

MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

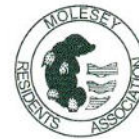
NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2016

www.moleseyresidentsassociation.org.uk

e-mail contact: mjaxton@live.com

Chairman: Nigel Cooper, 24 Southfields, KT8 0DP Tel: 8224 - 0712

Molesey Residents Association Councillors at Elmbridge



**MOLESEY
EAST**

Tony Popham 07970-107937
Ivan Regan 8224-5357
Stuart Selleck 8979- 2466

**MOLESEY
WEST**

Ruby Ahmed 8941-9680
Mike Axton 8979-1502
Vic Eldridge 8979-3905

MRA Councillors at Surrey County Council - Stuart Selleck 8979-2466 & Ernest Mallett 8979-6446

LOCAL ELECTION RESULTS

POLLING STATION

This year's local elections were unusual in that the whole Council had to be elected. This was because the controlling Conservative Group at Elmbridge Council had introduced a move to reduce the number of councillors from 60 to 48.

This meant there had to be fewer, bigger, wards (each with 3 councillors) and the resulting ward boundary changes caused some confusion, with each voter being able to vote for 3 candidates.

Molesey was reduced from three wards to two wards and part of East Molesey had to vote in Thames Ditton.

Molesey Residents Association is pleased to report that all our candidates in Molesey West ward were elected with good majorities.

We were also delighted to regain the two seats in Molesey East that we had lost over previous elections to the Conservatives, so that MRA now holds all 6 Molesey seats.

Those of our supporters who had to vote with Thames Ditton will be pleased to hear that all three Thames Ditton Residents Association candidates were elected with excellent majorities.

The make-up of the Council before the elections was 33 Conservative, 7 Liberal Democrat and 19 Residents Associations councillors and 1 other (60 councillors in all).

The Council now consists of 22 Conservative, 7 Liberal Democrat and 19 Residents Associations councillors, 6 of which are Molesey Residents Association councillors (48 councillors in all).

This means that the Conservatives no longer have an overall majority.

An agreement has now been reached under which the Residents Association councillors will form the new administration at Elmbridge in partnership with the Liberal Democrat councillors.

We are also very pleased to report that MRA Councillor Stuart Selleck was elected as the new Leader of Elmbridge Council at its Annual Meeting on 18 May.

Detailed Molesey election results are shown in the table above and you may be interested to know that David Munro (Conservative) was elected as the new Surrey Police Commissioner.

ELMBRIDGE ELECTION RESULTS

MOLESEY EAST (Turnout 43.9%)

BAX, Steve - Conservative	1159
MARSHALL, Trevor - UKIP	199
OLIVER, Debi - Conservative	888
POPHAM, Tony - Molesey R.A.	<u>1437 ELECTED</u>
REGAN, Ivan - Molesey R.A.	<u>1517 ELECTED</u>
SELLECK, Stuart - Molesey R.A.	<u>1576 ELECTED</u>
SPENCER-BOWDAGE, S - Green	314
SUMNER, Surraya - Labour	314
SZANTO, Peter - Conservative	925

MOLESEY WEST (Turnout 33.9%)

AHMED, Ruby - Molesey R.A.	<u>1481 ELECTED</u>
AJJANE, Jamal - Labour	304
AXTON, Mike - Molesey R.A.	<u>1627 ELECTED</u>
BASSETT, Philippe - Conservative	260
DOXFORD, Richard - Conservative	320
ELDRIDGE, Vic - Molesey R.A.	<u>1583 ELECTED</u>
NAGLE, Paul - Lib. Dem.	189
SPEKTOR, Inna - Conservative	183

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GREEN LANE BRIDGE TO NIELSON'S FIELD – at last!

In our newsletter of Autumn 2013, we reported on the poor state of this bridge which was subsequently inspected by Elmbridge Council and, after an argument about whether it was owned by the Council or the Environment Agency, decided it was unsafe and closed it.

Since then, MRA Councillors Mike Axton and Stuart Selleck have been pushing hard to get it repaired or replaced and re-opened.

