

# THE MOORPOOL DUCK

Residents' Newsletter

Issue No. 16

April 2005

*Hello . I am writing this whilst sitting in my garden listening to the birds and thinking there is no other place I would like to be. I've been asked to explain how the annual contribution of £2 per household is being spent. To date (and it's still not too late to contribute!), we have received approx £150 which, apart from helping with the "Duck", will also go towards raising funds for the Centenary Celebrations of the Moorpool Estate in 2008.*

*We are fortunate to live in a very special part of Birmingham - the estate is a beautiful island in the midst of the city - but it will only retain its peace, tranquillity and wildlife in the future with the help and care of its residents. The committee and I urge you to help accomplish this. Many thanks. Jackie Holder (Chair, The Moorpool Residents' Association).*

## **GENERAL ELECTION - May 5th**

In view of the coming General Election we asked the candidates of the four main parties in Edgbaston to explain how they could help the estate.

### **Labour Party - Gisela Stuart**

Moorpool is Harborne's garden suburb. I want to protect its unique character.

I've opposed unwanted planning applications and am campaigning for the Council to give the estate extra legal protection from out-of-character development. This will stop architectural vandalism and protect Moorpool for the next generation.

When older residents of the estate faced steep rent rises I successfully lobbied ministers to limit the amount by which rents could be increased. I've also worked to make sure Moorpool tenants have clear information about their legal rights.

I was robust in the campaign to save the Post Office, organised a mass public meeting and

presented petitions. I was appalled by the Post Office chief's refusal to listen and I am continuing to challenge their closure programme.

We can be proud of this strong local community. Together we can ensure that Moorpool remains a great place to live.

### **Conservative Party - Deirdre Alden**

I have lived just outside the Moorpool Estate, in Ellesboro Rd, since 1982. I represent Edgbaston on Birmingham City Council, and my husband John represents Harborne. Last year we served as Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of the City.

This is the only Parliamentary seat I have ever applied for. I simply want to represent my own local area.

One local issue I feel strongly about is the closure of our Post Office, which was an important amenity on the estate. I am very annoyed that our current MP voted with the Government to give the Post Office the money to embark on their "Urban Post Office Reinvention programme" which resulted in us losing post offices across the constituency.

I feel this is an example where local people's wishes were not listened to. As a local person myself, I think I would be more in touch with the feelings of the area.

### **Liberal Democrat Party - Mike Dixon**

Mike Dixon is 47 years old originates from Nottingham now living in Kidderminster, he has been married to Pam for over 26 years. They have two children and he is expecting his first grandchild later this year. Mike used to live in Edgbaston and managed one of the cities largest shoe shops. Mike has a background in sales and marketing and training, but has also turned his hand to catering and boat building in his time. Mike is presently a full time key organiser for the Liberal Democrats. Politically, Mike has had vast experience of campaigning for the Liberal Democrats, having previously been a candidate in Westminster and European Parliamentary elections. Mike is also heavily

involved with the party nationally, being a member of the Regional and English Executives as well as the Parliamentary Candidates Association Executive. Mike's keen area of interest is in police and crime, having been a co-author to National Policy on the subject.

### **Green Party - Peter Beck**

Years of fighting big developers over Quinton Meadows, Woodgate and Bournbrook valleys mean I have the skills to help preserve the special green character of Moorpool.

The Green Party is pledged to create a real Citizen's Pension: we'll raise pensions by between a quarter and a third, pay them all regardless of contributions or savings and link them to wages not inflation so as the country grows wealthier pensioners share in that prosperity.

Local shops are vital to a healthy economy and walking to them is just plain healthy. The Green Party will fight nationally to bring back local Post Offices to our local areas like Moorpool.

### **THE MOORPOOL PLAYERS**

Coming Soon ! A triple bill of plays by Jimmie Chinn, whose plays 'Sylvia's Wedding' and 'Too long an Autumn' have been staged by the Players in recent years.

The plays '**In by the half**', '**Pity about Kitty**' and '**From here to the Library**' are a combination that provides a humorous, articulate and clever observation of human nature in its many guises.

Directed by John Healey, the production runs from **26th to 30th April** at The Moorpool Hall. Tickets and information from the Box Office on **0121 426 2134** or from Moorpool News (The Circle) and The Dove Bookshop, (Vivian Road). The Players always welcome new members, acting and non-acting. Norma Mason (**0121 427 6795**) will be happy to provide more details.

### **THANKS**

Martin Harrold for helping produce the "Duck"

## **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

### **ESTATE BUS SERVICE**

*The 647 bus service from Moorpool to Harborne High Street (and beyond!) runs hourly from Monday to Saturday. The first bus leaves The Circle at 09.45 with the final departure at 14.45. A timetable will be displayed in The Circle store.*

### **CONSERVATION STATUS**

Over the next few weeks people with clip-boards may be seen around the estate making notes about the buildings. They are part of a Conservation Department Survey in connection with a possible upgrade of the estate's conservation status. This survey is purely external and does not involve anyone needing to come inside residents' houses.

### **RATS & MICE**

We are not alone on the estate in having an increase of these vermin with the attendant risk of disease and damage. If you have any problems with rats please phone the council Pest Control Section on **303 6007 / 6993**. In the case of mice, free mouse poison is available from the local neighbourhood office. Additionally, residents can help by putting out bin bags on collection morning rather than the previous day.

### **EDITOR'S FINAL QUACK !**

*Please don't forget that "The Duck" is your newsletter and is for residents to air views, advertise or promote events etc. If you have any ideas for community based events or societies/clubs to take place, do come forward with suggestions, as the Association can help with costs; another use to which the membership fees are put.*

*We do want to reflect your interests and concerns. Do let us know what else you would like to see in the "Duck". (Contact the Duck Editor, Mike Frost at 1 Carless Avenue).*

*Can you help us? If there are any residents who are prepared to assist and advise on occasional matters (artistic, legal, administrative etc.), please let us know - they would be most welcome. Help has already been offered for setting up a web site. Thanks.*

## **SERPENTINE PLUMBING SERVICES**

Proprietor Stephen Curtis

**We aim to exceed your expectations**

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