

MOOR POOL *DUCK*

Newsletter of Moor Pool Residents' Association

Issue No 4

June 1996

ASSOCIATION AGM: Thursday 11th July, 8pm

The Annual General Meeting of the Moor Pool Residents' Association will be held at the Moor Pool Hall on Thursday, 11th July, at 8pm. All members are invited to attend. After the business of the evening has been completed, there will be a display featuring the history of the Estate.

It is also hoped to put on a display of the proposed Traffic Management Scheme, so that Residents can discuss it further with members of the Committee.

The draft Constitution of the Association has now been finalised, and will require approval at the AGM. Every member is entitled to receive a copy, but rather than use up a lot of paper, any member wishing to view a copy will find one hanging up at The Post Office. Any member may ask for a free copy. Copies will also be available to read at the AGM.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE

Three members of the Committee, Stan Brown, Paul Lewis and Lucy Harland have resigned, and we thank them for their contributions. That creates three vacancies, and any Resident may offer themselves for election to the Committee. The Chairman would welcome nominations from anyone who would like to serve on the Committee. Please contact him c/o The Post Office.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The annual subscription for 1996 - just £2 for each household - is now coming due. An envelope should be delivered with this newsletter. It would be very helpful if you could put in your £2, write your name and address on the front, and hand it in at the Post Office.

GRASS VERGES

Occasionally, given the narrowness of the roads on the Estate, it is inevitable that a vehicle has to ride up the kerb and onto the grass verge. However, in the past few months, the damage to verges has been very significant. They are an attractive feature of the Estate, and they are being

spoiled by the selfish attitude of a minority of drivers and residents.

Legally the position is very simple. No vehicle may be placed partially or wholly onto a verge, for any reason whatsoever. Anyone doing so is in breach of common law, and may be prosecuted.

We ask all Residents to bear this in mind, and to help keep the verges in good order.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The popular Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is alive but not active on the Estate. Every road has a volunteer co-ordinator, who should have been briefed by the local Police officer who supervises the scheme. What is currently lacking is someone who would act as the overall co-ordinator for the Estate. That person would have a seat on the Association Committee, and have the full support of the Committee. Anyone who might like to consider accepting the task should contact the Chairman, c/o The Post Office

GAS SUPPLY

Harborne Tenants Ltd have been consulting with specialists with regard to their duty to ensure that gas supplies to their properties are safe. They have the matter in hand, and no tenant should now have any problem. However, as the freehold properties are of the same age, owners might like to consider having the same safety check carried out themselves. The contractor will be happy to advise. Contact Peter Taylor at Gas-On, tel. 785-0455. The cost of a safety inspection is app. £17.

ESTATE WALK

The Directors of the Harborne Tenants Ltd, as it then was, carried out an annual walk around the Estate, and from their observations, were able to take action where appropriate. The Association has decided to revive the tradition, and the first walk will take place on Sunday, June 9th. The Committee will meet at the Post Office at 9.30, and member Mike Frost has planned a route to take in as much of the Estate as possible in about 3 hours of gentle strolling.

NOISY LAWMOWERS AND STRIMMERS

Power operated lawnmowers and strimmers help us all to keep the many lawns and borders on our Estate attractive and in good order.

One of the problems for Residents is finding time to do all the cutting and trimming of the grass. Another problem can be to find the time to sit down and quietly enjoy the fruits of the work. Sometimes, the two can clash. Often, after a long week, the pleasure of sitting in the garden on a warm Summer Sunday can be ruined by the noise of a neighbour using a lawnmower or strimmer. With long evenings and Saturdays available to do the noisy garden work, perhaps Residents might feel it appropriate to consider not using power operated machines on Sundays in Summer. The 'DUCK' would welcome your comments.

ASSOCIATION NOTICE BOARD

Phil Wallis at The Post Office has kindly offered the use of a notice board in the old door-way. A member has offered to re-paint and tidy the board, and it should come into use soon.

NEW TREES ON THE ESTATE

The City Council have replaced the dying trees around the Circle. They have planted semi-mature trees, and so far all appear to be growing. This is another of the ways in which everyone associated with the Estate tries to maintain its quality and character.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEME

On behalf of the Committee, Nigel Bartram has forwarded a series of questions to the City Engineers Dept. Once answers have been received, he will prepare a formal opinion and response. It is said that the consultation exercise which was carried out throughout the area has generated an unexpectedly high level of responses, and it will take longer than planned for the Council to consider how best to go forward with the scheme.

ORIGINS OF THE MOOR POOL ESTATE

In 1906, a proposal was put to Parliament for a tramway line from Birmingham to Harborne. The considerable amount of open land made it seem likely that speculative builders would cover Harborne with "jerry built" houses. The bill was rejected by Parliament, and the consequent fall in

the value of land in Harborne enabled a group of Housing Reform enthusiasts to buy the land now covered by the Harborne Tenants Estate.

This group bought the 54 acre estate for approximately £16,000, and established Harborne Tenants Ltd as a co-partnership society. At an opening ceremony, the Bishop of Birmingham noted "There must be better houses, more air, more gardens and more open spaces for playgrounds for children." We still await the provision of facilities for children 90 years later!

The building of the estate began in January 1908, the rents of the first houses varying between 4s8d and 11s per week. The houses were built at 10-12 per acre, rather than the 50-60 common in the rapidly expanding city.

The prospectus for Harborne tenants Ltd noted the aim of giving working people the opportunity of taking a cottage with a garden within a 2d fare of central Birmingham, and at a moderate rent.... "the committee believe that in clearer air, with open space near to their doors, with gardens where the family labour will produce vegetables, fruit and flowers, the people will develop a sense of home, life and interest in nature which will form the best security against the temptations of drink and gambling"

And so, with such aspirations, the Estate was begun.

The above was prepared by Mike Frost. He is a member of the Committee, and has built up a collection of documents relating to the history of the estate. He is able to give any such items for which you no longer have room a good home. Please contact him c/o The Post Office.

Personal Tax Specialist Service

A professional local service at a realistic rate

For completion of all personal tax forms, agreeing income and capital tax liabilities, advice on tax planning and self-assessment. We do NOT sell investment products.

Contact **Carol Jones** or **Rosella Fox** on
0121-429-7200 or 0956 463 347 (mobile)

Fox & Jones Limited

349 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B17 8DL

"MOOR POOL DUCK"

Published by:

Moor Pool Residents' Association

c/o The Post Office

The Circle, Harborne, Birmingham