



Issue no 79 September 2015

Dear Residents

From the MRA Chair

A massive thanks to the dynamic duo of Maureen Mauser and Norma Mason who organised the memorable inaugural 1940s Moor Pool Tea Dance in June. WHAT a memorable Moor Pool day! The spirit & happiness in Moor Pool Hall really brought home why we all worked SO hard to save our community facilities. It was lovely to see people of all ages, local residents and many new faces from around Harborne, Brum and even further afield. DVDs of the event (price £1) are available from maureen.mauser@talktalk.net or the monthly coffee morning. The event also helped raise over £400 towards the refurbishment of our community facilities. Based on the feedback we received about the event we have already set the date for the next Tea Dance, Sunday 14th February 2016 in the afternoon, with (surprise, surprise) a Valentine's Day theme. I also wish to thank Jenny and Emrys Karemo, who printed and donated the posters that decorated Moor Pool Hall and the VE/VJ Day banner that has adorned the space between the shops of The Circle. Their printing company is C3 Midlands Ltd www.c3midlands.co.uk and they are based in the Jewellery Quarter. THANK YOU Jenny and Emrys.

The next BIG Moor Pool event is the 7th annual Heritage Festival on **Sunday 13th September** from 11am until 4pm. This year's festival has a Garden Fete theme and this year's attractions include the 20p's Round The Circle challenge – we hope to better the two circuits we completed last year which raised £300 - the

Sovereign Brass Band from Smethwick, a barber shop quartet, Irish dancers, a bouncy castle, a barbecue, a children's competition and a scarecrow competition. Please come along and join in the fun.

You will see from our latest and updated schedule of Moor Pool events that we have many more fun events planned through the rest of the year. So please get the dates in your diaries and don't miss out.

Best wishes and, wherever you may be/have been over the summer months I hope that you manage some time to recharge and relax.

Sal Bourner (MRA Chair)
salbmoorpool@gmail.com

From the editor

Thank you for all your messages to the new email address. If you would like to publish in the Duck please send your article or advert to moorpoolnews@gmail.com

I hope you all have a pleasant summer.

Thank you, Paula

To publish in the Duck in 2015 please send items to the editor by

Closing date	For publication in
30 th September	October
20 th November	December



Moor Pool Players A Pack of Lies Hugh Whitemore	18 th -21 st November, Evening performances 7.30 Matinee 21 st November, 2pm
Quiz night & Fish and chip supper	28 th November 7.30pm Moor Pool Hall. (MPHT event)
Moor Pool Players Christmas charity show	9 th December See www.moorpoolplayers.co.uk
Santa's Grotto	13 th December morning (MPHT event)
Annual carol walk	13 th December afternoon
Moor Pool Tea Dance Valentine's Day theme	14 th February

What?	When & where?
Coffee morning in lower hall	Last Saturday morning of each month, Lower Hall
Pimms Party	30 th August (MPHT event)
Moor Pool Heritage Festival + 20ps around the Circle + Scarecrows	13 th September (MRA and MPHT joint event)
Quiz night & Fish and chip supper	26 th September 7.30pm Moor Pool Hall (MPHT event)
The Circle Tennis Club Annual Championships	27 th September See www.circletennisclub.net
Major Mustard's Adult Storytelling	13 th October 7.30pm Moor Pool Hall
Moor Pool Street Skittles Championship Halloween theme	31 st October Skittle Alley, Lower Hall
Moor Pool Memories event	8 th November 12-6pm Lower Hall

Full details of all events are available at
www.moorpoolfundraising.co.uk

Keep up to date via social media - @MoorPoolHT or the Moor Pool Heritage Trust Facebook page.

To hire the hall for your own events see www.moorpoolhall.com or contact Jill Howes, acting hall manager. Tel: 07769406164

Ticketed events: Tickets will be available to buy from Raj and at the monthly MRA coffee mornings.

Please support our shop

Raj's shop provides important, valuable services for the estate: groceries, newspapers, stamps, dry cleaning, cash machine and many other essentials. Raj supported our efforts to raise money to by the community buildings. Please support our shop in return.



Moor Pool Needs You!

Every event on the Moor Pool Estate is organised and run by a small band of volunteers and we need more people to help.

We urgently need volunteers to help at the Heritage Festival on Sunday 13th September.

