

## Banner Planning Applications Published.

**Hello Everyone,**

The revised planning applications by Banner have now been submitted. Some of you will be aware that following approaches from ourselves, Banner Homes have held several meetings with the MRA, MRG, Trust and MAA, which has encouraged a spirit of cooperation and fostered a good working relationship between the parties. The plans (so far as they can be) are now more in tune with the ethos of the Estate. It is doubtful following the precedent set by the previous permission that this application will be refused but we all must ensure that the conditions attached are appropriate and adhered to. Banner have been very accommodating and apart from the improved layout of the development, have offered to transfer the allotments, the Orchard, site B and the new garages into the ownership and management of the Trust. Coupled with the imminent acquisition of the Builders Yard and garages and the ongoing negotiations to secure the Hall and community facilities, this will ensure that all the remaining community assets are secured by the Trust and the local residents and Clubs who are its Members. This will indeed be a historic moment after the trials we have endured in recent years. There is quite a way to go but there is a stronger light at the end of the tunnel.

I wish you all a happy Easter and safe journeys (providing there is petrol to make them).

Rob Sutton. Chair. Moor Pool Residents Association

### **Support Your Residents Association.**

We hope that you support the work of the MRA in making the Estate a fine place to live for people of all ages, whilst preserving its unique character. This takes a lot of time and effort and money. We have been generously supported for special projects like

the Trust and MiB from community chest funds but we also need you as residents to do your bit by joining the MRA and paying the very modest subscription of £3 for an individual or £5 for a family, which goes towards our running expenses including printing of the Duck newsletter. There are many ways to spend money but raising funds is far more difficult. If you would like to join the MRA and support our efforts please send your payment with name and address to our Treasurer at 80, Moor Pool Avenue.

### **Banner – A Perspective from the MRG**

The MRG was established in 2007 to oppose Grainger's development of open spaces within the Estate. This it did with considerable energy and support from many residents who gave their time, expertise, and not inconsiderable sums of money. The campaign was backed by press coverage, our MP, most local councillors and august bodies such as English Heritage. Despite this, the planning committee approved the application in 2009 and the judicial review that followed failed to overturn the decision.

The MRG maintains its opposition to any development within an enhanced conservation area but also needs to be pragmatic. Now that Grainger have opened the door, any revised application will undoubtedly be nodded through and we need to consider what benefits residents may be able to salvage from the sorry mess.

Banner's current application is very much more sympathetic to the Estate's original design principles (or as much as any new development can be) and they have listened to resident's views and taken these into account as their plans have evolved. Furthermore, they are not only prepared to stand by the original s106 agreement but are willing to carry out additional work on clearing allotments and start work on the planned community garden. They have also indicated that they are prepared to pass ownership of the allotments, garages and other open spaces to the Moor Pool Heritage Trust.



1948 was the last time the Olympic art competitions were held, although since 1952, a non-competitive art and cultural festival has been associated with each Games.

A picture of the torch courtesy of the Goldsmiths Company is on the Moor Pool website.

### **Coffee Morning + 100 Club Draw.**

The next Coffee Morning and 100 Club draw will be on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2012. Do come along for a cuppa, a cake and a good chat. It will be in the Lower Hall as usual from 10.30am.

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### **Moorpool Players**

#### **Present: 'Bedroom Farce'**

The Moorpool Players next presentation will be Alan Ayckbourn's classic comedy 'Bedroom Farce' and it will be staged from 16th-19th May at 7.30 with an additional performance on the 19th at 2.00. The play will be directed by John Healey who directed the highly successful 'An Evening of Victorian Melodrama' in November of last year.

The play which is set in three bedrooms, examines and exposes human frailties in the way

that only Ayckbourn at his brilliant comic best can do.

Tickets at £6.50, for which demand is likely to be high, can be obtained from Moorpool News and Wine or from the Box Office on 0121 426 2134.

### **Moor Pool Reading Club**

Meets bi-monthly, Thursday's 7.30.-8.30.pm., Small Hall, The Circle, Moor Pool. If interested please contact: triciacusack@gmail.com.

At our last meeting, we discussed Alice Sebold's "The Lovely Bones", introduced by Janine Sutton. Although there was plenty to say as usual, much of this was critical of a book most of us considered to be vastly overrated. It seems that as with news items, reviewers may just follow one another in building reputations, although Janine pointed out that there were also some unfavourable reviews in this case.

Our next meeting is due to be held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30-8.30.pm in the Small Hall, The Circle, Moor Pool. For this next meeting our book is David Guterson's "Snow Falling on Cedars" to be introduced by Pat Leadbeter. At the following meeting on 19 July (unconfirmed), Jennie Nairn will introduce "Night Waking" by Sarah Moss.

