



Issue no 78 June 2015

Dear Residents

Moor Pool is a thriving community and this summer issue of the Duck showcases the huge variety of events, clubs and developments that are taking place on the Moor Pool estate. There is something here to please everyone and the prospect of new clubs and activities if enough people are interested.

Also in this issue is a letter from Sergeant Amar Khalil who leads the local police neighbourhood team. He introduces each team member and explains their particular responsibilities. Please do visit the website to see the officers' photographs and find out more about policing in this area.

Finally there is news from the Moor Pool Heritage Trust to bring you up to date on the latest developments. Readers will also see that we have managed to locate the official Moor Pool logo and will now be using this on MRA leaflets.

It's great to hear from so many people about events on the estate and about future plans. The number of messages to the Duck has grown in the last few months so I have set up a new email address. Please send all messages to moorpoolnews@gmail.com

Best wishes, Paula

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

Closing date	For publication in
31 st July	Late August/ September
30 th September	October
20 th November	December



What?	When & where?
Coffee morning in lower hall	Last Saturday morning of each month, Lower Hall
Moor Pool Tea Dance -	14th June 3pm until 5.30pm Moor Pool Hall.
Moor Pool Sports Day	28 th June (MPHT event)
	The next Quiz Night will be on Saturday 11th July in the Hall. Tickets will go on sale next month.
Moor Pool Summer Charity Ball	4 th July Edgbaston Golf Club.
Pimms Party	30 th August (MPHT event)
Moor Pool Heritage Festival + 20ps around the Circle + Scarecrows	13 th September (MRA and MPHT joint event)
Quiz night	26 th September 7.30pm Moor Pool Hall. (MPHT event)
31 st October	Halloween Bonfire & Ghost Walk
Moor Pool Memories event	14 th September (TBC)
Moor Pool Players	Production TBC 18 th -21 st November
Quiz night	28 th November 7.30pm Moor Pool Hall. (MPHT event)
Santa's Grotto and annual carol walk	13 th December (MPHT event)

Interested in finding out more about any of these events/getting involved in helping out? Get in touch at moorpoolht@gmail.com.

Full details of all events are available at www.moorpoolfundraising.co.uk

Ticketed events: Tickets will be available to buy from Raj and at the monthly MRA coffee mornings.

From the MRA Chair

This is a short update on progress we have made so far this year on some of the priorities we promised to focus on as a Residents' Association during 2015/16.

Thanks to Paula McGee and Jan Scott for preparing a leaflet for residents who rent their properties about where to find useful information. We launched this at the April coffee morning and Raj has copies in the shop. You can also access the leaflet online via www.moorpool.com. If you cannot get hold of a copy for any reason, please e-mail me so we can arrange for more copies to be printed as necessary.

As we have delivered on the rent leaflet we have added a new priority to our list. We are going to explore whether we can get heritage signage for the estate and will keep you updated on progress.

Planning and maintenance in line with Moor Pool's conservation area status. As the weather improves so the hedges grow! Some residents have raised concerns with us about a small number of overgrown hedges that impede walkways and look unsightly. Please can everyone look after their hedges?

Many residents often raise problem parking as a concern with both the MRA and the neighbourhood policing team. The MRAs initial approach to tackling this will be by issuing notices. These will be used sparingly but we hope it will be enough to deter problem parking.

As always if you have any thoughts or feedback on any of the issues I have mentioned this
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month please do not hesitate to get in touch. Either e-mail me on salbmoorpool@gmail.com or leave a note in the MRA letter box in Raj's shop.

Lots of great events have taken place over recent weeks and lots more fun stuff is planned. Thanks to Liz Muir and the Moor Pool in Bloom volunteers for organising a VERY successful 6th annual plant sale. Thanks to Margaret O'Hara for once again being a fantastic host at what are now legendary quiz nights that are a fixture on the Moor Pool social calendar. Thanks to the Moor Pool Players for their thought provoking production of Sue Townsend's Groping For Words and to Moor Pool Tennis Club for organising their recent open day. Thanks also to Maureen Mauser for the poignant and reflective VE Day display on The Circle between the shops.

Mike Frost and Norma Mason will be organising a Moor Pool Memories event on the evening of Saturday 14th November. If you have any Moor Pool anecdotes, photos, memorabilia please let Norma or Mike know.

Everything that happens on the estate depends on our dedicated volunteers. If you have even the smallest amount of time to spare and help out please get in touch with me. New people and extra pairs of hands are always welcome. The MRA will shortly start to plan for the annual Moor Pool Heritage Festival to be held on Sunday 13th September from 11am until 3pm. This year the festival will have a garden fete theme. It will also be the day of the 20ps around The Circle event so please get collecting. There will also be a Heritage Festival scarecrow competition based on children's book/nursery rhyme characters.

