

The Moor Pool Duck

www.moorpool.com

Residents' Newsletter for Moor Pool Garden Suburb. No 53 March 2011

Your Estate Needs You!

Residents Meeting

Moor Pool Hall

Saturday March 19th 2.30 pm

Hello Everyone,

In this edition we update you on the Trust Viability study, plans for this years Moor Pool in Bloom, events and securing the future of our local shop.

Most important of all is the viability study and the proposals which will follow to place the Moor Pool facilities into a Community Trust and secure them in the long term, for the benefit of the people that they were designed to serve. This could be the last opportunity to secure Moor Pool in its entirety for the future and it's an opportunity which we need to come together and seize. Some of the commercial assets are scheduled for disposal by auction in May and the community facilities in July; but Grainger has invited us to put together a case for the raising of the finance to acquire these assets ourselves and to show we are serious about the matter. If we do not seize this opportunity and the Estate becomes broken up, all sorts of issues will arise and instead of

dealing with just one landlord, Grainger, we could be dealing with many. We have worked hard over the last few years to get this opportunity and we have many talented people in our community, people who can lend their expertise and who can help convert the idea of a community trust for Moor Pool to a reality. So we need your support as never before to complete the process and secure the future of Moor Pool. We have arranged a meeting at the Hall to update you and discuss how you can support moving the process forward. All residents and members of Moor Pool's Clubs and Societies are invited to attend. Please come along and show your support.

Rob Sutton. Chair.

Trust Viability Study

Since the last newsletter we have received news that an application to the Homes and Community Agency for match funding for the viability study has been approved. We now have £14,000 available for the study. (Remember 20% of this will be lost as VAT). This has allowed us to start the study knowing

we have sufficient funds to complete it. Work has begun with BVT and we have continued our discussions with BCC and Grainger. The next positive news was that following ongoing discussions with Grainger, they have now given us the opportunity to consider most of the non residential Moor Pool assets as part of the study. This will allow us to look at what we consider necessary to provide future income and to retain the integrity of the Estate. Grainger have extended the initial timescales for putting forward proposals which is very welcome, but we do need to make rapid progress if we are to keep the project on track.

We are engaging with the Clubs and Societies to get their views and feedback on the issues a future Trust would face. We shall also need assistance in compiling surveys and condition reports for the Estate's facilities. It's a complex process as we are not dealing simply with a Hall, but a very extensive range, from allotments, pathways and open spaces to tennis courts and a large community hall.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Although BVT will be managing the study, the more we can do ourselves the better. In particular we are looking for additional people to help with architectural drawings, a quantity surveyor and help with valuations.

Shortly before going to press we heard that a young Moor Pool resident, Alex (10) has already started collecting to save Moor Pool. He has organised a 100 club with a £25 prize to be drawn at the next coffee morning and an auction when he will be the prize to do jobs for the day. What a great example! If you would like to support Alex either by buying a 100 number for a £1 or making a bid then give me a call on 0121 426 5669.

The Way Forward?

This document remains available on the website and feedback would be appreciated. It gives ideas and proposals for the future of the Moor Pool Estate. We are processing schemes for the old allotments at the bottom of Margaret Grove (Site B), the Valley and the Builders Yard, for residents to comment upon. After consultation these schemes would form part of the grant submission documents. If you have other ideas or

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suggestions, please forward these to us either via the website or the MRA post box at the Circle shop.

Help Save Moor Pool News and Wine

The combination of economic conditions and increased costs is putting the survival of one of our most important assets under threat. The shops have existed at the Circle for over 100 years and are a key part of our community. As well as a wide range of foods and household necessities, don't forget the other services that Raj provides. Cash machine, fax and photocopier, stamps and stationery, newspapers and magazines with delivery, a dry-cleaning service, medicines, as well as wines and beers with tempting special offers. Samosas are also available daily. So with such a range available at the Circle shop, please remember SHOP LOCAL! The shop also has the MRA letter box inside where you can post correspondence to us. Opening times are on the website. We must not lose the shop so if you have suggestions for any changes the shop could or should make to increase sales, then speak to Raj or better still buy more! You can call the shop to order items on **0121 428 1061**

History Plate

Planning permission has now been received to affix the History Plate to the side wall of the shop, as well as approval from Grainger. We hope when the weather is improved, to carry this out and hold another small unveiling ceremony. Watch this space.

