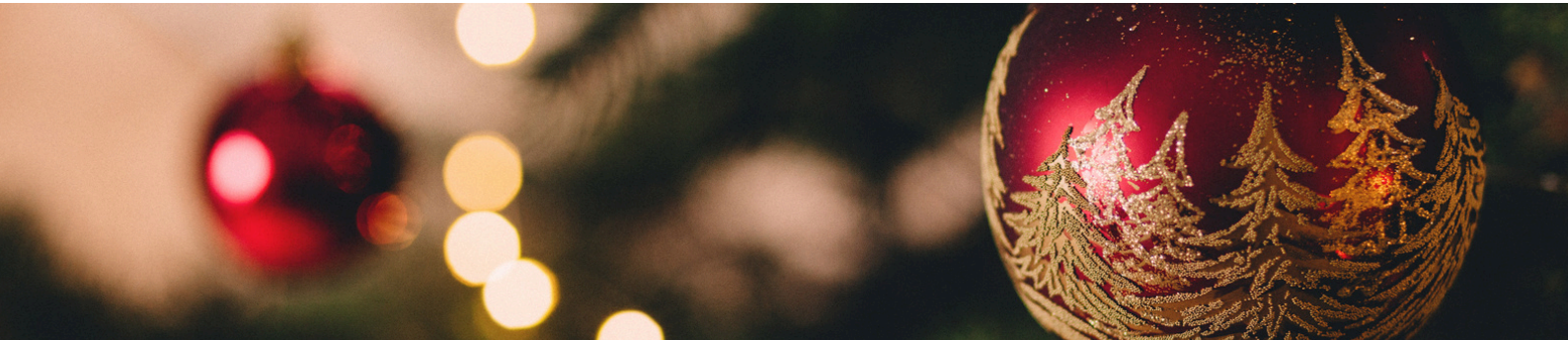




MOSELEY IN BLOOM / DEC 2024

# the blooming news



## A message from our Chair, Sabreena Mahroof

A big thank you to our Trustees and all of our volunteers for the contribution they have made over the past year to the work of Moseley in Bloom. Also huge thanks to all businesses and individual sponsors who support our fundraising efforts for the summer florals. We just could not do it with you! Enjoy your winter gardening and I wish you a very Merry Christmas and Festive Season.

## Goodbye and Good Luck Lorna!

We are wishing a fond farewell to Lorna Brewster who has been the wonderful Chief Officer of Moseley Community Development Trust for the past eight years. Lorna's contribution to Moseley has been enormous. She has been so creative and influential. In fact, she has had her fingers, very positively, in nearly every Moseley pie. Among many other things, during Covid, with our Councillors, she set up the huge network of volunteers who helped in so many ways around our community. Perhaps Lorna's most concrete legacy for Moseley has been in the organisation of the purchase and development of the Hive. It is now well established as a resource for many activities and events and still continues to embrace more. We will miss Lorna and we send her enormous thanks for her work and we wish her well in all her future projects. While we are sad to lose Lorna, we are also delighted to welcome Lucy Kenny, the new Chief Officer, and we all look forward to working with her.



Outgoing Chief Officer of the Moseley Community Development Trust (CDT) Lorna Brewster

## Moseley in Bloom Winter Wreath Workshop

Florist Katy of Bloom Collective led this workshop on 2 December. Twelve people enjoyed mulled wine, mince pies and conversation in abundance as they wound wreaths of seasonal foliage to adorn their doors during this festive time. The results look wonderful and the whole event raised funds for Moseley in Bloom. Fiona Kessedjian



Find Moseley in Bloom on Facebook and X - @moseleyinbloom and on Instagram - @moseley\_in\_bloom and more information is available on our website at <https://www.moseleyinbloom.org.uk/>



## Eve Brook Scholarship Quiz

Moseley in Bloom was able to enter two teams this year for the Eve Brook Scholarship fundraising quiz. As usual, the Budding Geniuses were there and although we didn't win - three teams had equal marks of 55 at the top and the Budding Geniuses had 54! We are not sure therefore if we were second or fourth out of more than 20 teams but it was a great effort. Our other team, the Floral Florists were awarded Gold Coins for their magnificent effort in coming last. Well done everyone!

## Green Birmingham

Did you know that Birmingham is one of the cities in the world with the most trees and has more green spaces than any other European city? We are the UN Tree City of the World. Think of the parks and open spaces nearby. We have Kings Heath, Highbury, Moseley and Swanshurst parks and Moseley Bog just a step away and we can all think of many others just a little further. We also are well endowed with street trees and this is as a result of the tree planting programme started by Joseph Chamberlain in the 1870s when he was Mayor. Today the tree-planting continues as does the monitoring and replacement of trees that are no longer safe. Several organisations support the Council's work, including The Tree People, Birmingham Trees for Life and Birmingham Open Spaces Forum, many of whose members are Friends of various parks and open spaces. Long may it continue!

## Birmingham Open Spaces Forum (BOSF) Christmas Lecture

On 10 December four Moseley in Bloom members attended the annual lecture organised for BOSF members. The speaker was Professor Silvia Gullino from Birmingham City University. Wondering why the beautiful Eastside Park outside the University is so little used by students, Professor Gullino engaged students to explore this question and reimagine the Park as a learning and recreational space to enhance well-being. While learning research methods, the students interviewed people to ask what facilities they would like to see. Perhaps unsurprisingly, in the context of Autumn weather, a popular response was the need for 'heated learning spaces' with laptop charging facilities and outdoor games and activities. Who knows whether any of these ideas will be realised but perhaps when the Park is released from its trap between HS2 developments and adjacent roadworks it will be more fully appreciated. Meanwhile, you can see more about the student projects in their Innovation Fest that will run from 19-23 May 2025 at the beautiful STEAM house at BCU.

## Planning and Planting for 2025

Moseley in Bloom people are now thinking of activities for next year. As well as celebrating our 20th Anniversary - watch out for more on this - and running our popular Pop up Plant Sales, it is proposed that we set the second Sunday of each month (or third Sunday if weather dictates) from 10-12 o'clock for gardening, planting, weeding, sweeping and other tasks. The activities will depend on the number of volunteers each time. and new helpers are always welcome.

## Successful Sale

Last month a local gardener advertised manure for sale in this Newsletter. She was pleased to report that very quickly, all 20 bags were sold. If you have plants or garden-related materials to sell or give away, think about advertising in the Blooming News. It works!



Our MiB Quizzers had a great night!

## My favourite spot...

Our garden is the standard size on our street. But the genius couple who lived here before transformed it into a spacious outdoor area, lush with evergreen foliage. Instead of an extension or conservatory, our home has what I think of as an "open extension", which is really just a transparent covered terrace spanning the width of the house. It's my favourite spot. Great conditions for growing tomatoes, hanging laundry, barbecuing and not getting rained on. I sit here, and the pergola-like structures draw the eye up, and leafy palm trees make neighbouring houses and grey skies disappear.

Caroline Edwards



**Merry Christmas and a happy New year from us all at MiB!**

