

THE MOOR POOL DUCK

Residents' Newsletter for Moor Pool Garden Suburb



www.moorpool.com

No. 57, December 2011

From the Chair

Dear Residents,

The MRA, MRG and Trust have been in discussion with Banner Homes regarding the development sites on the Estate. Banner have presented provisional plans which look an improvement on the designs approved by BCC. We are making various suggestions and their architects have visited and discussed the particular architectural details which make up the character of the Estate. So far this is promising and we hope to form a good working relationship with Banner. However revised plans mean a new planning application. We must be cautious that all the hard won conditions and agreements attached to the previous approval are not lost. The new plans were scheduled for public viewing at the Hall on the 19th December. Do take the opportunity to make comments and suggestions. In the meantime, Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2012.

Rob Sutton, MRA Chair

A message from the Moor Pool Residents Association

Dear All,

I am sure that many of you enjoy the activities provided by the **Moor Pool Residents Association** and reading through **The Duck**. Your Committee is happy to continue working hard to support the **Residents Association** and keeping you informed of all the upcoming activities and matters of interest on our Estate, but we can only afford to do this if Members support the **Residents Association** with their annual subscriptions. The subscriptions go

towards funding non-profit events and our fantastic newsletter. I'm sorry to say that subscriptions have been very low this year. I understand that because there's been a slight lapse in the circulation of **The Duck**, primarily due to a change over in the editorial department, some of you may not have realized that the Annual General meeting took place on **14th October 2011**, the date that the new year subscriptions fall due. I apologise if this was not as well publicized as usual and the Committee will sort this out before the next AGM. We're currently looking at producing a bimonthly newsletter to make sure that everybody has good notice of future events.

I'm asking you to help keep the **Residents Association** afloat by dropping in your subscriptions to myself at **80 Moor Pool Avenue**. Please put your name and address on the envelope and I'll make sure I get a receipt to you. (£3 individual, £5 Family)

One of the activities that I enjoy most is the Coffee Mornings in the Lower Hall on the last Saturday of each month. These were started after a number of residents mentioned how much they had enjoyed the Coffee Mornings that took place many years ago and would like to see them return. I went straight off to the Committee with this information buzzing in my head and we set about starting up the Coffee Mornings again. These were never intended to be a profit making event but more a social event to foster community spirit and I was overwhelmed by the initial response. Many of the Committee regularly volunteer to stand behind the counter serving up tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits to local residents and it is always an enjoyable morning for the helpers.

Recently there appears to be a bit of a decline in attendance by residents. I'm not entirely sure why this might be and I'd welcome any suggestions that you might have that would make it more enjoyable for you. The Committee is always open to any suggestions from residents in respect of community activities or fund raising ideas. You're welcome to call on me or stop me in the street if you want to discuss any ideas

but most importantly the Coffee Mornings are for you and if we can't make them an event that you want to attend then we need to rethink what we're doing. We have to pay for the room hire and it would be a real bonus if we could cover the cost of this and refreshments each month. Please don't be backwards

in coming forwards; we need your attendance to keep it going!

Last but not least, thank you for taking the time to read this and I look forward to speaking to you soon.

Gill Morgan, Treasurer

A few words from the Moorpool Regeneration Group

The **MRG** has, to a great extent, been in limbo since the judicial review failed. But then so have Grainger, who have done nothing to pursue their development plans other than make their usual quick buck by putting the sites up for sale. But now these have been bought by **Banner Homes**, things are again moving forward. Although perhaps sending out termination notices to garage owners without bothering to first read the leases was not the best first step.

A small group were invited to view Banner's initial plans for Sites A and C and share their vision of how a new development would sit within the existing estate. While the number of houses remains the same on the **Valley Site**, the revised layout appears more in keeping with the wider estate, access across the site will be retained, low level lighting would be used, and the use of a swale would obviate the need for tanking under the few remaining allotments and the subsequent maintenance issues. The proposals for the garage site off Ravenhurst remain largely unchanged.

