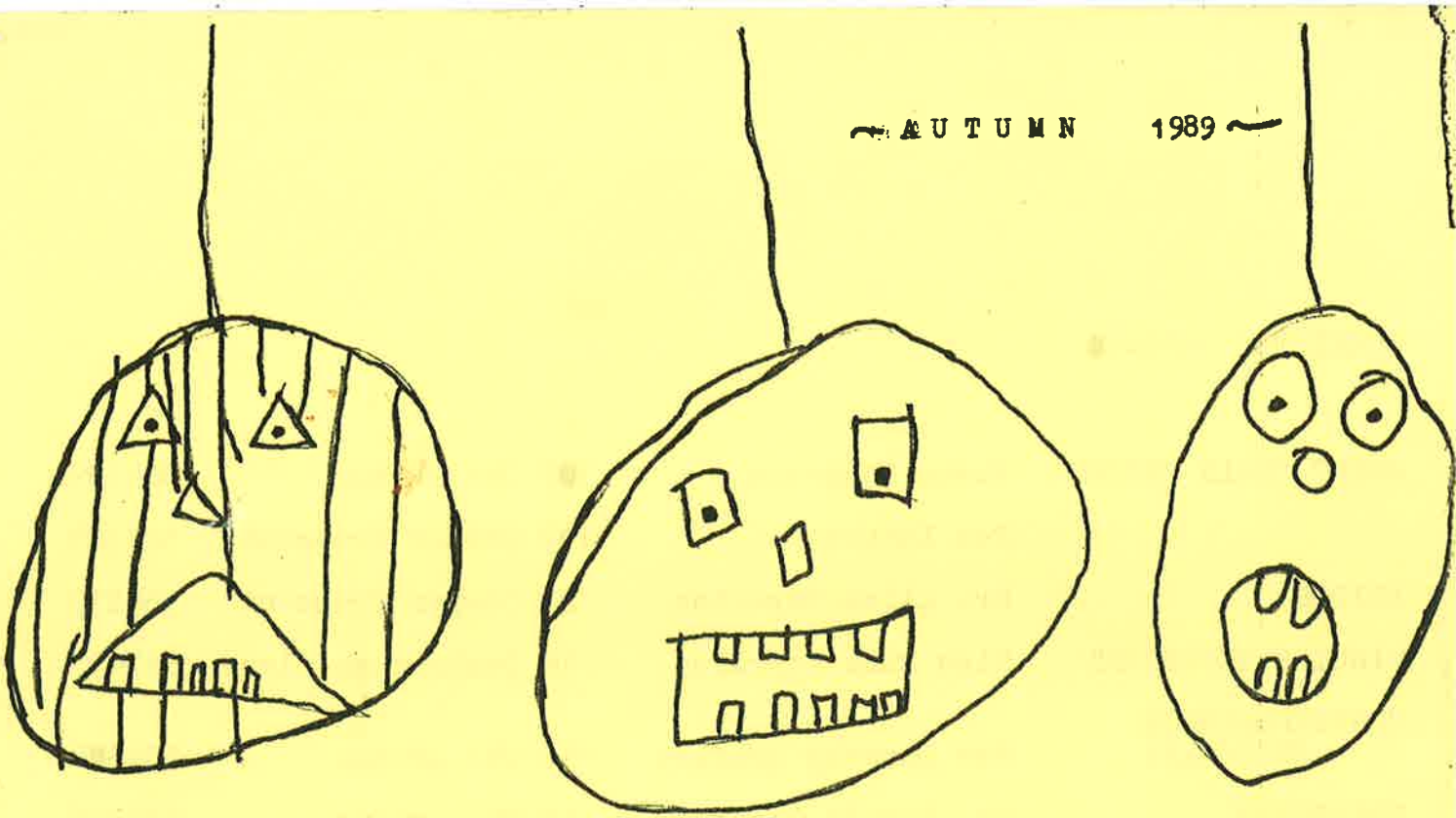
AUTUMN 1989



MOLEWOOD OUTLOOK



COMMITTEE 1989-90

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MOLEWOOD OUTLOOK OCTOBER 1989

EDITORIAL

WHAT a wonderful, unbelievably sub-tropical summer we have all enjoyed, haven't we?

And ... WHAT better place to be during those long hot, hazy days! Where? Why, right here in BENGEO, of course! Quiet, colourful, crime-free (relatively!), and ... near to home.

No waiting in crowded stuffy departure lounges. No enduring attacks of listeria or typhoid-inducing sewer-ridden foreign shores, with temperatures in many parts of Europe high in the 90s - and more!

Fortunately many Molewoodians preferred this which made the estate quieter still for those at home, with no traffic jams especially outside the school! "Oh to be in Bengeo .....".

Inspite of all this, plenty has been happening on your home patch, as you will see.

This issues cover picture was drawn by PHILLIPA (age 5) and CHRISTOPHER (4) WOOD of 30 The Avenue. Their theme is HALLOWEEN. Thank you PHILLIPA AND CHRISTOPHER. Happy Halloween to all.

