

*“At the beginning of the twentieth century two great new inventions took form before our eyes: the aeroplane and the Garden City, both harbingers of a new age: the first gave man wings and the second promised him a better dwelling-place when he came down to earth.”*

*(Lewis Mumford)*

## A Summer of Celebration?

Hello Everyone,

A busy summer lies ahead, with the Olympics, European Cup, but more importantly the Moor Pool Centenary Celebration and Jubilee street parties! Something for everyone and if that is all too much, a bit of digging and planting for the Moor Pool in Bloom's RHS entry might be a nice quiet alternative activity. Congratulations to the MiB team on their success with the Plant Sale and fingers crossed for the 2012 entry in the RHS Britain in Bloom at the Circle starting on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The report by the Planning Officer on the Banner planning applications is almost complete and a decision expected in June. The MRA, MRG, MPHT and MAA along with Banner met the Officer to discuss and agree what we believe should be the final details.

John Alden has served Harborne as Councillor since 1983 and has been instrumental in achieving much of the funding which has allowed us to carry out or plan many of our recent projects on the Estate such as verge reinforcement, MiB and street lighting. I am sure we can all wish him well in whatever he does next and welcome our new Councillor Elaine Williams.

We don't request funds for frivolous reasons or without good reason. Our projects benefit local people but even so we have to continue to demonstrate that Moor Pool is worthy of support not just for itself but for what it contributes to Harborne and Birmingham. We hope to meet with Elaine Williams soon to walk the Estate and give her an insight into what we are doing here.

Alex Millicheap, 12 yrs old, has now raised the £1500 for the Builders Yard he set himself within 12 months. A superb effort Alex and very well done! You and your parents can be very proud of your achievement. Thanks also to the many people who supported you.

Rob Sutton.  
Chair. Moor Pool Residents Association

### Centenary Celebrations

2012 is the last year of our Centenary celebrations. Construction of the Estate started in 1907 at Park Hill Road and finished in 1912 at Carless Avenue. For our final event we have teamed up with Winterbourne Gardens, Nettlefold's home to host an evening party. Winterbourne has been fabulously refurbished and the downstairs has a wonderful display of Nettlefold memorabilia, including information on his work as Chairman of the Birmingham housing committee and also a model of the Estate. The gardens are delightful and if you have not visited already, you should certainly plan to do so. The event takes place on the 29<sup>th</sup> June from 6.30pm to 9.00pm. Tickets are limited and a booking form slip can be found at the back of the Duck. There is no charge to attend as the event is being funded by the MRA with generous provision of the Venue by Winterbourne Gardens. For those who would like assistance with transport, a minibus will collect from the bench by the Moor Pool at **6.15pm**. Please note on the application form if you require transport, as spaces are limited.

**Entrance to the event is by ticket only.**

### Diamond Jubilee Street Parties

Moor Pool has 2 street parties planned for Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> and then the Moor Pool Jubilee Street Party on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> when Carless Avenue will be closed to through traffic.

The plan approved by BCC for Carless is to close the section at the Spinney from around 11am to 5pm 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. Notices have been posted to all the affected properties and the section of road clearly indicated.

The organisers would very much appreciate if vehicles could be kept clear of this section of road between the spinney circles on the day of the street party.

## **MiB Plant Sale raises over £800**

For the third year running, Moor Pool in Bloom organised and ran a Plant Sale – and very successful it was too. We had a different venue this year at the top of Eastway on the grassed area, giving more space to spread ourselves. In spite of not very helpful weather conditions we had a plentiful supply of all types of plants and raised over £800; all of which will be ploughed back into various Moor Pool in Bloom projects.

Residents and passers-by have noticed and commented on the sudden appearance of bulbs and plants at strategic places throughout the Estate. What a difference it makes, though beauty is in the eye of the beholder! All of this happens because of the hard work and dedication by VOLUNTEERS!

The next Event is **Planting the Circle**. This is on 23<sup>rd</sup> June in or near the Lower Hall. We shall be asking residents and visitors (adults and children) to bring a container they have recycled and to fill it with compost and plants supplied by MiB. There will be advice on planting and watering techniques and on plants suitable for different conditions. Experienced gardeners will be there to help and the containers will go on display round the Circle.