More significantly perhaps is that directors of Banner presented these plans themselves, seemed receptive to suggestions, and were aware of the history of the

estate and how a successful development could enhance their company reputation. This is in direct contrast to **Grainger** who, through Representative Hoare, showed total disregard for the historic significance of the estate and the views of its residents.

However, there is still the loss of most of the allotments on the **Valley Site**, inadequate parking arrangements for the vehicles that will be displaced from the garages and forced onto already congested narrow streets, overlooking issues, particularly at Site C, and, of course, the overarching objection to the development of new housing within an enhanced conservation area in the first place. Additionally, should Banner gain planning permission for their revised application, the current section 106 conditions are negated and any new ones will need to be scrutinised carefully.

Banner's final plans will go on general display in due course and invite feedback from all residents before being submitted to **BCC** for approval.

Andrew Hackett

Caroline's Cake Decoration Class

Caroline, a Moor Pool resident, very generously provided an excellent fundraising activity last Saturday: a delightful cake decorating and modelling workshop. Various friends and residents produced some charming Christmas decorations, including snowmen, Christmas trees, stars, holly, berries, reindeer and more. In total, **£30.00** was raised. Residents' masterpieces will be available to view on our website: www.moorpool.com

For more information, please see Caroline's website: www.carolinescakecompany.co.uk

Many thanks, Caroline!

Alex Millicheap's Moor Pool Heritage Trust Fundraising Activities

Grasmere Daffodils 13/11/11

Alex stayed in Grasmere in the Lake District during October Half-Term. He climbed Alcock Tarn, walked around Lake Grasmere, visited William Wordsworth's Daffodil Gardens and Dove Cottage where

Wordsworth wrote most of his poetry, including 'Daffodils'.

Whilst in Grasmere, Alex convinced Mum and Dad to buy some local daffodils, watercolour paints and a poetry book by local poets.

The result was a **Moor Pool Heritage Trust** Fundraising Activity: Alex sold 11 bags of daffodils, as well as a homemade bookmark of Wordsworth's poem 'Daffodils' and a hand painted watercolour of a daffodil by Alex himself. He also offered to plant the bulbs for residents for a small extra donation. In total, **£45.00** was raised.

Thank You.

Moorpool Players Christmas Charity Show

The Players put on another excellent show despite the short interval since their recent successful run at the Hall. The usual miscellany of poems, sketches, songs and carols were enjoyed by all as well as the traditional Christmas refreshments and all for an entrance fee of **£3!** The Players have for many

uPVC windows

There has been press coverage recently about Bournville Village Trust fitting plastic windows on their Estate. BVT owns a considerable area of property extending as far as Telford in Shropshire and covering a variety of property styles and ages. The properties which have been fitted with plastic windows are not in the garden suburb conservation area and we have been advised that the conservation department would be unlikely to support such a change. The decision to favour wooden windows in a conservation area is not peculiar to Moor Pool but is a consistent across the country. An important part of the argument for using wood seems to be achieving consistency and this is why all replacements of windows on the Estate require planning permission. The visual amenity of the Estate has significantly improved since the introduction of the 4(2) Direction as old windows which have had glazing bars removed have been replaced with original

years supported Birmingham Christmas Shelter which provides food and shelter for homeless men and women over Christmas and this charity will receive half of the takings. This year the other half will be donated to **The Moor Pool Heritage Trust** which is a much appreciated and generous gesture.

Gift Duckets for Christmas

Wondering what to buy your Moor Pool neighbour this festive season? Make it easy and help the Moor Pool Heritage Trust at the same time. Gift Duckets will soon be available to buy in denominations of £10, £5 and £2. They can be used as payment for any MPHT fundraising event such as quizzes, and storytelling night, for buying skills and services from the skills bank and for buying items on the recycle network. Available at the Circle shop or email fundraising@moorpool.com or call **689 7368**.

style windows. With that improvement in visual amenity comes an increase in your property value if you are fortunate enough to be an owner. So whilst it may be a pain at times, supporting the programme to restore and enhance the Estate will ensure it becomes a better place for everyone.

A quick note to residents

There will be **NO** green waste collections during winter 2011 - 2012.