That's all for this month so all it leaves me to do is wish you a happy, sunny and fun Moor Pool summer.

Sal Bournier
MRA Chair
Email: salbmoorpool@gmail.com

From the neighbourhood police team

Harborne is one of the safest places to live in Birmingham, thanks in part to the work of your local police neighbourhood team. You may wonder what we do day to day. Hopefully this article will answer some of your questions. The Harborne neighbourhood team is made up of one Sergeant, three Police Officers and five PCSOs. They work shifts that range from 8 am until Midnight. All the officers have particular areas of business. **Sergeant Khalil** manages the team and makes sure that all priorities are met expeditiously.

PC Jim Taylor oversees the hostels on the Hagley Road and manages offenders at these locations. He also collates intelligence and where necessary will obtain a warrant to target offenders' home addresses.

PC Jack Regan oversees vehicle crime and our main community issue of anti-social behaviour. He is supported by **PCSO Sue Dufficy** who follows up anti-social behaviour calls to ensure they are dealt with in the best way possible. She ensures that victims are offered or signposted to additional support. She also patrols the Metchley Drive estate.

PC Sherry Lea oversees child sexual exploitation liaising with local children's homes. She ensures that victims of domestic abuse are properly safeguarded from offenders. She also offers restorative justice (not dissimilar to mediation).

PCSO Ian Lowe oversees one of the main crime issues of burglary. He also manages our twitter account @Harborne NHT with regular updates to let the community know what we are doing in addition to our everyday tasks. Ian is also responsible for patrolling the north side of Harborne Ward.

PCSO Marc Pearson oversees the schools in the ward, working closely with pupils and head teachers to reduce the potential risk of some pupils becoming offenders. He ensures they are sign posted to agencies that can offer the right support. He also tries to educate pupils

about the risks of offending and about potentially life threatening situations.

PCSO Jeff Such works on the High Street to tackle business crime, in particular preventing shop theft, anti-social behaviour and pick pocketing. He oversees Pubwatch (preventing offenders entering public houses to sell stolen goods or behave violently). He also liaises with the Harborne Business Association.

PCSO Charlotte Alcock liaises with the Safer Estates Group to ensure households involved in nuisance and anti-social behaviour are made a priority and that all agencies take responsibility to tackle the issues. She is also responsible for the Moor Pool Estate up to the Hagley Road and is well respected and known in that community tackling any issues that arise.

Our main priorities are anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse, burglary and vehicle crime. We also try to tackle parking and speeding issues, which are community priorities. We are frontline, so we do deal with a range of calls from the public including emergencies. Every day we patrol specific locations at specific times to tackle any crime trends.

We work in partnership with many agencies, housing, housing associations, environmental health, the dog warden, youth offending teams, schools, social services, Aquarius (drugs and alcohol abuse), mental health Services/NHS.

We also have a range of sanctions we can use such as; Criminal Behaviour Orders, Good Neighbour agreements, Restorative Justice and Community Resolutions, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, Penalty Notices for Disorder. As well as good old arrests! If you would like to do your bit why not set up a Neighbourhood Watch, become a lay person/appropriate adult or attend the local Police and Community meetings to have your say. To find out more please go to <https://www.west-midlands.police.uk/your-local-police/birmingham-south/your-neighbourhood/index.aspx?id=23> or phone 101 Ext. 7863 6018.

Tea Dance
Moor Pool Hall

Sunday 14th June

3pm -5.30pm

Tickets £5 to include
afternoon tea

Available from the Moor Pool
shop

and 426 3081 or 427 6795

To commemorate the 70th
anniversary of V.E day
There will be a forties theme

Clubs and societies

The estate has a wide range of active clubs and societies that are open to residents and non-residents. There is no need to make an appointment. Just come along.

Falls clinic	Monday lunch time	Upper hall
Zumba	Monday 7pm	Upper hall
Skittles club	Monday 7.30	Entrance through lower hall
Rifle and gun club	Monday 7.30	Lower hall
Pilates	Wednesday 1230	Upper hall
Moor Pool Players	Wednesday 7.30 - 9.30	Upper hall
Tai Chi	Thursday 10-12	Upper hall
Senior ladies keep fit	Thursday 1.15	Upper hall
Toddler Group	Friday 10- 12	Upper hall

What else?

Moor Pool Hall is on Google Map now and we have received several new business enquiries. Babyballet Birmingham West, would like to run a toddler ballet session on Monday mornings from 22 June. This is an informal fun ballet dance session for toddlers aged between 18 months and three years of age. Contact Miss Kate, Tel: 0121 552 3156.

A national Kick Boxing Club would also like to run sessions on Monday evenings, 7 - 9 pm. Contact Barbara Haig, Tel: 075902-19058.

