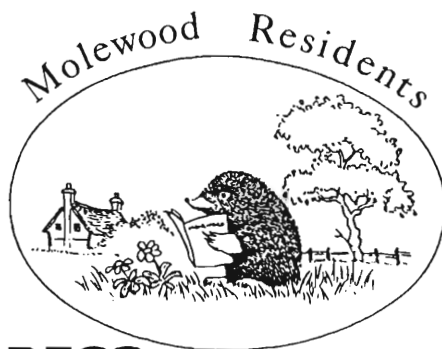
The background of the entire page is a collage of various flowers. At the top right, there are two large pink roses. To their left, there are several bright red carnations. Below the carnations, there are purple bellflowers. In the bottom left, there is a large orange poppy. In the bottom right, there are several white poppy seed pods. In the center, there are clusters of small red flowers. On the right side, there is a single, large, spiky, light-colored flower head. The title 'Molarwood Outlook' is written in a white, elegant script font across the top half of the collage.

Molarwood Outlook

Summer 2004

COMMITTEE



MEMBERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>TEL.NO.</u>
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CHAIRMAN

Ken. Lupton	23, Desborough Close	306723
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TREASURER

David Bishop	24, Cowper Crescent	423696
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EDITOR

Allan Streeton	22, Cowper Crescent	423682
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Pam. Lutner	107, Cowper Crescent	581329
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Joan Murrell	38, Cowper Crescent	587595
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Marie Archer	55, The Wick	581965
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Geoff Clark	17, The Avenue	552913
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Helen Graham	31, The Avenue	558168
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Kevin Beadle	24, Desborough Close	551431
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Dennis Goodrum	43, The Avenue	422492
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Kate Taylor	22, The Drive	583798
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A WARM WELCOME

to all Molewood residents, especially any newcomers to this Estate !

The hazy, lazy days of summer are with us once more: with the aroma of BBQ's filling the evening air, children playing outside and our eyes being dazzled by shades of every hue of residents' flowers, like the examples of lovingly created efforts on the front cover, proving once again that we on this estate are justly proud of our gardens! (more on that later)

The summer is over half over (or is the glass still half full ?) and unlike 2003 the first half of '04 summer has seen some wonderful med-style weather.

'Henmania' is but a faded memory and the Euro-soccer St. George flags furled with telly screens back with their boring summer programmes !

WE are back again with the only Posh/Bec- free reading matter which you can enjoy whilst basking in the tropical sun.

(On second thoughts.....!)

////////////////////////////////////

A. G. M.

The 39th. AGM TOOK PLACE AT 8 PM on Wednesday 19 th. May 2004 at BENGEO SCHOOL when we welcomed a larger than normal turn out of supporters, although we are aware that overwhelming support is usually evident only when something occurs which threatens the quality of residents' every day lives, especially where their properties are concerned !

We had also hoped a few Councillors would come along and support the meeting but we are grateful to SALLY NEWTON for her presence and answering questions from residents on grass cutting. Councillor Newton said that the Council sub-contractors were only supposed to cut the lawns twice in every season.

The frequency of cuts has certainly improved from a year or two ago and have been recently carried out immediately following a resident's 'phone complaint.(When, we wonder, are the Council going to remove the ugly stump of the tree blown down by storms in The Wick and now sprouting new shoots ?)

Thanks were expressed to Ann of the ' Shopping Basket' who supplied the food and wine.

We were also pleased to have GEORGE SANDELL of C.A.G.E. give us all an update on the re-emergence of the growing gravel extraction problems and reminding those of us who are regularly taken on 'walkies' by our beloved pooches over the picturesque rolling countryside of Waterford Heath that, but for all the efforts of local groups (including our own), the area would still be used for gravel extraction !

Many of the paths are strewn with dog faeces. Sadly, many walkers almost seem to get some perverse pleasure in leaving their best friend's deposit, making it extremely unpleasant for the rest !

Always use a poop-a-scoop and the bins provided but, even if you do not have one, at least leave the paths clear for other walkers by clearing the offending litter from the paths.

The second draft of the gravel plan will be coming up before the Inspector at the September meeting and EHDC have instructed a barrister to present their objections to the application. Hanson are trying to improve their image with presentations to show how environmentally conscious they are and are hoping to obtain approval to extend the site at Chapmore End where much of their equipment is still on site.

