

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 the Coronation Indoor Picnic held in May.

A Huge Thank You - Jenny Buchan Committee Member writes:

'A huge thank you is due to all the people who contributed so generously to the Macmillan Coffee Morning held on September 30th. We have sent them £420 which is a wonderful contribution. Thanks are also due to all the people who donated such an amazing variety of cakes. They undoubtedly helped to raise such a large sum.

Thank you all so much - and hopefully see you next year!'

Want To Join?

The MPRA Annual Subscription is £8 payable in January. If you join before the end of this year you will get the remaining period free of charge

Contact MPRA at: info@moorpool.com

October 2023

The Moor Pool DUCK Newsletter



From the Chair of The Moor Pool Residents Association

Welcome to this latest edition of The Duck which is once again in newsletter form. When we published in August our Editor Andrew Hackett was in hospital and in mid September we received the news that sadly Andrew had passed away. His friend Rob Sutton has written an appreciation which you will find on the next page. Andrew will be much missed.

Reinstatement of the verges

The MRA continues to monitor the reinstatement of the verges after work to replace gas pipes has been done. It has been difficult to discover what specifications were given to the contractors by the Council - we are still waiting and have had to make a Freedom Of Information application. Our thanks go to Rob Sutton and Jan Thompson who are tireless in pursuing this matter. We can see that the original topsoil has not been replaced and have had to insist that the reinforcements outside The Nettlefold Garden were replaced as the ground there is 'boggy'. The sub-contractors, Fincher Utilities, have offered a sack of daffodil bulbs for the replanting in Margaret Grove.

Drama At The Moor Pool Hall

Many people were sad when the Moor Pool Players presented their last production after many years of entertaining us. Now the Luke Players are bringing drama back to the Hall with their production of *The Hound Of The Baskervilles*. Booking details in the listing section overleaf.

Come and Sing

On December 17th at 4.00 pm there will be Carols For All in the Moor Pool Hall followed by mince pies and mulled wine. FREE For Everyone

Margaret Harrold info@moorpool.com

MOOR POOL HERITAGE TRUST UPDATE From The Trust Chairman

MISSING THE BUZZ OF THE OFFICE?

We were delighted to announce our acquisition of the Grade 2 listed Moor Pool Estate Office & Snooker Hall on The Circle in late September from Grainger. This completes the Trust's ownership of the properties inside The Circle - very much the last piece of the community jigsaw.

We will bring the premises back into full community use, by preserving the public snooker hall on the upper floor and offering space on the ground floor for people to work independently or to hire meeting rooms in a comfortable, unique environment.

We welcome Clare Gordon to run the Estate Office operation. Clare is very well known to many for her popular Harborne Handmade craft markets held at the Hall three or four times a year.

So try our friendly, affordable co-working space right at the heart of Moor Pool! Contact me on simon56.stirling@gmail.com or Clare Gordon on estateoffice@moorpoolhall.com

News from Clubs and Societies

The Circle Cinema Club


Jim Tucker writes:

"We are very sad to announce the passing of Andrew Hackett, a founder member of the Circle Cinema team. Andrew was the Chair of our committee and our chief projectionist. It is clear to us all that without his drive, leadership and enthusiasm, we would not have got off the ground back in 2015. He organised our meetings, set up the membership structure and ran the website. We will announce more details in due course over how we would like to acknowledge and remember him. But one thing we will certainly do is to show a favourite film of his in the new year."

The next film 'Rye Lane' will be shown on October 15th.

On November 26th there will be a Charity Screening of 'The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry'. Proceeds will be split 50/50 between Cancer Research UK and Alzheimer's Research UK two charities chosen by Andrew's family.

LUKE PLAYERS
PRESENTS



THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES



A SHERLOCK HOLMES STORY
ADAPTED BY TIM KELLY

Moor Pool Hall, 37 The Circle, Harborne,
Birmingham, B17 9DY

Saturday 21st October 7.30pm & Saturday 28th October 7.30pm

Tickets: £12 (£10 children/seniors)

Tickets at:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-hound-of-the-baskervilles-tickets-707801552497>



Nettlefold Garden

Nettlefold Spooktacular, Sunday 30th October 5.30pm - 7pm

Join us for a wickedly good time!

Bring your carved pumpkins to win prizes. Illuminated Hallowe'en trail. Dress to scare if you dare!

Free event with donations for refreshments accepted.

Moor Pool Wildlife Group presents: Fungi Foray, Wednesday 25th October 10.30am

Meet at Moor Pool Hall main entrance for a foray around the neighbourhood with fungi expert Lucas Large.

Please wear stout shoes and waterproofs as we will be outdoors and 'off road'.

Free event.

Tai Chi classes have resumed in Nettlefold Garden with new tutor, Steve Fullerton. Every Tuesday 10 - 11, £3 a session.

