Molewood Outlook

Spring 1988

I was thinking, when I first began preparing this edition of the 'Molewood Outlook', what a pity it was that all our seasons seem to end up much the same.

We have had a mild grey winter followed by a cold grey early spring. If only our seasons could be as they are in poetry and in old people's memories, when "the winter air was hooped and arched with snow, the twigs beneath thin lines of bitter brown", when in spring you could look up through the almond blossom to the blue sky beyond, when summer days were long and hot and we could sit out in the garden after nightfall and when autumn truly was a "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness".

I have little sympathy with people who complain about the cold in winter and the heat in summer, they are natural, it's the other way about that depresses me.

However, as I write, the spring sunshine is pouring in through my open window and all is as it should be!

Is this a portent for a glorious summer?

The cover picture

Our front cover this time was drawn by Lynda Bishop of Cowper Crescent when she was seven, she is eight now.

Lynda enjoys swimming very much. At Fanshawe Pool she is in the Advanced Class and at Hartham she has just got her Watermanship Award.

She likes writing stories and drawing almost everything. Recently she and a couple of friends at school designed an anti-Pit poster.

Her favourite television programmes are 'Paw Paws', 'Neighbours' and 'Top of the Pops', but I think she will be too busy for television when she goes on holiday to Newgale near St. David's in Wales. She will be fully occupied getting the water, washing up and generally making herself useful!

Have a lovely time Lynda and thank you!

Chairman's Comments - 1987/8

I was told on taking on the Chairman's job that I needed to be "fired with enthusiasm", otherwise that's exactly what would happen to ME!!

But, as the year of the Molewood grew quietly towards the end I thought that, really, I had got away with being Chairman in a somewhat uneventful year! Owing to lack of response, very few social events had taken place, crime had not increased significantly and we had all weathered the storm - literally! Although we had been faced with such dramas as - cars using the kerb sides, untrained dogs (that didn't!), planting daffodil bulbs, and the problem of overhanging trees!

Ah, thought I, we will now slide gracefully into an equally uneventful lazy summer with, Molewoodians going further and further afield for longer and more exotic holidays, thus leaving the rest of us reclining in our peaceful gardens of a weekend or perhaps taking a local stroll across the rolling

countryside by way of the many footpaths(!) Idyllic thoughts ... BUT ... suddenly ... "BIGGEST GRAVEL EXTRACTION IN EUROPE" hit the local headlines. Well, to cut a very long story (could be thirty years!) short your Committee went into action well before the news went to Press and we are represented on a 'liaison Committee' now comprising other local Societies to fight this "rape of our countryside".

The desire to WIN has been converted into ACTION! The largest public meeting in which we have ever been involved took place when Sele school was bursting at the seams. Much more will have transpired by the time this gets into print, in the form, hopefully, of NATIONAL news coverage and the 'telly' (better than 'Neighbours'!)

Bengeo and environs will deservedly be put on the map ... LET'S MAKE SURE THAT THE CONTOURS OF THAT MAP WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED!

Thank you for all your support (past, present and future) specially to all the committee.

Thanks specially to Val Sutton who has worked so hard to make this magazine int-eresting and informative, who now, sadly has decided to relinquish her editorship. We will endeavour to keep up the good work!

Allan Streeton

Causes for concern

1. Double yellow lines. There was an accident recently outside Spar! A man stopped his car on the double yellow lines and opened his door to get out. Another car, attempting to pass him, hit the door! The road marking are there for a good reason - the road is narrow at that point. Just a few yards farther on there are no lines at all!

2. Rubbish bags. Most bags are now suitably closed but a few are still left open. One resident has commented that the litter problem would not exist if bags were left 'where they should be, in their bins'. However, thanks to the general decline in services, we no longer have that option, we are required to do part of the work ourselves by leaving our bags in the front ready for collection, so please leave them closed.

