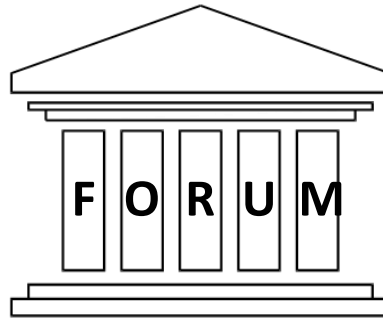


Merton Park Ward Residents' Association

for the residents of: Morden | Merton Park | Wimbledon Chase

Spring 2025

Issue 74



Daffodils planted by volunteers in the Tranquil Corner of Mostyn Gardens

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Letter from the Chair:

As we welcome the longer, brighter days of Spring, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the vibrant community that makes Merton Park such a wonderful place to live. With our local parks in full bloom and with the arrival of warmer weather, we are reminded of the warmth of spirit that defines our neighbourhood. It's always a pleasure to see our streets come alive with the energy of families, friends, and neighbours, enjoying the outdoors and connecting with one another.

This year marks a special milestone for our borough – the 60th anniversary of the London Borough of Merton. To celebrate this occasion, a series of events and activities have been planned across the borough throughout April and early May, culminating with the We Are Merton festival in Morden Park. These events will be a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the history of the borough, while also looking forward to future opportunities. I encourage you all to take part in the festivities.

Our councillors continue to work tirelessly to address your concerns and ensure that Merton Park remains a beautiful and safe space for all. As always, we are here to listen to your views and work together to make Merton Park an even better place to live. If you have any suggestions or would like to get more involved, please don't hesitate to reach out. Your voice matters, and it's through our collective efforts that we continue to build a lovelier, more connected neighbourhood.



Mariam Ali-Putnergill — Chair: tel/text: 07563 913587 / email: m.aliputnergill@gmail.com

Contact your local *Independent Ward Councillors* (pictured left - right)

Clr. Edward Foley edward.foley@merton.gov.uk / 020 8542 5824

Clr. Stephen Mercer stephen.mercer@merton.gov.uk / 020 8543 2143



Looking after our ward - Edward Foley

Fix My Street - we all cherish our neighbourhood, but maintaining its cleanliness and safety requires a collective effort. We encourage you to use the Fix My Street app to report local issues such as litter, overflowing bins, graffiti, and other concerns. You can easily log problems on your smartphone or computer, ensuring they are promptly addressed by the council. This tool empowers us to keep our streets clean, our parks pristine, and our community welcoming for everyone. If an issue has been reported but not dealt with, you can also follow it up through the app. It's also a quick and effective way to deal with fly-tipping - pinpoint the exact location via the app, add a photo, and send the report directly to the council and mobile units. If they are nearby, the problem can sometimes be resolved without delay.

**TIRED OF POTHOLES
DOG POOP VANDALISM
BROKEN STREET LIGHTING
FLY-TIPPING LOOSE PAVING?**

REPORT THEM TO THE COUNCIL WITH
 **FixMyStreet.com** by mySociety

For parks and green spaces this does not work currently. While a solution is being sought the most common issues can be reported on the Merton Council website and will get submitted straight to the relevant Idverde team: <https://www.merton.gov.uk/leisure-recreation-and-culture/parks-and-open-spaces/parks-and-recreation-grounds/maintenance-and-litter> (if you lose this link just search for "merton council parks report") This can be used for: *abandoned vehicles, benches and seating, bins, drug paraphernalia, fencing, fly-posting, fly-tipping, gates, graffiti, grass cutting, Japanese knotweed and other invasive plants, untidy leaves, lights, litter, play equipment, trees, vandalism.*

Please do use these routes to report any issues as it by far the quickest way to resolve an issue and, more importantly, gives you a reference number that we can follow up if it is not fixed.

Heart shaped Covid memorial flower bed in John Innes Park



Abandoned e-bikes outside John Innes Park, Mostyn Road

Dockless hire bikes - while convenient these have become a nuisance in our community. Scattered bikes block pavements, driveways, and garages and create obstacles for pedestrians and residents. Although the council is introducing dedicated parking bays, the success of this initiative hinges on rider responsibility. Unfortunately, without conscientious use, these measures may fall short. We urge residents to report improperly parked bikes to companies like Lime or Forest using their smartphones. Prompt reporting can help ensure these bikes are moved or collected, reducing inconvenience and maintaining the accessibility of our public spaces.

Covid memorial John Innes Park - In a touching tribute to mark the first Covid-19 Day of Reflection, a heart-shaped bed of flowers has been planted in front of the benches by the Mostyn Road entrance. This beautiful display serves as a poignant reminder of the pandemic and its profound impact on our communities. The carefully chosen design symbolizes love, resilience, and the collective strength we have shown during these challenging times. It offers a serene space for reflection, allowing visitors to remember those we have lost and to appreciate the efforts of everyone who helped us through the pandemic



Merton Council's 60th Anniversary Celebrations -

This April, Merton Council proudly celebrates its 60th anniversary since three boroughs merged to become one. One of the events planned to mark this special occasion is a vibrant celebration to be held on Saturday, 26th April at Abbotsbury Road, Morden, featuring a lively 60s theme. The afternoon will be filled with music, dancing, and

nostalgic fun as we commemorate six decades of Merton working with the community. It promises to be a fantastic opportunity to connect with neighbours, enjoy themed activities, and reflect on some of the council's achievements over the years. Stay tuned for more details and make sure to mark this important date in your calendar.



