

The Moorpool Duck

www.moorpool.com

www.moorpool.co.uk

Residents' Newsletter:

Issue No.44:

October 2009

Letter from the Chair.

Dear Residents,

I hope there will be another Duck before our AGM on 20th November, but please put the date in your diary and come along. Do also think about joining our Committee. We now have a very active programme of events and work for the coming year. We are trying to revive Membership for 'Friends of Moor Pool', as there are those who have moved away from the Estate or share an interest in our garden suburb who would like to be kept informed. We also need to actively fund raise to support the additional events we have put on and those planned for the year ahead.

I was elected as Chair of the MRA for 3 years in 2007. The last 2 years have been extremely eventful but sadly dominated by the planning applications which if allowed to proceed will change Moor Pool forever. In my view, 3 years is rather a long time to be elected, particularly when there are contentious issues to be considered. Therefore I shall be standing down at the AGM but seeking re-election for the remaining 12 months. I believe the following objectives are very important:

- To promote Moor Pool and raise awareness of its historical importance.
- To foster a community spirit through events such as the Moorpool Festival.
- To continue to look at ways of securing Moor Pool's future, including all the community open

space, clubs and facilities, so that they are no longer exposed to the commercial pressures of a private company.

- To ensure the character of the estate is recognised and protected.
- To oppose the Grainger planning applications which will damage Moor Pool.

There is much unfinished business and I hope you will continue to support the Residents Association. Clearly without the support of the residents, the MRA and MRG could not have achieved what we have.

In particular, I would like to thank Emma Moyes who has put tremendous effort into the legal work on which the Judicial Review is based, and Andrew Hackett who has not only chaired the MRG but constantly revised and updated the Moor Pool websites. I would also ask you to give your full support to renewing the MRG for a further 12 months.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who contributed and continue to contribute to the MRG fighting fund. Having visited and personally collected cheques from many who are pensioners, I genuinely feel not only humbled but angry that this is what our struggle has come to. Shame on you Birmingham City Council.

Rob Sutton (Chair MRA)

An Update from the MRG

I'm sure that you will all be aware of the astonishing decision to grant planning permission for new housing on our estate, destroying garages and allotments, severely damaging the green spaces inherent to the original design of the estate, making a mockery of the enhanced conservation status of the Moor Pool estate and setting a precedent for the future sale or development of other areas.

The current planning process does not allow for appeal, but does allow challenge of the process by which decisions are arrived at. It was for this process of Judicial Review that the MRG called a residents meeting on October 4th to raise funds.

In spite of the short notice and venue off the estate, the meeting was an enormous success, demonstrating in the most fundamental possible way that we have the backing of residents in this matter, despite accusations to the contrary by certain vested parties.

Using these funds, we issued proceedings against Birmingham City Council on October 7th. This is the first of a two-stage process and we would expect to hear the outcome in a month or two.

In the meantime, the Council has granted an extension to Grainger to sign the 106 agreements – this done without even the courtesy of informing those most affected – the residents of Moor Pool. On October 21st Gisela Stuart made a stirring speech in Parliament castigating the Council for failing to produce the character appraisal that would have greatly strengthened our objections, despite legislation (albeit weakly worded) being in place for 19 years.

So we wait for the decision from the courts. We are still offering bonds for funding contingency and future legal costs, so if you haven't bought one yet, please contact us. And a final personal and

Website: www.moorpool.com

heartfelt thanks to all those who have given us the moral and financial support to continue the fight.

Andrew Hackett
Chairman, MRG: www.moorpool.co.uk

Save the Moor Pool Petition.

The Edgbaston and Harborne Observer, who have been very supportive, have an online petition which you can not only 'sign' but also leave your comments. Please take the opportunity to do so. Links are on the websites.

The Moorpool website.

There is a lot of information on our website including pictures, historical information and events. Please log in and keep up to date. If you have any suggestions, email them to us using the link on the site: www.moorpool.com.

The MRG site www.moorpool.co.uk also carries latest information re the planning applications and also information on the debate in Parliament concerning Moor Pool requested by our MP, Gisela Stuart.

There is now an 'Items for sale' and 'Wanted' section on the website. This will be free for the moment, although we will consider whether to charge at some point in the future.

There is also an "Announcements" Section – births, marriages, deaths etc. No charge for the moment. You need to supply details via the web site.

Residents Coffee Morning

The next coffee morning is on Saturday 31st October in the Lower Hall starting at 10.30am. As usual, any donations of cakes will be very welcome on the day. Please come along and join in.

Chair: Rob Sutton. 426 5669.

Moor Pool News and Wine.

Don't forget how very important the shop is to our Estate, so please do use it whenever you can. Raj now has a cash machine, fax machine and copier, all up and working, along with some tempting special offers on wines and beers. The shop also has the MRA letter box just inside the door where you can post correspondence to us.

