MOLEWOOD OUTLOOK

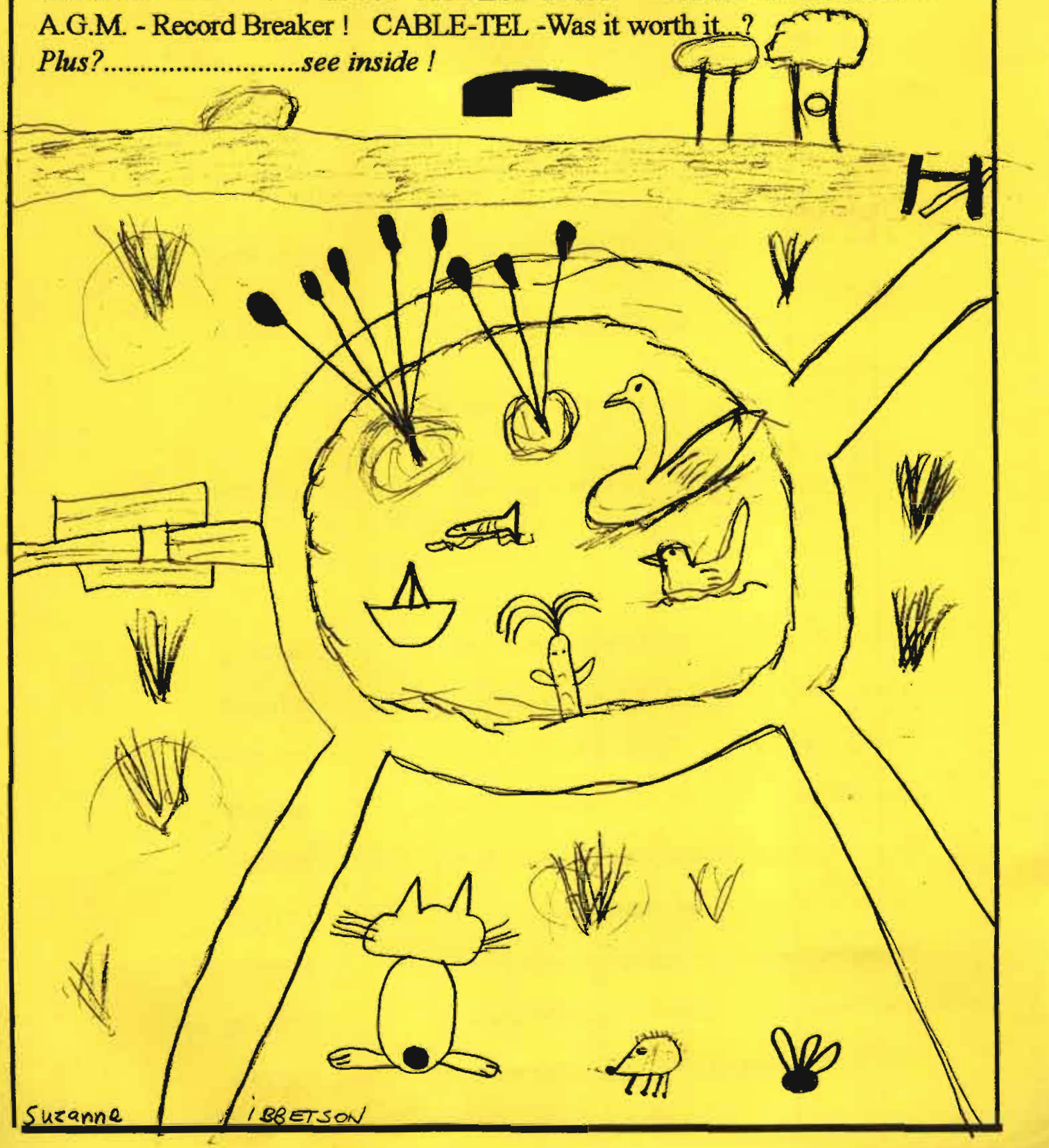
AUTUMN 1997

In this issue:-

GRAVEL - Is it ***over*** at last....?' ACCESS ONLY' - Solution or confusion ?

A.G.M. - Record Breaker ! CABLE-TEL -Was it worth it...?

Plus?.....see inside !



