

The Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood Project

Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood is a valuable wildlife site that has long played an important role in the lives of local people. In 2010 The Wildlife Trust launched an ambitious and exciting partnership project with the Heritage Lottery Fund, Natural England, Birmingham City Council and the volunteers and friends of Moseley Bog. Together we're working for wildlife and people.

Get Involved

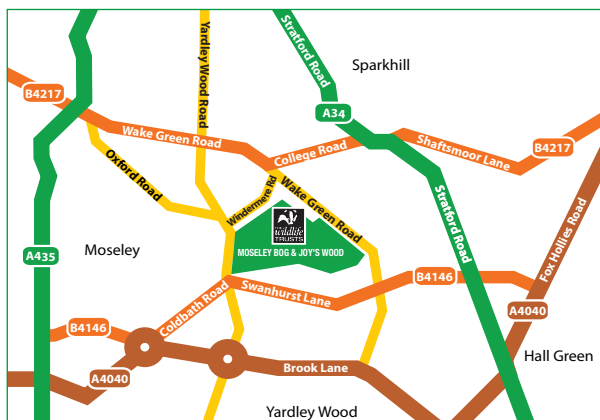
There are many ways you can get involved with Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood:

- Join us on our regular volunteer days and learn wildlife management skills
- Come on one of our walks and find out more about the area's wildlife and history
- Bring your school or community group along to a tailored activity day
- Make use of our free education packs
- Come and use our outdoor classroom
- Take part in a corporate volunteering day with your colleagues

For more information visit our website or contact the Moseley Bog reserve officer at info@moseleybog.org.uk 0121 454 1199.

Where to find us

Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood is located in the Springfield area of Birmingham approximately 5.1 km (3.2 miles) south of the city centre. The main entrance is on Yardley Wood Road (the closest postcode is B13 9JX). The Ordnance Survey grid reference is SP092821.



PLEASE NOTE that there are no toilets on the reserve

Creating a Living Landscape

Birmingham & Black Country



The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham & The Black Country is one of 47 Wildlife Trusts that cover the whole of the UK. Locally we work to make Birmingham & the Black Country a better place for wildlife and people.

Please support the Wildlife Trust by becoming a member

If local wildlife and green spaces are important to you, then by becoming a member of the Birmingham & Black Country Wildlife Trust you can help to make a real difference. Our members' subscriptions provide the foundation for all our wildlife activities, and by joining you can help us to create a Living Landscape in which you and your family can enjoy wildlife, now and in the future.

Our members receive our **Wildlife Focus** magazine three times a year, where you'll find the latest news and information about our work with wildlife. Children will become members of Wildlife Watch, our children's club, and enjoy their own mailings. Other benefits of membership include:

- Your membership card - a passport to over 1,600 Wildlife Trust nature reserves across the UK
- Year round wildlife events and activities across Birmingham & the Black Country
- Volunteering opportunities with the chance to gain new skills and work 'hands on' with wildlife
- Advice and guidance on local wildlife issues by phone or e-mail
- National wildlife magazine **Natural World** (three times a year)

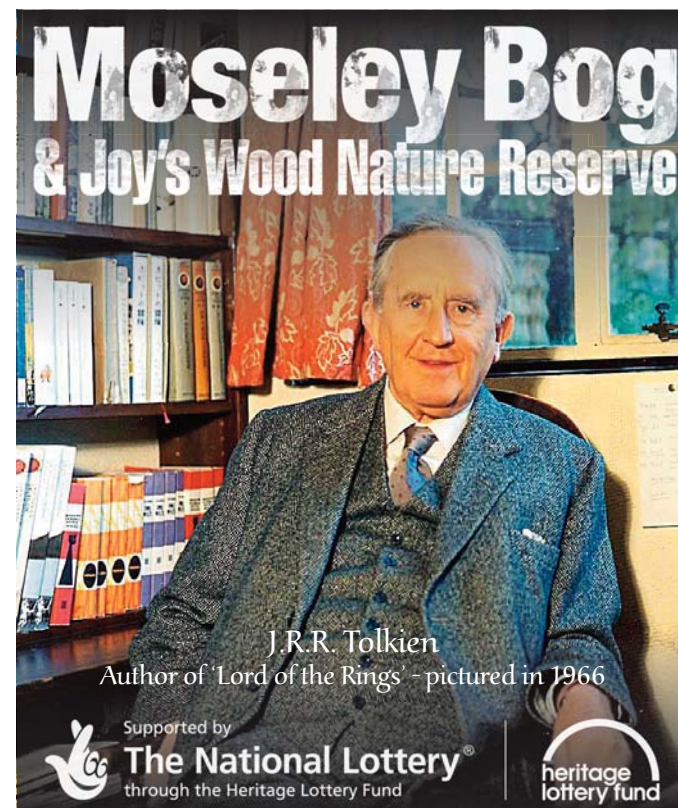
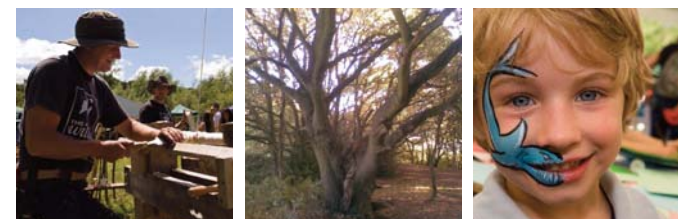
To join the Wildlife Trust please visit our website at www.bbcwildlife.org.uk or call us on 0121 454 1199

