MOLEWOOD Molewood Residents OUTLOOK

Autumn Association 1996







COMMITTEE MEMBERS

NAME	ADDRESS	TEL. NO.
Chairperson		
Pam Lutner	107, Cowper Cresc.	581329
Treasure		
Dennis Goodrum	43, The Avenue	587341
Editor		
Allan Streeton	22, Cowper Cresc.	586217
Secretary		
Joan Walkom	12, Woodhall Close	587297
Minutes Secretary		
Joan Murrell	38, Cowper Cresc.	587595
Olive Church	122, Cowper Cresc.	583412
Heidi Scott	8, Woodhall Close	558208
Gilbert Smith	15 The Drive	583168
Harry Walkom	12, Woodhall Close	587297
Pat. Betts	42, The Wick	504057
Ken. Lupton	23, Desborough Close	586037
Marie Archer	58, The Wick	581698
Ronnie Cuneen	34, The Drive	581098
Jane Digweed	31, Lodge Close	581107
Malcolm Scott	53, Lodge Close	587939
David Clark	55, Cowper Cresc.	584382

MOLEWOOD OUTLOOK

Autumn 1996

A *very* warm autumnal welcome to one and all after another warm and sunny summer, as is evidenced by the floral displays in Molewood gardens - but more on that later !
Not *quite* the parched Med.-type summer of '95, although we are told that in a mere 25 years our climate - in the South East - will be like the Loire Valley
(or was it the *Lee* valley ?)
If the 90° temperatures experienced in London during August are anything to go by - we are well on the way (We will not even *mention* August Bank Holiday!)
Watch this space in A.D. 2021.....

The Autumn mood is captured by this season's young artist :-
Nikki Burton who lives in Woodhail Close and who is the lucky recipient of £5. for her efforts

BURNING ISSUES WITHIN:

CableTel.....Shops.....*Another* musical Evening!
.....Play areas (and NON-play areas!).....Cycles.....
...Parking..... !
Neighbourhood Watch(and noise)...
Courtyard Arts.....School.....
Bobbies (not)on the -beat -
.....Roads-signs and repairs
garden Competitions, etc. etc.

A.G.M.

DIDN'T THEY DO WELL ?.
Who would have known that our humble abodes were harbouring such talent ?
After we had concluded the 'business' we departed from the usual *guest* appearances and left the floor to *you,* the Molewoodians, to entertain your neighbours. This went down so well that, by popular request, we are arranging *another* evening devoted almost entirely to local talent. This will take place on **Saturday 11th.January 1997 at 8 pm at the same venue, Bengeo School.** A modest entry fee of £1.50 will be charged to partly offset the cost.
We already have many local talents lined up, but if you know of anyone whom you feel could contribute to our evening please get in touch with one of the committee.
The audience does not have to be from *this* estate: ALL comers are welcome! In addition there will be raffles with prizes, Bingo, victuals, and, if you feel energetic, some dancing !
Most of the matters discussed at the A.G.M. are covered later in this issue.
COME AND CHASE THOSE WINTER BLUES AWAY.....!

NEIGHBOURHOOD NOISES



We all have our pet noise *hates.*
It may be car or house alarms,aircraft, stereos - especially in-car ones
(' mobile Discos '?)
Even local church bells drove one person to the extreme of breaking into the church and severing the bell ropes !
Some 'natural' sounds such as dogs barking, cockerels,or children shouting or screaming irritate some people.
If it's *your* choice of sound or, more likely, taste in music, it is sometimes difficult to comprehend why your neighbour finds it intolerable at your preferred volume.
Fortunately on this civilised estate these matters can normally be resolved with a quiet chat over a cuppa.
Such disputes cannot always be *amicably* resolved and complaints about noise have apparently trebled in recent years - from 42,000 in 1984 to 131,000 in 1994 !
Stereos top the list followed by loud TVs and barking dogs.
The Environment Protection Act had until recently covered the problem, which allowed for maximum fines of £5,000 per offence.
The Government has now armed environmental health officers with stronger powers, including *on-the-spot* fines of £100 plus the right to *confiscate* equipment.
This Noise Bill seeks to curb loud music between 11pm and 7am.
If, after investigation, Environmental Health Officers agree that a ' statutary nuisance' exists, they must serve an abatement notice on the person responsible requiring him or her to 'stop the nuisance'. Conviction may follow if they fail to comply.
Children under 18 with loud Hi Fi.s cannot be prosecuted *but* their parents can - for 'not properly controlling the noise'
Normally friendly chats will do the trick, the *perpetrator* often not even being aware that they are causing a disturbance.
Should this fail, then:-