MOLEWOOD Molewood Residents Association OUTLOOK



NAME	ADDRESS	TEL. (All -01992)
Chairperson		
Pam Lutner	107, Cowper Crescent	581329
Treasurer		
Dennis Goodrum	48, The Avenue	422492
Editor		
Allan Streeton	22, Cowper Crescent	423682
Secretary		
Joan Walkom	12, Woodhall Close	587297
Minutes Secretary		
Joan Murrell	38, Cowper Crescent	578595
Olive Church	122, Cowper Crescent	583412
Heidi Scott	6, Woodhall Close	558208
Harry Walkom	12, Woodhall Close	587297
Pat. Betts	42, The Wick	504057
Ken. Lupton	28, Desborough Close	586037
Marie Archer	55, The Wick	581965
Malcolm Scott	53, Lodge Close	587939
Kate Harrison	105, Cowper Crescent	558959
Rhoda Strachan	102, Cowper Crescent	552792

JANE DIGNUM

MOLEWOOD AUTUMN OUTLOOK

NOTHING very exciting has happened on the Molewood Estate since our Spring Outlook. That's the way most people like it, although there has been the odd burglary, hut more on that later.

Candle in the Wind:

Dominating the news this summer was an event unparalleled in history !
Grieving people on *this* estate were in company with mourners all over Great Britain, in fact people the *world over* placed flowers in memory of Diana, *The Peoples' Princess.*
Could this herald a change in the future of our monarchy ?

We also remember that ten years ago another *wind* wrought the worst havoc and mass destruction for three hundred years to this and other areas of the South East, following which a massive crash in the financial sector caused many to loose much of their hard-earned savings.

Let us hope that history does *not* repeat itself this Autumn !

The gardens are doing fine and we *just* managed to escape hosepipe bans !
Many thanks to all for your prompt response in paying the annual sub. - which *still* remains at £1.50. and for your letters.

COVER PICTURE

Many thanks also to our resident artist, 11- year old Suzanne Ibbetson of 67, The Wick who wins the prize of £5.
Suzanne, a pupil of Bengeo School, reminds us of the changes taking place at our local ' beauty spot', Waterford Heath, of which more later..

A WARM welcome to new members of the committee, Kate Harrison and Rhoda Strachan swelling our strength to 15 (We will have to find larger meeting venues !).
There is a possibility of some ' young blood 'joining our committee. Whilst we do not consider ourselves as yet..... *passed our sell-by dates*, it would be refreshing to have some additional youthful input !
Also, many thanks to outgoing member Ronnie Cuneen who will still help us out as and when required.

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A. G. M.

ALL records were broken at this years Annual General Meeting when OVER 200 residents attended !
WATERFORD HEATH and BADGERS were the two main fascinating talks. Another topical subject was the 'Rat-run', but more on that later!
An update was given on the Gravel situation by George Sandel
The Annual Accounts of the Association were approved and are appended to this issue, with thanks to Treasurer Dennis Goodrum for keeping the books straight !

DOGS  (sorry, no dogs allowed in this issue !)
Every dog has its day, so we will give them a rest this time round ---except we might leap to their defence.....

BONFIRE OF OUR VANITIES ?
Please remember our canine and other pets on bonfire night. They can be *terrified* by the loud bangs, although it is difficult to know what to do other than just comfort them.(and -do NOT forget to protect the kiddies !)

For normal garden rubbish bonfires *please* show consideration to neighbours.
Bonfires can be therapeutic when dealing with the Autumn pile of leaves, etc.----*unless* you are a neighbour with respiratory problems, have washing on the line or have just finished putting a coat of paint on the house !
In any case the ' watershed' for bonfires is 6 pm, but even then look to see which way the wind is blowing to make sure it dissipates harmlessly or just rises vertically.
Don't be ' a neighbour from hell ' !

FOCUS



In the coming M.O. issues we thought that you might like to know something about the individual members of your committee.
After all, they are the ones making representations and decisions on *your* behalf !
Any committee can appear to be rather *faceless*, although some committee members of the MRA have been known to members for many years.

We start by *focusing* on committee member--KEN LUPTON.

Ken is a comparative *newcomer* to the committee having only been a member for a few years, compared to some who have sat on this committee for more years than they care to remember ! Even so, he has been a driving force and has been personally visiting an assortment of Local Authority officials and others to get answers to our written requests which -surprise, surprise-had not received a prompt written response !
He has recently also taken over the 'chair' from Pam Lutner on the Neighbourhood Watch Committee.

Ken, who was born in 1926, has had two careers, firstly with the RAF and then with Hawker Siddeley Dynamics, which later became British Aerospace Dynamics.

Joining the RAF in 1943 as an Aircraft Apprentice he subsequently transferred to flying duties as a Navigator, flying mainly in Mosquito, Meteor 11, Canberra, Valiant and Vulcan aircraft. The two latter aircraft formed part of Britain's 'V' bomber force where, during

the long ' cold war' with Russia, he frequently spent long hours on ' immediate readiness'.

The now obsolete Vulcan, as many will know, was one of the noisiest aircraft ever to take to the skies. The sound of a four aircraft 'scramble' of these delta wing monsters would make even some of the most powerful modern jets seem quiet by comparison !

