

**MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN 2007**

www.moleseyresidentsassociation.org.uk



HISTORY SOCIETY

The newly formed Molesey Local History Society will hold its next meeting at 7.30pm in Vine Hall on Tuesday 13th November when the subject under discussion will be 'Sources for Family History'.

CAR PARK CHARGING

Since charging was introduced in the Walton Road car park last February, the roads around the car park (and many further away) have become even more choked with parked cars, causing misery to residents and frustration to drivers wanting to find somewhere to stop.

Some local businesses are suffering a loss of trade and the area has a much less 'village' and more urban feel with traffic wardens making life difficult for those looking for a quick stop to buy a paper or a loaf of bread.

Although in real terms the 50p charge is not a lot of money, it goes against the grain for most people to add that to the cost of whatever is being purchased – it will double the cost of a newspaper or a couple of bread rolls! And, although the purchase may only take five minutes, you have to pay for a full hour's worth of parking.

The results are exactly what the MRA predicted when the whole idea was first announced.

So who has benefited? Not the residents, who have vehicles tightly parked outside their houses all day. Not the motorists, who can't find anywhere to stop without being hassled by over zealous parking wardens. Not local businesses, which are losing trade. Perhaps the Council, with increased income from the parking charges and fines? This seems unlikely since the car park is usually three-quarters empty. So everyone is losing out!

What can be done? It is essential to get the car park back to being heavily used, as it was before the charges.

Molesey Residents Association seeks three things:

1. Reduction of the fee from 50p to 25p per hour – as in Claygate;
2. Car park to be free on Saturdays – as in Walton;
3. New pay machines which issue a ticket for less than an hour, in proportion to the amount of money put in – as in Kingston. This would allow the purchase of a ticket for, say, ten minutes to buy that paper or those bread rolls.

In last May's election material we said that MRA would work for the first two items and are now sure that the third item would further encourage car park use.

MRA has been pressing for these changes and has made every effort to negotiate with Councillors in other areas but the Conservative group running the Council has so far refused to move on this. We shall not be put off and will continue in our efforts to get things changed.

Since the Residents Association Group is not in overall control of the Council, we recognise that the charges will not be removed altogether, but the reasonable measures we suggest would make life better for residents, shopkeepers and drivers alike – and the Council would make more money from a full car park – everybody wins!

MRA is also pressing for removal of some unnecessary yellow lines – e.g. by the shops opposite the Europa pub.

HELPING THE SCOUTS

These days when there are so many reports of youngsters going "off the rails" we think that Scouting is an activity which is worthy of support.

All three Molesey Scout Groups are in dire need of funds for various works that need to be carried out on their various premises.

Hence MRA has decided to help with their costs by donating £400 to each of the three Scout Groups. It will be far from a complete answer to their problems, but every little helps!

MRA has also donated £100 to a relief fund set up by St Mary's Church for the victims of this summer's flood disasters.

**CHRISTMAS IS COMING
(like it or not!)**

Molesey Residents Association is helping shops, restaurants, bars and community groups to organise a festive evening, with late openings, tastings and discounts on the run up to Christmas. It has even been whispered that Father Christmas himself will be putting in an appearance!

Following last year's successful event, the traders in Bridge Road are again celebrating with late night shopping, inviting everyone to enjoy seasonal fare, wine tasting and special offers on Thursday 22nd November.

The traders in the main shopping area in Walton Road have their Christmas event two weeks later on the evening of Thursday 6th December.

Please support our local businesses by putting these two dates in your diary and coming out for an enjoyable evening with your friends and neighbours and make the most of the Christmas bargains that will be on offer.

Molesey Centre (used to be called Molesey Day Centre) in School Road will hold their annual Christmas Fayre on Saturday 24th November between 11am and 1pm. There will be cakes, toys, presents, crafts, plants and much more. Make sure you're there!

MOLESEY POLICE STATION

The police station would have been closed long ago were it not for a band of volunteers, organised by Hazel Banting, who ensure that it is open from 7pm to 9pm Monday to Friday and 10-12.30 on Saturdays.

To enhance the service, more volunteers are needed. If you can help for an hour or so a week, please ring Hazel on 8979-1715.