*We shall have a selection of containers but it would help if you could bring your own. You get your container back but the plants will be recycled onto the MiB allotment for propagation.*

We need a really good community turn out for this event as this will be our main entry for the **Royal Horticultural Society - Moor Pool in Bloom event** which will take place on the afternoon of **Thursday 5th July**. The bowler-gardeners and Mums and Toddlers will be contributing and the Willow Border will also be part of the entry.

## **Heritage Street Lighting.**

Meetings to discuss installation of heritage lighting on the Estate have been cancelled twice now at less than 24 hours notice. To treat volunteers who have given up their time in such a way is pretty poor. With replacement likely to take place soon, we hope after 2 years preparatory work our proposals are being taken seriously. This is a one off opportunity to follow in the footsteps of other conservation areas, including Bournville, to install not only high efficiency lighting but lighting appropriate to a historic conservation area. Heritage lighting would also send a clear message that the Council understands and appreciates the significance of Moor Pool to heritage funding agencies. Another meeting is scheduled for early June. A third cancellation won't be acceptable.

## **Moor Pool Skittle Alley.**

Moor Pool Skittle Alley (home of the famous Moorpool Skittles Club), opened either in late 1910 or early 1911; the jury is still out on the exact date. A couple of years later, in September 1913, the Skittles Club was formed,

and has met continuously ever since (apart from a short break during WWII). However, a hundred years of frenetic activity in the alley took its toll on the playing surface, and by 2006 it was clear that the "flat alley" was becoming unplayable. In the absence of direct funding for renovation, the club members made the momentous decision to fund and commission the work through their own resources. Five years on, the club was able to completely replace the playing surface, and the club re-opened on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2011.

This achievement was made possible by:-

- **The members of Moorpool Skittles Club for their tireless fund-raising .**
- **The Harborne Ward Committee who provided a generous grant towards the work.**
- **Waitrose who made funds available through their local charities scheme.**
- **Rob Green (Building Contractor) who replaced the concrete sub-base and frame.**
- **John Moran (Flooring) who provided the new playing surface.**

This, however, is not the end of the story. The "round alley" is now beginning to deteriorate, so fund raising will continue, and the future ownership of the Hall is still uncertain. But whatever the challenges, the club is determined to safeguard the last skittle alley and club in Birmingham.

New members, especially younger people, are always welcomed. The club provides a friendly and relaxing atmosphere, with plenty of social activities in addition to skittles. And no-one takes the game (or themselves) too seriously! One of the club's future objectives is to form links with local schools to ensure that the game continues on Moor Pool. If you are involved in education locally, please get in touch; your views on how to move this forward would be valued.

For more about the club, why not contact Mick O'Malley on 0121 427 5051, or e-mail momalley39@gmail.com.

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## **SCARECROW COMPETITION**

**Normally held at Easter, the scarecrow competition is being moved to September so that entries can be viewed at the Moor Pool Festival.**

**More information later.**

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## **Moor Pool's Olympic Torch**

A picture of the Olympic torch designed by a Carless Avenue resident for the 1948 games is on the Moor Pool website. 1948 was the last year that the Arts was a part of the actual Olympic competition. Now what number did he live at?

## Coffee Morning + 100 Club Draw.

The next Coffee Morning and 100 Club draw will be on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June 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.

## 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. Credit cards accepted. Orders welcome. Deliveries made. Telephone: 0121 428 1061. Open: 7am - 7pm Mon to Fri; 7.30am - 7pm Sat; 7.30am - 1pm Sun. You can now contact Raj via email at moorpoolnews@hotmail.co.uk with any queries, requests, and suggestions for the Circle shop.

**MANY THANKS TO RAJ FOR HELPING SELL TICKETS, PLANTS AND COLLECTING FUNDS FOR THE ESTATE.**

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## Moorpool Players

### **Summer Variety Show '9-5'**

The Moorpool Players next presentation will be staged from 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30

Tickets at £5.50, can be obtained from Moor Pool News and Wine or from the Box Office on 0121 426 2134.

## Moor Pool Reading Club

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

Our next meeting is due to be held on Thursday Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July, when Jennie Nairn will introduce "Night Waking" by Sarah Moss. The following meeting is the 20<sup>th</sup> September with book to be confirmed.