So, who is going to provide a cover picture for the next Molewood Outlook? Contributions on A4 paper in black and white only with the words 'Molewood Outlook', please. Oh - and don't forget your names and addresses, and ages please!

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

What a glorious summer we have had!! I and the Committee hope that you have all managed to enjoy it and have had super holidays.

Now for the bad news. For some time now Allan Streeton has been requesting that we let him relinquish his post as Chairman of the Association. After considerable discussion at the Meeting on 29th June the Committee finally relunctantly agreed to let him step down from chairmanship. Pam Lutner and I agreed to take on the post in a joint role. We shall miss Allan as chairman - it is going to take two of us to do the job he has so successfully done for the past two years or so by himself - thank you Allan. The good news is that Allan is going to continue to edit and publish the newsletter.

Pam will look after the behind the scenes 'chair' activities - and I shall take all the credit!!

I have found it necessary to resign as your representative on the C.A.G.E. committee, due to other commitments. Brian Euler has agreed to take on this task ably supported by Pam (Pam again!! - where do you get all the energy Pam?)

Once again you will see that the Autumn edition of the newsletter contains a lot of useful and interesting local information and Molewood news - thanks to all our contributors and particularly Allan and his editing and publishing volunteers. Believe me, every one of your committee members works very hard for the Association, taking up a lot

of valuable spare time. All of our members I am sure will join me in thanking them for their efforts on your behalf. I should like to single out Ruth Harrison for special thanks in taking on the onerous duties of Secretary.

One final plea - PLEASE SUPPORT CAGE IN ITS EFFORTS by:-

- Attending public meetings
- Writing letters as and when requested
- Generally opposing every application - by whatever means - by the Gravel Companies
- Write to County Hall if you see any legal infringements (with proof e.g. dated photographs) by the Companies - particularly in relation to traffic violations.

Regards

Bryan Thurston

CAUSES FOR CONCERN

Let's get these out of the way first!

Please remember, the following are not just 'moans' from your committee (we are not here for that), the following are genuine complaints made by RESIDENTS, on matters which concern YOU.

Hopefully, by publicising these it will make us all 'Good Neighbours' and more considerate to our fellow neighbours!

Some residents have complained about the behaviour of certain boys on the Estate.

Apparently the service road behind houses in The Wick is being used for games of football. Understandable, perhaps - a safe and tempting venue. Unfortunately these games result in damage to the garages at the end of the road. Doors are dented, and many have had to be re-painted.

Some greens on the Estate are also being used as playgrounds, although this has been prohibited by the Council and is disturbing people in the vicinity.

Are parents aware of the existence of the Adventure Playground behind The Wick? This is an ideal place for both older and younger children to enjoy themselves quite safely. It is at present underused, although it is specifically provided for residents and is kept in excellent condition. It would be a pity to lose it!

Perhaps a little more supervision and guidance from parents would result in more consideration for those affected in these areas.

Dorothy Bradley

We have received a letter from Mr. Gordon Ridgewell of The Wick complaining about the noise nuisance caused by clay pigeon shooting in Bramfield Road. He is also very concerned about the planning

application for a temporary clubhouse on the site.

The reply received to the Committee's complaint to the Chief Environmental Health Officer was printed in full in the Winter issue of 'Molewood Outlook'. Shooting hours were to be restricted, an earth bund erected and additional work proposed to reduce noise levels further.

We should welcome residents' views on this matter as soon as possible and any suggestions as to any further action which should be taken.

AIRGUN LAW

If you own an airgun, the law imposes strict regulations on the use (or misuse) of airguns, details of which are available in an "AIRGUN LAW" leaflet issued by the Shooting Sports Trust. Anyone or their family, holding an airgun would be well advised to obtain a copy of this leaflet.

The main points in the leaflet are as follows:-

TRESSPASSING

It is against the law to trepass on any land (that includes land covered by water such as rivers and lakes), or in any Building whilst you have an airgun with you.

AIR GUNS IN PUBLIC PLACES

It is against the law to have a loaded airgun in a public place. Make sure you know what constitutes a public place. Make sure you understand the law on Highways, Protection of Birds and Poaching.

IF YOU ARE 14 YEARS OLD AND UNDER 17 YEARS

You cannot buy or hire an airgun.
You can borrow one or receive it as a gift from a person who is 17 years of age or older, preferably your parents.

You cannot have an airgun in a public place except at a Rifle Club or a Shooting Gallery.
You may carry an unloaded airgun in a public place (but not an air pistol) only if it is in a securely fastened gun cover.

IF YOU ARE UNDER 14 YEARS OLD

You may not buy or hire, or accept as a gift, an airgun.
Anyone giving or selling you an airgun is guilty of an offence.
You must never be left in complete control of an airgun. You may only use it when you are supervised by a person who is over the age of 21 even within your own home.