Can you help by

Setting up stalls between 8am and 11am?	
Helping during the festival between 11am and 4 pm?	
Tidying up between 4 and 6 pm?	

If you can help please contact

salbmoorpool@gmail.com

or

www.moorpoolfundraising.co.uk

Clubs and societies



The Moorpool Players

PACK OF LIES

A play by Hugh Whitmore,
1983

Moor Pool Hall, The Circle,
Harborne, B179DY

18th – 21st November

How well do you know your neighbours? Do you trust your closest friends? Set in 1961 and based on a true story, this play exposes the truth about a family's closest friends and neighbours in a way that will change the course of their lives forever.

Evening performances at 7.30pm (doors open at 6.45pm). Tickets cost £7.50

Matinee performance Saturday 21st November at 2pm (doors open at 1pm). Tickets cost £6.50.

All tickets available from Moorpool News & Wine, The Circle Harborne or from the Box Office on 07804 182393.

To avoid disappointment we recommend that you reserve or book your tickets at an early date. Tickets reserved through the Box Office will be kept on the door for you until 7.15 or until 1.45 for the matinee.

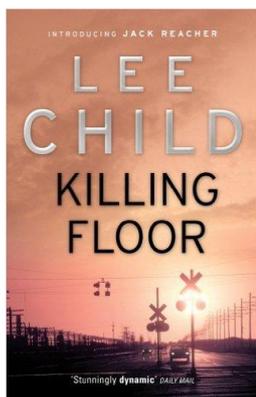
Reading Group

Igor gave an interesting and entertaining introduction to Colm Toibin's *Nora Webster*, hailed by critics as Toibin's best work, at the recent meeting of the Reading Group on Thursday 23 July. 13 members were present, with four apologies.

Nora Webster is set in 1960s Ireland at the start of the 'Troubles'. It is an unusual book, though less surprising for Toibin fans, as it has little dramatic action in the usual literary sense, apart from what is reported on in the News, and is filled with a host of small banal actions. Nearly everyone found it a page-turner though, although one or two members preferred other books by Toibin.

The group discussed the character of Nora, the novel's protagonist, in relation to questions such as whether a reader needed to like or sympathise with a major character; what her life demonstrated and suggested about bereavement, and how the character negotiated the environment of a small Catholic Irish town. We all found it intriguing, so if you haven't read it yet, do!

Next meeting



**Thursday 17
September 7.30-
8.30pm in the
Lower Hall**

Killing Floor

Lee Child

New members welcome: contact triciacusack@gmail.com or just come along. There is a small annual charge of £10.

Moor Pool in Bloom (MiB)

Liz Muir moved to Stafford earlier this year and has now decided that it is no longer practical for her to head up Moor Pool in Bloom. Liz founded Moor Pool in Bloom some six years ago, drawing on her experience with community gardening, to improve the appearance of the open spaces on the estate. New borders were created, bulbs planted in verges and areas such as the Spinney brought back under control. At the same time she instigated the annual plant sale as a means of raising funds, and also led the entry into the RHS "It's your Neighbourhood" scheme. Her organisational skill and extensive contacts brought both success in these projects and a sense of common endeavour, which contributed to the community spirit which was so successfully harnessed in the fund raising efforts last year. She will be greatly missed.

Moor Pool in Bloom will continue to work on the estate. The new coordinator is Mike Foster. Please email mikefosterwork@gmail.com

Moorpool Wildlife Group

The group recently paid a visit to a local badger sett. We were accompanied by Nigel Tolley, chairman of the West Midlands Badger Club, who has been advising the Friends of Ravenhurst Playing Fields on their campaign against the housing development. We were able to see the entrances to the extensive tunnel system, their regular trails and latrine. Nigel gave us a lot of information on the relative ineffectiveness and expense of badger culling, as well as their feeding and foraging habits, which unfortunately often cause conflicts with gardeners. We took the opportunity of looking at the sett on the Community area on Margaret Grove – now abandoned, but sometimes used by foxes as even active setts often are. We were pleased to see several colonies of peacock butterfly caterpillars on the nettle beds which will remain on the site, along with several small tortoiseshell caterpillars, which may have

hatched into the butterflies seen recently in the area.

