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MOLEWOOD NEWS

The Newsletter of the Molewood Residents Association

In spring, we are told, a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love. No doubt the mental processes of a young maiden take her feelings in the same direction. Would that someone's fancy would seriously turn to writing your Molewood News. We have not managed to publish within two months of the last edition, for which our apologies. We, or one of we, wear(s) sack cloth and ashes.

The A.G.M. comes up in May. If there is among our members, a budding journalist or an aspiring editor, burning for the chance of producing future editions of the Newsletter, then let him or her come forth and join the new Committee. Step forward, you embryo columnists, and let any committee member know that you are ready, willing, and able to take up your pen on our behalf.

Seriously, you will find yourself a very welcome member of the Committee, and an important link between it and the membership. We look forward to hearing from you.

Officers and Committee of the Association

Chairman:	David Childs, 5 Woodhall Close	57130
Secretary:	Reg Layzell, 85 Cowper Crescent	56479
Treasurer:	David Black. 11 The Wick	57285
Committee:	Janet Bossley, 73 The Wick	56848
	David Brooks, 27 The Avenue	57809
	Pat Brooks ditto	
	Irene Cherry, 49 The Wick	51084
	Keith Geering, 6 Desborough Close	51655
	Pam Lutner, 107 Cowper Crescent	51329
	John Lyons, 7 The Wick	51042
	Mike Scott, 18 The Avenue	53621
	Graham Simons, 42 The Wick	-
	Pat Sulston, 57 Cowper Crescent	-

For Keen Gardeners

The Hertfordshire College of Agriculture and Horticulture at Oaklands, near St. Albans is holding two open evenings and an open day in June. The open evenings, on Tuesday 14th June and Thursday 23rd June, will commence at 7.00pm. They will be concerned with glasshouse crops, shrub, flower, and demonstration borders; fruit, and market garden crops. Tour parties are asked to assemble by 6.55pm, and the tours will be complete by about 9.00pm.
The Special Open Day is Sunday 12th June, when the college will be open to the general public from 10.00am to 6.00pm. All aspects of the work of the college, in both agriculture and horticulture, will be on view and students will conduct parties round and explain the various sections. A charge will be made for admission, and some produce will be on sale.

For Keen Gardeners (continued)

It is necessary that bookings are made for the open evening tours (but not for the open day). Would all members wishing to attend either of the evening events please contact Pam Lutner, who has the necessary booking forms. She would appreciate hearing from you as soon as you decide, and certainly by the middle of May.

...and More for Gardeners

The Association is again holding a Spring Garden Competition. Judging will take place shortly after Easter, and we hope to present the prize - a rose bowl and a cheque for £5 - at the A.G.M. There is no need to make a specific entry; all members' front gardens will be considered.

In addition, weather permitting (last summer's didn't of course), we shall hold an Autumn Garden Competition. More details of that later.

Children's Christmas Competition Results.

As you will remember, the competition was in three sections. The first was well supported, but entries in the other two were disappointingly small. The grapewine says that book tokens as prizes are not highly motivating for the age groups concerned. Any comments please, and suggestions for better prizes!

The results were as follows:-

Class I Making an 'animal' out of vegetables.
1st prize. Garry Lutner, 107 Cowper Crescent
2nd prize. Stephanie Mackay, 40 The Avenue
Highly Commended. Joanna Walsby, 14 Cumberland Close.

Class II A Christmas or Winter Poem.
1st Prize Stephen Childs, 5 Woodhall Close
2nd prize. Karen Brandford, 10 Desborough Close.

Class III Forecasting the top four records in the week ending 15 January (as displayed by Woolworths)
Winner: Miss L. Warwick, 30 Peel Crescent.
(There was no completely correct answer. Miss Warwick's was the most accurate.)

The Committee is very appreciative of the help given by all those involved in organising the competitions.

On Roads, Footpaths, and the Like

We note with approval that the District Council is proposing to make orders putting weight restrictions on vehicles using most of the roads lying as it were, between Bengeo Street and North Road (at North Station). The effect of this will be to stop heavy vehicles using Byde Street, Wellington Street, Nelson Street, and Beane Road as a short cut from the B158 (Wadesmill) road to the A602 (Stevenage) road.

We have tried to raise again the question of better lighting for the passage connecting Cowper Crescent and Peel Crescent. The matter has been referred, through our 'Neighbourhood Group' (of which more anon) to our local police officer, P.C. Starr, who has reported on the matter to his superiors. Time alone will tell whether any action will be taken.

On Roads, Footpaths, and the Like (continued)

We were disappointed to learn that a new traffic survey on Bengeo Street has shown that, in the region of the church, the traffic density "does not meet the criteria required" for the installation of a pedestrian crossing. The committee has decided to leave the matter until the Wadesmill Section of the B158 is reopened, and then to review the situation.

The Council have agreed to erect a suitable gate at the entrance in Sacombe Road to the playspace. Funds will be made available in the next financial year, and the gate should be up before the summer.