Moor Pool Reading Group

If you enjoy reading and discussing books over a glass of wine the next group meeting will be on November 16th at 7.30pm in Lower Hall. The book for discussion is 'Late In The Day' by Tina Hadley. More info from Gillian Morgan, 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

Moor 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 or 07757 967264

Regular Moor Pool Classes and Activities

There are events for everyone taking place throughout the **half term** and beyond, please follow our website and social media for updates and further details:

The Hound of the Baskervilles by the **Luke Players** on **Saturday 21st** and **28th October 19.30pm** in the **Main Hall** (Tickets available on Eventbrite - search Hound of the Baskervilles Luke Players)

Willow Weaving in the **Lower Hall** on **Monday 30th October 10.30-12.30** (please book via social media or email education@moorpoolhall.com and **Halloween Craft 12.30-14.30** (drop in and have a pumpkin face-off so we want to see a rogue's gallery of petrifying pumpkins) **FREE**

Story Telling in the **Orchard** on **Tuesday 31st October 10.30-11.30**. Epic tale with Ivan the Brave and his grey wolf delivered by Anna O'Brien. Please feel free to wear fancy dress.

History Talk: Louisa Ryland by **Irene De Boo** on **Tuesday 24th October** and **Mary Quant** by **Ruth Lower** on **Tuesday 7th November 19.00pm Main Hall** (refreshments from 18.30).

Fish & Chip Quiz Supper Saturday 5th November 19.00 in the **Main Hall** £12 per ticket (tickets will be available in the shop).

Traintime Stay and Play on **Sunday 12th November** in the **Main Hall 10.30-11.30** (tickets available at www.traintimeuk.co.uk)

Gumboots Harborne Christmas Market on **Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th November** in the **Main Hall 10.00-16.00**

Harborne Handmade Christmas Fair on **Sunday 3rd December** in the **Main Hall 10.00-16.00**

Save the Dates for Christmas Events: Santa's Sleigh around Moor Pool on **Saturday 9th December 18.30** and **Grotto** on **Sunday 10th December 11.00-13.00**
Carols For all Sunday December 17th Main Hall 16.00

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

Andrew Hackett 1950-2023

Many of you will have known Andrew but naturally many may not. If you live on Moor Pool you will certainly have been touched by his local contribution, but more of that later.

A resident of Margaret Grove along with wife Tina and 3 children for many years, Andrew, like myself, was content to live the quiet life. Outside of Moor Pool he was a member of the Harborne Club in Albany Road, being elected President in 1990. He introduced me to the Club and along with our friend John Phillips, we all enjoyed many a Friday evening there.

But what of Moor Pool? All of you will (or should) know of the Trust, but prior to its establishment, local residents were involved in an epic battle with Grainger, the freeholder of many of the properties on the Estate and also owner of the community facilities. Grainger wanted to develop these by building more houses. When it finally became clear what the plans were and what a terrible impact it would have, both losing green space and many of our community facilities, Andrew stepped forward to Chair the Moor Pool Regeneration Group. His steady hand and wise direction ensured that we made a formidable case in opposing the development leading to the MRG funding a judicial review. Financial support came from all over Moor Pool and whilst we did not ultimately win, the case was perceived as strong enough to justify awarding only minimal costs against us. More importantly, Andrew and the MRG's efforts showed the strength of local feeling and the proposals were significantly watered down. Without this there might have been far less for the Trust to subsequently take on as a viable concern and why as I said at the beginning, his leadership then continues to touch us all still.

Our greater understanding of the estate led many of us to become more involved in local activities. Andrew had a bit of a 'road to Damascus' moment when he and John took on an allotment and he became a dab hand at growing tomatoes. Many of you will have been familiar too with the (infamous) home made apple wine fuelling a table at many a Moor Pool Quiz Night and which he generously donated several bottles to our regular Moor Pool Festival allotment stall to aid funds. Andrew was a keen photographer and often attended Moor Pool events to capture the moments on film. He developed an interest in wildlife becoming part of the wildlife group and running their finances. Later, he was to become a founding member and Chair of the Circle Cinema where his technical and admin skills were an essential part of the group. The Circle Cinema continues to thrive, having a strong and regular following which I am sure would have pleased Andrew greatly.

All of you receiving this will also have been recipients of the Moor Pool Duck newsletter. Andrew was the Editor and turned it into a comprehensive read with not just pieces from the various groups, but also puzzles and snippets of information. Producing the Duck, including trying to get everything to fit, then counting out the copies for each of the volunteers to deliver was quite a time-consuming job. It will be a hard act to follow.

Finally, Andrew became a Trustee of the Moor Pool Heritage Trust where his knowledge and views would, I am sure, have been of great benefit. He managed the allotment waiting list and we worked closely together on finding new tenants.

Andrew was the 'go to' for many of us when we had computer problems. His skills in that area were immense and he was always good for advice on what to buy or avoid in computer equipment. He was an Amazon devotee long before many of us had even heard of it.

As a trusted and close friend, I will miss him immensely as I am sure will many others.

Rob Sutton.

