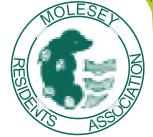
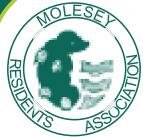


MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2014

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 - Stuart Selleck 8979-2466 & Ernest Mallett 8979-6446

We shall be holding our Annual General Meeting on **Friday, 28th March** at 8pm in **St. Mary's Church Hall** – opposite the church entrance in Bell Road. Make a date and hear what your Association has been doing over the past year. After the official business is over, there will be refreshments to accompany the opportunity for chats with councillors and committee members. Non-members may join at the door – only £3 per household for the year.

RADNOR HOUSE

On the corner of Hansler Grove and Walton Road, this property has been used for many years by Elmbridge Housing Trust to accommodate elderly residents in a sheltered housing scheme.

When Radnor House became empty the Housing Trust submitted a planning application to Elmbridge Council to use up to 8 of the ground floor bedrooms as short term overnight accommodation for the homeless during the coldest months from January to March.

Regrettably no prior consultation took place with local residents or Molesey councillors and many residents living nearby raised significant objections to the Council and to Molesey councillors.

However, there was also significant support for the planning application, particularly from the congregations of two local Churches as well as from other residents. MRA councillors argued in support of the views of local objectors but, nonetheless, the planning application was passed by 7 votes to 2.

The Molesey Churches have organised voluntary help for the charity concerned and aim to do everything they can to assist the homeless occupants to find work and to obtain permanent housing.

At the end of March the Day Centre, which adjoins Radnor House, will have moved to Mole Hall giving potential for development of the total site. We expect the Housing Trust will want to demolish the existing buildings and build accommodation more suitable to its needs.

This would need a new planning application. We'll keep you updated via our newsletters & website.



DAFFODIL APPEAL At this time of year we like to make our usual appeal for funds to support charities (largely Marie Curie). With Spring coming there is a feeling of renewal, represented by the blooming of many daffodils around Molesey (many planted by MRA) which triggers people to remember their departed loved ones. MRA will double any donations made (up to a total of £400) and erect memorial boards at prominent sites around Molesey displaying the name of the giver and those they wish to remember. If you would like to donate please forward your contribution, in the form of a cheque made out to MRA for £3 upwards, to Cllr. Ernest Mallett, 20, Walton Road, East Molesey KT8 0DF. From last year's appeal Marie Curie Cancer Care received £350, Alzheimers £150 and Parkinson's UK £100. Grateful thanks to all who contributed.

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DEEN'S GARAGE

Opposite West Molesey Recreation Ground, Deen's Garage has served the people of Molesey well over the years.

However, when the lease expired, the owners (not the operators of the garage) applied to demolish the building and replace it with a retail premises on the ground floor with two floors of flats above.

There was much opposition to this and the owners subsequently withdrew that application and submitted another application just for the single storey retail store - to be run by Sainsbury's.

At the planning meeting, your MRA councillors opposed the application on two main grounds – the Sainsbury mini-supermarket would decimate the existing shops in the nearby parade opposite St. Peter's church and the wholly inadequate parking facilities would result in cars parking on Walton Road close to a dangerous bend and the road junction with New Road. The application was refused.

The developer then went to appeal and, although our arguments were strongly made at the appeal hearing, to our dismay the Government-appointed Inspector found for the developer. This means the garage will close and the Sainsbury store can be built in its place.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Molesey Residents Association relies on volunteer door-to-door collectors calling on members' houses to collect their annual £3 per household subscription and we urgently need more collectors.

If you could see your way to volunteer to take on collections in one or two roads it would be a great help to the Association.

There is no cold calling – all calls are made on existing members. If you can help, please ring our membership secretary, Lesley Yauner, on 8224 2094 – she will be very pleased to hear from you!

It would further help if members could adopt the method of paying 5 years' worth of subscriptions in one go. Many members already pay this way and it is a great help.

GREEN LANE BRIDGE



Bridging the River Mole from the end of Green Lane to Neilson's Field, this old footbridge was reported in our last newsletter as being in need of repair.

A preliminary inspection suggested it was structurally sound, but a subsequent structural survey obtained by the Council advised that it was no longer safe to use and that it should be closed. The survey also advised that repairing the bridge would not be a viable option and the best course of action would be to replace it.

MRA Cllr. Mike Axton has pressed for the urgent reopening of the access from Green Lane to Neilson's Field but the cost of replacing the bridge will be significant and cannot be met

from the Council's budget for the current financial year. Mike has been assured, however, that a bid for funds will be put forward for the 2014/15 financial year. You can be sure that MRA Councillors will be doing everything possible to ensure this access to Neilson's Field is restored as soon as possible.

ELECTIONS The Euro elections and Elmbridge Council elections are to be held on the same day this year on Thursday, May 22nd 2014.

We hope that, no matter who you vote for in Europe, you will support Molesey by voting for your local non-party political Molesey Residents Association candidates for Elmbridge. Thank You!

MAKE A NOTE! Our sister organisation, Hurst Park Residents Association, will be holding their 'Midsummer Music at the Marker' event at the Hurst Park riverside on Friday 20th June from 6 pm. Everyone is welcome! Many people bring their own picnic for a pleasant summer evening.