While on police matters, remember that the next police panel neighbourhood meetings in Molesey are in St Mary's Church hall at 7.30pm on 14th November and at Mole Hall at 7.15pm on 12th December.

MRA MUSCLE

Tanner's Bridge connects the footpath at the end of Spencer Road to Neilson's Field over the Mole.

The land on the sides of the approach footpath had become very overgrown and the path itself had become muddy and difficult to navigate.

At the request of some local residents, MRA (funded by S.C.C.) obtained topsoil to improve the garden edges of the path, also gravel to stabilise the path base.

On a Sunday morning, MRA volunteers with barrows moved the topsoil (from where it had been delivered in Spencer Road) along the path to improve the path edges, and then, on the next Sunday morning, moved the gravel to improve the path itself. We have plans to undertake similar work at the Orchard Lane end of the footpath.

Hot work, but well worth doing!

LOOKING FOR A GOOD XMAS PRESENT?

It's not always easy to think of suitable presents at a reasonable price. But we have a suggestion.

Molesey Residents Association has a supply of two different books about Molesey's past. Both were written by a local historian, Roland Baker, and first published in 1986. One is called 'Thameside Molesey' and deals with Molesey events associated with the Thames (e.g. Fred Karno and suffragette activity) and the other book deals with the history of land-based Molesey over the ages to date. Both are very interesting reads about life in Molesey over the years and are available at the 1986 price of only £15 each from Ernest Mallett at 20, Walton Road or 8979-6446.

BOAT CLUB PLANS

We have previously reported that Molesey Boat Club wants to build an indoor rowing tank behind its clubhouse, replacing the tank that used to be housed in the old Walton Leisure Centre.

This would involve transferring some of the current boat storage facilities onto part of the public open space in Graburn Way, where the children's swings are situated.

The Council has now agreed these plans, which will benefit schools and rowing clubs across the Borough.

MRA Councillors were concerned about the loss of public land involved and have fought hard to ensure that extra funding will now be provided for an improved public open space, including an enhanced children's play area, at the riverfront.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

Now the growing season is over, please make a point of cutting back any foliage overhanging the pavement from your property. The effect on pedestrians can vary from inconvenience (walking round the obstruction) to outright danger (to an unsighted person). Please do this for the good of all!

Although we don't approve of drivers parking half on the pavement we do realise that in some of Molesey's congested residential roads it is part of normal practice. But please make sure that there is still plenty of room for a pushchair or pavement buggy to travel along the pavement in comfort. It is not right that these people are sometimes forced out into the road by inconsiderate parking.

Any member of the public is welcome to attend to discuss what the police are doing in their area, or what needs attention. These meetings are your chance to have your say – please support them.

ROADS, HIGHWAYS AND STREET LIGHTS

These all come under Surrey County Council, which is still struggling to cope so our Chairman, Cllr Nigel Cooper, has set up a small group of R A Councillors to progress a list of all outstanding problems. Nigel will keep a check on problems in Molesey East, Cllr Mike Axton those in Molesey South and County Cllr Ernest Mallett those in Molesey North.

Their phone numbers are at the top of this Newsletter – do let them know about potholes, street signs, defective lights or pavement defects.

We know County is slow and rarely tells anyone the work programme but, by continually putting forward a list of undone work, we expect to get better action than in the past.

However, we already have one bit of feedback. The dropped kerbs our group has been pressing for on Hurst Park and Fleetside have been allocated funds and are in the queue for staff time. Not 100% action maybe, but a more promising note than before!

SKATEBOARD PARK?

MRA chairman, Cllr Nigel Cooper, reports that Elmbridge Council are likely to fund a new skateboard park in the Borough. It would be good to have it in Molesey and possible sites will be considered.

HIGH DENSITY HOUSING

Elmbridge Housing Trust made a planning application to replace eight houses on the corner of Faraday Road and High Street in West Molesey with 33 flats and houses.

MRA Councillor Mike Axton wrote to the Head of Planning at the Council to object to the very high density of the proposed scheme – being much higher density than in the surrounding area and well in excess of the Council's own guidelines.

As a result, the planning committee unanimously rejected the scheme and the Housing Trust is now modifying its plans.

More affordable housing is needed but it must be in keeping with other properties around – and why does it always seem to be in West Molesey instead of Esher or Weybridge?