

MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2023

www.moleseyresidentsassociation.org.uk

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Molesey Residents Association Councillors at Elmbridge

**MOLESEY
EAST**

**Peter Pope 07773-765482
Lesley Yauner 07930- 404271**

**MOLESEY
WEST**

**Ruby Ahmed 020-8979-4210
Mike Axton 07763-781933
Tony Popham 07970-107937**

MRA Councillor at Surrey County Council - Ernest Mallett 020-8979-6446

Make a note to come to our **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** which will be held in **VINE HALL, East Molesey on WEDNESDAY, 15th MARCH, starting at 8pm. Everyone Welcome!**

You will be able to hear what your Association has been up to over the last year and, after the official business is over, chat with councillors and committee members.

Non-members may join at the door for only £4 per household - or £15 for a 5-year membership

THE LOWER MOLE FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME

Following input from Molesey Residents Association and residents, the Environment Agency (EA) is aiming to progress this scheme whilst minimising any potential reduction in water levels, keeping the same standard of flood protection and improving and preserving water quality and biodiversity.

The EA has been refining the list of options and preparing for the next stage of the project which will include a re-costing exercise and a re-appraisal of all the options.

Our new membership secretary, Pat Gormley, was informed that these investigations are nearing completion and a report will be prepared in the near future.

The EA intends to relaunch its own website in the Spring this year to share this report and the results of any mitigation works that have taken place. We will let residents know when the website is relaunched. And, in the meantime, the Environment Agency can be contacted with any queries about the scheme at: fasproject.lowermole@environment-agency.gov.uk



Molesey Local History Society holds regular meetings covering a range of topics about our local history. This year's topics include AC Cars, Eel Pie Island, Anne Boleyn, and the history of Tagg's Island.

For more information, see the MLHS website: www.moleseyhistorysociety.org

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YOU WILL NEED A PHOTO ID TO VOTE



The Electoral Commission has decided that everyone will have to produce some form of photo ID when voting at a polling station. This may be in the form of a passport, driving licence, bus pass, blue badge, PASS card or Oyster 60+ card. All these are suitable, even if they are out of date (as long as the photo still looks like you).

If you have none of these, you can obtain an application form to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate from Elmbridge Council (01372 474183/2/1) or apply online at www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate.

In either case you will need a passport-sized photo and be registered on the Electoral Roll. You need to apply before Tuesday, 25th April to be in time for the local elections on May 4th.

AT LAST – A LITTLE BIT OF CHEER!

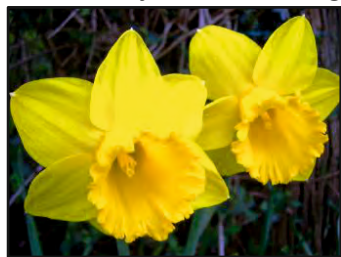
Amongst all the gloom of high inflation, steep energy bills, European wars and changes of Prime Minister, we hope you enjoyed the joyful spectacle of the lighted Christmas trees around Molesey, erected and lighted by MRA County Councillor Ernest Mallett.

There was a lit tree on the Police Station Green which delighted many passers-by and, of course, the big tree by the Music Shop in Walton Road – set up by Ernest in time for the Magical Molesey evening where MRA ran a stall selling children's sweets at only 50p per bag - which didn't last very long! The County Council was persuaded to pay for the tree, new lights and cabling, some £700 in all. St. Paul's Church, via Love Molesey represented by Jane Sachdev, organised the County grant and arranged for Molesey Brownies to make and add the decorations to the tree. Once again, the Fairy Angel on the top of the tree was the one made by Molesey schoolgirl Tabitha. Thanks to everyone who helped.



Unfortunately, the electricity connection for the Central Avenue Roundabout would not work so a tree was not lighted there this year. We aim to install a new electricity pit and put permanent lights in one of the trees, so we can just switch on these lights at Christmas time.

Ernest has also been planting more daffodils around Molesey to enhance the show from previous plantings, come the Spring. Much appreciation must also go to Wendy Guest, Rob Thorn and their Fleetside team, who not only keep Fleetside planted up, complete with small palisades where necessary, but also organise their team of resident volunteers to clean up Molesey Heath and plant



the community garden in Island Farm Road.

