

## History Corner National Trust Visit

Moor Pool can still be a surprise, as it was to members of the National Trust when the history society recently conducted them on a walking tour of the Estate. This followed on from a visit to the Back to Backs in the City centre. If you haven't visited yet you should try and make time to do so. The Back to Backs were the starting point for John Sutton Nettlefolds attempts to improve housing conditions in a rapidly expanding Birmingham. As an interim measure the courts between the rows of houses were opened up to allow more air and light, but this only slightly alleviated conditions. A more radical solution was needed and this is what our National Trust visitors saw when they visited Moor Pool. The difference between Moor Pool and the Back to Backs is of course quite extreme with the number of facilities provided here for a healthier lifestyle a surprise to most of those who came. The tour was comprehensive and as part of it we visited and were given a talk on the history of the Harborne Tenants Snooker Club above the Estate Office which was much appreciated. Thanks to MPHT too for providing the lower hall as a refreshment stop. Our Estate tours go back well over 15 years and now as the Moor Pool History & Preservation Society continues to provide talks or guided tours to any interested groups.



*A Nettlefold Court.*

Moor Pool History & Preservation Society

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

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# The Moor Pool DUCK Newsletter



### From the Chair of the Moor Pool Residents Association

#### The Moor Pool Estate Design Guide

With this issue of The Duck you will have received a copy of the Moor Pool Estate Design Guide. The Association knows that whether you are a new resident of the Estate or have been here for years the Conservation status of the Estate and the planning rules that flow from that designation may not be apparent. The Association regularly receives questions about what is allowed and about when planning consent is required.

Some alterations to houses were done before 2006 when Conservation status was granted and some of those alterations would not now be allowed.

There is in existence a Character Appraisal of the Estate which is a very long document produced by the City Council, a link to which you will find in the Design Guide. However the Association wanted to provide a quick reference Design Guide to explain what is required and why, as well as links to other sites where useful information may be found.

Please keep the Design Guide somewhere safe- perhaps with your property documents and if you are a tenant rather than an owner occupier, please share the Design Guide with your landlord. This is a guide and definitive guidance is available only from the Council Planning Department.

Where planning rules are broken, enforcement by the City Council may follow which would be costly and might affect the future value of your property.

The Residents' Association will not be liable for any decision taken by reference only to this guide.

The Guide will also be available online on the MRA website. [www.moorpool.org.uk](http://www.moorpool.org.uk)

Margaret Harrold [chair@moorpool.org](mailto:chair@moorpool.org)

### Trees at the Pool

The Moor Pool Heritage Trust have now appointed a tree surgeon to remove four of the big poplar trees by the Pool.

These are in the bank by Park Edge. Phil Simpson, one of the Trustees, presented the detailed proposals at a public meeting on 19th Sept to address the concerns of residents.

Phil outlined the findings of a professional tree survey the Trust commissioned in 2021 which said that poplar trees are prone to dropping branches and even parts of the main trunk. There has already been an incident of this a few years ago in Park Edge. Because of this risk the surveyors recommended that these trees be cut down to ground level within 3 years.

The work will take place later in the year and requires a road closure of Park Edge because it will need a large crane to complete the work. The bat boxes will remain in place as it is possible to leave one tree high enough to keep them without being a future danger. Also it will be possible to carry out the work around the large badger sett without undue disturbance to the badgers.

This is the first part of a more ambitious project to restore the Moor Pool, safeguarding a water supply and making it more accessible to the community. It is hoped, when grants become available, to sink a borehole for the water supply and then replant the area to encourage wildlife and a more vibrant ecology for the Moor Pool.

### Future MRA Events

#### Autumn Macmillan Coffee Morning

Our next event is the Macmillan Coffee Morning on September 28th in the Moor Pool Main Hall from 10.30 -12.00. Come and enjoy coffee or tea with some cake and your donation will go to Macmillan. Last year we were able to send over £400 to Macmillan Cancer Support because you supported the event.

#### Winter 'Carols in the Hall'

I hesitate to mention Christmas but I will. On Sunday, December 15th from 2.00 -5.00 there will be Carols In The Hall with mulled wine and mince pies. We had a great time last year and look forward to seeing you there again. A child friendly event ...

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



Booking in advance essential. You can book your place at [www.xpress-yourself.co.uk/dance-classes](http://www.xpress-yourself.co.uk/dance-classes)

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.

