

Subscription Reminder

At the recent AGM a motion was carried to increase the MRA's annual subscription from £8 per household to £10. This will take effect from January 2027 (but feel free to increase now if you wish). Please amend your standing order if that is how you pay.

MRA Bank details Sort Code 30-19-14
Account number 03808193

Clare Gordon, the Trust marketing and Fundraising Coordinator, has put up a couple of Recent Blog posts you might find interesting. These links can be found on the digital version of The Duck on the website.

- Moor Pool and the Arts & Crafts Movement - *Moor Pool and the Arts and Crafts Movement: Birmingham's vision of a better way to live – Moor Pool Heritage Trust*
- New Year, New Connections (a round up of the regular activities taking place at the hall) - *New Year, New Connections: Discover what's happening at Moor Pool Heritage Trust in 2026 – Moor Pool Heritage Trust*

Do you need a private office space to rent? Moor Pool Heritage Trust are letting the Kenrick Room in the Moor Pool Estate Office, situated in the heart of Moor Pool on the Circle. It's a warm and bright double-aspect room with large windows overlooking the tennis courts and its own private side door for visitors and deliveries. The room is approx 4.1 x 3.7m. Contact Clare at estateoffice@moorpoolhall.com for more details.



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.

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Advertise your business in the Moor Pool Duck

The Moor Pool Duck is the long-established newsletter distributed to every household on the estate.

This standard space is offered for four editions each year at a very reasonable cost. We can help you with wording and design.

Contact The Editor: mth0851@gmail.com

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2026
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The Moor Pool DUCK Newsletter



Yay!

It's time for
Nettlefold Garden's
annual

SPRING TIDY-UP!

Saturdays 10 am till noon

28th Feb, 14th March and

28th March 2026

Please wear stout boots and gardening gloves. Bring a trowel, secateurs, border fork if you can.

nettlefoldgarden@gmail.com



Moor Pool Spring Clean

At the MRA AGM concerns were raised about the amount of leaf debris clogging up road drain covers, gutters and roadways. This is particularly acute in West Pathway, upper Moor Pool Avenue and also in the dip in Ravenhurst Road by the Moor Pool. Ideally this would be the responsibility of the street cleaning team from Birmingham City Council. However, at the present time we recognise it will be extremely unlikely that BCC will attend to clear the debris. Therefore, in these exceptional circumstances and in the spirit of community volunteering we are going to try as best we can to clear the worst build ups of leaf debris. To undertake this work, we are appealing for people to volunteer and help. If you would like to get involved, please email me on salbmoorpool@gmail.com before Sunday 15th February so we can co-ordinate a community clean up. Thank you! Best wishes, Sal (Sally Bournier)

What's On

Thursday 19th February 10am-12pm - Let's Do Lego! - Free Lego play session offering a relaxed and creative space for children of all ages to build and play. We have lots of different bricks so there's something for everyone to play with, from toddlers to teens. This session is free and open to all. No booking required, just turn up!

Friday 20th February 10am-12pm - Half Term Crafts - Join us for a morning of seasonal crafting this half term. £5 per child. No need to book, just come along! Cakes and drinks available to purchase.

Sunday 22nd February 11am-1.45pm - Pitstop Playtime - Join Pitstop Playtime for two extended sessions: 11am-12.15pm and 12.30-1.45pm. With a wide range of exciting car-themed equipment to fuel endless fun! Book tickets through pitstopplaytime.co.uk.

Friday 27th February and Friday 27th March 12-1.30pm - Creative Wellbeing Sessions - Join LEAF Creative Arts CIC for free monthly Creative Wellbeing sessions at Moor Pool Hall. These sessions are dementia friendly, carer friendly and accessible. To book, please email leafcreativearts@gmail.com or call 07746 642 387.

