

The Moor Pool Duck

www.moorpool.com

Residents' Newsletter for Moor Pool Garden Suburb. No 54 April 2011

Fundraising Starts!

Hello Everyone,

In March, residents met at the Hall for an update on the current situation regarding the Moor Pool facilities. Adrian Millicheap from Bournville Village Trust explained progress on the viability study and Paul Mountain from legal firm Martineau, gave an overview on the legal aspects of the Trust. Residents asked many questions, most of which we could answer. We hope the meeting gave everyone an understanding of the challenge and task ahead. From the reaction of the audience everybody was extremely supportive. Jules Bellingham spoke on the issues of fundraising and there was clear support for starting that process despite the fact the viability study is not yet complete and the assets needed to support a viable Moor Pool are unclear. Despite this donations are flowing in and I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of residents, in particular some of our more senior citizens. We have received 4 individual donations of £500 each, which is absolutely exceptional, and many others, all of which will contribute to our grand target. We are extremely grateful to all the individuals concerned and value all the donations large, small or in kind, which are essential to reach our total. I hope that everyone who values Moor Pool will be inspired to come forward to play a part or contribute in some way.

Negotiations with Grainger continue, and since the meeting the MRA have put forward two substantial proposals for consideration. One of these proposals is for a solution regarding the allotments and open spaces which are tied to the planning permissions.

Rob Sutton. Chair.

P.S. Thanks to Sheila Preece who has been opening and closing the hall during our visits and

work on the viability study in Mick O'Malley's absence. She's also on her 2nd small change collection jar!

SAVE THE MOOR POOL ESTATE! HELP REQUIRED.....From Jules Bellingham: Chair Moor Pool Heritage Fund Committee.

The situation

Many of you will know that the Moor Pool Estate is a great example of a garden suburb, created by John Nettlefold. All of us will know it as a fabulous place to live.

Graingers have been planning significant developments on the estate for some time. However, we now understand that Graingers are planning to auction off some of the "Community" and "Commercial" parts of the estate.

This could lead to these sites being acquired and developed by outside parties in a way which will threaten the character and nature of the estate.

MRA wants to raise sufficient funds to acquire the sites for the benefit of the community – thereby protecting the future of the estate. This will be a mammoth undertaking, and is likely to require significant funds.

What's happening?

MRA has commissioned a feasibility study so we can determine the value of the sites, and how practical it is to manage them going forward. Bournville Village Trust is independently doing this feasibility study. This study will give us an idea of how much money we have to raise.

Additionally, we formed a committee of people who have fundraising experience: Julia Bellingham, Vanessa Cusack, Jayne Millicheap, Margaret O'Hara and Jim Tucker. This group is looking at fundraising options.

What is happening now?

We need to set ourselves up as a registered charity ("The Moor Pool Heritage Trust") so that we can access more funds. MRA is also setting up a specific bank account "Moor Pool Heritage Trust" so we can clearly separate funds raised from regular MRA funds.

How can you help?

Many grant funders want to see evidence that a group or community has made an effort to raise funds itself and that's what we are starting to do.

We have had an amazing response so far from people who want to fundraise to save Moor Pool. Here's 2 other ways you can help at the moment:

- *Pledge your support* – we are launching a "buy a brick" scheme. The idea is to build a virtual Moor Pool Hall/House through donations. The scheme will have different levels so that everyone can participate. If you buy a brick, you will have the chance to have a name plaque put on a future commemorative community site. **At this stage, we are just registering the level of interest in this scheme – so we are just looking for pledges of support to gauge interest levels in this idea. The pledge form is enclosed.**

Skills Bank – Try something new for Moor Pool this springtime. The Moor Pool skills bank is now up and running and more details follow later in the newsletter.

- *Fundraise* – hold a fundraising event for us! See the Moor Pool website and Community notice board by the shop for brilliant ideas.
- *Volunteer* – We need you! It is likely we will need volunteers as the fundraising progresses. We would like to build up a list of people who have the time and energy to help out. It won't be a regular thing requiring long-term fixed commitment (well not yet anyway!).

There will be a variety of jobs that need doing. If you are willing to join our army of volunteers, please drop a note with your contact details into the Moor Pool post box at the Circle (*mark correspondence for attention of "Fundraising Committee"*). However much you can help – we would really appreciate it.