....and a Footpath Problem

May we please remind horse owners and riders who read this Newsletter that, whilst horses and riders have full access to all our local bridle paths, they should not use those 'highways' which are only public footpaths. In the very wet weather we have been having of late, horses' hooves cut up tracks very badly. In particular, it is reported that the footpath from the Sacombe Road by The Orchard to Waterford Marshes has been made extremely unpleasant for walkers by horse traffic. It is 'agin the law' too.

The Neighbourhood Group

As an experiment, the police have set up a number of Neighbourhood Groups, to serve principally as a means of communication between the force, as represented by the local constable, and we, the general public, through local organisations such as this association. We are represented on the group by Pat Sulston.

One important piece of information which has come to us through the group concerns freezers in garages. A number of thefts have taken place from freezers located in garages when owners have gone out and left their garages open. We are advised to keep our garages locked, especially if we are leaving the house unattended.

Anyone for a Night Out

Two possible outings have been suggested. One would be a straightforward visit to a London theatre, the opera, or the ballet. The other would be a visit to Caesars Palace at Luton. The fare provided here consists of a dinner and a cabaret, and some well-known names appear. If anyone is interested in either type of outing, please contact Pam Lutner.

The Youth Club

We are pleased to learn from the Youth Committee, that the Hertfordshire Youth Trust has allocated a building for a Youth Centre. A Planning application has been made for the siting of this in the area of Manor Close. One problem will be the laying of a sewer. Any items of furniture you have spare, or any item which would form suitable equipment for the new clubhouse, will be very acceptable.

Respect for our Greens

The Molewood estate has a number of pleasant open green areas which break up the serried ranks of houses and let in a reasonable mount of light and air. It seems that some families consider they have other purposes too, judging from the many complaints we have received about their misuse. They are not at all suitable for games of football and other ball games or for the parking of cars. In fact, these activities are causing considerable damage.

The playspace is available for children wanting to play ball games, and it is reasonably accessible from all parts of the estate. We ask therefore that all members with children wanting to play organised games, send them to the playspace. We also ask all car owners to keep them right off the greens.

Parking in Hertford.

Following a report by a study group set up to examine car parking in Hertford, the town council has made recommendations for a number of changes to the East Herts District Council. These out outlined in the Hertfordshire Mercury for 18th March. The Association committee had the opportunity of seeing the report, and considered that it was a well prepared document which made generally reasonable proposals.

The low usage of the multi-storey car park was noted. At present, this is treated as a short-stay car park, and the parking fee is 5p for the first hour, then 10p for each extra hour to a maximum of £1.05. The Council propose that all short-stay car park fees should be 5p for the first hour and then 5p per half-hour to a maximum of 30p. They do not, however, propose to change the status of the multi-storey car park.

They do propose, however, that the car park to the left of the road into the bus station (the Museum car park) should be changed to a short-stay one; it is now a long-stay car park.

That would leave the car park off St. Andrews Street as a long-stay car park (an unchanged fee of 12p per day is proposed) and the car parks by the fire station and down Hartham Lane as free car parks. The Council do suggest that some way be found of making the multi-storey car park financially more attractive than the other short-stay car parks. The possibility of a weekly ticket is canvassed. One does wonder whether it would be better to make the multi-storey a long-term car park and charge 12p per visit.

Other proposals are longer kerbside parking (30 minutes rather than 20) improvement of the surface of the Hartham Lane car park, and clear sign. posting of all parks, showing whether they are short-term, long-term or free.

Association Equipment for Hire

Don't forget that the association holds a number of items of (hopefully) useful equipment which are available for hire at nominal prices. Details are as follows:-

26ft. extending ladder	20p per week
Car Ramps	10p " "
Battery Charger	10p " day
Jump Leads	10p " "

All available from David Black, 11 The Wick.

Association Equipment for Hire (continued)

Preserving Pan 10p per week
Available from Pam Lutner, 107 Cowper Crescent.

Duplicating Service

If you require any typing and/or duplicating done, please contact either Mrs. Myra Allen at 66 The Wick (Telephone 56576) or Mrs. Jane Geering at 6 Desborough Close (telephone 51655). The charges for the service are:-

Typing £1.00 per hour (shorthand taken)
30p per stencil setting-up charge
30p per 100 copies from each stencil copied
Plus the cost of stencils and paper, details of which will be supplied by the ladies.

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MOLEWOOD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

CHILDRENS' CHRISTMAS COMPETITION

Three competitions this year - come and have a go.

1. UP TO 10 YEARS OLD

   Make an animal of vegetables and name it.

1st prize	£2	Book Token
2nd prize	£1	Book Token.

2. 10 - 12 YEARS OLD

   Make up a Christmas or winter poem.

1st Prize	£2	Book Token
2nd prize	£1	Book Token

3. OVER 12 YEARS

   Forecast top four records for week commencing January 10th as listed in Woolworths.

Prize	£3	Record Token.

ALL ENTRIES TO BE DELIVERED TO 5 WOODHALL CLOSE on or BEFORE JAN. 8TH

NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE.