



the blooming news



Welcome to the newsletter for April and now the clocks have gone forward we can dream of some sunshine and longer days. We hope you have found time to ready your gardens as Spring sees lots of new plant life emerging with tulips and daffodils filling our gardens with colour and providing much needed nectar for our bees. If you have any items of news, photographs or information about events to come please do let us know by sending an email to Carol at doctorcarolmiller@gmail.com. Don't forget our Open Gardens is on 30th June - more information next month!
Kerry Jenkins and Carol Miller (Editors).

AGM

Moseley in Bloom's AGM was on 10 April. the meeting was well-attended at the Hive, and members and guests heard our Chair Sabreena Mahrouf give an account of our recent activities, fully illustrated with beautiful slides. Jonathan Smith the Treasurer, reported on our financial good health and following that, Laura Hackett, of the Active Wellbeing Society told us about FAFF - a Free and Fair Food sharing scheme that encourages households to grow edible plants. A full report will be available soon.



Pop Up Sale

Our first sale of the year will be on 21 April at the Dovecote on Alcester Road from 2 - 4pm. We have lots of plants ready, all grown in or near Moseley. Do come and if you have surplus plants or 'garden paraphernalia' then please bring them along. During the sale the Dovecote and the Cow House will be open to visit and people will be free to wander round the garden.

PLAN BEE developments

You may remember last year our story about Plan Bee on Trafalgar Road. Residents planted flowers, fruit trees and bushes to encourage wildlife, especially bees and create a better living environment. We've now been active over the past few weeks to protect the six fruit trees in the park and play area and develop three new beds, one by the park entrance and two outside Housing Association houses. It's easy to do, using our own plants and helps develop a sense of community and care for our living space. Try it yourselves - you don't need many people to become an urban garden community group. *David Isgrove*



RHS Big Seed Sow

Thousands of schools and groups joined the RHS Big Seed Sow in 2023. This year it's back and even bigger. Between Monday 29 April – Sunday 12 May there will be a nationwide sowing celebration. The Big Seed Sow kicks off the RHS's new programme, 'Grow With It'. Each year Grow With It will focus on a different theme to help people grow for a purpose. This year it's water -how to save water, how we access water and most importantly the impact of this on the planet. You can sign up now to get your free Grow With It welcome pack, complete with five varieties of seed! By taking part, you'll have the chance to join RHS for the Big Seed Sow in spring and the Big Seed Save in autumn. Your pack will also provide advice around saving water, and you'll also get access to fun activities to see you through the year, delivered straight to your inbox. Sign up at rhs.org.uk/growwithit



GARDENERS - PLEASE READ THIS !



NOW THAT HEDGEHOGS ARE COMING OUT OF HIBERNATION - AT THE SAME TIME AS GARDENERS BEGIN TIDYING UP AFTER WINTER, WE ARE SEEING A DRAMATIC INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF HEDGEHOGS BEING INFLICTED WITH HORRIFIC INJURIES CAUSED BY STRIMMERS AND LAWNMOWERS, INCLUDING SERIOUS CUTS TO SCALPS AND BODIES, SNOUTS AND EARS CUT OFF, INJURIES TO LEGS etc. - ALL OF WHICH CAN LEAD TO A PROLONGED AND PAINFUL DEATH, AND ALL OF WHICH CAN BE EASILY AVOIDED.

PLEASE PLEASE **PLEASE** - CHECK THE AREA FOR ANY HEDGEHOGS THAT MIGHT BE SLEEPING THERE BEFORE STARTING TO STRIM OR MOW LONG GRASS.

IMAGINE HOW BAD YOU WILL FEEL IF YOU CAUSE A HEDGEHOG TO SUFFER IN THIS WAY

WHEN ALL IT TAKES A FEW MINUTES TO CHECK - BEFORE STARTING WORK.

THANK YOU.

Selly Park Garden Club

Our meeting on 14th May is on Climate Change and Our Gardens with Simon Gulliver. Simon is a well known speaker coming from a background at the National Trust. The Talk will be at our usual meeting place in the Cranmer Room, of St Stephen's Church, Serpentine Road, Selly Park, B29 7HU. Entry Fee is £3.50 in cash with refreshments after the talk. We will also be selling any unwanted plants, seedlings if anyone wants to bring anything along. Further information from: Liz Simcox, Selly Park Garden Club chair 07904974567

My Favourite Plant This Month - Notes from a Moseley Garden

Spring is here, sing the birds. Everywhere you go - tulips and daffodils, blooming camellias and cherries, brand new pale green leaves gathering strength each day for the summer ahead. My garden is no exception. So many bright stars to look at but one plant announces itself quietly and unexpectedly, making me stop to take a good look at my Bergenia 'Angel Kiss' (Dragonfly Series). It sits at the front of one of my borders, an evergreen handsome mound of shiny mid-green leathery leaves which turn deep burgundy as the autumn temperatures drop. In April, heads of white tubular flowers, each held in a reddish-pink calix, open above the leaves, tinging intense pink as they age - a precious sight to behold. Bergenia is an overlooked genus, in my opinion, but made up of excellent year round reliable, unfussy players, providing colour and texture in the most difficult of garden situations. They come into their own in the bare months of winter and early spring, and allow the divas to shine the rest of the year. No garden should be without them. *Emilia Prodanova (Opens for MIB Open Gardens)*



Bergenia 'Angel Kiss' (Dragonfly Series)

**My Country
Diary of an
Edwardian Lady
Journey**
talk by Rachel Smith-Chopra

Tuesday 28th May 2024, 2 till 3pm
followed by refreshments

Moseley Exchange
149 – 153 Alcester Rd
Birmingham. B13 8JP

in collaboration with
THE MOSELEY SOCIETY

- ❖ *How I became interested in the book and author*
- ❖ *Events that I have organised*
- ❖ *Over to you and Your Country Diary items (please do bring a related product if you have one)*
- ❖ *Edith Holden Trails*

"It's reassuring to know that these plants still grow in our garden and provides nourishment for the visiting bees and us, in 2024."

SAVE

THE

DATE

**MIB
OPEN
GARDENS**

**SUNDAY
30TH
JUNE**