We shall be running our Spring Appeal for donations to the Marie Curie charity from people who wish to remember loved ones they have lost and feel that the coming of new life with Spring is a suitable time for a donation. If you wish to donate, please send cash or your cheque (for any amount from £3 upwards), made out to Molesey Residents Association, to 20, Walton Road, East Molesey KT8 0DF together with your name and the name of those to be remembered.. Ernest will erect memorial boards listing those remembered at various sites around Molesey and, of course, the donations will be sent to charity. Last year, from donations received together with MRA's donation, we were able to send £420 to Marie Curie and £100 to Alzheimers. Both charities were very grateful.

WALTON ROAD PLANTERS

You will have noticed the poor condition of the brick planters by the Tesco's/Poundland shopping parade in Walton Road. The problems have arisen because Surrey County Council (SCC) took over responsibility for the planters in September 2021, but have taken no action to replant or tidy them up.

MRA Councillor Mike Axton has been pressing both Surrey and Elmbridge for action on this, and Elmbridge has now said it will arrange for their contractors to carry out a one-off replanting and tidying.

This is welcome news but, going forward, we will need to ensure that SCC does not continue to neglect its responsibilities here.

RIVER THAMES SCHEME

As the latest public consultation on the River Thames Scheme (RTS) has just finished, we believe this is an ideal opportunity to give residents an overview of the Scheme.

The River Thames between Egham and Teddington is the largest area of undefended, developed flood plain in England, which is why the RTS is so crucial.

In 2014, 2003 and in 1947, for residents with long memories, we saw first-hand the devastation flooding had on communities and infrastructure, and why taking action is so important to prevent the same thing happening again.

The RTS will reduce the risk for residents and businesses from the devastating impact of flooding, as well as supporting sustainable travel, increasing green space, biodiversity and creating connections with wildlife.

The scheme will see the creation of new river channels, in two sections, through Runnymede and Spelthorne, totalling over 5 miles (8.5 Km) long. These will act as new flow routes for excess water when water levels on the River Thames rise too high.

To manage flood risk downstream of the channels, where there will be an increasing amount of water flowing through Sunbury, Molesey and Teddington weirs, additional gates will be built at each of the weirs.

At Sunbury, there will be three extra gates built on the lock island. At Molesey, there will be two extra gates replacing the current fixed weir between Ash Island and Hampton Court Road. At Teddington, there will be five new gates built on the lock island. The new gates will only be used during high flows when the channels sections are operating,

Alongside the channels there will be opportunities to create recreational spaces for the community. This could include new foot and cycle paths, play and picnic areas. There will also be new ways to access the river and take part in activities such as fishing, canoeing and boating. This will also improve and create high quality natural habitats (also known as habitat creation areas). This will help to preserve and encourage wildlife in the area.

Following this consultation stage, and in accordance with the Planning Act 2008, there will be a further consultation, focusing on the design proposals for the scheme. This is likely to be in late 2023. After this stage there will be an opportunity to submit written representations or present your views to the Planning Inspectorate.

Cty. Cllr. ERNEST MALLETT writes on HEALTH & G.P.'s

This subject is all in the newspapers and lots of you want to know what MRA councillors are doing about your complaints of slow or non-existent help when you need to see a doctor. Have we taken this up? Yes! The answers we get are not enough trained doctors and not enough funds from government.

Surrey County Council says reorganisation is in hand and in any case, you don't really need to see a G.P. - you can get answers from a robot. I say, 'This is nonsense, what people want is to see a doctor when they have a health problem'.

I am told that I.C.B. and I.C.P are the solutions. You have never heard of this?? Well, currently G.P. surgeries are overseen by a Clinical Commissioning Group, (CCG). Our Molesey one is called Surrey Downs. These CCG's are being pulled into one big outfit known as Surrey Heartlands. These kind of trust bodies are mainly comprised of G.P. doctors.