Website: www.moorpool.com

For more information about fundraising, or helping us out, visit the Moor Pool website (www.moorpool.com), email us at fundraising@moorpool.com or contact any of the following people:

- Jules Bellingham – 52 Moor Pool Avenue
- Margaret O'Hara – 74 Margaret Grove
- Jane Millicheap – 55 Carless Avenue

Moor Pool News and Wine

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. You can call the shop to order items on **0121 428 1061**

Moor Pool Skills Bank

The Moor Pool Skills Bank. Learn something new or buy a service from one of your neighbours - the multi talented people of this estate are offering their time for a donation to the Moor Pool Heritage Fund. The Moor Pool Skills Bank now has 37 skills and services on offer including lessons in languages, music, computers, sports, crafts, dance and services like housework and ironing. We need more people to donate services and skills and to request them. Payment for a skill or service is made using vouchers called 'duckets' which you can buy from Raj at the shop. A ducket costs £5 and skills and services will cost between 1 and 3 duckets. If you have a computer, see www.moorpoolskillsbank.co.uk. If you don't, ask Raj at the Circle shop for the folder of information, or call 689 7368.

The Moor Pool Recycle Network. If you are throwing away something that someone else may want, don't just bin it before you've offered it to the Moor Pool Recycle Network. This network works like the freecycle or freegle networks that operate around the country where you make an offer and the taker comes to pick up the item. The only difference is that instead of giving it away for nothing, the taker will make a donation to the Moor Pool Heritage Fund. Right now, the

Chair: Rob Sutton. 426 5669.

website is under construction but very soon it will be accessible via the fundraising page on the MRA website. In the meantime, call 689 7368.

Arden School Visit

Part of what MiB sets out to do is educational. We have a marvellous resource here which projects such as the Eco Classroom will tap into, not only providing benefits to residents and local children but providing an educational experience beyond the boundaries of the Estate. Most recent was a visit from a group of children from Arden School in Sparkhill. What we take for granted was a wonderful experience for some of these children and the impression made is sure to stay with them. Our thanks to the Bowling and Fishing Clubs who made the children welcome and Grainger who provided lunchtime facilities at the hall. Maybe in years to come, having seen how a community and homes can be, will inspire these children to demand far higher standards from developers and planners.

Moor Pool in Bloom 2011

The plant sale will be on the 21st May. We look forward to offers of plants and shrubs. Things are going well! There are collection points around the estate now and in the last week we will be offering a collection service. Please let us know if you want to take advantage of this.

Because of the warm weather, we have the following annuals for early sale at very good prices:

- Petunias
- Geraniums (pelargoniums)
- Begonias
- Verbena

We also have some excellent tomato plants.

Contact Liz (0121 427 3973 or 07792 473 975)
Hilary 0121 427 1025 or Barbara (64 Margaret Grove) or go to the coffee morning on 30th April.

Please look at the Square. The wild flowers are starting to come through and Tony Devlin is clearing the last section. Winterbourne advise us not to cut till August in order to let the flowers establish. They will take two/three years to reach their best. What a brilliant effort by all concerned – we should have a picture of the ivy there permanently to remind us!

Thank you to everyone who has **deadheaded the daffodils**. There are still some more which would benefit if people in those areas can help pinch them off below the seed pod. Ideally they need feeding. Blood, fish and bone is available. Just ask.

Thanks to Frank, Igor, Mike Foster and Sam for their efforts in setting up the poly tunnel for the plant sale and providing water etc. We now have an excellent centre for storing plants. Thanks also to Mike Hayward for continuing to let MiB occupy his allotment: as you all know there is no chance of our getting our own as yet, but with Mike's help this has worked out pretty well.

We still don't have a date for the RHS Heart of England judging but I went to a meeting last week and was assured that Moor Pool would be in the first two weeks of July.

For any more information or queries – please contact Liz, Hilary or Barbara.

Eco Classroom Study Centre

The initial designs for the centre were shown to residents and featured in a recent edition of the Harborne Observer. The MRA are working closely with Harborne Primary and other potential users to get this building back into local community use. The plans will be on show at the next Coffee Morning for comment.

Community Park

Nowhere to sit quietly and catch the sun? There will be if our plans come to fruition. But what do you think? Reaction has been very positive so far but if you have not seen the plans, come along to the Coffee Morning. The Park would have an area of grass, seats, flowerbeds, but above all would be a restful and secure place of benefit to all residents, something Nettlefold would have wanted as part of his vision.

Restoration Workparties

Progress continues with a 3 pronged workparty on the same day: at the junction of Margaret Grove and Moor Pool Avenue, The Square and The Spinney. The National Trust again provided helpers and new resident helpers joined in with the clearing. Many thanks to all who came along on the day and continue to

support the process. Particular thanks to Mike Foster, a leading light on the Pereira Open Garden days, who has put great effort into supporting us.