Character Appraisal

The consultation period has now ended. We hope everyone will have taken the opportunity to express their views and submit comments.

Spinney Work party

Sunday 9th January was the date set aside for a group of volunteers to 'attack' the Spinney in Carless Avenue but, with snow promised, everyone held their breath. Clearing needed to be done before the bulbs starting

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appearing, so time was running out. Thankfully the snow didn't materialise; in fact the day was almost spring like. Dead branches were removed, borage dug up, bushes thinned and thicket areas cleared. Although the pile grew to well over 2 metres in height and 7 metres in length, help was at hand. Under the auspices of the City Council, Sue Hickin arranged for a team known as 'The Hit Squad' to come and remove all the rubbish the next day. The chief organiser of the work party, Liz Muir, was assisted by Maureen Mauser, Igor Cusack, Paula McGee, Mike Foster, Norma Mason, Alex Mauser, Pauline Merrick and Frank Fellows. A good time was had by all and hopefully the efforts made will be appreciated by everyone. If anyone is interested and could spare just an hour or two in helping clear or plant parts of our wonderful Estate, please contact Liz Muir.

Moor Pool in Winter

Many photographers were seen out and about taking pictures of the Estate following the falls of snow around Christmas. If you would like to submit your picture to the website please follow the link on the website.

We would also like to thank residents for the help they gave to friends and neighbours who had difficulty with the treacherous conditions and extreme temperatures. That's what Moor Pool is all about.

Moor Pool in Bloom 2011

Work has started although it's more inside than out at present! The first main event of 2011 is the Plant Sale which is planned for 21st May, same site as last year, we hope. In 2010 we had a good time and raised £200. This year we would like to repeat the good time and raise £400! Please join in!
From February on, we need help with the following:

- Propagating seeds
- Cuttings
- Growing on 1000 plug plants
- Potting up plants from the estate and Plant donations
- Making information labels

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- Donating seed trays and trays for plant pots (at the shop)

The categories are annuals and biennials (e.g. geraniums, busy lizzies, begonias), perennials (e.g. lupins, Chinese lanterns, hollyhocks) shrubs, vegetable plants and plants for Wildlife (Bees, butterflies etc.) We can help with seed trays and compost if necessary.

If you can grow something and are short of space, MiB now has a greenhouse and part of an allotment (thanks to Mike/Mike and Ron) and we are trying to arrange more under cover facilities. There will be some group potting up sessions in late March and April. Just let me know if you are interested – experts and beginners welcome. (Liz: 07792473975)

- ❖ Start looking for recyclable containers for use as planters round the estate.
- ❖ See whether your road has signs that can be underplanted for the RHS event in July.
- ❖ Note that we need a large number of plants this year for this and the RHS project. More of this event in the next Duck!

An email on other MiB plans for 2011 will be sent out shortly.

Liz Muir, MiB Co-ordinator.

MiB Bulbs and Recycling Boxes.

Thank you every body for the care you have shown. Despite all the difficulties we have had with recycling collections, no recycling box that I passed this morning was resting on a single bulb. Ok I may have missed one or two but there are now 10,000 bulbs in the open spaces of Moor Pool and it's really reassuring for the volunteers and the project to know they are appreciated.

Liz Muir

Co-ordinator Moor Pool in Bloom.

Letters to the Editor

No letters this month but we have had a number of emails regarding continued damage to verges. Why parking on them continues especially when the ground is soft is a mystery. A successful Trust would make great efforts to make sure empty garages are put back into use to reduce the on street parking problem.

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Website News.

We have received more pictures taken at the Queens Silver Jubilee in 1977. It looked a marvellous event with children in fancy dress and a superb tea party at the Hall. Were you there? Are there stories to tell? Does anyone have information on those pictured or have more pictures?