a. Keep a diary of the times and dates when the noise occurs.

b. Contact the local Environmental Health Officer, with details, so they can come along and *listen.*

c. Try and get support from other neighbours as this will strengthen your case.

d. Contact the ' Right to Peace and Quiet Campaign' at PO Box 968, London SE2 9RL for an information pack on how fully to deal with noise

Noises are inevitable: it's just a case of *consideration* for neighbours.

Oh for the sounds of silence !

C.A.G.E.

Nothing much has transpired since our concerted effort earlier this year to stop the *extension* by Redland/Pioneer.
However, the strong community feelings have resulted in some good in that a project has been developed to enhance the WILDLIFE value of WATERFORD PITS and improve public access.
This is being funded by Redlands Aggregates and the Millennium Commission and being managed by local environmental organisation - *GROUNDWORK HERTFORDSHIRE.*

The project, which will be completed in 2-3 years, will look primarily at enhancing the existing habitats on the site, already valuable for wildlife with flower-rich chalk grassland. Many interesting plants and butterflies are to be found there, to which temporary pools will be added to attract wading birds
Access will allow school groups, walkers, cyclists and horse riders to enjoy all this at close quarters..
The plans were unveiled at Waterford fete on 1st. September with further meetings at Bengeo School and Stapleford Village Hall.
This area is now to be called WATERFORD HEATH.

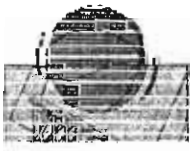
For further information contact Mark Fishpool at *Groundwork* - Tel (01707) 260129

..THE BUTCHER of BENGEO

Local residents soon sprung into action when a planning application for Brian Timperley's long established Butcher's shop in the Avenue was submitted for Change of Use to a Fast-Food outlet, although Brian hotly denied any intention of selling.
Posters went up in neighbouring shops, hundreds of letters were sent to the Council protesting as well as a petition which had over 1200 signatures on it. The letters and petition were sent to the Director of Planning (David Beales) at Wallfields.
Quite apart from any intentions of selling, residents were delighted to learn that their objections had the desired affect. The Town Council objected to the proposal following which the District planning committee *refused* permission.
Even other Chinese fast-food owners were objecting, feeling that there were enough venues for sweet and sour pork balls already!
So, for the time being the threat of a Chinese fast food outlet has been .....taken away !

The main objections to the proposed change to a Chinese Take-away were the resulting increase in traffic, discarded rubbish, possible vandalism, noise and smells, especially late at night when, at present, this is a very quiet area.
Also, the balance of shops on the parade would be upset as, with no other Butchers in Bengeo there was a greater need for one rather than a fast-food outlet.

BISHOP of BENGEO



The U.S. has lost its Georgia University basket ball star, KEVIN BISHOP of 24, Cowper Crescent to Loughborough University , where he is studying for a degree in Economics and Human Geography.
Kevin is now playing again in the Bud weis er league for Leicester City.
Welcome home Kevin !

Going to the.....



DOGS ?

