

**MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER  
SUMMER 2009**

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



## JUNE ELECTIONS

We are delighted that both MRA candidates were successful in the recent Surrey County Council elections. Ernest Mallett fairly romped home in West Molesey while Nigel Cooper succeeded by a narrow margin in the East Molesey & Esher ward.

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

Many people are confused by the ward arrangements for the different elections. For Elmbridge elections there are three wards in Molesey – East, North and South. For County Council elections the wards are larger so Molesey North and South are combined to make West Molesey – and East ward is combined with Esher to make the East Molesey & Esher ward – a strange arrangement since the two are not physically joined at all. This ward has always been very difficult for us to contest, in view of the large Conservative vote in Esher. However, for this election Molesey Residents Association worked together with Esher Residents Association to put up Nigel Cooper as a joint candidate, and this led to Nigel's success in that ward.

### Vine Hall & Public Toilets

Conservative controlled Elmbridge Council has decided to close some public halls as a way of saving money. In our area Vine Hall is under threat, with the Council proposing to close it if no other organisation can be found to run and maintain it.

MRA Cllrs. Nigel and Elizabeth Cooper have had discussions with interested groups and have now come down to two possible groups who have the necessary finance and expertise to take on the task.

Nigel and Elizabeth are hopeful that a suitable candidate will be found to run Vine Hall, which most Molesey people would hate to lose.

The council is also proposing to close the 'brick built' public toilets in the borough, again to save money.

The council is presently looking for shops or pubs prepared to allow free use of their own facilities to replace the public provision, which the council promise will not be closed until such provision is found.

The MRA regards this as a very retrograde step, since we consider the provision of public toilets to be fundamental to civilised life.

Even if such alternatives are found, will they be open all daytime hours, like the present arrangement?

### Skateboard Park

Elmbridge Council has sufficient funds to provide a skateboard park in Molesey but the problem is - where is it to go?

We would like this facility sited in Molesey to offer youngsters an amenity they would enjoy but finding a suitable site is proving difficult.

The Council say the funds are sufficient to provide the equipment, but not the necessary hard base as well. This has led to only two sites so far being considered – the basketball court at Grovelands in West Molesey, or the hardstanding on the far side of Neilson's Field in East Molesey.

The first site is considered to be too close to houses and the second to be too remote.

Other possible sites are Walton Road Rec (between the road and the children's play area) and behind the swimming pool on the Hurst recreation ground.

Both of these sites would require extra money to provide the necessary base for the equipment.

Our Councillors are now looking at other suppliers who will provide both skateboard park and base within the council budget but in a largely built-up area like Molesey it is difficult to satisfy everyone's requirements.

## ELECTION RESULTS

### SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

#### East Molesey & Esher

Archer, David – (Con)	1742
<b>Cooper, Nigel – (MRA/ERA)</b>	<b>1818</b>
King, Bruce – (Lab)	116
Visram, Sacha – (Lib Dem)	350

#### West Molesey

Drummond, Rita – (Lab)	175
Elmer, Chris – (Con)	531
<b>Mallett, Ernest – (MRA)</b>	<b>2466</b>
Sturgis, Alistair – (Lib. Dem)	270

## ICE

Yes, we know it's summertime!

ICE stands for "In Case of Emergency". The emergency services often come across circumstances where someone is ill or injured, but who have a mobile phone which would allow someone close to them to be called - if only helpers could tell from the phone 'contacts' list who to call.

Please, therefore, put an entry on your mobile phone for ICE, followed by the number you would wish to be called if you were incapacitated.

You could have more than one ICE number (ICE 1, ICE 2, etc.) in case the first number is not answered.

The emergency services can then call your nearest and dearest.

## **Molesey Carnival**

Held on 6th June, the Molesey Carnival provided its usual eye-catching display of floats in the parade and many colourful stalls on Walton Road recreation ground.

Although there was some light rain in the morning, it held off for the afternoon, and a good day was had by all.

