



MOSELEY IN BLOOM / AUGUST 2022

the blooming news

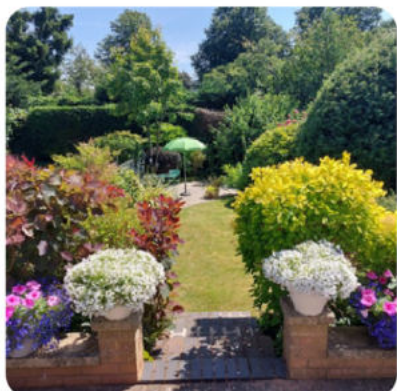


Welcome to this special issue of the Blooming News sharing feedback, images and information from our hugely successful Open Gardens event held last month. We would love to hear about your garden and other horticultural projects. Please send items of news, photographs and information about events to come, by email to doctorcarolmiller@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you, Kerry and Carol .

Looking back at Open Gardens 2022

Sunday 17 July was the date for this year's Open Gardens, which fell on the last day of the Moseley Festival. That particular day was also the start of a heatwave, something that had certainly not been considered during the initial planning way back in February; rain yes, drought no! Nevertheless, nothing can put off the people of Moseley and beyond, and around 600 people bought tickets. The openers had really risen to the challenges of showing their gardens to best advantage. As always the gardens were very varied – small ones with which visitors could identify, larger ones with a real wow factor and community gardens such as Billesley Lane Allotments. Some had never shown before. Some provided musical interludes and artists worked in others, capturing the atmosphere for posterity. A very successful plant stall ran a plant crèche looking after purchases until it was time to go home. It was also good to see a display at the Buddhist Centre showing the very varied work supported by our schools project. Encouraging the next generation of gardeners is central to the work of Moseley in Bloom and visitors enjoyed seeing the enthusiasm of young people, evident in this exhibit. Throughout the day visitors were readily identified by their green Garden Guides that doubled up as fans against the heat! Andrew May's 'Blooming Bus' offered further relief by transporting people between the gardens. Despite the unexpected temperatures Moseley had a real OG buzz; maybe a little less tea was drunk on the day but Prosecco and other cold drinks were very popular and the cakes, samosas and bhajis went down very well. Many thanks to everyone involved. Open Gardens 2022 was a real success, making almost £8000 for the various projects Moseley in Bloom will run in the coming year. What a wonderful day of Moseley memories!

Kate Stocks, Chair Open Gardens Sub Committee



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/>

Open Gardens 2022 - what a great day!

Big thanks to our volunteers! Volunteers are essential to the smooth running of Open Gardens and we are extremely grateful to all those who gave their time. Amongst the many who helped at Open Gardens this year was a group of Year 12 students from Moseley School. They were greeting the public, selling tickets and serving refreshments. They report that 'The students had a blast and were welcomed by the Moseley community'. We also want to thank our garden openers who worked extremely hard, particularly given the challenges that the hot weather presented. We could not hold this event without them and **Moseley in Bloom says 'Thank you very much'!**



The Prize Draw! As the Sunday sun set over another successful Moseley in Bloom Open Gardens event, Carol Miller and I had the task of drawing the lucky winners of the Prize Draw! The Draw was such a fun activity to organise. Yet again I have been humbled by the generosity of businesses with their donations, the range of prizes reflecting Moseley's diversity: Sun Salutations to be enjoyed at I Am Yogi, Champagne and Chocolates from M&S, Feasts to be had and a Frieda Khalo print! Thank you to everyone who supported this endeavour through donations or the purchase of tickets. Your magnanimity will contribute to the continuing success of Moseley in Bloom's projects. With such a whole-community prize, surely everyone is a winner! **Heartfelt thanks, Fiona Kessedjian**