The 2015 big Butterfly Count will take place 17th July to 9th August. For details see

<http://www.bigbutterflycount.org/>

Further information about butterfly conservation is available at <http://butterfly-conservation.org> and the Royal Horticultural Society's *Perfect for Pollinators* plant lists available at <https://www.rhs.org.uk>

For further information about the Moorpool Wildlife group please contact Mike Foster, Email: mikefosterwork@gmail.com or Cathy Perry, Email: cathyperry22@gmail.com

The Circle Tennis Club



**Circle 'Finals'
Day!**

**27th September
2015 from 1pm**

Throughout the summer the Circle Tennis Club runs a Club Championship Tournament for singles, doubles and mixed doubles players... and our finals day is always an exciting and nail-biting (!) event. Residents and members are invited to join us on the day and support the all the players who will be battling for the club trophies.

For full details on events at the club or joining details please visit our website www.circletennisclub.net or call our membership secretary Joyce on 0121 427 2151.



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Locations : **Bearwood and Bromsgrove**

The 7th Moor Pool Heritage Festival

The festival is major annual event in the life of the Moor Pool Estate, providing a great day out for all the family. The festival showcases the wide range of clubs and activities, organised by residents, which make the Estate a great place to live. This year there will be live performances from musicians and dancers, stalls selling local produce, food and many other attractions. If you are new to the area, please come along – this is a great chance to get to know people.

This year the Moor Pool Heritage Festival will take place during Heritage Open days 2015 and the Birmingham Heritage Festival, 10th -17th September which is the largest in the UK. These Heritage events provide opportunities to visit places that are normally closed to the public and to celebrate the historical and contemporary diversity that makes Birmingham such an interesting and thriving place to live. Further information is available at <http://birminghamculture.org/heritage-week/heritage-week-10th-17th-september-2015>

Children's competitions

This year there will be **two** competitions for children.

There are 4 age groups for each competition (based on school years) and prizes for each winner.

- Group 1: Pre-school
- Group 2: Reception – year 2
- Group 3: Year 3-6
- Group 4: Year 7 +

Children can enter either or both of the age groups in the competitions below. Only **one** entry per child is allowed in each competition. Entries cost **50p each payable on the day**. Please label each entry clearly with the child's name, age group and the competition number.

Please bring entries to Moor Pool Hall by 10am on 13th September. Late entries will not be accepted.

Competition 1

Make a miniature garden in a shoebox.

Competition 2

Draw or paint a picture of somewhere in Moor Pool

Scarecrow competition

This year's theme is children's book/nursery rhyme characters.

Please display your scarecrow anytime from Saturday 6th September.

You will need:

- One long stake for the body with a spike on one end
- One short piece of wood for the shoulders
- Two pairs of tights
- A pillow or cushion
- Newspaper or old material such as old towels
- Strong sticky tape
- Old clothes

Step 1: Bind or nail across the short stake to the long stake to form the shoulders.

Step 2: Stuff the legs of the tights with newspaper or old material to form the arms and legs.

Step 3: Stuff pillow into the tights that form the legs to make the body making sure the pillow goes around the main stake.

Step 4: Pull the second pair of tights over the pillow and attach the arms to the shoulders with sticky tape.

Step 5: There are lots of ways to make the head using a ball, balloon or plastic flowerpot etc. I rolled up a large ball of newspaper and wrapped it in a piece of white paper covered in wallpaper paste. I inserted a kitchen roll middle to form the neck. Then when dry I added ears and nose and then painted the face and added hair etc.

Step 6: Put the head on the stake and dress your scarecrow.

Correspondence

From Andrew Bull

adbull@blueyonder.co.uk

Warley Woods

We are blessed with so many parks and open spaces in Birmingham yet there is one just over the Hagley Rd, in Sandwell, which many Moor Pool residents don't know about. Ten minutes away on Lightwoods Hill you'll find Warley Woods, a 100 acre park in Bearwood, with a 9-hole Pay & Play golf course. The park, a registered charity, is open all year round. It's recently been awarded the prestigious Green Flag award for the seventh year in a row.

The parks history begins in the 1790s when Samuel Galton, a wealthy Birmingham gunmaker commissioned the landscape architect, Humphry Repton, to design and improve his newly acquired estate. The design was accepted although plans for the house weren't. That had to wait until 1819 when a Gothic mansion, Warley Abbey; this was demolished in 1957.

