

The Moor Pool Duck



www.moorpool.com



Residents' Newsletter for Moor Pool Garden Suburb. No 52 December 2010

Wishing Everyone a Very Happy Christmas and New Year 2011

Letter from the Chair

Hello Everyone,

After literally years of pressing Grainger to discuss proposals to take Moor Pool's community facilities and open spaces back into local ownership and following on from the somewhat dramatic announcement at our AGM, a face to face meeting has taken place. In addition to Grainger led by Phil Nelson, also attending were Jagwant Johal, the local Constituency Director for Birmingham City Council, Adrian Millicheap from Bournville Village Trust who will manage the viability study and Andrew Holdsworth representing Mike Whitby. Phil Nelson outlined the position that Grainger is looking to withdraw from management and ownership of the community assets on the Moor Pool Estate as outlined in a statement which follows. As far as the MRA are concerned this is a starting point for discussion and we shall be putting forward proposals to secure **ALL** of Moor Pool's open spaces and community facilities. Without prejudging the outcome of the viability study, from the information we have, the liabilities of receiving and managing the assets described above will be large and income minimal. On the other hand to acquire the open spaces and restore them to their rightful use along with the various other projects outlined in our document 'The Way Forward' will require considerable funding and for that we will need the support and concerted effort of Moor Pool's residents and many supporters. We do have a window of opportunity to claim back the heritage of this Estate for the benefit of the many who enjoy it both now and in the future. All of you including the Clubs and Societies need to be willing and ready to step forward in support of this process if we are to be successful.

Rob Sutton.

Grainger Statement

Grainger has been reviewing its involvement in the community facilities on the Moor Pool Estate and come to the conclusion that, because Grainger specialises in residential property, these facilities would benefit from ownership by those who use them on a regular basis. As a result Grainger has been in discussions with Moor Pool Residents Association (MRA) and Birmingham City Council and advised them of its intention to withdraw from management and ownership of the community facilities and to start discussion of the options available for the community to become more involved in these facilities in future. Grainger has undertaken to provide information on the community facilities by Christmas and asked MRA to provide their proposals by 31 March 2011. The community facilities to be considered are; Moor Pool Hall and Tennis Court, Moor Pool Tennis Court and Moor Pool Pond and Bowling Green, together with the land at The Spinney and The Square. At this stage, the allotments, orchard, and former builders yard cannot be included in this process as they form part of the Section 106 Agreement for the 3 sites with planning permission. All parties are committed to leaving in place a sustainable community for the future.

Further information will be provided on progress at regular intervals.

Phil Nelson. Regional Manager Grainger plc.

History Plate Unveiling

This was a wonderful event celebrating both the centenary of the Moor Pool Hall and the recognition by Birmingham Civic Society of Moor Pool being an early example of Arts and Crafts co-partnership housing in a garden suburb setting. From being

almost unknown, Moor Pool has achieved ever increasing recognition for its part in Birmingham's contribution to housing reform in the early 1900s and also until the recent adverse planning decisions, remaining largely intact. The event was well attended with the Lord and Lady Mayoress Councillor Len Gregory and Mrs Gillian Gregory as guests of honour. Others attending, included residents, members of the Civic Society, Councillors, Winterbourne representatives and many invited guests. The Lord Mayor was presented with a gift from residents of an assortment of jams, chutney and honey, all produced on Moor Pool's allotments. After a speech, the Lord Mayor and Mrs Pam Frost unveiled the History Plate, only the third such plate in Birmingham. David Clarke, Chairman of the Birmingham Civic Society then spoke. Finally the Lord Mayor and Miss Mary Saunders cut a birthday cake baked by Caroline Allway, celebrating the Centenary of the Hall.

The Association are very grateful to Waitrose who supported the event, Caroline Allway, and Grainger who provided use of the Hall, members of the Moor Pool Players who provided all the catering support and all the others who helped on the day. Particular thanks should go to Norma Mason and Jan Sutton for their hard work preparing the buffet.

A Moor Pool Parish Council?

A Moor Pool back in local 'ownership' should be a very different place and we need to consider carefully how it can be managed in the future. A Trust would have overall management responsibility for the community assets and should be consulted by the LA on appropriate matters. A Parish Council would have funding from a precept deducted from the Council Tax and would be empowered to spend this on local needs. It would be accountable to the people of Moor Pool who elect it, but also have a statutory voice on local matters. The powers and duties cover many things including the provision and maintenance of allotments, halls, some street lighting, litter bins, car parks, rights of way, roadside verges and village greens amongst others. Parish Councils also comment on planning applications. There is already one other Parish Council in Birmingham and ours would be easily defined by the boundaries of the conservation area. If civic leaders and government truly believe in devolving decision making and power to local people then such a proposition should receive strong support.