M A K E S U R E Y O U U N D E R S T A N D T H E L A W.

HOW GREEN IS YOUR PAVEMENT

What a delight it has been to see such lovely gardens around the estate

this past summer.

Unfortunately such sights are so easily detracted from by the ugly weeds that grow along front walls and in the gutter.

Of course we all know that in the "pre-cut-back days" this sort of weeding was carried out by the Council. Sadly these days are gone forever and next year will see the level of maintenance sink even further.

I know that a number of residents carry out this weeding themselves and it really doesn't take very long. Believe me, the visual improvement is well worth the effort - so come on gardeners, spare a thought for such areas when you're working in your front gardens.

Elizabeth Walden

Complaints - (or a little more thought please!)

1st There is a lot of concern from residents about the thoughtless parking of vehicles on pavements round the estate. Please stop and think when you or your visitors park cars ..... there are a lot of Mums with babies in pushchairs, why should they be pushed into the road? We have also quite a few elderly and some handicapped people to consider. Nearly every house has an adequate drive for vehicles - please think a little more - its only a few more yards to drive! Actually, it is an offence to block pavements with vehicles and fines can be incurred for this as well as damaging of the surfaces.

Also on the same subject ..... we have continuous requests to ask people or visitors not to park opposite other neighbours' drives - it causes unecessary irritation and impedes entry and exit.

2nd Overhanging trees etc.

This is another source of constant complaint. Please have a walk around the path of your property. Are there trees or shrubs over-hanging? Again have you thought about children in pushchairs? Their eyes may be on the level of those overhanging shrubs - not a pleasant thought ..... Trees are another constant headache - literally! It is not pleasant walking into trees and bushes - especially after rain when wet branches hang lower and for the elderly, poorer sighted and blind, not funny either. Did you know that if any trees or bushes protrude beyond your boundary over footpaths and highways it is an offence? If after polite requests to comply are ignored - the Council has powers to cut the offending greenery and then charge the cost to the offender.

Last but not least .....

Barking dogs left in gardens. We are afraid a lot of neighbours"are not amused" Please take them in (the dogs not neighbours!)

Pam Lutner

As a matter of interest to all pet owners (or may be even more to non-pet owners!), the following 'Code of Practice' was produced by a national joint working party comprising various Authorities.

THE PET OWNERS CODE OF PRACTICE FOR HOUSING ESTATES All Pets

Check with your local authority to see if you need permission to keep a pet.

Ask a vet or the RSPCA about having your pet neutered/doctored to avoid unwanted puppies or kittens.

Vaccinate your pet against killer diseases: worm every six months.

YOUR DOG

Give your dog plenty of exercise but keep him under control. If he strays he may cause a road accident or damage property. You are legally responsible for his conduct.

Never let him foul on estate property/especially areas where children play. Let him use your garden or the street gutter.

Never leave your dog alone all day. It's unfair to him and your neighbours if he's always barking.

When you are away arrange for your pet to be looked after. Ask for addresses of boarding kennels at your local authority office.

Train your dog to 'come', 'sit' and 'stay'. Ask about dog training clubs at your library or local authority office.

Remember! Consider your neighbours -
they may not share your enjoyment of pet animals.

Well, that's got all the moans off our chests! The best solution to nearly all these matters is to make a friendly approach to 'offenders' who, in many cases, may not even be aware of the problems they are causing and might even appreciate having their attention drawn to such matters. As I said, these are not the committee's 'niggles', they come from ..... YOU!

NOW - in a much more cheerful vein .....

At last we have some 'young blood' on the Committee .....
The New Secretary, Ruth Harrison.

As a new member on the committee, I have been asked to write a piece about me - you only have to endure this once!

Even though I had no idea what the committee did, apart from their involvement in halting the 'Pit' for the time being, I was soon to learn that the Residents' Association kept an eye on Molewood and the surrounding area.

When I went to the first meeting, everyone introduced themselves and I immediately forgot their names, which is a bit embarrassing - being Secretary!

The first thing I learned was that even though the committee do a lot of serious and important work, they also enjoy themselves at the same time.

I have lived in Bengeo all my twenty one years, and worked in Hertford but now work in Ware. I have two older brothers, David and Nigel who are both married and live away from home.

I don't like discos, I prefer books to T.V. and adore animals. I play badminton in Ware and I attempt to write articles for this magazine!

I went to Bengeo and Simon Balle School, then I went to Ware College for a year.

A Group of us went to the Game Fair in Hampshire last July and had a great time. Unfortunately it went on all day and I arrived home looking like a beetroot and felt as though I had been skinned.

Ruth Harrison

Thank you Ruth.

This is the only wedding reported to the 'Molewood Outlook' since the last publication.

If you would like your family wedding (or any other special occasion) in the magazine, let us have details please.

WEDDING

Helen Brandford of 10 Desborough Close married Richard Rawlinson of 57 Brookside, Hertford on May 6th at Holy Trinity, Bengeo.

