

THE MOORPOOL DUCK

Residents' Newsletter

Issue No. 30

November 2007

THE CENTENARY CELEBRATION 28th November 2007

A GREAT SUCCESS

The Centenary celebration of the estate got off to a tremendous start with the Grand Opening last month. A large audience of Residents filled the hall and were royally entertained by children of the estate who performed some traditional dances and the Moorpool Players who took us back 100 years and recreated the opening ceremony in full Edwardian costume! Most impressive .

We were delighted to welcome the Lord Mayor of Birmingham who commemorated the Centenary by unveiling a specially commissioned picture of the Bowling Green and Pool which is now on permanent display in the Hall. We were also very pleased to welcome the artist who painted the picture, John Crane. A Pen and Ink sketch of the Bowling Pavilion, also by John Crane, was presented to the Lord Mayor. After refreshments the celebration moved outside and concluded with a magnificent firework display. The Centenary Celebrations are well under way!

For those Residents or Friends of Moorpool who were unable to be present at the opening

event, the Residents Association is holding an open afternoon this coming Sunday when you will be able to see what happened.

The Moorpool Residents Association

Invite you on

SUNDAY
2nd DECEMBER

To the
Moorpool Hall
2pm - 4.30pm

**A chance to view the
Commemorative Painting**
(and order a limited edition
reproduction of the painting.)

Refreshments

See the Photos taken on the day
(order copies)

If you haven't seen the commemorative picture, the Duck would urge you to have a look this Sunday - it is well worth viewing as it really captures the spirit of the estate.

PLEASE NOTE

The celebrations were a great success and everyone present felt that there was a wonderful feeling of community spirit being engendered. The success of this event and others like it to a great extent depend on the involvement of all the community. In particular, it must be noted that the finances of the Association at the moment rest on the subscriptions of Residents, of whom only 74 households out of about 520 have paid the subscription. At £5 per household or £3 per head for a year we feel more Residents should make their contribution. At the open event this Sunday it will be possible for those who haven't yet had a chance to pay to do so, or subs can be paid directly to the Treasurer, Gill Morgan, at 80 Moorpool Avenue. (Please include your name and address so that a receipt can be forwarded)

CELEBRATION THANKS.

As well as thanks to the estate children and their teacher for the dance display, the Moorpool Players for the re-enactment and the Tennis Club for providing the firework venue, the Duck would like to extend the thanks of Residents to Grainger plc and in particular Phil Nelson. They have been extremely helpful in ensuring the success of the opening event, both in gifting the commemorative picture to the Residents Association and also when the Lottery grant application was turned down in underwriting the costs of the event which could not be easily met.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Residents

Welcome to the latest issue of the Duck. I hope you will take time to read it and respond on any issues which matter to you.

From the reactions and comments received the Centenary Celebration was a great

success. I must thank all those who took part especially the Moorpool Players, the children who performed, Graingers and those that worked like Trojans on the day serving tea and cakes. And maybe just a small word too for the organisers who put a lot of time into organising this event for you. We didn't manage the lanterns due to wind conditions but the fireworks were more than spectacular.

There is no further official news on the Grainger development plans and no response has been received from Rupert Dickinson the Chief Executive of Graingers. It would seem they are set on putting in an application and are unwilling to have any further face to face discussions on ways forward. When the planning application is made I would urge you to make your views known and perhaps start now to put your thoughts together. There will be guidance on commenting on planning applications available from the MRA and MRG web sites. Assistance will be available for anyone that needs it.

Re the Moorpool Trust I understand that BVT are close to having a proposal to put to Graingers for funding of a feasibility study.

As regards Crime and Order. At a recent meeting with Police and the Anti-social behaviour unit various matters were discussed and suggestions put forward. One of these was that we need to find alternative things for youngsters to do. We shall be looking into this and perhaps combining ideas with the MRG who are looking at the possibility of a childrens play area.

Rob Sutton.

Chair Moorpool Residents Association. Tel 426 5669

The Residents Association Committee has various working groups, two of these are now reporting back to you on matters of concern. (Ed.)

Planning Issues. (from *Jan Sutton*)

You have only to walk round the Moorpool Estate to realise it is an amazing place, a unique development with its leafy green, curving roads and individual houses, set around key focal points and open spaces. The houses have a lovely quirky nature you just don't get in modern houses, which is why, with few exceptions, modern additions and extensions look out of place here. If you aren't happy about any developments on the Estate, please contact the Residents Association or get in touch with the Planning Department.

