

# Mottingham Residents Association Newsletter – Summer 2018



Welcome to our summer newsletter.

This is intended as a means of distributing information and matters of interest to members. Much of our information distribution is now via the website ([www.yourMRA.org](http://www.yourMRA.org)), but we acknowledge that a number of us may not have computer access.

It has also been recognised by the Committee that the wider membership may not have any information or feedback from the April AGM until they see the minutes 12 months later. Hence a précis of the AGM now appears on the website and also below.

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## **REPORT OF THE 86th AGM OF THE MRA** – Wednesday 25th April 2018

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

#### **Cllr Charles Rideout**

The Chairman (Liz Keable deputising for Chairman & Deputy) opened her report with a special note of thanks to **Cllr Charles Rideout** who has decided not to stand for re-election this year. Cllr Rideout has been an unstinting supporter of Mottingham since 2001 when he was actively involved in the successful fight to save Dorset Rd School. He has been a great supporter of the Library both actively and behind the scenes and the fact we still have a library is largely down to his assistance. He was heavily involved in the original fight to save the Porcupine and has fought hard for improvements to the Kimmeridge Road area of Mottingham, supported Community Policing and provided unsung help to a number of individual residents over the years. Those present responded with a strong round of applause.

#### **Porcupine**

The Chairman gave a brief summary of the background to the fight for the Porcupine. There had been a somewhat disappointing number of responses to the recent survey requesting guidance as to how the MRA should proceed. Votes were split roughly 50/50 between fighting any future planning application by Lidl and working with them to develop the site. The poor response was probably unrepresentative. Statements from the floor reflected a similar dichotomy of views.

#### **Library**

The transfer of the Library to Greenwich Leisure was welcome, and we hope to be working with them to expand facilities further. Thanks were also offered to the Festive Lights Committee for the ever improving display. Some of the infrastructure may need replacing this year so we will be making another appeal for funding. An appeal for new members to help the FLC was also made.

#### **Planning**

Residents were also reminded that changes to the planning regulations included permission for higher density housing including HMOs (Houses of Multiple Occupation) and the easing of restrictions on the development of Metropolitan Open Land which is likely to have an increasing impact on the area.

### **Schools**

An update of the proposal for a new school in Mottingham noted the expansion of Bullers Wood and other schools in Bromley but nothing in the area of Mottingham. In answer to a question from the floor it was noted that the expected shortfall of spaces varies between 60 and 140 places in the coming years, depending on how it is measured. It was again emphasised that the site of any new school is entirely up to the DFE.

The Chairman concluded by drawing attention to the Bromley and Lewisham Credit Union offering and asking residents to consider joining the MRA Executive Committee.

### **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Lesley Robins expressed gratitude to the Road Stewards and representatives without whom we would not be able to provide the coverage that we do. There are over 2000 homes covered by the Association about 900 of which are members of the MRA. We continue to have difficulty accessing certain blocks of flats such as the 'Everest expedition' flats. An appeal was made for more Road Representatives especially from people within these buildings. Particular thanks were given to **Margaret Henderson** who had decided to cede her responsibilities after some 20 years of service. Although Margaret was unable to attend the meeting, the Membership Secretary will be delivering some flowers to her as token of our gratitude. This was supported with a round of applause.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Audited accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March were presented and showed an income of £2565 for the year although this included £198 of previous year's subscription. Membership is down by 37 on the previous year. Tight expenditure controls resulted in a surplus for the year of £1294 taking total retained funds to £15,078.

Annual Subscriptions to remain at £2.50 and the Festive Lights to be supported to the sum of £500 each year.

The Treasurer joined the Membership Secretary in thanking the Section Leaders and Road Reps. for submitting the road sheets and subscriptions and for all their efforts on collecting, often needing several attempts to catch people in.

The Treasurer thanked Bernie Hawes who audited the accounts so promptly to ensure their availability for the meeting.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS**

#### **CHAIRMAN**

**Laurie Bell**

#### **DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

**Richard Mainwaring-Burton**

#### **TREASURER**

**Laurie Bell**

#### **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

**Lesley Robins**

#### **SECRETARY**

**Robert Blanks**

#### **AUDITOR**

**Mr Bernie Hawes**

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Margaret Henderson, after 10 years on the Committee had decided not to stand again this year. The Chairman thanked Margaret for her support on the Committee to those expressed for her role as road Steward and representative.