Reception - Fanhams Hall - Ware.

Brides dress - full length white satin and lace puff sleeves, bo-peep hem.

Bridesmaids - Karen Wing, Nicola Brandford - Katrina Anderson.

Karen and Nicola are the Brides sisters.
Ice blue full length satin dresses.
Katrina age 6 is Bride's God-daughter.
Full length white satin and lace, bo-peep hem.

Best Man - Ian Rawlinson - Grooms brother.

Honeymoon - Montego Bay, Jamaica.

New home - Willowmead, Hertford.

Bride is Assistant Guider with 1st Bengeo Brownies who formed a Guard of Honour.

Congratulations!

MORE ON THE 'WHEELIES'

How many of us were apprehensive at the thought of having a "wheelie bin", but what a blessing they are! If, like me, you have no car, the task of getting garden rubbish to the dump was always a problem. No any more! Everything goes in the bin and all I have to do is wheel it to the end of the drive. What an improvement on the old system!

My thanks to the Council for introducing this scheme.

Eileen Beale

Well, not everyone is as pleased with the 'wheelies', as this correspondent of the Observer lyrically points out!

The dustbins lament

It's a very sad story I have to relate
But it's time that someone explained
Why councillor X - for reasons complex
Will not attend council again.

Now of course you've all heard
of the council's wheeled bins
How welcome they are to electors.
Mr X was not slow in his efforts
to show
How mistaken were any objectors.

"You can't reach the bottom to clean out the bin,
You think it might foster disease?"
He stuck in his head and he reached out his arm
To prove he could clean it with ease.

But the bottom could only be reached
by the arms
Of gorillas or p'raps chimpanzees
So he hoisted himself more than
prudence advised
Like an acrobat on a trapeze.

He'd been so long from school he'd
forgotten the rule
About shifting the centre of gravity,
Reached for crumbs of old bread and
went base over head
To fall into the nauseous cavity.

Well, up to that moment it didn't
mean much
But the lid thudded down on his heels
Automatically airtight so no one
could hear
His urgent and frantic appeals.

There is no one to blame but it's
sad just the same.
When the refuseman picked up the bin
They worked by the book: they were
not paid to look
For councillors inside the bin.

There's a very large mound where he
lies underground
Although none can determine the spot
He was processed compactly so one
can't say exactly -
I don't 'spose it matters a lot.

There is one consolation - he preached
automation
And although his demise was unplanned
When he rises from his dump, he can
claim at the Last Trump
His disposal was untouched by human
hand.

T J Hutton
The Ridgeway
North Harrow

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ..... PAM LUTNER

As there are other items on Neighbourhood Watch, I will keep mine brief. We in Bengeo Molewood Estate are in general very lucky. The crime rate is extremely low (I say this with all fingers and toes crossed!). Luck comes into it in some cases as there are still people on the estate who leave garages open to public view - what a choice of house breaking tools - ladders etc. Remember, Christmas is coming ..... Do your patio doors have extra safety locks? This is still the most common and easiest method of entry to a house, The Crime Prevention Officer at Hertford Police Station will advise on special locks for patio doors as well as the rest of the house.

Marker pens to postcode your property are available from Co-ordinators or Moys Newsagents. Have you a Neighbourhood Watch postcoded sticker in your window? (again, from Co-ordinators).

Thank you to John Franks who has sadly resigned as deputy for Peel Crescent due to an impending move. Please could we have two volunteers from here? Ideally one from each end and also two for The Wick please. Phone Pam Lutner - 581329.

Last but not least, remember, Neighbourhood Watch works. Thank you to all who have phoned or reported incidents - however small keep them coming.

A Happy Neighbourhood Watch Christmas.

Pam Lutner
Co-ordinator
107 Cowper Crescent
581329

Deputies:-

Brian Bower	28 The Avenue	586321
David Hall	132 Cowper Crescent	586752
Pat Brooks	87 Cowper Crescent	587809
Cherry and Ray Garner	73 Cowper Crescent	589741
Brian Euler	52 The Wick	558619
Heidi Scott	6 Woodhall Close	558208
Paul Liffers	118 The Avenue	587974
Edith Ruggles	17 Lys Hill Gardens	558549
Ruth Harrison	14 Desborough Close	587457
Margaret Read	Wroxham, High Molewood	586820

More advice on Neighbourhood Watch from Ruth .....

Neighbourhood Watch Nationwide

Every season a magazine called "Good Neighbour" is sent out to committees around the country to keep them informed on what is happening and how effective Neighbourhood Watch is. But as there are not enough to go round this is where you are kept informed.

Initial results show Neighbourhood Watch has helped push the crime figures down, especially burglary which has gone down by 9.1% and since the start seven years ago, there are now 66,500 Neighbourhood Watch areas operating across Britain.

The national average for Neighbourhood Watch coverage is one household in five which is twenty per cent. Herts coverage is twenty four per cent but out of forty two police areas Herts is the seventh highest.