The Circle Grass Reinforcement

Residents might have been shocked to see the verges at the Circle recently dug up and the ground excavated. Within days grass reinforcement matting had been laid and the soil will be reseeded. This initiative by residents is to try and overcome once and for all the terrible rutting caused by heavy vehicles. The materials used were not the specification we discussed but we are assured they will provide equivalent results. A similar area of reinforcement was also laid opposite the junction with Pereira Road. If these prove to be effective and visually acceptable we can look at the possibility of extending the scheme to other problem areas.

Moorpool Players Next Performance.

Moorpool Players are presenting 'The Cemetery Club' by Ivan Menchell at The Moor Pool Hall from 11th -14th May at 7.30pm, with an additional matinee performance at 2.00 on the 14th. The play, despite its title, is a gentle and heart warming comedy and tickets at £6 can be obtained from Moorpool News and Wine on The Circle, or from the Box Office on 0121 426 2134.

Subscriptions for 2010-2011

If you have not paid, please send us your subscriptions which will help the MRA support the Fundraising and Trust process. Subscriptions are £5 per household or £3 per single person . 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.

HLF Visit Moor Pool - Again

Moor Pool's fund raising team provided a tour of Winterbourne, the Valley and the Hall to demonstrate our plans for taking community buildings and open spaces back into local ownership. The historical importance and intactness continues to impress. The application for funds will be complex but that reflects the

Website: www.moorpool.com

breadth of the historical assets Moor Pool continues to offer. Particular discussion centred on the relationship to the back-to-backs (which spurred Nettlefold's desire for a better solution), Nettlefold's home, Winterbourne, with its restored family rooms and Moor Pool display - and the Estate as it is today - which 100 years on proves he was right with the ideas he proposed.

How many of those who would willingly cast all this aside have no understanding of what Moor Pool and all the other Garden Suburbs and Cities set out to achieve.

Scarecrow Competition

Saturday 30th April 2011

The themes for this year's competition will be:

LEGENDS or ROYALTY

1st, (£20) 2nd (£10) and 3rd. (£5)

Entry forms can be downloaded from the website

Coffee Morning + 100 Club Draw.

The next Coffee Morning and 100 Club draw will be on Saturday 30th April 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.

Alex's 100 Club

Buy a number from 1 – 100 for £1

£25 prize draw each month

Last months winner

Lesley, West Pathway.

Chair: Rob Sutton. 426 5669.

Extracts from Practical Housing 1908.

It is fortunately becoming more and more recognised every day that open spaces are as necessary to the health of a town, as streets are to its traffic. The provision of allotments, as a counter-attraction to the public house, could also be arranged for, if only these things were thought of beforehand. Under our present system, these boons to the self-respecting working-man and his wife and children are never thought of until it is too late to provide them at a price within the means of the ratepayers or the rent-payers of our large towns.

John Sutton Nettlefold. Practical Housing.

Siobhan Collins - McCarthy Dance Academy

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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 30th April 2011.

Scarecrow Judging. Saturday 30th April 2011

Plant Sale. Saturday 21st May 2011

Reading Club. Thursday 2nd June 2011.

Moor Pool Reading Club

"We had another great meeting on 7 April with Jenny Stevenson introducing Linda Grant's *We Had It So Good*. This was generally judged to be less worthy than many reviewers had suggested but the discussion as usual was illuminating. We also voted on titles for the next two sessions. The next meeting will be on Thursday 2 June, 7.30-8.30pm in the Small Hall, The Circle, Moor Pool. Our book will be Ondjaki's *Good Morning Comrades*, a novel (Biblioasis 2008), which will be introduced by Igor Cusack.

The following meeting will be around the end of July (venue to be confirmed), when our book will be Martin Amis's *The Pregnant Widow* (Vintage 2011)."

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PLEDGE FORM*

I would like to pledge my support to the Moor Pool Heritage Trust fundraising campaign to save the Moor Pool Estate.

Name :	
Address:	
Postcode:	
Tel Home:	Mobile:
Email address:	

Buy a Brick

Help us restore the Moor Pool Estate by buying a brick so we can re-build a "virtual version" of the Moor Pool Hall.

Please indicate below what level you would be interested in supporting at:

- £15 buys a brick plus name plaque
- £100 buys a door/window
- £500 buys a row of bricks
- £1,000 buys a foundation stone
- £2,000 buys a corner stone

At this stage no donation will be required. We are just trying to gauge the level of support for fundraising from the estate. We will contact you in due course once we are ready to take donations!

If you can help in any other way, or have any comments, pop them here:

**All funds will go towards the preservation and development of the Moor Pool Estate.*