George Sandell pointed out that there is now no need to extract any more gravel as there are huge quantities of aggregates available that can be recycled.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

We still need one representative for every road on the estate.

The seat by the shops has been sprayed with paint. After all Mrs. Mole's tireless efforts over 100 flowers have been wrenched out and scattered in the road !
(What a pity that some of the energy expended on wanton destruction couldn't be directed to something constructive like mending some of the damaged notice boards)

Notwithstanding inflation over the years we are still maintaining the £2 annual fee and thank everyone for paying this year's sub with a smile !

GARDEN AWARDS

As can be seen from our colourful summer edition cover there are many dedicated gardeners out there making it very difficult to choose the champions!
However, the judges decided on the following winners who were all given prizes for their efforts.

SUMMER 2003

Mr. & Mrs. Wood: Cowper Cresc.
Mr. & Mrs. Prime Woodhall Close
Mr. & Mrs. Voller Desborough Close.

BEST CONTAINERS

Mr. & Mrs. Parker Peel Cresc.

SPRING 2004

Mr. & Mrs. Middleton High Molewood
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Lodge Close
Mr. & Mrs. Clowes The Avenue

Probably bearing in mind the dilapidated state of one particular front garden and surrounds, a member asked if there were any regulations being broken if people did not bother to tend to their gardens, but the Chairman replied that not unless health regulations are being contravened. It was suggested from the floor that we might create some income by advertising local services in this newsletter.

This has been considered and tried previously, but we thought that this could raise certain legal complications and finance presents no pressing problem at this stage.

We have also hired out gardening equipment and tried recommending local firms from whom residents have had very good service.

In this age rampant with the compensation culture we believe that no Insurance Company would cover the Association for any eventuality.

However, there is nothing to stop our notice boards being used for private Ad's.

ELECTION of CHAIRMAN and OFFICERS

The Chairman thanked the Committee for their support over the last year.

As usual there were no nominations for the post of Chairman and Ken Lupton kindly agreed to " keep things running".

Other officers also agreed to stand again.

Mrs. Kate Taylor (The Drive) has offered to join the Committee and there were also offers of help from 5 other Volunteers. Many thanks !

A presentation to the Ed. of this publication was made with the committee's thanks.
("Cheers ! ")

Before heading back to our gardens committee member Kevin Beadle's extremely talented son IAN rounded off the evening with a selection of songs from the Shows.

Many thanks IAN !

Mrs Mole all hot and bothered.....

I just couldn't think of anything topical to write for our summer edition and anyway who wants to be indoors staring at the computer screen when it's lovely and sunny outside, but then something did happen and I thought it was worth a mention.

It was one of those really hot June days with quite a breeze and I was out walking a neighbour's dog, it was late afternoon and as we approached the spinney bordering the playfield a group of young boys were standing around a fire they had just started.

I admit I panicked and shouted at them and they all rushed off. I then stamped all over the fire which by then was burning really well spreading through the old dried grass, I kept thinking of those awful fires in Australia that destroyed so much of their countryside.

I guess kids always like to get up to dare devil things, I know I was a real horror, but I hope they don't try it again and yes, I had to throw my shoes away, the soles were all melted.

(If, like Mrs. Mole, you witness unauthorised people starting up fires in a public space, please advise the police.)

Specially for the 'wrinklies'—er - sorry—the more mature residents !

-SOME THINGS YOU PROBABLY FORGOT.....

If you were a child in the 40's, 50's, 60's or 70'. It's hard to believe that we have lived as long as we have.....

We would ride in cars with no seat belts or air bags: a ride in the back of a truck or milk float was a *real* treat !

Baby cribs were covered with bright lead-based paint. We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors, or cabinets and no helmets for cyclists.

We drank water from the garden hose and spent hours building go-carts out of scraps and forgot about the brakes !

We would leave home and play all day without mobile 'phones.

When we got cut and broke bones and teeth there were no law suits from these accidents.

No one was to blame - but us !

We ate cakes, bread and butter and everyone drank pop. all out of the same bottle, but we were never overweight...we were always outside playing.

