sabreena Mahroof



Find Moseley in Bloom on Facebook and Twitter - @moseleyinbloom and on Instagram - @moseley_in_bloom and more information is available on our website at <https://www.moseleyinbloom.org.uk/>

Preventing injuries in the garden

When spring arrives we often go into the garden with great gusto - and suffer the next day! Sabreena, our resident doctor has this advice:

Wear Gloves: Suede or cut-resistant gloves when working with thorns or sharp tools. Kevlar and steel wire gloves are easily available online or in hardware shops. Latex or rubber gloves are best when gripping tools or when working in the soil.

Regular Breaks: Vary your activities and take breaks. Don't stay on one repetitive task too long. When raking, trimming hedges, pulling weeds, or any other gardening job that requires repetitive motion, move from one job to another. Be sure to take tea breaks regularly to give your hands, back, and shoulders a rest.

The right tool for the right job: There is a tool for everything, so use it. Refrain from using your hands to do jobs a tool can do better and faster. Select tools that are lightweight and include thick rubber handles to reduce stress on fingers when gripping. Ergonomic gardening tools are designed to lessen the grip force and can help reduce any inflammations of tendon, ligaments or joints.

Prevent infections and injuries: Keep your garden tools clean, and make sure your shears are well oiled and sharp. Sharp tools that do their job well are less likely to cause sprains and inflammation of joints, ligaments and tendons.

The Benefits of Allotments

Our friends over at Moor Green allotments have sent this link to an interesting report on the benefits of allotments. Do take a look.

<https://bit.ly/37IVLFK>

Planting in the community

Some of our volunteers took advantage of the lovely weather on the Spring Equinox (20 March) to replace some of the mini daffodils (tête-à-têtes) on the village green in Moseley. This happens every year as some do not flower so it's always a good time to replant, ready for the display next Spring. Planting has also been going on in other parts of Moseley. Naima and Tasleem, from our friends, the Litterbusters, have done a brilliant job tidying up the planters on Ladypool Road and Stoney Lane. Some of the plants were left over from our last pop up sale last year so there was good recycling going on. Great work all!

Love your slugs? This is not an April Fool's joke...

From 1 April slug pellets can no longer be sold or used in the UK as they pose 'an unnecessary risk' to birds, dogs and mammals. In particular, it is the ingredient, Metaldehyde that is banned. You may have noticed recently in the press that the RHS will no longer class slugs and snails as pests. They say that the gastropods 'play an important role' in maintaining a healthy ecosystem and gardeners need to rethink how they view slugs, snails and greenfly. Slugs are nature's recyclers according to the RHS, clearing dead matter from the garden and are also important food for garden guests including hedgehogs and birds.

Gardeners will need to find organic ways to control slugs and snails. We would love to hear how you plan to do this so please send in your experiences to share with other gardeners.

We need your help

Moseley in Bloom is looking for expert gardeners to volunteer some time and experience helping children attending Birmingham schools to learn to garden. You don't have to be based in Moseley to help. If you are interested in passing on your gardening legacy to the next generation of budding gardeners and for more information email sabreena@moseleyinbloom.org.uk

Do you enjoy gardening?

The owners of a delightful Moseley garden are looking for somebody who could help them maintain it during the coming season. This garden has previously opened during our Open Gardens event and would be a fascinating place in which to work. Enthusiasm is vital and the owners would be happy to share their wide horticultural knowledge with you and guide you as you work. Please contact kate@moseleyinbloom.org.uk for more information.

Our Exotic Roundabout

Last month we asked if anyone could sponsor our Exotic, Tropical and unique roundabout at the bottom of Salisbury Road as our current sponsorship has come to an end. So far, we have had no success with our appeal and we are worried that the roundabout will not be sustained in its present form. If you can help, or know anyone who might be able to contribute to this appeal, then please contact us by email to info@moseleyinbloom.org.uk

Pop up sale

This is a time of year when we divide plants and even sow some seeds. We are planning our first Pop up Plant Sale on Sunday 8th May at 50 St Agnes Road B13 9PN. If you have any surplus plants and seedlings, please save them for us and get in touch to let us know. We can arrange to pick them up from you.