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Birmingham & Black Country



Creating a Living Landscape

Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood Nature Reserve

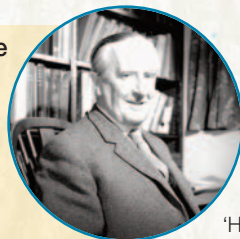
Part of The Shire Country Park



Tolkien's lost paradise

"It was a kind of lost paradise... there was an old mill that really did grind corn with two millers, a sandpit, a wonderful dell with flowers..."

- It is well known that J.R.R. Tolkien, author of 'The Hobbit' and 'The Lord of the Rings', spent his youth in Birmingham, and for four years at the end of the 19th century he lived with his mother and brother on Wake Green Road, a short walk from Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood Local Nature Reserve.
- The scene at Sarehole in Tolkien's time was depicted by local historian John Morris Jones: "The rural peace is broken only by birdsong, the cackle of hens, the occasional bellow from a discontented cow, or the sound of a shotgun. There are game-birds, rabbits and hares in plenty. The Cole is clear and well-stocked with fish, as are the millponds. Poachers still operate on dark nights, ignoring notices they cannot read. The air is fresh, for the westerly wind blows away the smoke from the reeking town four miles away in the next county."
- The spirit of Tolkien and of the area that he loved is celebrated annually at Middle Earth Weekend, an event which draws visitors from all parts of the UK and beyond with drama presentations, walks, traditional craft demonstrations, and stalls selling everything from handicrafts to plants to haute cuisine. The Wildlife Trust also has a regular programme of cultural, artistic and educational events in the reserve.



Tolkien - It's believed that Moseley Bog is one of the inspirations for the forests of Tolkien's Middle-earth. As a child Tolkien liked to draw, with trees being one of his favourite subjects: 'He would draw a tree, then would climb the tree and talk to it' (David R. Collins, J.R.R. Tolkien).



Inspire -

Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood continues to inspire people today and is used by local drama, music and re-enactment groups. The poet and Wildlife Trust ambassador Benjamin Zephaniah, who grew up locally, uses the reserve and voices our Moseley Bog pod-cast – visit our website to listen or download.



Hobbiton - The village of Hobbiton with its mill and river, which features in both 'The Hobbit' and 'Lord of the Rings', is recognisable as Sarehole, a short walk east from the reserve.



Look out for the grand old oaks



There are many trees within Moseley Bog that could have inspired Tolkien when he played in the area as a child. One of the most impressive trees on the reserve is a 300 year old oak which is reminiscent of the ents from The Lord of the Rings. Oak trees are one of the longest living trees in the UK and can live as long as 1,000 years. Traditionally oaks were planted as a source of timber for wooden ships, buildings, furniture and a wide range of other uses. Culturally the oak tree has a long association with folklore throughout Europe, and the oak has been sacred to many peoples including the ancient Greeks, the Norse and the Celts.



Burnt Mounds - The burnt mounds in Moseley Bog are thought to be evidence of cultural events which took place 3,000 years ago! The mounds are the leftovers from sweat lodges which were like a modern day sauna, where water was doused over hot stones to create steam. Sweat lodges have been used as a means of cleansing, as spiritual centres, as meeting places and for healing.

Events - The Wildlife Trust has a regular programme of cultural, artistic and educational events taking place at Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood – visit our website or get in touch to find out more.



This leaflet is part of a comprehensive package of interpretation and educational materials that are available for Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood. If you would like to find out more then please visit our website or contact us.

Tolkien images taken by Pamela Chandler © Diana Willson