

THE MOORPOOL DUCK

Resident's Newsletter

Issue No. 15

November 2004

Hallo - My name is Jackie Holder . I am Chair of The Moorpool Residents' Association. The Association was reformed in 1994 as a voice for the residents . At its inauguration it was suggested that a voluntary annual contribution of £2 per household be made to help run the Association. This has not been collected for several years. The new committee are hoping to renew a little of the feeling of community which has for so long been an integral part of the charm of the Moorpool Estate. After some deliberation it was decided to ask once more that a voluntary sub of £2 be made. This will not only help with the "Duck" but also help to raise funds for the Centenary Celebrations of Moorpool Estate in 2008. If you wish to contribute—please use the envelope provided - a receipt will be provided if required. The envelopes can be left at my house, 6 East Pathway , or at 8 North Gate (Tim Beavis- Treasurer) or 1 Carless Avenue (Mike Frost - Duck Editor) Many thanks.

THE MOORPOOL DUCK

We are hoping to produce 3 issues a year of "The Duck" and would very much like to provide residents with a chance to have an input in terms of airing views , advertising and putting on events etc. It should be mentioned that the Committee is always happy to consider requests from residents for limited funding to enable community based events to take place. (Another use to which the membership fees can be put)

ORIGINS OF THE MOORPOOL ESTATE

In 1906 a proposal was made to build a tramway line from Birmingham to Harborne. The failure of this scheme and a consequent drop in land value enabled a group of Housing Reform enthusiasts to buy the 54 acre site now known as the "Moorpool Estate". Harborne Tenants Ltd was established as a co-partnership

George Frost, shown here with his wife Lil and son Les, was on the first Resident's Committee c.1910. His grandson, Mike Frost, is on the current committee - but not on this photo!! The photo shows them in their back garden at 40 Moorpool Avenue.



society. The building of the estate began in January 1908 with between 10-12 houses per acre instead of the 50-60 per acre more common in other [parts of Birmingham.

The aims of the estate's founders were to give working people a chance to live "in clearer air, with open space near to their doors, with gardens where the family labour will produce vegetables, fruit and flowers, (and) the people will develop a sense of home life and interest in nature which will form the best security against the temptations of drink and gambling ." (!!)

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

The Moorpool Estate , founded in 1908 will thus in 2008, in only just over three years time, celebrate its Centenary. The Residents' Association Committee feel that this would be an occasion well worth celebrating.. In organising such an event, however, the Committee wants to create an event which will be well supported and one which will meet the wishes of the Residents in general. To this end the Committee would be most grateful for any ideas or suggestions that residents might have as to how this particular anniversary might be celebrated. Amongst the questions to be solved is a name for the celebration "Moorpool 100" or "Jubilee Moorpool". Ideas and suggestions may be passed on to any committee member or posted to Mike Frost at 1, Carless Avenue.

HELP REQUIRED

The committee would be very grateful if any residents with particular skills (artistic, legal, administrative etc.) were prepared to assist and advise on occasional matters. Anyone with experience in setting up a web site would be particularly welcome.

KNOTWEED ALERT

Japanese Knotweed is a rhizomatous perennial which was introduced from Asia to Europe in the mid nineteenth century. It grows to a height of 2-3 metres with bamboo like stems, arching branches, and dusters of creamy white flowers late in the season. It is **extremely invasive**, rapidly growing and spreading from the smallest fragment of vegetative matter, destroying biodiversity, and reducing property values. Damage may be caused to tarmac, paved areas and in some instances even buildings.

The most effective means of control is by spraying or stem injection, although biological controls are being tested in the UK. Simply cutting down the plant will not prevent further growth and through residual fragments left on the site, may cause an increase in infestation. Additionally, waste material **must** be disposed of according to the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Duty of Care) Regulations. Knotweed is now established on the estate, with outbreaks identified at The Circle, The Square and the Bowling Club. Grainger Residential has instituted a spraying programme, and the Bowling Club has successfully treated its outbreak. Residents are advised to take professional advice should they have concerns about their own property, followed by appropriate and legal control measures. **IF LEFT UNCHECKED JAPANESE KNOTWEED WILL QUICKLY OVERRUN THE ESTATE.**

MOORPOOL NEWS AND CONVENIENCE STORE

Newspapers and magazines (delivered if you wish), groceries, wines and spirits, birthday and greetings cards, pet food, milk, fresh bread, gift wrapping paper, ice cream, confectionery and cigarettes. Dry cleaning service.

Shop open: Mon-Fri: 7 - 6.30 ; Sat . 7.30 - 5.30 ;
Sun. 7.30 - 1.00
Tel: 0121 428 1061

MOORPOOL SHOP

Since the closure of the Post Office, the range of goods on offer at the shop has increased, with further expansion underway, now including an Off Licence. With convenience, competitive prices and a friendly service, please support our local shop! It is a valuable part of our community but it will only survive with our support.

ALLOTMENTS

The popularity of naturally produced fruit and vegetables has created a "growing" interest in the use of allotments. Although Grainger Ltd. are NOT currently letting allotment plots, it is well worth contacting the Estate Office to check out any possible vacancies in the future.

MOORPOOL PLAYERS CHARITY CONCERT

This popular annual event will be held at the Moorpool Hall on Wednesday 8th December at 7.30pm. A very pleasant evening which provides a gentle and warm introduction to Christmas with poems, songs, sketches, carols and some surprise items! All proceeds will be shared by our two nominated charities - *Birmingham Open Christmas* which provides shelter for the homeless and *Cancer Research*. Admission costs £2 - free mince pies and wine are provided.

CONTACTS LIST

As part of the "service" that the Committee would like to offer to the Residents we enclose with the Duck a list of useful contact addresses. If there are any others residents feel would be useful please let us know.

THE DUCK

A limited amount of space is available for adverts - if anyone is interested in an advert please contact Mike Frost.

We hope you find the Duck interesting and useful. Let us know what you think and what else you would like to see in the "Duck".

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