## Pereira Road Open Gardens.

Mike Foster, whom some of you will know from his work with Moor Pool in Bloom, will be opening his garden along with two others on 1<sup>st</sup> July. Entry by donation. All the money raised, along with the proceeds from the sale of home made cakes and tea, will go to St Mary's Hospice. Despite the dreadful weather on the previous opening (April 29th), over £200 was raised, mainly from cake sales! Hopefully the weather will be kinder this time, enabling a worthwhile contribution to be made to the excellent work done by the hospice. Gardens open are Nos 55, 50 and 14 with teas at No 12; opening times 2 - 5 pm.

Ed: Mike Foster, who does not live on Moor Pool deserves great thanks for his continued contribution to MiB projects.

## Dates for your Diary

**Coffee Morning.** Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012. **BG**

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

**Circle Planting.** Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2012

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

**Moor Pool Dance.** Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> Sept 2012

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

**Ward Meeting.** Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012 7.00pm

Moor Pool Hall

**BG** = Bowling Green not Lower Hall.

## Moor Pool Heritage Trust News

MPHT along with the MRG, MAA and MRA met the Planning Department and Banner to discuss the legal agreement which will be attached to the new planning applications. Many points were covered and broad agreement reached. BCC continued to make the point that they cannot legally require Banner to transfer the various sites such as the allotments, Orchard and Site B.

Despite this, Mark Booth, the Regional Director of Banner confirmed that it remained their intention to make these transfers.

The Trust and other groups will have to have faith that Banner will do what they say and it's our view that they will. Having a legal agreement though would have other advantages enabling the Trust to show funders that there is definite progress and we are not dependent on a third party keeping to its word.

The comment from the MRA on the applications is on the MRA website on the letters section.

Ben Plenty, the Planning Officer dealing with Moor Pool suggested that the Application is likely to go before the planning committee early in June.

Banner are concerned at the continued deterioration of the garage sites and the ensuing health and safety issues and may make a start fairly soon to remove the old garages. They are also prepared to look at whether some of the garages can be dismantled or parts salvaged for use up at the Builders Yard and this is a welcome gesture.

*Siobhan Collins - McCarthy*  
*Dance Academy*

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

Mob: 07896315199

## **A Note from the Trust Secretary**

As you will have gathered from the last edition of the Duck, the Moor Pool Heritage Trust is hoping to acquire all the remaining allotments on the Estate as well as a number of new and refurbished garages. When this happens we will have to decide how to allocate these and what rent to charge. The Trust is made up of people who have lived on this estate for more than three years and

there are more than seventy of you who are members now. If we are to acquire more of the Community assets we need the support of all of you. The members will elect the directors of the Trust at the Annual General Meeting to be held in the autumn. In the meanwhile, anybody who would like to join, please contact me, and I will get an application form to you. If you would like to indicate your interest in renting a garage or an allotment please contact me and I will include you on the relevant list.

Igor Cusack (Secretary), Moor Pool Heritage Trust.  
137, Ravenhurst Road, B17 9HR. Tel: 0121 426 2462  
email: [ticusack@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:ticusack@blueyonder.co.uk)

## **Builders Yard**

As we have advised previously, 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. The new s106 should hopefully clear these ambiguities and enable the sale to be completed. Then the work will really start.

Grant applications, fundraising to repay the purchase cost and clearance work will need to be stepped up. Volunteers will be very welcome as the project gets underway. A priority will be to secure the building then begin to clear the rubbish which has been left behind.

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.

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

Our own local talent show will take place on the 16<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm in Moor Pool Hall. The deadline for applications is the 31<sup>st</sup> May and you can apply online at [www.moorpoolfundraising.co.uk](http://www.moorpoolfundraising.co.uk). Tickets will be on sale soon, priced at £7.50 for adults and £3.50 for children, or a family ticket (2 adults 2 children) for £20. Come along and support the local talent, or better still, take the plunge and get on stage to let us see what you can do. We still need volunteers to help on the night for various tasks. If you can help, or to reserve tickets, email [fundraising@moorpool.com](mailto:fundraising@moorpool.com) or call 689 7368.

### **Volunteers Needed**

We still **desperately** need more volunteers to help with fundraising. It could be just a one off or a more regular commitment, anything is welcome. We are urging residents to put on their own fundraising events, or to join the fundraising committee to help organise events. If you can help please email [fundraising@moorpool.com](mailto:fundraising@moorpool.com) or call 689 7368.

