AUTUMN 1990

MOLEWOOD OUTLOOK



COMMITTEE 1990-91

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Brian Euler	52 The Wick	558619
Olive Church	122 Cowper Crescent	583412
Brian Bower	28 The Avenue	586321
Elizabeth Walden	11 Cowper Crescent	553606
Irene Cherry	49 The Wick	581084
Eileen Beale	13 Peel Crescent	587503
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MOLEWOOD OUTLOOK - AUTUMN 1990 ISSUE

Well, another autumn is upon us. (Time flies)! Nothing much has changed on the old 'Onion Patch', for which, I suppose, we should be grateful?

After much 'ooohing' about the tropical summer of '89, this summer left it, almost literally, in the shade. Who would think in these tranquil autumn days that we 'enjoyed' temperatures of almost 100°F in this land almost devoid of air-conditioning, and where water supplies have been threatened?

During that blistering heat the Council worked hard on one of our pitted roads - The Avenue - and what a joy it is to drive on now! (Let's hope it lasts).

Our C.A.G.E. colleagues never let up during the 'sizzler'. No separate report is being made on this matter as 'STOPIT' newsletters have been delivered - we hope - to every household. If you have not received one, please contact Pam Lutner.

COVER PICTURE

Once again Molewood youth comes up trumps with a beautiful and evocative picture adorning this mag. Our young artist this time is:- Rebecca Lucas, age 9, who lives at 28, Cowper Crescent, with her sister Katherine, and younger brother, Geoffrey. Rebecca loves riding, which she does at Peterfield, she is also keen on swimming. Her big ambition when she leaves school is to become a Vet. Thank you for your excellent picture Rebecca, especially the elaborate lettering. (No more contributions yet, thanks - we have already three in hand!)

THE HERTFORD FEDERATION OF AMENITY SOCIETIES needs committee members - and quickly! So, if you have ONE evening a month spare, please let Ruth Harrison know. They have done a lot of good work and keep all the local committees - including ours - informed on their work and of various events which take place. If you do not have transport to get to their meetings (at Tewin), or feel nervous about attending, then Ruth will be pleased to accompany you. Telephone for more information - 587457.

Whilst on the subject of COMMITTEES, we could do with some more assistance on THIS one - M.R.A. If you do not want the commitment but feel you could help out on various functions or deliveries, please let Pam Lutner know. YOUNGSTERS: we could also use your help, especially with deliveries - if you feel public spirited .....

GREETINGS to all new residents of this Estate, and 'bon voyage' to those seeking pastures new.

CHAIR-PERSON'S REPORT

No special report from Pam Lutner at this stage, other than to thank everyone for their support.

SPECIAL vigilance is requested, and attention is particularly drawn to the recently circularised C.A.G.E. report, and PLEASE make a note to voice your objections strongly in writing to:-

COUNTY PLANNING and ESTATES OFFICER
COUNTY HALL
HERTFORD.

As stated in the campaign newsletter, the one thousand and two hundred letters of objection to the ORIGINAL scheme are not being considered and we therefore need MORE letters to ensure that full weight is given to the views of the local communities. WRITE NOW, PLEASE!

There are, of course many worthy academic achievements by youngsters on this estate, so it is nice to mention one which has come to our notice:-

THREE YEARS ON

Twins CHRISTOPHER and RICHARD FROST of Cowper Crescent have successfully completed their B.A. Honours degrees at Trinity and Robinson Colleges, Cambridge. Christopher read Physics and Theoretical Physics and will continue his studies over the next three years for a PhD in Nuclear Physics at Trinity. Richard's degree was in Veterinary Medicine with Zoology and he will continue his clinical studies at Cambridge University Vet. school for a career as a Veterinary Surgeon.

Chris has spent part of his vacation working at County Hall, whilst Richard pursued his interests on a pig farm in Suffolk.

The twins were educated at Hatfield School.

We wish them every success for the future!

FORT APACHE - HERTFORD?

Concern has been expressed by some over the ever-growing number of youths who gather in the Old Cross area on Friday and Saturday nights, where fights often break out. Unfortunately, Hertford has very little in the way of recreational and sports amenities to create interests for the 'young ones', which would aleviate the problemto some extent. The situation is aggravated by the fact that the Herts police do not apparently have the personnel to spend time in 'containing' any potential troubles.

A sad situation with little in the way of solutions, other than to say, if you do spot any trouble-makers please alert the police immediately.

