

MALDEN & COOMBE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2021

MCRA

Malden & Coombe
Residents' Association Limited

Estate News

September marks the start of a new MCRA year, with the distribution of windscreen permits and planning for the AGM in October

Dear Member

We hope you enjoyed the summer break and some much needed (but elusive) sunshine. Although we enjoyed a staycation or two, MCRA had an extremely busy few months as our work spanned a number of crucial areas - we hope members have noticed some of the improvements we've made on the Estate.

AGM

MCRA's Annual General Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 13th October at 7.30pm**. This year, we intend to meet in person, and we are very grateful to the owners of Warren House for allowing us to use their beautiful facilities for our gathering. Residents will shortly be receiving further information via email and all documents will be posted on www.mcrald.com. We very much hope to see as many Association members as possible.

Barriers & Gatekeepers

In the June issue, we explained the many problems that had been plaguing the barrier at Coombe Lane West over the past year. We're delighted to be able to say that one of our Directors, Paul Coia, spent several weeks investigating the issues with various electricians and, subsequently, MCRA has contracted a new company, Gate-A-Mation, to maintain the barriers. Gate-A-Mation's electricians replaced faulty parts, installed new barrier arms and laser sensor technology, and updated the barriers with "stop & go" safety lighting to prevent accidents caused by tailgating.

While we welcomed two new recruits to the Gatekeeping team in April, sadly Lawford Hoffman resigned in June following a family bereavement which required him to be overseas for some time. In September, we welcomed Douglas Burns to the team, covering the ever busy 3pm-6pm shift. An experienced boxer, Douglas has previously worked with Royal Mail and Sterling Pools Construction Services. We hope you have had a chance to chat with him during the afternoons.

It is with a great deal of sadness, however, that we are to say farewell to our long serving Gatekeeper, Barry Rouse. Barry decided to stand down at the end of October after more than 10 years of managing the barriers and leading the team. We are incredibly grateful for his exemplary service on behalf of residents

and for all his help and guidance over the years. We wish him all the very best and look forward to welcoming him back whenever he visits the Estate in the future.

Estate Permits & Parking

In August, we hand delivered 99% of the new 2021-22 permits to households to reduce the possibility of stickers being lost in the post. We introduced a green Golf permit for both Coombe Wood and Coombe Hill Golf Clubs as well as a “School Run Only” sticker in an attempt to curtail the unauthorised parking on the Estate – particularly in Warren Road by Kingston Hill - by some parents or guardians outside school drop-off and collection hours.

Furthermore, after several months of requests and meetings, we were informed in September of RBK’s intention to paint double yellow lines in Warren Road to stop drivers parking near Kingston Hill and accessing Richmond Park. Residents will be aware of the Royal Parks’ new car park charges, and we have continually pressed RBK to act. We await a date but feel there is now at least some hope for residents who are unfairly affected in that area.

We would also like to thank residents for their patience during the three-day filming on The Drive of the upcoming production, Man vs Bee, which we understand will be on Netflix in the coming months. The production company made a contribution towards the maintenance and upkeep of the roads where trucks and lorries were parked for the filming period.

Polite Request

A few residents have approached us about the issue of noise from third party contractors, in particular, the use of petrol leaf blowers and mowers over weekends. We know the vast majority of residents on the Estate are very considerate of their neighbours, however, if guidance is required, in the government’s commercial guidelines on noise, outdoor equipment, including leaf blowers, should be used at these times: *“8am to 6pm Monday to Friday, 8am to 1pm Saturday and no noisy works on Sundays and Bank Holidays.”*

Reporting Estate Issues to RBK

A reminder to members that RBK runs an online central council service. Called **i-need**, residents can report several issues such as fly tipping, litter and abandoned vehicles. Also on the council website, is the **Public and Environmental Issues** page, where it is possible to report problems with street cleaning, vegetation, pavement & road defects and street lighting. Whilst MCRA always reports and follows up on issues with the Council, the more of us that use the central service, the quicker we can expect issues to be resolved. These are the links for the online services: www.kingston.gov.uk/i-need and www.kingston.gov.uk/environment

Crime Survey

We have been invited to participate in a survey about crime in the area sent by Coombe Hill Ward Police. The link was emailed to members earlier this month and feedback will be taken until **September 30th** when the survey closes. Here is the link once again: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/CoombeHillWard/>

Police Contact Details

Contact details for our local police team are as follows:

Telephone: 07810 815660

Team email: CoombeHill@Met.Police.uk

Direct email: Simon.Stamp@met.police.uk

The Watergardens Autumn Open Day

The autumn Open Day at The Watergardens will take place on Sunday 17th October from 1.30pm-4.00pm. We are told that visitors will see the hard work of gardeners and tree surgeons who, this summer, have transformed the views of the top pond. Over decades, the area was badly overgrown because of self-seeded trees and huge rhododendron ponticum – in fact, the island in the pond could hardly be seen at all. Work is continuing on the banks with a plan to plant lower-growing azaleas to provide colour but not impede the views as they mature. Everyone at The Watergardens is grateful for the vision and hard work of the gardeners, especially head gardener, Mark Iles, who is bringing about the transformation.

Coombe Wood Golf Club Offer

A reminder that Coombe Wood Golf Club is currently offering MCRA a social membership to the club for the upcoming year. Please do get in touch with General Manager, Nick McArthur, directly for further details: 0208 942 0388 or nick@coombewoodgolf.com

Resident Communications: Website & Twitter

All MCRA news and information is available on our website www.mcraltd.com and we regularly post updates and share local news on our Twitter feed, @Mcraoffice. Whilst we continue to send out emails and the occasional piece of post, please do remember that the website is your one-stop-shop for all MCRA news.

MCRA Annual Contribution 2021/22

We extend our sincere thanks to those residents who have already paid the Annual Contribution. Over half of the households and 70% of the schools and businesses contributed within the first month and we are immensely grateful for your continued support. Payment details can be found on the next page.

As members will be aware, we rely entirely on residents making this relatively small payment to fund MCRA's work. While the Committee members give their considerable time voluntarily, we need to employ a secretary, who is paid on an hourly basis. The secretary is responsible for answering numerous queries and complaints, chasing RBK to get matters attended to, arranging the printing and distribution of your annual permits, developing and maintaining the website, social media and database, dealing with the barrier and managing gatekeeper matters and many other tasks. If residents do not contribute, MCRA will ultimately fold and the quality of life on our Estate will inevitably decline.

Finally, we would like to invite residents who might be interested in becoming more involved in our Association to contact us. We are a friendly bunch, always keen to hear residents' views and feedback and would like as many of our roads as possible represented on the Committee. Please do contact the Secretary if you would like further information on the work we do: office.mcra@gmail.com

We thank you again for your continued support.



Dr. Judy Kane & Rupert Cox, Co-Chairs, MCRA

TO MAKE YOUR £40 ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION FOR 2021/22:

- Please send a cheque made payable to **MCRA LTD** and post to Secretary, 30 Matlock Way, KT3 3AY
- To pay by BACS or Standing Order, please use Barclays sort code: 20-46-73, account no. 80617032 and account name: Malden & Coombe Residents' Association Ltd.

Please email confirmation of BACS transfer together with your name and property number/name to office.mcra@gmail.com

Thank you for your contribution!

Want to get involved?

Please don't hesitate to get in touch:

office.mcra@gmail.com or via Twitter [@McraOffice](https://twitter.com/McraOffice)