Saturday 28th February 7.15pm - Fish & Chip Quiz Supper - Gather the gang and get competitive for the first fish and chip quiz supper of 2026! Tickets are £13 per person and are available to book through moorpoolhall.org.uk/shop. Bring your own drinks

Sunday March 1st Circle Cinema - Screening of 'I Swear' Doors open at 6.15 for refreshments. Film starts at 7.15 pm. More details below.



Save the dates for our 2026 programme of Heritage Talks:

Tuesday 28th April 7-8pm - The Austin Village. Presented by Hazel Griffiths of the Austin Village Preservation Society.

Tuesday 26th May 7-8pm - Sweet Heritage. Historian, Emma Barron-Scott will explore the history of sweet making in the West Midlands, with free samples and old school sweets to buy.

Tuesday 30th June 7-8pm - Collars, Corsets and Social Class (part 2). Connor McGrath and Willow Pinchin, vintage clothing experts and collectors, return to further explore social history through fashion.

Tuesday 28th July 7-8pm - Sanitation and Public Health in 19th and 20th Century Birmingham. Presented by Professor Justine Pick.

Tuesday 29th September 7-8pm - Birmingham’s Dad’s Army. With Paul Jaques and Dave Vaux from the Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

News from Clubs and Societies

Moor Pool Skittles Club

As ever, we would love to share the fantastic skittles alley we have at Moor Pool and welcome you to come and have a go!

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 - Lignam 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 7.30 pm until about 9 pm 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.

It is always a good idea to contact before coming along as we do sometimes have to cancel a session at short notice.

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



Moor Pool Reading Group

Our next meeting will be at 7.30pm in the Lower Hall on 12th March. We are reading Small Pleasures by Clare Chambers. If you would like to come along, we are a friendly group and welcome new members.



Our November book was The No 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency by Alexander McCall-Smith which was published in 1998 and has sold over 20 million copies. It was generally well received and considered an “easy read”, detailing the exploits of Mwa Precious Ramotswe, who opens a small detective agency in Gaborone, Botswana. A keen and accurate observer of people, she embarks upon solving mysteries with her common sense approach aided by her trusty secretary Grace Makutsi.

Our January book was The Women by Kristen Hannah. It was generally enjoyed for the content in respect of the Vietnam War and the women who nursed in Vietnam during the war, but who were largely forgotten, however, most people felt the characterisation was weak and the love story plots a little predictable and unnecessary.

Please contact gillianmorgan1952@gmail.com for further information.

The Circle Cinema Club

The next circle cinema screening will be ‘*I Swear*’ on Sunday 1st March. Doors open 6.15pm, with the film starting at 7.15pm.



Future dates: Sunday 1 March, Sunday 19 April, Sunday 7 June (10th anniversary double bill), Sunday 6 September, Sunday 18 October, Sunday 6 December.

Ticket prices for non-members have gone up to £6 and for members it is still £1 (children’s tickets still £2).

Membership: You can buy a membership at the 1st March screening. This has also increased to £25 per year but members benefit from reduced ticket prices and are eligible to vote when there are members’ choice screenings.

Nettlefold Garden

Spring is springing in the garden - have a mosey round the woodland walk and check out the snowdrops. Why not join us for a gardening session? Saturdays 28th Feb, 14th March and 28th March 10am till noon.

The garden is open weekends 10am to 4pm until the end of March when it changes to summer hours - every day 10am to 6pm.

Plus, we have Tai Chi classes for seniors on Tuesday 10 to 11am, and Yoga classes on Sunday 9 - 10am.

From the Chair of the Residents Association

The Association held its AGM on Saturday Jan 24th. Please see my report below which was presented at that meeting. This will also be on our website with the minutes.

A Springtime Tidy Up

See front page for details. Nettlefold Garden are also planning a Spring tidy up as you will see from their ad here in The Duck. You can make a difference by clearing and tidying the pavement and verge in front of your own house. We appreciate that its more difficult without green collections but please do it if you can.

Spring is coming and we want to look at our best.

