

MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2013
www.moleseyresidentsassociation.org.uk

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

Molesey Residents Association Councillors at Elmbridge

MOLESEY EAST

Nigel Cooper 8224-0712
Elizabeth Cooper 8224-0712
Tony Popham 0797 010 7937

MOLESEY NORTH

Alan Hopkins 8224-1078
Liz Robertson 8979-0035
Stuart Selleck 8979-2466

MOLESEY SOUTH

Mike Axton 8979-1502
Ian Donaldson 8979-9845
Vic Eldridge 8979-3905



MRA Councillors at Surrey County Council - Nigel Cooper 8224-0712 & Ernest Mallett 8979-6446

Remember to make a date to come to our **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** at **MOLE HALL** on **FRIDAY, 22ND MARCH** starting at **8 pm**.

You will be able to hear what your Association has been up to over the last year and have the opportunity to chat with councillors and committee members. And, of course, refreshments will be provided to accompany chats after the official business is over.

Non-members may join at the door for only £3 per household – hardly a fortune!

DAY CENTRE TO MOVE TO MOLE HALL

In our last newsletter we reported that Radnor House in Hansler Grove (owned by Elmbridge Housing Trust) was almost empty and people were concerned about the future of the senior citizens' Day Centre (owned by Elmbridge Council) which is attached to Radnor House.

Things have now become clearer – the Council has decided that the Centre will move to Mole Hall in West Molesey with the existing Centre building being sold to the Housing Trust – this will give the Housing Trust a larger area to redevelop and raise money for the Council. There was virtually no consultation with Molesey Councillors or the public.

The Centre does a very good job for the elderly of Molesey and the Meals on Wheels service is run from their premises – and this is a big operation. Molesey Residents Association is fully behind the Centre and supports, in principle, the move to the Mole Hall site. But we are very concerned about the resulting impact on the community use for which Mole Hall was built in the first place (after many campaigns, money raising and struggles over the years).

The intention is to remove the stage from Mole Hall and partition the resulting larger area to allow the Centre to occupy the bulk of the hall with the community hall use occupying the remaining space.

The proposal is that the partition would be removable when community use of the hall is required.

However, the Centre is in use 5 days a week during daytime hours, meaning that the full hall for community use would probably only be available in the evenings and at weekends.

MRA is concerned that these restrictions would cause community use to fall away and the hall then deemed not financially viable and closed - so our hard fought-for community use hall would be lost!

Our view is that it would be sensible to provide properly for both parties by extending Mole Hall toward Walton Road. Both groups could then have their own facilities, purpose made for them, without both having to live in a compromise situation.

MRA Councillor Ian Donaldson (a professional architect) has drawn up and priced plans for such an extension and the cost would be little more than the proposed partitioning idea – and would be a lot less than the money expected to be raised from the sale of the old Centre.

MRA councillors have urged the Council to consider this carefully and are awaiting a response.

To comment on this, email Cllr. John O'Reilly (Council Leader) at joreilly@elmbridge.gov.uk or Rob Moran (Chief Executive) at rmoran@elmbridge.gov.uk. Or write to them at Elmbridge Borough Council, Civic Centre, High Street, Esher KT10 9SD.



MAGICAL MOLESEY

This bit of pre-Christmas fun was organised by Molesey Business Association, supported by MRA. The pavements were thronged by parents and children enjoying carol singing, free mince pies and mulled wine for parents. There were prizes for children's competitions, face painting and many stalls erected on the 'Woolworths' parade.

A large Christmas tree (erected and lit up by MRA and decorated by Molesey WI) was the centrepiece. MRA also lit up two other trees on the Police Station green and on Central Avenue roundabout to add to the Christmas spirit. We did have difficulties with the Central Avenue tree as the electricity supply turned out to be unreliable.

The picture shows MRA County Councillor Ernest Mallett at the top of the large tree in Walton Road, rigging the lights in time for Magical Molesey and Christmas.



In May Ernest will be standing in West Molesey for re-election to the County Council and Stuart Selleck will be standing in East Molesey.

Stuart Selleck (photo left) lives in East Molesey, has been an MRA Elmbridge councillor for 7 years and is leader of the Residents group on the Council.

We encourage you to support both of them on May 2nd.



