From the Chair
Hello fellow Moor Pool residents,

I decided that the theme for my message would be 'Christmas Planning'. Never more so than at this time of the year is planning essential as the festive season approaches. Pop along and enjoy one the events over our Moor Pool Christmas weekend. On Saturday 10th December, Santa will be touring the estate on his sleigh with his elf outriders starting at 5:30pm in Carless Avenue turning in The Spinney and finish in Ravenhurst by The Pool. The route will be published on our Facebook page.

Santa loves Moor Pool SO much that he will be coming back to his Grotto in the Lower Hall between 11am and 1pm on Sunday 11th December. Both of these are Moor Pool Heritage fundraising events. We will round off the weekend with the annual Moor Pool Resident's Association carol walk later that same afternoon starting in Moor Pool Hall at 4pm and finishing off with mulled wine and mince pies. What better Moor Pool way to get yourselves into the Christmas spirit.

On the subject of planning, I thought it timely and helpful to share information about the designated conservation area within which we are all fortunate to live, particularly as we have welcomed many new residents to the estate over recent years who may be unaware of the article 4(2) direction.

This link takes you to a 2 page document which summarises the key elements of article 4(2) direction covering the estate and is a vital point of reference for all things planning https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/file/899/moor_pool_harborne_newsletter_2006.

The comprehensive Moor Pool character appraisal and management plan can be found via this link https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/file/1248/moor_pool_harborne_conservation_area_character_appraisal_and_management_plan.

I would urge you to take a moment to have a read, as these documents answer many questions that are often posed by residents about what is and is not permitted when planning any changes to your property.

I am conscious that planning can be very complex and we are fortunate to have Rob Sutton as the MRA committee

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Forthcoming Events

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<th>Event</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
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<td>Coffee Mornings</td>
<td>Last Saturday of the month, Lower Hall, 10:30-12:00</td>
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<td>Craft Fair</td>
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<td>Santa Estate Tour</td>
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<td>Carol Walk</td>
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<td>MRA AGM</td>
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<td>Fish &amp; Chip Quiz</td>
<td>Saturday, February 11th</td>
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Remember, if your Duck does not arrive, gets eaten by the dog, you want an extra copy or live off the estate, then current and past issues can be downloaded from our web site at www.moorpool.com.

Circle Cinema presents...

A Christmas Double Bill

Saturday 17th December

4:00pm **Home Alone** (PG)

 Doors open 3:30 pm

7:00pm **It’s A Wonderful Life** (U)

 Doors open 6:00 pm

Selection of refreshments, hot food available between the films

Non-members tickets £5 per film (£2 under 16) Member tickets £2.

Tickets can be reserved at tickets@circlecinema.co.uk, or on the door (subject to availability).

Non-member tickets can also be bought from Moor Pool News and Wine at The Circle.

See our web site for membership details.

info@circlecinema.co.uk www.circlecinema.co.uk

Publication Dates

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Please send letters, articles and advertising copy for inclusion in the next issue to duck@moorpool.com by the closing date.

From the Chair cont...

lead for planning. If you have any queries, Rob is the person to contact via rob@moorpool.com. He also works incredibly hard behind the scenes preparing the MRA response to planning applications made by residents.

Myself and Simon Stirling (chair of MPHT trustees) are looking to arrange a meeting with local councillors and Birmingham City Council early in 2017 to build links that enable us to work ever more closely together in protecting the heritage of the estate in line with conservation area designation. We are also going to ask for a meeting with local councillors to understand more about Amey's tree management approach and plan across the estate.

Looking ahead into 2017 we will be holding the MRA AGM on Sunday 29th January at 3pm in Moor Pool Hall. If anyone would like to join the MRA committee (a commitment of 2 hours every two months) & be part of helping make a difference in our community please get in contact. The more the 'merrier' (& I promise that is the last festive Ho Ho Ho pun). So pop the date in your diary and join us to have your say and help us continue to support you and our community.

On behalf of all of us on the MRA committee may I take this opportunity to wish you a peaceful Christmas and a very happy and healthy 2017 (we are already planning another year full of lots of fun community stuff).

With my best festive wishes,

Sal

Sally Bourner
Moor Pool Residents' Association Chair
salbmoorpool@gmail.com

The Moor Pool Duck  2  www.moorpool.com  duck@moorpool.com
Circle Cycling

If you are interested in getting back on two wheels or would like to learn how to ride a bicycle, then there is no time like the present.