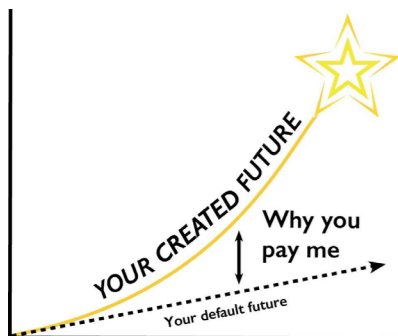
Nettlefold Garden's  
third annual

**SpOOktacular!**

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2024  
5pm – 6pm

refreshments, children's pumpkin  
and fancy dress competitions

*See you there, if you dare!*



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## Heritage Festival

Clare Gordon, Marketing and Fundraising Coordinator of the Trust writes;



‘The 15th annual Moor Pool Heritage Festival took place on Sunday 15th September, and, despite the rain, around 800 visitors came along to make it a day to remember!

The Heritage Festival was part of Birmingham Heritage Week and Heritage Open Days, and the theme for this year was ‘Routes, Networks and Connections’.

We explored paths to Moor Pool’s past through various heritage displays, trails and tours. There was a packed programme of tasters and demonstrations from some of our regular groups, as well as children’s craft activities, with festival favourites Sovereign Brass Band providing an uplifting soundtrack. The Bowls, Snooker, Circle Tennis and Skittle clubs were also open for people to explore and get involved.

There was a lovely buzz of community spirit around the Estate and we’d like to say a huge thank you to our Trust Office staff, Trustees and volunteers for working so hard to make it a special day.

Save the date for next year’s Heritage Festival, which will take place on Sunday 14th September 2025. We will be celebrating 10 years of community ownership of the Estate and bringing back the popular ‘20p’s around the Circle’ to see if we can beat our previous totals so start saving up your coins!

Moor Pool Heritage Trust is a charity dedicated to conserving the heritage of the Moor Pool Estate.’

## What’s On Autumn Calendar

**28/29th September and 5/6th October 11-5 - Birmingham Open Studios.** Moor Pool Estate Office is hosting three local artists as part of this free city-wide event.

**Saturday 12th October 10-12 - Let’s Make Scarecrows!** Join us at the Carless Eco Centre for some free family fun. Bring clothes and accessories for your scarecrow to wear.

**Tuesday 29th October 6.30-8.00 - Heritage Talk: The History of Mary Quant, part 3.** Ruth Lowe joins us again to further explore the history and clothes of Mary Quant. £3 per ticket.

**Thursday 31st October 10-12 - Halloween Crafts.** Join us for some spooky Halloween crafting in the Main Hall. £3 per child.

**Friday 1st November 10-12 - Let’s Do Lego!** Join us in the Main Hall for some free half-term brick building.

**Friday November 1st 7.30 and November 2nd 2.30 and 7.30 Moor Pool Main Hall Luke Players present Wind In The Willows.** Tickets from [www.eventbrite.co.uk/wind-in-the-willows-tickets-1010815033977](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/wind-in-the-willows-tickets-1010815033977) Tickets: £12 (standard) and £10 (children under 12 / adults over 60)

**Saturday 9th November 7.15pm - Fish & Chip Quiz Supper.** Gather the gang and get competitive! £13 per person.

**Sunday 1st December 11-3 - Harborne Handmade Winter Market.** 25 of the best local makers selling their unique and handmade products, as well as cake from the fabulous Lil’s Parlour. Free entry.

**7/8th December times tbc - Santa comes to Moor Pool!** Follow his tour of the Estate on Saturday evening and then visit his Grotto on Sunday.

**Sunday 15th December 2-4pm - Carols in the Hall.** Join the MRA for Christmas carols with mulled wine and mince pies in the Main Hall. Child friendly.

## News From Clubs and Societies

### The Circle Cinema Club

Next Showing

**Sunday 20th October**

**Bob Marley: One Love**

Doors open 6.15 for refreshments.

You are welcome to bring your own drink. Tickets: £5, Members £1. Available at the door or contact [info@circlecinema.co.uk](mailto:info@circlecinema.co.uk)

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

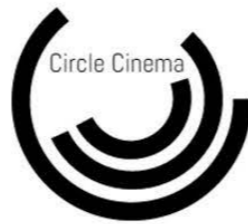
### Moor Pool Skittles Club

Tina Hackett writes;

If you have not yet seen our wonderful skittle alley with both a flat and crowned playing surface, then do come and pay us a visit.

