

The Blooming News!

'Moseley, Moseley, Quarantined Moseley, How does your garden grow?
With quiet church bells, and active snails, and private gardens all in a row.'

Welcome to what we hope will be at least a weekly edition of Moseley in Bloom Garden News or 'The Blooming News!'. Our weekly gardener spotlight is brought to you today by long-time resident and gardener extraordinaire, **Carol Miller**. Meanwhile, please enjoy this compiled list of places/ideas below where you can get plants and materials to keep your garden growing.

If you would like to submit a garden update for sharing/inspiration/musing and/or to add to our resource list on the MiB website, www.moseleyinbloom.org.uk, please email amy.maclean@moseleyinbloom.org.uk. Photo journals/links to videos or text all welcome!

If you have specific requests for plants/advice, do post to the MiB Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/moseleyinbloom/> and we will endeavour to connect you to someone who might be able to help. Moseleyites are wonderful sharers and there may be some plant advice and even some 'plant swaps' which could take place safely amidst this strange time. Gardening is proven to improve our physical and mental health!

Happy growing, Moseley!

Amy x

Amy Maclean, Chair, Moseley in Bloom

Garden news in the spotlight

by Carol Miller

We won't have Open Gardens in the usual way this year but that doesn't mean that Moseley in Bloom isn't happening. People sometimes think that Moseley in Bloom is just Open Gardens, but it is so much more and even while we are all keeping our distance, Moseley gardeners are busy. The RHS theme for Britain in Bloom this year is Grow Social - just a bit tricky when we have to stay distanced. Many of us in Moseley however are very lucky to have our own gardens and can use the time we have been given to work in them. An additional bonus has been the wonderful weather over Easter, always a busy time for gardeners but not always with weather so conducive to gardening.

Another outcome of our confinement to home is the new networks of neighbours that have developed. Within a day of the lockdown, two people in my road had leafletted every house offering help to anyone who needed it. Within the next couple of days, this had developed into a very lively WhatsApp group with all sorts of offers of help, swaps and giveaways,

including environmental and horticultural offers. One of the first commodities was tadpoles. Parents were asking for these so that children could observe them and have some science while they are off school. Next came the need for rainwater for the tadpoles so those of us with water butts were popular. One family offered turf as they had over-ordered when re-doing the lawn and I am delighted to now have a water lily on my pond after neighbours had cleared out theirs. There has also been a great seed giveaway.



Last year I was given a propagator and had electricity installed in my small greenhouse. On 4 April I sowed various flower and vegetable seeds in the propagator. On 8 April, Mexican sunflower seeds (Tithonia) had come up and two days later, tomatoes and salvia Hot Lips, collected from last year's flowers. This is so exciting. What a difference a bit of heat makes for germination and hopefully, I will have more home produced veg this year, avoiding some need to go to the shops.

Local Garden Resources list

Please send updates to amy.maclean@moseleyinbloom.org.uk

Of course, while most large-chain grocery stores have supplies of compost, seeds, general equipment and some bedding plants: Sainsbury's, Poundland, Wilco, Lidl, Asda, Co-op, please, please use our local suppliers first if you can:

1. Moseley Gifts and Gardens sells plants and compost and will delivery. Use its Facebook page to order: <https://www.facebook.com/moseleygiftsandgardens>
2. The Kitchen Garden Shop on York Road will deliver plants/seeds and supplies. Use their facebook page to communicate: <https://www.facebook.com/kitchengardenshopKH/>
3. Kings Heath Hardware on the Alcester Road is open daily 9-6 (10-4 Sun) and sells everything for your garden except for plants/seeds.
4. A bit further afield for some, but Jeffries has a full suite of supplies and support, as well: <https://www.facebook.com/Jeffries-Hardware-164775106922341/>
5. Sadly, York Supplies is closed for 12 weeks but we hope to report when he is open again.
6. The RHS webpage is full of timely advice on what to focus on this month in your garden. Here are April's tips: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/in-month/april>

Online Plant Resources:

Rather than re-invent the wheel, we have included 10 of the best plant websites from excerpts from the Sunday Times, 29 March with additional notes from MiB in bold.

...The RHS has seen a huge rise in online plant sales in the past week, as people in home isolation seek to brighten up their space. Its website lists nurseries that were due to take part in RHS shows now called off (rhs.org.uk/supportournurseries). You can click through to these nurseries and 'buy local' from shops who likely have loads of stock.

[Bethchatto.co.uk](https://bethchatto.co.uk) offers collections for damp, dark or dry areas, true to the “right plant, right place” mantra of its late founder, Beth Chatto. **Two weeks delivery time.**

[Binnyplants.com](https://binnyplants.com) stocks more than 2,000 plant varieties including Britain’s biggest selection of peonies. **No apparent delays but many items are sold out.**

[Crocus.co.uk](https://crocus.co.uk) can source 4,000 varieties, but deliveries may take longer due to high demand. **Shop early in the morning as they stop taking orders during the day when they hit their threshold.**

[Darcyeverest.co.uk](https://darcyeverest.co.uk) grows up to 100,000 individual alpine and unusual perennial plants a year. **Free delivery with £30 orders. No apparent delays.**

[Dibleys.com](https://dibleys.com), a houseplant specialist in north Wales, is best known for streptocarpus, including ‘Harlequin Blue’, its former RHS Chelsea plant of the decade.

[Hardysplants.co.uk](https://hardysplants.co.uk) is the go-to shop for herbaceous perennials.

[Plants-uk.co.uk](https://plants-uk.co.uk) has more than 100 types of chilli, herb-growing kits for beginners and basket plants galore.

[Rotherview.com](https://rotherview.com) has grown alpines to display at Chelsea in “hypertufa” troughs that look like concrete, but weigh much less (from £17.50).

[Toddsbotanics.co.uk](https://toddsbotanics.co.uk) specialises in drought-tolerant plants, including tree ferns and ancient olive trees.

[Wackswickedplants.co.uk](https://wackswickedplants.co.uk) grows carnivorous pitcher plants, cobra lilies and Venus fly traps — screen-free entertainment for children.

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