A group of enthusiastic Moor Pool residents will be holding an hour-long session consisting of lots of fun, social and safe activities that will improve your confidence and help you get a bit fitter too. Loan bikes available for these sessions.

Ideal for anyone who:
- is just starting to ride
- is currently learning and needs practise
- is returning to cycling
- or feels a bit nervous or wobbly

On Sunday 11th December at 11am and Thursday 15th December at 1pm.

To book a place call Peter Stroud on 07763407810.

The session starts in a traffic-free practise area, off Carless Avenue, where our friendly qualified instructor will help you improve your cycling with lots of fun activities. As you become more confident over a few weeks, our instructors will take you out for short led rides on cycle paths and quiet roads.

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www.moorpool.com duck@moorpool.com
Moorpool Skittles Club

The Winter season has started when there is play three times a week: Mon – mixed, Wed – ladies, Fri – men. All start at 7.30p.m. Visitors and new members are very welcome to come for an evening of gentle exercise, good fun and friendly chat! Best to check before you come as sometimes there is no play i.e. bank holidays. There is a competitive element but mostly we just have good fun and a lot of laughs! All abilities welcomed (though sadly not all ages – over 16yrs on our club nights) – as long as you can manage the steps down from the pavement and the steps up into the alley via the small hall – you can play. There is a ramp to roll balls from for those who find bending a bit of a chore. Moorpool is so fortunate to have this wonderful alley – if you’ve not seen it then do come along for a look – you will be amazed! Two alleys – one flat, the other rounded, lots of original features and no mechanics or electrics to help re-stack pins, return balls or keep the balls from falling in the gutter!

Further info keithwionkley@blueyonder.co.uk

Moorpool Bowls Club

The playing season is now over and will start again on March 31st.

We do have a social membership category, which involves whist every Wednesday afternoon from 1.30pm until approximately 4.30pm during the winter and every Thursday evening 7pm once a month throughout the year. It does not matter if you cannot play, we will teach you. If you join you can attend the club events throughout the year including just popping down to watch the games if you choose not to play bowls yourself. Social Membership is £5 a year at present and £2 each occasion you play which includes a cup of tea and biscuit.

If you are interested pop down any Wednesday afternoon at 1.30pm or call Margaret on 0121-429 6343.

Circle Cinema

Since the last issue we have screened the foreign language classic: *Cinema Paradiso* on 16th October and a Pete Postlethwaite Double Bill: *Brassed Off* and *In The Name Of The Father* on November 6th.

A Christmas double on December 17th will round off the year. The first film was decided by member vote and will be *Home Alone* (PG) at 4pm with doors opening at 3:30pm. This will be followed by *It’s a Wonderful Life* (U) at 7pm. Refreshments, with a Christmas theme, will be available before each screening and hot food will also be available to order between the films.

Our 2017 screenings will be decided by member ballot and we will be holding our first AGM in early spring.

info@circlecinema.co.uk
www.circlecinema.co.uk

Moor Pool Reading Group

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 2nd February 2017 when Igor Cusack will present Molly Keane’s *Full House*. There will also be an AGM, so the meeting will start at 7.00pm then continue to 8.30pm as usual. Looking forward to seeing our usual attendees, and anyone else who enjoys books and discussing them will also be welcome (apple juice provided!). For further details please contact Tricia, triciacusack@gmail.com.
Update on Hall Activities

Upcoming Events in the Hall

Sunday 10th December: Vintage Craft Fair with afternoon Tea.

Saturday 14th January: Come and Meet Mark Rhodes 13.30 and 14.45 in the Main Hall, an amazing interactive session to meet Mark Rhodes from Copy Cats and Junior Bakeoff, there will also be Craft activities and family prizes. To book contact www.rokielentertainment.com £8 per ticket.

Upcoming Hall Activities

If you would like a copy of regular activities in the Hall please pop by and pick up a leaflet. Here is a reminder of some of the newer activities going on in the hall.