NOW READ ON ..... FROM OUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBOURHOOD BOBBY .....

GREETINGS ALL!

Another area in which the police get involved during summer time is the sort of thing none of us should suffer in theory, that being the good old inter-neighbour dispute. Noisy kids, noisy dogs, inconsiderate behaviour from one to another and, the biggest one of all, noisy parties and music. Everyone has a breaking point, and rather than us finding that neighbours are able to sort out their problems intelligently and courteously, we find that some are just too selfish or inconsiderate to listen to another's view. This, I suppose, when one reads the above, seems to be aimed at teenagers. Well, believe it or not, although they are among the culprits, a lot of adults think that they are all that matters and to hell with the rest! Therefore think about one another, which of course you all do, don't you?

Anyway, back to basics. The burglaries - (quick where's a bit of wood!) have stopped for the moment, and car thefts are down in the area. I should like to think it's because I'm back working the area since my various enquiries have ceased. However I dare say it's only coincidence; therefore keep your eyes open and let us know if mischief makers are around.

P.C. JOHN BALDWIN
(July 1990)

Thank you John. He also mentioned house alarms at our last committee meeting. If you have a system NOT computerised (direct to the Police), please advise the police station where you can be contacted (at any time) and type of alarm - in YOUR interests.

HOT OFF THE PRESS - FROM HERTFORD POLICE (SEPT. '90)

We have been informed of several house burglaries in the Bengeo area recently, so the problem seems to be moving 'nearer to home'. These were during the day-time.

Please be vigilant, security-conscious and report ANYTHING suspicious to the POLICE.

KEEP MOLEWOOD CRIME-FREE!

BISHOP of DIJON

Like many other youngsters from this area Kevin BISHOP contributed to the 'en tende cordiale this summer when he went on an exchange visit - to DIJON in France.

He left with the Richard Hale School party in the early hours of a July Sunday to head for Dover, thence to Calais, and then thirteen weary hours later his temporary 'Chez Lui', wondering how the new environment would be. He needn't have worried, his French hosts made him very welcome. He certainly had a 'bon appetit' for the meals, and didn't find them too rich or spicy for his Bengeo palate! His culinary verdict? Les escargots (snails) - "comme ci, comme ca", frogs legs - "very nice", but he found that the live oysters upset him a little!

With Kevin's french counterpart, Jerome, the two weeks flew by with plenty of fun and activities such as football, tennis, ten-pin bowling, etc. They also visited Dijon centre with all its large shops and museums. One of Kevin's favourites was a large swimming pool which had a multitude of swimming activities including two large water tubes. Next door was a mammoth shopping complex - Toison D'or.

BASTILLE day brought the biggest thrill for Kevin when, on the 14th July, there was a fabulous late night firework display on the north bank of a big man-made lake - Lac Kir.

His stay in Dijon was a memoriable one and Kevin is looking forward to Jerome's visit to his home in 24, Cowper Crescent next Easter.

Bonne chance, Kevin!

(Have you an interesting 'exchange' experience you would like to tell us about?)

MESSY BUSINESS

Much has been said - and written in the 'Mercury' - about dogs who defecate, for want of a better word, on footpaths and pavements.

The Town Council is having a purge by offering £50 reward for information leading to the successful prosecution of dog owners who allow their dogs to foul public places. 'Poop-a-scoop' bye laws may be introduced. These are commonly used in the U.S.A. and have certainly had the desired effect.

Anyone who has a dog knows the diffulty in preventing - even of the rare occasion - their pet being 'taken short', and signs prohibiting such acts of aggression are not always comprehended by our four-legged friends!

'Poop-spying' on neighbours is not, in our opinion, conductive to a friendly atmosphere, but we do urge all dog-owners to train their dogs as far as possible, and if the poor things just cannot wait have some home-made 'poop-a-scoops' to clear up after them. Excrement CAN cause diseases - so let's TRY to keep Molewood clean.

CARS PARKED ON THE ROAD

There still seems to be far too many cars parked on roads on this estate, although there are vast empty spaces in people's driveways. This means in many cases double parking, which causes a hazard for people driving through, and also pedestrians. It may be that some car owners consider it more of a hazard in pulling their cars OUT of the drive than pulling a way from the kerb, and they may well have a point there!

Even so, we think that in many cases drivers just cannot 'spare' the extra few seconds it takes each journey in and out of their drives, especially if it means moving other family cars around. Well, we think on balance that it would be safer for all to get the car off the road wherever possible ..... don't you? Your car certainly stands less chance of being damaged.

