

**MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2008**

www.moleseyresidentsassociation.org.uk



Car Park Success

In our last Newsletter we vowed to try to improve the parking regime in East Molesey. We had three aims to increase the use of the Walton Road car park:

1. **To get charges reduced from 50p to 25p per hour;**
2. **To get free Saturday parking;**
3. **To allow purchase of shorter periods of parking.**

In December the ruling Conservative group Cabinet produced proposals at Council to massively increase many parking charges across Elmbridge.

Led by forcibly-put arguments from MRA Cllrs. Mike Axton and Ian Donaldson, the Residents group put forward amendments to limit these increases and to reduce the charge in the Molesey Walton Road car park to the 'village' rate that applies in Thames Ditton.

With the help of Lib Dem councillors, most of these amendments were carried, much to the dismay of the ruling Conservative Group.

Our arguments were much helped by a large petition from Molesey residents and businesses, organised by local resident Claire Eastaugh.

So, from April 1st, charges in Walton Rd car park will be:

1. **Charges reduced to 20p per hour;**
2. **Free parking on Saturdays and Sundays;**
3. **Half hour parking for only 10p;**

Season ticket rates will also be substantially reduced.

These charges will apply from 10am to 6pm Monday to Friday, with Saturday and Sunday being free.

Local residents will then be able to park free overnight from 6pm to 10am and all day at weekends.

We hope that this victory will encourage much increased use of the Walton Road car park, help to reduce parking congestion in the residential roads around the shopping centre and

benefit our small businesses, many of which have suffered badly since the present charges were introduced.

We feel that we can reasonably say that the ambitions quoted in our last newsletter have been fully achieved. Well done everyone, especially your MRA councillors!

MRA Cllr Mike Axton is trying to get the new charges introduced as soon as possible, while pushing Surrey County Council to remove unnecessary restrictions (like the yellow lines by the shops opposite the Europa pub) to free up additional on-street parking places.

Marie Curie Appeal

In previous years we have made an appeal on behalf of charity to coincide with the coming of Spring, symbolised by daffodils all over Molesey, many planted by MRA.

Another quarter ton of bulbs has been planted this year and when they flower we will put up Memorial Boards on the planted bank at Sadler's Ride, on the Police Station Green and on the Central Avenue roundabout.

If you would like to remember someone, we will put their names and

We shall be holding our
**ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING in MOLE HALL,
WEST MOLESEY**
on **FRIDAY 14th MARCH**
starting at **8pm.**

All members are welcome and non-members may join at the door – £3 per household. Come along and hear what's been going on over the past year – and afterwards chat with committee and councillors over free refreshments.

yours on these Boards in return for a donation of £3 upwards. **All Donations will be doubled by MRA** (up to a total of £400) and passed on to the Marie Curie charity or charity of your choice.

We know that the blooming of these bulbs in memory of loved ones brings great comfort and the donations are much appreciated by the receiving charities.

Please send details and donations to Ernest Mallett, 20 Walton Road, East Molesey KT8 0DF, making out cheques to Molesey Residents Association. We will do the rest – Thank You.

Jolly Boatman/Station Site

Gladedale Homes (the developers), have presented plans to Elmbridge Council for a comprehensive development of the Jolly Boatman and Station site.

Their plans include a 4-storey, 46-bed hotel (largely on the Jolly Boatman site); 61 apartments; 5 houses; a 61-bed care home for Star and Garter residents; some shops, restaurants and a refurbished station building.

In terms of the sheer mass of bricks and mortar they propose to put on this conservation site, this scheme is little different to the previous 'consultation' plans that were made available to the public for comment.

English Heritage and Historic Royal Palaces have denounced these proposals. We cannot believe that a developer should see this important site as being nothing more than a chance to develop to the absolute limit, with little concern for anything other than making the maximum profit. More information is available at www.hamptoncourtescuerescuecampaign.com and www.elmbridge.gov.uk/services/planprop/planningonline/htm (planning applications 2007/2970, /2971 and /2972). Make up your own minds and send your comments to the Council – Martin Parker, Head of Town Planning, Civic Centre, High Street, Esher KT10 9SD

Youngsters' Provision

It is commonly said that there is little provision in Molesey for the young, but the Youth Centre in Ray Road has much to offer. MRA Cllr. Vic Eldridge reports that it has recently been refurbished and offers a tremendous range of facilities including a music studio, multi-purpose/computer room, art room, sports hall and a coffee bar for socialising. It is open 7.30 – 9.30pm Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Try it! More information on 01932-794743.

