



# The Blooming News

August 2025



## Kerry Jenkins

With great sadness we say goodbye to our friend Kerry Jenkins, who died after a short illness on 31 July. Since 2014, Kerry had been one of the Moseley Councillors and for several years she was a member of the Moseley in Bloom group. She volunteered with us in many ways, perhaps most prominently as the designer of this Newsletter.

I was always amazed at the speed and efficiency with which she put it together. Over a month I usually collect items of interest together with photos taken by Moseley in Bloom people and our supporters. Always conscious that Kerry was busy with her 'day job' and her Councillor work I would send a quick message to check that she would be able to do the layout of the Blooming News. A reply would usually come saying 'yes, send it over'. Incredibly, within a few hours the Newsletter would come back with words and pictures, beautifully arranged in the colourful style we have become used to.

We managed to produce a Newsletter in June when Kerry was unwell but we decided last month to take a break. We now hope that we can continue the great work that Kerry started by producing a bright monthly newsletter again.

We will miss her for so many reasons and we send our love to Kerry's family at this very sad time.

Carol Miller, Editor



**Moseley in Bloom is seeking a volunteer to support the development of our newsletter and help run a social media campaign. If you've a flair for writing, a good eye for detail, and an interest in sharing local stories and events, we'd love to hear from you.**



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/>

## The Lord Mayor of Birmingham's Charity Grant

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded a grant of £1,400 from the Lord Mayor of Birmingham's Charity. As part of our 20th Anniversary activities, Moseley in Bloom has plans to buy additional planters for floral displays to complement those already in place. Further, to support sustainable watering, we want to provide water butts for the new planters.



We hope that by installing water butts around Moseley, we will encourage businesses and residents to take part in the maintenance of plants around the village. The award from the Lord Mayor will help us to pay for the planters and water butts and once they are installed we will work with local people to encourage them to nurture the plants. We are very grateful to Jack Wilson for his help with the application for this grant. Watch out for new planters and water butts in Moseley!

## BOSF 20th Anniversary Event

Moseley in Bloom is not the only organisation celebrating its 20th birthday. Birmingham Open Spaces Forum is also 20 this year. BOSF marked the occasion with an Evening of Memories, attended by the Lord Mayor, Councillor Zafar Iqbal, on 17 July, with many of the original members, representing Friends of parks, stations and allotments. They gave short presentations explaining the origins of their groups and how BOSF had helped in their activities. BOSF has also had a wider effect, being a critical partner of Birmingham City Council and in helping to set up the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces. BOSF has been nominated this year for a Community Inspiration Award and we await the result in September.

The last speaker was Eddie Curry, Interim Head of Parks and Green Spaces in Birmingham who spoke about plans for development. There is an important data collection exercise going on that will influence decisions. It will be important for BOSF to be well informed on these

Altogether this was a celebration that confirmed the importance of volunteers to the development of Birmingham as a Green City.



### Storage - can you help?

We are still looking for storage for all our equipment. As we said last month, our resources are currently scattered across the homes of our members. Does anyone know of a possible storage space that would be secure but accessible when needed for our events and gardening activities? Please let us know if you have any suggestions.

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# Open Gardens 2025, Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June

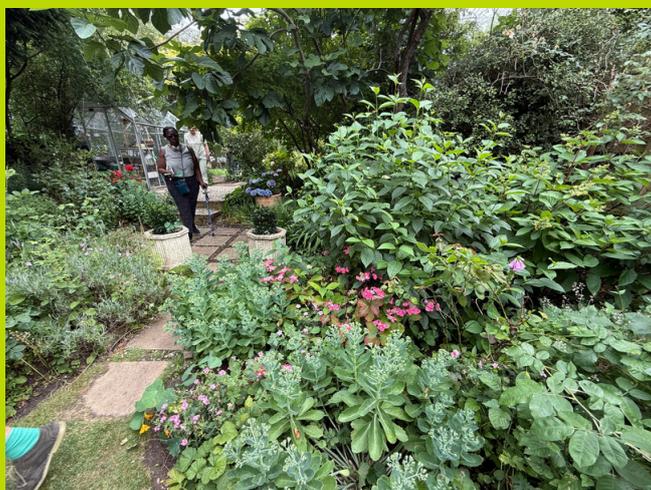
To our great relief the day dawned fine and soon nearly 900 people were on the streets of Moseley visiting some, or in a few cases, all, of the 18 open gardens. They walked, cycled, drove or took the Blooming Bus, this year operated by Aziz Coaches. One opener kept a tally showing that an incredible 504 people had enjoyed their garden – fortunately not all at the same time!



