



To all our readers

Issue no 74 December 2014

**Dear Residents**

Happy Christmas to you all and thank you for your continued support for the Duck. This newsletter is an important part of life of the Moorpool Estate, letting you know what is happening, what to look out for and plans for the future.

Please do support Raj's shop at this time of year. Her shop is at the heart of our estate and provides a focal point for many of our activities including the Christmas decorations. Raj stocks a good range of products – please use the shop or we will lose it.

2014 has been a momentous year for the estate. The Moorpool Heritage Trust now owns the community facilities. As membership of the Trust is open to any resident who has lived on the estate for more than three years, this means that the community facilities are now in residents' hands for everyone to enjoy. Ownership brings responsibilities to use, maintain and, where necessary upgrade these facilities so that they continue to enhance life on the estate.

Best wishes for 2015, Paula  
[Paulamariamcq156@gmail.com](mailto:Paulamariamcq156@gmail.com)

**Christmas dates for your diary 2014**

Event	Date
Santa's grotto	14 <sup>th</sup> December 11am – 2pm Lower Hall
Carol Walk	14 <sup>th</sup> December 4pm from the Upper Hall

**Moorpool Residents Association Annual General Meeting**  
 This will take place on Sunday 25th January at 3pm in the Upper Hall

This meeting is for all residents. Please come along, meet your committee members and let them know your views and concerns.

**MRA Committee members 2014**

Sally Bourner	Maureen Mauser
Sarah Copley	Paula McGee Duck (Editor)
Mike Foster	Jayne Millicheap
Mike Frost	Helen Nicholas
Jill Howes	Rob Sutton
Norma Mason	

**To publish in the Duck in 2015 please send items to the editor by**

Closing date	For publication in
31 <sup>st</sup> January	February
31 <sup>st</sup> March	April
31 <sup>st</sup> May	June
31 <sup>st</sup> July	Late August/ September
30 <sup>th</sup> September	October
20 <sup>th</sup> November	December

**Dates for your diary 2015**

Event	Date
Moorpool Residents' Association AGM	25 <sup>th</sup> January 3pm Upper Hall
Plant sale	9 <sup>th</sup> May 2015.

**Security:** The front office at Rose Road police station is closing. The nearest front office is 341 Bournville Lane, Birmingham B30 1QX.

For non-emergency calls please dial 101.

In an emergency dial 999.

Please report any crime.

Speeding and drink driving will receive particular attention over the Christmas period.

Parking continues to be a problem throughout Harborne. Please consider the safety of others when you park.

### **Police and community meetings**

22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> December 4-6pm at Waitrose, Harborne High Street

27<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 7pm at Harborne Baths, Lordswood Road.

### **Memorial beech tree in The Square**

During the intensive clearing and tidying of The Square by Moorpool in Bloom members we learned that the prominent beech tree had been planted by workers from Harborne Tenants and friends of the painter and decorator John Vanderstam whose suicide had upset so many who had found him a friendly and outgoing person. He had been driven to this act at his Selly oak home by persistently noisy and aggressive neighbours and was deeply concerned about his elderly father's future.

Walkers on Carless Avenue will see, by the tree, a plaque placed by Moorpool in Bloom:

This beech was planted by workmen from the builders' yard in memory of John Vanderstam  
Died 28 November 1997  
"a gentle and devoted son"

Frank Fellowes



I wish to thank all my friends and neighbours for help and support for this last year and wish them a Merry Christmas and happy healthy new year for 2015.

Betty Wright

I would like to wish everyone, particularly the allotment holders a very merry Christmas and a happy new year for 2015. Keep up the good work and keep planting.

Steve Wright

### **Clubs and societies**

#### **Moorpool Wildlife Group**

Following the exciting acquisition of the Moor Pool communal areas by MPHT, Moor Pool Wildlife are looking forward to working with Moor Pool in Bloom in the New Year. We'll look at projects to help improve these green spaces and enable the local wildlife, flora and fauna to flourish! The next meeting date will be confirmed soon (details to be provided in The Duck). For any further information, please contact Jenny ([jennyhiley@gmail.com](mailto:jennyhiley@gmail.com))

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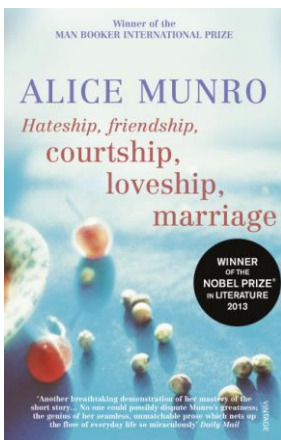
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## Moor Pool Reading Group

We had another great meeting of the Reading Group in November with 14 members attending. We were delighted to welcome another new member, Gill Morgan, to the group. Kate Nottingham, our Treasurer, presented her meticulous end of year summary of the group's finances, which, thanks to an increase in members, are beginning to show a pleasing profit.

