

# *The Moor Pool Duck*

www.moorpool.com

Residents' Newsletter.

Issue No.42

September 2009

## *Grainger Planning Applications.*

Dear Residents,

The first steps in a legal challenge to the approval of Graingers planning applications have been initiated. The case has been reviewed by expert third party legal opinion and the reasons for legal challenge whittled down to a reasonable number. So far, the cost of the work has been supported by a small group as it was not necessary at this point to cast the net wider and the timeline was tight. This may, of course, change as we proceed. Anybody who wishes to contribute can of course do so at any time. Please contact Rob Sutton for details.

Letters continue to appear supporting our cause and criticising the Birmingham City Council decision. Some of you may have heard the recent Radio 4 'You and Yours' programme which had a piece on Oldham Garden Suburb. Listening to the residents talking it could have been Moor Pool. At the end of the programme the TCPA, (Town and Country Planning Association) and CABE (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment) extolled the virtues of 'garden suburbs' such as Moor Pool and how their principles are still pertinent to the design of the new so-called 'eco-towns' – except for one thing; more

parking needs to be incorporated. Our planning committee and members of the planning department should have listened to it. They are out of touch or sadly oblivious of what Moor Pool represents.

Rob Sutton. Chair.

## *Moor Pool Festival.*

This year's main Centenary event is on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2.00 - 5.00pm starting at the Moor Pool Hall. The MRA will be providing Edwardian teas and the various Clubs on Moor Pool will have tables and information on their activities. There will be childrens and drama performances, as well as face painting. Most importantly though, this will be your chance to go and visit the clubs which are an inherent part of our community. The skittle alley, bowling green, snooker room, Moor Pool and tennis club will all be open to view with directions and guides from the hall. There will be a history talk and guided walk around the Estate. The Moor Pool in Bloom team will be showing plans for the coming year and inviting suggestions from residents.

This is your chance to look at places not normally open to view so please do come along.

## **Moor Pool Festival 2009 Events.**

### **History Talk**

Hear how Moor Pool began, with an illustrated talk.

### **Guided Tour**

The Tour will take you to where Margaret Nettlefold cut the first sod back in 1907, passing various places of interest.

### **Wooden Skittle alley**

Hidden below the main Hall, the historic and unique alley will be open to view.

### **Moor Pool Air Rifle Club**

Situated in the Lower Hall, the club will provide demonstrations.

### **The Circle Tennis Club**

Information and clubhouse open to view.

### **Bowling Club**

Visit the clubhouse and green. Have a go and enjoy refreshments.

### **Moor Pool Fishing Club.**

You might have fed the ducks, but this is your chance to get 'behind the fence' and see the pool from a different perspective.

### **The Snooker Club.**

Another hidden gem which was featured in the book 'Played in Birmingham'. A rare opportunity to see the club, meet members and have a go.

### **The Allotment Association.**

Visit some of the allotments on the guided tour. See some of the so-called 'derelict allotments' threatened with destruction.

### **Moor Pool in Bloom.**

Following on from the spring and summer planting, MiB will show plans for work over the coming year to stop the dereliction overtaking

Website: [www.moorpool.com](http://www.moorpool.com)

the Estate. This is a chance for you to put forward ideas to the Committee and give your opinions.

### **Winterbourne oral History.**

The project is well under way. Talk to Anna Keast from Winterbourne, the oral histories officer, and hear about Winterbourne, John Nettlefold's home.

### **Edwardian Teas, Main Hall.**

For the Edwardians, Tea was a very serious and tasty business. A chance to show off with a variety of teas, enticing sandwich fillings and deliciously light cakes. All of which had to be pleasing to the eye and impressive on the plate! At 3pm we will take your taste buds back in time with our authentic afternoon tea fit for a king, for a mere £2!!

### **Moor Pool Residents Association.**

Information on the association activities and old pictures of Moor Pool. Your chance to ask questions.

### *Winterbourne Oral History Update.*

If you would like to help with the project either recounting stories about the Estate or helping to actually record the stories, please contact Anna Keast on 0121 414 9115. Anna has chatted to a number of residents now and the more residents she can speak to, the better a history of the Estate can be gathered together.