HIGHER CAR PARK CHARGES!

It is disappointing that the Conservative administration at Elmbridge has forced through large increases in the charge for using the Walton Road car park – up from 20p to 30p from April, and up again to 50p by 2015, an overall increase of 150% - and their manifesto for Molesey for the May 2012 elections promised to press for the restoration of free car-parking here!

They are even imposing evening charges and Saturday charges!!

These are desperate times for many local residents and businesses, and we believe the Council should be supporting them, rather than imposing additional burdens on them.

On the subject of parking, a number of residents have raised concerns about inconsiderate parking in the roads near the Orchard, St Lawrence and Chandlers Field schools at dropping off and picking up times. We don't really want more yellow lines and other restrictions, so we would ask parents bringing their children to and from school to take particular care when parking near corners and junctions, and to make sure the road is clear before opening doors and pulling back out into the road.



DAFFODIL APPEAL

When this newsletter drops through your letterbox Spring will not be far away. We look forward to daffodils blooming all over Molesey (many planted by MRA) as the sign of approaching better weather. These signs of Spring and regeneration cause many people to think of loved ones no longer with them.

We will be running our usual Springtime appeal whereby anyone wishing to remember their loved ones may make a donation to charity via MRA – and we will double any donations we receive (up to a total of £400).

Please send donations for £3 upwards, in the form of cheques made out to MRA, to Ernest Mallett at 20, Walton Road, East Molesey KT8 0DF and we will do the rest.

Memorial boards will be erected at prominent points around Molesey with the names of the giver and those they wish to remember. Resulting from last year's appeal Marie Curie Cancer Care received £450 and Alzheimers £150.

Thank You!

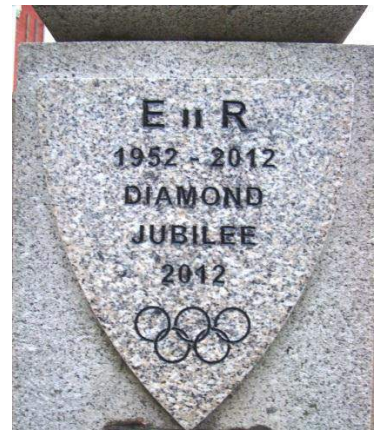


DIAMOND JUBILEE & OLYMPICS YEAR

In our last newsletter you will recall that the MRA committee decided that it was appropriate to commemorate the year 2012 with a plaque on the horse trough at the junction of Wolsey Road and Bridge Road, East Molesey.

The horse trough was originally erected to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1885 and we previously engraved a plaque there for Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee in 2002.

The 2012 Diamond Jubilee and Olympics plaque is now in place for everyone to see. MRA County



Councillor Ernest Mallett arranged a grant from Surrey C.C. to cover the cost of the project.

THE JOLLY BOATMAN AND RAILWAY SITE

MRA councillors are keeping a close eye on the progress of this application.

The developers have to comply with 51 conditions of the 2009 planning consent and were given an additional year due to delays associated with the Judicial Review.

About 20 of the conditions have been approved and the rest must be discharged by this June.

All of these conditions are important but we are particularly concerned with the Travel Plan as this has fundamental implications on the pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular travel in East Molesey. Surrey County Council has a plan to reverse the direction of travel in Bridge Street. During the planning debate these plans were severely criticised and SCC agreed to make a survey including a public consultation but this has not taken place. Our councillors have recently held a meeting with planning officers and a representative of SCC and requested that this condition be deferred.

Since the whole site is a conservation area, the developers have made a conservation application to remove some of the Victorian canopies around the station and we are again most concerned about the effect that this will have. The Hampton Court Rescue Campaign has produced an excellent video about this and we suggest that you view this on their web site at

www.hamptoncourtrescuecampaign.com If clicking on this link does not work you may have to copy and paste it into your browser's address bar.

THE PAVILION SPORTS GROUND

in Hurst Lane, East Molesey.

The High Court has quashed the decision by the Appeals inspector, who upheld the refusal by Elmbridge for houses at The Pavilion site, on a technicality that one part of inspector's statement said the 'Houses would be out of character with the area'. This means that the public enquiry against building on the Sports Ground will have to be re-run at the Council on 26th & 27th March. Your support against this development is needed and you should write to the Planning Inspectorate, 3/09, Kite Wing, Temple Quay House, The Square, Bristol BS1 6PN.

