

# History Corner Moor Pool Conservation Area

## What Makes a Conservation Area?

The Conservation Areas Act defines a conservation area as ‘an area of special architectural or historic interest the character of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.’ Moor Pool Conservation Area, the Moor Pool Tenants Estate was designated on the 30th July 1970. The conservation area comprises 492 residential and 2 commercial properties, the Moor Pool Hall, Estate Office, the builder’s yard, Estate tennis courts and garages, a bowling green, allotments, and the Moor Pool.

## The Role of John Nettelfold

The Estate was championed by the Chairman of the Harborne Tenants Association and Unitarian screw maker, J.S. Nettelfold (1866-1930). He was a city councillor and Chairman of the Birmingham Housing Committee. One of the major desires of Nettelfold was that his new Estate would create a real sense of community. It was designed by Fredrick Martin who was the son and partner of William Martin, formerly of Martin and Chamberlain, one of Birmingham’s foremost architectural practices of the 19th century and responsible for many noted public buildings.

## House Sizes

Houses varied in size and form to cater for a cross-section of the community, however housing density was set at no more than 10 to the acre, even though legally 50 to the acre was allowed. Despite the use of high-quality materials, construction costs were kept as low as possible to make houses more affordable. Existing gradients were followed to reduce the level of excavation needed, and combined sewerage systems were implemented with one connection linking several houses to the main sewer. With the exception of Ravenhurst Road, streets were also narrower at 16 feet by special arrangement with the City Council to cut down on the amount of land and materials required.

## Green Principles

It was also Nettelfold’s intention to construct the Estate in a manner that adhered to the ‘green principles’ of the Garden Suburb, ensuring a semi-rural environment that would improve health and general morale. Roads and avenues were lined with trees that were based on the advice of Thomas Humphries, the then curator of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Grass verges 5

feet wide were laid, and most houses were fronted by a beech hedge. Gardens were decent in size, but not too large, so that not more than could be managed should be provided or the condition of the Estate would suffer. Options were given for allotments situated on several sites to the rear of houses on the **Moor Pool Conservation Area**

Estate. The positioning of gardens and allotments were also designed to aid the principle that every house should look out onto green space, rather than other houses or roads.

The first completed house was unveiled on the 24th May 1908 on Park Hill Road, and the Estate was fully opened by 1912 with the completion of Carless Avenue. Nettelfold saw Moor Pool as an example of how affordable housing could be provided in the future, stating in his book ‘Practical Town Planning’ that it provided proof of ‘what can be done in the way of better housing at reasonable rents’.

## Enhanced Conservation Status Granted

Moor Pool, because of its special nature, now has an enhanced conservation status afforded by a 4(2) Direction alongside the covenants restricting development which apply to all properties.

Rob Sutton

Moor Pool History & Preservation Society

[www.moorpoolgardensuburb.co.uk](http://www.moorpoolgardensuburb.co.uk)

## Moor Pool Residents Association

What Do We Do ?

We take up issues relating to the Estate which affect its character as a conservation area and the residents’ enjoyment of it.

We run regular coffee mornings on the last Saturday of every month, 10.30 - 12, except August and December. If you like home baking and enjoy a chat over a cup of tea or coffee do come along.

We organise Social events such as Carols In The Hall

Want To Join?

The MPRA Annual Household Subscription is £8 payable in January.

Contact MPRA at: [info@moorpool.com](mailto:info@moorpool.com)



## Join us for Carols In The Hall

On Sunday December 17th at 2.00 p.m. the MPRA presents Carols In The Hall with festive refreshments - mince pies and mulled wine, tea and coffee. Event **FREE** for everyone. Carols will be lead by Jules Bellingham and Geoff Salminem will accompany us on the piano. Festive poems and readings included.

On November 25th we had the opportunity to visit the new Estate Offices and Co Working spaces at an Open Day. All the hard work put in by the Manager Barbara Nokomis and Clare Gordon the Estate Office Manager was evident and the offices are ready for use – see details in the Moor Pool Heritage Trust Chairman’s piece below.

## Advance Notice

### The Moor Pool Residents Association 2024 AGM.

This will be held in the Main Hall on Saturday January 27th at 12.15 p.m.

Margaret Harrold Acting Chair Moor Pool Residents Association [info@moorpool.com](mailto:info@moorpool.com)

## Christmas is coming..... Events at Moor Pool

Saturday December 9th - **Santa Arrives** on his Sleigh 5.00 p.m.- see him before he sets off on his tour of the Estate.

Sunday December 10th - **Visit Santa’s Grotto** 11.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. in the Moor Pool Hall £4 per child entrance fee.

Saturday December 16th 19.30pm Join the Luke Players for **An Evening of Chills and Cheers** on in the Main Hall (Tickets £5 available on Eventbrite <https://tinyurl.com/chills-shorturl>). Ghostly and Christmassy readings comprising tales, poems and sketches.

Sunday January 28th in the Main Hall 10.30-11.30 **Traintime** Stay and Play

Tickets available at [www.traintimeuk.co.uk](http://www.traintimeuk.co.uk)



## MOOR POOL HERITAGE TRUST UPDATE

### From The Trust Chairman

We have had a busy couple of months getting the Estate Office ready to welcome you all and we’re delighted to say that the Hackett Suite and Kenrick Room are now open for bookings.