THE DRIVE

Approximately HALF of the residents of the Drive have now joined the Association, and we extend a hearty welcome to you, and hope that some of the remaining residents may like to 'come on down' and join the fun!

THE SHOPS

Now that the 'Keep Clear' signs have been boldly painted close by The Avenue shops, we hope that all users of the rear motor road will have easy access - and egress - in future.

RIGHTS OF WAY ASSOCIATION

The September Newsletter has now been circulated.

A brand new leaflet, RIGHTS OF WAY ACT 1990 by the COUNTRYSIDE COMMISSION has been produced. Free copies of this and other publications can be obtained from:

COUNTRYSIDE COMMISSION PUBLICATIONS
19/23 ALBERT ROAD
MANCHESTER M19 2EQ

The local Newsletter is available from 84 Mardeville Road.

There is one copy available with the Ed. should you wish to borrow it.

CORRESPONDENCE COLUMN

Residents will appreciate that our letters regarding the state of The Avenue have resulted in the reconstruction work which has now been completed. Mr. Meadows, Assistant Director of Technical Services, has taken a personal interest in the project. During a visit he assured me that further repairs will be carried out when funds become available. Other areas have greater need, therefore higher priority. The Works Department is responsible for smaller repairs and this is being considered. Residents of the shopping area will, no doubt, welcome the 'Keep Clear' signs in response to our request. We have written a 'thank you' letter.

A letter has been sent by your Committee to C.A.G.E. on behalf of residents, expressing our outrage at the threat to our environment. C.A.G.E. deserves our support and we hope that individual householders are doing all they can. More leaflets will need to be delivered when planning application is made to

the County Council. Perhaps young people will volunteer their services. It is their future we are trying to protect.

We have requested that those who use the Adventure Playground ensure that this facility remains, by reporting vandalism and keeping the adjacent path free from mud.

Please let us know if there are any other matters that you think require our attention.

Dorothy Bradley

On the question of C.A.G.E., the committee have made a small donation (£25) to their funds. Any further donations - no matter how large(!) - will of course be gratefully received.

ZENA CHEEL, who delighted all who attended the last A.G.M. on her 'Last days of the Raj' talk, has donated the following article on Hatfield House.

OUR H ERITAGE - ON OUR DOORSTEP

As a guide at Hatfield House, I have been asked to write a column about it. No easy task with so vast a mansion - to appreciate its grandeur and beauty and the splendour of its gardens one needs a personal visit.

However, I shall attempt to give you a "potted" history.

The or iginal building in the Park was built in 1497, as a residence for the Bishops of Ely. The remains of this (the banqueting hall) is now referred to as the Old Palace. Henry VIII confiscated it as the home of his children. Elizabeth I spent most of her young life at Hatfield and it was in the park (sitting beneath an oak tree) that she learned she was to become Queen. It later became one of the homes of James I, who never liked the cold old place. Robert Cecil, son of Lord Burleigh and 1st Earl of Salisbury, owned a mansion in the eastern part of the county called Theobalds, which he inherited from his father. To this house he invited James I. The King was very taken with it and proposed to his host an arrangement by which Theobalds be handed to him, and Robert Cecil receive in exchange the Royal Palace of Hatfield. Robert Cecil politely accepted the proposition. He too was not over enamoured with the Palace and was soon to pull down all but one wing and use the bricks to build a new mansion. It took five years to build (1607-1612) and cost about £10,000! As was the custom of the time the house was built in the shape of a letter E, the initial of the great Queen. Sadly Robert Cecil died before the house was ready for residence.

For many decades the house and family had a somewhat chequered career. Robert Cecil's eldest son was the first resident and became the 2nd Earl of Salisbury. His ensuing ancestors were not interested in "high" political issues although the family remained powerful. However, in 1780 the 7th Earl took up residence, returned to political life and was made the 1st Marquess of Salisbury. He and his wife undertook so much restoration of the house and returned it to its former glory. She (nee Lady Emily Mary Hill) was a vivacious personality and popular hostess even though somewhat eccentric. In 1835 a fire gutted the West wing; she by then was the Dowager Marchioness, aged 85, and she sadly perished in the fire. Another notable member of the family was the 3rd Marquess, Queen Victoria's Prime Minister on three occasions. Hatfield House became a great political centre for Ministers of the Crown and foreign potentates. Himself an eminent chemist and fascinated in new inventions, he had electricity installed in the house in 1881, the first private house to be so equipped.