There are also pictures of the Carol Walk. If you have pictures or maybe articles or newspaper cuttings from the past, let us know. If you haven't visited our website, do have a look.

If there is anything you would like to see on the website or amendments needed? If so, please drop us an email or note and let us know.

Subscriptions for 2010-2011

Subscriptions for membership of the Moor Pool Residents Association run from the date of the AGM for one year. Subs for this current year thus began with last November's AGM. As we have noted before, a lot is now happening on the Estate through the work of the MRA supported by subscriptions from Residents. This is our only source of regular income. Subscriptions of £5 per household or £3 per single person are extremely reasonable. So if you haven't joined or renewed your membership for this current year (2010-2011) please show your support and commitment and help us help all Residents by paying this small sub. Thank you.

Please send your payment to either Gill Morgan (Treasurer: 80, Moor Pool Ave) Rob Sutton (Chair: 64 Margaret Grove), or Mike Frost (Duck Editor: 1 Carless Avenue). Cheques should be payable to Moor Pool Residents Association.

Verge Protection.

Following proposals put to the Council last year, a series of measures have been agreed to reinforce the verge at The Circle. This will use a method of grass reinforcement called 'Bodpave' which allows the grass to grow through but will support the weight of vehicles. We are pleased that efforts to overcome this problem have received the support of our Councillors and we understand from constituency engineer Marie Brown that work will start shortly. If the 'Bodpave' proves satisfactory and funding allows, other areas can be looked at too.

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Siobhan Collins - McCarthy Dance Academy

Royal Academy of Dance Registered Teacher Status
R.A.D. T.C. R.T.S. (Dist)
Pilates Instructor Advanced Cert Level 3
Register of Exercise Professionals

New Pilates Classical Matwork Class

Wednesday Lunch Time 12:30 - 1:30 pm

'Ladies who Crunch'

All Ages and Abilities

First Class £5.00 Taster Session
£10.00 Thereafter Or £48.00 for a Six Week Course



The Moorpool Hall, The Circle, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 9DY.

Website: www.ballet-birmingham.com

Mob: 07896315199

Clearing up the Estate

Dianna Dunn is organising litter picking which is a great initiative. Remember to join in our quarterly litter picks held during the first complete week (Sunday to Saturday) in May, August and November. The next one scheduled for May will ensure the Estate is spick and span ready for the RHS visit in July, so grab a black bag and do your bit. Let us know if you find something too bulky or dangerous to handle and we will arrange for speedy and expert removal.

Pickers can go out at any time in groups or by themselves using their own bags with a view to recycling or binning any litter as appropriate via their own refuse collections. Items deemed too big or hazardous in any way should simply be reported to the Residents Association via the usual channels and left for BCC's Hit Squad to clear by arrangement as soon as possible after each pick.

Litter picking is voluntary and entirely at the risk of participants. Children are welcome to join in but they remain the responsibility of their parents who must supervise them accordingly at

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all times. Please note that the Valley site is at present unsuitable for children to cover.

Scarecrow Competition

Saturday 30th April 2011

With St George's day on the 23rd and the Royal wedding on the 29th the themes for this year's competition will be:

LEGENDS or ROYALTY

The date leaves plenty of time to build your scarecrow during the school holiday. Of course many of our entries are from adults and as usual prizes will be awarded for:

1st, (£20) 2nd (£10) and 3rd. (£5)

Entry forms can be downloaded from the website or collected from the shop.

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Do you have time on your hands? Can you manage gentle exercise? Do you enjoy company?

If your answer is yes to these questions, Moor Pool Bowling Club is the place for you. Come and try it out, we will show you how, no charge for introduction.

From April to October you can play crown green bowls 7 days a week. We hold three social events in the pavilion during the playing season, Fish and Chip Night, a BBQ with a quiz, a music quiz evening "Name That Tune" with a buffet.

From October to April you can play whist every Wednesday afternoon in the pavilion, in December the whist club holds a Pork Bap Christmas lunch in the pavilion.