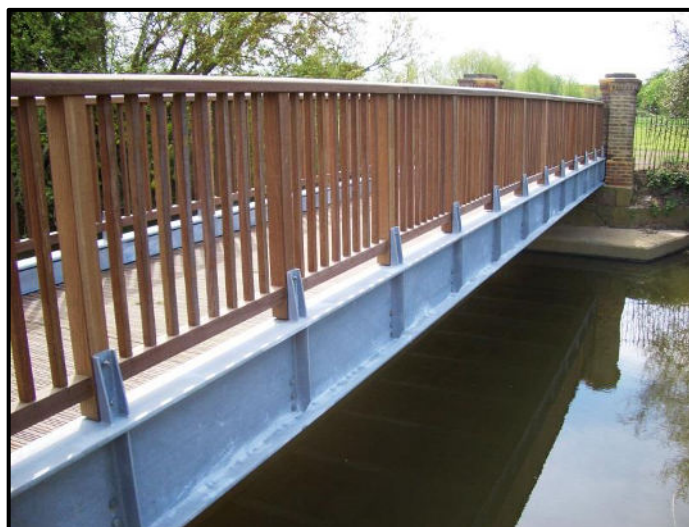
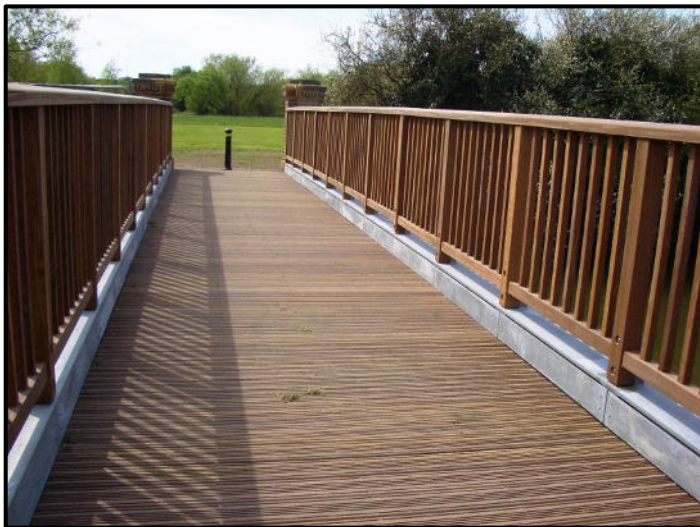
At long last, it has been replaced with a splendid new bridge, see pictures below.

At a hastily arranged unofficial ceremony, the new bridge was 'opened' by Julia Nielson, granddaughter of C Nielson, the original benefactor who gave Nielson's Field to Molesey in 1935.

The ceremony was performed on 6th May, 81 years after the original opening on 6th May 1935 – itself in celebration of the Silver Jubilee of King George V on that day.

Below are pictures of the new bridge, together with a picture of Julia cutting the ribbon on 6th May and a picture taken at the original ceremony on 6th May 1935 - 81 years ago!

More pictures of both ceremonies can be found on our website (address at the top of this newsletter).



PLANNING ISSUES

JOLLY BOATMAN/STATION SITE At the end of 2015 Council Officers had further discussions with the new owners of the site, since when there has been no communication from the developers.

We understand that discussions with Network Rail and South West Trains have progressed very slowly – not least because of the implications of Cross Rail Two. Of course, the present owners could proceed with the existing planning permission, although we consider it not economically viable.

PAVILION SITE MRA Councillors will be meeting with the potential developers as we understand a new application will be forthcoming shortly.

MOLESEY FOOTBALL CLUB We anticipate a new scheme being brought forward which will go out to public consultation shortly.

POLICE STATION An application for 11 flats was withdrawn after consultations with Council Officers.

MOLESEY HOSPITAL

As most readers will be aware, the South Downs Clinical Commissioning Group (SDCCG) has been carrying out a consultation on the future of the five community hospitals under their remit. They have come up with 4 options – two of which close Molesey Hospital!

Molesey Residents Association held a packed public meeting in March at which representatives of the SDCCG explained the options – and were left in no doubt that the audience were 100% against the idea of closing Molesey.

Since then, there have been other meetings with the public, organised by the SDCCG, and in every case that we are aware of the unanimous opinion of attendees has been that Molesey must remain open.

MRA Councillors Mike Axton and Stuart Selleck have also met with SDCCG representatives to raise our concerns over the Glenlyn Medical Centre and to directly press the case for keeping Molesey Hospital open. We have also written on behalf of the Association restating this case.

If the SDCCG consultation really wanted to hear people's opinions there can be no doubt that the answer, loud and clear, is that Molesey Hospital must not be closed.

The consultation period ended on 5th May and we must now wait for a decision.



‘SLUM’ BOATS There has long been a problem with boats mooring illegally (for over 24 hours) on the Molesey Thames riverbank. This has intensified since Richmond & Twickenham Council got a bye-law in place to prevent illegal mooring on their side of the river.