As MRA Cllr. Nigel Cooper reported in our last newsletter, Elmbridge Council is to finance a new skateboard park – which will be in Molesey! After detailed consideration by the Council, the Grovelands recreation area has been identified as the most suitable site and we are hopeful that it can be up and running later this year.

There has been a skateboard park in Cobham for some time now, which has been a great success. We expect the Molesey one to be just as successful.

However, younger children will not be left out, as a major upgrade (with modern equipment) is planned for the children's play area on Walton Road Recreation ground.

Molesey Juniors Football Club is this year running 22 teams (including 4 girls' teams) for 8-16 year olds - and organising the girls' section of the Surrey Youth Games.

With all this and 4 very active scout and guide groups together with the Hurst swimming pool in Molesey and the Walton Leisure Centre within easy reach, we don't feel anyone can say that little is done for the young people of Molesey.

5-Year Subs

Almost a quarter of our members now pay 5 years' subscriptions in one go and save themselves yearly visits from us to collect their £3.

The scheme helps us and, having paid for 5 years, members are immune from any membership fee increases. Why not join them when your subscription is due?

A Great Relief

MRA Cllr. Mike Axton has been pressing South West Trains about the lack of toilets at Hampton Court Station. Responding to his latest letter, South West Trains have told Mike they now intend to re-install public toilets at the station by the end of May. Not before time!

Molesey Christmas Fun

It was Bridge Road's Christmas late opening evening. Once they had finished browsing, shoppers formed a hungry queue outside 'Le Petit Nantais' for JP's mussels and chips. They could then slip across the road to Lancelot's for wine and cheese to follow.

There was no shortage of mulled wine and mince pies when traders in the Walton Road threw open their doors for a 'Magical Molesey' evening a few days later.

With carols and an early visit from Father Christmas, there were competitions for Fancy Dress, Secret Santa (won by Lewis Traynor) and Best Window Display (won by The Meat Team); face painting, balloon sculpting, wine tasting, discounts and special offers.

There was something for all ages to enjoy and many commented on the warm community atmosphere.

The deputy mayor, MRA Cllr. Nigel Cooper, presented prizes donated by MRA and local businesses.

MRA had purchased collecting boxes which helped raise £365 for Molesey Hospital. These boxes are available free to other local groups collecting for community causes.

Plans are in hand for similar late night shopping events for Christmas 2008. The MRA has already started working with traders and community organisations to build on the success of the 'Magical Molesey' event and make this a regular feature in the Molesey calendar.

On another Christmas note, we hope everyone enjoyed MRA's lit Christmas trees on the police station green and the Central Avenue roundabout. Thankfully, neither tree was vandalised.

Carnival Concerns

Year after year people at Molesey Carnival will have watched the floats struggling to get into and out of the Recreation Ground entrance.

The entrance is presently too narrow for the big vehicles making up the parade. So the obvious need is for widening the entrance by rebuilding the brick pillars further apart and altering the sweep of the entrance kerbing to match, making an easier turning into the Rec.

Surrey County Council has agreed to modify the kerbing as necessary but Elmbridge Council is reluctant to finance the moving of the pillars.

If Elmbridge can't do the job, MRA will cover the cost rather than continue with the present situation.

We hope it will all be done in time for the 2008 Molesey Carnival.

Money for Molesey

MRA County Councillor, Ernest Mallett, working with County Cllr Tim Oliver, has obtained finance from Surrey County Council as follows:

£1425 for St Paul's Church room for new tables and chairs.

£7000 for Old Tiffinians Sports Club for pavilion improvements to benefit small children taught there.

£1000 for Molesey 2nd St. Paul's Scout Group for new tents.

£1048 for St Alban's Junior School to help with website set-up costs.

£1500 for Molesey Local History Society for a computer and digital projector.

More applications are awaiting approval later in the year.

Molesey History

MRA has financed the reprinting of two hardback books, illustrated with many photographs, by local historian Rowland Baker.

'Thameside Molesey' covers all the many happenings along the Thames over the years and the 'Book of Molesey' covers the history of Molesey since it was part of Henry VIII's hunting grounds. The books are available from Ernest Mallett, 20 Walton Road or 8979-6446 at only £15 each – an inexpensive present and a very interesting read for all!