

**MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER  
SUMMER 2008**

[www.moleseyresidentsassociation.org.uk](http://www.moleseyresidentsassociation.org.uk)



**MAY ELECTIONS.** We are delighted that all three MRA candidates were successful in the recent local elections. Liz Robertson and Vic Eldridge won comfortably in the Molesey North and South wards respectively and our chairman, Nigel Cooper, was re-elected in Molesey East.

All three will do their level best to represent the interests of all Molesey residents at Elmbridge Council. We would like to thank all those who voted for MRA candidates and our many helpers who delivered leaflets, sat at polling stations, etc. The voting figures are set out in the right-hand column.

The Conservatives have run a minority administration at Elmbridge over the last two years but they gained an extra 4 seats (outside Molesey) and now have an overall majority at Council. The 60-seat Council now consists of: Conservatives 32; Residents Associations 21 (including 9 MRA) and Lib. Dems. 7. This means the Conservatives can no longer be outvoted at the Council, even if all the RA and Lib Dem Councillors vote against them on a particular issue (as happened in the recent votes on reducing car park charges).

**ELECTION RESULTS  
ELMBRIDGE COUNCIL**

**Molesey East**

Chinners, – (M. Raving Looney) 66  
**Cooper, Nigel – (MRA) 1041**  
Wright, David – (Con) 792

**Molesey North**

Drummond, Rita – (Lab) 72  
Platt, Christopher – (Con) 363  
**Robertson, Liz – (MRA) 1077**  
Sturgis, Alistair – (Lib. Dem) 127

**Molesey South**

**Eldridge, Vic – (MRA) 1010**  
Reid, Andrea – (Lab) 137  
Villani, Margaret – (Lib. Dem) 65  
West, Graham – (Con) 300

**SCOUT FUN RUN**

3rd Molesey Scouts need £30,000 to replace their headquarters roof.

They have so far raised £18,000 and to raise more are holding a fun run on 20th July at 12 noon. The run starts and finishes at the Scout Hut and there will be a barbeque afterwards.

Details and entry form at [www.3rdmoleseyscouts.org.uk](http://www.3rdmoleseyscouts.org.uk) or from Sam Palmer on 8941-0124

**CAR PARK CHARGES**

As a direct result of action by MRA Councillors at Elmbridge Council, the charges in the Walton Road car park have now been reduced from 50p per hour to 20p per hour, with a half hour available for only 10p. Parking is now FREE at weekends and season ticket charges are also substantially reduced.

We would urge all Molesey residents to take advantage of the lower charges to make greater use of both the car park and our local shops and restaurants. You won't find anywhere else that you can park so close to the 'centre of things' as cheaply as you can in the Walton Road car park.

MRA was able to get the charges reduced by presenting a powerful case at Council which won the support of all RA and Lib Dem councillors. The Conservatives spoke against the reductions but, when they realised they would be out-voted, abstained from voting.

Later, when the subject of charges in the Hersham and Walton station car parks came up, most Lib Dems voted with the Conservatives and hence the massive increases in those car parks went through.

However, we are grateful for the Lib Dem's support for Molesey.

**MOLESEY MAYOR**

MRA Councillor Nigel Cooper has been elected Mayor of Elmbridge for the forthcoming year. Nigel, who is also chairman of MRA, will be assisted by his wife Elizabeth, as Mayoress, in the performance of his duties as the First Citizen of the Borough. We congratulate them both and wish them well in their duties throughout what will no doubt be a very busy year, often with two or three functions to attend per day.

An honour for MRA and Molesey!

Nigel has adopted 'Sparks' as his main Mayor's charity for the year. 'Sparks' was started by sports personality Jimmy Hill, and funds research into children's debilitating or life-threatening diseases. He has got off to a very good start having raised £3000 on his first day!

**MIDSUMMER MUSIC**

Our sister organisation, Hurst Park Residents Association, will be holding another fun summer evening on the Thames riverside land behind the Hurst Park estate on Friday, June 20th from 6.30pm.

There will be performances by junior school children, boat rides, electric trikes and a bouncy castle for the children, BBQ, club-price bar and live music from The Ian Hunt Band and Esher High's "Escola do Samba". Admission is free and everyone is welcome (bring your own chair/blanket) – so come along and ENJOY a pleasant evening of fun by the river!