3. Overhanging trees. A few polite requests for something to be done about overhanging branches that obstruct the pavements have now been delivered to a few residents. It is hoped that no one will take offence since it is probably merely an oversight on the 'offender's' part and our only aim is to make the Estate a safer place for everyone.

4. Skeet shooting. 'Clay pigeon' or 'skeet' shooting continues to harrass many of us, at weekends particularly. The Committee has sent a letter to the Council requesting that something should be done to limit this annoyance.

5. £50 reward. You will have seen some £50 reward posters around the Estate in the last six months, the reward was for information leading to a successful prosecution of anyone allowing their dog to foul the footpath or grass verge. I hope this stirred a few consciences! Someone actually removed one of the notices! Although if he was out with his dog he would probably not have been one of the culprits in the first place!

The reward scheme is now over but the message lingers on, please don't allow dogs to foul footpaths, verges or greens, help to keep our Estate clean.

6. Road and pavement surfaces. The roads and pavements in the Estate are falling into disrepair. However although we know the Council has less and less money to use we have sent them a letter of complaint, with the request

that something should be done urgently.

7. Parking at the Avenue shops. Once again I have been asked to request people not to leave their cars in the parking bay at weekends. It seems that some vehicles are being left from Friday evening to Monday morning! This is unfair to customers who find it difficult to park legitimately and to the shop keepers who may lose trade.

From Bengeo to the Birth of Hertford. Part 1

In previous articles we have explored most of Bengeo's history, and now extend our series by journeying down Port Hill into Hertford, the oldest and most important town in the Lea Valley, to take a look at its historic past.

Hertford became prominent in the early Anglo-Saxon period because of its strategic position at an important ford across the River Lea, on an ancient forest crossroads from which tracks ran to all points of the compass - London, Hatfield, Welwyn, Watton and Ware. The town took its name from its ford, where deer or Harts, the "Heorts" of Anglo-Saxon King's and nobles - drank from the shallow waters, and were selectively shot as they did so, by royal hunting parties staying at the nearby hunting-lodge.

Thus was born "Heortforda", the "Ford of Heorts or Harts" which became Hartford, then Hertford. The hart or stag symbol which is shown in the town's coat of arms dates back more than a thousand years to when royal laws were first established in the hunting-parks of Anglo-Saxon Kings. Hertford developed round one of these, remaining in the possession or control of royalty from early Saxon times until the mid-seventeenth century, when its castle passed to the Earls of Salisbury.

The first King's Hall must have been like the Great Hall of Hrothgar in "Beowulf", where Anglo-Saxon Chieftains held feasts after the stag hunt, eating roast venison and drinking ale from the horn, with their sporting trophies, great "Heorts" antlers, nailed to the split-tree trunk walls on every side.

The earliest recorded event in Hertford's history is the Synod of Hertford in 673, when Archbishop Theodore of Canterbury, a great reformer, met with other bishops to decide the dates of Easter and other religious festivals. This meeting is well known and often commemorated; less well remembered are the English Kings who took part in these decisions and ratified them into political Acts of Anglo-Saxon law. These laws together with other Acts from other Synods, lead eventually to the unification of the English Heptarchic states under their Bretwalda or King of Kings, Alfred the Great. Alfred's son Edward the Elder, can be reckoned as the founding father of Hertford, and other towns of the same date. Between them they removed the Danes from England and consolidated their kingdom in the 9th and tenth centuries A.D.

To be completed in the next edition.

February Half-Term

A week of lovely Spring weather!

The sun gleamed on the crisp and sweet papers scattered on front gardens and pavements. It glinted on the tins and bottles tossed on the grass and festooning the budding shrubs and trees. Bicycles thrown carelessly across pavements outside shops and houses sparkled as they caught the sun's rays. Dazzled eyes avoided with difficulty the roller skaters who sped by, too intent on their own enjoyment to consider the safety of others.

While I deplore the irresponsibility of some dog owners, no-one will be able to claim £50 reward for anti social behaviour of my four-legged pet. If only some people's two-legged 'pets' were equally well-trained!

