



Moseley in Bloom- October 2022

the blooming news

Welcome to the October edition of our newsletter. Autumn has well and truly arrived with the nights drawing in and the leaves coming down. As always, we would also love to hear about your garden, how you are preparing it for the winter and any projects you might be involved with. Please send items of news, photos and any information about any forthcoming events by email to doctorcarolmiller@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you, Kerry Jenkins and Carol Miller (Editors).



Jonathan Smith

Introducing another member of our team...

Jonathan grew up on the south-west coast and moved to Moseley 22 years ago with his partner Liz to make Birmingham home. He became aware of Moseley In Bloom on seeing a lamppost correx board advertising Open Gardens. After a couple of years as a visitor and a couple more as a volunteer he was invited to join the committee, and took over Open Gardens publicity and production of the garden guide. As MiB treasurer he has introduced card payment facilities and online purchase of Open Gardens tickets. Jonathan is a software developer by profession and other interests include DIY, cryptic crosswords and real ale. His musical tastes are wide and varied, from Charlie Mingus to Laura Mvula, via Shostakovich and Status Quo.

Moseley - Blooming beautiful!

We felt that this year's floral displays in the village were exceptionally good and we were delighted to hear from one of the residents' groups that they agreed too! We really appreciated this message and in reply, we made sure to mention that Moseley in Bloom pays Birmingham City Council Parks and Nurseries to grow, plant and maintain the displays, using funds raised via our various projects throughout the year. So, Open Gardens, Plant Sales and Business donations all go to this worthy cause. Parks and Nurseries staff have been particularly busy this year, providing extra planters as part of the Commonwealth Games Festival, while it has to be said, still managing to win Gold with their display at the Chelsea Flower show in the spring. Thank you to everyone concerned. The displays are coming down now and we look forward to more next year.

“ On behalf of Russell Road Residents' Association - thank you very, very much for making life so much pleasanter for us all. Once again, the team associated with Moseley in Bloom has done the village proud. Despite the high temperatures, the baskets and boxes continue to look stunning; they greatly enhance the local area and lift the spirits of those who pass through or who use the village. I am aware that an enormous amount of work goes into growing, planting and maintaining these (I have only a few containers myself and know how much is involved in looking after them), and while we may not say it often enough, your hard work and skill are greatly valued by everyone who visits the village.
Chair, Reddings Road RA

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More information is available on our website at <https://www.moseleyinbloom.org.uk/>



Water - water - water

How did you, or rather your garden, cope with this Summer’s heat and lack of water? Did you continue to tend a lovely lawn, mowing regularly and watering frequently? Did you leave the grass alone and plant wild flowers? Did you water all of the garden or just part of it? Which plants did you find coped best with the hot dry weather?

I increased my collection of water butts to four, buying one of the bargains offered by Severn Trent – still available I believe. I had realised that although I was collecting water from the shed roof and the small extension roof, I was not collecting from the main roof of the house. All the butts are of course now full and I hope that next summer I will not need to use tap water for the garden.

You may be considering changes to the planting in the garden. Some plants really did not like the heat while others survived well and continued to give colour. We would love to hear about your gardening experiences this year and, if as predicted, we are going to have more hot, dry months, it would be great to share ideas and tips to help others in their horticultural efforts. We await your correspondence! Carol

The Moseley Roundabout - update

At the junction of Salisbury Road, Russell Road, Edgbaston Road and Willows Road is the roundabout that we used to call ‘Exotic’. In 2006 it was set up as a tropically-planted roundel by the original Chair of Moseley in Bloom and the then Head of Floral Enhancement at Birmingham City Council. The arrangement was that BCC Highways continued to manage its infrastructure but it allowed Moseley in Bloom to arrange and receive directly sponsorship monies which helped BCC Parks and Nurseries continue to manage the horticulture. A long-term sponsorship deal kept this arrangement funded until December 2021. After this, MiB searched unsuccessfully for a new sponsor and reluctantly handed the roundabout back to the City Council in May 2022. This is not a project that our volunteers can actively work on due to both access and safety, and as a charity, Moseley in Bloom does not have the funds to cover the costs now needed. As a local action group we continue to keep tabs on the roundabout as we are well aware that it currently looks stressed, shabby and unloved. BCC Parks and Nurseries are aware and will be dealing with it ‘in the near future’. We will keep a Moseley eye on it.



10 Ways to Prepare Your Garden for Winter

1. Clean up diseased plants. Leave the rest in place.
2. Remove invasive weeds that have taken hold over the growing season.
3. Enrich soil with manure and compost, or organic fertilizers such for spring.
4. Plant cover crops (beans, peas) to enrich the soil with a natural fertiliser.
5. Prune perennials with care, seed heads make excellent meals for wildlife.
6. Divide bulbs and replant daffodils, tulips and crocuses.
7. Harvest and regenerate your compost.
8. Replenish mulch to ease the transition into winter.
9. Review the plants in your garden and assess your growing season.
10. Clean and sharpen tools and pop away until spring.