



Issue no 63 February 2013

Dear Residents

A belated Happy New Year to everyone, and welcome to this year's first issue of the Duck. This is also my first venture as the new editor so I would like to begin by thanking Rob Sutton for all the work he put into the Duck and for his support as I settle into the job.

My vision for the Duck is that it should continue to provide you with a mixture of news about what is happening on the estate and keep you up to date with activities and events. There are quite a lot of clubs and societies in Moor Pool. I hope to showcase as many of these as I can and in this issue I have made a start with the Reading Club. This seems very appropriate for this time of year when snow and ice make it difficult to get out of the house. The Circle Tennis club is also featured. I hope to introduce some other features but most of all I would like to hear from you. So, if you are planning an event, have some news to share, know about the history of Moor Pool or anything else that you think many be of interest, please email me, Paula McGee, at paulamariamcg156@gmail.com

Please send items by February 28	For publication in March
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What's happening?

Information about the Moor Pool Estate is available at www.Moorpool.com

Grainger are pleased to announce that on 11 February 2013 the Birmingham Property Team will move from our Edgbaston office back to our Harborne Estate Office. We have made this decision following a strategic review of our current tenancy agreement for our Edgbaston office and a discussion with the Birmingham team, who all chose the

Harborne Estate as their preferred location.

We are very much looking forward to moving back to where many of us started our employment with Grainger and to greater opportunities to become further involved with the estate. Please feel free to call into the office after February 11th when we move in. Our telephone numbers will change and this information will be provided once we have confirmed our new number. We are always still contactable by email. Our new postal address will be The Circle, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 9DY from the date above. We look forward to moving back into the neighbourhood.

Wheelie bins: The Council is planning to introduce wheelie bins to save money on refuse collection. Please make you views known to your local councillors. (See page 6)

Burglaries: PCSO Charlotte Alcock has reported that

i) a number of burglaries have taken place recently. These have all followed a similar pattern with one person distracting the homeowner whilst their accomplice carries out the burglary.

ii) thefts of BMWs persist. This is part of a national crime trend. Any resident who owns a BMW is advised to contact their local dealer to arrange a security upgrade.

Contact: PCSO Charlotte Alcock
Harborne Neighbourhood Team
South Birmingham Local Policing Unit
www.birminghamsouthpolice.org.uk
Tel: 0345 113 5000 ext: 7863 6667

Heritage lighting: The latest news is that Heritage lanterns are due to arrive at the

end of January and will be installed within the Harborne roads that currently have temporary lanterns in early February. The fixing of the lanterns on the current height posts is unacceptable. Meetings with Councillors and Amey will continue with and it has been suggested that i) a site meeting is held to determine whether the current LED lights can be dimmed down; this is pointless if they are going to be changed; ii) the height of the heritage lights on North Pathway could be lowered and the light level assessed. If these lights are lowered dimming may not be necessary.

Trees: Amey, which is contracted to look after the roadside trees, have affixed notices for removal to 4 trees. The 2 trees in Park Edge did not have appear to have anything wrong with them and the Moorpool Residents' Association, which has previously put considerable effort into establishing a dialogue on tree removal and replanting, was particularly concerned as Amey had given explanation for their action. A site meeting with Amey revealed that the silver birches in Park Edge are reaching the end of their life span. Amey are identifying the oldest specimens which may have suffered disturbance. One option is to remove them and replant. The alternative is to wait a few more years so that all of the same trees in a road could be removed in one go. Comments from residents would be appreciated. Please contact Rob Sutton 426 5669.

Dumping on Moor Pool: Sadly a considerable amount of the funds intended to restore allotments will have to be spent removing dumped garden waste and the spoil from building projects. There is really no excuse for this as collections can be arranged through the Councils hit squad.

Drainage super tank a notification of planning application has been issued. This concerns Severn Trent's proposal to install a very large drainage tank in the Valley development. This tank will be about 25

feet (7.5m) in diameter (wider than a house) and around 55feet deep. It will seriously affect the restoration of allotments in that area. If you would like to comment on this or any other planning application please contact Birmingham City Council at

<http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/planningonline>

Moor Pool Harborne Conservation Area: if you are planning to carry out work on your property, for example, installing new windows or cutting back or removing trees, please remember to contact Birmingham City Council Planning and Building Department before you begin. Moor Pool became a conservation area in the 1970s but further restrictions were added in 2006 in order to reserve the character of the estate.

