

AGM REVIEW

Unfortunately another bout of ill health has prevented me from presenting this in person and I am grateful to Margaret and the rest of the Committee for sorting things out at the last minute. I've been hit twice; by a recurrence of an old problem to which was added sepsis, a potentially deadly combination. I had sepsis five years ago and was regarded as fortunate to survive then, and experience of that tells me that recovery all round will be lengthy. I therefore informed the Committee of my intention to stand down today, something that I had intended to do next year.

My brief was to present a summary of 2022 as seen from a MRA perspective and that I will do but first allow me to wander back a few years.

In 1969 I got married, discovered Moor Pool, and for £3450 bought a house in Margaret Grove. The house was bought purely on the strength of its outside appearance. We'd looked at semis with dry rot, leaking roofs and damp walls for weeks and we bought a terraced house with wet rot in three rooms, lethal electric fittings, original gas light connections, a stone sink and a pile of dead pigeons in the kitchen chimney, an outdoor loo and crumbling roughcasting.

You will know why of course, and why it is today that people are prepared to spend a lot of money to live here. It's a great place to live and it's 'different'.

The house looks the same from the outside and not a lot has changed inside. The houses opposite look the same but many changes inside and out will have been made. The road is filled daily with parked cars. In 1969 there were three. The Nettlefold Garden is on the site of my old allotment. The tennis courts are still the same as are the pool and bowling green. The Hall is vibrant with activity but the stage no longer echoes to the tread of the Moorpool Players. The Builders' yard is there but is now a brilliant centre of activity.

In other words not a lot has changed but of course over the past 50 years, the world has, and places like Moor Pool can sometimes struggle to hold on to what is so good and different, in the face of a relentless need for modernisation. As the number of rented houses becomes fewer, the demographic changes, and houses are bought, often it seems, by young professional people in transit

Moving then to 2022 when the Committee dealt with residents' continued concerns about badgers, grass verges, skips, hedge encroachment, blocked footpaths, requests for dropped kerbs, electric charging points, numerous complaints about wheelie bins

being left out permanently en masse, but above all and not surprisingly. about planning matters.

We have worked closely with local Councillors and with the Conservation Area Planning Officer, and I understand that arrangements are in hand for a review of the City Council's Appraisal and Management Plan to include looking at a number of areas that are possibly open to misinterpretation. Most residents are aware I think, of the need always to check with Planning before making any arrangements for any alterations to be carried out.

With others, we are working with the City Council in connection with proposals to introduce traffic calming measures in Ravenhurst Road. Our objections to the original plan have been lodged and will be taken into account at the next stage of consultation.

In June a very successful and well attended Jubilee party family picnic was held in the Hall and adults and children alike were royally entertained. The Committee will be considering arrangements for an event to mark the coronation in May.

Coffee mornings have been held on the last Saturday of the month and regulars and occasionals have enjoyed a warm welcome and plenty of chat and home-made cakes. In response to a clear demand, we introduced a facility for cashless payments but of course we continue to be very happy to receive cash.

The Duck has quacked throughout the year due to the excellent stewardship of Andrew Hackett our Editor supreme

The Residents Association had a table at the Heritage Festival in September which attracted considerable interest and led to a number of people signing up for membership.

In November the Association sponsored Rob and Jan Sutton's second Christmas Senior's lunch which was held to the great satisfaction of all. A date has been booked for lunch No 3 this year.

For the first time in over 50 years I was persuaded to don an elf's costume and join Santa on his parade around the estate. The large turn out of adults and children demonstrated that, despite all of the changes, the Moor Pool community remains as vibrant as ever. This was followed a week later by the indoor carol walk brilliantly led by Jules Bellingham and Geoff Salminen. Despite the foul weather there was an excellent turn out with lusty singing and a few dodgy descants.

Looking ahead, I have no doubt that the Residents Association will continue to play its part in ensuring that this beautiful estate continues to flourish, something of course largely in the hands of the residents themselves. I shall of course, continue to support our excellent Committee in its endeavours to whom I extend my thanks for their help and support and often, encouragement, over the last three years.