



Welcome to the Moseley in Bloom's Newsletter. It might be winter but there is still lots of gardening to be done. Ward off the winter blues and cheer up your pots and borders with colourful winter flowering varieties such as cyclamen, pansy, polyanthus, and winter-flowering daphne. If you're planting these in ceramic pots, make sure the pots are frost resistant. We would love to hear about your garden and other horticultural projects so please do send us news, photographs or information about events to come, by email to doctorcarolmiller@gmail.com We look forward to hearing from you, Kerry Jenkins and Carol Miller (Editors).



Izzy Knowles

Introducing another member of our team...

Izzy is a retired neighbourhood Police Sergeant with 30 years experience in policing and five years with a homeless charity. She has also worked with children in care. Izzy volunteers with Moseley Farmers Market, ensures there are Christmas lights every year and created Moseley Litter Busters as well as being a trustee with MiB. She gets involved because she loves being out in the community, likes to learn what the issues are and be part of the solution and she finds it hard to say no! She was awarded a BEM in the 2022 New Years honours for 'services to the community in Moseley especially in response to Covid 19'. In May 2022 she was proud to be elected as one of Moseley's two ward Councillors.

Correction

In our August newsletter we acknowledged the donations of prizes for the Open Gardens raffle, but we failed to mention that a Frida Kahlo print was generously donated by **Seventh Circle - Artworks & Aesthetics Ltd**. We thank them and give our apologies for this omission.

Moseley Station works well underway

Moseley in Bloom's October meeting was attended by a representative from West Midlands Rail Executive, the programme sponsors, and a senior officer from the contractors who are undertaking the work on Moseley Station, Volker Fitzpatrick. The station is due to open towards the end of 2023 and already the contractors are considering how planting could enhance the environment of the Station. Some trees have already been cut down to clear land at the front of the Station and new trees will be needed to replace them.



We are not yet clear who will be responsible for planting and maintenance of any green spaces, but we are keen to know how the community will be consulted and the opportunities for involvement. On 10th November, representatives of Moseley groups, including Moseley in Bloom, together with our Moseley Councillors, donned hard hats and high viz outfits for a site meeting at the Station to have a look at the operation being carried out and to ask questions and gather information about the process and what the next steps will involve. More information will be shared so watch this space for further news.



Remembering Deborah Taylor

Our dear friend and Moseley in Bloom stalwart, Deborah Taylor, passed away on 1 November. This was not entirely unexpected as Deborah had a long illness that she had borne very bravely, but we are going to miss her terribly. Anyone who visited Deborah and David could see their passion for gardening. Filled with flowers, vegetables, fruit and chickens, they were delighted to share it with visitors and opened several times for Open Gardens. They were also happy to host refreshments, for which Deborah enlisted family members to make and serve cakes. Deborah was also instrumental in developing an orchard at Moseley Tennis Club and gave lots of time and energy to MiB's planting project around the perimeter of the former Meteor Ford garage (now M&S). She was always present when the RHS judges came and was pleased to promote our efforts at every opportunity. Gardening was not the only passion and Deborah worked professionally as a physiotherapist. She played tennis, enjoyed wild swimming and played the violin, amongst many other activities. Last year, Deborah and David moved from Moseley to a bungalow in the same village in Shropshire as their two daughters. They also have two sons and several grandchildren. We send our thoughts to all of them at this sad time and we will remember Deborah very fondly.



Deborah & David (photo courtesy Peter Leadbetter)

Water, water

A primary school in Birmingham is a proud beneficiary of one of Severn Trent Water's Sustainable Drainage System (SUDS) projects. Located in Great Barr, Calshot School and its surrounding area were often flooded in heavy rain. Large areas of Tarmac and the school's location on a hill meant that water rushed down and, with nowhere to go, built up in the car park and playground. Over the Summer holidays a major project made drainage and water collection possible and turned the school grounds into several new garden and seating areas with a beautiful new outdoor classroom. The Headteacher is thrilled as he can now pursue ambitions to further develop outdoor learning activities for the children. While not all schools can receive funding in this way, everyone can consider how water can be saved and used in gardens.



Weeding and litter picking

Moseley volunteers were very visible on the Green on 11 November. The regular Litter Busters were joined by volunteers from Moseley in Bloom who weeded round the railings to make way for the daffodils that will appear in Spring. Maintenance of all planted areas goes on all the year round and if you would like to join us for any sessions please contact us via the website.

Winter is coming

As the season gets colder and wetter, working in your garden doesn't seem much fun. It's still important to look after it at this time of year, however, to get it ready for spring. There aren't as many jobs as in earlier months, but you'll reap the rewards from spending some time when spring comes round and your garden bursts into bloom.

- Plant your tulips.
- Lift and store summer flowering bulbs and tubers.
- Cut back any perennials that have died down and prune roses.
- Protect tender plants and keep them warm with horticultural fleece or recycled bubble wrap.
- Replace any summer pots and baskets with evergreens and winter bedding plants.
- Store unopened bags of compost under cover to keep dry. Work any opened bags of compost into the garden to improve the soil.
- Clean and store barbecues and garden furniture in a shed or under cover over winter.
- Scrape mud off spades and forks and clean and oil metal blades on your tools before you put them away for winter.
- Keep sweeping up leaves and turn them into leaf mould.