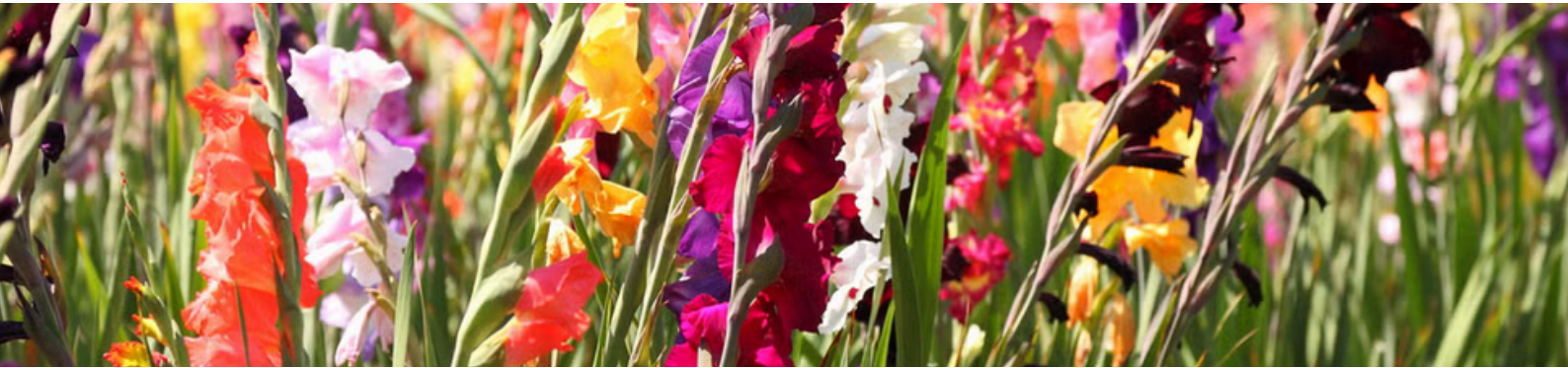




the blooming news

FEBRUARY 2026



Happy February! After a short break, we're back with lots to share in this bumper edition, and we hope you enjoy. If you have a story to share, then please do send an email to Carol at doctorcarolmiller@gmail.com. Many thanks, Carol Miller and Charlotte Jenkins.



Hand-me-down tools!

Our planting projects across Moseley rely on safe, sturdy tools that can be used by volunteers of all ages and abilities. Hand trowels and hand forks are especially important helping us plant pollinator-friendly flowers, maintain beds and support biodiversity across the village. We're asking our community to support us in providing hand tools. If you're having a spring clean or clearing out your shed, your spare tools could make a real difference. Every tool donated means more of our limited charity funds can go directly into plants, soil, and community projects. If you have good-quality hand trowels or hand forks to pass on, you can drop them off in the labelled boxes at...

Moseley Exchange, 149-153 Alcester Road, B13 8JP
Monday to Fridays: 9am to 6pm

The Jungle Club, 134 Alcester Road, B13 8EE
Saturdays and Sundays: 10am to 4pm

Welcome to Moseley - or is it Bartley Green?

Over the years you may have noticed the Welcome to Moseley signs on the Alcester Road by Queensbridge School, towards Balsall Heath by Louise Lorne Road and one down Salisbury Road at the junction with Edgbaston Road. More recently there have been only two signs as the one at Louise Lorne Road was damaged and removed but never reinstated.

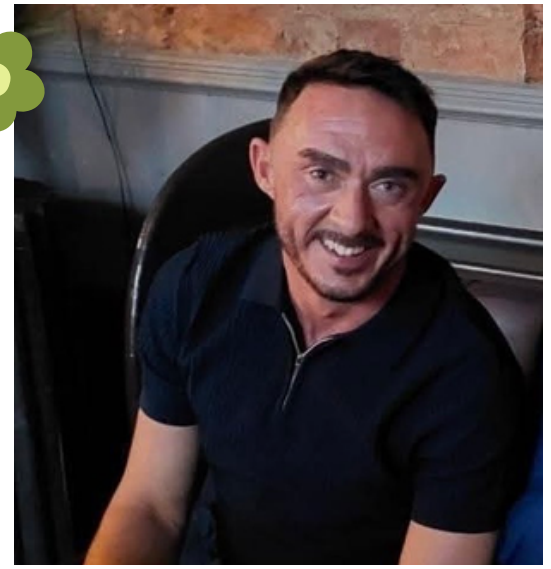
In the early days of Moseley in Bloom, additional signs were attached, below the main Moseley sign, recording our gold medals with Britain in Bloom and those won by the Farmers Market. Early in January we spotted that at the Queensbridge Road Welcome sign, our sign for Bloom and the Farmers Market awards has been removed and replaced with one saying Home of Birmingham Newman University that is, in fact, in Bartley Green. Further, each 'Welcome' sign has two installed brackets to hold a floral box each year. Whoever changed the sign has also taken away one of the brackets...

Councillor Izzy Knowles said she was 'absolutely flabbergasted no one in the Council has even questioned this or sought to find out about the MIB/MFM signage they have removed. I'm really annoyed they have done this. Newman Uni isn't anywhere near Moseley, totally bonkers!' Izzy is on the case and if anyone knows anything about this mystery, please get in touch.



