



MOSELEY IN BLOOM / APR 2023

the blooming news



Welcome to the Moseley in Bloom's Newsletter. Spring is here but we are still experiencing really changeable weather. We hope you managed to get out in the garden last week with the sunny days we had and we are looking forward to welcoming back the warmer weather. Do let us know what you have planned for your garden and any other horticultural projects you hear about. Please do send us news, photographs or information about events to come to doctorcarolmiller@gmail.com. We are seeing some great images on Twitter of gardens across Moseley so please do tag us in [@moseleyinbloom](https://twitter.com/moseleyinbloom). We look forward to hearing from you, Carol Miller and Kerry Jenkins, Joint Editors.

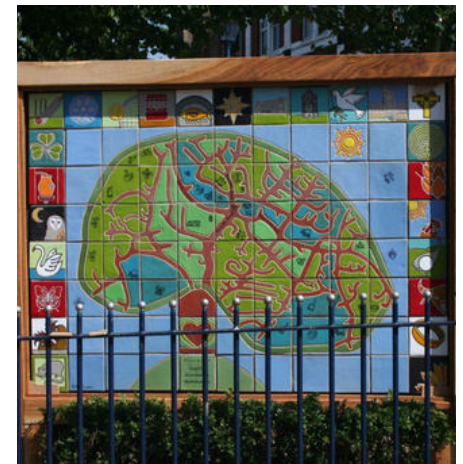
Pop up Plant Sale

Our pop up plant sales are back! The next one will be on Sunday 23 April 2-4pm at St Columba's Church on the corner of Alcester Road and Chantry Road, B13 8DD. As the weather improves we know gardeners will be taking cuttings, dividing plants and sowing seeds. If you have any spares, please consider donating them to us. From Monday 17 April, donations of plants, seedlings and paraphernalia can be dropped off at 15 Thornley Close B13 9UQ. Or bring them on the day to the sale. Note - donations must be easily portable. Further information from doctorcarolmiller@gmail.com



Have you noticed the Moseley Map?

The Moseley Village Map can be found on The Green at St Mary's Row by the bus stop. The map was commissioned by Moseley in Bloom from Samantha McEwan, a local artist. It was installed in 2013 and we unveiled it when the Heart of England in Bloom Judges came. It is an attractive piece of art with symbolic representation of Moseley in the form of an oak tree. The roads form the trunk, branches and twigs. Around the edge of the map are feature tiles that highlight Moseley's history, green spaces, people, societies, pubs, shops and restaurants. We think it deserves to be noticed and we plan to give it a face lift and clean up and we need to cut away some of the hedge that obscures part of the map. There is also a QR code in the bottom right hand corner that takes you to the Moseley in Bloom website. Do give it a go and watch out for our volunteers when they come to rejuvenate the Map!



Find Moseley in Bloom on Facebook and Twitter - [@moseleyinbloom](https://twitter.com/moseleyinbloom) and on Instagram - [@moseley_in_bloom](https://www.instagram.com/moseley_in_bloom) and more information is available on our website at <https://www.moseleyinbloom.org.uk/>

Urban Herbs

If you are a Farmers Market regular, you may have seen the Urban Herbs stall run by Andy Perry, a good friend of Moseley in Bloom. There is a significant feature article about Urban Herbs in the latest RHS magazine, The Garden and Andy has authored a new book, The Herb Gardening Handbook. The book describes how you can grow herbs, use them and make them look amazing regardless of the space available. Projects such as The Cocktail Herb Garden and Pizza Pantry Garden are informed by Urban Herbs' experience touring food festivals in the UK. The Bee Buffet project provides an opportunity to cater for bees. Beginners, as well as more experienced gardeners will learn new tips and tricks on how to make the most of herbs. The book, as well as herbs, will be on sale at the Farmers Market on 29 April.

Open Gardens – 25 June

Preparations for Open Gardens are well underway and our Moseley in Bloom volunteers have been undertaking visits to all the gardens that have offered to be part of our annual event. Alongside the garden owners, our volunteers have been preparing descriptions to go into the Garden Guide. We are allowed about 40 words per garden to write a piece to entice people to visit! It can be quite a challenge when some gardens have so many varied and wonderful features. You might like to think how you would describe your garden. Is it 'manicured', 'colourful', 'child-friendly', 'calm'? We would love to have more information about Moseley gardens for our newsletter, together with a photograph and a description. There's no need to give an address, or your name if you don't want to. We know that there are lots of gardens in Moseley that are worth a look, even though they won't be open to the public.

Alternatively, please send a picture of a special part of your garden, or a favourite plant to feature in our newsletter. We look forward to seeing more of our Moseley Gardens!



Top tips for your gardens from the National Trust

1 Weeding and mulching - Spring is an important time for getting on top of weeds before they take light and water from the plants you want. You can also mulch your borders in early spring, provided the soil is moist, and there is still space to get in between the plants.

2 Pruning hydrangeas - It's time to prune hydrangeas. Look for a set of healthy strong buds and then cut the old flower heads back to just above them. For mature or congested plants you can also take out some of the older growth to encourage it to reshoot from the base.

3 Looking out for wildlife - When you're gardening at this time of year, take care not to disturb nesting birds and always check carefully for them before pruning hedges or shrubs. When you tidy and cut back winter growth in spring, remember there may be insects and amphibians living there or even a hedgehog hibernating.

4 Leaving the lawn for pollinators - Spring is the time when we start mowing our lawns but you may decide to join the growing trend of leaving all or parts of it uncut for a few weeks at a time. This will allow clover, daisies and other species to flower and provide nectar and pollen for bees and other pollinating insects.



BBC Let it grow

On 27 March the BBC launched Let it Grow a, collaboration between BBC Children's and Education and BBC Radio 2 to help everyone transform grey spaces into wild and colourful places! Viewers and listeners will be encouraged to re-purpose pots, pans and pallets to get planting and bring brightness to wherever they live. For more information on BBC programmes in the Let it Grow initiative go to:

<https://www.bbc.com/mediacentre/2023/let-it-grow-childrens-and-education-bbc-radio-2>



Sunflower Challenge

Together TV is a charity and a community owned channel available in 15 million households across the UK. They have launched a Sunflower Challenge, an initiative that uses entry-level gardening to help people boost their wellbeing and connect with others. You can access the Toolkit that includes lots more information here:

<https://www.togethertv.com/together-tv-sunflower-challenge-2023-toolkit>