**SKATEBOARD PARK**

This item is on hold at the moment while possible sites are considered.

We would like this facility to be sited in Molesey to give the youngsters something to do rather than hanging around on street corners. But the difficulty is in finding a suitable site – it needs to be not too remote but at the same time not too close to residents' homes. In a largely built-up area like Molesey it is difficult to satisfy all requirements.

## ROADS

As you may know, roads, pavements and street lighting come under Surrey County Council. We are well aware that many roads and pavements in Molesey are in poor condition, with some being in an appalling state.

In our view this is due to long-term neglect – and affects not only Molesey but is general across Surrey.

The situation has led to vociferous complaints from Surrey County Councillors, not least by MRA County Councillor Ernest Mallett.

As a result, money has now been allocated to resurface Grange Road, Kelvinbrook and part of Linkfield, all of which are in a dire state – although no clear timescale is given.

But there is much more to be done and it is very difficult to get any answers or assurances from County.

## LAMPPOSTS

Surrey employs a contractor to maintain street lights but, by law, only EDF can carry out any electrical work.

Hence, when a lamppost has to be replaced EDF has to make it safe, then Surrey's contractor puts in a new one, then EDF connects it and then Surrey's contractor removes the old one – a slow business!

The result is that it can easily take over a year to get the whole process completed, and explains why so many wrecked lampposts are still around and so many new ones are not yet working, in spite of much nagging by MRA County Councillor Ernest Mallett.

## WALTON ROAD REC

We are pleased to report that the upgrading of the children's play area is now completed.

Our last newsletter reported the proposed widening of the Rec. entrance gateway, which Elmbridge said they couldn't finance. Now, the cost will be split between Elmbridge Council and MRA.

We hope this will be complete for this year's carnival on 7th June, but it's going to be a close run thing!

## MICK BURGESS

Many Molesey people will have known Mick Burgess as a gentle giant of a man, greatly involved in sport (once manager of Molesey Football Club and Chairman of Elmbridge Sports Council), an enthusiastic MRA councillor (Mayor a few years ago), keen on voluntary work (one of the first behind the counter at Molesey police station), heavily involved in the League of Friends of Molesey Hospital and far too many other activities to mention.

Tragically, he died suddenly in February. It has been suggested that a suitable memorial to Mick would be a seat by the river – a scheme approved by his wife Carol.

Such a seat would cost about £1000. We are asking MRA councillors and committee to contribute and would invite all others wishing to pay a personal tribute to Mick to send a donation (say £3 to £20) to Ernest Mallett 20, Walton Road, KT8 0DQ making cheques out to MRA. Thank you so much.

## HELP NEEDED!

There are many voluntary organisations in Molesey, run by dedicated and caring people. But, with the passing of time, some of the volunteers find they cannot continue, and Molesey loses out.

One vital organisation is Molesey Care, which transports those who have no other means of travel to doctor's or hospital appointments, the library, dentist, etc. The organisation is in desperate need of extra voluntary drivers and phone operators to help out on a casual basis. If you can help, please ring Judith Dixon on 8979-7509.

Another important voluntary organisation is that which keeps Molesey Police Station open to the public. Again, more helpers are needed to man the counter and keep this service going. If you are interested, more info is available from Hazel Banting on 8979-1715.

We all take the St. John Ambulance Service for granted.

This voluntary organisation needs young people aged 10 to 18 to sign up as cadets to 'learn the trade' with a view to later moving up to the adult section. For more info, phone Debbie Lock on 07954-261701.

Lastly, please remove any notices you find on lampposts, etc. which are out of date or advertising removal of scrap cars. They are illegal and make Molesey look tatty.

## JOLLY BOATMAN / STATION SITE

This planning application will soon be considered by the Council Planning Committee. MRA is completely against what we see as a total over-development of this sensitive site. We shall look for a more reasonable outcome.

## 5-YEAR SUBS

Over 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?

## MOLESEY HISTORY

Many people have bought 'The Book of Molesey' from us but may be unaware of the follow-up book 'Thameside Molesey'. This is as good a read as the first book, covering events over the years around the Thames in Molesey, including the suffragettes burning the race course grandstand and the activities of one Fred Karno. These books make excellent presents, are only £15 each and may be obtained from Ernest Mallett, 20 Walton Road or 8979-6446.

## MOLESEY REGATTA

Don't forget! – Saturday July 19th.