### **Allotment News**

**As previously mentioned these have been sold to Banner Homes.**

Banner Homes have stated their intention to transfer the allotments to the Trust. Representatives of the Trust, MRG and MAA have carried out an evaluation of restoration works and met with Banner and their landscape contractor to discuss what needs doing. The ambition of the MAA and Trust is to get all the allotments back into use as soon as possible. There is a considerable waiting list but inevitably some may no longer want an allotment, so do apply if you would like to be on the list.

The clearance of the allotments could start quite soon. We will work with the contactors and allotment tenants to keep everyone informed.

### **Fruit Tree Grafting.**

Early in March, Dan Pooler from the National Trust gave a demonstration to local residents of making grafts from Moor Pool's fruit trees. Historically fruit trees were provided in gardens and on the allotments to encourage healthy living. There are many apples, pears and plums.

Armed with sharp knives and stout gloves, residents had the chance to help preserve some of the old fruit trees threatened by the new

housing developments. Dan demonstrated various techniques and we will keep our fingers crossed we are successful. Later on we will be looking at identification of the varieties to see if any are particularly unusual.

Special thanks to Mandy and Peter Argus who generously provided the use of their conservatory as well as refreshments for the event.

### **Street Lighting.**

Discussions continue with local constituency officers and Councillors to see if Moor Pool can benefit from replacement heritage lighting. Existing lamp posts would be retained with high efficiency low energy heritage light tops fitted. Reusing the existing posts is not only environmentally friendly but should save money too. Many conservation areas in Birmingham have received heritage lighting and this would give Moor Pool a highly distinctive feel reflecting on Harborne in general. It would also be an improvement on the somewhat gloomy existing lighting.

### **Moor Pool News and Wine**

As well as an excellent selection of foods and household necessities, Raj also provides an unbeatable range of services, right at the heart of our community. From fresh samosas, mobile top-ups, stamps, and dry-cleaning, to cash facilities, medicines, a copier / fax, and tempting offers, there is something for everyone, so please... SHOP LOCAL.

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Telephone: 0121 428 1061. Open: 7am - 7pm Mon to Fri; 7.30am - 7pm Sat; 7.30am - 1pm Sun.

### **Diamond Jubilee Street Parties**

Moor Pool has a tradition of celebrating special occasions with street parties, for the Coronation, Silver Jubilee and the Centenary of Birmingham becoming a City. At least 2 street parties are planned this year, in Carless Avenue and High Brow. Organisers have to resolve any access issues and provide information on any road closures.

The plan for Carless is to close the section at the Spinney from around 12.30 to 3.30 on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June enabling residents to still access their properties from either end. If you have any questions or comments please email [rob@moorpool.com](mailto:rob@moorpool.com) and they will be passed on to the organisers.

### **Dates for your Diary**

**Coffee Morning.** Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

**Plant Sale.** Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2012

**Moor Pool's Got Talent.** Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2012

**Moor Pool Dance.** Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> Sept 2012

**Moor Pool Festival.** Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Sept 2012

**Ward Meeting.** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2012 7.00pm

### *Siobhan Collins - McCarthy Dance Academy*

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Website: [www.ballet-birmingham.com](http://www.ballet-birmingham.com)

Mob: 07896315199

### **Moor Pool Heritage Trust News**

MPHT continues with its series of fundraising events.

The acquisition of the Builders Yard which will secure parking for residents, provide an income and also an additional community facility has been held up due to the ambiguity of the previous planning conditions. These arose from the original planning permission gained by Grainger. However a deposit has been paid and the Trust are hopeful of completing the deal before Easter. The Trust has taken the decision to hold a public meeting when the acquisition is complete. In the meantime it is important that as many residents as possible become Members of the Trust and are then able to exercise a right to vote at general meetings. The application form is available from the MRA website

and the Secretary. 137 Ravenhurst Road. The Trust has a clear objective in its Articles of Association to:

4.1 *To promote, for the public benefit:*

(a) *the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment within the Area; and*

(b) *the promotion of community participation in healthy recreation for the benefit of residents of the Area through the use of community facilities; and*

(c) *the advancement of education, including promoting knowledge of the social and architectural history of the Area.*

The Trust is a not for profit organisation, there to serve all those who wish to see Moor Pool's community assets preserved for the benefit of residents and users.

### **Moor Pool Fundraising**

Fundraising continues, to raise the money to buy your community facilities for you. More information is available on the fundraising website.  
fundraising@moorpool.com

Collection jars continue to come in and various events are run or being organised. Unwanted items can also be sold on eBay for you. Give us a call on 0121 689 7368

### **easyfundraising.org.uk website**

Moor Pool is registered to receive funds raised by using this website. It's a FREE service where you can shop with your favorite online stores and at **no extra cost**, raise funds for Moor Pool. You still shop directly with each retailer as you would normally, but simply by using the links from the easyfundraising site first, each purchase you make will generate a cash back donation to Moor Pool Heritage Trust, instantly raising money.

