

CHRISTINE WRIGHT

If you walk around the district bordered by St Agnes Road, Oxford Road, Cotton Lane, and Wake Green Road in Moseley you will see many high-quality substantial Edwardian houses in a variety of designs and styles, with large gardens and mature trees. The building of the properties was started in the 1890s, when wealthier people were moving out of Birmingham city centre, and continued into the Edwardian period. St Agnes, a church in 'decorated gothic' style, is a central feature.

The area contains examples of the work of almost all Birmingham's most prominent Arts and Crafts architects, who used an approach to design which respected English building traditions and encouraged simple decorative arts, in contrast to the heavier terracotta gothic buildings of an earlier Victorian era. You will see gables and timbers, arches and towers, floral designs and geometric patterns – no fixed template, but all following the Arts and Crafts design ideas. This district was made a Conservation Area in 1987, in recognition of the architectural quality of the buildings and their importance in the history of Birmingham's architecture. This gives the buildings and their settings protected status. There is a Residents Association which encourages everyone to keep their walls, hedges and fences in good repair and to remove litter and weeds outside their homes. These arrangements give the district its special character and aim to preserve the area for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike.

More detail on the Conservation Area can be found in the documents on the Birmingham City Council website https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/download/249/st_agnes_moseley_conservation_area