**Gift Duckets** Do your neighbours have a birthday or anniversary coming up? Gift Duckets are available to buy at the Circle shop in denominations of £10 and £5. They can be used as payment for any MPHT fundraising event

such as quizzes and events, for buying skills and services from the skills bank and for buying items on the recycle network. Email fundraising@moorpool.com or call 689 7368 for more details.

**Monthly quizzes** in aid of MPHT are held on the last Thursday (usually) of the month in the bowling pavilion at 7.30pm. It's £3.50 per head, with teams of up to 8 people. If you don't have a team, you can join with others on the night, it's always very friendly. You can always check dates of quizzes on [www.moorpoolfundraising.co.uk](http://www.moorpoolfundraising.co.uk) or on the notice board at the Circle shop. The last quiz on 24th May, out in the open at the green was very pleasant.

#### **Easy fundraising Register now!**

For those of you who shop online, raise funds at no extra cost. Use the link

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/moorpool> and register with the easyfundraising site. From there go to your usual online shops and a small percentage will automatically be credited to the Moor Pool cause. There are 2000+ retailers including eBay, Amazon, John Lewis and 4 major supermarkets so you can be helping Moor Pool while doing your normal weekly shop. So far just 19 registered supporters have raised as much as £62.98. Good cause is **Moor Pool**

**Collection Jars** We are regularly receiving collection jars and would like to thank all those who continue to raise funds. If you hand in a collection jar please put a note inside with your name and address.

**Skills Bank** Sign up for a lesson or service or donate a skill on the skills bank.

<http://www.moorpoolskillsbank.co.uk/>

#### **Moor Pool recycle network - grab a bargain!**

This works like freecycle except that instead of getting items for free, you make a small donation to the MPHT fund. Check out what's on offer or submit a request on the fundraising website. Currently available items are a **CD rack, camp beds, mini food processor, pine door, desk, internal carousel kitchen shelves, Philips video recorder, shelf unit, ceramic tiles, and cot bed. Kitchen worktop, stair rods and paving slabs.** Go to

<http://moorpoolfundraising.co.uk/> and click on the recycle network tab or email fundraising@moorpool.com.

### **100 Square Club**

Alex's 100 Square with help from Sidney  
Winners!

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 the winner was Mick O'Malley of Carless Avenue. Mick won £25 and I think he is going to donate his prize money to Moor Pool Skittles Club. Well done Mick!

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2012 the winner was Hilary Everard who lives in Ravenhurst Road on the Moor Pool Estate. Hilary won £25. Thanks Hilary for all your support on the Moor Pool Estate. You deserve it!

### **Moor Pool History Archive**

Do you have any of the following?

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.

### **Garage Renting.**

The Trust continues to collate a waiting list for garages including the new ones to be built by Banner. 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?

### ***Carless Books***

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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: momalley39@gmail.com Free delivery to Moor Pool residents.

### ***Olympic Games Tickets***

Due to unforeseen circumstances, local resident has available ticket package as follows:

2 x Womens Fencing – 02/08/2012 pm

2 x Athletics Heats – 03/08/2012 5 am

1 x Twin Bedded room, Kensington Hilton inc Bed and Breakfast

Please telephone 0121 428 1333 for further details. Passport required.

Will accept £250 per person.

**Membership**  
**Moor Pool 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 fill in the attached tear off slip and send to the Treasurer at 80, Moor Pool Avenue.



I/We should like to join the Moor Pool Residents Association

I enclose my payment of:

£3.00 Individual ..... or £5.00 Family ..... (Tick which apply)

Cheques should be made payable to **Moor Pool Residents Association.**

Name .....

Address .....

.....

email .....

Tel .....

Please send your completed application to: **The Treasurer, 80, Moor Pool Avenue.**

**Moor Pool Centenary Celebration**

**29<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

**To be held at**

**Winterbourne House and Gardens 6.30pm – 9.00pm**



**I would like to apply for ..... tickets for the Centenary Celebration**

**I would like to apply for ..... seats on the courtesy minibus**

Name .....

Address .....

.....

email ..... Tel .....

Please send your completed application by 22/6/12 to: **64, Margaret Grove.**  
**Tickets and transport are limited and subject to availability and draw if oversubscribed.**