For further information about regulations governing the Moor Pool Estate, how to make a planning application and conservation areas in general please contact Birmingham City Council at <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/Moorpool>

Notices on lampposts: Please remember to take these down as soon as possible once the event concerned has taken place. Lampposts are Council property and, strictly speaking, should not be used for advertising.

Moorpool Players raise £400 for charity: The Christmas show which took place on 12th December was a great success. Proceeds were shared between two charities: Birmingham University PHAB and Birmingham Christmas Shelter. Alison Rees from Birmingham Christmas Shelter has written to thank the players for their donation of £400 which helped fund the provision of meals, showers and other much needed services during the Christmas period

Dead trees felled in The Square: Three very large dead trees that had become a cause for concern were finally felled on January 4th. The work was very well organised and left no mess. Removal of

the trees has allowed more light into the area which, it is hoped, will encourage plant growth.

Please support our shop. Raj stocks a very wide range of groceries, wine, beer, cleaning product, freezer goods and greetings cards. You can drop off your dry cleaning, order samosas, buy a newspaper or draw out some cash. You can advertise things you want to sell (I sold a car last year, Ed), pick up a bargain and catch up with announcements on the Residents' Association's noticeboard. Many residents depend on the shop especially in bad weather. Please help to keep this vital resource going.

Raj says "Please... SHOP LOCAL at the Circle"

MOORPOOL NEWS & WINE

Your friendly family-run franchise with competitive prices and regular promotions

We offer a wide range of goods:

fresh fruit & veg | samosas & onion bhajees (orders next day) | groceries & frozen foods | bread, milk & eggs | hot & cold drinks | snacks, sweets & ices | household items & hardware | toiletries & medicines | stationery & stamps | cards & gifts | newspapers & magazines | beers, wines & spirits | tobacco

We also provide the following services:

orders & delivery | dry-cleaning | mobile top-ups | photocopier & fax | credit cards accepted | cashback up to £20 | cash machine | rents, rates & utility bill payment | small ads & notices | residents association post box

Monday–Friday: 7am–7pm

Saturday: 7.30am–7pm

Sunday: 7.30am–1pm 0121 428 1061

Raj says "Please... KEEP THIS AD to remind you"

What's on?

Coffee mornings: take place in the small hall, 10am-1230, on the last Saturday of every month except December. Everyone is welcome.

MiB Calendar 2012-13

Christmas decorations: We raised £66 which will go towards future planting.

March: We need a lot of volunteers for pricking out plug plants.

Work day in The Square and The Spinney: A work day will take place on Saturday March 9th from 10am until 1pm. The plan is to tidy up the area as spring gets underway. Everyone is welcome to come and help, even if you can only manage half an hour.

As usual, arrangements will be made for the Hit Squad to remove all the waste material.

May Our annual plant sale will take place on 11th May Plant Sale in East Pathway.

If you would like to help with any of our activities please contact the volunteer concerned or ring Liz Muir. Tel: 07792473975.

Caroline's Cake Company

Moor Pool based cake designer creating tiered and sculpted cakes for those special times when only cake will do.

Clubs and societies

Moorpool Bowling Club

The club are on the lookout for new members with the new season imminent. New members of all ages are welcome, including juniors up to 16 years. The club runs various social activities and is a great place to meet and make friends. If you haven't played before tuition is available. Please telephone the President Bill Taylor 426-6726

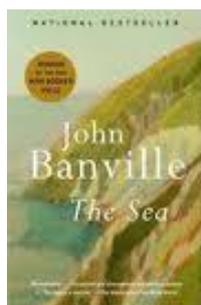
Moor Pool Reading Club

Meetings are held every two months in the Small Hall, The Circle, Moor Pool on a Thursday, 7.30pm-8.30pm. The books are chosen by the reading group and every session starts with a brief introduction to the book to be discussed by the person who suggested it. We cover a wide range of books that last year included *Staying On* (Paul Scott) *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* (Mohsin Hamid) and *The Stranger's Child* (Alan Hollinghurst).