For more information see www.moorpool.com or contact Jill Howes, acting hall manager. Tel: 07769406164.

Moor Pool in Bloom (MiB)

The plant sale was a great success again this year. So far the sale raised about £1100. A final figure will be published in the next Duck. Thank you to everyone who took part.

For further information about MiB please contact

Liz Muir

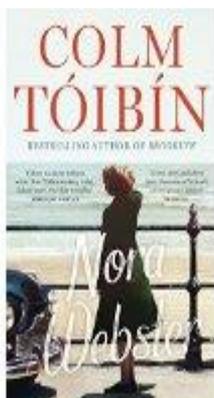
Tel: 07792473975 or 0121 427 3973.

Email: e.muir276@btinternet.com

Reading Group

Kate was unwell and so unable to introduce *The Assassination of Margaret Thatcher and other stories* by Hilary Mantel, at our meeting on Thursday 21 May. However, Igor supplied a great little impromptu introduction for the 13 members present. He demonstrated how engaging the beginnings of Mantel's short stories are, and reminded us of some passing musings, such as the character who said it was so sad to be called after a quiche (Lorraine). Members thought that Mantel's stories were full of perceptive and rich descriptions, with some sharp social commentary on characters and places. The 'embalmed meals for travellers' in the chill cabinet of Waterloo Station will not be easily forgotten.

Next meeting



**Thursday 23 July
7.30-8.30pm in
the Lower Hall**

Nora Webster by
Colm Tóibín

To be introduced
by Igor Cusack

New members welcome: contact
triciacusack@gmail.com or just come along.

There is a small annual charge of £10.

Would you be interested in a Circle Cinema?

A number of people, including members of the Reading Group, have expressed interest in forming a Moor Pool Film Club maybe starting in the autumn/winter. We would have to investigate film copyright issues and permissions, and would also need someone with some technical expertise. If you are interested or can help please let us know.

Contact:

nigel@baker-hall.com or
triciacusack@gmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you!

Moorpool Wildlife Group

The Wildlife group's next meeting will be a visit to the badger setts at the edge of the Pereira Road allotments on the evening of Thursday 25th June. We will be accompanied by Nigel Tolley, chairman of the West Midlands Badger Trust, who has been active in the campaign to save the Ravenhurst Playing Fields. If you are interested in joining the walk, please contact Mike Foster on mikefosterwork@gmail.com.

In our urban environment we sometimes need to take action to help that wildlife flourish alongside us. This can include putting up bird and bat boxes, leaving log piles as habitats for insects, and keeping crevices in rockeries for toads.

We can also grow the kind of plants that butterflies need. According to last year's Big Butterfly Count the most common butterflies in this area include the Peacock, the Comma and the Small Tortoiseshell - all of which depend on stinging nettles for laying their eggs and for their caterpillars to eat - and the Speckled Wood and Gatekeeper which depend on grasses. Plants that help butterflies include Sweet William, Verbena Bonariensis and open single flowers such as Rudbeckia and Cosmos work well.

The 2015 big Butterfly Count will take place 17th July to 9th August. For details see

<http://www.bigbutterflycount.org/>

Further information about butterfly conservation is available at <http://butterfly-conservation.org> and the Royal Horticultural Society's *Perfect for Pollinators* plant lists available at <https://www.rhs.org.uk>

Cathy Perry, Email: cathyperry22@gamil.com
Moor Pool Wildlife Group

Dutch Students Study the Moor Pool Garden Suburb.

The Moor Pool Heritage Trust recently offered a study day for a group of Dutch students from Deltion College in Zwolle in the Netherlands. They were accompanied by their tutor, Henk Bruins. The students were in their final year of studying architecture, civil engineering and infrastructure and were on a study programme at Bournville College.

Tricia Cusack gave an illustrated talk entitled, "*Back-to-Backs to Garden Suburbs: The Arts and Crafts movement and the Making of Moor Pool*". Tricia showed clearly how the origins of the design and architecture of the estate can be traced back to William Morris and the Arts and Crafts movement. This was followed by Igor Cusack who spoke on the *Moor Pool Garden Suburb: ownership, conservation and the inevitability of change?*

After a tour of the Estate and a look at the new Banner houses the students were organised in groups and asked to report back on a number

of questions. They gave some interesting responses, for example, how we could improve heat retention in houses without cavity walls. They approved very much of the design of the new houses built by Banner Homes and how well they fitted into the Estate. The star of the day was Barbara Iken who gave a fantastic account of what it was like to live on the Moor Pool for so many years. Finally, on Park Edge, the students helped to plant one hundred Dutch tulips, kindly provided by Liz Muir of Moor Pool in Bloom. All who were involved thought this had been a very successful day and Henk hopes to repeat the visit next year.