There is a craft club every Tuesday morning in the pavilion where you can come and do whatever interests you; art, sewing, patchwork quilting, cribbage and dominoes are the hobbies at present.

In February we hold a fundraising Quiz Night with a hot buffet at a local Pub.

Family and friends can also attend the social events.

Don't sit at home all summer and winter, come and enjoy this beautiful setting.

Contact us now; you do not have to wait till the bowling season starts

Contact: Frances 454 9886

Secretary Mrs Pam Doubleday 14 Moorfield Drive, Halesowen B63 3TG 01215501316

Moor Pool in Bloom Calendar for 2011

Volunteers needed for Jobs/Projects

1. Planters and Flowers for the Circle/shop
 2. Tidying and maintaining estate - Saturday group, one hour per month.
 3. Plant propagation. Seed sowing sessions will be arranged for November but most of the work will be done in early Spring.
 4. RHS Planning for 2011. Are you interested in next year's displays?
 5. Bees. Improving Moor Pool's Bee population.
 6. Bird and Bat Boxes for Moor Pool.
- February half term. (Prepare January) Children and Adults: Are you interested in developing this programme for the estate?

Bowling Club

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Composting

Suggestion made that we should compost more green waste for our own use.

Please contact Liz initially on 07792473975 or
Email: e.muir276@btinternet.com

Allotment Association

The Association continues to receive applications for allotments and we maintain a waiting list of our own. Although we have looked at putting in place a programme of restoration it looks as if events will overtake us as the viability study progresses. Because of the linkage of the allotments through planning conditions with the development sites it is clear that the only way forward which guarantees the allotments remain under local control and remain in a restored and managed state is if they are acquired for the Trust.

Antiques Roadshow.

The Antiques Roadshow is coming to the Great Hall at Birmingham University on April 20th. Nettlefold's family home Winterbourne, is of course part of the University. If you have any Moor Pool memorabilia which may be of interest do take it along.

Advertising

A scale of charges is available for placing an advertisement in the Duck newsletter and on the website. The Duck is delivered to over 500 homes on and around the Estate. Details can be downloaded from the website. Sponsors are also invited for the forthcoming events.

Dates for your Diary

Coffee Morning. Saturday 26th March 2011.

Coffee Morning. Saturday 30th April 2011.

Plant Sale. Saturday 21st May 2011

Reading Club. Thursday 7th April 2011.

Moorpool Players

Moorpool Players' are currently rehearsing their next play 'The Cemetery Club' but please don't let the title put you off.

You will be swept into the lives of three hilarious characters who meet once a month to visit their late husbands.

The play runs from 11-14 May and includes a Saturday matinee. Box office 426-2134.

Moor Pool Reading Club

The second meeting of the Reading Club on 27th January at the Small Hall, Moor Pool resulted in another great discussion, this time of Jerome K. Jerome's "Three Men in a Boat" which was nicely introduced by Alex Upton. Twelve members attended and there were two apologies. The next meeting will be on Thursday 7th April from 7.30 to 8.30pm in the Small Hall, The Circle, Moor Pool. We will be discussing Linda Grant's *We Had It So Good*. This will be introduced by Jenny Stevenson. All welcome.

Coffee Morning + 100 Club Draw and Auction.

The next Coffee Morning will be on Saturday 26th March 2011. Do come along for a cuppa, a cake and a good chat. It will be in the Lower Hall as usual from 10.30am.

Rose Road Police

Our local police station remains Rose Road from where the neighbourhood team who cover Moor Pool are based. The following number can be used for reporting minor incidents: 0345 113 5000, then either ask for or dial 7863 6722. Residents should also be aware of incidents of carjacking and take special care particularly when it is dark. Be aware and report anything suspicious.

Carless Books

.....for something a little different!

From first editions to bargain basement paperbacks we offer a varied choice of used and collectable books. Our titles cover classic and modern literature, supernatural fiction, humour and travel (with lots more in between) at competitive prices. To browse our latest catalogue contact Mick O'Malley on 0121 427 5051, or email carlessbooks@hotmail.co.uk **Free delivery to Moor Pool residents.**