Moorpool in Bloom - update

By the end of October we will have planted most of the four thousand small bulbs (early red tulips and yellow narcissus) and the six sacks of daffodils which Hazel Bruce obtained for the Estate from the wholesale market. The bulbs were paid for by a grant from the Council and generous donations from local people – our thanks to all of them.

Next year there will be a chance to get more varied species; the roads that haven't had any so far will get their chance (if they wish) and those that have had some can add to their display.

There are practical plans in hand to tidy up some the more neglected areas of the estate. Residents at the Square and the Spinney are putting forward suggestions. Progress will depend, however, upon agreement with Graingers. We have offers of help from an experienced conservation group.

On the 22nd October, there was a meeting in the small hall where residents made suggestions for activities for MiB in 2010. The draft plan will, if possible, be available for the coffee morning on 31st and if you want to add suggestions, there will be a chance then. Some very interesting and different ideas were put forward!

If you want to know more about Moorpool in Bloom, contact Liz 0779 247

3975, Anne Marie 0797 444 8976 or come to the coffee morning on 31st.

More MiB information is on the website including bulb planting instructions. Park Edge has been transformed by the hard work, in particular of Igor Cusack and Hazel Bruce. Replacement planting of more manageable shrubs will take place and donations are welcome.

Queen's Park Sinfonia: Review

On Sunday 18th October, we watched the performance by the Queens Park Sinfonia which lasted a far too brief 45 minutes. Rachael Young conducted 'Sextet from Capriccio' by Strauss and 'Appalachian Spring' by Copland. These were young professional musicians who gave an excellent performance.

They will be performing a Christmas Concert at Moorpool Hall on Saturday 19th December and I would thoroughly recommend coming along to listen to them. Thanks to the Sinfonia and their Manager Neil Chapman for coming to Moor Pool. (Jan Sutton)

MRA Subs

Once again it is time that subs to the MRA are due. These are £5 per household or £3 per single person. They can be paid at the AGM in November or at any time to either Gill Morgan (Treasurer: 80, Moorpool Ave) Rob Sutton (Chair: 64 Margaret Grove), or Mike Frost (Duck Editor: 1 Carless Avenue). These subscriptions are essential for us to be able to continue with events such as the Festival, Coffee Mornings etc, so please do join the Association.

Please enclose your name and address so that a receipt can be sent to you.

Fly tipping

We recently suffered a spate of fly tipping on the Valley Site garages. The rubbish was literally tipped straight off the back of a builder's lorry so that a resident had to move items out of the way to be able to drive down to her garage. It's likely these characters are working somewhere nearby. Please keep your eyes open and if you are suspicious, note the vehicle registration number and call the Police. If you are having work done, please check that your building materials are being disposed of properly, particularly if a skip is not being used.

Fortunately, we were able to contact Cllr. Deirdre Alden who promptly organised the 'Hit Squad' to come along and clear all this rubbish away. Many thanks.

The Moor Pool Festival.

This was judged to be a great success with visitors from far and wide. We will be repeating the event next year with hopefully a few more helpers to share the workload. We are grateful to our local Councillors for the donation from the Ward Committee which made the event possible and especially the hard work put in by all those who manned the stands. Special thanks to all the tea ladies who worked non-stop serving and washing up.

The Duck

We are hoping to develop the scope and possibly size and style of the *Duck* over the coming issues, introducing new sections which will inform and entertain. As this publication is primarily for Residents please do let us know the sort of items which you would find interesting or helpful.

If you would like to place a small advert in the *Duck*, the cost would be £10 for 1/8 page.

Balloons for a Party.

Website: www.moorpool.com

Rob Sutton has told the *Duck* that the MRA has a helium cylinder and some red, white, blue and yellow balloons that are for sale. Cost 36p per balloon. Help us recoup the cost of hire as the cylinder will have to be returned shortly.

Final Quack.

Christmas is a-coming and the MRA has a very fine new Xmas card which will be on sale soon. Also don't forget there will be another Carol walk on Sunday 13th December, preceded by a family puppet theatre show from Major Mustard in the Hall. Further details in the next *Duck*.

(M.Frost Editor.)

ADVERT.

Christmas Shopping Event

The Moor Pool Hall

Sunday 1st November.
11.00Am until 2.00Pm

Do all your Christmas shopping in one place.

Christmas cards and paper.
Beauty and cosmetics.
Unique Xmas presents.
Home and kitchen.
Candles,
Jams and Chutneys.
Children's books.
Chocolate,
Jewellery,
Photos.

Raffle with 30+ prizes including 5 meals for 2, a case of champagne and a pamper bag.

Kids face-painting and balloons.
Cakes, teas and chocolate fountain.

In aid of 'Bliss' for babies born too small, too soon, too sick. Reg Charity No 1002973

Chair: Rob Sutton. 426 5669.