Naturally, Ken travelled the world extensively during his 26 years of RAF service seeing many exotic locations around the globe in the days when the general public had less opportunity to travel than they have today.
As you can imagine there are many tales to be told, but one amusing incident that sticks in Ken's memory was during the time that he was navigating Valiant bombers. To give crews experience in flying away from the UK in preparation for *the day* when they might be called to carry out their *real* nuclear role, ' Lone Rangers ' became part of the training role. On one particular occasion the trip planned was to Idris (North Africa)-Nairobi (Kenya)-Khormaska (Aden)- El Adem (North Africa) and back to base at RAF Marham in Norfolk.
Ken recalls:

" It was customary on arrival at Nairobi to fill the bomb bay container with———————— *pineapples !*
These were bought for 6d each and then sold back at base for 2/6d each, the profit going into Squadron funds - for parties, etc.
We duly arrived at Nairobi for a night stop and ordered the pineapples, which were delivered and loaded in the container. Next morning we went to the aircraft to do the normal pre-flight inspections only to find that our NCO crew chief (technician) was missing. We found that he had gone sick' which delayed our departure to our next port of call. At Aden he was still unwell which delayed our departure a further two days, during which time the aircraft was standing out in the blistering heat. The third day he was cleared to fly so, becoming concerned about our ' pay load', we signalled Bomber Command to see if they would authorise us to fly two legs of the trip in one day, which they refused !
This meant more exposure of the aircraft to a *sweltering* sun.
On return to base the bomb doors were eventually opened to reveal—*a treacle-like substance* dripping from the container, meaning the mass of *soggy bombs* had to be thrown away !
The Squadron fund suffered a large ' loss' and the crew chief was as popular as - the proverbial saying !!! "

Ken retired as Flight Lieutenant in 1969 but still keeps his connection with the RAF as Vice President of the Hertford and District branch of the RAF Association.

He then joined HS Dynamics as a technical representative in Product Support.
During the next 22 years he progressed through positions of Service Controller, Customer Training Manager, Service and Training Manager and then Customer Support Manager dealing with world-wide customer support whilst also being actively involved in the selling off of the aircraft equipment business.

He retired for the second time in 1991.

Ken has lived with his wife Mary in Desborough Close for the past 28 years. They have three grown-up sons. He still loves to travel and since retirement has been to China, Russia, Zimbabwe, Mauritius and Canada .He keeps in shape with a weekly swim at Hartham Pool with the ' over 50's '.

As for 'retirement' from this committee and Neighbourhood Watch ?

Don't even consider it, Ken !

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' HOUSE& GARDEN'



We still pride ourselves on Molewood in being able to hold a candle to any other local estates for sheer pride of appearance and floral display.

In some areas the plants have been left to their own devices resulting in Willows and other trees being a potential danger to walkers and kiddies in push chairs where the branches are draping over the pavements. If you have one, please prune it well back or you may find the Council will do the work for you and then—present you with a bill !
LYS HILL GARDENS :-
The EHDC have turfed out the idea of replacing the two large willow trees.
They suggest the forming of a voluntary group of residents to re-seed the barren area where trees were removed.
We are taking advantage of Herts Groundwork Trusts's free offer for more trees and shrubs and hope to buy more bulbs for estate greens.
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

BUILDING WORKS:
Many complaints have been received from residents concerning the noise and dust of building work being carried out on Sundays on this estate.
For everyones information, the Council has confirmed that building work is *not* permitted on Sundays.
Quite apart from this rule, such works could also be contravening the 1966 Noise Act and the Environmental Protection Act which also applies to ' Noisy Neighbours' which we mentioned in more detail in a previous ' Outlook'. (So there should be enough legislation to fall back on there !)
Obviously, this rule is not meant to stop DIY Fred. replacing a slipped tile on his own roof on a Sunday

morning, but to protect the public from large structural jobs which interfere with their hard-earned ' day of rest'.....

.....PEACE IN OUR TIME ?

SCIENCE could provide the answer without recourse to Courts and legislation———

Noisy neighbours could be ' zapped' by the flick of a switch !

No, this is not a scene out of ' Star Wars' where the enemy gets annihilated but a computer-controlled gadget which creates a ' silent shadow' over a wide area which can block out most sounds.

Originally invented to combat industrial noise it is expected that the *Electronic Controlled Acoustic Shadow System* may be adapted for domestic use.

That's the *good* news.

The *bad* news is that it is unlikely to be available before early in the next century.

Could *peace* for all be in sight yet ?

The mind boggles !

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GARDEN COMPETITION

Congratulations to the following winners who have contributed so much in making our estate so attractive!