Moor Pool Tuition: extra English classes for KS3 and KS4 on Wednesday 17.00-18.00 (Lower Hall)
Contact info@moorpooltuition.co.uk 07944293487

Salus Fatigue Foundation meeting: last Wednesday of the month 13.30-14.30 (Lower Hall)
Contact info@salus.org.uk 07809246674

Moor Pool Pre-School are now open Monday-Friday 9.15-12.00 for 2 year olds (Lower Hall)
Contact vivianroadpreschool@gmail.com 07821560224

Pranayama Yoga: The Art of Relaxation Taster Wednesday 19.30-20.45 (Main Hall)
Contact sarah@simplyblended.com 07976612210

Yoga with Amy: Mondays and Thursdays 19.30-20.30 (Main Hall)

Move with Peppa: Tuesdays 9.30-11.30 (Main Hall)

Kitchen Upgrade

Thank you to everyone who voted for the Kitchen Upgrade Project through Aviva and thank you so much to Margetts Wealth who submitted on our behalf. Although we were not successful in reaching the finals we are now obtaining quotes and hope to refurbish the kitchens with what has been raised so far - that was allocated specifically for the kitchens from fundraising campaigns and donations. I would therefore welcome feedback from regular users of the halls and those that hire it out for one-off bookings. Current quotes are based on feedback received so far but I will also be chatting to residents at coffee mornings with options from the kitchen catalogue. Please feel free to drop me a message or pop by the office if you would like to discuss or share your thoughts. Work on the Main Hall kitchen will be carried out first and scheduled for the Summer Holidays.

Skittle Alley

Work is booked in for February half-term to create the Skittle Alley Fire Exit. This means that we will finally be able to hire it out again once all the work has been completed.

Website

Watch this space for our brand new website!

Moor Pool Memories

Some of you may have noticed the homemade Moor Pool House of Memory boxes in the halls (basically cardboard boxes turned into houses!) We are trying to encourage people to share their memories and what they love about Moor Pool. A simple memory can tell a thousand stories and we would like to use these to tell the story of Moor Pool in the interpretation we are working in – please pick up a leaflet and fill in your memory to post in the box – you can even leave anonymous if you wish.

Arts and Crafts Event October 2017

I am planning a brand new Arts and Crafts event at the end of next October as part of the nationwide Get Creative Family Arts Festival – including hands on family activities , a collaborative art project, tombola and crafts related to allotment produce. It is a long way off but if any crafty Moor Pudlians have ideas or would like to get involved by delivering an activity or volunteering please get in touch!

Hall Office: 0121 426 2908

Barbara Nomikos (Hall Manager)
manager@moorpoolhall.com
Update on Education  

Many thanks to everyone who went down to their local Tesco and voted for Moor Pool’s Secret Spaces project as part of the Bags of Help scheme between 31st October and 13th November. As Simon mentioned, we will know shortly what level of funding we finally receive, and this money will be used to develop The Orchard area and to support the great work of the Fishing Club as they continue to maintain the Pool. Regarding The Orchard, I would really like to get any interested parties together to steer the work that we are going to do in this area. We want to make sure that residents are fully involved in any proposed developments, and to ensure that the result of work finds a happy medium between being a fantastic wildlife space and a great educational resource. Any interested residents can drop into the Hall to see me about this, or contact me on the details below.

Since the last edition of The Duck, Moor Pool has been successfully represented at the Moseley Road Baths Open Day with a stand manned by Barbara, Rob Sutton and myself. It was great to talk to so many people and raise awareness of the heritage and community of Moor Pool, and to also see some familiar faces! Barbara and I are also beginning work on some display materials and a leaflet which will give information about the history of the area. Feedback from many visitors at Heritage Open Day was that they wanted to know more about this beautiful Garden Suburb, and hopefully the interpretation we are working on will address these questions … And talking of sharing our history, we have the next of our outreach talks at The Gunmakers’ Arms on Thursday 15th December, where we will be sharing stories of the history and community of Moor Pool with anyone interested in coming along! Follow the link for more details: https://www.meetup.com/The-Birmingham-History-Network/events/234400163/

I visited RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) in London during October to discuss the development of the education programme at Moor Pool. This was a very productive day, where I shadowed a children’s workshop, and got lots of ideas for holiday workshops back at Moor Pool! I also met with the Learning Manager, who was interested in the possibilities of supporting our work at Moor Pool, and hopefully this is something that can develop over the course of 2017.

I have also been delivering some more formal education sessions since my last update. These have been on habitats, as well as some other sessions on old toys, where I talked about Chad Valley toys with a group of five and six year olds. Many thanks to Harborne Library who lent me their box of Chad Valley toys for these sessions, but going forward I would really like to have a collection of Chad Valley Toys based at Moor Pool that I can use. If you do have any Chad Valley toys that you may be prepared to loan or donate to inspire a new generation, please do get in touch!

Rachel
education@tctc.eu
0121 426 2908

Sudoku © Kevin Stone
Crime Prevention

West Midlands Police have issued a leaflet with tips to help prevent you becoming a burglary victim particularly during the darker nights of the winter months. It is available to view or download from our web site at www.moorpool.com.