Various issues are also being raised with the Planning Department with regard to the application of the 4(2) directive. The Covenants, which list various restrictions to the outward alteration of properties, are available from the MRA website and Graingers.

The Moorpool Estate is very special. Let's all work together to preserve its character by preventing inappropriate building work.. (See website for contact details.)

Jan Sutton

Crime Survey Update

(from Tina Hackett, Vice chair MRA)

Since Feb' 07 a team of residents have been collecting information on crime, anti-social behaviour and vandalism within the Moorpool Estate. This has been used to support the need for intervention to maintain and improve the general ambience of the Estate. We were asked to provide 6 months worth of data to the Police for

them to consider recommending a Section 30 Dispersal Order. This order is usually only imposed as a last resort after other tactics have been tried and failed. In August the police canvassed the views of residents and a meeting to discuss the results was held on 23rd Nov '07 at Rose Rd Police Station. Present were Police representatives, Rob Sutton, myself, Graingers and the Birmingham Anti-Social Behaviour Unit. Of the 516 homes involved in the consultation on Section 30, 205 replied with 184 (36%) in favour, 22 (4%) against, leaving 310 (60%) who did not reply. In view of this and the relatively low level of crime on the Estate it was recommended that a Section 30 order would not be pursued at this time. Regular meetings with the police and others above will continue, exploring other possible tactics as well as monitoring crime levels.

The Crime survey team will continue to collect monthly crime and anti-social behaviour data and would encourage residents to report incidents to the police, as well as the MRA via the MRA post-box at the Circle or email moorpoolcrime@hotmail.com. There will soon be a link to this on the Moorpool web site.

It is important to record the date, time and location of the incident and **essential** to gain a log number from the police when reported. Here is a reminder of contact numbers:

Anti-social behaviour: 0121 303 1111

Graffiti, Vandalism, Fly tipping, Abandoned cars: 0121 303 1112

To report crime anonymously:

0800 555 111

Police: For immediate response where an emergency or offence is taking place call 999 and for general ASB problems ring 0845 113 5000

Tina Hackett

MOORPOOL NEWS and WINE

The Duck once again urges you to continue to support our local shop run by Raj and Dip. Under their friendly care it is once again assuming the important social role which the shops in the Circle have had in the past— a place for meeting and chatting as well as shopping. They have various special offers running , including any 3 bottles of wine for £10 from an extensive selection. There is also a fax machine available now as well as an ever widening stock of goods. If there are items not in stock in which you are interested let Raj know and she will do her best for you. It is good to see our shop looking as flourishing as it is. So many urban and rural communities are losing their local shops - let's keep ours. **Use it!**

The Duck has received this news from Grainger.

The Future Of The Circle Estate Office.

Estate services, which are currently provided through Grainger's office at The Circle, will be relocated to a new office in Edgbaston in the early part of 2008.

Phil Nelson, the Regional Manager for Grainger plc, has told "The Duck" that "The new facilities at Edgbaston will enable the Property Management Team to continue providing an effective and responsive service, both to customers on the Moorpool Estate and the wider region served by the Birmingham office. In addition Grainger will continue to have a presence on the Estate, having employed Mick O'Malley, as part-time Moorpool Hall Administrator, who will have an office on site".

Once the date for the move has been

finalised, detailed information will be published about how services will be provided. No decision has been made about the future occupancy of The Circle offices, which are owned by Grainger, but the future of the community facilities will not be affected by the relocation.

Moorpool Hall News.

Should you wish to make a booking, or discuss any issues concerning The Hall, please contact Mick on 0161 929 3196, or e-mail mo'malley@graingerplc.co.uk.

MOORPOOL PLAYERS

Don't forget that The Moorpool Players will be presenting their Annual Charity Christmas Show at The Moorpool Hall on Wednesday 12th December. Admission at the door will be £3 which will include wine and mince pies.

NOTICES

Moorpool Allotment Association.

AGM to be held on Tuesday 4th December at 7.30, Lower Hall. Members and prospective members welcome. (Contact Rob Sutton : 426 5669)

FINAL QUACK

Our thanks to Chad Vale School for printing the Duck again for us, their help is much appreciated.

Do try and get to the Hall this Sunday and see the picture - it really is worth it, and you can always order a limited edition copy for yourself!

The final *final* quack is an appeal to those Residents who have not yet paid their subscription to send it to the Treasurer. The Association cannot function without this income and the Duck feels that at £5 per household or £3 per single person household it's very good value for money !