GARDENS

1st.	Mr. & Mrs. Kenney	38, The Avenue
2nd.	Mr. & Mrs. Debnam	35, The Avenue
3rd.	Mr. & Mrs. Karn	16, The Wick
4th.	Mr. & Mrs. Voller	1, Desborough Close
5th.	Mr. & Mrs. Karim	127, The Avenue
6th.	Mrs. Murrell	38, Cowper Crescent

BASKETS/TUBS

1st.	Mr. & Mrs. Sapin	35, Woodhall Close
2nd.	Mrs. Moy	19, Desborough Close
3rd.	Mr. & Mrs. Baines	154, The Avenue.

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DID YOU KNOW.....



that the Red Cross provide a service for *local* people who find it difficult to use Public Transport for visits to hospitals, clinics or *even* for occasional social use ?

The Hertford centre has a team of local volunteer car drivers, including two on this estate, who can transport you from door to door (and back) at a very modest cost.

Please contact Daniel Sartin of Hertford Red Cross on 509323 or the Ed.on 423682

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CORRESPONDENCE

= An ' Accident waitiug to Happen ?

1.

First out of the post bag is something wbich concerns us *all !*

" I write in light of the Government's latest plans to curb speeding.

I find it hard to believe that there are no safety measures to prevent speeding around Molewood estate.

Witb a large amount of elderly residents, not to mention young families and a school, surely Bengeo has to re-think its "road safety" policy to protect everyone (animals included)

While travelling around otber residential areas in Hertfordshire I have been impressed by the clear speed indication signs/speed bumps/mini round-a-bouts/speed cameras and road narrowing, all of which are sadly lacking on our estate. Any one of these safety measures would put an end to the mindless speeding of drivers who must be short-sighted not to foresee the impending accident.

Surely we don't have to sit and watch an accident happen before anyone with authority and pulling power takes an interest in this cause.

Perhaps our road traffic police would like to spend a day on our estate. I am sure the amalgamation of penalty fines would more than cover the costs of new safety measures.

Have we ever been given the privilege of a speed trap in Bengeo ?

I'm sure I'm not alone when I say " wake up Bengeo" we have waited long enough. Let's get together and demand what other residential estates have been given. The right to build a safer living environment. "

C.L. Eves.
134, Cowper Crescent

Thank you for expressing a generally held view of residents and the matter has been discussed at some length at past committee meetings.

It has always been a matter of concern that there are always a few motorists (often the ones driving ' mobile discos') who mistake The Avenue for the Nevada desert and aspire to beat 'Thrust's' recent record ! Since our last meeting we have approached the Local Authority on the question of ' traffic calming' by ' Sleeping policemen' and other means of preventing speeding which we hope will bring some response, although some residents in other areas who campaigned for these have since got the hump because of the noise and discomfort for bus travellers.

However, we will 'press home' the urgency of some form of ' traffic calming' and hope a response will be received very soon.

In tbe meantime we remind all car drivers that they are in control of a potential *killing machine* so .....*kill your speed* before any serious accident occurs !

BENGEO W.I.

Mrs. H. Ottley, Press Secretary of Russell Street writes:-

" *The W.I. can be lots of fun*
Speakers and Demos for everyone
The third Monday in every month
At the Parish Church Hall,
Visitors welcomed - why not give us a call"
8 p.m. start !

Betty Hall of Cowper Crescent also writes to say that we are lucky in having TWO Institutes to choose from, the other being Bengeo *afternoon* W.I. which meets the first Wednesday in every month, starting at 2 pm.

BABYSITTING

Do you want to be able to go out and have a baby sitter without *paying* for one ?
Join the local baby-sitting circle and you can !
It operates on a points system and its members are all local mums.
For further details contact:-
Carolyn Thomas on 503443

U3A

'A Post-script to the U3A article in the Spring issue of "Molewood Outlook" '

The Committee of the Hertford and District University of the Third Age have asked me to point out to readers of your Newsletter that the U3A is, first and foremost, an educational organisation (but with no qualifications either required or rewarded). We are a charity run for and by our members, with the emphasis on self-help, offering them the possibility to explore interests for which they may never have had the time or the opportunity in a previously busy life before retirement. The members of the Hertford & District U3A, launched five years ago, run nearly 70 different study groups and, although it is obviously impossible to list them all here, your readers might be interested to know that the breadth of subject is much wider than might be thought from the two groups mentioned in your last issue's article; there is also a strong academic side to our activities-indeed, without it we cannot be a U3A as the intention of the movement's French founders 26 years ago was not that the organisation should be merely a social or " Keep Fit" club for the older generation ! For example, we have 12 modern language groups (French, German, Spanish and Italian), three local History groups and a quite separate History and Archaeology group. Members' interests range from Textiles to Science and Technology, from Art and Music Appreciation to Antiques, from Computing to Creative Writing. The most recent group to be formed is on Film and the Cinema. Many visits take place, including trips abroad, but perhaps the most popular, in terms of numbers of members regularly involved, are the theatre visits.

