

Moseley, still in Bloom

A Virtual Success

Jenny Brewer, one of the longest-serving volunteers for Moseley in Bloom has sent in this report

I have been a Moseley in Bloom volunteer since the very beginning in 2005, the year we first dipped our toes in the water of opening gardens for the pleasure of other residents. Early in 2020 planning had started as usual for an Open Gardens weekend to be held at the end of June but then it became apparent that a lockdown would be inevitable. Under the leadership of Kate Stocks and Jonathan Smith, supported by keen and skilled volunteers the plan emerged for us to go virtual. This all depended on the garden openers being willing and able to film or photograph their gardens and despite a slow start this all came good just in time.

So last Saturday 27 June we launched our You Tube channel to great success and plaudits and it is still there for you all to watch. I must admit I wondered if I would get as much from each garden 'visit' on a screen as I did by actually being there but I was not disappointed. The individual films really brought each garden alive and showed us all what a richness of green space we have around us in Moseley. And also loads of really productive veg growing going on, which I suspect always happens, despite the current lockdown. It really made me consider and rethink my small garden and what I could and should be doing both now and going forward to next year. A real inspiration. Alongside all these gardens we also enjoyed Compost Corner interspersed with our very own Moseley musical geniuses performing their own repertoires to entertain us all on what proved to be a rather wet Saturday but a much more weather-perfect Sunday.



Lots of thanks are due :

- To the people who made films and photographs, many with sound tracks, of their gardens. As usual, we were amazed by the variety and beauty of styles and the talent and love of the gardeners. In Compost Corner we saw a range of ways of recycling our waste and feeding worms to produce food for the gardens. Thank you everyone who made these contributions

- To the team of people who converted gardeners' and musicians' films and photos into the very professional YouTube presentations. We were truly fortunate to have the services of film editor, Gill Abrahams, ably assisted by Jonathan Smith and Joel Cheesman, working over just a couple of weeks on the production.
- To all who watched and are still watching and those who donated money to Moseley in Bloom.

A very big thank you!

Remember that the gardens are still open at:

<http://www.moseleyinbloom.org.uk/videos>

You can donate at:

<http://www.moseleyinbloom.org.uk/just-giving/>

Remember too that this is not the only thing we do. Moseley in Bloom operates year round supporting a number of different planting, community and schools projects.

Some facts and figures

Twenty-four people sent in video clips of their gardens providing a total of just under four hours of 'raw' footage. This produced 19 individual garden films and one medley film totalling 1 hour 30 minutes. We also had four sets of garden photographs and contributions from three musicians/bands and. Along with the three Compost Corner films we had a total of 32 videos to watch, with a total running time of 2 hours 2 minutes. Over the first 48 hours from going live, the most watched video reached 482 views and the average was 214 views. The total number of views of all the films added together is 6,850 which equates to 423 hours of viewing. Phew - what an achievement!



Open Gardens Reviews

We have received some very positive comments from participants and visitors. Here are a couple:

From Moseley

'Very professionally put together but I loved the way the amateurishness and informality of the videos was retained. They were charming, with all their admissions of not knowing what plants were, or mistakes made. I hope this won't be lost if it is repeated. The absolute love of gardens and gardening came over, and all the well-being that people get out of it'.





From London

'The Moseley in Bloom was excellent, what a variety and lots of inspiration, it certainly gave me some ideas. It was a lovely way to spend a rather dull Saturday afternoon, all it needed was someone to serve afternoon tea! It was worth all the hard work that must have gone into producing it'.

Please tell us what you thought of Open Gardens this year.

If you have any horticultural or environmental stories or news to tell, please send to Carol Miller doctorcarolmiller@gmail.com If sending photos, please send them in the largest size possible, rather than reduced, in order to give a good quality image.