Dorothy Bradley

Molewood Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

It is good to meet our local officer, PC Jeff Mounter on his beat around our estate. It is good to know that he is keeping a watch on our property and ourselves. How about just a little more effort by us to work with him to watch for ourselves? The car we forget to lock, the garage left with doors wide open and the windows left open while we 'pop to the shops'.

It has been reported that there have been callers at houses on this estate, offering to tarmac drives and selling off-cuts of carpet. Some residents have accepted the offers, but it is said that the goods and the service are poor quality.

With the improvement in the weather it has been noted that there has been an increase in the number of cars which speed through the estate without much thought for other drivers. There has also been concern for children who have ridden skate boards on the roads. PC Mounter has spoken to these children and warned them of the dangers both to themselves and to other road users.

We wish to express our thanks to PC Mounter and the Hertford Crime Prevention Team for bringing the Mobile Display Van to Molewood Estate recently. Unfortunately very few adults showed much interest, but there was an encouraging response from many children, who had their bicycles security marked by the police officers.

Please do keep watch, and remember that your local co-ordinator and deputies are willing to help at any time.

Pat Brooks
(Deputy co-ordinator)

This is the current list of Deputies covering the Molewood area under:-

Pam Lutner	Overall Co-ordinator 107, Cowper Crescent	Hertford	581329
David Hall	132, Cowper Crescent	"	586752
Brian Euler	52, The Wick	"	558619
John Franks	11, Peel Crescent	"	582028
Pat Brooks	87, Cowper Crescent	"	587809
Ray & Cherry Garner	73, Cowper Crescent	"	589741
Pat Orchard	36, The Wick	"	581907
Vince Orchard	37, The Wick	"	581907
Edith Ruggles	17, Lys Hill Gardens	"	558549
Heidi & Roy Scott	6, Woodhall Close	"	558208
Margaret Wood	'Wroxham', High Molewood	"	586820
Janet Moy	18, Desborough Close	"	586645
Coun. Rosemary Swallow	Bengeo Wick, The Orchard	"	582758
Toni & Paul Liffers	118, The Avenue	"	587974

No one has come forward from Lodge Close!

'Forthcoming events' questionnaire

In the last edition of the 'Molewood Outlook' I published a questionnaire asking for your views on future events that you would like us to organise.

Considering the highly successful outings we have arranged in the past - the canal trip, the Christmas Dance, Cockney Night and the coach to France and the fact that many people express their interest verbally when we are collecting subscriptions we had hoped for a good response.

In the event, out of a possible four hundred and sixty or so replies, we received seven! Yes SEVEN!

Well I think I can say we've got the message! It will certainly make life easier for us knowing we no longer have to organise any social events at all!

As a matter of interest the votes were:-

Musicals	6	Visits to National Trust property	1
Dance	2	Stately homes	1
Modern Drama	3	France	1
Shakespeare	1	Canal trip	4
Square Dances	1	Coach trip	4
Musical concerts	1	Oaklands Ag. College	6

One suggestion came in later about a visit to the Ideal Home Exhibition.

In the unlikely event of our ever organising anything in the future the seven people who sent in their questionnaires will be contacted first.

The Committee wishes to express its thanks to them.

But maybe, this is all a bit premature. After all the last 'Molewood Outlook' was shortly before Christmas and with the best of intentions things can be easily overlooked at that time of year. So I am going to repeat the questionnaire, this time with an additional space for those who have no desire to go out and are quite happy with things as they are. It simply says "Thank you, but I am not interested in taking part in any events".

If everyone could put themselves out just a little bit to complete this form and put it in the door of any Committee member or in the Suggestion Box in the Avenue Stores we would be very grateful and would begin to feel appreciated again!

Please do it now!

Trees in need of help

In the last edition of the 'Molewood Outlook', in addition to the 'Future Events questionnaire, there was a tear-off slip provided for you to make your view known on what should be done in the aftermath of the 'Storm'.

