

History Corner

The First Residents of 14 Moor Pool Avenue

As residents of the Moor Pool Estate we live in houses built 115 years ago. Maybe you know the history of your house but most of us can only go a little way back in knowing who lived in our house before us. However, there are some houses whose early history is known and 14 Moor Pool Avenue is one of those.

Before moving in 1908 to the newly built number 14 Charles Lowe and his wife Sarah had lived on Queens Park Road with their six children the eldest being Tom born in 1894, who was the Great Uncle of MRA Committee member Sarah Hanson. The Lowes lived at number 14 for 50 years. When Sarah's mother married, she moved from 14 Moor Pool Avenue to number 28 and later number 17 so that the family between them lived on the Estate for 91 years and of course Sarah herself still lives on the Estate.

First World War Service in France

Tom enlisted in 1915 when he was 21 leaving his employment as a grocer. He became a driver in a newly formed tank battalion and was at the first tank battle at Flers-Courcelette and served with great distinction being awarded the Military Medal for his actions during the Battle of Arras. The citation states: 'during the action on April 23, 1917, when his officer had been temporarily blinded by splinters and several of the crew wounded, and the Lewis gun was disabled, this NCO displayed conspicuous courage and coolness and managed to drive his tank back to its starting point'.

Tom became an instructor and made the scale model of a mark 1 Whippet tank as a teaching aid, and this is now on display next to a full-size tank at Bovington Tank Museum.

Tom returned to Harborne and after he married, he, his wife and two children lived with his parents at number 14 until 1929 when the family emigrated to Australia. His grandchildren say that he was very anti war possibly as a result of his experiences in France. Tom and his wife Ilse settled in Freemantle. He died in 1955.

The photos show Tom as a baby and the Model Whippet Tank he made as a teaching aid.



Interested in the history of your house?

In the archives of the Moor Pool Heritage Trust are the ledgers recording the rent paid by the first occupants. These will be on display at the Heritage Festival on September 14th – come along and you might find out something about the history of your house.

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The Moor Pool DUCK Newsletter



From the Chair

**Macmillan
Coffee Morning**
Saturday 27th
September

As I write this there is another heat wave but on July 20th the weather forecast was for heavy rain and so we took the last minute decision to cancel the Summer Garden Party at Nettlefold Garden.

This was a disappointment for us and for those that turned out, but we did have some good conversations! For those of you disappointed some of the planned activities have been moved to the Coffee morning on September 27th which is in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care.

Our own Major Mustard will be there to entertain the children and there will be a colouring table too. You can play the Tombola for some interesting prizes and enjoy tea or coffee with homemade cakes.

All proceeds to Macmillan Cancer Care with thanks to the Moor Pool Heritage Trust for the free use of the Hall for the event.

Moor Pool Heritage Festival
Sunday 14th September

The Residents Association will be in the Lower Hall on Heritage Day 11.00

– 3.00 Come and have a chat with your Committee members and take the opportunity to join the MRA - £10 annual subscription per household.

The subscription has increased from £8 to cover our costs which like everything else have gone up. The subscription pays for The Duck (with a contribution



from the Trust) and expenses for catering, stationery and fees for our website.

New Planning Document from Birmingham City Council

Any questions about double glazing, EV chargers or solar panels?

At the end of May, Birmingham City Council published a new supplementary planning document which considered all the issues around heritage assets in the City which of course includes the Moor Pool Estate. The sections on windows may be of particular interest as there is guidance about style and double glazing. Also included is a section about solar panels and EV charging both of which are permitted developments but still subject to restrictions in a conservation area. To view it, go to BCC Planning and look for Heritage Buildings Supplementary Planning Document.

Remember that if you do have a query the MRA may be able to give you information to aid you in making decisions, but the definitive guidance, as always, will come from BCC.

Margaret Harrold chair@moorpool.org.uk

Moor Pool Heritage Festival
Sunday 14th September 11am-3pm

The Moor Pool Heritage Trust invites you to the annual Moor Pool Heritage Festival, a celebration of the unique heritage and vibrant community spirit of the Moor Pool Estate! Taking place in the heart of one of Birmingham's 'best kept architectural secrets' (according to English Heritage), the Festival offers a fun-filled day for all ages, with guided tours, self-guided trails, activities for children, musical performances and taster sessions of our regular groups and clubs. Explore the charming architecture, lush green spaces and heritage buildings that make Moor Pool so special.

The Moor Pool Heritage Festival is a well-established event, now in its 16th year and is part of the nationwide Heritage Open Days and Birmingham Heritage Week. This year we will be celebrating 10 years of community ownership, as well as this year's Heritage Open Days theme of 'Architecture'. The Festival is free to attend.

We look forward to seeing you there!



What’s On in September, October & November

Circle Cinema Sunday 7th September 7.15pm. A Complete Unknown - A 2024 American biographical musical drama film directed by James Mangold about American singer-songwriter Bob Dylan. £1 members/£5 non-members.

Moor Pool Heritage Festival Sunday 14th September 11am-3pm. - Join us for our annual celebration of the unique heritage and vibrant community spirit of the Moor Pool Estate. Free to attend.

Fish & Chip Quiz Supper Saturday 20th September 7.15pm - Gather the gang and get competitive for our ever-popular quiz night! Book your tickets (£13 per person) at www.moorpoolhall.org.uk/shop

Harborne Handmade Autumn Market Sunday 21st September 10am-3pm - 25 of the best local makers selling their unique and handmade products, as well as cake and hot drinks. Free to attend.