Jenny Boucher's introduction to Martin Sixsmith's *Philomena* sparked a wide-ranging discussion of the book itself and the issues it raised around Catholicism in 1950s Ireland and later the Church's and the community's treatment of unmarried mothers; the nuns' role in selling babies abroad, and homophobic attitudes in twentieth-century America. *Philomena* is in part social documentary, and part novel insofar as a narrative has been selected with a particular cast of characters and viewpoints, although based as far as possible on historical evidence and conversations have been recreated.



**Thursday 15  
January 7.30-  
8.30pm in the  
Small Hall**

*Hateship, Friendship,  
Courtship, loveship,  
marriage* by Alice  
Munro

To be introduced  
by Jean McEntire

New members welcome: contact [triciacusack@gmail.com](mailto:triciacusack@gmail.com) or just come along. There is a small annual charge of £10.

## Moorpool in Bloom (MiB)

**The Square:** MiB has cleared ivy and brambles from the two open spaces and has a programme of mowing and maintenance. There are more plans to provide a peaceful

and verdant area as was intended in the original estate plan. A wild flower meadow has been planted and more clearance and pruning are planned. We welcome help and advice and our advice is always available.

Frank Fellows

MiB is making wreaths and other decorations for display at the shop and a Christmas tree will be erected near the entrance to the Upper Hall.

Maureen Mauser

The annual plant sale will take place on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

Liz Muir  
Moor Pool in Bloom  
For information about MiB contact Liz Muir  
Tel: 07792473975 or 0121 427 3973.  
Email: [e.muir276@btinternet.com](mailto:e.muir276@btinternet.com)

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**Christmas hamper:** This will be available to view in Raj's shop from Wednesday 3rd December, 2014. The draw will take place on Wednesday 17th December at approximately 3.30pm.

**Membership of the MRA**

The MRA works to look after the environment of the estate and provide community social events. You can help by joining the MRA. As agreed at the AGM on 11 November, subscriptions for 2013/2014 will remain £5 (individual) and £8 (family).

**Membership form**

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

**You can pay cash.**

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

**You can pay by standing order**

Complete the form below and send it to your bank.

To ..... Bank

Please pay the sum of £8/£5 (delete inapplicable) annually on .....to: Lloyds, University of Birmingham Sort Code 30-19-14

For account of Moor Pool Residents Association A/C 03808193 Quoting reference ..... (No of house & initials of road e.g.190 High Brow = 190HB)

Signature..... Account Name..... Account Number.....

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### Golf Tuition

Local resident Alison Nicholas is a PGA qualified teaching professional available for lessons at Hagley Golf & Country Club on Mondays & Wednesdays (including evenings). All ages and abilities welcome.

As a tournament professional Alison won 18 events worldwide including the 1987 British Open and the 1997 US Open. Alison represented Europe six times in the Solheim Cup, with victories in 1992, 2000 and 2003. She was the European Team Captain in 2009 & 2011 when Alison captained the European Team to a dramatic and memorable victory over the USA team at Killeen Castle.

To book a lesson telephone: **01562 883852**  
For more information about Alison and prices please visit [www.alisonnicholas.co.uk](http://www.alisonnicholas.co.uk) .

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### Keep going with the fund-raising

Now that we have successfully raised the money to buy the community facilities we need to keep going with fund-raising. A programme of events is currently being developed by our dynamic fund-raising committee. Start collecting those 20ps: next summer we shall be laying these around the Circle again trying to do even better than last year's magnificent event. On the 14<sup>th</sup> December do bring your children along to Santa's Grotto in the Lower Hall.

### Join the Trust

If you have not done so already, please join the Trust. We will drop you an application form if you contact the secretary. There is nothing to pay. You can then elect the directors you want at our Annual General Meetings and contribute to how we move forward. Have a say on what we do with the Builders' Yard, with the Community garden, with the halls, and the open spaces.

### We need your help

We need you, if you have any time spare, to help and join in with the expanding list of projects. For example, if you are interested in helping with the Community Garden contact the secretary or Jim Tucker at [jtucker1929@gmail.com](mailto:jtucker1929@gmail.com). For the Builders' Yard contact Adrian Millicheap at [AdrianMillicheap@bvt.org.uk](mailto:AdrianMillicheap@bvt.org.uk).

### Education and Heritage

As a charity, the Trust needs to focus on the heritage of the estate and use this as a basis for educational activities. We recently delivered a successful study day for a group of architectural and civil engineering students from the Netherlands. A programme of

teaching and heritage activities should be established by the spring of 2015 and there will be more details of this in the next Duck.

### Garages

If you want to rent a garage contact the Secretary. We are working down the waiting lists on a first-come, first-served basis. The eleven refurbished Spinney garages, and the twelve new garages, can only be leased to residents of the estate, because of the planning agreements. The Builders' Yard garages may be leased to anyone.

