

**MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER  
SPRING 2009**

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



### **JOLLY BOATMAN AND HAMPTON COURT STATION SITE**

The application for a massive 4-storey development around Hampton Court Station was approved at a full meeting of Elmbridge Council on 18 December. The development will dwarf the existing station and surrounding buildings, exacerbate the traffic and parking chaos in this part of Molesey, and irrevocably spoil the setting and views to and from the Palace. It fails to comply with a number of key local and national planning policies, and significant objections were raised by many organisations, including Historic Royal Palaces, English Heritage and the Environment Agency, as well as MRA, and the local Hampton Court Rescue Campaign.

We are bitterly disappointed that the application was nevertheless pushed through by members of the controlling Conservative group at the Council, none of whom live in Molesey. We believe a more modest scheme could have produced an outcome which enhanced the site while still delivering a profit, but the developers persistently refused offers to discuss alternative options with either MRA or Historic Royal Palaces. Why would the Conservatives want to push this through?

We shall be holding our  
**ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING**  
in **MOLE HALL**  
**WEST MOLESEY**  
on **FRIDAY 3rd APRIL**  
starting at 8pm.

All members are welcome and non-members may join at the door – £3 per household. After a short AGM there will be a talk on flood risk management followed by free refreshments with councillors and committee.

### **SCC ELECTIONS**

MRA County Councillor Ernest Mallett is again standing for the West Molesey seat in the County Council elections (on June 4th – the same day as the European Elections).

Ernest is at the heart of almost every project targeted at improving the quality of life in Molesey.

Having that rare knack of discovering pockets of unused funds, he has been able to arrange finance for a number of activities and organisations in Molesey – including money to help towards a new roof on St Mary's Church and the necessary refurbishments to two of our Scout Huts.

Ernest Mallett gets things done!

### **5-YEAR SUBS**

Almost a third 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?

### **ROADS RESURFACED**

Kelvinbrook, Linkfield and Mountwood together with Grange Road were on Ernest Mallett's list for resurfacing and they have all been completed. He is still trying for Island Farm Road, Clinton Avenue and part of Orchard Lane.

### **MAYOR AND MAYORESS**

MRA Councillors Nigel and Elizabeth Cooper are thoroughly enjoying the last few months of their year in office.

They appreciate it is a real privilege to visit so many organisations and meet so many interesting people.

But it has been hectic – you name it and they have either visited it, opened it, spoken at it or bought all the raffle tickets.

### **SKATEBOARD PARK**

Elmbridge Council has arranged local publicity for consultation events on 18th and 25th of February seeking views on two possible sites for a skateboard park in Molesey – Neilson's Field and Grovelands.

We hope that as many people as possible were able to attend and give their views. The consultation period ends on 6th March.

### **SCC TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

All items to do with SCC can be reported using the call centre number which has changed to 03456-009-009.

If you want to get directly to the department handling Highway matters (potholes, pavements, etc) you can call 0300-200-1003.

Lucky you – the 03 numbers cost less than the previous 0845 number.

### **WALTON ROAD REC.**

You may have watched the big floats struggling to get through the narrow entrance into the Walton Road recreation ground during Molesey Carnival.

Just before the last Carnival, we managed to persuade Elmbridge Council (with £1,115 subsidy from MRA) to widen the gateway by moving the pillars at the entrance.

This was a considerable help to the floats but not the complete answer, as the double-height kerbs still followed the old lines and continued to make life difficult.

MRA County Councillor Ernest Mallett has persuaded Surrey to move the offending kerbs back to follow a sensible new sweep into the entrance.

This is vital for the next Carnival (first Saturday in June). The work is actually in progress. Have a look. It should be complete by the time you get this newsletter!

## MEALS ON WHEELS

Volunteers are urgently needed to deliver meals on wheels either weekly, fortnightly or occasionally.

This vital service means the elderly see someone every day to check on their welfare, enabling them to remain in their own homes where they prefer to be.

If you have a couple of hours to spare and would like to volunteer as a driver (mileage paid) or a helper, please contact Jane Pritchard at the Molesey Centre on 020-8979-5773.

## YELLOW LINES

For some time now MRA Cllr Mike Axton and County Cllr Ernest Mallett have been pushing Surrey County Council to help the parking situation in Molesey by removing some of the unnecessary double yellow lines.

At last they seem to have had some effect, as Surrey say that short term parking bays will be introduced in the wider part of Walton Road opposite The Europa pub. In the short section outside Sewell's newsagents in Bridge Road short term parking will be allowed except between 8am and 9.30am Monday to Friday.

Short term parking bays are to be introduced outside Woolworth's and in some other small areas but parking outside schools will be prohibited. Well done, at last, to your MRA councillors.

Don't forget that the Walton Rd car park now costs only 10p per half hour and is free at weekends!

## MAGICAL MOLESEY

On 3rd December the Walton Road Traders (helped by MRA) organised an evening of Christmas fun.

It featured carols; an early visit from Father Christmas; competitions for Fancy Dress; Secret Santa; Best Window Display and face painting, free hot food, special offers and even a large new Christmas tree with lights outside the Musicland shop on the corner of Matham Rd.

We hope this event will become an annual event to herald the approach of Christmas. Make sure you're there for Christmas 2009!

MRA Cllr. Elizabeth Cooper also arranged for significantly more effective Christmas motif lamppost lights this year (which MRA subsidised by £200).

Once again MRA set up Christmas trees with lights on the police station green and the Central Avenue roundabout – we hope you enjoyed them. Many thanks for kind comments we received. Only minor problems from vandals but the foxes tried to dig up the cables!

## PUBLIC LOOS AND HALLS

You may have read in the local papers that the Conservative controlled Elmbridge Council is proposing closure of public toilets around the Borough – including those in the Walton Road car park and at Walton Road Recreation Ground. They are also proposing closure of some public halls – including our own Vine Hall.

Don't they understand that the Council is only there to provide services to the public? And some things are basic to a civilised life?

We recognise that all Councils are facing difficult times financially but closing down local public amenities is a completely unjustified response.

Your MRA councillors will do all they can to prevent this but, as we saw with the Jolly Boatman decision, we face an uphill struggle now that the Conservatives have an overall majority on the Council.

## GRASS CUTTING

Remember when, last summer, some of the grass verges were two feet tall for want of cutting?

These verges are the responsibility of Surrey County Council and Surrey is negotiating to transfer the cutting to Elmbridge Council.

We hope this comes about, as Elmbridge seem to manage such services so much better than Surrey.

## SCC GRANTS

Ernest Mallett has been busy getting grants for all sorts of organisations, from the Traders' Christmas tree to tents and camping gear for youth organisations and for scout hut roofs.

There are both SCC grants and government grants which Ernest can help you on. Currently, Ernest is about to finalise three more grants for Molesey totalling £6,000 which he expects to be through by the first week of March.

## DANGEROUS JUNCTION

MRA Councillor Mike Axton has continued to press for safety improvements at the dangerous junction of Molesey Road and Walton Road (West Molesey), the scene of a number of serious accidents over the years. A roundabout would be the safest solution.

Surrey CC has refused this, but has finally agreed to install much needed warning signs on the approach to the junction.

## 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.

Many more bulbs have 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 yours on these Boards in return for a donation of £3 upwards. The total of those donations WILL BE DOUBLED BY MRA (up to a total of £400) and passed on to the Marie Curie charity or your own charity.

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 MRA. We will do the rest. Thank You.