

MOLEWOOD ESTATE RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

newsletternewsletternewsletternewsletternewsletter APRIL, 1969.

DRIVING ***** COUNTY DAY 1969***** DRIVING

On Whit Monday, 26th May, at Hartham the Driving Trials organised by the Sele Farm Motor Club will take place. Molewood, who hold the individual and team titles, will again compete and this year there will be a ladies team.

Don't hide your bumpers in your garage - contact Mr. Alan Beaton at 15 Desborough Close. The more members entering the greater our chance of retaining the titles.

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Mini Problems. The two natural water traps on B.M.C. Minis - between the bumpers and the car body - can be eliminated by raising the bumpers slightly. This can easily be done if a couple of tap washers are interposed between the bumper and body at each fixing bolt.

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Prunus Avium, Sorbus Aucuparia and Acer Platanoides

To put it another way - Flowering Cherry, Mountain Ash and Norway Maple. The trees planted by the Association seem to be thriving and we hope that they have added something to the character of the estate. If the two and four legged tree destroyers continue to behave themselves more trees will be planted this Autumn. Please let us know what kind of trees you would like and where you would like them planted.

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Soil Problems. The best thing to treat clay land with is gypsum (sulphate of lime), applying 8 oz. per sq. yd. Apply after some rain and lightly fork the gypsum into the ground. The clay will become more granular, thus providing better aeration, earlier warming of the soil and better drainage. Leafmould, straw, peat, crushed mortar and spent ash are beneficial.

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SUCCESS: Extra buses in the morning and afternoon - to the advantage of school children and shoppers.

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Rate Assessment

Your rating assessment is supposed to represent the rent which a tenant would be willing to pay should your property be let. The scarcity of houses is not supposed to be taken into account when fixing this valuation.

To succeed in an application for a reduction you will have to show that the assessment is greater than that of other houses of similar size and attractiveness in the same district - in other words that a prospective tenant would consider your house too dear at its rating valuation when compared with others. You therefore really need to study the valuation list at the Council Offices to see how your figures compare with others before making any suggestion of a valuation which you think reasonable.

Childrens Playing Facilities

According to the Town Clerk the estimated date of public access to the three acres of land in Sacombe Road was 14th March 1969. The fencing of the land is now complete and we hope the Council will not be as long in providing access. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government has approved an application from the Council for a grant towards the cost of acquisition of the three acres of land under Section 8 of the Local Government Act 1966. This Section allows for authorities to obtain up to one half of the expenditure on land appropriated by a local authority for use as a public open space. It is the intention of the Association to provide seats on the land when it becomes available.

The Association is in contact with the National Playing Fields Assn. and the Hertfordshire Playing Fields Assn. about conditions generally.

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Car Rear Window Demister for sale: Elderly back seat passenger (good for another 5,000 miles) complete with chamois leather. Would consider part exchange for a windscreen washer (preferably female)

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EVENING CLASSES

Our efforts so far have resulted in the provision of courses in Christmas Cookery, Hair Care and Make Up and Crochet Work. These have been held at the Bengoe JMI School and have been very successful. A course in Flower Arranging started on 16th April. Those attending the classes were asked what other subjects they would like and it seems that courses in Party Snacks, Child Care, Local History and Dressmaking are in demand. There have not been any courses specifically for men as it is necessary to have about 15 members participating to make the course financially viable. It is, however, up to you to let us know your requirements and any suggestions will be welcomed.

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Membership: The present paid-up membership stands at 273. There is to the credit of the Association £102.6.6. in the general account and £3.9.-. in the evening class account.

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I M P O R T A N T

As only 15 members of the Association attended the Annual General Meeting on the 21st May, 1968 no quorum was achieved. If the committee does not receive your support at this years' A.G.M. it will have to consider whether the Association should continue in being. The problems of playspace, evening classes, the next London Airport, estate maintenance, nursery schools, Borough expenditure, etc., etc., will then become a matter for the individual to pursue.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD AT THE BENGEO JMI SCHOOL ON FRIDAY 9th MAY, 1969 at 8 p.m.

The Agenda will be similar to that circulated for the 1968 A.G.M. - i.e. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising, the Annual and Treasurer's Report, the Revised Rules and Election of Officers, Committee Members and Auditors and any other business.

WARNING

Those residents who have concrete flower boxes affixed to their houses or bungalows are advised to check that they are secure. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Watkiss, 43 The Avenue, had his leg broken in several places when their flower box came away from the wall.

SUCCESS : A footpath along the Sacombe Road.

CHILDRENS' PLAYING FACILITIES

Benkeo The result of the petition, considerable correspondence and many evenings spent talking to councillors was published in the Hertfordshire Mercury on 11th October. The Borough Council has now decided that the land in Sacombe Road be used for a playing area for children of all ages. The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Highways and Utilities Committee will meet representatives of this Association and other interested parties. The Council have also decided that some financial provision be considered for inclusion in the 1969 Budget to cover any estimated expenditure as a result of the meeting.

Hertford During 1968 there will only be repairs and replacements. In 1969, however, there will be a minimum expenditure of about £785 on replacements and additions.

The expenditure is to be allocated as follows:-
The Castle £335 Hartham £275
Foxholes £175

Although the considerable efforts of the committee have brought some progress this year there is still a lot to be done. Your support is essential.

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POSSIBLE HAZARDS IN COIN-OPERATED DRY CLEANING

The following extract from "The Medical Officer" covers the possible hazards of coin-operated dry cleaning machines using trichloroethylene or tetrachloroethylene.

The attendant should be called if the machine stops due to overloading because the person removing the saturated clothing in order to restart the machine will be exposed to a high concentration of vapour and could be partially overcome by the fumes.

Further, heavy curtains may be cleaned then taken home and hung in a warm room with possible danger to the occupants. The vapour from freshly cleaned articles can build up to quite a high level in a closed car and even a small amount of alcohol can increase considerably the effects of the fumes with disastrous results. Symptoms include dizziness, headache, faintness sleepiness and inability to concentrate.

Recommendations include:-

1. Ideally the room in which the machine is housed should be ventilated to the external air in addition to the ventilation system provided.
2. The warning notice displayed to the public about overloading the machine ought to emphasize the possible danger to the user rather than the danger to the machine.
3. An adequate and well ventilated hanging area should be provided together with a notice advising the hanging of materials for a reasonable time.
4. Clothing which has been dry cleaned should never be carried open in a car, but should be enclosed in a polythene bag. Unpacking, followed by a period of hanging, should be done in the open air or in a well ventilated room.
5. Publicity should be given to the fact that alcohol and the vapour of trichloroethylene or tetrachloroethylene appear to potentiate each other in their general effects.

The above information was given to our representative on the Borough Accident Prevention Committee.