We did not have Play-stations, Nintendo, video games, 99 cable channels, CD/DVD movies, internet chat rooms but....we had **FRIENDS** ! Football and rugby had try outs and not everyone made the team and those that didn't had to deal with the disappointment.

If we got caught by the constabulary doing something wrong we could get a good clip round the ears and felt lucky to have got off so lightly, rather than sue for assault and mental trauma, and parents would side with the law, rather than lodge a complaint against the police.

Nearly **EVERY** day, in this 'nanny state', some new piece of legislation enters the statute books, designed to deal with a 'newly discovered' hazard, or guidelines being issued to help the poor pathetic citizen complete some every day task that they had managed unaided for the last 100 years !

If something goes wrong, then someone or something else has to be blamed. *Bring on the lawyers !*

Some communities are now blighted by vandalism, theft and abuse by gangs, often fuelled by drink and/or drugs.

Cash machines, telephone booths, cars set on fire—nothing is sacred !

Thankfully, not in this area.....yet !

We now live in a much safer and more enlightened era.....or.....do we ?

CHANGING PLACES !



Pyllis, Ann, & Sam (with Luca)

THE GIRLS FROM AUNTIE.....

THIRTEEN is, hopefully, a *lucky* number for **ANN** of ' **THE SHOPPING BASKET** ' who retires in September, after 13 years running our local, friendly grocery store.

Frequently the shop is full of laughter and a meeting place for locals to catch up on current events.

Taking over from Ann are two more locals, **SAM URQUHART** and **PHYLLIS ROWDEN**, pictured with Ann.

Phyllis lives in Hertford and has previously worked for Marks and Spencers in Customer Service and more lately in local voluntary work.

Sam lives in Bengo and has worked for Tetra Park as a Buyer for the past 10 years..

After a refurbishment the store will open as **AUNTIE OLIVES GENERAL STORE** and will continue to sell Ann's popular fresh bread and takeaway foods. The wine and deli section will be expanded with takeaway coffees and a local delivery service.

WELCOME Auntie Olive - and good luck !



ALISON AND JOANNE



It's ALL CHANGE around The Avenue shopping parade recently with fond farewells to JANET MOY and IAN the Greengrocer.

Ian's shop has been taken over by two local Bengeo girls, ALISON WRIGHT and JOANNE JAMES who have given the premises a very tasteful face-lift extending the florists side of the business whilst maintaining a selection of fruit and veg. and bedding plants during the summer.

The new shop has the intriguing title of.... 'THE SECRET GARDEN' (Blooming good!) Alison formerly worked for the BBC on TV shows like 'East enders' and 'Casualty' whilst Jo has worked in the fruit, vegetable and flower trade for some while previously.
GOOD LUCK Alison and Jo. !

We wish a long and happy retirement to JANET MOY who hands over the reins of the local Newsagents after 22 years of getting up at 4.30 am every day of the week !

The 'GOOD NEWS' is that rising early in her place are new owners RAY and NICKY CHAMBERLAIN to whom we wish all the best of luck. They are 'locals', living in Hertford for the last 16 years, with a background in fast food and pubs, starting in Ware with a 'Pizza Shack' and then later as licensees of the Greene King although they have had their eye on Janet's shop for some time !

For the future they hope to keep the business as a good community newsagent, with penny sweets for the children and a good range of newspapers and magazines.

They will always welcome suggestions on ranges which people would like to see added.

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'USE 'EM OR LOSE 'EM'

We only hope that people who use the bays outside the shops as permanent car parks will consider other residents who wish to stop there only long enough to get their shopping in.

The residents who park there continually are also re-directing trade away from our local shops to other areas.

RURAL CODE

We wrote previously about rights of way. Revised guidelines for walkers are now being introduced under new access legislation.

Whilst opening up areas where walkers etc. have a 'right to roam', the new Country Code emphasises that ramblers have duties as well as rights.

The new code stresses that all who visit the countryside should respect it, protecting plants and animals, taking litter home and keeping dogs under close control.

It is now suggested that gates are left as they are found and not necessarily closed.

MBE:.....CONGRATULATIONS
to EILEEN PIKE of The Avenue who has been
awarded the Member of British Empire in the
Queen's Birthday Honours List for services to the
R.A.F. Association in Hertfordshire.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

BEWARE—BOGUS CHARITY COLLECTORS !