There is a great deal happening ! It is a healthy mix, with Walking, Bowls, Scottish Dancing, Badmington, etc. etc. together with Luncheon and Dining Groups, maintaining the balance between the cerebral and the physical. Some of us may recall the Latin tag from our school days: Mens Sana in Corpore Sano - a healthy mind is a healthy body. It could be the motto of the U3A!

From Jack and Sheila Hand of Lodge Close:-

"Many congratulations on the Spring issue of Molewood Outlook - ten pages of very interesting and diverse information, presented with excellent touches of humour. We know how much work goes into the production of such a newsletter, for which many thanks. "

(Thank *you* for taking the trouble to write. Somehow, it makes it all seem worthwhile !)

And another "thank you" letter, this time...*to* you !

RAF ASSOCIATION(Hertford & District Branch)

Battle of Britain Wings Week Appeal



On behalf of the Herford & District Branch of the RAF Association I would like to thank all who kindly contributed to the above house- to- house collection in the local area.
The total of £353.44 collected was a large increase on the amount collected last year which is most gratifying especially in the light of many collections that are made by other Charities in the area.
My thanks to ANNE at the 'Shopping Basket' for allowing a collection at the shop.
Once again, many thanks to those who contributed so generously.

Ken Lupton
Vice President.

BENGEO COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL's Headteacher Sandra Ford writes as follows:-

This year the Autumn term started in a busier fashion than usual as we prepared for our OFSTED inspection in September. With that now behind us we have invited lots of visitors from the local community to talk to our pupils.

PC Clare has already made one of his regular visits to promote the community values embodied in our school aims.

We were particularly pleased to welcome Mrs. Payne and the ladies of the W.I. in September. The lovely embroidered mat and game they presented to the Nursery is much appreciated.

In October we joined in National R.E. week by inviting a range of religious leaders to talk to our pupils about different faiths.

This term also saw the launch of Bengeo Time Out Club which offers supervised activities and child care on three afternoons a week from 3.15pm -6pm. The club is for

Bengeo pupils and hopes to expand to 5 afternoons a week and eventually to include holidays if demand exists.

You may have read the planning permission notices on our gates. We will need a new mobile classroom when the old Nursery building by the Sacombe entrance is demolished early next year.

This should greatly improve security as all buildings will then be in sight of the offices.

The question of who maintains our boundary hedge has been raised. Each year the LEA Contractors should cut the school side of the hedge and maintain the top at a 'reasonable' height. There is no provision in the contract for trimming our neighbours' side of the hedge. I hope this clarifies the position even if the answer is less than helpful.

PARENTS:
On the last page of this Outlook is a list of diary dates for the year for you to stick on the 'fridge.

A comprehensive book entitled ' Together in learning' can be obtained from the school and the MRA have a spare copy.

HIGHLAND FLING !

If the swirl of the tartan and wine of the bagpipes turns you on then

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

may be for you !

There are many wee lassies and laddies in your area ready to welcome you to their 'clan'.
The South East Herts Scottish Dance Society hold classes at Hertford Regional College, Scotts Road, Ware (Beginners).
Red Cross Hall, Baker Street, Hertford.(Intermediate)
Parish Hall, Great Amwell (Childrens Beginners)
Displays by the Society are regularly given and enquiries from interested organisations are welcomed.
For further information telephone:
Welwyn G.C.(01707)894912
Potters Bar (01707)665596
Waltham Cross(01992)635783

CARS

Back to ' Lethal Weapon-1' etc.....

Car drivers who leave their cars idling by the roadside could be caught in spot checks next year - with fines of up to £90 !

The most likely 'victims' around here are, of course, the occasional school-run mum.
Police and council officials will be empowered to carry out pollution tests to ensure that emission levels are not exceeded.
According to the A.A. and other experts the idea is fraught with technical difficulties but it is inadvisable, for obvious reasons, to leave an empty car with its engine running for more than a minute or two, as well as not being legal !
ALSO, as well as all occupants of cars having to belt up it is dangerous to have your pet (I know-we promised!) leaping about inside the vehicle unrestrained, for obvious reasons. As far as we know, no-one has yet produced safety belts for Fido, but it states in the Highway code(rule 213) that animals should be kept under control in vehicles.

So, if you do have a hyper-active canine, monkey or gerbil on board please make sure someone is keeping it restrained !

GREEN PEACE ?