Sara, a first-time opener! Why did I say yes to opening my garden? Well when Kerry asked if I would consider it July seem like a long way away. Also I know how much work goes into organising events like this by the volunteers of Moseley in Bloom. My small garden backs onto the deep railway cutting that runs through Moseley. It was even smaller before I bought a bit of railway land. Once I cleared this of bramble, ivy and sycamore seedlings I was ready to plant up. Then Covid struck. Planting was determined by what I could beg and what I could propagate from cuttings and seeds. As the date drew closer a slight sense of panic set in. Would I be able to get it looking reasonably tidy? Would anyone come to see it? If they did come would they like it or feel that it really wasn't worth the effort? These fears melted away as the day unfolded. The sun shone and we think that we had some 250 visits. Many people wanted to talk about the design and planting. One person asked me if I would design her garden and that she would pay me! I was quite taken aback by the very positive remarks that visitors made. As 5pm approached I was relieved to think that I would soon have my feet up with a cup of tea, though we did have several late arrivals. I hope my garden has given other people ideas for their own small spaces. Would I do it again? Well maybe! **Sara Cummins, Laburnum Grove**



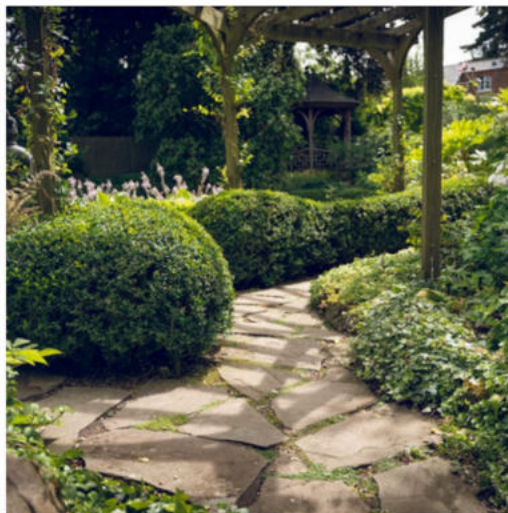
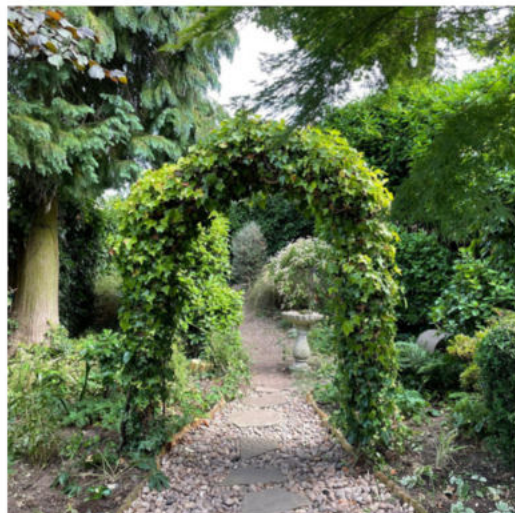
Sisters Judy and Mel, visitors from outside Moseley

What a great way to spend a sunny Sunday! Moseley in Bloom offered keen green-fingered types and those not so keen a chance to nose around 18 gardens, large and small, manicured and natural. Every garden had many points of interest, whether a water feature, unusual plant, interesting landscaping and of course the owners always on hand to provide hints and tips. Many gardens offered delightful refreshments - tea, coffee, Prosecco, cakes, Indian pastries, and much needed cold drinks, given the heat. There was also music and plenty of seating for us to rest our weary legs in the shade. A shuttle bus was provided but we opted to walk, the final result being 8+ miles, so we got our steps in too!



An artist's view - I was invited to paint in a beautiful garden on Chantry Road. The owners, Sue and Philip Johnson, really looked after me with a constant flow of refreshments throughout a very hot day. It was great to find a lovely elevated shady spot at the back that had been left more 'wild'. This gave me an open view over the whole garden, but was also tucked away enough so people could choose to approach me or not. A fair portion of the visitors did come over to look and chat with me. Painting outdoors does have its risks and hazards, such as wind, rain, lightning, rampaging cattle and, in this garden, perhaps hedgehogs. I have no preconceived plan and allow works to develop intuitively. It feels quite exposing to show all the stages of creation as initially it can look chaotic and go through several ugly duckling phases before it hopefully comes together at the end to produce a swan. I had lots of positive, encouraging comments and interesting chats, not all about art. I really enjoyed the Open Gardens experience and came away with some good memories. The cherry on the cake was the owners giving the finished painting a lovely home.

Artist: Neil Caldwell (member of UASB)



Moseley in Bloom would like to thank Mikey Evans for allowing us to include some of his fabulous images in this newsletter. The photos were captured across some of the gardens that opened for Open Gardens 2022.