The 5th Marquess was a member of Churchill's War Cabinet. During World War I the house was made available as a convalescent home, and for five years during World War II it housed a Military Hospital.

As I said earlier it is impossible to give a worthy description of the beauty of the house on paper - it needs the visual experience, you will have to visit it!

For an amateur like me the vastness of the house is beyond my powers of describing, but I'll give you a "jet age" tour.

MARBLE HALL: In the style of a great medieval hall, with a minstrels gallery and Jacobean screen at either end. Original panelling and furnishings, portraits of Elizabeth I and Mary Queen of Scots. An impressive ceiling painted by an Italian artist Taldini, it took him five years to paint. 17th century Brussels tapestries and cabinets containing papers referring to Robert Cecil's political life and the purchase of the Old Palace.

THE GRAND STAIRCASE: Elaborately carved in the Italian Renaissance style. The Jacobean gates at the bottom were to prevent the dogs running about the grander upstairs rooms. The "Rainbow Portrait" of Elizabeth I (I'll leave you to visit to learn of its symbolic interest) As you proceed upwards there are various family portraits. At the top there are numerous other portraits, the grey horse ridden by Elizabeth I when she reviewed the troops before the Armada, the Monmouth portrait (its history will be revealed when you visit!), the Tradescant newel depicting a figure of Monmouth and his gardening tools - more of him in the gardening section.

JAMES I DRAWING ROOM: The principal reception room, owing its name to the life-size statue over the mantlepiece, contains many family portraits (1st to 4th Marquesses and their wives). The pink/gold furniture made for 1st Marchioness late 1700s. Various furniture and porcelain collected by the family.

LONG GALLERY: 180 feet in length. Originally unfurnished, used by the family and house guests as an exercise area in the inclement weather. Now an extended drawing room containing a variety of furnishing and portraits. All the ceilings in the house were originally white, the gold leaf was applied by the 2nd Marquess just over a hundred years ago. Cleverly hidden within the panelling is the Posset Set, suffice to say a posset was a night drink (of gruel?) and the set is carved from rock crystal? early 1500s; more to learn when you visit. Off the gallery is the North Gallery housing a mother-of-pearl table belonging to Lord Burleigh, James I cradle and James III court chairs. Photographs of the current family are on view. At the far end is a cabinet containing Elizabeth I's silk stockings, gloves and silk hat. This area is approached via the Dining Room and Library.

WINTER DINING ROOM: Originally the Queens bed chamber, made the dining room about 100 years ago. The French chandelier is made of Waterford Crystal. It contains a 400 year old table, 33 feet long and made from a single piece of elm. Probably initially used in the Old Palace kitchens and has numerous initials carved on its top. Portraits of Charles I, George III and James I. Portraits of Lord Burleigh and Robert Cecil - their origin revealed on your visit. Twelve beautifully carved chairs surround the dining-table, from China and carved in padook (a very hard and heavy wood) and given to the 1st Marchioness about 1819.

LIBRARY: Originally the Queen's drawing room. Converted to a library by the 3rd Marquess and contains over 10,000 books, some dating from the 16th century. Over the mantlepiece is a Venetian mosaic of Robert Cecil, made about 1608. Cabinets containing old house-hold accounts, letters written by Elizabeth I and the rough draft of Lord Burleighs' execution order of Mary Queen of Scots. 200 year old furniture recently up holstered as it was originally in Nigerian goat-skin by the Gucci firm. A 150 year old "saddle" chair - why it is so called and who used it??

THE ARMOURY: Originally an open Italian style portico. Covered in by the 2nd Marquess, marble floored and panelled. Armour collected by 1st & 2nd Marquess plus some from the Spanish Armada. Tapestries are English made in 1611, by Sheldon in Warwickshire. Called the Four Seasons - details provided on visit. Dutch organ made for Robert Cecil by Han in 1609, cost £1,000, now has mod[illegible] keyboard and electrified.

THE CHAPEL: For many years the family had a resident chaplain and daily services/prayers were performed, attended by family and servants. The latter stood in the gallery above the main body of the chapel. Being in the West wing it was damaged by the fire, which mainly damaged the organ and ceilings (restored by 1st and 2nd Marquesses). The main feature is the stained glass windows, depicting stories from the Old Testament. The high quality glass and colours are ever vibrant.

