

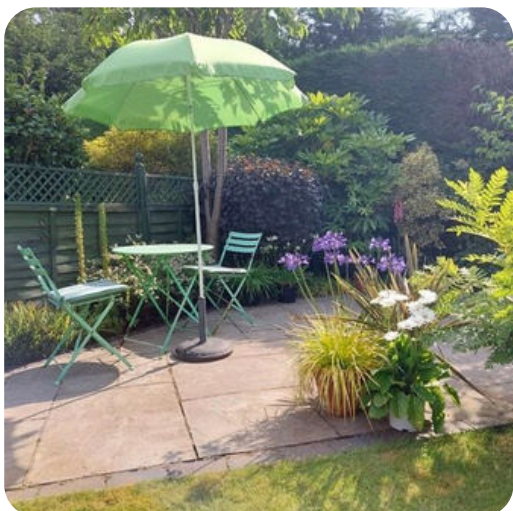
Can you believe we are already half way through February? The weather has been colder but we are still managing to avoid the frost and snow that other parts of the country have experienced. Promises of a milder week ahead might give us a chance to get out and potter doing some pruning and tidying ahead of Spring. Members of Moseley in Bloom will be having a weed and tidy up on Sunday 18th and will be on the green from 9:30am. Be great to have some extra hands. We will include an update in our March newsletter. As usual, we would love to hear what you are up to and stories and photos can be emailed to doctorcarolmiller@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you, Carol Miller and Kerry Jenkins, Joint Editors.

******* Save the date... Sunday June 30th - Open Gardens 2024 *******

As the new gardening season approaches we are already preparing for this year's event and would like to invite you to open your garden on Sunday June 30th. We are looking for a range of gardens spread throughout Moseley both large and small and varied in style. You may be an Open Gardens newbie or have shared your plot with us before. Everyone is welcome. Previous openers have really enjoyed the atmosphere of this special day in the Moseley calendar. To join in and for more information then follow this link: <https://moseleyinbloom.org.uk/2024/call-for-gardens>

My 2024 garden - Jenny Brewer

Someone recently asked me if I had a winter garden. My immediate response was 'no', but then I considered. My garden was relandscaped in 2006, using some of the existing large shrubs and adding new stock. Mainly evergreen and year-round good lookers make sure I always have a lovely green view from my conservatory. Having checked how my garden has overwintered, it is not looking too bad, a bit soggy and could do with some more clement weather. Then a note reminding me to order my Green Bin for 2024 arrived and got me looking forward to the 2024 year. I have decided my garden is not at its best in the winter but looks good in May, through June and into early July. It is a decorative garden. I don't grow veg and the like but admire those who do, so I always add to my green view with annual and strong colours, mainly in pots, easy to move around as needed to fill those unexpected holes in a border where something has suddenly failed, turned up its toes when you weren't looking. Here are a few pictures to enjoy. Hope you make the most of your 2024 garden.



Birdwatch!

Did you count the birds you saw for the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch in January? After our piece on the waxwings at Windermere Fields last month, the Guardian had a feature reporting that these 'spectacular migratory, mohican-sporting birds' were spotted across Britain during the colder weather and would be recorded in the Birdwatch. When the results are out, it will be interesting to see how the numbers compare with previous years and which other bird species have been noted. Data from the RSPB Birdwatch has traced the numbers of bird species in gardens, parks and urban areas, with 38 million fewer birds in our skies than almost half a century ago. We would be very interested to know whether you spotted anything in particular.



Moseley Planters

Our volunteers go above and beyond to create planting that brings joy to Moseley residents but apparently not to all. Someone just couldn't resist breaking off the stake from the sign on a planter outside the Post Office in Moseley. Helpfully, they left the sign - they just needed a nice stick - so **Trevor Hocking** has now stuck it to the planter. We are hoping the adhesive will survive the weather and the sign will remain in place.



We would be very grateful if people would keep an eye on it for us and let us know if anything goes wrong.

Thanks again to Trevor for his persistence! Thanks also

to **Sara Cummins** who regularly plants up the pot located at the end of Laburnum Grove. Unfortunately the little Christmas tree was recently pulled out and taken but has now been replaced by some spring bulbs. Please keep your eyes peeled!

Planting

We are still a little way away from spring but it's clear that we are moving towards it. Snowdrops are flowering and many other bulbs are already showing their heads. February can be a good time to get sowing and according to Charles Dowding, a horticulturalist dedicated to telling others about good practice, the best start date is after Valentines Day when light is increasing fast. You can start pruning shrubs like rhododendrons and clematis now. Prune mahonia, winter jasmine, and forsythia after flowering. You can also prune roses now to encourage a bushier shape. Mulch the roots of all these plants with a good layer of compost too. Fruit trees like apple and pear should be pruned now while still dormant. Pruning any later than February may cause damage to the tree so sharpen the blade and cut branches that are crossed or unwieldy. You can find plenty of useful information on his website, including a handy sowing timeline for vegetables.

<https://www.charlesdowding.co.uk/education/sowing-timeline>

Learn Kokedama!

We recently mentioned a new stall, Tranquil Plants, that had come to the Farmers Market. Stefan, the proprietor has teamed up with Remi from Maison Mayci to run a workshop at the cafe on how to make Kokedama houseplants.

More info including pricing can be found at <https://www.tranquilplants.co.uk>



Welcoming new members!

Recently, the Moseley in Bloom group have welcomed some new members and we plan to introduce them in the coming months. In this newsletter, we would like to welcome Caroline...

"My name is Caroline and we Germans have always been admirers of British garden culture. I myself am used to having just small planting spaces and enjoy finding ways around it, for example, with these DIY planters that were built one weekend from ducting pipes. And this is my bike, recently locked up at Selly Manor to a super heavy PlantLock Planter! This seems to be a great idea. Will we be seeing more of them - perhaps in Moseley?"