MRA ran its usual children's entertainment stall with racetrack for small electric trikes. We don't make any money at this, but it provides some fun for the little ones.

Once again we provided money prizes for the best school float and the runner-up, and provided funds to ensure that the Carnival Princess competition was able to go ahead – without this there would not have been a Carnival Princess!

We were also pleased to see that the huge floats were able to enter the recreation ground without difficulty, resulting from the widening of the entrance posts (part financed by MRA) and the moving back of the entrance kerbs, which MRA County Cllr. Ernest Mallett had 'persuaded' Surrey County Council to do.

## **Dee Dovey**

In consultation with Dee's family we have installed a new clock and plaque in memory of Dee in the main hall of Mole Hall. She was, indeed, a lady who continually worked to benefit Molesey.

Many Molesey people will have known Dee Dovey, perhaps through her nursery school, as Chairman of Governors of Hurst Park School, through her involvement with the Friends of Molesey Hospital or from many of her other activities in support of Molesey organisations.

She was an MRA councillor for fourteen years and was chairman of Mole Hall trustees when Mole Hall was being built. It was in this capacity that she worked tirelessly (with others) to raise money to equip the then new Mole Hall with chairs, tables, stage curtains, etc. and a piano, none of which were being provided with the Hall.

The piano she worked so hard for was transferred by Elmbridge Council as a temporary measure to Weybridge as their piano was unusable.

We now think that it is time it is returned to Molesey, where the money to buy it was raised by coffee mornings, etc.

Representations have been made to Elmbridge Council and hence the Weybridge piano is being repaired and our piano will shortly be returned to where it should be – in Mole Hall.

## **Thameside Molesey**

Many people have bought and enjoyed the 'Book of Molesey' from MRA, which we had reprinted to satisfy the demand for this record of Molesey's past, written by local historian, Roland Baker.

We have also had his second book reprinted which is called 'Thameside Molesey' and this is just as good a read as the first book. It records the many goings-on over the years along Molesey's part of the River Thames, ranging from the burning down of the Hurst Park racecourse grandstand by suffragettes to bare-knuckle fights, duelling, balloon flights and the activities of one Fred Karno in his houseboat!

This interesting book (and the first book) is only £15, the same price as when first published in 1986, and is available from Ernest Mallett, 20, Walton Road, East Molesey or 020-8979-6446

### **5-Year Subs at £15**

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?

## **Footpaths**

MRA County Cllr Ernest Mallett has managed to obtain funding from Surrey County Council for materials to allow us to repair footpaths at Cow Common and between Fleetside and Molesey Heath. This will require some hard work by our committee and local volunteers and we hope to carry out this work during the summer.

Money has also been granted to pay for eight or nine seats to be installed on Molesey Heath and we hope also to plant some fruit trees there to enhance the Heath.

## **News In Brief**

Responsibility for cutting the grass verges in Elmbridge has been passed from Surrey County Council to Elmbridge Council. Let's hope the verges are better cut than last year when some verges got to over two feet high for want of a cut!

The old Woolworth's store in Walton Road, East Molesey is to be taken over by Carpetright. Not a shopper's ideal replacement - but better than an empty shop.

There is some money available for an Arts Event, but an organiser is required – anyone interested?

The provision of school places has been chaotic this year, due to a shortage of available class places.

This has been temporarily solved by the introduction of temporary classrooms at some schools, but this just cannot be a permanent solution. How about re-opening Church Farm School in West Molesey? The site remains unused since the previous building was demolished.

MRA County Councillor Ernest Mallett has again replanted both WW II memorial gardens, the horse trough and small garden opposite the police station. Enjoy the show!

CHIP, the Community Heritage Initiative Project, is intending to assess the Kent Town Conservation Area in the autumn and is asking for interested local people to take part.

This is to produce an appraisal document which defines what is special about the conservation area and can be used to inform decision making and identify potential areas for future enhancement.

If you are interested please ring Mrs Pat Cooper on 01372-474822.