The Hackett Suite is our co-working space with 8 large, individual desks and comfortable chairs. It is open 9-5 Monday to Friday and we offer flexible payment options to suit your working pattern and budget. You can hire a desk on an ad hoc basis from £10 for half a day, or subscribe to one of our monthly membership plans from £40 per month. These are introductory rates so take advantage now! We also offer a discount to Friends of Moor Pool – email Clare at [estateoffice@moorpoolhall.com](mailto:estateoffice@moorpoolhall.com) for more details.

If you need privacy for a call or a quiet space for a meeting, the Kenrick Room is available to hire by the hour between 9 and 5 Monday to Friday, or for a minimum of 2 hours on evenings and weekends. It seats up to 8 people around a spacious boardroom table with comfortable chairs. Rates start from £25 per hour.

All bookings include access to Wi-Fi and free Fairtrade tea and coffee. We also have a well-equipped kitchen for you to use throughout your booking period, so it really is a comfortable place to work if you’re missing the buzz of the office. For more information and to book, please go to [www.moorpoolhall.org.uk/hire/](http://www.moorpoolhall.org.uk/hire/)



## News from Clubs and Societies

### Regular Moor Pool Classes and Activities

There are events for everyone taking place throughout the year, please follow our website and social media for updates and further details.  
[www.moorpoolhall.org.uk](http://www.moorpoolhall.org.uk)

**Save the Dates for Christmas Events: Santa's Sleigh arrives outside Moor Pool main hall on Saturday 9th December 17.00 and you can visit Santa's Grotto on Sunday 10th December between 11.00-13.00 Carols In The Hall Sunday December 17th Main Hall 14.00**

### The Circle Cinema Club

Next Showing Sunday January 28th

**The Good, the Bad and the Ugly** - in memory of Andrew Hackett, who loved a good Spaghetti Western. Please note that the film will start slightly earlier than usual at 6.45pm (doors open 6pm) and there will be a 15 minute interval.

Forthcoming Films - Dates for your diary

- Sunday 3rd March
- Sunday 28th April
- Sunday 23rd June
- Sunday 8th September
- Sunday 20th October
- Sunday 1st December

### Nettlefold Garden and Moor Pool Wildlife Group

**Big Garden Birdwatch**, 26th to 28th January 2024. Moor Pool Wildlife Group are taking part in this annual citizen science event organised by the RSPB. Join us at Moor Pool Hall to chat about what birds you've seen and how to encourage more birds into your garden. Details on our Facebook page

@Moor Pool Wildlife Group



**Tai Chi** class in Nettlefold Garden every Tuesday morning (except 26th December) 10am – 11am. Gentle exercise using flowing, mindful movement to build strength, balance and improved breathing. Make it one of your New Year Resolutions and join us in the garden on Tuesday 2nd January! £3.00 per session.

### Moor Pool Reading Group

Our next meeting will be our AGM on 18th January 2024, followed by our meeting, to take place at 7.00pm in the Lower Hall. The book to be introduced will be **Paddy Clarke HaHaHa**, by Roddy Doyle.



More info from Gillian Morgan, [gillianmorgan1952@gmail.com](mailto:gillianmorgan1952@gmail.com)

### Moor Pool Bowls Club

Interested? If you would like to try something new get in touch. We offer a free trial and free coaching.

You will find the path to the bowling green opposite 106 Ravenhurst Rd, down beside the pool. Want more info? Contact the Secretary Janet Smart [janet.smart@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:janet.smart@hotmail.co.uk)



### Moor Pool Skittles Club

Moor Pool Skittles Club play on Monday evenings from 7.30 until about 9.00

Visitors and those interested in the Club are welcome to come along, have a chat and see if this is something of interest.

Please be aware that the Club is for over 16yrs only, due to insurance, and that there are a number of steps to negotiate.

We do sometimes have to cancel last minute so it's a good idea to make contact first. Tina [tsuzanne444@gmail.com](mailto:tsuzanne444@gmail.com) or 07757 967264

For more info go to the Moor Pool Heritage Trust Website and follow the link to the activities page for regular weekly classes and activities.  
[www.moorpoolhall.org.uk](http://www.moorpoolhall.org.uk)



## StreetWatch News

**Connected communities improving where we live. Together.**

Have you heard of StreetWatch? It's a bit like Neighbourhood Watch but more mobile! We're a community led initiative supported by West Midlands Police and run by residents volunteering 2 hours a month to conduct high vis reassurance patrols in our local area. There are 1,700 of us across the West Midlands helping improve community spirit, deterring crime and anti-social behaviour as well as offering crime prevention advice and helping you report incidents to the police or council. We always welcome more members so for more information on joining StreetWatch, email: [streetwatch@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk](mailto:streetwatch@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk).

Within Moor Pool StreetWatch area we're seeing seasonal burglaries increase in the run up to Christmas so take a look at these police tips on darker nights security and prevent your home from being a target for opportunist burglars: <https://www.west-midlands.police.uk/campaigns/darker-nights/burglary>



Lights on, lock up and secure your garden fences and gates whether you're home or away! Here's more on advice on helping you stay smart, safe and secure:

Register your valuables free and improve your chances of getting them back if lost or stolen: <https://www.immobilise.com/> Find out how to recognise, avoid and report scams: <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

Get specialist support to help you get back on track after a crime: <https://www.victimsupport.org.uk>

Stay up to date on latest neighbourhood watch news: <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/news/november-2023-edition-our-news-here>

If you'd like to join our WhatsApp Watch road group to connect with your neighbours on safety and security, email: [moorpoolNHW@gmail.com](mailto:moorpoolNHW@gmail.com)

**Thank you to everyone who has said hello and offered support during our patrols. Have a fabulous Christmas from everyone at Moor Pool StreetWatch!**

