

Moseley, still in Bloom

Front Gardens on Show

Beautiful Moseley in Bloom signs are now available for people to put in their front gardens to show them off as people take their walks.



They can be provided on sticks, at £10, or as small plastic discs (same sign, just no stick) at £4. The images can also be printed at home. For more information please contact Amy Maclean on amy.maclean@moseleyinbloom.org.uk or text Amy on 07712877689

RHS Heart of England in Bloom It's Your Neighbourhood Scheme

You may have noticed, in our recent Moseley in Bloom archive pieces, that 'It's Your Neighbourhood' has been mentioned. This may need some explanation. It's Your Neighbourhood is a scheme of the Royal Horticultural Society's Britain in Bloom campaign, open to all volunteer groups of all sizes focused on improving their local environment through community gardening. Moseley in Bloom started by entering It's Your Neighbourhood and went on to enter the main Britain in Bloom campaign. Participants work on three core areas: Community Participation; Environmental Responsibility; and Gardening Achievement. Groups are supported in developing their projects and receive an annual visit from an assessor with useful feedback and ideas. A certificate of merit is awarded to all participants, recognising achievements.

Groups in Moseley have had considerable success in the scheme over the years, several of them being described as 'outstanding'. These include The Moseley Society Dovecote, Billesley Lane Allotments and Lorne Court sheltered housing. Close to Moseley, St Pauls Farm in Balsall Heath, Martineau Gardens and several streets in Kings Heath have also been very successful. If you are part of a gardening group of any kind and think you would like to know more, please get in touch. Jenny Brewer and myself (Carol Miller) are assessors for the scheme - although of course, not in the Moseley area - and we would be happy to talk to people. You can also look at the RHS website <https://www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/community-gardening>

A little more history from Moseley in Bloom archives

Moseley Tennis Club was an early entrant to It's Your Neighbourhood in 2008. Deborah Taylor was a key member of the group.

Members were concerned by a wasted area of land at the Club, and realised a plan to develop an old unkempt allotment area into an orchard. The idea was to benefit not only the club but the local environment where trees had been devastated in the tornado and gardens were being lost to over-paving and new housing.

The design of the orchard was adapted to the surrounding boundaries, three fences not owned by the Club and a Leylandii hedge used to screen floodlights from nearby properties. The open aspect from the tennis courts was important. An existing aged and damaged Damson tree was kept after a long term member reported that he had grown it from a sucker on a previous tree, and had planted it himself. This formed the 'cornerstone' of the new orchard. A local artist drew a sketch of the planned orchard and this was used for publicity and fundraising.

Working parties met to clear the site. Several large old tree roots had to be removed, and a mechanical hammer was used to break up and extract some concrete posts. In March, six fruit trees were chosen and planted and snowdrops from local gardens were transplanted 'in the green', in circlets around the fruit trees. To monitor the effect on the micro-environment, the first of a series of Bird Surveys was carried out, recognising that the habitat had changed from concealed brushwood to an open area. Ivy was deliberately left on two fences.

In the Summer, grass was sown and mown regularly; wood chippings were added to the periphery to maintain the depth and help keep down the weeds. Weeds were cleared by hand from around the fruit trees and soft fruit bushes. Compost bins were made by a Club member, using old wooden pallets. Posts and wires were erected ready for espaliered trees.

In the Autumn, some fruit was already available for picking.

Note: Unfortunately photographs are not available of this project

News

Cofton Nursery is open again to the public for their Spring plant sales (with restrictions on social distancing and parking on Lickey Road). It will be open all this coming Bank Holiday weekend. Bedding plants, hanging baskets, planted pots.

Saturday 23rd May 9am to 4pm

Sunday 24th and Monday 25th May 10am to 4pm

Further information can be found at the website but this does not give information about the Bank Holiday opening.

See https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20089/parks/325/plant_nurseries_and_floristry_service

Next week we hope to have news of the plants we will be selling that would normally go into the floral displays in Moseley village. Watch this space.

Small Ads

This is a new feature. If anyone has anything horticultural or environmental to share, give away or request, send it in and see what happens!

Seedlings - Jenny Peacock has the following seedlings going spare: Cavolo Nero; Romanesco; Brussels Sprouts; Aquilegia (unusual blue); Wallflowers (for flowering next year). If you would like some, contact Jenny at peacockjenny@icloud.com

If you have any horticultural or environmental stories or news to tell, please send to Carol Miller doctorcarolmiller@gmail.com