Police have warned local residents about Collectors who masquerade as recognised Charity organisations.

Genuine Charities will have a Charity number on any literature that they distribute and any requests for money, clothes etc. without this number on should be treated with suspicion.

The bogus collectors bear a name very similar to Age Concern.

Any concerns, then contact the Charities Commission on:-

0870 333 0123

And, for your own safety, do NOT buy goods or services from doorstep traders, unless you are absolutely certain that they are *strictly kosher* !

Trading Standards officers receive many complaints from people who have been 'conned' by characters persuading them to buy goods or services that they did not need nor could afford.

The good news is that if you have bought or agreed to have work done you STILL may be able to cancel.

To get help and advice 'phone Hertfordshire Trading Standards or 'Doorstep Hotline' on 0845 60 444 66

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

ALSO, be wary of a swarthy middle-aged Italian who occasionally tours around different areas in a car and engages people in casual conversation, usually asking them if they speak Italian, giving the impression that he is seeking directions.

He then tries to 'hard sell' goods from his car and becomes *very* persuasive and persistent.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

THE WICK

There are many improvements we would all like to see on this estate. High on this list is THE WICK pavements, the surfaces of which present a formidable walking nightmare for anyone with slight disabilities.

Like many other roads, with all the digging up and filling in for such things as cable and other installations over the years it has become a series of humps, bumps and irregular shapes.

We are at present endeavouring to get the Council to rectify the situation.

The GOOD news is that the Council have at long last promised that pot holes in the uneven roads will be repaired on a permanent basis, rather than the present system which never seems to withstand heavy winter frosts, etc.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Houses left with windows and back doors open as well as garage and shed contents have been targeted by burglars this summer.

Please ensure that outbuildings, as well as the main house, are kept locked and any items of value are security post code marked for possible identification purposes later on.

The Government say (!)crime has dropped considerably over the UK lately and EAST HERTS has always been one of the top crime-free areas.

Sadly, according to reports we no longer hold that enviable position which means we now have to be even more vigilant when leaving the property unattended.

Operation Guardian is a new anti-crime initiative and the police say that the increase is mainly in travelling crime because of the motorway network and the A10. People come into the area from London and Bedfordshire and steal car keys from inside homes and drive the cars away.

SO - keep your car keys out of sight !

As well as securing all buildings, always ask neighbours to keep an eye on things for you when you are absent—on a reciprocal basis of course !

A car left in an otherwise empty driveway can sometimes be a deterrent, although the safest place for it is in the garage !.

Want to go back to school for.....
YOGAwith ANDREE ?
On Mondays and Tuesdays Andree is holding
classes from 8 –9.30 pm. Suitable for everyone !

For further information :-
Hertford.....535654

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Proposals for future COUNCIL TAX

As if local residents haven't been stung enough already by above-inflation increases in council tax, more increases are envisaged !
Homes are placed into one of eight bands according to their value, and some of the houses on the estate may have to suffer increases in the region of £1,000 a year !
Many elderly residents have received very minor increases in their state pensions (£1. per week ?)and, if their savings are over £16,000 then - tough luck –they may get no assistance towards paying this iniquitous tax. In fact a person who may be managing on the State pension with meagre life savings of, say, £20,000 may have to dig into this just to pay their rate bill until their savings quickly whittle down to £16,000 when they can then claim relief.

Bands are to be renewed in 2007 and would take into account the huge rise in property prices in the last decade.
It is proposed that homes worth £90,000 would see an 18% cut in their rates bill (hardly any of us !)
Those with houses worth more than £340,000 may be hardest hit.
Is it fair that many residents may have to pay a higher and higher proportion of their low fixed incomes on ever rising council taxes on their own homes ? They have had no hand in bringing about these increases in value and derive no income benefit from their property .
DO NOT forget that sole occupants are entitled to a reduction of 25% in their council tax bill.
Apparently over £580 million remains unclaimed each year !
DO NOT lose out on entitlements to relief.
Contact the Council's Benefits Service on freephone 0800 373 852 and find out whether YOU may have a slice of that unclaimed cake !

SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD and PLAY SPACE

We are assured that the above green belt fields are Sacrosanct and will NOT be used for building land, although the spare field in between could !

