

THE MOOR POOL DUCK



Residents' Newsletter for Moor Pool Garden Suburb

Issue no 65 May 2013

Dear Residents

After a very late start it seems that everything is in a rush to flower; daffodils, bluebells and cherry blossom complete for attention. Even the trees are beginning to come into leaf. Moor Pool is beautiful at this time of year and reflects the effort that residents continue to put into maintaining and developing open spaces for everyone to enjoy.

This issue of the Duck contains, as usual, information about what is happening on the estate and forthcoming events. There is also a section for matters relating to Moor Pool Heritage Trust. If you have any news, gardening tips, information you would like to share please contact me at paulamariamcg156@gmail.com or leave a letter at the post box in Raj's shop. Letters are welcome. Please provide your name and an email address for the published version. If you do not have email please let me have your addresses/telephone number in case I need to contact you. This information will not be published.

I look forward to hearing from you. Best wishes, Paula

Please send items by 19 th July	For publication in September
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What's happening?

Rubbish matters: Central Government has provided a £30m grant to sustain weekly collections and Birmingham City Council has decided that, to achieve this by introducing wheelie bins. Much is made of the fact that 80% of other Councils have done the same. Perhaps it is a reflection that until now Birmingham has had higher standards and been less susceptible to the sales pitch of the wheelie bin companies. To be fair, nothing is clear cut and unarguably there are

community consultation and empowerment. The body advising our Council proposed a third option which was to stay as we, are and which has been dismissed. Clearly the current financial constraints have had a massive impact but there are alternatives. We must recycle more and we must be more inventive in how we achieve that. The Residents Association and the Trust are ready to collaborate with the Council in improving Birmingham's recycling rates. We work closely with local Councillors and have already taken practical steps towards recycling green waste as a pilot for a scheme that could be rolled out across the city. We can extend this to other materials not only reducing the burden on our Council but potentially creating value for the local community.

Councillor James McKay should be given credit for piloting the wheelie bin policy but he should also listen and consider other ways to solve the problem. Nobody young or old should be expected to haul bins up or down steps or slopes. The Council should pause, take stock and engage with the community to come up with solutions which will have community support and make a real difference to Birmingham's waste problem in the years to come.

Rob Sutton, Secretary MRA

Allotments: Moorpool Heritage Trust will be taking over the allotments when Banner Homes has completed the building work. The Trust is starting to compile a waiting list. See P6 for further information.

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

Easter Egg Hunt: On the 13th of April, the MRA put on an Easter egg hunt for families with children on the estate. The event was a success with the younger children searching

for plastic ducks hidden at the Square and the older children following a trail around the estate. All the children were rewarded with chocolate Easter eggs. The event raised £95.50. Thanks to everyone who supported this event.

Moorpool in Bloom plant sale: Despite the heavy showers, the sale has raised £749 so far with some payments still to come. Remaining plants - summer annuals, petunias, salvias, antirrhiniums and a few hardy perennials –are on sale at Raj's shop. *Thanks to everyone for your support.*

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.

Sunflower growing competition for children on the estate: Now is the time to sow your seeds. Entry is free. Sunflowers will be judged in September on their height and size of flowerhead. For more information and to collect your seeds and growing pots, please contact Jim Tucker on jtucker1929@gmail.com

Opera at Moorpool: Tinkers Farm Opera's 60th Anniversary Presentation Saturday June 15th 7.30pm Moorpool Hall: a musical miscellany including songs from 1950s musicals and operatic selections performed by TFO 1953 – 1960. Tickets are £9 (children half price) and can be ordered in advance from 01384 373 670 or purchased on the door. Other venues include (Bournville June 7th; Northfield, June 13th, Barnt Green June 29th).

Caroline's Cake Company

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

Contact:

www.carolinescakecompany.co.uk

Letters

From Tricia Cusack

Residents have been consulted about the new 'blue' light LED street-lighting. There seem to be very divergent views on this: some of us love it, while others find it intolerable. The old lighting fitted the original designers' plans for the Estate, bringing the feel of the countryside into the city. This was recognised in the Character Appraisal Document produced by BCC.