The mere mention of this well-worn subject is likely to evoke hardly more than a yawn.....but the *tale* goes on.....\
Some dogs bark loudly, especially when left on their own (see' Neighbourhood Noise') and some even find a way out ,if their enclosure is not sufficiently secured.
Anyone allowing their dogs to roam free could find themselves in the dog-house and their favourite pet will be barking mad when he gets captured by a dog-warden.!
One Council is capturing dog-fouling on footpaths and verges on *video* and these films, whilst not top viewing entertainment, are admissable in Court.
A new law in September allows fines from £500 to £1000 for failing to clear up any of your dog's mess.

It must be said, however, that our particular patch has greatly *improved* as most dog walkers are making good use of pooper-scoops and the bins.
There have been cases lately where the local Dog Warden has *caught* dog-owners in the act of *using* their poop-scoop who were awarded a Responsible Dog Owner award.
So, watch out pooch owners, if you get caught in the (correct) act you might even be served with an *award !*

Whilst on the subject of...BINS...
..some householders, for reasons best known to themselves, leave their bins outside their houses for most of the week. This, apart from being a little unsightly, is sometimes less than aromatic and could even be an indication to would-be burglars that the house may be unoccupied.
Liason with neighbours before going away is probably the answer !

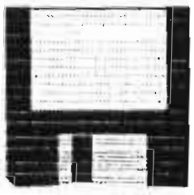
HERTFORD & DISTRICT U3A



Join in the *spirit* for Under £1 a bottle !

How can you enjoy excellent wine at under £1 a bottle ? The answer: join Hertford & District U3A's latest activity group, the *Winemakers.*
Expert tuition by Hertford's ' Good Food Shop' proprietor, Lynn Jones enables members to use kits or hedgerow material to produce wines, sherries, spirits or liqueurs..
The group meets on the first Monday of each month at the Church Hall,Duncombe Road, Bengeo at 8 pm. Further information from Sheila Hand (H. 501145)

CABLETEL.



Enough noise has been heard about and made *by* the above who, several months later than they originally specified, finally burrowed into our estate in October. A lot more noise was heard at a *very* lively public meeting with CableTel on the 17th. September at Bengeo School, especially on the siting of the junction boxes on the estate. Apart from all the inconvenience caused this could be a boon to telly addicts suffering from 'mad couch disease', especially through the winter months as they can now arrange to link up to satellite T.V.through the cable network.. But for those content with 4 -(coming-up-5) channels or who do not wish to ' surf the net'on the 'super highway'and are quite content with their B.T. 'phones, the upheaval will have been all for nothing. Sadly for them, there is *nothing* anyone can do other than to make sure that the disturbance is kept to a minimum.
Those considering changing their 'phones to Cable should study the situation carefully as B.T. have come up with some attractive deals, since the competition has been hotting up !
For more details from CableTel please 'phone:-.
0800-602-603(free-phone)

On the question of the new BBC CHANNEL 5 , you should have all received information through the post on this Channel scheduled to begin broadcasting in 1997. No costs should be incurred by householders when engineers call to make the conversion to their video recorders but it is important to remember to ask the engineer to *state your Security code no.* quoted in any correspondence.

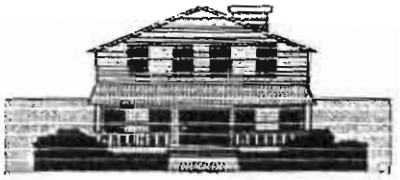
Any problems please telephone:-
0541 555551

HONEYMOON in PARADISE ?



Nigel and Lisa Claydon of 15, Cowper Crescent were married and spent their honeymoon in Cyprus earlier in the year.
After a week in the popular resort of PAPHOS they retreated away from it all to the peace of the Cyprus mountains.
They are looking forward to the arrival of their first child next January.
Back now to reality and Bengeo with just memories of .....the land of Aphrodite !

House & Garden



Once again your Chairperson, Pam Lutner got a write up in September on the ' Hertford in Bloom' feature, winning the ' medium garden and Kingfisher ' shield

On our own estate we departed from normal practise this year. We asked some of the regular winners to act as Judges to give others a chance, to which they kindly agreed.

