

## **Moseley, still in Bloom**

Lynne McPeake has taken photographs of Moseley in Bloom Open Gardens for more than ten years. Some of the photographs have been used for the Moseley in Bloom note cards (still available to buy from MiB). This summer she would have had a photographic exhibition at the Moseley Exchange, to coincide with Open Gardens. This was, obviously, not possible but she has sent some tips for developing photography skills in gardens.

### **Simple tips for photographing flowers**

On a beautiful bright sunny day in spring or summer, it is very tempting to go out into your garden to photograph flowers. However, it's much better if you wait for an overcast day without bright sunshine which will bleach out colours and create problems with strong contrast. Colours will be much stronger and more life-like in your picture.

To avoid unintentional blurring of your subject, it is best to wait for a day with no, or very little, wind. You could also block any wind by using a sheet of card or a reflector. A white reflector may also give you some much needed light on a darker area of the plant or flower. If your subject is in focus, your image should then be crisp and sharp.

A common mistake when photographing plants and flowers is not getting close enough to your subject. If the flower is what you want in your frame, get as close as you can within the focussing allowed with your lens on your camera or smartphone. If you are able to use a large lens aperture (f/2.8 or f/4.0 for example) you will achieve a soft background for your flower. This will make your subject 'pop out'. Try to avoid any complicated shapes or strong colours in the background so that the viewer's eye doesn't get distracted from the main subject.



Obviously these rules can be broken as you become more confident, but if you want to achieve good record shots of flowers then obeying these simple tips should give you the desired result.

## Summer holiday fun

The RHS Communities Team has sent the following information:

While restrictions are easing, many families may choose to spend more time at home, in the garden or walking in local green spaces.

On the RHS [Campaign for School Gardening website](#), there are lots of great activities to help keep young people occupied while also getting closer to nature, which in turn is great for their wellbeing. Here are some of our favourites:

- [Go on a rainbow scavenger hunt](#)
- [Make some bubbly magical potions](#)
- [Go out flower spotting](#)

## Gardens still open!

You can still see the lovely Moseley Open Gardens 2020 at

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

Thanks to everyone who has donated to Moseley in Bloom via our Just Giving pages - also still open

[www.moseleyinbloom.org.uk/donate](http://www.moseleyinbloom.org.uk/donate)



## Small Ads

I have a beautiful Hydrangea Nigra - pinky purple flowers and black stems, that has grown far too big for my small garden. I have taken cuttings from it but now must sadly get rid of the main plant. Would anyone like it - provided we can dig it out successfully? Please let me know. [doctorcarolmiller@gmail.com](mailto:doctorcarolmiller@gmail.com)



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