Website: www.moorpool.com

Moorpool News and Wine

As well as a wide range of foods and household necessities, don't forget all 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 so much available at the Circle shop – 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. The shop is a great asset for the Estate, so please do use it whenever you can.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

We are all aware of the problem with foxes around the estate, every week bin bags are ripped open and the contents are spread across the pavements and grass verges, where bags are put out the night before collection. For some people it may not be possible to put their rubbish out first thing in the morning, but for most of us it can be done, thereby eliminating the problem. If your rubbish is spread across the street, please could people at least clear up their own stuff? The estate is a conservation area, and it is such a shame to see it being neglected in this way. On a potentially more serious note, my 3 year old daughter recently found a broken glass bottle and a razor on the pavement, both of which had clearly come out of a bin bag. With so many young children on the estate it's something we all need to be aware of, as children have an uncanny knack of being attracted to the very things we'd like them to stay away from.

(Name and address supplied)

Website News.

Pictures of the History Plate unveiling are on the website. We are always pleased to receive information which could be included. If you have pictures or maybe articles or newspaper cuttings from the past let us know. If you haven't visited our website, do have a look at it. It is constantly updated and there is a lot of interesting information there – photographs of the Estate and recent events, its history, past copies of the Duck as well as up-to-date details of clubs and societies and useful local contacts. Don't forget that the 'Sale', 'Announcements' and 'Wanted' section on the website is free. There are also links to other sites including old pictures of Birmingham.

Do also have a look at the MRG site www.moorpool.co.uk which carries information re the planning applications etc.

Chair: Rob Sutton. 426 5669.

If there is anything you would like to see on the website or amendments needed please drop us an email or note and let us know.

Subscriptions for 2010-2011

Subscriptions for membership of the Moor Pool Residents Association run from the date of the AGM for one year. Subs for this current year thus began with last months AGM. As we have noted before, a lot is now happening on the Estate through the work of the MRA. However, we can only carry on our work if we receive enough subscriptions from Residents. This is our only source of regular income. Subscriptions of £5 per household or £3 per single person are extremely reasonable. So if you haven't joined or renewed your membership for this current year (2010-2011) please show your support and commitment and help us help all Residents by paying this small sub. 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.

Siobhan Collins - McCarthy Dance Academy

Royal Academy of Dance Registered Teacher Status
R.A.D. T.C. R.T.S. (Dist)
Pilates Instructor Advanced Cert Level 3
Register of Exercise Professionals

New Pilates Classical Matwork Class

Wednesday Lunch Time 12:30 – 1:30 pm

'Ladies who Crunch'

All Ages and Abilities

First Class £5.00 Taster Session
£10.00 Thereafter Or £48.00 for a Six Week Course



The Moorpool Hall, The Circle, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 9DY.

Website: www.ballet-birmingham.com

Mob: 07896315199

Clearing up Moor Pool

Dianna Dunn (see elsewhere) is organising litter picking which is a great initiative. As far as larger areas of dereliction, other options are open to the Council including the use of s215 notices which provide a local authority with the power in certain circumstances to take steps requiring land or indeed buildings to be cleaned up when its condition adversely affects the amenity of the area. These powers are discretionary and BCC would have to consider carefully any submissions before deciding on an appropriate course of action. A further option is the Open Spaces Act 1906, which enables local authorities to acquire by agreement open space or alternatively support or contribute to open space held by a future Trust

Carol Walk

Sunday 12th December

starting with:

2.00 pm Lower Hall

Major Mustard's puppet theatre

will present:

'King Arthur'.

Children £2, Adults 50p.

3.30 pm Main Hall

Queens Park Sinfonia

An afternoon concert of

Christmas favourites.

Free Concert.

4.30 pm Main Hall

Carol Walk

Returning to the hall for mince pies and mulled wine.

Please dress warmly and brightly and bring a torch.

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which if approved would devalue our neighbourhood and undermine the efforts of those who have either supported or worked hard to ensure Moor Pool remains such a gem. Conserving Moor Pool's fabric not only provides a more pleasant place to live for us all, but considerably enhances the value of your properties if you are an owner occupier. A shared rather than self interest is the stance which needs to be taken if we want to avoid changes that will be detrimental for the rest of us. Unfortunately we cannot simply rely on our planning department to examine in detail every Moor Pool application. It takes a joint effort and the support of you, the residents, to ensure Moor Pool is not degraded by what might seem to some as 'minor' changes. They are cumulative and not easily reversed without difficulty and expense.

Moor Pool in Bloom Calendar for 2011

Volunteers needed for Jobs/Projects

1. Planters and Flowers for the Circle/shop
2. Tidying and maintaining estate - Saturday group, one hour per month.
3. Plant propagation. Seed sowing sessions will be arranged for November but most of the work will be done in early Spring.
4. RHS Planning for 2011. Are you interested in next year's displays?
5. Bees. Improving Moor Pool's Bee population.
6. Bird and Bat Boxes for Moor Pool. February half term. (Prepare January) Children and Adults: Are you interested in developing this programme for the estate?