From James Tucker

"It is fortunately becoming more and more recognised every day that open spaces are as necessary to the health of a town, as streets are to its traffic."

While you could imagine that this statement could have been heard today as a radio sound bite or read on a Twitter feed, it was in fact written in 1908 by the founder of the Moor Pool Estate, John Sutton Nettlefold. Nettlefold was a councillor for the Edgbaston and Harborne ward and the first Chairman of Birmingham's Town Planning Committee. He recognised the value to of garden suburbs, allotments and what would now be generally called green space and it was his vision and influence that enabled the Moor Pool estate to be built. The fact that his words still ring true over 100 years later reflects many people's interests and concerns over what large cities like Birmingham can do now to not only increase their attractiveness and competitiveness but also improve the wellbeing and welfare of their inhabitants. In fact there is mounting evidence that city parks and green space can help the local economy of a city, reduce air pollution and also improve people's physical and mental health. That is why I am writing to raise interest in two activities I am involved with, one locally and one in the city centre.

The first concerns plans for a community garden on the corner of Margaret Grove and Moor Pool Avenue. A group of residents has started working on the site, which will include

paths and borders as well as a grassed area for holding community events. The garden will have to be carefully planned and landscaped so that all residents, both young and old, can benefit from it while also making sure that both plants and wildlife can thrive. More information can be found on the Moor Pool Heritage Trust website:

http://www.moorpooltrust.co.uk/community_garden.html If you would like to become more actively involved (with digging as well as planning!), please contact me. Email: jtucker1929@gmail.com

The second is a campaign for Birmingham City Council to create a new park in the city centre. This is the result of a recent consultation by the council over redevelopment plans for the wholesale markets site in Digbeth, which unfortunately have very little public open space included. As a result, a petition with over 2000 signatures requesting that a green park be made part of the council's plans was recently sent to the council. The petition can still signed and can be found here: https://www.change.org/p/birmingham-city-council-to-create-a-public-park-in-the-centre-of-birmingham-3?just_created=true. There is also a twitter site called @CityPark4Brum. It is quite ironic to think that one hundred years, ago, John Sutton Nettlefold would have been the recipient of this petition. Let's hope that today's town planners can quickly become as equally enlightened!

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The Moor Pool logo

For readers who have not seen this before, here is the official Moor Pool logo. This will be used on all leaflets and other publications.



Moor Pool Heritage Trust news

Many members, and club representatives attended the third AGM on Sunday 17 May. The Chair, Rob Sutton, report on an excellent year in which the community facilities were acquired. Simon Stirling reported that the Trust is currently in a reasonable financial position. We are very grateful for all the complex and detailed financial work being done by Simon.

Jill Howes is doing a fine job as Acting-Hall Manager. If you wish to book either hall please contact Jill on 07769 406164 or email moorpoolhall@gmail.com.

The job of the Community Estate Manager has been advertised and interviews will be held soon. Meanwhile if you would like to join the

Trust contact the secretary and we will get an application form to you. Please do join as it will cost you nothing and it will give you a say in what we are doing.

If you wish to lease a garage or an allotment contact the secretary.

There are a few vacancies on the allotments especially for those off the Circle/West Pathway and off Winterbourne Lane.

After the long delay it looks as if we will soon own the allotments: if you have been allocated one, we will prepare a lease for you over the summer. There is a waiting list for the block of allotments behind North Gate and High Brow (Area A): if you have been allocated one of these and feel you are not able to take it on, please contact the secretary.

For all enquiries concerning MPHT please contact the Secretary

Igor Cusack,
137, Ravenhurst Rd
Telephone 01214262462
Email: ticusack@blueyonder.co.uk

Hedges and Pathways

It's that time of year again when our fantastic hedges spring back into life and we have to wipe the rust off our shears to keep everything in order. Before you do, please give the hedges a check as it is an offence under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 to damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built. The Estate covenant states that **'hedges need to be properly trimmed'** so don't let them get out of hand or the job just gets harder. If you can keep the hedge thick but compact you will reduce unwanted spaces starting to appear and the stems becoming too thick to easily trim. Beech hedges suit a trim in June and August. The August cut will allow new leaves to form which will stay over the winter. If your hedge bounds a pathway it needs trimming outside as well as inside so that those trying to pass by aren't soaked by the wet leaves after a shower or enveloped in a cloud of midges.

If your beech hedge has really got out of control and branches need a major cut back

then wait for the winter when it is dormant. There's plenty of information on the web for those who would like more detail.
Rob Sutton

Volunteers

Moor Pool Heritage Trust is always looking for new volunteers. If you are passionate about being part of a dynamic community and would like to get involved, please email us on: moorpoolenquiries@gmail.com



Moorpool News and Wine

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.

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
26-27 The Circle B17 9DY

moorpoolnews@hotmail.co.uk

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