



MOSELEY IN BLOOM / JAN 23

the blooming news



Welcome to the latest Moseley in Bloom newsletter and Happy New Year everyone! Here's to a cleaner, greener year ahead. We start the year with one of our favourite topics - composting. If you already have a compost heap, the information will help you to maintain it, if you do not, then perhaps you could make a New Year Resolution to start one. We would love to hear about your garden and other horticultural projects so please do send us news, photographs or information about future events to doctorcarolmiller@gmail.com or kerry.jenkins@blueyonder.co.uk. We very much look forward to hearing from you, Carol Miller and Kerry Jenkins (Editors).

Composting

Gardeners' World Magazine recently gave tips for keeping your compost going in Winter. It can be challenging to ensure that the rotting process continues in cold weather. Here's a summary of their suggestions:

- Cover the bin or compost heap to stop too much water getting in and to stop the heap getting too cold. For this, you can use sheets of cardboard or old carpets. Maintaining the relative warmth of the compost all winter helps to keep the worms happy.
- Add woody material to the compost in small pieces. If you have a shredder, use this to chop up the wood. This can speed decomposition and generate heat.
- Try to put in a roughly equal mix of moist and dry materials. Moist materials can include grass cuttings, vegetable peelings and tea leaves. Dry materials can include cardboard and paper shredding and small wood pieces.
- Turning or mixing the compost can be hard work but if you are able, do this to add air to the compost to speed the process.

For the full article go to: <https://www.gardenersworld.com/plants/five-steps-to-winter-compost/>



Christmas Tree recycling

Birmingham City Council has confirmed its tree recycling service – free of charge again this year. From January 1 to 24, trees will be accepted at the following locations (All of the disposal points are clearly identified close to the main entrance to each park):

- Lickey Hills Country Park (at Warren Lane)
- Sheldon Country Park (Old Rectory Farm off Ragley Drive)
- Sutton Park (Visitor Centre adjacent to Town Gate)
- Cotteridge Park (Next to the car park on Franklin Road, B30 2HF)

All of the trees collected will be chipped and retained within the UK to create biomass electricity.

The Hospice Charity Partnership also provides a collection and recycling service although this may now be finished. You can check on their website - <https://www.birminghamhospice.org.uk/>

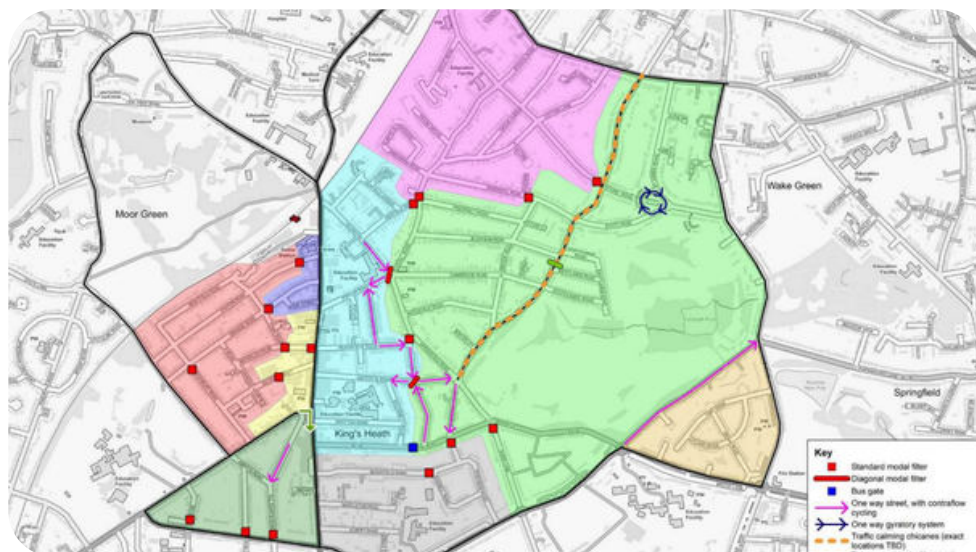


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Places for People (LTN's)

On 17 January the Cabinet will consider a report setting out the business case for the second phase of the Kings Heath and Moseley Places for People proposals. More details here:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/news/article/1256/creating_better_environments_for_communities



Places for People - final concept

First glimmers of Spring

Seeing a swathe of snowdrops is one way to brighten the winter months and you don't have to travel far to find some. We saw these in Highbury Park on 27 December. Despite the cold, these hardy little flowers can be found thriving in pastures, woods, ditches and orchards across the country from January to early March. After a cold spell their brilliant white petals and green leaves are a welcome sight. Any garden can accommodate snowdrops. You should plant freshly-lifted snowdrops when the foliage is just dying back in late spring or if this is not possible buy just after flowering when the leaves are still green. This is the next best way of establishing snowdrops.



Planet friendly gardening for 2023

Based on horticultural trends and gardener enquiries, the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) are predicting a move towards planet-friendly gardening. Are you looking at finding new ways to encourage more wildlife into your garden, trying innovative sustainable techniques to improve your soil and looking at ways to be more water-wise? We would love to hear about your plans. The RSPB have some great January gardening tips available here <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife/year-round-gardening/january/>



The Budding Geniuses

Did you know that Moseley in Bloom has a quiz team? The Budding Geniuses team was established in the early days of MiB and having gone through a number of transformations over the years, it frequently performs extremely well in quiz contests organised by the Moseley Society and The Eve Brook Charity. On 2 December, after a break of three years, due to the pandemic, the team came out of retirement for the Eve Brook Scholarship Fund. We acquitted ourselves quite well, coming seventh out of about thirty teams - but we obviously need more practice to restore our former glory.



Open Gardens 2023

We have some exciting news! Open Gardens 2023 will take place on Sunday 25 June. Put the date in your diary and we will have more information to share in our next newsletter.

Tree Maintenance

The council have been out and undertaken some maintenance to the trees on the green. The original plan was for them to be pruned in September last year but this was postponed. They couldn't do the three trees with lights on but they did the two smaller ones. We are hoping that they can come back soon to trim the remaining trees.