The same seven residents who replied to the one replied to the other. The results are as follows:-

A. Should we donate money to a National Fund for replacement of trees? 2
B. Donate to Hertford? 1
C. Concentrate on Bengeo? 4

In response to the last question:-
D. Would you be prepared to help? Only one family felt able to do so.

Our thanks to them.

However, in view of the somewhat underwhelming response it has been decided by the Committee that nothing should be done for the time being, especially as the Committee was responsible for planting a thousand daffodil bulbs earlier this year and is now heavily involved in fighting the gravel pit proposal.

I'm sure you will agree that the daffodils made a lovely sight this spring, flowering under the trees all round our Estate.

Unfortunately not quite all were allowed to come up! Betty Hall has a word to say about that ...

Heart-cry

Last November some members of your Committee accompanied by their husbands and wives planted a thousand daffodil bulbs around Molewood Estate! These bulbs had been given to the Association by the Groundwork Trust when the Association joined earlier in 1987. The bulbs are now (March) about to break into flower and will, I am sure, enhance the greens around Molewood. Imagine my horror and irritation then, when earlier this week I saw that bricks and sand for an extension had been tipped on to a group of bulbs just about to bloom in Cowper Crescent! Please make our voluntary jobs on the Committee worthwhile and help to preserve the amenities we try to provide for the Residents' Association!

Betty Hall

Congratulations Corner

A Fairy Tale

Are you sitting comfortably? Then I'll begin ...

Once upon a time a girl discovered a small far-away island where the sun always shone and the sea was a deep blue. She fell in love with it and returned again and again, the people were so friendly and everything about the island was perfect.

Then one day she met a rather special young man, born and bred on the island ... and... yes, dear reader, she married him and is now living happily on that far-away island under that shining sun!

And all this is true!

On February 20th in Waterford Church, Elizabeth Buckley of High Molewood married Yannis Katsillis of the greek island of Kos.

There was one bridesmaid Victoria and two pageboys, Elizabeth's godsons James and Thomas.

Elizabeth had very sensibly given herself two years of living and working on Kos to see if she could adapt to its winters as well as its summers. She found that she loved it and so the fairy tale had its happy ending. Now she and Yannis are having a house built overlooking the sea!

We wish the couple every happiness and the Bride success in learning Greek!

Sophie

As everyone who shops at the 'Avenue Stores' will know, Tracey Brinicombe (nee Cobb) has given birth to a lovely little daughter.

Naturally her parents Pat and Trevor are delighted, they now have a grand daughter as well as a grandson, Adam. The parents of the proud father Ian, however, have not seen her as they are away in Australia. But I am assured photographs are being taken so that they can see her as she was when first born.

Her name is Sophie and she was born ahead of time on the 5th of May at 7.22 a.m. She weighed in at 7lbs 5ozs and she is as pretty as a picture with lots of dark hair and blue eyes.

"Who first beholds the light of day
In Spring's sweet, dowery month of May
And wears an Emerald all her life
Shall be a loved and happy wife".

Happy 'Birth' Day Sophie!

Hello from your local Bobby.

Just a few lines to let you know what's happening in our neck of the woods. Since the beginning of the year there have been twenty eight reportable crimes in Bengeo. Out of these fourteen have been detected by Police, a 50% detection rate which is very good. Out of the fourteen that have been undetected six have been offences of criminal damage, the damage usually being caused to vehicles parked in the street. Unfortunately this type of crime is very difficult to detect, so if car owners have garages - please use them. If not, perhaps a glance out of the window at your car before you go to bed might be able to shed some light on to the idiots who take pleasure in scratching other people's cars.

Now that the holiday season is with us once again may I take this opportunity to remind you of some basic crime prevention advice. When going away don't forget to (1) cancel your milk and newspapers (2) get friends or neighbours to push letters and free newspapers through the letterbox properly (3) if possible get a friend or neighbour to open and shut curtains and turn a light on and off in the house during the evening (4) make sure all windows and doors are securely locked. Leave your holiday address and telephone number with a trusted neighbour, just in case anything untoward happens to your property whilst you are away.