There is a small annual charge of £10 to cover room bookings.

Anyone who enjoys reading and discussing what they have read will be welcome to come along.

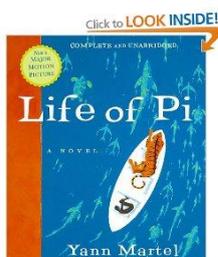
Forthcoming Reading Club events



The Sea

John Banville

To be introduced
by Tricia Cusack (7
February 2013)



The Life of Pi

Yann Martel

To be introduced
by Ann Griggs (11
April 2013)

For more information contact
(triciacusack@gmail.com).

The Circle Tennis Club

In a few years we will be celebrating our Centenary as a tennis club. However, unless someone, there is always a mysterious 'someone' isn't there, can confirm when we were inaugurated this auspicious occasion will pass without note. Can anyone help please?

There are about 160 members of all groups and ages. Some play, some don't. Families bring children for coaching. There are mix-ins, tournaments and team events. We also have a social life with skittles, pub get-togethers, and even a beetle drive last year, and, every year, we are in the draw for at least 9 pairs of Wimbledon tickets.

We enjoy our club and join in with keeping it tidy, moss free and well maintained. Committee names and contact details are on the notice board at the Clubhouse - which you can find at the rear of, and beneath, Moorpool Hall. Come and join us.

Ann Yorke

For more information about the Circle Tennis Club please see the website at <http://www.circletennis.net/>

Recipe slot: Zuppa de fagioli

8oz (226 gm) dried white beans (butter beans/cannellini beans)
Bacon bone/pancetta
4 tsp olive oil
6 oz (170gm) onion, finely chopped
1 stick of celery
1 clove of garlic, crushed
1 tsp chopped parsley
2 pints/1L water

Soak the beans in cold water overnight. Drain and place in a saucepan with the water and bacon/pancetta. Cover and simmer gently until beans are tender. Puree half the beans and return to the pan.

Heat the oil and gently fry the onions and celery until soft. Add to the pan and season to taste.

Continue to simmer for about 20 minutes. Stir in the parsley just before serving.

The flavour improves if the soup is left to stand for a few hours. It can be reheated without harm. In winter this recipe makes thick soup. In summer, add more water and fresh tomatoes to lighten the mixture.

Moor Pool Heritage Trust News

Renting garages and allotments: Please contact Igor Cusack 137, Ravenhurst Road, B17 9HR. Tel: 0121 426 2462
Email: ticusack@blueyonder.co.uk

Fundraising: Monthly quizzes are held on the last Thursday of every month at 7.30pm in the Bowling Clubhouse. It's £3.50 per head and all funds raised go to the Moor Pool Heritage Trust.

Timber re-cycling: Following discussions between the Trust, local Councillors and Amey, it has been agreed that to felled timber can be re-used on the Estate. The Trust is grateful to the Ward Community Fund which has provided a grant to support this recycling.

Allotment restoration is due to start very soon. This will entail cutting back a number of trees, particularly sycamores, which have invaded the allotments and trimming beech hedges back to their proper height. If you require more information contact either the Banner site office.

Acquisition of the Community Facilities

Discussion with Grainger continues and is looking positive as are potential plans to manage the hall. The legal issues with the builders yard have been resolved and the purchase will be concluded.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

I write regarding the impending use of wheelie bins in Birmingham and locally. I am sure all of us would agree that recycling is important but the introduction of these bins in a Conservation Area will be a terrible blight undermining all that we have been trying to do to improve the area. In the majority of properties they are impractical due to steps, paths and lack of

access. These bins left on frontages, drives and pavements that can accommodate them will be visually appalling.

We should be consulted on the option to continue with black bags and look at other ways in which we can improve recycling on the Estate. I hope the residents committee will take a decisive view on this matter one way or the other and if necessary consult with residents to ensure our wishes are heard rather than submerged in the political bickering which is likely to break out.

Rob Sutton, 64 Margaret Grove

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