Putting aside, for the moment, the heritage lights/no heritage lights argument, many people do feel safer now we have the brighter lights. However, there is no evidence that bright lighting deters thieves – and indeed some evidence that it encourages them.

Another factor should be put into the melting pot: there seems to be a link between ill-health and light levels at night. Apparently bright light, and in particular, the LED 'blue light', inhibits the production of the hormone, melatonin, which controls sleep patterns. This means our body-clock and sleep can be disrupted. Some research has linked melatonin suppression to an increase in the incidence of breast cancer. The Minister at the Department of Transport, Norman Baker, writing to our MP, Gisela Stuart, has said that studies on the link are 'inconclusive': however, this means that we citizens of Birmingham, are guinea-pigs in an experiment that will decide whether the link is genuine or not.

Tricia Cusack

Email: triciacusack@gmail.com

From Banner Homes

I hope you are finally enjoying the spring weather. As promised we are keen to keep you up to date on the progress we are making on site.

The diversion works at the Valley site are now fully complete and all the foundations have been dug and concreted on the site. Plots 7 – 12 are progressing with brickwork, while plots 1 – 6 are being built up to floor slab level. Severn Trent has commenced their sheet piling works and expects to begin excavation for their storage facility next week. They envisage the excavation element of their works will take about 18 weeks. On Site C, the

roofs are almost completed and we expect the scaffolding to be dismantled in two weeks' time, weather dependant. The windows will be installed week commencing 29th April 2013.

Unfortunately the ground water treatment system we have to use has had to run through the night. We have tried to suppress the noise to the best of our abilities and these works have now been completed. We very much appreciate the tolerance shown by the local residents.

We are currently awaiting final sign off on the allotment refurbishment works and we will then progress their reinstatement.

Our Site Manager Tim O'Toole is on site to help. If you have a genuine concern, I am sure he will be more than happy to assist.

Once again thank you for your continuing patience.

Regards, Helen Doherty
Banner homes

Tel: 07713 175 850

Email: helen@you-agency.com

Information about Banner Homes can be found at <http://www.bannerhomes.co.uk>

Clubs and societies

Moorpool Players

In May the Moorpool Players will be staging Jim Cartwright's celebrated play; 'Two'. The play follows a landlord and lady of a local pub as they serve their regulars with drink, merriment and a touch of warmth, sympathy and understanding. One night, however, a haunting memory threatens to destroy their relationship as they struggle to come to terms with the past.

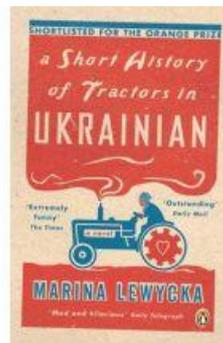
The play will be presented at the Moorpool Hall, The Circle. Harborne, B179DY from 15th -18th May at 7.30pm, with an additional performance on the 18th at 2.00pm.

Tickets cost £6.50 and are available from Moorpool News and Wine, The Circle Harborne and from the Box Office. Please visit moorpool.org for more details.

Moor Pool Reading Club

We had a good discussion about *The Life of Pi* at our meeting of the Reading Club on 11 April - a popular choice selected by Ann Griggs. There were varied reactions to the book. The story of a starving castaway on a raft is not comfortable reading. However, the presence of a Bengal tiger offers some narrative intrigue and we also liked the language and approved the threads of humour.

Forthcoming Reading Club events

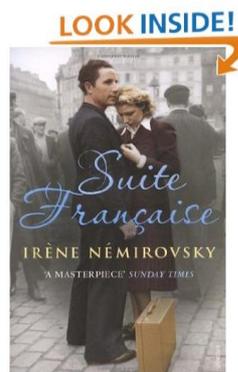


**Thursday 13
June,**

A Short History of
Tractors in
Ukrainian

Marina Lewycka

To be introduced
by Kate
Nottingham



**Thursday 15th
August**

Suite Francaise

Irene Nemirovsky

To be introduced
by Celine Beard

Both meetings will be in the Small Hall, The Circle, 7.30-8.30pm.