We have now been able to get a limited supply of the new handbook - 'Practical Ways to Crack Crime'. It contains forty pages full of ideas to help you work individually with others and the Police to help crack crime where you live and work. As I said we only have a limited supply at present at the Police Station, but you can also get a free copy by phoning 01-200-1000 anytime.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Kind Regards

PC Jeff Mounter

Britain in Bloom

Yes, the 'Britain in Bloom Competition' is nearly upon us again! Many plans are being laid for smartening up and beautifying Hertford and surrounding

areas and these include Bengeo.

More trees and shrubs will be planted in various places and strenuous efforts are being made to clean up the general appearance of our county town. Graffiti will be removed more rapidly and the War Memorial is to be cleaned and repaired.

The one over-riding problem our town has however is that of litter! Throwing or dropping litter can, I think, truly be called the 'British Disease'. Go to France and you don't see rubbish in the flower beds! Their streets are clean and yet they use them just as much as we do, perhaps more because they like to go out and walk around in the warm evenings.

There is to be an anti litter campaign in the first week of July 4th-10th, during which voluntary groups will be asked to help. Personally I should like to see many more strong and secure litter bins like those in Stevenage, so that if we - as I have done - ask a litter lout to 'use the bin' there is one actually on hand!

Littered streets lower the quality of life for us all.

There are to be four competitions this year:-

1. best kept front garden
2. commercial sector
3. McMullen's Challenge Cup for pubs
4. allotments

No-one has to enter formally as all our front gardens will be under scrutiny!

Bengeo Garden Competition

The gardens were judged this year not necessarily on design but on the best mixed floral display.

As usual the standard was very high with the unfortunate exception of a few untidy gardens.

In general the Molewood Estate can be proud of its colourful displays. Please keep up the good work as we are included, as a part of Hertford's entry in the 'Britain in Bloom Competition' in June and July.

The winners in the Spring Garden Competition were:-

First	Woods	46, Cowper Crescent	£8
Second	Draper	22, Peel Crescent	£6
Third	Singers	136, Cowper Crescent	£5
Fourth	Allum	20, Lys Hill Gardens	£4
Fifth	Eves	134, Cowper Crescent	£3

Best Spring tub, window box etc.

Staines	140, The Avenue	£5

Highly commended

Lodge Close	23
Lys Hill Gardens	16, 21
Cowper Crescent	76, 79, 116
The Avenue	126, 128
Woodhall Close	13
Peel Crescent	59

Pam Lutner

Bengeo in Bloom?

For the past two or three years the row of shops in The Avenue has looked splendid in the early summer with troughs, hanging baskets and tubs full of flowers. Pam Lutner has always done the heavy work of planting up all the containers and the occupants of the shops and flats have agreed to keep them watered - and watering is all that is required.

Unfortunately not everyone has done this with the result that some containers have been left full of dead brown plants, very quickly spoiling the general effect.

This was of course a 'dead' giveaway because you could see at a glance who had bothered and who had not!

This year let us hope that all the containers - and there may well be fewer of them - will be maintained, to the greater prestige of Bengeo.

Treasurer's Annual Report

Molewood Residents Association

Income and Expenditure Account for the year to 31 March 1988

1987			1988	
304		Membership subscriptions and Donations	316	
1025		Income from Social Functions	304	
26		Interest Received	18	
-		Neighbourhood Watch - contribs. from members	39	
	1355			677
8		A.G.M.	49	
858		Cost of Social Functions	299	
254		Newsletters, Notices, etc.	176	
18		Competition Prizes	57	
12		Presentations and Subscriptions	12	
108		"Britain in Bloom"	71	
20		Neighbourhood Watch	7	
-		Postage and Telephone, etc.	34	
63		Duplicator Servicing	-	
32		Stapling Machine	-	
-		Depreciation on duplicator ($\frac{1}{5}$th)	30	
	1373			735
	(18)	Deficit for year		(58)