**MEMBERS :****Sally Bettesworth****Edmund Cavendish****Jane Cornish****Liz Keable****Rebecca Young****New Committee members are always welcome.****ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

A question was asked about action relating to noisy motorbikes around the village. In response the Secretary pointed out that the Police had difficulty identifying the culprits and they were not allowed to chase them whether or not they were wearing safety helmets. He made an appeal for anyone who knew who the culprits to get in touch. It was also noted that West Park was occasionally used as a test track for repaired noisy motorcycles. The Chairman agreed to speak to the repairs manager.

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

Following a break for refreshments the Chairman introduced Mr David Sleep who is a volunteer at Eltham Palace. Mr Sleep gave a very enthusiastic talk on the history of Eltham Palace which is traceable back to the Doomsday Book of 1086 although the current building was started in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. Prince John was born there in 1316 and Henry VIII spent most of his childhood at the palace. It was largely destroyed in the English Civil War in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. It is now one of the most frequently visited Palaces outside of central London

The meeting thanked Mr Sleep for a very entertaining talk.

**Topics currently being discussed by the MRA Committee**

- Traffic in West Hallowes
  - Greenwich Council are looking at the problem and going to gather traffic flow data.
  - Traffic being directed down West Hallowes by some SatNav devices.
  - Representatives have spoken at Greenwich Council Meeting.
- Bromley Police Deficiencies
- Mottingham Hall Nursery woodland activities
  - Activities involving pruning and felling trees are being monitored by Council official.
- New Plaque for the Festival Bench on Foxes Field acquired by MRA Committee
- Additional Names to be added to the War Memorial
- Porcupine Development
  - Lidl have sponsored a traffic survey in Mottingham Road.
  - Intending to submit a new planning application in June/July.
  - MRA surveyed membership – will monitor planning process..

**Topics being discussed 45 years ago**

One of the features on the website is the 'About Mottingham' – 'History' page with links to Newsletters dating back to 1972. It might interest readers to see what the Committee was discussing 45 years ago.

- President was Mr D.L.Porter of 23, Grove Park Road.
- Chairman was Mr F.D.Carter-Smith of 2, West Park.
- Name Change : 'Ratepayers' to be dropped leaving "The Mottingham Residents' Association"
- Annual membership to remain at 15p

**News**

- Redeveloped War Memorial roundabout now accident-free.
- Vandalism on King George V Recreation Ground.
- GLC and Bromley council still battling over Geffrye Homes site.
- Motor cycle training courses available in Greenwich Borough.
  - Could be useful for today's youth ? Ed.
- Unsightly barrier erected to prevent car parking on the pavement outside the Porcupine.
  - How does this compare with the dreadful blue hoarding ? Ed.
- Closure of Casualty Wards at Farnborough & Beckenham Hospitals.
- "Are you a good Neighbour ?" – Suggestions to look out for elderly and infirm neighbours.
- Motorways : Instead of a motorway across Blackheath, the Layfield Panel of Enquiry proposed a motorway tunnel link from Hither Green, through Deptford, to join with the East Cross route under construction north of the Blackwall tunnel. However, the labour party had just been elected to power at the G.L.C. proposing to drop all motorway proposals.

**The Mottingham Horticultural Society's Autumn Show – Sat. August 25<sup>th</sup>**

will be held once again from 2:30 pm in King George's Hall at Eltham College, with tea and cakes available in good company all afternoon, and the Mottingham Concert Band adding to the relaxed atmosphere.

Anyone can enter exhibits the categories for flowers, pot plants, fruit, vegetables, cakes, bread, jam, photographs, embroidery, painting, flower arrangements. . . . .

If you have never entered an exhibit before, why not have a go ? Even if it's only one photograph or one flower this time. The entry fee is just 20p.

Of course there are prizes for each category and also silver cups for the champions.

Show schedules and entry forms will be available at the library, from MHS officers, at Mottingham Floral Arrangement Society or on the MRA website ([www.yourMRA.org](http://www.yourMRA.org) )

Award presentations at 4:30 pm

On such a wonderful occasion, come together and celebrate our community.