We are a small but friendly club, always happy to show off this amazing asset. We play most Monday’s from 7.30p.m. till about 9p.m; within the club there is an element of competition for members but you are welcome to come and have a go.

The competition element is around a championship, one each for ladies and men, in both our Winter and Summer season. There is also the Duck Award for each season, again one for ladies and one for men. During play if a player scores nil on their go, then that is called a Duck, the award goes to the person who scores the most Ducks in each season. The Duck awards are named after two of our long standing players, sadly no longer with us but remembered with much fondness.



The Alley has a great deal of history so do come along and let us share some stories!

Please be aware that the club is for over 16 yrs 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](mailto:tsuzanne444@gmail.com) or 07757967264

### Moor Pool Reading Group

Tim Davis writes... The reading group met on 11th July to discuss Slow Horses by Mick Herron.



Set in the smoke and mirrors world of MI5, the story revolves around a group of failed spooks exiled to a crumbling outpost with their wonderfully reprobate boss Jackson Lamb. Although some found the initial slow pace frustrating, most of the group enjoyed the book, particularly the seedy setting and the downbeat characters who inhabited it.

Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan was the September choice. The next meeting is on November 14th at 7.30 in the Lower Hall and the book under discussion will be Foster also by Claire Keegan.

If you’d like to join the group please contact [gillianmorgan1952@gmail.com](mailto:gillianmorgan1952@gmail.com). New members are very welcome.

### Moor Pool Bowling Club

Crown Green Bowling is a great way to meet new people and do some gentle exercise in a beautiful setting. The bowling season is March to the end of September so we will soon be coming to a close for this year.



During the winter we have whist afternoons in the Club House on Wednesdays at 1.30. If you would like to join us could you email [moorpoolbowling@gmail.com](mailto:moorpoolbowling@gmail.com) to let us know. Cost is £3.00 which includes tea and biscuits.

You will find the club in Ravenhurst Road behind the pool.

For more information about the bowling club use Google and search for Moor Pool Bowling Club.

### Nettlefold Garden - a great place to relax

**Tai Chi classes** take place in the garden on Tuesday mornings, 9am - 10am, £3.00 attendance.

Gentle exercise, beginners welcome. The garden is at the bottom of Margaret Grove Contact [nettlefoldgarden@gmail.com](mailto:nettlefoldgarden@gmail.com)



## The Circle Tennis Club

Great News, Membership is at an all-time high, with Mix-ins, competitions, social events, coaching etc, etc, there has never been a better time to play.

Membership starts from the 1st April 2024 and runs until the 31st March 2025, so if you are interested in joining, please contact us.

See our website for all the up to-date news, [www.circletennisclub.net](http://www.circletennisclub.net). Also if you have any questions, please contact us at [circletennisclub@gmail.com](mailto:circletennisclub@gmail.com).

## Snooker Club

Harborne Tenants Snooker Club – one of Harborne’s best kept secrets- the Snooker Club is to be found above the Estate Offices with its entrance being on the Circle.



If you are interested in joining contact Glyn Davies on 0121 426 3034 or Darek Massey on 07941570689 Alternatively email [htsc1947@gmail.com](mailto:htsc1947@gmail.com)

## Moor Pool Allotment Association

### Want an Allotment?

Would you like an allotment or interested in sharing one? The MPAA works with the Moor

Pool Heritage Trust to promote and find tenants for Moor Pool’s allotments. You don’t have to live on Moor Pool to have one but it’s likely if you are reading this that you do. There are a number of different allotment areas and the allotments come in various shapes and sizes.

If there is a particular allotment area you are interested in then you can always go on the waiting list if nothing is available. Contact: [robsutton76@gmail.com](mailto:robsutton76@gmail.com)

### Free Offer Of Wine Making Equipment

The late Editor of The Moor Pool Duck, Andrew Hackett, made wine which was legendary on the Estate. Now with his sad passing his wine making equipment is lying idle. If you are a home wine maker, or interested in taking up this hobby, a quantity of wine making equipment is offered free including several demijohns, new empty wine bottles, two very large kilner type jars with taps and a number of plastic beer kegs with taps. All potentially could have other uses!

If interested contact Tina 07757967264