



Thank you for all the support you have given to us over the past twelve months... we couldn't do it without you all and the interest you show in gardening and all things green in Moseley. We have also been overwhelmed by the supportive comments about our newsletter and hope to develop this further next year with a real focus on your ideas and stories. So please do continue sharing your items of news, information and planned events to come, with photos where possible to doctorcarolmiller@gmail.com. As this is our last newsletter of the year, we send our very best wishes for the festive season and wish you all a Happy Christmas and Best wishes for the coming New Year, from Kerry and Carol (Editors), our MiB Trustees and all of the MiB team.

Planter or no planter - that is the question

There are mixed feelings about Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and for the planters in particular, however, those on School Road seem to be popular with many of the local residents.

They appeared in October 2020, filled with soil and all ready to be planted. This was duly done by local people. A seat was added to each of them, funded by Jeff Vehicles Ltd and installed by Kevin Groves. These seats have proved enormously popular: a great resting place after a hard slog up the hill. They've also become a regular meeting place for many people and for school children before they walk to school together.

There were challenges when it was time for School Road to be resurfaced. Efforts were made to move the planters over two days, using increasingly powerful machines. In the end the road was resurfaced around them!

These planters have created many opportunities for gatherings and work parties were developed to put in the spring bulbs and herbs, donated by Urban Herbs and many other seasonal plants. Then there's dead heading, weeding and watering. Everyone has been welcome to help out. Children, especially have enjoyed getting involved.

The planters were decorated last Christmas and there was carol singing with mulled wine and mince pies. They were decorated for the jubilee celebrations too. We don't know what the future has in store for the planters but many of us have enjoyed having them in our lives, especially when Covid restrictions meant we could only meet up out of doors. In the meantime, there will be carol singing again at the planters this Christmas and we can, hopefully, look forward to spring flowers appearing before too long. (Wendy Weston, MiB Supporter)



BOSF Christmas Lecture

Birmingham Open Spaces Forum (BOSF) is an organisation, supported by the City Council, that brings together voluntary groups concerned with green spaces in the City. This includes Friends of parks and stations, allotment groups and other gardeners, including Bloom groups. On 7 December three members of Moseley in Bloom attended the BOSF annual lecture. It was given by Professor Dominique Moran from the University of Birmingham on 'Prison, Green Spaces and Health and Wellbeing'. While we all assume that green spaces are good for everyone, the Department of Justice needed evidence. Professor Moran's research found, among other things, that gardens and grass in prisons reduce prisoner self-harm and violence and reduce absence and stress among prison officers. We learned about very different cultures in prisons in different countries. Some, for example in Norway are out in the countryside, surrounded by trees, while many in the UK are mainly of concrete, with no green to be seen. To learn more about BOSF and its activities go to <https://bosf.org.uk> or to info@bosf.org.uk



Lighting up Moseley

Last weekend saw the tree lights on the green switched on by Moseley CDT's Lorna Brewster. Local residents, joined by Moseley Cllrs, all braved the cold, but were all kept well entertained with music from the Moseley Misfits providing a great musical backdrop for carol singing and festive cheer.

Moseley in Bloom and Moseley in Lights collaborate to raise money for these lights and we would like to thank all the businesses in Moseley who have donated to the lights fund. Their names can be found on our website at

<http://www.moseleyinbloom.org.uk/business-sponsorship/>

Planet Friendly Gardening - Compost



The rangers in Moseley Park have been busy making compost recently. The leaves that fall from the lovely trees have been gathered over several years and are now ready to use in the garden. The compost has been sieved and bagged up so that it looks like chocolate cake crumbs. Selling at £3 a bag you need to contact the rangers to buy some. Either go into the Park or contact the rangers via the Park website here - <https://www.moseleypark.co.uk> Your garden will love it!

Last few jobs before Christmas!

- Scoop fallen leaves and debris from ponds. leave on the side so pondlife can escape. then add to the compost bin
- Check tree ties and stakes are firm enough to stand up to winter storms
- Prune blackcurrants once dormant. removing about a quarter of the old stems
- Raise patio containers onto feet or bricks to avoid them sitting in the winter wet.
- Large tubs that are at risk of cracking in the frost should be covered with bubblewrap, hessian or fleece. to insulate them over the winter.
- Take tender plants and pots into the greenhouse or conservatory if possible.
- Apply a mulch to protect plants that are borderline hardy.
- Finish the autumn tidy-up of leaves from beds and borders if you have not already done so. It is especially important to clear leaves from alpines, as they will die off if covered in damp for any length of time.
- Keep tubs and containers tidy too. cutting back and removing debris regularly.



Photo courtesy of Izzy Knowles