New members attending always welcome: email me, or just turn up.

Contact: Tricia Cusack
(triciacusack@gmail.com)

Moorpool in Bloom

Three years ago, as Senior Citizen of some experience, I felt that, perhaps, I should do something else besides shopping, and housework and meet more people. So, at one of the coffee mornings, I added my name to a list of volunteers with an interest in gardening

who were willing to tidy up and enhance the Moorpool Estate. Gardening has long been one of my two favourite occupations, reading being the other. So, here was the ideal answer: a chance to meet new friends, exercise in the fresh air and a chance to do my little bit for the Estate on which I was born and which I think it the best possible place to live.

The group of volunteers became Moorpool in Bloom and since I became a member I have been involved in three plant sales. We sell annual, perennials and vegetables; we most of the plants that we sell and recycle donated plants.

The group is easy to belong to and you do what you feel capable of doing. Members have done sterling work clearing ivy and various weeds from The Square and The Spinney, potting up seedlings and loaning space in their own greenhouses. We have entered the Royal Horticultural *It's Your Neighbourhood Scheme* three times. We began with redeveloping Park Edge and gradually moved on to flower displays and pot planting.

We are always keen to welcome new comers and we appreciate help from anyone who can spare a little time to help with jobs such as watering new plants at The Circle and around road name plates. After three years I am hardly a horticultural expert- but I'm getting there!

Hilary Everard

For information about Moorpool in Bloom contact Liz Muir

Tel: 07792473975 or 0121 427 3973. Email: e.muir276@btinternet.com

For information about the Royal Horticultural Society's *It's Your Neighbourhood Scheme* see

<http://www.rhs.org.uk/Gardening/Community-gardening/It-s-Your-Neighbourhood>

Wildlife conservation group: Moor Pool has long been a natural haven for a wide variety of plants and animals, including badgers. Much habitat has been lost over the years, although April saw frogs and toads making their annual road trips, mainly across Ravenhurst Road

and Park Edge, to ponds of birth to spawn. Unfortunately some of these ponds no longer exist. We helped frogs and toads to avoid the traffic and lifted heavy drain covers to release frogs and newts that had fallen through the gaps.

Ideas for future work include installing protective mesh over drains, planting bee, bird and butterfly-friendly hedges and trees and optimising some of the estate's wild spaces such as the orchard.

New members are always welcome. Please join us at: Moor Pool's Lower Hall Tuesday 4th June 8pm. Refreshments will be provided and we look forward to meeting you.

Rosanna Ghinai (rag@doctors.org.uk)



Golf tuition: Alison Nicholas PGA Professional is available at Hagley Golf & Country Club on Mondays & Wednesdays. All abilities welcome.

Book your lessons now with former US open champion & the 2011 Solheim Cup Victorious Captain by calling 01562 883852

Recipe slot: Pesto sauce

Ingredients

- 1 large bunch of parsley
- 1 cup of fresh basil leaves
- 2 tablespoons melted butter
- ½ cup olive oil
- 4 cloves garlic
- ½ Romano cheese
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- ¼ teaspoon dried oregano leaves
- ½ cup pine nuts

Wash and chop the parsley and basil. Put all the ingredients into blender and puree to a smooth paste. Store in fridge until required.

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Membership of the Residents Association
 The MRA works to look after the environment of the estate and provide community social events. You can help by joining the MRA.

I/We would like to join the Moor Pool Residents Association. I enclose my payment of: £5.00 Individual..... or £8.00 Family..... (Tick which applies)

Cheques should be made payable to **Moor Pool Residents Association**. Please complete the form below and send it with your cheque to **The Treasurer, C/O 4, High Brow**.