### Allotments

There are a few vacancies on the allotments especially for those off the Circle/West Pathway and off Winterbourne Lane. Do contact the secretary if you would like an allotment. Because of the legal costs of the acquisition, and the need for insurance, we reluctantly decided to charge £40 per annum per allotment in the first year, hopefully reducing this to £30 per allotment per annum for the following year.

### Booking the halls

As I write this, we hope to complete the deal to purchase the Community Facilities with Grainger plc very soon, but there are still a few minor, but important, points to sort out. For the time being if you wish to hire either hall please contact Grainger ([moorpoolhall@graingerplc.co.uk](mailto:moorpoolhall@graingerplc.co.uk)). Once the purchase has been completed, please contact Jill Howes at [Moorpoolhall@gmail.com](mailto:Moorpoolhall@gmail.com).

Igor Cusack (Secretary)

[ticusack@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:ticusack@blueyonder.co.uk) 01214262462.

For all enquiries concerning MPHT please contact the Secretary

Igor Cusack,  
137, Ravenhurst Rd  
Telephone 01214262462

Email: [ticusack@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:ticusack@blueyonder.co.uk)

Moor Pool Heritage Trust progresses towards securing Moor Pool community facilities.

At the Moor Pool Festival MPHT announced that it had instructed its solicitors to enter into the legal procedure to conclude the acquisition of the Moor Pool community facilities. This has been ongoing since September and, perhaps unsurprisingly due to the complex nature of the assets which include pathways, green space, sporting facilities, shops, residential accommodation and the halls, is taking some time to sort out. There are many issues which have had to be thought about and resolved: boundaries, transfer of employees, Japanese knotweed, damage to the pool area and putting together a financial completion statement that will reflect the point in time when the transfer takes place. Both sets of lawyers are working hard to finalise these matters and the Trust, as a charity, has a big responsibility to make sure we get it right. What we take on now, and the terms that are agreed will be fixed for the future.

We are also negotiating the detail of the right of first refusal on the Estate Office. MPHT sees this as one day being a useful income stream. More importantly the snooker club facilities on the first floor are very much part of the Moor Pool sporting community and the heritage of the estate.

In the meantime there are a multitude of practical matters to consider and the Trust is already looking towards procedures for managing the halls and increasing their use so that we can put a hall manager in place as soon as possible.

As soon as matters are finalised we will of course be putting out a public announcement and organising a celebratory event. It will be a historic and very special moment.

The MPHT is grateful would again like to reiterate its sincere thanks and gratitude to all those who have striven to save and secure the historic Moor Pool Garden Suburb, firstly

campaigning to retain the community facilities and open spaces and then giving their backing to the Moor Pool Residents Association in setting up the charitable Trust to

own, conserve and enhance the facilities. That was the foundation which paved the way for the tremendous generosity of donors, grant organisations and lastly the intense efforts of all those volunteers who have contributed so greatly to fundraising over the last few years and particularly the last 12 months.

The Trustees: Moor Pool Heritage Trust.

Rob Sutton

#### **Advertise in the Duck**

The Moor Pool Duck newsletter is delivered to over 500 houses on the estate which is a conservation area. Pre designed adverts should be supplied as a jpeg or in Word for formatting. Advertisers are responsible for ensuring they have rights to any copyright images. The Moor Pool Residents Association reserves the right to withdraw or refuse adverts. For further information contact [paulamariamcg156@gmail.com](mailto:paulamariamcg156@gmail.com)

#### **Rates for 12 issues**

1/8 Page (63H x 86w)	£45
¼ Page (127H x 86w)	£67.50
Half Page (127 H x 180w)	£101.25
Full Page (254H x 180w)	£151.90

#### **Rates for 6 issues**

1/8 Page (63H x 86w)	£30
¼ Page (127H x 86w)	£45
Half Page (127 H x 180w)	£67.50
Full Page (254H x 180w)	£101.25

### Message from Raj

My family is proud to have served the Moorpool community from this corner shop for nearly a decade. In light of recent changes on the estate we are keen to extend a warm welcome to the many new residents and invite them to come in and see everything we have to offer as there really is something for everyone. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our loyal customers for their continued support and ask any remaining residents who have yet to shop local to please... just give us a try because

### WE RELY ON YOUR REGULAR CUSTOM.

We are open Mon to Fri 7am - 7pm, Sat 7.30am - 7pm & Sun 7.30am - 1pm.  
Tel: 0121 428 1061.

Email: [moorpoolnews@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:moorpoolnews@hotmail.co.uk)

### Are you a Grainger tenant?

The Moorpool Residents Association is for all residents but it would be helpful to know who is a tenant and any concerns they may have. We will not pass on any personal information but please do let us know who you are. Please either email me or leave a note in the post box in the shop.

I have passed on concerns raised by tenants to the Moorpool Residents Association Committee.

Regards Paula

Email: [paulamariamcg156@gmail.com](mailto:paulamariamcg156@gmail.com)

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

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