Creative Wellbeing Session Friday 26th September 12-1.30pm with LEAF Creative Arts CIC- Dementia friendly, carer friendly and accessible. Free to attend. To book, please email leafcreativearts@gmail.com or call 07746642387

Heritage Talk Tuesday 30th September 7-8pm - Collars, corsets and social class. Connor McGrath, vintage clothing expert and collector, explores social history through fashion. Tickets £3 on the door.

Circle Cinema Sunday 19th October 6.45pm - Oppenheimer - Film starts at 6.45pm, doors open at 6pm. Hot and cold refreshments available to buy before the film. £1 members/£5 non-members.

Creative Wellbeing Session with LEAF Creative Arts CIC.Friday 24th October 12-1.30pm - Dementia friendly, carer friendly and accessible. Free to attend. To book, please email leafcreativearts@gmail.com or call 07746642387

Let’s Do Lego! Thursday 30th October 10am-12pm - Free Lego play session in the Main Hall. No need to book, just turn up! Cakes and drinks available to purchase.

Nettlefold Garden’s Spooktacular! Thursday 30th October 5-6pm - Bring your carved pumpkins to the Garden to win prizes! There will also be refreshments and fancy dress competitions. Free to attend.

Halloween Crafts Friday 31st October 10-12pm - Join us for some spooky Halloween crafting in the Main Hall. £5 per child, no need to book. Cakes and drinks available to purchase. Fancy dress encouraged!

Fish & Chip Quiz Supper Saturday 1st November 7.15pm- Gather the gang and get competitive for our ever-popular quiz night! Book your tickets (£13 per person) at www.moorpoolhall.org.uk/shop

News From Clubs and Societies

Moor Pool Reading Group

The group met on 3rd June to discuss *The Island* by Victoria Hislop.

This novel, published in 2005, tells the story of a family impacted by leprosy, set against the backdrop of Spinalonga. The book explores themes of stigma, prejudice and the impact of the disease on individuals and families. Victoria Hislop has been a Leprosy ambassador since 2013, working to raise awareness about leprosy and support the charity’s work.

The group enjoyed reading about the disease and the island of Spinalonga, which can now be visited as a tourist attraction, however, they generally found the emotional relationships a little weak.

Our next meeting is on 11th September at 7.30pm, Moor Pool Lower Hall. We will be discussing *Sisterland* by Curtis Sittenfeld.

If you would like to come along, please contact gillianmorgan1952@gmail.com. New members are very welcome.

The Circle Cinema Club

Doors at the main hall usually open 6.15 pm and the film starts 7.15 pm. Refreshments from 6.15 pm BYO ‘Drinks ‘ with tea and coffee available.

If you would like to join the club’s mailing list, or prebook tickets please email info@circlecinema.co.uk

- **Sunday 7th September:** *A Complete Unknown* (film starts 7:15pm, doors open 6:15pm)
- **Sunday 19th October:** *Oppenheimer* (note earlier start time of 6:45pm, doors open 6pm)
- **Sunday 30th November:** Members’ Vote



Moor Pool Skittles Club

We are a small but friendly club, always pleased to be able to show off our wonderful and unique alley - we’re pretty sure we are the only skittle alley in England that has a flat and crowned alley, side by side. The woods do not have finger holes and are made of a very hard wood - Lignum Vitae. There are no mechanical aids for resetting the pins or to return the woods - though there is a sloping central return for the woods to roll back to the top of the alley - if they are not on ‘go slow’!

We play most Monday evenings from 7.30p.m. till about 9p.m. While within the club membership there is an element of competition, we are always happy for those interested to come along and have a go. Please be aware that the club is for over 16’s only for insurance reasons, access is via the steps to the Lower Hall and then up steps from the kitchen area, which can be difficult to negotiate.

For more information contact Tina at tsuzanne444@gmail.com or 07757967264

Nettlefold Garden

Looking ahead, a date for your little ones’ diaries - our 4th annual Spooktacular will materialise as if by magic on Thursday 30th October 5pm - 6pm. Be there if you dare!



Nettlefold Garden’s
Fourth Annual
Spooktacular

Refreshments, children’s pumpkin and
fancy dress competitions.
See you there, if you dare!

Harborne Tenants’ Snooker Club, one of Harborne’s best kept secrets, now has memberships available.



The club has three tables and as well as being a place for members to practise or play casual games, it also hosts a variety of events and competitions to cater for all standards. The club also holds occasional coaching sessions run by a WPBSA qualified coach.

Annual memberships are currently £100 per annum with memberships running May to April. No other costs are levied with members able to book tables for 1-3 hourly sessions via an internet booking site.

If you would like to join please contact Derek on membership@htsnookerclub.uk.

For more information follow/ direct message us on facebook, instagram or bluesky: [@htsc1947](https://bsky.app/profile/htsc1947) or email htsc1947@gmail.com.

Christmas – sshhh who said Christmas? Just a date for your diaries. **Carols In The Hall** on *Sunday 14th December* at 2.00 p.m.



Join us for **Keep Dancing** at Moor Pool Hall, on a Tuesday 13:30-14:30. £5.50 per class



Keep Dancing is a gentle dance class suitable for adults over 55. You’ll learn dances from around the world with no need for a partner.

Like to advertise your business here?

Contact the Editor chair@moorpool.org.uk