You can say that the protection of the Planning S106 reserved this land for sports use and this has not changed and that it is important to Molesey that this land remains as a green open space. You can attend the new public enquiry and request you be allowed to speak to Ref. K3605/A/11/2156394.

ROAD RESURFACING

Action has been obtained on road resurfacing by MRA Cty.Cllrs Nigel Cooper and Ernest Mallett. We gained a lot of work on Walton Road due to the Olympic road races.

Since then parts of Molesey Road, all of Pemberton Road, and the breaking-up road by St Pauls Church have been completed. Garrick Gardens is in the process and Surrey County Council has promised to complete the long overdue Island Farm Road by early April.

We still have roads such as Boleyn Drive, The Crescent, Berkeley Drive, St.Peter's Road, Molesham Way and Matham Road - all on the priority list.

Ernest and Nigel have now gained a direct annual fund for roads in their areas of some £45,000 each. Typical roads cost £20,000 a time so while the pressure is on, not every prioritised road is going to get done immediately, but it is a continually rolling programme.



SCHOOL PLACES CRISIS

Due to the large increase in birth rate, County are spending £141m to increase Primary School places and will have to follow this with £300m plus spending to do the same for Secondary schools. Quite a lot of this money will be borrowed over 40 years and will appear as part of your Council Tax.

Building a new and replacement HURST PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL is planned for the old Church Farm/John Nightingale site. This is scheduled over the next 3 years and will be double the size of the present Hurst Park School, which is intended to be sold for housing to pay for the new school.



COUNCILLOR GRANTS

Ernest Mallett and Nigel Cooper have been in the fore-front of securing Surrey CC grants for Church Tower repair, Youth Group Duke of Edinburgh Project schemes, Mental Health Counselling, British Legion building refurbishing, Magical Molesey & public Christmas trees, Molesey War Memorial name recording, Molesey History Society photographic project, Church Lectern security, new Remembrance Day leaflets, Billiards & Table Tennis Tables for a Molesey Youth Group, Christmas Outings support for a Molesey Junior Youth Group, Fire Security fitments for Molesey Three Rivers Children's Centre, Molesey Holiday Play Scheme Support, and a new Land Rover for the Lower Mole Working Group.

Funds for 2012/13 are now all spent but contact Ernest & Nigel for grants after May 2nd.

Also note your local MRA Elmbridge councillors have access to minor grants (their names and phone numbers are on the front page of this newsletter).

Also, on www.elmbridge.gov.uk/css/volsecsup you can get details of the general Elmbridge grants or phone the Support Officer on 01372-454549.

We would like to offer Mr Harold Shattock our congratulations on reaching his 90th birthday. Harold was a photographer in the RAF and has been a collector of MRA subscriptions for over 20 years and has no intention of retiring.

We are always in need of collectors so, if you are younger than Harold, you have no excuse! If you can spare a few hours once a year please let us know on 8979-9509.

To all our collectors we would like to thank you for your continued support.

We hope you like the new format of our newsletter. It was thought that the old version could do with sprucing up – and this is the result. It obviously costs more than the old version and we may sometimes revert to that familiar format. Anyway, we hope you like it – let any of the councillors know what you think to guide us in future.



WAR MEMORIAL UPDATE

The Memorial committee, with MRA Cty. Cllr. Ernest Mallett in the chair, is pushing ahead to secure all the names of Molesey's war dead for the 1914-18 & 1939-45 wars to be located on the West Molesey War Memorial site.

Some £15,000 has been raised, including a promise of £2500 from Elmbridge Council. Ernest has completed the necessary drawings and issued the works order to Kingston Masonry.

MRA Cllr. Liz Robertson is preparing the final list of names which will be engraved on two polished grey granite blocks, to go one on either side of the entrance path.

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, 97 Buckingham Gardens KT8 1TN or 57 Pemberton Road KT8 9LG

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



MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP - SPRING 2013

I enclose £15 for 5 years
or £3 for 1 year

Mr./Mrs./Miss/Ms.:

Address

I may be prepared to help with: Collecting Subscriptions ☐ Delivering Newsletters ☐ Election Time Work ☐