SO——

our new winners are:-

GARDENS

1st.	Mr. & Mrs. Karim	127. The Avenue
2nd.	Mr. & Mrs. Voller	1, Desborough Cl.
3rd.	Mrs. Moy	18, Desborough Cl.
4th.	Mrs. Murrell	38, Cowper Cresc.
5th.	Mr. & Mrs. Battell	109, Cowper Cresc.
6th.	Mr. & Mrs. Currie	15, Lys Hill Gds.

TUBS/BASKETS

1st.	Mr. & Mrs. Debnam	35, The Avenue
2nd.	Mr & Mrs. Allen	55, The Drive
3rd.	Mr. & Mrs. Codling	120,CowperCresc..

We hope our regular prize winners who have won more than 3 times will forgive us if we 'rest them' this year .
Congratulations to some of our 'newcomers'.
Once again some very difficult judging and thanks to Bill Procter, Jane Digweed and Mr. & Mrs. Kenney for helping with this.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Very few incidents of note have occurred, thankfully, in recent months, those that have having been posted from time to time on the notice boards around the estate.
Although fairly crime-free we know that most residents are security conscious, many having fitted security lights around the house which, we feel, is very effective.

For those wishing to take further measures there are now closed circuit TV cameras which can be installed—at cost !
There are also attachments that can be affixed to the house which give the appearance of security cameras but are, in fact, just *models,* at a fraction of the cost.

We try and liase with other N.W's one being the Watermill Estate Residents Association & N.W.
In their July newsletter they express an opinion also dear to *our* hearts,on the subject of NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING.
Like us, they feel strongly over the absence of Neighbourhood Beat Officers with the police strength in Hertford being reduced but with a "better utilisation of resources giving a . better service".
They - and us - are campaigning to get Bobbie back on his beat but, so far, without much success.
We will keep trying and hope that you will all do your best in this respect , although there is light at the end of the tunnel. A ' pilot scheme' with a traditional village policeman has been re-started in some rural communities with a *'Heartbeat'* kindly, all-purpose village policman on the beat.
Watermill also mention security of your house whilst on holiday.
One ' give-away' is a drive which is suddenly devoid of cars. Sometimes neighbours are only too pleased to use up some of the vacant space with their second - or third - family car and it gives the appearance of being occupied.
Try it !

PARKING

Much has been said by many on this hoary old chestnut and nothing else is more likely to raise hackles amongst even the most placid!
Apart from all the rules and regulations it all comes down, in most cases, to *consideration* for other road users.

Many will know of the difficulty encountered when leaving or entering their drive in a

narrow part of the road with a car parked immediately opposite. An acute angle turn can often result in a bumper dent and/or part of a boundary wall being demolished.
With the new restrictions coming into force in The Avenue this will inevitably lead to more parking outside other people's houses, if only for a short time.
Please consider your neighbours when parking
Also, please note that the *white lines* at both ends of Cowper Crescent mean 'NO PARKING' in this area. To do so can incur a fine for *obstruction of sightlines of a busy junction.* Please observe this and kindly make sure that any visitors and strangers to the area are also made aware.

We don't have the malaise of *road rage'* here in civilised Bengeo, but it was suggested in one daily paper that the following could now be a possible scenario in a Court of Law, following a viscious road rage attack on an innocent person resulting in terrible injuries:-

Council for the Defendant: "Don't blame my client, Your Honour. He was suffering from an uncontrollable psychiatric condition, *road rage,* at the time"

Just who, we wonder, *is* the victim ?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Firstly we kick off with a message from Bengeo Primary County School's Head Teacher:-
Life as the Head of a thriving Primary School is never dull. The summer term had a distinctly environmental flavour. Although we received a report of adders in the recreation area close to the school, there have been no further sightings. Some of the ducks which regularly nest in our Memorial Garden each year seemed reluctant to leave us this time and we finally asked the East Herts Animal Warden to escort the remaining seven fine healthy birds to the bird reserve at Stanstead Abbotts. They are now happily settled there.