The illegal mooring reached a head when a large boat was moored on the Molesey bank for over a year and made a business of renting out rooms (on the boat).

Peter Parker, Chairman of the Riverside Trust (and previously an MRA councillor), approached the BBC who rented a room on the boat for a night. Hence pictures were

obtained of conditions on the boat – which were the subject of an item on BBC national television news. Since then the owner has been charged and the case will come to court in July.

ELECTRICITY FROM RESERVOIRS?

On another watery theme, Thames Water has had solar panels installed on the surface of the QE2 reservoir. There are over 23,000 panels, mounted on floats, linked together to form rafts which are tethered to the floor of the reservoir. At 57,500 square metres, less than 10% of the reservoir surface is covered.

The peak capacity of the panels is 6.3 megawatts and the whole arrangement is expected to produce 5.8 million kilowatt hours in the first year of operation (about the same as the consumption of 1,800 homes).

The power is transferred by cable to the other side of the Thames for use in the Thames Water treatment works. This seems an excellent way to produce ‘green’ electricity without any unpleasant visual impact.



AIRCRAFT NOISE At a recent briefing meeting, MRA Cllr. Tony Popham asked Heathrow CEO John Holland-Kaye how Molesey would be affected by a third runway at Heathrow. This could produce a 50% increase in air traffic but Tony was told that it was expected that new technology which allows a slightly different trajectory of each flight would serve to mitigate the noise nuisance.

ALLOTMENT VICTORY

On 11th March the Conservative Elmbridge Council, with only two weeks' warning, sent a notice imposing a lease renewal for only 5 years instead of the normal 25 years to the allotment associations of Green Lane and Beauchamp Road allotments as well as others at Claygate, Hinchley Wood and Walton. This would have seriously affected the viability of the allotments and was seen as a threat leading to possible sale of the allotments for building.

MRA Councillor Stuart Selleck, together with Thames Ditton R.A. Councillor Ruth Lyon, raised vigorous protests, after which the administration backed down and agreed that these, and all other allotment associations in the Borough, would now be offered exactly the same 25 year lease renewals as previously.

DAFFODIL APPEAL

Resulting from our Spring Appeal for memorial donations to the Marie Curie charity, over £450 was sent to Marie Curie and £200 to Alzheimer's. Great thanks to all who donated – it was much appreciated by the charities. As promised, memorial boards were erected at prominent places around Molesey – see the picture from the police station green.

Regretfully, however, we are unable to go ahead with our intended 'Molesey in Bloom' event as we did not have enough entrants but hope to run it next year. Interested? – ring Lesley Yauner - 8224-2094.



FLOOD CONTROL PUBLIC MEETING

We are holding a public meeting at St Lawrence School, Church Road, at 8pm on Friday 17th June. Speakers from the Environment Agency will explain the Thames River Bypass schemes, the Weir modifications and the effects of these on Flood Water control. Posters/flyers will be issued in June.

RADNOR/SANDRA HOUSE DEVELOPMENT

The proposals have been passed by Elmbridge Council. MRA councillors obtained some reduction of the densities but at the final meeting on this, the Planning Committee did not agree with the arguments of MRA Cllrs. Vic Eldridge and Stuart Selleck for a further reduction in the mass of the buildings. The problem was that the site was already notated for a significant residential development and the massing of the proposed buildings was similar to three storey and large buildings nearby.

Also, had the Council refused the application, there would have been a risk of losing an Appeal and having large costs levied against the Council for a refusal not fully backed by Housing Policies.



MOLESEY CARNIVAL (4th June) Molesey Residents Association ran our popular entertainment for the little ones (small electric trikes to drive round a marked-out course). We are also glad to have provided cash prizes for the winner and runner-up of the school float competition and to provide cash support toward the cost of the rig-outs for the Carnival Princess and her supporters. We hope everyone enjoyed a great fun day!

DON'T FORGET! Our sister organisation, Hurst Park Residents Association, is holding its 'Midsummer Music at the Marker' event at the Hurst Park riverside on Friday 10th June from 6pm. Everyone is welcome! Many people bring picnics for a pleasant summer evening.

Your Membership is Greatly Appreciated

If you would like to pay direct, please return the tear off slip with £3.00 or £15.00 to any of the following addresses:
20 Walton Road KT8 0DF, 42, Beauchamp Road KT8 2PG or 245, Fleetside KT8 2NL

We will make sure you get a Membership Card *Thank You*

MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP - SUMMER 2016

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