Now, Surrey Heartlands is being split into two Trust-type bodies: an overall controlling body called Integrated Care Board, (ICB) - mainly comprised of G.P.'s; and an Integrated Care Partnership, (ICP) - consisting of all sorts of Surrey organisations plus representatives from the NHS.

The ICP will act as an advisory body to the ICB and act to represent the voice of the population of Surrey. Continual reorganisation is regrettably the hallmark of the Health services and is one of the reasons why service has degenerated. We can't stop it but hopefully, residents may be able to make enough noise to get the Health and G.P. service back to working like it used to.



YOUR MRA MEMBERSHIP

We hope that you will want to support the Association in looking after Molesey's interests. We are now in a new membership year so, if your membership is not up to date or if, surprisingly, you are not yet a member, you may take out your 2023 membership for only £4 per household for the current year or, to save yourself the job every year, £15 for a five year membership. You can send a cheque or cash to any of the addresses at the bottom of this page or, if it's more convenient, you can pay by bank transfer to Molesey Residents Association at our Santander account **86284805**, sort code **09-01-28**.

If you pay this way, please send an email to mra.subs@gmail.com confirming your name and address so that we are sure who sent us the money! If you can manage to pay for five years, it will reduce our administration load. We will ensure that you receive a membership card/receipt. Thank You!

HURST PARK HERITAGE MARKER

The Heritage Marker at Hurst Park, near the Hampton Ferry crossing, commemorates historical events which have taken place around there over the centuries. The Marker was organised back in 2002 by the Hurst Park Residents Association (HPRA) and paid for (at a cost of £60,000) by many

small donations from local residents. Over the past 20 years it has been subject to wear and tear and is in need of some refurbishment.

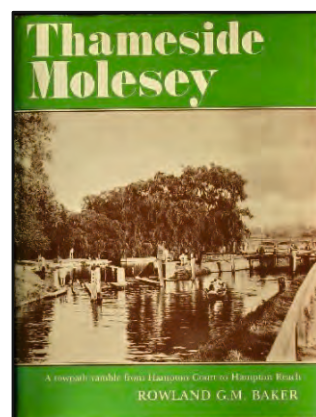
HPRA has been pressing for some time for Elmbridge Council to take on this work, since the ownership of the Marker was handed over to the Council in 2004, but to date they have been reluctant to accept that this is a Council responsibility.

The HPRA therefore sought alternative funds and applied for a grant from the Council's local Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). However, although the Molesey CIL Board agreed that refurbishment of the Marker was a very worthwhile project, the limited funding available meant that only

about half of the project cost could be awarded, which meant HPRA would have to find the rest.

Following these developments, MRA Councillor Mike Axton pressed senior officers at Elmbridge Council further on why they were not maintaining the Marker in the same way as they maintain other Council assets such as children's playgrounds and he confronted them with evidence, provided by the HPRA, of the transfer of ownership. The upshot is that they have now belatedly acknowledged that the Council does have ownership and responsibility for the Marker. They have subsequently inspected the Marker and have confirmed that they will submit a bid to fund further refurbishment of the Marker in next year's Council budget. This will have the support of all Molesey Councillors, and we will press hard to ensure that this is approved.

The Hurst Park riverside has an interesting history, dating from very early cricket matches, even earlier balloon flights, duelling, bare knuckle fighting and the events at Fred Karno's Karsino to the burning down of the Royal Box in the Hurst Park racecourse grandstand by the Suffragettes. If you are interested in these happenings by the Molesey riverside, you can buy a reprint of Roland Baker's book 'Thameside Molesey' which covers it all, for only £15 – which is less than it first sold for in 1989. Ring 020-8979-6446 to obtain a copy.



Your Membership is Greatly Appreciated

If you would like to pay direct, please return the tear off slip with £4.00 or £15.00 to one of the following addresses:-
20 Walton Road KT8 0DF or 7 Mole Abbey Gardens KT8 1QD (off New Road)

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



MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP - SPRING 2023

I enclose £15 for 5 years or £4 for 1 year Mr./Mrs./Miss/Ms.:

Address Email (For our use only)

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