Congratulations

Jayne Millicheap completed her Velocity Zip Wire challenge to raise funds for "Stand Up To Cancer 2016" on October 12th and achieved well in excess of her sponsorship target of £300. Well done Jayne!

Parking

Roads on the estate are narrow and on many people park on alternating sides creating pinch points. Please consider if these leave sufficient room for emergency vehicles. It may be your property or loved one that needs the attention of a fire tender or ambulance.

And if you park on, or too near a junction, you could be making turning difficult for large vehicles and obscure a clear view for cars pulling out. It’s also illegal.

Messages

I wish to thank all my friends and neighbours for the support and kindness shown over the last year and wish them a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year for 2017.

Betty Wright

I would like to wish everyone particularly the allotment holders (old and new) a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Keep up the good work and rake up all those leaves for the compost heap and get ready for spring.

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Contact details:
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email: stephen.brain63@sky.com
Moor Pool Heritage Trust Update

Do join us!
If you have lived on the Estate for more than three years please do join the Trust. There is no cost and we would welcome your participation. We will be holding our AGM in the New Year so if you join us you would be able to put present your views as to how we should move forward. We are also looking for some new Trustees. If you are willing to get involved please contact us.

Great Progress
It has been a very successful year where we have successfully managed our activities. We are currently focussing on two major improvements in the Hall – a refurbished kitchen and new fire escape door from the skittle alley – and the Nettlefold Garden. We have also completed some major repairs to the roof and chimney of the hall.

We greatly appreciate the success of the fund-raising committee in adding to our funds through the November bonfire and quiz and we look forward to the Santa Sleigh and Grotto in December. We are most grateful to the Garden Committee and Kate Nancarrow who have driven progress on the Nettlefold Garden. We have been awarded at least £8,000 (to be used mainly to improve the Orchard) by the Tesco Bags awards scheme and will know soon if we have obtained any additional funding as a result of your voting at Tesco stores.

Acquisitions from Cala Homes
We have reported - far too often - over the last few years that the acquisition of the allotments and new garages is imminent. This is still the case and we are pushing hard to finish this so that we can start leasing the garages and allotments. There has been a glimmer of light with a response received from Cala’s lawyers in the last few days which the Trust will consider and respond through our lawyers.

Trees
We have had a number of concerns expressed about trees on the Estate. A contract for a full tree survey of all the trees on the Trust’s land (and that land which we are about to acquire) has been let and the survey is to start in early December. Once this is work is completed a tree management programme will be established and priorities set. Currently there is a TPO (Tree Protection Order) on all trees of a certain size within the whole conservation area.

Get in touch
As Trustees, we are very open to feedback, whether through Barbara Nomikos (manager@moorpoolhall.com) (0121 426 2908), Igor Cusack (ticusack@blueyonder.co.uk) or Simon Sterling (simon56.stirling@gmail.com).
Did You Know?

CHANGING viewing habits are affecting the demand for electricity. The traditional spike in demand from people rushing to put on kettles after popular programmes has reduced considerably with the increased take-up of streaming and catch-up services. A typical episode of Eastenders would be followed by a usage surge of 660MW fifteen years ago. Today, it is down to 200MW. The highest ever spike was 2,800MW, the equivalent of 1.1 million kettles, after England lost the 1990 World Cup semi-final penalty shoot-out against West Germany. A power spike of 2,290MW was recorded in 2001 after 20 million viewers tuned in to see who shot Phil Mitchell in Eastenders.

ODDS ON! If you had placed a £5 triple bet on Leicester City winning the Premier League, Britain voting to leave the EU, and Donald Trump winning the US election, you would have won £15m.

WORD OF THE YEAR. The most popular and relevant word of 2016 is “post-truth” thanks to a huge spike around the Brexit vote and Donald Trump’s successful US presidential bid. The adjective describes circumstances where emotions win over facts and reason.

BATTERSEA POWER STATION has been in the news recently with Apple taking over 40% of the Grade II listed development. More interestingly, in 1940 RAF pilots used the plumes of the white chimneys to guide them home in the mist. The Luftwaffe also used the plumes for navigation, which explains why the Power Station avoided extensive bombing.

MATT LeBLANC will be paid around £1.5m to host Top Gear, after the show’s former main presenter, Chris Evans, quit the show. The two-year deal will see LeBlanc’s salary funnelled through the BBC’s commercial arm, BBC Worldwide, to avoid it being made public under the government’s proposed transparency rules. That should work.

and a Healthy and Prosperous 2017

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