

Moseley, still in Bloom

Moseley gardeners have responded to the call and we have reports of many horticultural activities going on.

First, Jenny Brewer, one of the original Moseley Bloomers takes us to her garden, described in the past, in Open Gardens guides as 'bijoux'.

Me and my Moseley garden

Some years ago I had my back garden re-landscaped and re-planted with an array of mainly evergreen shrubs and perennials to give me a constant year-round backdrop ranging from the deepest rich purple of Physocarpus Diabolo to the lime green pop of Acorus Ogon. I now have a well-matured space which keeps me occupied during these testing times with tidying, weeding and pruning. This time of year is one of transformation as everything unfurls and burgeons. But what I also like and plan for at this time of year is a bit of instant gardening to intersperse in the borders, pots and on the patio. So my conundrum during this current challenge of 2020 is how to achieve this.

Usually I am just about now being seduced by early trays and pots of annuals showing their striking colours and saying 'come and buy me'. Perhaps I have always been a little early out of the blocks as we should all take note of that old adage 'Ne'er cast a clout till May is out'. So this year I won't be losing my vest until the end of May and also not sourcing my instant fix of ready-made gardening joy until the same time. I shall adhere to the season's rules.

All I need to see in real life or online is the sweep and stature of a beautiful agapanthus and my heart is lost. My glass half full attitude would expect that by the end of May we will have local access again to the plant suppliers we normally frequent. If not, I have a plan to replace my plant aspirations with an artistic representation (laminated of course to protect from the weather) of everything I would have bought if we weren't where we are now. Having a garden or your own



green space is a privilege and a delight but even a balcony, window box or window sill can give you the same pleasure with a bit of invention and creativity.

Jenny and Steve Peacock, Moseley in Bloom supporters, have an allotment. Here Steve reports on activities during the Lockdown

Allotment ramblings

We were thinking of giving up the allotment this year. With a garden at home, grandchildren to play with, holidays planned, wine to drink ... it seemed like more digging and weeding than we wanted to know about.

How glad we are that we decided to give it one more year!

Our plot at the Moor Green site has become a proper haven this Spring: a destination for daily walks; a great way to exercise and bend your back in the fresh air; a place to plant out all the seedlings Jenny's been raising in the greenhouse at home; a safe space to chat (at a distance) to fellow-gardeners we wouldn't otherwise see; and best of all these past couple of weeks, a source of deliciously fresh asparagus from beds I planted 20-odd years ago. I was sure they'd be exhausted by now but these crowns I bought from a professional grower in Evesham are still pushing up succulent spears.

I only got my allotment because I wanted a key to the short cut from Russell Road to work at Pebble Mill and because I was missing my Herefordshire asparagus patch. I'm a Brummie now and long-retired from paid work, but I'm hooked on my plot. At least until I can go to the pub again. Mind you, by then the bar in the middle of the allotments will re-open.



Peter the Bee and friends are a new producer at the Farmers Market and unfortunately, only made it to one market before the Lockdown. They specialise in wild flowers and they are willing to deliver.

We are pleased to say that we are offering free limited delivery of our wildflowers to surrounding areas in South West Birmingham. We have a beautiful range of native wildflowers ready for summer to attract more pollinators to your garden. Annuals/biennials £3.00 and perennials £4.50. All are pesticide and peat free, and some of our stock can be provided in newspaper pots if you want to reduce plastic in your garden.



Some larger plants are in biodegradable coir pots. Please contact us via Facebook or email - peterthebeeandfriends@gmail.com. Minimum order of £15 for delivery. We also have our new Purple Payment Pot to assist with social distancing card payments!

https://www.facebook.com/PetertheBeeand1/?modal=admin_todo_tour

Finally, there is good news from Birmingham City Council. The **nursery in Kings Heath Park** is now open for orders and will deliver plants and compost. You can ring them on 0121 464 0422 Andi Jennings is very helpful and they can provide a plant list.

STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS!

Moseley in Bloom's Pop Up Perennials

Moseley in Bloom has a mixed stock of perennials, medium- and small-sized, to offer to the community of Moseley. There will be a pop up stall on Sunday 3rd May from 2pm to 4pm in the front garden areas of 71/73 Cambridge Road. Social distancing measures apply and an honesty box will be in place to take your donations. Thank you.