The crime figures for 1988 showed the largest drop in thirty years which was five per cent!

Excellent news for all Neighbourhood Watch committees who now know that all their hard work is showing good results and areassurance to everyone in Neighbourhood Watch areas.

INSURANCE TOO HIGH?

Have you:-

postcoded your property?
installed a burglar alarm?
put locks on the windows?
installed double glazing?
fitted smoke detectors?
got a gate to stop anyone getting into the back garden?
Do you live in a Neighbourhood Watch Area?
Is there always someone in your house?
Have you told your insurance company??

Like most people our insurance was taken out years ago when the house was first bought. Over the years items were added to the house, double glazing, locks to windows, smoke detectors and the insurance company was never informed.

Phone up your insurers and ask how much discount you will get off for any of the above list - if you have it. Some companies give five per cent discount for just living in a Neighbourhood Watch area and if they don't seem too enthusiastic why not phone around? You could save yourself quite a lot of money.

Crime thrives on ignorance, vulnerability and poor police/public relationships so why not have a little fortress of your own and keep an eye on your friends' fortresses for good measure.

Unfortunately statistics show that every adult will have his or her car stolen at least once in a lifetime - so take evasive action NOW. Opportunists, not professionals carry out the vast majority of vehicle thefts, and they will go for the car that presents the fewest problems.

What to do

Get into a routine of checking that all doors and windows are locked even when popping in to the shops - lock it - or lose it.

When parking ensure it is in a well lit area and not secluded, try to park it next to a more expensive car!
It is really worth while spending a little money on some deterrents:-

Visible deterrents will put off a casual thief eg 'alarm' sticker - even if there isn't one.

Check - hand brake, steering wheel or gear lever lock.

Window etching is inexpensive but it's expensive to change all the glass before resale.

The petrol-locking cap will stop joy-riders from filling up and going further afield.

But do not have valuable goods on display otherwise it won't stop the window being smashed, door opened and contents taken.

A car alarm is beginning to get more expensive but with a new car it is well worth it.

But if that seems too much like hard work one could always use public transport - (which one would have to if ones car gets stolen anyway!)

Holidays - Having a lovely time

When you go on holiday it is for a relaxing time getting away from it all nothing to worry about ... except .....

If you live in a Neighbourhood Watch area tell your road co-ordinator when you are going away and who you expect in the house - next door neighbour to feed the cat, for example. Ask the people either side of you just to keep an eye on the house and you will do the same for them.

It might sound silly, but make one last check before getting into the car that all windows and doors are locked, including garages and sheds. Try to make the house look occupied:-

Cancel the milk and papers
Arrange for delivery of parcels to a neighbour
Ask a kind friend to pop in and collect any free papers and mail and water your plants (if going away for a long time), put out dustbins and take them in at the right times, (now we have wheeliebins, they might even cut the grass!)
A timing switch for the light is another deterrent

When labelling luggage on the outward journey only put the address of the place where you are staying and on the homeward journey put your holiday company's address or just a telephone number.

The last thing to do is have a happy holiday!

And now a very good example of a 'suspicious mind', that turned out to be good public minded thinking and a good neighbour who 'watched'! .....

A Suspicious Mind

I am writing this to reinforce John Baldwin's request that we should report anything suspicious, anything at all.

I had cause to report something of this nature one morning in July. However, the person who was acting suspiciously was so open about his actions that I kept telling myself that he couldn't possibly be doing anything sinister and I was being over anxious. However, John's words about 'reporting anything suspicious' were ever present in my mind and I did in fact phone the police and guess what? - he turned out to be known to them!

So please, my experience bears out what John has been telling us - "REPORT ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS".

Elizabeth Walden

THE DRIVE

After many requests from ex-Molewood residents, we have extended membership to those residents of The Drive who wish to join the Association.

A warm welcome!

NEWS FROM THE HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE DISABLED

THE EASIER LIVING EXHIBITION

A new exhibition of equipment and gadgets to help those with physical disabilities is now permanently open at Welwyn Garden City. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday and Friday by appointment only.

The equipment is displayed in room areas in order to show a wide range of products which could be useful in the home:- beds, chairs, bathroom and kitchen equipment, stair lifts, walking aids, continence information and much more.

We are trying to show products covering the full range of disabilities, from stiffening hands to total lack of mobility, so do come along because there may be something just right to help you or someone you care for.

The Woodside Centre is in The Commons, off Howlands and only a short distance from the QEII Hospital.

CONGRATULATIONS - GARDEN COMPETITION

What a scorcher! Just may I say I admire the gardeners amongst us who have kept their gardens going despite the drought and other problems. I know only too well the struggle it has been with my own garden. We are exceptionally lucky in that there are very few gardens on the Estate not looked after - the majority having an abundance of flowers, shrubs,

window boxes, tubs and baskets. As a member of Hertford 'Britain in Bloom' Committee it is a joy to see the beautiful gardens which help Hertford in the Nationwide Competitions. Hertford came second this year in our group - a very worth while achievement.