Good cause is:- **Moor Pool**

### **100 Square Club**

Alex's 100 Square with help from Sidney Winners!

1. Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2012, the winner was a new resident on Moor Pool Estate, her name is Sarah and she lives on Wentworth Gate. Her prize is £25. A lovely start to living in our community!
2. Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2012 the winners were Margaret and Martin of Carless Avenue. Their prize is £25. Well done!

### **Moor Pool Film Documentary**

The final version of the film produced at the end of last year has proved a great success. Produced by Amrik Manku who works on the Doctors series and ably assisted by Ahmed Hashim on camera and Hannah Boyce-Mears on sound, all of whom generously gave their time for free, the film reflected breadth of community life and Moor Pool's historic significance. Resident's spontaneous lines spoken to camera with minimal if any rehearsing clearly showed deep feeling for the Estate and the need to secure it for the future. Many thanks to all those who took part and to Grainger for providing access to the Hall and Builders Yard. The short version of the documentary film can be seen online. Here's the link -

<http://www.communitychannel.org/featured/uk360/> and go to episode 6 or on the Moor Pool website.

### **Moor Pool History Archive**

Moor Pool Heritage Trust would like to create a history archive of the Moor Pool Estate.

The aim is to catalogue the history of the Estate from its origins up to the present time.

It is proposed that the archive will consist of two strands;

A. Oral History with resident's memories and recollections of life on the Estate. This follows on from the current oral history collection.

B. Visual History including postcards, photographs maps and plans that record the changes on the Estate. We would also like to collect items for display including old household utensils.

If you would like to contribute to this archive please contact.

Dave McGee, Director, Moor Pool Heritage Trust.  
4 The Square, 07975623995.

### **Moor Pool's Got Talent.**

As a MPHT fundraising event and to have some fun too, a talent night is being organised at the Moor Pool Hall on the 16<sup>th</sup> June. So if you have a band, can sing, tell jokes, play the spoons, dance or any other faintly entertaining activity then brush up your skills and send in your entry.

### **Garage Renting.**

The Trust continues to collate a waiting list for garages. The Trust understands the new and refurbished garages will be transferred to its ownership as well, so if you are a resident and wish to use one for the purpose of garaging a car please

register your interest to the Secretary of the Trust, Igor Cusack, 137 Ravenhurst Road.

### **Building Materials**

The Courtyard at the Builders Yard will require additional blue brick pavers. Do you have any unwanted ones in your garden or spare Estate pattern house bricks for building the allotment shop?

### **Wartime Anderson Shelters**

There are quite a few of these dotted around the estate including a number on allotments. A future project is to fit one out as it would have been used in wartime. Do you recall the kind of things kept in them? Did you use one during the War and can we record your memories?



### ***Carless Books***

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## **Moor Pool in Bloom Plant Sale Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May. 11am – 2pm.**

The annual plant sale raises funds for Moor Pool in Bloom activities including bulbs, tools, fruit trees and plants. Last year we raised £700. This year we hope to make a grand! How to help:

**Mid March on** - As last year, we are pricking out plug plants - geraniums, pansies, begonias, petunias, verbena etc. These will be on sale at the shop and the April coffee morning as well as at the Plant Sale. The prices compare well with the Big Apple so please buy some of your summer annuals on Moor Pool!  
Can you help prick out the plant plugs? These arrive throughout March and you can do it at home or join in with friends. (*contact Liz or your nearest neighbour, see below*)

### **April to 12<sup>th</sup> May**

Last year many generous gardeners donated plants from their own gardens. We really need your support! To remind you – here are ways of helping.

- Donate plants from your garden/allotment
- Help set up the Sale (Fri 11<sup>th</sup> May and 9am -11am Sat 12<sup>th</sup> May)
- Buy your summer annuals on Moor Pool (petunias, geraniums, begonias, etc on sale end of April)
- Buy plants from the Sale – they are really good value
- Encourage your friends to buy too and invite visitors

### **Advance Notice: *Planting the Circle***

*Saturday 23 June - Second year of this event. Please start saving containers for recycling and planting up to fill the Circle with colour for a month.*

*Large, small, old, new! Every adult and every child can help.*

*More details: Hilary Everard, 92 Ravenhurst, Helen Nicholas 4 High Brow, Lavinia Fellows, 6 The Square, Liz Muir (01214273973/07792473975)*