Composting

Suggestion made that we should compost more green waste for our own use.

Please contact Liz initially on 07792473975 or email e.muir276@btinternet.com

Allotment Association

Moor Pools Overgrown Allotments

When you think that the Council consider building on allotments will enhance the Moor Pool Estate you might like to ask the question why, when the Allotment Association is offering to start restoration ourselves are we being blocked from doing so? Does allowing allotments to become ever more derelict and overgrown really preserve or enhance the Conservation Area? It could be another 2 years or more before any work is started

Moorpool Players

CHRISTMAS CHARITY SHOW

WEDNESDAY 8th DECEMBER at 7.30pm

Feeling any Christmas spirit yet? Well, come and enjoy an evening of entertainment in the Moorpool Hall on Wed 8th December when we can guarantee your spirits will be lifted. Sketches, poems, songs and a hilarious pantomime are all on offer - plus some wonderful prizes to be had on the tombola. £3.00 entrance includes a glass of wine and a mince pie. All proceeds will be divided between 'Christmas Shelter' who feed the homeless over the Christmas period and MacMillan Nurses who do a magnificent job all year round. So why not come along and enjoy the fun and help us to help these really worthy causes.

John Healey

Planning

The Association takes a robust stance on planning matters in order to ensure the Estate is conserved and protected according to the principles of a conservation area with the benefit of a 4(2) Direction. We attempt to work closely with the planning department and in particular the conservation officers. The long awaited Moor Pool Character appraisal will shortly be available for public consultation. This will include design guidance and should make planning decisions clearer and easier to enforce. Until this document has been consulted on and finalised, the Association will continue to object to applications

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on them as conditioned by the planning approval. What state will they be in then?

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

Pre-Christmas Entertainment & Carol Walk

Sunday 12th December 2010

From 2.00pm – 3.00pm in the Lower Moor Pool Hall Major Mustard will present “King Arthur” – puppet theatre for all the family. £2 per child & 50p per adult.

From 3.30pm – 4.15pm in the main Moorpool Hall There will be 'An afternoon concert of Christmas favourites with musicians from Queen's Park Sinfonia. Free admission.

Following this at around 4.30pm the Annual Carol walk around the Estate begins, finishing back in the Hall for mince pies and mulled wine.

Coffee Morning. Saturday 29th January 2011.

Reading Club. Thursday 27th January 2011.

Moor Pool Reading Club

The Moor Pool Reading Club had its first meeting on Thursday 2nd December. There were twelve present, which especially given the freezing weather was a great turnout. Tricia Cusack introduced the Irish writer Colm Tóibín's *Brooklyn*. The next meeting will be on Thursday 27th January 2011, 7.30 - 8.30pm in the lower hall. If you would like to be added to the circulation list for future meetings, please write to triciacusack@gmail.com

Tidying Up the Estate

Estate-wide quarterly litter picks are being proposed for the first complete week (Sunday to Saturday) in February, May, August and November. The actual dates will be published in advance in the Duck newsletter as well as on the Moorpool websites.

Pickers can go out at any time in groups or by

themselves using their own bags with a view to recycling or binning any litter as appropriate via their own refuse collections. Items deemed too big or hazardous in any way should simply be reported to the Residents Association via the usual channels and left for Grainger's own contractor and / or BCC's Hit Squad to clear by arrangement as soon as possible after each pick.

Litter picking is voluntary and entirely at the risk of participants. Children are welcome to join in but they remain the responsibility of their parents who must supervise them accordingly at all times. Please note that the Valley site is at present unsuitable for children to cover.

Coffee Morning

The next Coffee Morning will be on Saturday 29th January 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.

The Way Forward?

This document is available on the website and feedback would be appreciated. It gives ideas and proposals for the future of the Moor Pool Estate. We hope to supplement this with schemes for the old allotments at the bottom of Margaret Grove (Site B), the Valley and the Builders Yard for residents to comment upon. After consultation these schemes would form part of the grant submission documents. If you have other ideas or suggestions please forward these to us either via the website or the MRA post box at the Circle shop. The Estate has many residents who can also help with professional advice. Please come forward if you are willing to assist in any way.

Rose Road Police

Our local police station remains Rose Road from where the neighbourhood team who cover Moor Pool are based. The following number can be used for reporting minor incidents: 0345 113 5000, then either ask for or dial 7863 6722. The team are led by Inspector Delaney and Sgt John Proudman. Residents should also be aware of the recent incidents of carjacking and take special care particularly when it is dark. Be aware and report anything suspicious.

Carless Books

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From first editions to bargain basement paperbacks we offer a varied choice of used and collectable books. Our titles cover classic and modern literature, supernatural fiction, humour and travel (with lots more in between) at competitive prices. To browse our latest catalogue contact Mick O'Malley on 0121 427 5051, or email carlessbooks@hotmail.co.uk **Free delivery to Moor Pool residents.**