The winners of our own Summer Garden Competition are as follows:-

1st	Mr. & Mrs Elliott	72 Cowper Crescent
2nd	Mr. & Mrs Kenney	34 The Avenue
3rd	Mr. & Mrs Draper	22 Peel Crescent
4th	Mr. & Mrs Sapin	35 Woodhall Close
5th	Mrs Digweed	31 Lodge Close
6th	Mr. & Mrs Reid	140 The Avenue

Best Basket or Tub

Mr. & Mrs Smith
156 The Avenue

Highly Commended:-

Cowper Crescent

13
38
51
46
55
104
79
10

The Avenue

29
138
143
126

Peel Crescent

3
19
57

The Wick

36

Woodhall Close

6

Well done everyone! My task gets harder each time I judge.

Now is the time to think of our Autumn planting and to look forward to all those beautiful flowering bulbs. Talking of bulbs - we will again be planting daffodils and crocus on the Estate for everyone's enjoyment - could we please ask that the greens are not walked on after Christmas until the early Spring, so as to enable the bulbs to grow and flower - not a lot to ask we hope, it makes the bending and planting all worthwhile!

Just a note ..... if anyone needs help or advice on planting shrubs etc. I am at the Bengeo Garden Centre - on Tuesdays and Sundays.

Happy Gardening.

Pam Lutner

HERTFORDSHIRE RIGHT OF WAY ASSOCIATION

For those interested, the above produce an interesting Newsletter periodically. Some, I know already participate in their invigorating activities. Further information from:-

JOHN STROUD, SECRETARY-HERTFORD 584409 RAY TURNER-TREASURER-WARE 870222
JOHN BARNES, - HERTFORD 589143

LETS GO?

One of our committee members has been asked why we no longer arrange any social events. Well, the short answer is - lack of support. We have an annual income of under £500, out of which we have to meet the cost of this magazine and numerous other expenses.

However, for one last time we will ask you to answer the following questionnaire and return it to any of the committee members listed on the inside front cover. We have tried this before and the response has been disappointing and if we do not hear from you, we will take this as a 'NO' vote to question No. 1.

DO YOU WISH THE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION TO ARRANGE SOCIAL EVENTS?
YES/NO

IF YES, WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN AND BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT:-
(PLEASE TICK AS APPROPRIATE)

THEATRE OUTINGS	RIVER TRIP
BARN DANCE	GARDEN VISITS
DISCO	HISTORICAL HOUSE VISIT

ANY SPECIAL SUGGESTIONS WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

Brian Bower

IN MY VIEW RAMBLING ON ITS YOUR WRITE

Letter writing, we are told, is a dying art and this appears to be nowhere more true than in the Bengeo area of Hertford!

Our representatives on the Campaign Against Gravel Extraction committee are finding it extremely embarrassing that despite having more members than the other organisations represented, we have written far fewer letters than the other organisations' members and have been conspicuos at Council Meetings only by our absence!

Now I know we all lead very busy lives but surely we can all find time to write the occasional letter letting our elected representatives know how we feel about gravel extraction or, indeed, any other local issue. The Association does write to the appropriate Council on our behalf but this does not carry the same weight as a letter from an individual household - always remember we have a vote, the Residents' Association does not! So the more letters our Councillors receive expressing our views the better they are able to represent us.

There again, you may be one of those - and I have heard the view - who believes that a massive gravel extraction programme just down the road will not really affect us. If this is the case then I am afraid you could be in for a rude awakening, and are we really so insular that our concern for the environment should finish at the end of The Avenue or The Wick?

While on the subject of the environment, have you visited Goldings lately? The grounds, landscaped as they are, in the style of

'Capability Brown', are magnificant and are well worth a visit. Unfortunately our County Council has been having secret talks with Greenhorns with a view to selling Goldings for gravel extraction. A visit to the grounds may cause you to wonder, as I do, how we come to elect or employ people capable of contemplating environmental vandalism on this scale.

Finally, I would like to refer to the Pioneer pit at Rickneys, in Wadesmill Road. As you will know, their application to expand the pit was rejected by the Council in February. However, I am told that the Conservative Councillors voted for the expansion of the pit and that it was the Labour and S.D.P Councillors who voted against it - something that was not made clear by our local newspaper.

In the May elections we, by our votes, gave control of the County Council back to the Conservatives. Pioneer have now appealed against the earlier decision so we have a situation where our County Council has to prepare a case against a planning application that they voted for in the first place!

Reading the above, you may feel that I am anti-Conservative. This is not so - I am not anti-Conservative - but I am 'pro-Hertford' and anti anyone who seeks to destroy great tracts of our countryside and heritage.