I/We should like to join the Moor Pool Residents Association. I enclose my payment of: £5.00 Individual..... or £8.00 Family..... (Tick which applies)

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

Name

Address

Tel

Email

Moorpool News & Wine

Raj and her family stock an excellent selection of foods and household necessities, and also provide an unbeatable range of services, now including the Health Lottery and UPS parcel drop & collect, all 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 really is something for everyone, so please... shop local. Credit cards accepted. Orders welcome. Deliveries made.

Open Mon to Fri 7am - 7pm, Sat 7.30am - 7pm & Sun 7.30am - 1pm.

Telephone 0121 428 1061.

Email moorpoolnews@hotmail.co.uk

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

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Monday–Friday 7am–7pm
Sat 7.30am–7pm & Sun 7.30am–1pm
0121 428 1061 moorpoolnews@hotmail.co.uk

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

Moorpool Heritage Trust news

Allotments: Banner Homes will refurbish the allotments over the coming year. A number of sycamores and other trees have grown along plot boundaries, and elsewhere, and some of these will be removed or cut back. Other junk that has accumulated in the past will also be removed. Unfortunately a significant of restoration money, which could have been spent preparing the allotments, has instead to be spent removing dumped rubbish. Tenants are requested not to add to this.

Once the building work is complete, the Trust will take over the allotments from Banner Homes. We appreciate the company's generosity in making this important contribution to the Community. We are compiling a waiting list for allotments. This list includes those who applied to Grainger as far back as 2005 and those who applied to the Moor Pool Allotment Association after 2007. There are a number of allotments that have been worked until recently. Those allotment holders and anyone evicted to make way for the new development will be given priority when we come to allocating the plots. After that, allocation will be on a first-come, first-served basis. There may be competition for some individual plots but there should be sufficient most applicants to receive an allotment.

New tenancy agreements will be issued.

Allotment rents will be in the region of £30 for 2014 for new tenants. Rents for Senior Citizens who are already allotment holders will be announced at a later date. Calculations of these rents will take account of those current tenants who would find the new rents too high. The Trust will be responsible for insurance and there will be maintenance costs to account for.

Garages: The Trust hopes to acquire garages on the Estate as part of the business plan to support the community facilities. The acquisition of the Builders' Yard is now progressing so that those of you renting garages there will have a new landlord over the next few months. Banner Homes has agreed to transfer the refurbished garages at

The Spinney at an early date. The Trust has appointed solicitors to progress this quickly. Banner Homes is building 12 new garages on the two building areas – 3 on Site C and 9 in the Valley.

To apply for a garage or allotment please contact Igor Cusack
Tel: 0121 426 2462
Email: ticusack@blueyonder.co.uk.

Acquisition of the Community facilities from Grainger: The Trust would dearly like to be in the position to give you good news on this and anticipated being able to do so in this edition of the Duck. Instead we are in the midst of crucial and complex negotiations with Grainger. The Trust needs to be confident that taking on the stewardship of the community facilities, the total package, with its considerable liabilities, is a viable enterprise. We have strengthened the Trust board with the addition of a Financial Director, Simon Stirling and we have every intention of succeeding. When we do, we shall need everyone's full support. We will update you as we have further news and anticipate holding a public meeting when the results of the negotiations are known.

To acquire these facilities even those that are being given at no cost, still requires the Trust to exercise due diligence and expend funds on legal costs. Fortunately Banner Homes has made a contribution towards the legal costs to acquire garages at The Spinney and again the Trust is very appreciative of the company's support. We are also dealing with two landowners and a complex set of community assets with different timelines for their transfer. This is not a simple deal and we appreciate your support and patience as the pieces begin to fall into place.

Dates for your diary

Event	Date
Moorpool Dance	7 th September 2013
Moorpool Festival	15 th September 2013
Scarecrow competition	TBC
Carol walk	15 th December 2013