Redland Gravel held a small exhibition outside school towards the end of September to show residents their plans to exploit the area as an educational resource. At least this might provide one positive outcome from the development.

Our new local Community Officer P.C. Clare has already visited the school and will be talking briefly to children about safety and to parents at the Governor's Annual General Meeting. In the meantime I continue, on residents' behalf, to include parking as a regular item on my half-termly letters to parents.
ALSO....

Can you help us ?
The school is having intruders on the site in the evenings and at weekends. On one occasion someone dismantled a heavy goal post, which could have been very dangerous. We are putting padlocks on all our gates and notices reminding people that unauthorised entry to the site is trespassing. If you see anyone on our site outside normal school hours please pass details to the school office. Tel 582765

Sandra Ford.

From a frustrated public transport user:

' I recently wrote to the County Bus& Coach Co. about the stopping system on some of the Bengeo buses, when you have to shout "next stop, please" because the bell is on the roof near the driver..
This makes it impossible for most of the elderly passengers as they are either too short or have shopping bags which make it difficult to stand up safely whilst the bus is lurching around corners.
I have now received the attached reply, which I thought might be of interest to readers who use this service.

Zillah Driver.

(In reply the Co. stated that they are replacing *all* of the above older minibuses with new ones containing extra stanchions and low height bell pushes within a few months)
Also,
' I need to repair myfront wall and wonder if anyone has any of the grey slabs where a wall has been replaced. I need about 6-8 bricks.
Please 'phone 558067; 76, Cowper Crescent. Thanks. '

We have also received a lovely letter from Octegarian HARRY TRIGG of The Drive who states that he has been here 20 years and " have enjoyed them all "
Harry was nic-named ' Badger' by a Hertford shop owner after he showed her a toy one he had purchased some time ago.
He is also something of a local 'poet Laureate' and would be delighted, we feel sure, to share some of his works with any interested readers.

Thank you for your interest, Harry !

EILEEN BEALE of Peel Crescent sings the praises of the Church Flower Festival :

'Holy Trinity church, Bengeo had a very successful Flower Festival on Trinity weekend and it was good to see Molewood Residents Represented.
Our thanks must go to Pam Lutner for making such a stanning arrangement, in my opinion, one of the best. The little mole and the wood at the bottom was super !
Other members of our Association including Colleen Elliott and Margaret Nettle made a beautiful display on behalf of Bengeo Womens Institute and I am sure there must have been other members helping.
The organisers did a splendid job. It was a pleasure to see such a beautiful church with over 40 arrangements representing various organisations and businesses in the Bengeo community, each one having its own charm.'

BATTLE of BRITAIN

-WINGS WEEK APPEAL



The Hertford and District Branch of the Royal Air Forces Association would like to thank those in the local area of Bengeo who contributed so kindly to the appeal. A total of £315.86 was collected which was an increase on last years amount. It proved to be a large percentage of the £2066.99 total collected in the Hertford District.
Our thanks also go to Anne at the Shopping Basket for allowing a collection box at the shop which raised £6.56.

Ken Lupton.
Vice Chairman, RAF Association
(Hertford & District Branch)

MOLEWOOD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1996

	1996		1995	
Membership Subscriptions & Donations	793		768	
Income from Social Functions	1,040		101	
Interest Received	5		3	
		1,837		872
Less Society Expenses				
Annual General Meeting	214		160	
Cost of Social Functions	860		152	
Newsletter, Notices, etc.	173		256	
Competition Prizes	81		67	
Donations, Presentations & Subscriptions	55		65	
Repairs and Additions to Equipment	77		-	
Postage & Telephone Expenses	28		20	
Estate Landscaping and Amenities	541		153	
		2,028		873
Surplus(Deficit) for the Year		(191)		(1)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 1996

	1995		1994	
ACCUMULATED FUND				
Balance as at 1 April 1995	857		858	
Surplus(Deficit) for the Year	(191)		(1)	
		666		857
CASH				
Bradford & Bingley Building Society	654		841	
National Westminster Bank	13		16	
		666		857
		666		857

I have examined the above Income & Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet and confirm them to be in accordance with the books and records of the Association.