Volunteer profile: Adam Styler

After first volunteering with Moseley in Bloom many years ago, I'm thrilled to be back and supporting once again. I'm currently developing our social and PR strategy to help us build stronger connections with residents, volunteers and local businesses. It's an exciting time for the charity and I am looking forward to helping more people discover the joy and impact of getting involved. *Adam is pictured on the right.*



RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch 2026 in Moseley...

Every January the RSPB runs its Big Garden Birdwatch, gathering information from across the country on the birdlife of the UK. As a lover of wildlife it is something I do each year.

I was not hopeful for the first ten minutes or so. Heavy rain meant all I saw were a couple of pigeons sheltering in the trees.

I thought it would be a long hour. Happily, the weather and my fortunes took a turn for the better. Sitting quietly with nature always brings rewards: the iridescent green of an inquisitive magpie; a flock of wintering redwing settling in nearby trees, possibly contemplating their return flight to Scandinavia; the fluff ball of a long-tailed tit; a robin providing the background music.

There were also hints of spring: two blue tits prospecting for a nesting site, a blackbird couple turning over leaves and a highlight that made me giggle - the rain stopped and the pigeons started mating! Graeme Hodges



Multi-talented volunteers!

When we held our 20th Anniversary celebration last year, we were delighted with the facilities at St Annes Hall. There was a newly-installed kitchen and the premises were in the process of being re-decorated - by a group of women, including our very own Kate Stocks and Bridget Langstaff. They are not only gardeners but also painters! *Kate and Bridget are pictured on the left.*



Save the dates!

Moseley in Bloom AGM, 7.30pm, Monday 30 March.
The Council Room, St Anne's Hall, Park Hill B13 8DX.
All are welcome. Refreshments will be served!

Open Gardens 2026, Sunday 28 June.
Please find more information below, along with a link to apply if you would like to participate this year!

We are looking for a wide variety of gardens to open this year, big or small, tidy or wild, modern or traditional. If you are interested in opening your garden, or if you just want to know more about what is involved, please follow this link to our website; which explains more about the application process and has a form to complete if you decide that you would like to apply...

<https://moseleyinbloom.org.uk/2026/call-for-gardens-2026/>

We visit all gardens that apply. This is not an inspection but is to answer your questions and check on practical issues like Health and Safety. The deadline for applications is 31 March.

Keep up to date with Moseley in Bloom!

Find Moseley in Bloom on Facebook and X: @moseleyinbloom, and on Instagram: @moseley_in_bloom. More information detailing local events & how you can support us can be found on our website: <https://www.moseleyinbloom.org.uk/>.



Remembering Ruth Tetlow...



One of our long term supporters, Ruth Tetlow, passed away on 13 January. Together with her husband Richard, she opened their garden several times for Moseley in Bloom, showing off the neat garden around their house and the more free-flowing natural garden adjoining.

Having bought an additional piece of land attached to their garden, Ruth and Richard generously shared this with pupils from the nearby primary school, involving children in organic practices and the wildlife in the plot.

Recently, Ruth was a member of the Open Gardens organising group. She also took her gardening passion to Moseley and Kings Heath U3A (University of the Third Age) by running the Greener Gardening Group, promoting discussions and arranging visits. In addition she coordinated a group for U3A on Faiths in Birmingham as just one of her many activities promoting inter-faith understanding in the City.

For all these reasons and many more, Ruth will be greatly missed by all who knew her.



'Hot Bin' composting!

Composting was becoming heavy work with my two Dalek-type bins and when a rat got into one of them, something had to change. I have bought a 'Hot Bin'. These are insulated, sealed containers, large (200litres) or mini (100 litres). My mini Hot Bin is about the size of a regular fridge. Kitchen waste, garden waste and some cooked food are mixed with shredded paper and cardboard! Heat is generated by bacteria as waste is digested and the temperature rises. As I have just started the whole process, I have no products yet but I am looking forward to getting both liquid fertiliser and regular compost from the bin. Watch this space for further reports... *Carol Miller*



Gardening in schools...

Lindsay Sheppard runs a business called Space to Grow and also leads Moseley in Bloom's group of volunteers in schools. Last year more volunteers joined this group and more schools were helped with their growing projects. New relationships were forged with Martin de Porres, Billesley, Anderton Park, Our Lady of Lourdes and Park Hill Primary schools and work continued with Moor Green Primary School who received plants, compost and a shed (sourced by Sabreena Mahroof) and with St Bernard's and Wheelers Primary Schools and Wheelers Technology College.

Lindsay says: 'All of our schools have benefitted from the resources we are able to distribute: seeds, plants, bulbs and compost. Most importantly, we have been able to build a local network of expertise and contacts and we will continue to work hard in 2026 to spread a love of gardening in B13. We want all our schools to feel connected to Moseley and Moseley in Bloom. The best way to do this is by having fun growing our own edibles. 2026 is going to be all about fruit! We have lots of strawberry plants, raspberry canes, blueberry bushes, blackcurrant and thornless blackberries to give to schools. We have already given plants to Wheelers Primary, Moor Green, Martin de Porres, Billesley Primary and Wheelers Technology College but we have plenty more.

Let us know if you are a school in B13 that would like to join in the berry-fest!



We also have seeds to give away! Any school in B13 can contact Moseley in Bloom to request ten packets of seeds, plus some seed potatoes and, if anyone would like to volunteer to help with our work in schools, please get in touch...