Another hazard is where vehicles - especially commercial -are mounting pavements and grass verges/beds to turn round.
Quite apart from the obvious danger element, this is causing destruction to the flower beds on the greens we have nurtured and which we are anticipating being enhanced with the addition of sapling trees etc.
As a result of this we are arranging for the EHDC to install bollards at strategic points which, whilst still being wooden, will be of a better standard than at present.

We are told that ball game signs on GREENS have to have 100% 'in favour' of requests from residents.
Has this *really* happened on other local estates who have the signs, we wonder ?

RAT-RUN

Much hot air has been aired by writers to the 'Mercury' but frankly the scheme just *is not working !*
Agreed, it is an experiment only at this stage or until 31st. March next, in fact it is an:-
Experimental Traffic Order the effects of which are *to prohibit any motor vehicle to proceed along the roads (listed) unless that vehicle is seeking access to premises*(listed)

But–who notices the notices or whether the pretty red markings at the entrances to the 'Access Only' roads are just to make Bengeo a more colourful place ?
Do these have any legal significance ?
We asked the Council who said that the red surfaces at the entrances to these roads have *no* legal significance and are there only as a *reminder* of the restrictions in that area.
This should not have any effect on residents of this estate, we hope !

WHITE LINES & 'NO PARKING'

–(Road Markings)

As these are in such a dangerous area for traffic and pedestrians we are endeavouring to persuade the council to change these to *yellow to make them mandatory.*

PLANNING (GENERAL)

Most people only ever hear about Local Plans when it's too late !
Even if the planners really want local views, people fail to realise the relevance of commenting—so things just spiral down into an annoyance and frustration on *all* sides.

The local Planning Team at East Herts D. Council want to hear right *up-front* what matters to local people so that the eventual Local Plan will hit the mark.
A local Plan Briefing Sheet issued in an ' Action Pack'can be obtained from East Herts District Council.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Neighbouring Neighbourhood Watch

Watermill Estate R.A. and N.W. Ed. Nigel Pollard liaises with us on matters of mutual interest.
In their latest bulletins Watermill bring up one of our favourites - Bobbies on the heat (or not !) The latest information is that another 8 officers for the whole of East Herts *may* be transferred to patrolling duties.
Like us, they too suffer the occasional theft, including ' Planters', one containing a *bay tree* , from outside houses.
Another common problem is a 'cowboy' Roof Repairer calling to say that he had just done some work for a " Mrs. so-and-so around the corner". When checked out there was no such person and the police were alerted.
Always get a quote from a *reputable* firm, says the report.
On this estate there have been one or two break-ins which have been displayed on our notice boards. One in particular is worth some thought: Thieves broke into an upstairs rear window and stole cash and jewellery.
Many ladies keep such things in the bedroom, something well known to experienced burglars. Hopefully it will not happen to you but, as a precaution, why not hide such items somewhere else in the house ?

Shed tears.....There has been a spate of bicycle thefts in Hertford so, if you have one, or anything else of value in the garden sbed, please make sure it is securely *locked !* Normally, not being in the vicinity of the house, it makes an ideal location for a thief to break in undisturbed.

POLICE

A recent Hertfordshire Police report states that the Police Authority is changing its consultation arrangements to give more people a chance to voice their opinions and ask questions about the local police service. Regular public meetings will form a major part in the new arrangements, which have been launched this autumn.
So perhaps now we shall get hack our Baldwin-type bobbie.
WRONG !
The old arrangements are not scheduled to return.' Seven Police Community Partnerships (PCPs), each chaired by a Police Authority member, are being set up to spearhead the new arrangements.
If you would like to find out more or want to give them your views on any aspect of local policing, please ring Sally Patient on 555624, or channel your views through your local N/Hood Watch (Ken Lupton).

It is comforting to note that HERTFORDSHIRE still continues to have the LOWEST crime rate of any county !

WATERFORD HEATH

Back to our own little environmental gem on its first year celebration !
This £225,000 project is supported financially by Redlands and the Millennium Commission and is being managed by Groundwork Hertfordshire.
Other partners include: Herts County Council, Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and local parish councils.
If you have not already joined the hundreds of school children, local residents and wildlife enthusiasts in developing the two former gravel pits into a public wildlife area, then now is the time.
There are two more years to develop the site for public use, ready for the millennium.
During the first year areas of both pits have been landscaped to provide semi permanent pools of water, so important in encouraging wildlife.
A number of footpaths have been opened in the southern pit allowing greater public access.
Dates for your diaries:
8th. November 2-4pm-
'Life in a shell'- Insight into snails and other creatures of chalk heathland (Guided walk by Dr. Mark Fishpool)
5th.,6th. & 7th. December 12-3.30pm
Waterford Heath. 1st. Year Celebration: 3 days of walks, talks, fun and celebrations. Something for everyone !

