



Moseley in Bloom- May 2022

the blooming news

Welcome to the May edition of our newsletter and we hope to offer you inspiration and encourage you to get involved. The more volunteers we have the more we can do so if you think you can offer us any of your time then please do get in touch. We would also love to hear about your garden and any horticultural projects you are involved with so please send items of news, photos and any information about any events by email to doctorcarolmiller@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you, Kerry Jenkins and Carol Miller (Editors).



Carol joined Moseley in Bloom in its very early days, after retiring as an academic at the University of Birmingham. At that time MiB was entering Britain in Bloom in the Urban Community category. Carol remembers scraping weeds out of cracks in the pavements and generally helping to make the village sparkle for Judging Days. It paid off because over the years MiB had eight designations as Best in the Urban Communities category and a number of Gold awards. Carol chaired the group for four years and is now a Trustee and general committee member, helping to organise pop up sales and publicises its efforts through this Newsletter and other social media. She is also now a judge for the Heart of England in Bloom and loves going to see other communities and how they are greening up their neighbourhoods.

Schools Project

This year, MiB supported gardening projects at five Moseley schools by awarding each school £500.00 to green-up their sites. The schools are: Anderton Park, Moseley C of E, Moor Green Primary, Wheelers Lane Tech College and Uffculme Primary. Despite disruptions throughout the academic year, all five schools are achieving their objectives - creating edible playgrounds (with pizza barrels), wildlife, fruit and vegetable beds, and seating areas with native plants on old wasteland. We are now inviting applications for grants up to £500.00 for the new academic year. All primary and secondary schools in B13/Moseley Ward have been contacted with an application forms and guidelines. The deadline for receipt of applications is 24th June. Forms and guidelines can be found here www.moseleyinbloom.org.uk We encourage all eligible schools to apply.



We shall not be moved

A few weeks ago, residents on School Road and surrounds were informed that the road was to be resurfaced. Resident, Wendy Weston, concerned for the planters, checked with the contractors that they would be safe. The contractor assured her that the planters would be moved and replaced after the work was complete. On the start day, heavy lifting gear was used in an attempt to move the planters, but without success - remember that each planter contains a large concrete block, a sign post and compost. The next night a bigger lifter was brought in but still the planters could not be moved. What could be done? It seems that now the road will be resurfaced around the planters. Will they ever be moved?



Wildlife in Moseley

Julie, from School Road has sent in this account of the wildlife in her garden.

"I am truly blessed living in such a wonderfully diverse area as Moseley. I have shared my garden with these animals for nearly 35 years now and as the seasons change, it never ceases to amaze me how, through thick and thin, with a little help, we can all live in harmony.

Animals make mess - lots of mess! Every day I hose the entire garden as foxes, badgers, mice, owls, hawks, crows, wood pigeons, jays, squirrels, hedgehogs and domestic cats all leave their scent, faeces and pellets. All animals like clean living areas, including me!

I have always shared my garden with hedgehogs. They were my very first visitors, followed quickly by toads and frogs. I didn't have a pond so I would put shallow bowls along the hedgerow so they could rest on their journey to the next pond.

The hedgehogs at this time of year are preparing to mate so are eating every evening. Years ago I put tinned cat or dog food out in dishes for them but then realised that my Wedgewood bowls were going missing. This was when I found that I was now feeding foxes as well! A vixen with three cubs. She would take the bowl away and feed the cubs in her den. From then on things changed. No bowls. Different feeding stations, wet and dry food.

The badger eats mixed berries, semi-dry dog food and slugs.

The Hedgehog eats slugs and dried cat food.

The Fox eats everything.

All the animals eat anything that is left over from the bird tables, together with slugs and earthworms that come out at night.

Any rodents that may be around will be dealt with by the owl, the fox or the badger.

The whole eco-system works well."

Slug News!

After the announcement last month that slug poison containing Metaldehyde is now illegal, one of our volunteers, Wendy Weston, has recommended this website for information on slug-resistant plants. <https://www.gardenersworld.com/how-to-grow-plants/20-slug-proof-plants/> Wendy has also offered to collect up any unused slug pellets. She has put a box at the side of her house - 65 School Road. You can leave the slug pellets there (anonymously) and Wendy will take them to the tip to be disposed of safely.

Pop up plant sales

The plant sale on 8 May was our best so far. Money is still coming in as we write and it looks as though we made more than £550! This will boost Moseley in Bloom's funds and enable us to carry out more projects around Moseley. Thank you to all who bought or donated and to our volunteers who made it run so well.

We still have plants left over and, with a few more, we will have another pop up sale on Sunday 3rd July. It will be on the forecourt of St Columba's Church on the corner of Chantry Road and at 62 and 64 Chantry Road. Put the date in your diary.

Open Gardens - we need you!

Our Open Gardens day will be on 17th July. More helpers are still needed to sell tickets, teas, Prosecco and to help with other tasks. If you have some time to help then please contact Sabreena at sabreena@moseleyinbloom.org.uk. As a thank you for your support you will get a free ticket to visit open gardens when you are not on duty.



Wonderful night visitors on School Road