

## **Moseley, still in Bloom**

### **A bit of French Village inspiration for gardeners.**

We must all be envious of Amy's recent holiday - especially when we can see the fabulous floral displays in the streets of Alsace that we are really missing in Moseley this year.

Our summer holiday was in Alsace, the region of France that has swapped over between being French and German for the last few hundred years or so. We chose this for a budding cycling enthusiast in our family and to explore some of the Riesling wine of the area.

I wasn't there long enough to delve into all the reasons why it was such a beautiful and interesting region, but here are a few bullet points:

The villages were STUNNING! Picture-perfect, with artistic floral displays everywhere you looked. Many of the villages were pedestrian only which made visiting them an utter pleasure.

The vineyards were tiny parcels due to France's inheritance laws that all land must be equally

divided to

children. Each village may have dozens of wineries where you can just rock up and

ask for tastings. No bookings, no fees, just taste away—of course, the idea is you will then walk away with a pretty heavy parcel!



The cycling between the villages was largely flat so great for families (especially with my e-bike!), but the more adventurous could attack the mountains for some greater challenges (the downhill was apparently 11km of not having to pedal AT ALL).

My most favourite part of the village ambience were the resident storks—nearly extinct in the late 70s/80s due to urbanisation and pesticides. A great conservation effort was put in place to restore their migratory instinct to the region. Now each village boasts many of these fascinating, enormous and chatty creatures on some of their highest roof tops. Look up and you immediately find a kindred spirit keeping watch



over the village. You can read more about them here: <https://www.quora.com/Why-is-the-stork-so-prominent-in-Alsace-France> I wonder if Moseley could have a stork ?

While France is on the 'do not visit' list at the moment, I would highly recommend visiting this area, even for just a few days, especially if you love flowers and wine! E-bikes can be hired at the train stations and the villages are all within 20-30



minutes' drive of Colmar, a great bustling central point to the Alsace wine trail.

Amy Maclean

### Pop-up sale product looking good

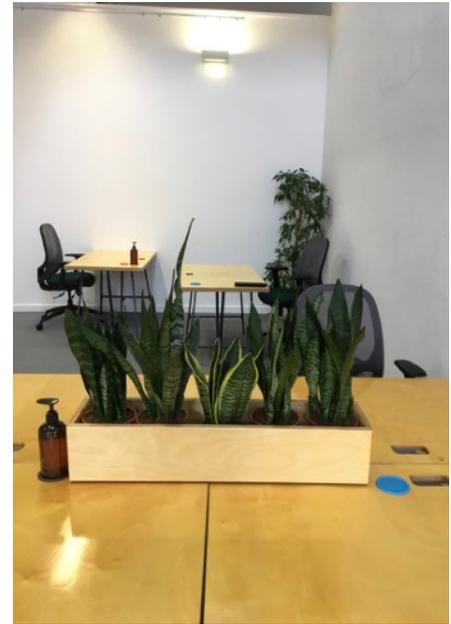
Adrian Randall bought plants at our pop-up sale in mid-June. He has sent in this photo of the brilliant orange Tithonia or Mexican Sunflower now blooming in his garden.



We will have another **Pop-up Sale on Sunday 20 September**, this time for plants, produce and (garden) paraphernalia. Watch out for more information on this coming soon and start saving your cuttings.

### **The Exchange is blooming**

The Moseley Exchange has been transformed. There is beautifully refurbished and recycled furniture in the workspaces and there are plants everywhere. You may recognise the new screens that have been made using pieces of the tree art that used to adorn the Meteor Ford site.



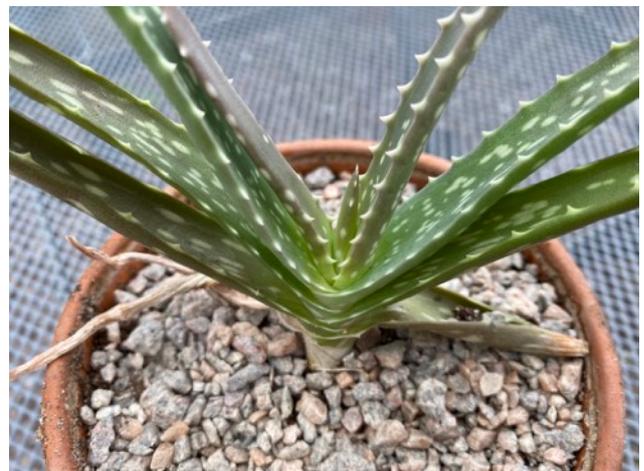
The planting outside the building always looks good and now co-workers and those attending meetings will have their surroundings enhanced by indoor plants. Go and have a look! The recycling boxes are available again now so there is a good reason to visit.

### **Rejuvenated Aloe Vera**

People might be interested to hear about the amazing recovery of an Aloe Vera at the hands of Lynne McPeake.

In the late summer of 2019 we were given two small Aloe Veras in one pot. They both thrived indoors through the winter and looked strong and healthy. Come this spring I thought it would be an idea to separate them and pot them on in individual pots, which I did. I used a well known general purpose potting compost and added some alpine grit. I expected them to continue to flourish. However, they soon started to grow brown and looked very sad indeed. I almost threw them out, but decided to give them one more chance. Only last weekend I repotted them in another general purpose compost, but this one is mixed by our local nursery. Within two days they started to turn green again and to look much healthier and happier. It happened so quickly, it seemed like a miracle. Needless to say, they will not now be ending up on the compost heap!

Has anyone else had a miraculous horticultural experience?



### More Composting news

The Compost Corner created some interest and entertainment in our Virtual Open Gardens and it is always good to know how other people do things. My compost is in two tall plastic bins purchased a few years ago from the Council. It plods along and every year one of them gives me four or five large bags of lovely stuff to put on the garden. There are always a few worms in there, especially gathered around the rim of the lid but I have never seen so many as there were last week. The lid was full of seething bunches of worms. I can only think that it was because of the plum debris I had thrown in after making jam. They must love the fruit. Are worms known to love plums?



### Beware of 'mystery seeds'

You may have seen a piece in the Guardian recently about mystery packets of seeds that people have received through the post and that may be a biosecurity risk. To read more, see <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/aug/01/mystery-seed-parcels-world-biosecurity-china-uk-us>

If you receive such a packet, you should contact the Plant Health Agency at [PlantHealth.Info@apha.gov.uk](mailto:PlantHealth.Info@apha.gov.uk)

### 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)



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.