17th. January '98 2-4.30pm

' Winter Visitors' A look at winter migratory birds visiting the heath.

(Guided walk by Dr. Mark Fishpool)

Please Note: *All guided walks begin at Vicarage Lane car park and start promptly at the time specified. Full details of the celebration event will be available shortly. To obtain your programme please contact Alistair Rigby at Groundwork Hertfordshire on 01707 260129.*

A TAXING QUESTION- ('Heads I win, tails you loose')

Are *you* one of the four million people who failed to get their tax return in to the Inland revenue by 30th. September, under the new 'self-assessment' rules for the self-employed ?

If so, you have *lost* your chance to have the whole thing calculated by the Inland Revenue and will have to calculate the tax yourself (or your Accountant) and submit it by 1st. January.

If you miss this second hurdle you will be fined £100 plus possible interest charges on any tax subsequently paid late.

Unless you feel competent enough to do your own assessment, we suggest you shop around for a professional to carry this out.

Sorry – but *either* way it is probably going to cost you !

WATER, WATER everywhere (and not a drop to spare !).

Despite heavy rain during the summer we had an Indian summer and the driest September for more than a decade and the ' driest two-year period for 230 years' with water reserves in the Three Valleys area remaining low. Water levels in most rivers are less than half for this time of year !

Even if we do not want it we *need* lots of rain during the coming winter months when more water can seep through the ground without evaporating or being used by growing plants and trees during the summer months.

Fortunately, we have been spared drought orders and hosepipe bans largely due to many millions being invested on improvements by the Water companies.

It is an environmental issue unlikely to be solved unless, we are told, each and everyone of us is aware that in this country we need to impose restrictions on our *own* use of this precious resource! How ?

One obvious way is by the use of water butts but Three Valleys offer a variety of suggestions in their summer 1997 free publication ' Water Matters '.

These are issues to bear in mind for *next* summer but, for now, with winter on the horizon ,we get ready once again to head for the great indoors!

In Spanish Costa-lots it hardly ever rains(except on the plains !) but, in the searing heat, they *never* seem to have water shortages.

And.....

Fluoridation of Water supplies has been rejected by East and North Herts Health Authority much to the chagrin of many concerned about tooth decay, especially in the young.

The Mercury lambasted this decision on the grounds of costly dental treatment and, of course , the suffering of those with tooth-ache.

Points well made ...BUT the question of *choice* seems to have been overlooked. There are probably just as many who would rather *not* have more chemicals added to their drinking water, for whatever reason , but having the option of *buying* fluoride tooth-paste should they so wish !

What do *you* think ?



CABLE-TEL

Many residents have taken up the offer to have Cable 'phone and TV installed in their homes.

There have been 'teething' difficulties but, in the main, most people seem satisfied with the service and costs, although some have reverted to BT and the half-price installation fee offered tends to suggest that the current take-up rate may be unsatisfactory !

Being on Cable does prevent anyone linking into one of the other *cheap* 'phone-only' services which can only be accessed through BT. Also, in the event of TV problems, there may be a hefty call-out fee.

Digitalisation of Hertford exchange takes place this Autumn which will open access to the 'last call' no. 137 plus other optional services.

As far as the clean-up of our Estate after the cable installations have been completed there are still some areas of concern but we are waiting to see how the *'sealing'* of the tarmacadam stands up over the coming winter months.

Some of the white road markings have disappeared where cable channels have been dug but we are endeavouring to have this rectified !

PLAYSPACE

Funding seems to be the main obstacle for this project ! But next year we hope that spring animals, another slide and balance beams will be installed. We are also hoping that the swing bridge will be retained as this is very popular. However the Council have stated it would have to be rosited and would require repair work to be carried out for which there is no funding at present. With the rework of the play area new safe surfaces will be incorporated.
Apparantly, there is also insufficient funding to fence tbe area and the only way to get this is to prove that the area is littered with dog faeces .....!

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GRAVEL

(Will the CAGEd beast of Bengeo break out again ?)

We are pleased to report that there is— *nothing* to report !
Long may the situation last, but- DO NOT let us get complacent.
Watch this space !
More on the.....

..... STORMS

Disasters on the scale of the 1987 hurricane happen only every 100 to 300 years in this country, so hopefully this winter will not see any return of the destruction of a decade ago.
But, in readiness for any *normal* storms it is advisable to:

Keep an eye on roof tiles which, if they become dislodged and fall the result could be infiltration of water or damage and/or injury caused from the falling tile.

Check trees and branches.

IF you sustain any damage, retain any receipts for work done to ensure speedy claims handling.

Lock away patio and garden furniture and equipment.

