



Spring Edition 2020

## Chairman's message

Funny times we're living in currently... a real disparity between the physical distance we're being asked to demonstrate to friends, neighbours and extended family versus the examples being set by volunteers, carers and key-workers. A Thursday evening has turned into a real community event as we all clap for the NHS. Whilst we'll be missing summer fetes and festivals, dinner with friends and pub beer gardens in the near future, we have simpler lives for the time-being; watching out for those around us, spending more time with family and giving local wildlife a chance to recover from the impact of modern Britain.

As a result of the social distancing and temporary restrictions on public gatherings we are postponing the annual AGM until September. Hopeful of more normal times we'll post a confirmation on the community noticeboard (The Avenue), in this publication and on our website nearer the time.

## Coronavirus update

Many Bengeo residents have been active in setting up street/area WhatsApp groups during the lockdown. Are you a member of your local group? These groups are providing help & support and a forum where people can chat and exchange information. Some of the groups are: Lodge Close, Lys Hill Gardeners, Woodhall Close and The Drive.

Local Support groups, apart from the ones in your street are:

- Hertford Shop and Drop <https://www.shopanddrop.org/>  
A volunteer-led initiative set up to shop for food and essential items for vulnerable people in Hertford who are self-isolating during the coronavirus pandemic. Please contact the service if you need someone to do your shopping for you. Any questions or prefer not to order online? Call **01992 946833** or email [shopdropherts@gmail.com](mailto:shopdropherts@gmail.com)
- Bengeo Residents' Support Network Against Coronavirus has set up a Facebook page to help those who are more

vulnerable/self isolating/in need of help or lonely <https://www.facebook.com/groups/698539580298046/>

- Bengeo Parish Magazine also has much useful information about local groups and support <https://www.parishofbengeo.com/church/the-bengeo-parish-magazine.html>
- Our local councillor, Andrew Stevenson, has also made available some small grants to help organisations who are supporting coronavirus efforts <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/how-the-council-works/locality-budgets/member-locality-budget.aspx>
- East Herts Social Prescribing Service (EHSPS) can provide support for residents/patients who may be feeling lonely, isolated, experiencing high anxiety and/or living with depression. [https://cdn-eastherts.onwebcurl.com/s3fs-public/documents/East\\_Herts\\_Social\\_Prescribing\\_Poster.pdf](https://cdn-eastherts.onwebcurl.com/s3fs-public/documents/East_Herts_Social_Prescribing_Poster.pdf). If you wish to use this service, please contact your GP who will refer you.

## Volunteering opportunities in the Community during the coronavirus outbreak

Helene, as the Social Prescriber/ Link worker in the Hertford Primary Care Network (PCN), is extremely keen to identify new volunteers during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic to help those who need it, with shopping, prescription pick-ups, dog walking or befriending by phone. If you or a member of your family/ friendship group can spare some time, please contact Helene at the following email address: [helene.evans1@nhs.net](mailto:helene.evans1@nhs.net) and please email a copy of your DBS certificate along with some photo ID (passport or driving licence etc). She is also happy to take referrals for anyone who needs support with any non-medical problems.

# Hertfordshire County Council Volunteering

Hertfordshire County Council is promoting the use of #TeamHerts <https://www.thvolunteering.org.uk/> as the official volunteering network for the County, coordinating efforts to support those affected by coronavirus and creating a pool of trusted volunteers. If you know of, or are part of a community group offering support in your area, we'd be grateful if you could make #TeamHerts aware directly by visiting [www.thvolunteering.org.uk](http://www.thvolunteering.org.uk) and completing the online form. Military planners are working with the council to assist with this work.

As this newsletter goes to press, the latest information [20th May 2020] on what we have been asked to do can be found at the government's FAQ page <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>

And information about the testing programme can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

It is important to retain a sense of perspective during this time and keep your mental health good. It is easy to let

the constant news on the television and social media overwhelm you. General advice seems to be to listen to the news once only each day and limit your time on social media. There is some good information on social media, but it can also feed your anxieties.

## Useful websites:

NHS <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

BBC news <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

## Local Surgery websites:

Castlegate [now New River Health]

<https://castlegatesurgery.co.uk/>

Hanscombe House

<https://hanscombehousesurgery.nhs.uk/>

Wallace House

<https://www.wallacehousesurgery.co.uk/>

The Avenue Pharmacy

<https://www.nhs.uk/Services/pharmacies/ReviewsAndRatings/DefaultView.aspx?id=132838>

## Exercise

There are lots of exercise, relaxation and well-being websites; far too many to list and mention!

Try to exercise at home on a regular basis, and walk outdoors as often as possible keeping 2m [just over 6 feet] away from others.

The NHS recommends the following: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/exercise/>. For those of you who are not so mobile this is an excellent website: <https://www.uhb.nhs.uk/Downloads/pdf/PiOtagoStrengthBalance.pdf>.

The Hertfordshire Health walks will be resuming as soon as is physically possible. Please check their website. <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/recycling-waste-and-environment/countryside-management/hertfordshire-health-walks/hertfordshire-health-walks.aspx>

## GOOD NEWS

Well done Ash! He is celebrating 15 years of running our local news agency, Good News. Ash always has a cheery smile on his face [when you can see it!] and a warm welcome. His shop, along with the other businesses in The Parade, provides much needed and wanted local services. Thank you to Avenue Pharmacy & Walton Lodge which have been able to stay open. We eagerly await the re-opening of Headlines and The Secret Garden.