In the early 1900s the site was saved from housing development through public donations, and was opened as a park in 1906. In 1999 Warley Woods Community Trust was formed and five years later the Trust took on the park's management; Warley Woods was the first urban park in the UK to be run by a community trust. The Trust is committed to maintaining the park's landscape in line with Repton's vision and was awarded a Heritage Lottery fund grant to support this.

In addition to the golf course there's a busy schedule of events throughout the year, including bat walks, a picnic in the park, open air theatre and lots of children's activities. We even have a visit from Santa at Christmas. There's a specially designated safe play area for children, and after all that activity you might want to visit the café for a cup of tea and a sit down. Next to the café is our gift shop. We also share the woods with a number of partners, like the runners of Warley Woods Pacers.

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Warley Woods is run by a small number of staff and, like the Moor Pool Estate, relies on a lot of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers. The Warley Woods Community Trust is overseen by a Board of Trustees and this autumn our Treasurer is stepping down. If you would like to find out more about this position please get in touch with the Trust manager, Viv Cole, 0121 420 1061. We also have a website where you can find out more about the woods and its activities – www.warleywoods.org.uk. And you can follow us on Facebook and Twitter - @WarleyWoods1.

From Hannah England

hannahengand@hotmail.co.uk

Racing for Parkinson's UK

My husband, Luke Gunn, and I are two of many international athletes who live and train in the area. Our group is one of the most talented in the country (if not the world!) and we owe a lot of this to our coach Bud. Bud is a legend...but unfortunately he is also a Parkinson's sufferer. We want our local community to learn all about a race we are organising to raise money for Parkinson's UK, we hope you'll be inspired to lace your trainers up and join us!

Saturday October 10th 2015.

University of Birmingham campus starting on Chancellor's Court at 2pm
Entry = £10 (concessions £7, family ticket £30, corporate team £32)

As well as the 5K, there's:

A fun sprint track – for young people
Coffee, cake and a sizzling BBQ staff by the University's top chefs.

From Mike Foster

mikefosterwork@gmail.com

Michael Chester

Michael Chester, a long term resident of the estate, sadly died in May. His family and friends have collected £85 which his daughter and son, Rebecca Bench and Adam Chester, have kindly

donated to Moor Pool in Bloom to be used in his memory. Members of the Angling Club have already started work on repairing the bench overlooking the Pool, and as Michael Chester was involved in the initial construction of this, it was felt that part of the money should be used towards the replacement materials. The rest will be used towards improvements and planting at the Circle above the tennis courts, in consultation with the Trust, as this was an area he liked to walk past.

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During these quiet summer months when you may be contemplating a change of lifestyle, look no further, it could be right on your doorstep! How about taking on a part-time paid community role looking after Moor Pool Assets? The Moor Pool Heritage Trust are looking to employ a part-time (29.5 hours per week) Manager to run the Hall and facilities. If anyone is interested in applying we would like to hear from you. Contact Chair of Trust, Rob Sutton on rob@moopool.com or visit our website www.moopooltrust.co.uk for further details under Vacancies.

Or if you are not looking for something so physical, then how about joining the Education sub-committee, which The Trust is setting up to help promote the History of the Estate to schoolchildren and encourage visitors to the area to learn more about some of our heritage facilities. If you have any teaching skills or knowledge of the Estate, which you would be willing to share for the benefit of the Community, it would only involve a group

meeting of a couple of hours a month.

And last, but by no means least, we would like to get a group of about ten volunteers together, to start collecting data on the types of trees on Moor Pool Estate. Once we identify what trees we have and where, we can then get specialist advice on the conditions of the trees and have a Tree Management Plan. If we get enough people it should only take a couple of hours in your own time. If you can help us improve our estate in one way or another, then we want to hear from you. Contact Igor Cusack on 426-2462 or drop a line to moorpoolhall@gmail.com

That's it for now, carry on enjoying your summer!

Jill Howes

Moorpool News and Wine

Message from Raj

My family is proud to have served the Moorpool community from this corner shop for nearly a decade. In light of recent changes on the estate we are keen to extend a warm welcome to the many new residents and invite them to come in and see everything we have to offer as there really is something for everyone. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our loyal customers for their continued support and ask any remaining residents who have yet to shop local to please... just give us a try because

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Raj says "Please... SHOP LOCAL at the Circle"

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26-27 The Circle B17 9DY

Raj says "Please... KEEP THIS AD to remind you"