NEXT ISSUE SPRING 1998.

Only two years then to the millenium !

Do YOU have any interesting stories to tell ?-

Or — would you like your pastime or Association given some *free* publicity ?

If so, please let the Ed. or your local committee member know about it.

It's YOUR newsletter.

Well, that just about wraps it for this season, talking of which.....ENJOY all that the seasons have to offer and remember:-

Let us be of good cheer, remembering that the misfortunes hardest to bear are those which never happen.

Lowell

MOLEWOOD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1997

	1997		1996	
Membership Subscriptions & Donations	786		793	
Income from Social Functions	294		1,040	
Sale & Hire of Equipment	26		-	
Interest Received	5		5	
		1,111		1,838
Less Society Expenses				
Annual General Meeting	193		214	
Cost of Social Functions	432		860	
Newsletter, Notices,etc.	300		173	
Competition Prizes & Trophies	158		81	
Donations, Presentations & Subscriptions	52		55	
Repairs and Additions to Equipment	-		77	
Postage & Telephone Expenses	-		28	
Estate Landscaping and Amenities	62		541	
		1,197		2,029
Surplus(Deficit) for the Year		(86)		(191)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 1997

	1997		1996	
ACCUMULATED FUND				
Balance as at 1 April 1996	666		857	
Surplus(Deficit) for the Year	(86)		(191)	
		580		666
CASH				
Bradford & Bingley Building Society	532		654	
National Westminster Bank	30		12	
Cash in Hand	18		-	
		580		666

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.

E Ovenden

BENGEO COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Yearly Diary Dates Summary to Keep

Term Dates & Closures

Autumn Term	Wednesday 3.9.97 - Friday 19.12.97
Half-Term	Monday 27.10.97- Friday 31.10.97
Spring Term	Tuesday 6.1.98 - Tuesday 7.4.98
Half Term	Monday 23.2.98 - Friday 27.2.98
Summer Term	Monday 20.4.98 - Friday 17.7.98
Half Term	Monday 25.5.98 - Friday 29.5.98
Bank Holiday	Monday 4th May
INSET Days	1.9.97, 2.9.97, 3.11.97, 5.1.98, 30.4.98
Occasional Day	1.5.98
Autumn Term 1998	Commences Tuesday 1.9.98

Parent Consultation

Monday 20.10.97 (6-8pm)
Wednesday 22.10.96 (3.30 - 6pm)
Monday 23.3.98 (6.00-8.30pm)
Tuesday 24.3.98 (3.30 - 6pm)

Reports/Open Evening

Wednesday 1.7.98 (6.00-8pm)

Parents Association

AGM Wednesday 17.9.97 8pm
Nearly New Sale 11.10.97
Christmas Fair 7.12.97
Bengeo Day 13.6.98

Governors Meetings

Business 23.9.97
Inspection Report 14.10.97
Action Plan 18.11.97
Annual Parents Meeting 3.12.97 8pm
Business 27.1.98
School Development Plan 3.3.98
Budget 29.4.98
Business 22.6.98

School Events

Dental Inspection	Reception and Yr1 22.9.97
Inspection Week	Commencing 29.9.97
Harvest Morning	Thursday 9.10.97
Photographer	Wednesday 12.11.97
"Jump Up" (Musical Sharing)	Yr 4 28.11.97 2pm
District Carol Concert	Choir only All Saints Church 4.12.97 7.30pm
K.S.1 Nativity	Tuesday 9.12.97 2pm
Yr 5 "Victorian Christmas"	Wednesday 10.12.97 7pm
K.S.1 Nativity	Thursday 11.12.97 9.30am
Nursery Nativity	Tuesday 16.12.97 11am
Christmas Lunch	Tuesday 16.12.97
Christmas Parties	Thursday 18.12.97
School and Nursery Carols	Wednesday 17.12.97 Holy Trinity Church
Yr6 School Journey Evening	Monday 2.3.98 7pm
Music Festival Class 5M	Tuesday 31.3.98 and Wednesday 1.4.98
SATS Week	Week commencing 11.5.98
School's Gala Concert	Friday 5.6.98 Royal Albert Hall
Yr6 School Journey	15th - 19th June 98
Pupils Annual Reports home	Friday 26.6.98
Yr6 Production	Tuesday 7.7.98 and Wednesday 8.7.98

Provisional Sporting Dates

6-a side Football Tournament	Saturday 21.3.98
Netball Tournament	Saturday 28.3.98
Cross Country Run	Saturday 16.5.98
Swimming Gala	Wednesday 1.7.98
Sports Day	During week commencing 13.7.98
District Sports	To be advised

Yr6 Cycling Proficiency - information later

If there are any changes or additions we will let you know in the termly letters.