One last appeal, when Redlands and Pioneer re-submit their application for the "biggest gravel pit in Europe" please write to our Councillors giving them <u>your</u> views (whether for it or against it). When it is all over and the dust is settling it is no good saying, "They ought not to have let it happen". You see - from where I sit you are "they"!

Brian Bower

And more on "The Pit" - from our present representative on ..... CAGE.

<u>(Campaign Against Gravel Extraction)</u>

As everyone knows by now CAGE were successful, with everyones support, in having the enormous North of Hertford Gravel Extraction Plan withdrawn.

We have not been resting on our laurels since then however! We are still very much alive and kicking and constantly alert to every move and plan if it has the word 'gravel' in it!

CAGE is now involved Nationwide on the subject of mineral extraction and is gradually building up a complete picture for future reference. It is also involved, and often approached for help in other gravel plans in other counties. George Sandell - Chairman of CAGE and Dr. Tony Vickers have attended appeals and are filing for future reference their experiences and valuable information gained.

CAGE is committed to protecting our countryside and will continue to do so. We have overwhelming evidence that the need for more gravel extraction and pits in our vicinity does NOT exist! There is a strong possibility of the North of Hertford Plan rearing its ugly head again in revised form before Christmas. If and when it comes - we shall be asking for everyone's support and help again and like the last magnificant effort, we are determined with all your support to win again!

If anyone has any questions or queries, Chairman - George Sandell will be willing to help on Hertford 50(422.

If anyone also wishes to donote to the funds to keep the campaign going, please contact me - Pam Lutner - 107 Cowper Crescent - 581329

GREETINGS

There goes the Summer holiday - Roll on Christmas! Funny thing to say really - but, is it? The little darlings have gone back to school, hence the sudden decrease in petty crime. (Parents have been reminded in the latest Newsletter that damage has been done to garages near the Adventure Playground. The police will prosecute if this practice continues).

But your more thoughtful villian has now got [illegible] a move on as he's spent all his "HARD EARNED" cash getting a sun tan! Joking apart, be always vigilant and don't think twice about contacting us if a problem arises involving suspicious individuals or vehicles. Over the past couple of months we have suffered several burglaries, some in your area and some in others. But what is a little irksome is that they have occurred in areas which are covered (or only just outside those covered) by Neighbourhood Watch Schemes. It would also seem that Hertford in general is beginning to suffer from a spate of 'cycle thefts. These are mainly of the upper quality racers and mountain bikes, so if you have one of these machines don't leave it around unlocked and make sure it is marked with your postcode.

The Herts police are launching a strong campaign on drink/driving very soon. So ..... be warned!

Once again ..... be vigilant where door to door 'salesmen' are concerned. Report ALL strangers calling at doors. Telephone the police (H.587711) or a Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator.

P.C. John Baldwin

Correspondence Column

We feel that members of the Association should be informed of letters written on their behalf, and the results thereof.

We have written several letters supporting the C.A.G.E. campaign - and, most recently, supporting the protest against the exclusion of Waterford and Goldings in the Hertfordshire District Plan Review. Our vigilance in these matters is essential.

The Director of Technical Services, answering our letter regarding the state of roads on the Estate, envisages that, providing that funds are available in the next financial year, the section of The Avenue between Bengeo Street and Cowper Crescent would need to be totally reconstructed. This year slab joint repairs will be carried out to the sections of The Avenue between Cowper Crescent and the shopping parade. Will shall see!

We have complained about the dangerous condition of the grass verges outside Bengeo School, and have suggested that they should be tarmaced. An acknowledgement, but no promises yet.

Our letter regarding the state of the trees has been acknowledged, and, we hope, will lead to some action.

We understand from a reply received that 15 Cowper Crescent, about which we have received complaints, is to be sold.

As a result of complaints, missing and vandalised road signs are being replaced.

A welcome letter was received from Miss Jolly, 128 The Avenue, thanking us for the garden award and for the Committee's work. It's nice to be appreciated!

Your letters on matters which concern you will also be welcome.

Dorothy Bradley

1939 and 1989. A Point of View

"Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive,
But to be young was very heaven".

Wordsworth wrote these words at the beginning of the French Revolution. I found them quoted in my diary in May, 1945.

I had recorded the six years of war - evacuation from a London school, long hours of work in a factory, shortages which modern youngsters could not comprehend. There were the long, sleepless nights spent listening to enemy planes droning overhead, the thud of falling bombs - and later, the sudden explosion of a VI - a 'doodlebug' and the V2, the pilotless bombers which fell indiscriminately on residential areas; the relief when the "All Clear" sounded.

It is not a gloomy record, however. Life was very exciting if you were young. Each day was a challenge. It might be your last. We did not need alcohol, drugs, pop concerts or wild parties to give meaning to our lives. Everyone had a purpose - old and young alike, and despite everything, we enjoyed ourselves.

The black-out held no fears of attack on the streets; the only threat came from the skies, although the country teemed with soldiers, sailors and airmen from so many countries.