### *A Moor Pool Trust.*

Whether we get the planning approval stopped or not, the long term future of the Estate has to

Chair: Rob Sutton. 426 5669.

be considered. Tenants properties continue to be sold off as they become available. You must ask yourself the question. What interest will Grainger have in running community facilities and public areas if they no longer own any houses on the Estate? The most likely answer would be 'None'. Any other answer would be contrary to the responsibilities of a public company answerable to its shareholders. A Trust to act as a vehicle to raise significant outside funding is being looked at with the objective of securing the long term future of the facilities and preventing the damage which would be incurred by further building. The viability study which has been on hold pending the outcome of the planning applications would be a start to evaluate costs and provide the information which organisations such as the Heritage Lottery Fund would need before committing to Moor Pool.

### *Residents Coffee Morning*

Due to refurbishment of the Lower Hall, the Bowling Club very kindly allowed us to use their clubhouse on the 29th August. What a pleasant venue it was too and we hope to visit again at some point. Our thanks to the Club for inviting us.

The next coffee morning is on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September, venue to be advised nearer the time. the coffee morning starts at 10.30am. As usual, any donations of cakes or biscuits will be very welcome but more importantly, please come along and join in.

### *Moor Pool Allotments.*

Fortunately, as we reported previously, the plan to turn former allotments at site B into a low key recreational (drug?) area has been thrown out. So what happens next and how can the 30+ people on our waiting list actually get an allotment? According to the planning officers report, '*the applicant has confirmed that their commitment to estate-wide allotment restoration is subject to the outcome of the planning process*'. In other words if the application wasn't approved, the allotments would be left derelict. Well there is no excuse now, other than the unnecessary agreement between BCC and Grainger on how the restoration should be carried out. The MAA just want to get on with it and offered to do so back in April. So stop putting obstacles in our path BCC/Grainger and let the MAA get started.

### *Moor Pool News and Wine.*

The shop at the Circle is now selling the 2010 local Harborne historic picture calendars. So get your Xmas presents early! Just to remind you too, that Raj has a cash machine, fax machine and copier all up and working. The shop also has the MRA letter box just inside the door where you can post correspondence to us.

### *Garden Cities and Garden Villages.*

The Garden Village Movement of the early 20th century was established as a way of providing good housing and services for all classes, Garden Villages followed the same lines as the larger Garden Cities of Welwyn and

Letchworth. The difference between Garden Villages and Cities was usually that the 'cities' were designed to have workplaces integrated, whereas the smaller villages tended to be more like well-designed suburban estates with good communal facilities. These estates were a reaction against urbanism, and were designed to look and feel like a village, with parks, village greens and housing heavily influenced by neo-vernacular styles and the Arts and Crafts movement. Garden villages or suburbs such as Moor Pool continue to exist and good examples remain at Rhiwbina and Barry in South Wales.

### *Moor Pool Players.*

The Moor Pool Players are staging 'Pygmalion' by Bernard Shaw from 25th to 28th November at 7.30, plus a matinee on Saturday the 28th at 2.00. Tickets will be available in due course from Moorpool News but advance orders can be made through the Box Office on 426 2134 or via the website, Moorpool.org. There is likely to be a heavy demand for tickets for this production so please support the Players and order your tickets soon.

### *Spurgin Pharmacy.*

One of the treasures of the Moor Pool Estate is the Skittle Alley. After nearly a century of use it is in urgent need of repair and the Mens and Ladies clubs are raising money towards this project. Gareth Spurgin whose pharmacy recently closed on Gillhurst Road, has made a very generous donation of cosmetics, etc, to be raffled off in aid of the skittle alley fund. Our

sincere thanks go to Gareth for this very kind gesture.

### *Harborne Ward Meeting.*

The next Ward meeting is Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> September 7pm, at Harborne Primary School, Station Road.

### *The Moor Pool website.*

Please log in and keep up to date. If you have any suggestions email them to us.

The address is: [www.moorpool.com](http://www.moorpool.com)

### Latest additions.

Links to other garden suburbs, including Brentham, Saltaire, Hampstead, Oldham, Port Sunlight, Letchworth and Wavertree.

The MRG website also carries latest information and documents relating to the Grainger planning applications. You can access via [www.moorpool.org.uk](http://www.moorpool.org.uk) or the link on the MRA website.

### *Final Thought.*

**Come along, support and enjoy the Festival. We hope this can become an annual event which will help our clubs survive and thrive and also promote Moor Pool's historical importance.**

**Rob Sutton.**

**Chair.**