Although this is being taken out of the green belt for reserve housing for 70 new dwellings, we understand that it is unlikely under present plans that this could happen for 7 years - at least, providing Government housing requirements are met.

(Let's hope they are !)

FLY TIPPING

A burnt out wreck of a vehicle lies on some spare land.

Baghdad...Palestine.....?

Actually....NO. This is a blot on the lovely landscape of the North Waterford Heath where, once again, a car has been dumped and set on fire.

Some youths are pelting it with stones and climbing over it.

Fly tipping is illegal and offenders can be prosecuted and face up to a £20,000 fine or imprisonment.

Fly tipping is dangerous and anyone who witnesses—or even suspects—the act of fly tipping should inform the police immediately.

LITTLE BOXES

10,000 more brown wheelie bins are being sent to homes in East Herts for the purpose of recycling GARDEN WASTE, although not yet to Hertford

Although biodegradable it gets buried with our other rubbish and, without air, it rots and leaks toxic substances like methane gas into the environment.

The march of the brown wheelies will, no doubt, be down your way eventually, but in the meantime garden waste can be taken to recycling centres or can be made into home compost.

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PLANNING APPLICATION –LAND ADJACENT TO No. 6 DESBOR- OUGH CLOSE

- The *Green and Pleasant* areas in and around our once rural County Town are fast becoming a 'concrete jungle' with every inch of spare land being built upon, the object being of course to meet the desperate need for housing.

Mind-boggling figures like 200,000 houses (and rising !) over the next 12 years mainly in OUR part of the S. East alone.

The draft local plan allows for many changes to the existing green belt although concentration will, they say, be on *brownfield* sites.

Land off Sacombe road will also be released from the Green belt (see also article on proposed development)

Whilst we do not normally involve the Association in *individual* Planning Applications, the one for two four-bedroom detached properties in the wooded copse and ' spare' land in Desborough has caused a huge number of written objections.

As it is a development which, if permitted, would alter the whole appearance and amenities to this part of the estate we feel that it is against the wishes of the majority and have therefore added our support to those objecting.

At the time of going to Press arguments are going on about wildlife, trees, etc. and it is not at all clear as to the eventual outcome, so we are monitoring the position closely.

SENSELESS PARKING !

We hate to be repetitive BUT

Earlier in the year a fire engine was delayed getting to a blazing van by cars parked in a narrow road.

Once again, please survey where you have parked and only leave your car when you are satisfied that all vehicles, especially emergency ones, can get through.

Also, do not block pavements forcing pedestrians ,including those with prams, into the road.

We hope to be back by Christmas, but in the meantime.....

— — ENJOY the rest of the summer.

Have great holidays: drive carefully:

secure your property before you go:

Do not leave valuables in your car.

Do not forget to have adequate holiday insurance cover (Medical expenses in some countries cost—an arm and a leg !)

AND- Always read the small print.....

Take Care !

MOLEWOOD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2004

	<u>2004</u>		<u>2003</u>
Membership Subscriptions & Donations	1,028		1,044
Income from Social Functions - Quiz Night	447		330
Interest Received (Net of Income Tax)	1		1
	<u> </u>	1,476	<u> </u> 1,375
Less: Society Expenses			
Annual General Meeting	206		191
Newsletter & Notices	831		704
Administration Expenses	8		44
Competition Prizes & Trophies	35		69
Cost of Social Functions - Quiz Night	436		362
Donations, Presentations & Subscriptions	93		50
Estate Landscaping & Amenities	-		29
	<u> </u>	1,609	<u> </u> 1,449
(Deficit)/Surplus for the Year		<u> </u> (133)	<u> </u> (74)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2004

	<u>2,004</u>		<u>2,003</u>
ACCUMULATED FUND			
Balance at 1 April 2003	1,085		1,159
(Deficit) / Surplus for the year	(133)		(74)
	<u> </u>	952	<u> </u> 1,085
CURRENT ASSETS			
BANK & CASH BALANCES			
Bradford & Bingley Building Society	-		964
National Westminster Bank	976		194
Cash	63		77
	<u> </u>	1,039	<u> </u> 1,235
Less:			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
SUNDRY CREDITOR			
Quiz Night - Hire of Hall	65		
- Leaflets	22		
	<u> </u>	87	<u> </u> 150
		<u> </u> 952	<u> </u> 1,085