No doubt it was harder for our parents. They worried more. Mums battled to feed us on inadequate rations, while many Dads were in the forces. But we helped each other, shared the joys and inevitable sorrows of war-respected each other. Young people did not regard themselves as a race apart, whose every whim must be indulged by a world which owed them a living. We had our duties and responsibilities to others - and, I think we were happier because of that. Self indulgence, encouraged by commercialism, does not bring happiness. It is very sad.

I do not think that "to be young is very Heaven" in 1989.

Dorothy Bradley

A trace of hope

How many of us can read and interpret architects' plans swiftly and with ease? How many of us can immediately spot aspects which may affect us personally, while poring over the plans in Wallfields?

Until very recently, when we have heard of a building application that needs checking - and there have been several locally, as we all know we have had to inspect the plans and come away with what we could remember of them, as it was illegal to take any copy out of the office. This meant that people without transport or those who were at work during normal office hours had to rely on what others could tell them.

Not any more. Since August this year restrictions have been lifted and it is now permitted to take copies and study them at home.

For once, the change will benefit residents and others concerned with the environment, instead of assisting the developers.

This does not mean, unfortunately, that we can, even now, take the plans as one hundred per cent reliable. There have been a few cases in the national press lately of finished buildings being very different from the plans - three or four feet higher for example - so careful watch must still be maintained. However it does make it easier for those of us, like your Committee who do not want to see wholesale indiscriminate 'development.'

Every Planning Department is making its own rules about how to comply with the new regulation. At Wallfields there is a charge of £5 for photocopying each document - letters etc. but there will be no photocopying of plans and no charge either. Instead you will be given a sheet of tracing paper and allowed to get on with it.

I think it is a pity that they will not photocopy plans because they do possess the necessary machines, but perhaps at £5 for a letter of application the cost would be prohibitive. At any rate they do not feel able at the moment to consider this and tracing will be a valuable compromise.

. . . . . .

This I think is a good place to pass on the news that the latest application for building on Long Hope Farm has been turned down.

Some of you may remember that there was a previous application for three houses, on the land between the two footpaths running down from our Estate, bordering North Road. This was turned down and another application for one house was submitted this summer. This house was to have stood on exactly the same site as one of the previous three, leaving the way open for two further applications in the opinion of the Committee.

However it was refused on the grounds that it was within the Green Belt - it's good to know that still counts for something, 2) it seemed likely there would be a loss of trees, despite assurances to the contrary and 3) the development would create a dangerous precendent.

Another aspect of this application was the 'upgrading' of the present rural footpath, to the width and surface of a full road! Hardly in keeping!

This Committee is wholly against infilling, especially as so much of our surrounding countryside is under threat. We must continue to be vigilant!

Valerie Sutton

The ED. always gets the LAST word - so here are mine:-

Now that the hazy, lazy days of summer are but a fond memory we take up the cudgels to concentrate on matters which no longer depend on sand, sea and sunshine for our enjoyment.

So, I offer this ode, the origin of which escapes my memory - at the same time imprinting on it well!

TAKE TIME ..... to think - thoughts are the source of power
Take time to play - play is the secret of eternal youth
Take time to read - reading is the fountain of wisdom
Take time to pray - prayer can be a rock in the time of trouble
Take time to love - loving is what makes living worth while
Take time to be friendly - friendships give life a delicious flavour
Take time to laugh - laughter is the music of the soul
Take time to give - any day of the year is too short for selfishness
Take time to do your work well - pride in your work, no matter what it is, nourishes the ego and the spirit,
Take time to show appreciation - thanks is the frosting on the cake of life.

So, THANK YOU all for your support!
We will probably be back in the New Year.

In the meantime - have a wonderful winter and festive season (no, not THAT long to go!). Don't forget the articles for 1990 - or the front page pictures (KIDDIES) and don't forget to .....

..... TAKE TIME!

Allan Streeton
Editor

Oh ..... and just ONE more thing .....

WHY NOT GIVE YOURSELVES A REAL END-OF-THE-YEAR TREAT?

M O L E W O O D R E S I D E N T S A S S O C I A T I O N

INVITE YOU TO A PRE-CHRISTMAS SOCIAL .....

..... H I L A R I O U S !

..... S I D E - S P L I T T I N G !

"THE HISTORY OF LAVATORIES" BY PETER PADWICK

AT CHURCH HALL, DUNCOMBE ROAD

NOVEMBER 22ND - 8 p.m.

AS WE ARE ANTICIPATING AN EARLY SELL-OUT GET YOUR TICKETS FROM ANY COMMITTEE MEMBER - NOW.

ANYONE WHO HAS SEEN AND HEARD PETER PADWICK WILL KNOW THERE'S SELDOM "A DRY EYE IN THE HOUSE" AT HIS PRESENTATIONS.

SO ..... COME ON DOWN ..... TO DUNCOMBE HALL .....
AND ..... ENJOY ..... WINE ..... BUFFETT .....
AND HILARITY!