Merton Council celebrates its 60th Anniversary this year

Increasing Convenience - Stephen Mercer

Toilets- Immediately after our last edition of Forum, I was heavily involved in activity in support of World Toilet Day on 19th November. The whole country has problems with its toilet provision and many people are interested in what we learnt in Merton when Peter Southgate and I prepared our report and proposals in 2023. One of our recommendations was the relaunch of the Community Toilet Scheme and the relevant officer is now in place and driving that: evidence of greater information and provision should be visible over the next few months. Another key point in our report was the call for toilet provision at Morden station and TfL finally agreed last November that this terminus should be a priority. I am pleased to report that in the last few weeks the Mayor's office has further indicated that 'Enabling work is underway to install new toilet facilities at Morden station. Transport for London expect work to be completed and the toilet to be open to customers in autumn this year.'

The access road for the Peel House/Sainsburys car park - this has been a problem ever since the Lockdown, with poor parking blocking the road and fly tippers regularly unloading on the side of the road. I spent some time clarifying the position and

can confirm that the road belongs to TfL. I have recently been informed that TfL have agreed to regulate the parking from April – watch this space! The fly tipping issue has not yet been resolved. Because TfL reports to the London Mayor and Assembly, Leonie Cooper (National Assembly representative for Merton) is our best contact point and we continue to ask her for help.

Street trees - Ed and I appreciate the importance of the street trees to our local residents, particularly if the trees disappear for no apparent reason or, at the other extreme, suddenly appear without warning. We support the council's efforts to increase the number of new trees, particularly when so many have been lost to disease etc. but we are also pushing for improved two-way communication; the trees that line the streets of Merton Park are part of what makes it special.

Special Ward Funds - I was glad we have been able to support volunteers by providing financial support for the work they do in the local parks and for daffodil planting. At this time of year it is great to see such a great display along the verges – thank you to so many residents for your efforts.

Merton has recently been voted one of the best places to live!

A survey undertaken by the Sunday Times and published in January 2025 stated that Merton had been voted the 4th best place to live in Britain behind (in order) Richmond, Cheltenham and Stroud. The survey was based on a number of factors including crime rates, NHS measures, education (Ofsted reports) green heritage sites, listed buildings, house prices and green spaces (the Green Flag Award). This will come as little surprise to those who live in Merton Park Ward where we benefit from all this, especially from excellent primary and secondary schools and wonderful public green spaces. As a small ward we do not contain large commons or parks but the three smaller parks we have are very diverse, offering something for all residents. Idverde look after day to day maintenance of the parks but valuable work to support these efforts is undertaken by the volunteer "Friends" groups" with some small financial assistance from the John Innes Society and from the Ward Allocation Fund. As a result John Innes Park, once again, received the prestigious Green Flag Award in January 2025, an honour it first earned in 2008 and that it earned every year (or almost every year) since.

The visual attractiveness of our ward will, in due course, be enhanced by the newly planted trees and it is pleasing to see that some residents have planted crocus and tulip bulbs alongside the daffodils. In the drier weather please help by watering the young trees using the plastic tubes where provided and/or by pouring water around their trunks.



In addition to the memorial flower bed in John Innes Park there is another Covid memorial in Kendor Gardens in the form of wooden planters. This was funded largely by an anonymous donation from a local resident in memory of their father, who died of Covid. The boxes were built, and final touches paid for, by a group of volunteers and this too, is intended to act as a place for quiet contemplation. Two benches are situated nearby to face the planters and the raised boxes provide an opportunity for less able volunteer gardeners to participate.

Covid memorial planter boxes in Kendor Gardens

Pauline Lightfoot - Editor

Footnote: residents may have noticed that the new zebra crossing on Martin Way next to South Merton station is now fully functioning and should make crossing the road here much safer.

Join us at Our Future Meetings - All Welcome

Tuesday 6th May

Speaker - Azra Mukadam, Morden Town Centre Manager will talk about his role.

Tuesday 3rd June

Speaker - Alexandra Thomas, Manager CDARS will talk about mental health and wellbeing.

Tuesday 1st July AGM

Meetings held at Merton Park Primary School (Erridge Road) at 8.00 pm

Speakers will be followed by Councillors' Reports and Q&A and tea and coffee

No meeting in August

Please see posters and our website for more information, including the minutes of our recent meetings.

MPWRA Officers

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Vice Chairman: David Merriman
Secretary: Christine Stutt 020 8543 6843
Treasurer: Fred Rayner

MPWRA Committee

Neaz Ahmed
Bryan Anderson
Greg Bryant
Hubert Child

Ian Garbett
Ingrid Holtz
Stephen Johnson
Pauline Lightfoot

Jolanta Novak
Peter Southgate
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