Green waste collections will start again on

Monday 6th February 2012. If

you produce green waste between these dates, you should take it to your local household recycling centre.

Garages adjacent Builders Yard - waiting List

In anticipation of the completion of the purchase of the Builders Yard and associated garages, the MPHT is commencing a waiting list for Estate residents who may wish to rent a garage from the Trust. The Trust will be reviewing the condition of the garages and those which remain available to let. The Trust will have a significant debt to repay as part of the acquisition of the site and will wish to make the garages available as soon as possible. If you would like to put your name on the waiting list for a garage please contact **Rob Sutton** on **0121 426 5669**. For those who already have tenancy agreements with Grainger, you should continue with payments as normal and you will be advised once the purchase has been completed about new payment arrangements.

MOOR POOL IN BLOOM 2011-12

Contact Liz Muir 07792473975 or 0121 427 3973

ACTIVITY	CONTACTS for interested Volunteers
JANUARY Work day at Spinney TBA etc. Discussion with bowler gardeners on RHS ENTRY	Liz (both)
FEBRUARY Workday at Square. Strim Fence paulamariamcgee156@gmail.com Preparations for Plant Sale start. ORDER PLUGS Discussions on RHS event. Collection of plant donations from around estate starts	Square Team PLUS volunteers. Fence. Paula, 4 the Square Plant sale group. Contact Liz for details. Planning meeting of RHS group and interested vols. Contact Liz
MARCH Plug plants arrive –pricking out Community Chest funding application Work on Willow area starts (Mike)	A lot of volunteers needed!!!! Insets and trays required. Collect and sort Finance group Volunteers Marg. Grove and MP Ave PLUS others
APRIL Plant Sale - plants to Poly tunnel Replant tubs at shop	Volunteers! Contact Liz, Helen, Lavinia, Hilary Hilary and Jan
MAY- Plant Sale. Date to be fixed	All volunteers welcome(see above)
JUNE MiB Event – recycling and planting containers	For children and adults. Community Container planting Lower Hall.
JULY RHS IYN Event - at Willow, Bowling Green and open spaces	All
Aug/Sept -FESTIVAL (Scarecrow MRA)	All
OCTOBER - MiB annual meeting	All
Written instructions on repainting road signs will be put in the Duck and also be available from Paula and Dave (square).	
<p>Contacts for other events</p> <p>Helen: 4 High Brow, hn@valentine58.freeserve.co.uk or Hilary: 92 Ravenhurst Pathil@talktalk.net Paula, 4 The Square paulamariamcgee156@gmail.com or Mike: mikeandchris@talktalk.net : Maureen Maureen_mauser@talktalk.net</p>	

Dog fouling

I am sorry to say that a problem with dog fouling on Moor Pool Avenue, near the Circle has arisen. I know that dogs have needs but it is antisocial behaviour and very unpleasant for local residents to have to step round such mess on the pavements. Dog owners should always carry a plastic bag with them for such events and they can dispose of them at the rubbish bin located on the Circle. I would ask all individuals to consider the consequences of dog fouling on children who are at risk of contracting diseases from these faeces and residents stepping in this mess and trailing it into their houses. I am sure we are all aware that it is illegal to allow a dog to foul the pavement but more importantly it is a sign of respect and consideration to all our neighbours to take appropriate action. I would also request that residents that witness such incidents taking place; contact a member of the Residents Committee and we can have a quiet word and try and address this for the future enjoyment of our Estate.

Gillian Morgan
Treasurer

The bowling green pavilion has been broken into again for the third time in the last few months. Access was gained via Park Edge and entrance into the pavilion itself by the breaking and removing of a window at the rear. Expensive electrical goods were stolen and the window had to be replaced. We ask residents to come forward if they have any information and to keep an eye out for any suspicious activity in the area. Thank you.

*Siobhan Collins - McCarthy
Dance Academy*

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You can now contact Raj via email at moorpoolnews@hotmail.co.uk with any queries, requests, and suggestions for the Circle shop.

Moor Pool Heritage Trust Membership

Information and membership application forms can be down loaded from the MRA website www.moorpool.com

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