MOLESEY WEIR

Our previous newsletter showed the work in progress on Molesey Weir and here you can see the new section of the sluices installed and raised to give the very full Thames a clear run.

The new section is in the raised position because this picture was taken when the river was very high – normally the radial gates would be largely below water and virtually invisible. The new section is similar in design to the system used in the Thames Barrier and was completed at the end of last summer.

The remaining old section will be replaced during this coming summer and the footway over the top will re-open when that work is complete.

You will have seen the circular going around Molesey under this name.

It is nothing to do with Molesey's former own independent newspaper but is a Conservative party-political circular which often seeks to criticise Molesey Residents Association and its councillors.

The Molesey News

The last publication had a lengthy article further 'having a go' at MRA.

It would be very easy to get into a tit-for-tat wrangle with the sole contributor and editor of this sheet but that is not what MRA is about and not what our many supporters would expect us to do. It may be better to explain why we exist.

Nearly 50 years ago, when Molesey came under the then Esher District Council, the public was not allowed to attend council meetings. Molesey residents were hence unaware when there was a plan going through the (Conservative dominated) council to demolish all the houses in Palace, Wolsey and Arnison Roads and replace them with high-rise London overspill housing.

When, at a very late stage, Molesey residents discovered the truth of what was proposed, there was a huge outcry and the plan was eventually dropped – and the area is now a conservation area!

The victorious residents decided that the only way to ensure that in future they knew what was going on and to have a say in council affairs was to put up some of their own for election to the council. They had great success and, in 1965, formed the Molesey Residents Association and the MRA now represents the whole of Molesey at Elmbridge Council and Surrey County Council.

We are nothing to do with any political party and our sole concern is to do our best for what is right for Molesey, which is exactly what we have stood for ever since the MRA was formed.

MAGICAL MOLESEY/CHRISTMAS

The 'Magical Molesey' fun pre-Christmas event was very well attended with the pavements around the 'Woolworth's Parade' thronged with parents and excited children.

Many traders had decorated their shop windows for the Best Window Display competition and opened their shops offering hot wine and mince pies.

There were competitions for children, carol singing and many stalls offering Christmassy gifts.

Then there was the switching on of lights on the large Christmas Tree provided by the Walton Road Traders but erected and lit by Molesey Residents Association.

Elsewhere MRA lit two other Christmas trees to add to the Christmas magic – one on the Police Station green and the other on the Central Avenue roundabout in West Molesey.

We hope you enjoyed the results of our efforts!



RIVERSIDE LAND

We have been advised that Elmbridge Council will shortly be progressing the decision made some time ago to lease part of the land at Graburn Way to Molesey Boat Club to install a rowing tank.

MRA Councillors were assured that as part of this arrangement the Council would improve the public open space by installing upgraded children's play equipment, additional seating and landscaping at the riverfront and your MRA Councillors are in discussions with the Council's officers to make sure this happens.

PUBLIC TOILETS

You may recall that MRA Councillors had to fight hard against plans by the Conservative administration to close our town's public toilets, and that they eventually agreed to put these plans on hold.

Happily we can now report that these unwelcome plans appear to have been dropped altogether, and the administration has agreed to refurbish Molesey's brick-built public conveniences in the Walton Road car park and by West Molesey Recreation Ground. The work is due to start on 10th February, taking about two weeks.



PARKING POLICY & PALACE/WOLSEY ROADS

The policy of the MRA is to have as little change to highway parking arrangements as possible whilst supporting those minor changes necessary for road safety. The number of cars is continually increasing and many roads in Molesey, as elsewhere, are usually well parked up.

Any significant change generally makes for severe problems in other roads by displacement of vehicles to these roads. The only alternative to our policy is to change our semi-rural area into a hard urban area like Kingston – this we do not want.

Some residents have campaigned for timed-only parking in Palace & Wolsey Roads but this would cause serious displacement and does not have overall agreement anyway.

However, the Surrey Parking Officer has agreed that a relatively small change can be made to help shoppers in Bridge Road to find a parking place. Therefore timed or semi-restricted parking will be introduced on the South side of these roads for the 70 metres nearest to Bridge Road.

Palace & Wolsey Roads are in the schedule for resurfacing and in the meantime MRA Cty. Cllr. Stuart Selleck is well aware of the developing pot-holes and has had these put on the list for action.

PC ANDREW DUNCAN MEMORIAL FUND

PC Andrew Duncan, who was tragically killed whilst on duty in September 2013, lived in Molesey all his life. He was actively involved in the community, especially through his dedicated support of the 1st Molesey Scouts. He could often be seen on the Thames sharing his passion for the river and teaching young people to enjoy boating safely.

The PC Andrew Duncan Memorial Fund has been set up to raise money to honour Andrew with a memorial and to help support projects close to his heart in the local community and for the police.

A number of Andrew's family, friends and police colleagues are taking part in the inaugural Hampton Court Half Marathon on 23 February 2014, and Andrew's sister Julia will also be taking part in the London Marathon on 13 April 2014.

To sponsor these events please visit www.btplc.com/mydonate and search for PC Andrew Duncan Memorial Fund.

For more details about the memorial fund please visit www.pcandrewduncanmemoralfund.co.uk

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 42 Beauchamp Road KT8 2PG

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



MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP - SPRING 2014

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