Moseley gardens are truly amazing and there was lots to see, ranging from the wild to the more manicured. The dry weather of the preceding weeks had seemingly not had too great an impact, although people commented that some plants that would normally have been in flower were already over whilst vegetables were ready for harvest before expected. It was clear that the owners had been hard at work for months.



Visitors watched artists at work in some gardens and enjoyed listening to music in others but their primary purpose was to see what lay behind garden gates and, maybe, gain inspiration for their own plots. Children were well catered for with activities at several gardens, including St Martin de Porres school where people enjoyed exploring the grounds and discovering how horticulture and a love of nature are incorporated into the curriculum.



Many thanks to everyone for making Open Gardens 2025 an undoubted success. Just over £10,500 was raised - our highest total ever. The money will go towards our many projects, including the Floral Displays in Moseley.



This year has been my last as Chair of the Open Gardens committee and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at the helm. We are fortunate that Bridget Langstaff (this year's volunteers' co-ordinator) has agreed to lead next year. I wish her well as she takes up this role working towards the 2026 event. We look forward to welcoming you all then.

Kate Stocks

## Celebrating Our Projects and Partnerships

As I approach the end of my tenure as Chair of Moseley in Bloom in March 2026, I've found myself reflecting on what we've achieved together. It's been a privilege to help shape the direction of this wonderful group, and I'm incredibly proud of the many partnerships and projects we've nurtured under my leadership.

From our strong ties with local organisations like Anawim, The Moseley Society, York Supplies, and ChangeKitchen, to growing collaborations with BOSOF, DATUS, Moseley Park and Pool and the NHS at Moseley Hall Hospital, our reach has expanded across the community.

We've run regular pop-up plant sales, hosted seasonal events, and strengthened our planting programme across Moseley village. A particular joy has been our flourishing partnership with Anawim, including the loo bed transformation and garden group activities. Our growing work with local schools, now led by Lindsay Shepperd, is another legacy I'm proud of.

As we look ahead to 2026, Moseley in Bloom will be looking for a new Chair to carry this work forward – someone ready to bring their own energy and ideas to the role. If that might be you, I'd love to talk.

Sabreena Mahroof



## Disappearing seats

From time to time, we have reported on the planters that form road blocks in the Low Traffic Neighbourhoods. The planters on School Road have been well tended by Wendy Weston and others and in the early stages, seats were added to them. The seats have been appreciated and well used by young and old who have benefitted from them to rest and socialise. To the dismay of many neighbours, the seats have been removed. Contractors appeared recently to replace the damaged bollard between the planters and then took away the seats. Why? There was no consultation with residents in the area and we know that many will be very sad to lose them. Furthermore, when we went a couple of days after the removal to do some tidying of the planters, we were shocked to find the rusty screws from the seats had been left on top of the compost. Information and comment on any of this would be appreciated.



**We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Radley Russell for stepping in as Guest Co-Editor.**

## Sheer Summer Delight: Moseley's Floral Displays

We do hope you have enjoyed our floral displays this year with their strong colours and delightful drape and flounce. We hope to have lifted your spirits as you make your way through the centre of Moseley.

They will be with us until September and are only made possible by the money Moseley in Bloom raises every year so thank you so much to our committee and volunteers, our Friends, our Sponsors, our Open Gardeners and everyone else who is involved.

Please keep giving so we can continue our work delivering the floral displays, contributing to the Christmas lights, supporting our public planting efforts and our schools initiatives.

Jenny Brewer



## A Picnic in the Park

From time to time we are asked to talk to organisations about Moseley in Bloom. The invitation was a little different on 10th August when the Balsall Heath and Moseley Women's Institute asked if we would meet them for their Summer picnic and tell them more about Moseley in Bloom. They had been generous in making bunting for the Open Gardens event and we send a blooming big thank you to Jen and friends for this.

The garden openers were thrilled to receive this gorgeous handiwork and they helped to make the day truly memorable. Some of the WI members had visited the gardens and we were very keen to tell them about our many other activities. Our usual slide show was not possible in Moseley Park and instead, on a very hot afternoon Sabreena and Carol joined them on the ground, under the trees, passing round pictures and documents relating to Moseley in Bloom over the past 20 years. A lovely way to spend an afternoon and we hope to develop further links with the WI.



Artwork by Radley Russell