You depart the house via the old kitchens, currently an exhibition of soldiery, soon to be converted to a Victorian kitchen.

Parkland and Gardens: There are acres of parkland, ideal for picnics and ideal for exercising the dogs and children! Not far from the house is an adventure playground and adventure trial.

The gardens are a MUST. You don't need to be an avid or well informed gardener to enjoy the experience of a walk through the gardens. Wherever you go the numerous nooks and crannies have seats on which to enjoy the scene and rest the "tootsies".

WEST GARDENS: (Open Tues to Sun 11am - 6pm). A dazzling display of colour, aroma and atmosphere. Dominated by a fountained pond containing golden carp. The beds abound with flowers and shrubs, most are labelled (for the more inquisitive). From here you stroll into the scented garden, another expanse of flowers, herbs and cascading honeysuckles etc, etc; the perfumes enhanced by the camomile planted within the paths. Beyond this you come to the wilderness garden, a lovely stretch of wild flowers and grasses interspersed with many ancient trees plus new saplings replacing those blown down in the gales.

EAST GARDEN: The private family garden (open to the public on Mondays - 2pm - 5pm; except on Bank Holidays).

A wonderful display of lawns, beds frothing over with flowers and shrubs together with cascading creepers on walls and stone stairways. The current layout and profusion is greatly due to Lady Salisbury's vast horticultural knowledge and hard work. Since taking residence in 1972 she has researched the plant lists of John Tradescant (the original planner) and, like him, has travelled to Europe and beyond in search of plants with which to replenish the garden. Once again there are numerous seats from which to enjoy the beauty of ones surroundings. Beyond the garden is a maze, planted about 100 years ago - sadly, mainly due to vandalism, it is no longer open to the public.

A detailed and beautifully illustrated booklet, written by Lady Salisbury, can be purchased from the house or shops.

Adjoining this garden is an elaborate kitchen garden - quite a recent project. You stroll past apple hedges, through archways of fruit trees come across a neat brick fountain. Raised beds contain vegetables and herbs - don't be too surprised when you find various flowers (later due for planting in the flower beds) making a rare display among the pumpkins etc!

JOHN TRADESCANT: Employed by Robert Cecil (1st Earl of Salisbury) to lay out the original gardens at Hatfield House. The Earl was a man of exacting taste who despatched John on a botanical shopping spree. He was at Hatfield for about four years. Sadly Robert Cecil never saw the completed gardens as he died in 1611 and John continued with his successor the 2nd Earl. He later entered the service of the Duke of Buckingham. He and his son (another John) became famous for their botanical prowess and opened a musuem at Lambeth. John Snr is buried at St. Mary's Lambeth and Lady Salisbury has replanted the small garden round his tomb. She has used many plants that were pertinent to John's time at Hatfield House including a box hedge knot garden.

I have only scratched the surface of the history and beauty of Hatfield House and its gardens. Both are impressive and exquisite. This historical home is not light years away - do pay it a visit. You never know your misfortune - you may have me as your guide!!!

Zena M Cheel
August 1990

JOINING IN

As some of you will know we moved into 59 The Wick last August. It was a big step for us as we had always lived in towns before with buses every ten minutes and shops around the corner. Suddenly we lived in 'THE COUNTRY' and it took me personally several months to settle down. In about November, Brian Euler came to our door with a newsletter and asked if we would like to join the Residents' Association. We paid our 'subs' and I found the newsletter so good I asked about going to one of the committee meetings. I felt it would help me settle down and meet people at the same time and it really worked. I enjoy being involved with what's going on in 'our area'. We take it very seriously but we also have a lot of laughs, so if there is anyone who would like to join us, we could certainly do with the help, and it means we get more points of view about problems and ideas and how best to tackle them. So its to everyone's advantage to have a large and active committee. Its our only way of making sure Molewood stays a green and pleasant place in which to live.

Sylvia Hester

PERSONALIZED PROPERTY

If anyone would like to mark their property as a safety precaution then they need to use a kit which includes an engraver and pens. This is available either from the library by using your card, or from the MRA Minutes Secretary (see front of this newsletter but please 'phone first).

Once again, we wish all residents of Molewood Estate a PLEASANT and FRUITFUL autumn and, yes, dare we say it? ..... a HAPPY CHRISTMAS and A PEACEFUL 1991.

Then we start ALL OVER AGAIN .....