## Local news

### 1. Building on Bengoe Nursery site

The article below is taken directly from the developer's [Durkan] website posted on 5th March 2020 <http://www.durkan.co.uk/news/planning-permission-granted-on-former-nursery-site-in-hertford/>

#### PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED ON FORMER NURSERY SITE IN HERTFORD

*"Durkan's Planning team has secured a resolution to grant planning permission for 52 homes on the Former Bengoe Nursery site in Hertford, an affluent market town situated on the northwest edge of Hertfordshire.*

*This comes after 15 months of working closely with East Herts District Council and other key stakeholders to deliver a well-designed, high quality development combining attractive new dwellings within a carefully balanced landscaped setting including the improvement and enhancement of the existing landscape and ecology to create a high-quality new addition to the existing community of Bengoe.*

*The site will deliver 52 one, two, three, four and five bedroom family homes with 40% affordable housing over the next 20 months, with works starting on site next month. The show complex is due to open January 2021 with first occupation taking place early in the new year.*

*The permission was granted unanimously by the council and Durkan were commended on our approach to sustainability. This is a significant milestone for the Housebuilding Division; the project will create a platform to acquire other developments in the surrounding areas we are targeting and will showcase the new Durkan range of house types that have been developed."*

*Durkan have been granted planning permission, and have started, to remove the greenhouses on site. They will be recycling the materials.*



## Postponement of Pizza and Prosecco AGM on May 5th 2020

You will have noticed that the AGM, which was due to be held on 5th May, is postponed until, hopefully, September. You will be advised of the new date.

Whilst we are on the subject of AGMs, would you like to join the intrepid band of local residents who try to make life better for Molewood residents? We are keen to attract a more diverse committee. Have you recently moved into the area? Are you a young person who is interested in local affairs ...Are you disabled and would like to see us campaign for better access? The committee is a great way to find out what is going on locally and to meet new friendly people.

In the last 18 months we have been involved with: Bengoe Neighbourhood Area Plan; the planning application for Bengoe Nursery [see Durkan article] and the Save Beane Marshes appeal [see article below] <https://savebeanemarshes.org.uk/>. The MRA committee meets in the evening at 8pm and discusses local issues and how the residents can express their views about these. Please see the end of the newsletter on how to join.

We would like to welcome Jim Martin who is taking over from Richie Wykes, who has done an excellent job compiling the newsletter and adding all the graphics. A big thank you to Richie.

### 2. Beane River Marshes



John Howson reports:

*"We are in the process of buying the land via the Wildlife Trust. Save Beane Marshes have transferred an amazing £95,000 to the Hertford and Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMWT) to help in buying the land at Beane Marshes and we are awaiting a further grant of £30,000 from Hertford Town Council. HMWT will make up the rest of the cost of the land. While we are not actively fundraising right now, we anticipate that further funds will be needed going forward to contribute to our education programme and towards the upkeep of the land. We hope to have good news on the purchase of the land very soon"*

<https://savebeanemarshes.org.uk/>

### 3. Advance notice of Collectors' Fayre at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Bengoe 5th/ 6th September 2020 – see the Bengoe Parish Magazine link above for more information

Many of you will be tidying up during our lockdown or taking up new hobbies! Holy Trinity's Collectors' Fayre, which was held for the first time last year, was a very successful community event with amazing collections and memorabilia, retro and vintage plus displays of some very interesting hobbies. If anyone would like to contribute to the Fayre please contact Mary Crane – 01992 314003: [em.crane@virginmedia.com](mailto:em.crane@virginmedia.com) or Penny Andrew – 01992 586028: [pennyandrew22@hotmail.com](mailto:pennyandrew22@hotmail.com)



### 4. Brown Bins

Many of you will be delighted that Brown Bin collections have restarted! Our local recycling centres are still closed or open sporadically.



### 5. Shops and shopping

You will have noticed that some of our local shops have, unfortunately, had to close for business. They will more than welcome your trade when they are allowed to open again. Remember when returning from shopping to wash all plastic packaging & remove the packaging before putting in the fridge. Meanwhile, please follow Government advice and do everything to stay healthy.

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## Your Association

The Molewood Residents' Association was formed in the late 1960s and represents residents of the Molewood estate, Bengoe. This is the area north from The Drive and west of Bengoe Street and Sacombe Road.

**WE NEED NEW VOLUNTEERS** to support the work of our association as our committee has shrunk in recent years and we need new people to join us.

The aim of the association is to support Molewood residents and enhance their enjoyment of the Molewood neighbourhood. The association contributes to community events arranged by residents and to community projects. The Association issues 2 or 3 Outlook newsletters annually. As mentioned before, copies of old newsletters are on our website. If you have any old copies, documents or photos of the estate, we'd love you to share them.

Annual membership of Molewood Residents' Association costs £2 per household a year (£3 from June 2020) and this can be sent to the Treasurer or will be collected door to door by committee members. Residents have the opportunity to discuss how the committee is doing and how it can work best to represent residents.

### Committee details

<b>Chair</b>	
Ben Penrose	104 Cowper Crescent
<b>Treasurer</b>	
Alan Sewell	16 The Avenue
<b>Secretary</b>	
Kath Richardson	7 Farquhar Street
<b>Editor</b>	
Linda Pryor	Lys Hill Gardens

### General Members

Nick Gough	11 Lys Hill Gardens
Marie Archer	55 The Wick
John Edwards	8 The Wick
Emily White	27 The Drive
Rachel Ogier	23 Trinity Grove
<b>Website Manager</b>	Paul Ogier
<b>Outlook Graphics</b>	Jim Martin

If you want to support MRA complete the slip and put it through the letter box of our treasurer, Alan Sewell, 16 The Avenue.



I/ we want to support the Molewood Residents' Association for year to June 2021. I enclose my £3 per household payment for this year's subscription.

My/ our name is .....

and I/ we live at .....

I/ we would be happy to be contacted by email about local issues by the residents' association so here is my email address .....