

THE MOORPOOL DUCK

Residents' Newsletter

Issue No. 37

January 2009

Happy New Year !

Welcome 2009

&

Kung Sai Fat Choi

Welcome to the year of the Ox.

A letter from the Chair.

Dear Residents

I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and are ready for 2009. Despite the 'Crunch' we are hoping to carry out various projects this year, starting at Eastertime with a scarecrow weekend. In summer or early autumn we hope to stage our main event for 2009. Details are still being worked out, but it will most likely be on the lines of a "Fayre" at the Circle. Finally to end the year we will have our second Moor Pool Carol Walk and, if he has the time, a visit by Father Christmas. In between, of course, will be our monthly coffee mornings in the Lower Hall.

The MRA is not just about events like these. Our main business is to represent you and look after the interests of the Moor Pool Estate. We intend to be more proactive next year in ensuring that the Moor Pool Estate is kept tidy, tenants properties are properly maintained and the community facilities secured. I intend to raise the profile of Moor Pool wherever and whenever possible so that we can be proud of where we live. I hope you will support both the Committee and myself in these endeavours on your behalf.

Rob Sutton. Chair.

Planning matters.

There is no news at the moment as regards the Grainger planning application. As soon as we have any news we will let everyone know with an issue of The Duck .

UPCOMING FESTIVITIES

Residents Coffee Morning

The next Coffee Morning is on **Saturday 31st January** in the Lower Hall starting at 10.30. As usual any donations of cakes will be welcome but more importantly do come along yourselves and join in.

"Moor Pool in Bloom" 2009.

The Residents Association has received a £500 grant from the City Council towards our first "Moor Pool in Bloom" event. We would like to express our sincere thanks to our local Councillors for their support. We decided to focus on the Circle for this year. You may have noticed us walking around the Circle looking at possible positions for durable planters and flower beds. We hope that whatever we do will not only brighten up the Circle but also be of lasting benefit.

This years event will get us started and also allow us to better understand what is involved in terms of maintenance and legal requirements. If we are successful we can plan to do more next year. If you have suggestions, have contacts for planters or materials or would like to get involved in some way please contact us via the post box in the shop.

Vanishing Trees.

We have complained to the City Council and local councillors about what has happened

recently around the Circle. According to a council official the trees were diseased or dangerous. The whole estate has been surveyed prior to further work. We have asked for a copy of this report and Deirdre Alden has asked the Council questions regarding what is happening, including replacement of the trees. We have emphasised the importance of these trees for the Moorpool estate and will be keeping a close watch on any further action and press for swift replacement of not only these trees but others that have been removed in the past. Clearly trees which are dangerous do need attention but this should not be an excuse for removing to avoid future maintenance obligations.

MRA Subs - a reminder

Don't forget the MRA needs your subs to carry on functioning. At £5 per household or £3 per single person it is not extortionate. Subscriptions are still trickling in and can still be paid to Gill Morgan (Treasurer: 80, Moorpool Ave.), Rob Sutton (64, Margaret Grove), or Mike Frost (Duck Editor - address below). Please enclose your name and address so a receipt can be given.

Moorpool Hall.

Booking enquiries can be made to Mick O'Malley at The Hall via e-mail at: < grainger.harborne@zen.com > or by telephone on 0121 428 4644.

Moorpool News and Wine

Raj and Dip are providing the Estate with a very fine local shop. Please give them all the support you can, particularly at the moment when small businesses are very vulnerable. There are many special offers available and a very wide selection of goods on the shelves. The shop is a vital part of our community - **do use it**. We need it to help keep our community alive.

Crime report:

Few incidents have been reported recently on the Estate, though there was a house burglary, luckily disturbed, leaving minimal damage. However, it was still an unpleasant incident and serves as a reminder that we should all keep alert and not become complacent. A recent campaign run by Rose Rd. police highlighted a seasonal increase in burglaries and encouraged householders to leave lights on in the house when going out to discourage break-ins. Do report any concerns to the MRA so we can monitor what happens on the Estate and raise awareness of any problems. Information can be left in the MRA post box in the shop at the Circle or via the email link on the website.

Carol Walk -Report

The pre-Christmas Carol Walk was a resounding success with over 75 turning out for an enjoyable walk and sing around the Estate, followed by mulled wine, mince pies and more music. We hope this will become an annual event. Whilst remembering Christmas we'd also like to note the warm reception given by Residents to the Association Xmas cards. A new design will be on sale mid Autumn this year.

A Final Quack.

We have had a letter from a Resident asking the Duck to encourage Residents to help keep the Estate looking neat and tidy, and in particular to take care in the laying out of rubbish bags on "Dustbin Day". One suggestion made to the Duck is that a spraying of "Pledge" on refuse bags discourages animals from investigating contents.

It is our estate and we must bear a responsibility for looking after our own immediate environment. In view of the attempts to improve the look of the Circle with "Moorpool in Bloom" perhaps we could all this year make a concerted effort to improve our own part of the estate - trim over-hanging hedges, look after the verges etc.: "the usual suspects!!"