MRA Chairs Report 2025

I start my report by looking back to last July and the cancelled Garden Party.m This may seem a curiously negative way to talk about 2025 but I think we can agree that bad weather is beyond our control and all organisers of outdoor events in the UK can do is pray to the weather gods and keep fingers crossed. All was not lost though as the stalwart committee members who stayed to tell people what happened had some good conversations and were reassured that there is an appetite for such an event, so we are planning another Garden Party this coming year in partnership with Nettlefold Garden. Of course we will be praying that the third Garden Party we have organised will be blessed with a gorgeous English Summer afternoon and not the clouds and rain of the last two!

The **Coffee and Chat** held in May at the Carless Eco Centre coincided with VE Day commemoration celebrations and so it was themed around that with a most interesting exhibition of WW2 memorabilia.

September brought our annual **Macmillan Coffee morning** which raised £300 for the Charity. Mike Frost provided some entertainment for youngsters and there were plenty of homemade cake on offer. As the year turned we gathered in December for ‘**Carols In The Hall**’. This year we were joined by the Brandhall Community Choir who certainly helped to generate a festive atmosphere and swelled the volume of our singing. This was a very well attended and popular event and really demonstrated the community spirit on the Moor Pool Estate. Thanks must go to Geff Salminen who accompanied us on the piano and Jules Bellingham the ‘compere’.

In between these social events the Committee met regularly to plan and review. The monitoring of planning applications revealed that not much was happening as the City Council struggle with budget restrictions and those putting in applications were having a very long wait for decisions. The MRA sees that as a very unfortunate development since there is a distinct feeling that in the absence of timely decisions applicants will either not apply when they should or undertake work without a decision, especially as enforcement is rare. As Chair I receive enquiries about planning issues from residents wanting to

make alterations and residents who have concerns about work going on nearby that they do not think is compliant with the Conservation status. The situation has deteriorated further in the latter part of 2025 with the departure of one of the Conservation Officers with whom we had built up a useful relationship. However the MRA will not throw in the towel and will continue to monitor and provide information to increase knowledge about the Conservations rules and guidelines, which are in place to preserve the unique ,special and attractive appearance of our Estate.

Traffic Calming

A feasibility consultation on traffic calming took place in 2025 and alerted by Better Streets as Chair I sent in a response of behalf of the Association broadly welcoming traffic calming initiatives though alive to what can sometimes be unintended consequences. The potential schemes that have now been identified in the ward will we believe go out to a full consultation. A road narrowing on Ravenhurst Rd is a possibility. Look out for information from The City Council which will be delivered to every directly affected household.

Membership

In 2025 membership of the Association dipped again as members moved off the Estate so we have decided to have a drive to increase membership. Many people who live on the Estate who appreciate its unique qualities are not members and we hope to attract more to join.

The Duck

The Moor Pool Duck newsletter which is funded by the Association and the Trust was delivered to all houses on the Estate its delivery organised by Jenny Buchan and delivered by a loyal team. Thanks to all of them. The Committee is sometimes a bit despondent knowing that many residents do not value The Duck it but there are many that do and it will be published 4 times in 2026. The Editor is always on the lookout for stories or articles.mth0851@gmail.com

A Few Thank Yous

I end by thanking the Hall manager Barbara Nomikos who is always so supportive and Clare Gordon, Marketing and Fundraising Coordinator who together with Barbara has helped to promote our events. Thanks also to Justine Marklew the Trust Education and Outreach Officer. My thanks also to Norma Mason Association Secretary, Andy Argyle the Association Treasurer and the rest of the Committee who make it possible to put on our events and who support me in my role as Chair. They are unsung heroes who are in the background making drinks and washing up or moving chairs – vital jobs!

Look out for 2026 events and do let us know what you think. We look forward to meeting you again at those events.

Contact details are on the Association website. www.moorpool.org.uk Do take a look.

I can be reached by email at chair@moorpool.org.uk

Margaret Harrold

Association Chair. January 23rd 2026.