T A Busby

COURTYARD ARTS

Much has happened in this up-and- coming corner of Hertford since we first reported their early struggles to get started.

Now, with their structural work finished and with hosts of volunteers having painted walls, ceilings and woodwork, they are now virtually fully functional.

Their base by Vale House is well worth a visit where you can also pick up a programme of all their events and classes.

CYCLING(PAVEMENT RAGE?)-

No, we are not after the youngsters *this* time: more likely their mums and dads !

Yes, some adults are using their *road* bikes on the pavements causing a hazard to pedestrians, particularly the elderly.

Road bikes - on the road, please....

and- to ALL cyclists— please put your cycles in the racks provided at the shops. Thanks And, for your OWN safety - make sure ALL bikes have proper lights and, with the onset of darker evenings *use* them !

Your committee meets regularly, usually once a month,to continually monitor, follow up, arrange meetings with various authorities and plan various matters and try and help where it is needed.
A current example is the siting and fixture of a new seat to come in front of the shops which, we hope, will be welcomed by weary pedestrians !
If *you* have any particular problem, please get in touch !

Apart from the special musical evening arranged in January, there are two other MAJOR events next year.
Both are ENQUIRIES:

28th. Jan. -Mineral Plan
May/June - Gravel Plan

Both will be at County Hall and dates will be confirmed.

Our Treasurer has been carrying out his duties loyally now for many years and would welcome a rest from keeping the books.
If you know of anyone willing to take over, please get in touch with one of the committee.

PLAYSPACE -SACOMBE ROAD

Improvements are being vigorously sought including fencing (to keep out dogs), although it appears that no allocation of funding will be made before 1997/8.

To our-er- reader(!)——- we hope you have a lovely Christmas and a good start to 1997
Thank you for your support and contributions which, we hope, will continue.
See you in the SPRING !

Final thought:

' Nothing is so contagious as enthusiasm; it moves stones, it charms brutes. Enthusiasm is the genius of sincerity and truth accomplishes no victories without it.! (Bulwer-Lytton)

YELLOW PAGES

For Sale.....
One 4-draw filing cabinet.
Steel - very strong.

Good condition.

Only £50 *including files.*

- *Tel. 586217*

Two local limited edition prints of Waterford & Ware Gazebos are available from Moy's Newsagents.

(Ideal as gifts)

THE PARTY PLAYERS

A String trio to add elegance to any occasion !

Weddings, Receptions, Parties.
Hotels and Restuarants
A wide range of music - Classical-light-popular
Contact: Helen Cass by tel. or fax on:-
H. 554344

Are you paying too much for your mortgage ?
Substantial monthly savings *could* be made !
NO fees charged for this service
H. 586217

(Your home is at risk if you do not keep up repayments on a mortgage or other loan secured on it)

Free-Lance Landscape Artist
Roy Lutner (581329)
Commissions/House portraits

Ideal present for birthdays, Christmas, Weddings, etc.

STOP PRESS !

Waterford Heath (see page 2)

The launch of the project will be held at Waterford Village Hall at 11 a.m. on Sunday 17th. November. The event will start with formal speeches and another chance to view the plans This will be followed by optional guided walks around the site.

Two walks will be offered, a very leisurely walk confined to defined footpaths and a more adventurous treck through some of the woodland. These will be the first of a whole series of guided walks planned for the duration of the project.

If you would like to book a place at the launch please return the slip below to:

Mark Fishpool at Groundwork Hertfordshire
Mill Green, Hatfield, Herts AL9 5PE

(Please reply quickly, *as places are limited !)*

OR to

Pam Lutner
107, Cowper Crescent

Please place in letter box when replying:(No 'phone calls...thank you)

- - - -