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 1988

		ACCUMULATED FUND		
	558	Balance at 1st April 1987		540
	(18)	Deficit for the Year		(58)
	540			482
	150	Equipment less Depreciation		120
	331	Bradford & Bingley Bldg. Soc. Account		331
		National Westminster Bank		
8		Current Account	9	
51	59	Deposit Account	22	31
	540			482

Subject to Audit

Treasurer Dennis Goodrum

You may have read in the 'Mercury' a little while ago about a young man called Paul Moulding who is walking from Land's End to John O'Groats for charity. Well Paul is our Malcolm Moulding's son, so here for his second contribution to this edition is his account of his son's excellent progress.

The Gosh Walk

There can be few worthier causes than the Great Ormond Street Hospital Appeal and former Bengeo Scout Paul Moulding is making his contribution by walking from John O' Groats to Land's End with five fellow employees of Tesco Stores Ltd., where Paul is employed as Assistant Provisions Manager of Ware Branch.

The GOSH walkers started out down the A9 from John O' Groats on April 24th, and are due to reach Land's End on Sunday, May 29th. To complete their trek they will then be taken by coach to Guildford, and walk the older southern M25 section route from there through Redhill, and up to the Dartford Tunnel, then on to Hornchurch and Cheshunt. Nowhere on the route will they touch motorways or major cities, and Paul has described the first part of the walk as "The experience of a lifetime". He is fit and well, and on the second pair of his six pairs of issued boots.

They are receiving strong support along the route, and have already raised a third of the money. When they pass through Exeter Paul will meet his brother John, another former Bengeo Scouter, who is a student at Exeter University.

At Cheshunt Headquarters they are certain of a hearty welcome from parents, friends and families and supporters of the £1 million appeal, adopted by Tesco as this year's charity. At 21, Paul is the youngest member of the team. He first joined Ware store as a student at 16 and is now assistant Provisions Manager. A keen Bengeo Cub, Scout and Venture Leader in the past, Paul lists hill walking as his favourite exercise and recreation, which is just as well with more than 500 miles to go!

Malcolm Moulding
(Paul's Father)

Bengeo Fish Scheme

We are ready to assistant those people in our neighbourhood who need help in an emergency, in time of sickness or stress.

We will:- Give a lift to hospital, to church or take for an outing, Change library books; fetch medicines; shop Visit housebound people and older church members who are unable to get out. Visit people living on their own after hospital discharge. Visit a hospital patient who has no visitors. Do jobs in the homes of elderly or sick people. Write a letter at dictation. Fill up forms or witness signatures. Sit with an invalid or handicapped child for an hour or two. Look after children or babysit in an emergency. Prepare a meal. Provide overnight accommodation for hospital patient's relatives. Care for pets for short periods. Try to help in any emergency.

IF WE CAN HELP YOU or IF YOU CAN HELP US - especially as a driver, please contact any one of the following:-

Mrs. Ann Clifford, 54 Rib Vale,	Tel:	Hertford 587833
Miss Kay and Miss Mary Bedington, 50 The Drive		Hertford 583257
Mrs Libby Shillito, 1 The Orchard		Hertford 583979
Mrs Christine Edwards, 45 St. Leonards Road		Hertford 581491
The Rev. Colin Weale, Bengeo Rectory		Hertford 584537
The Rev. Christopher Wallington, 19 Cowper Crescent		Hertford 552607

Oxfam

If, like me you have lots of books about the house and if, unlike me, you can bear to part with them, then Mr. Smith, tel. no Hertford 587801 would like to hear from you.

He is always looking for more books for the Oxfam bookshop in town and he is ready and willing to collect them from you.

So why not turn out a few hard or paper backs and give him a ring? Then go down to the shop and buy a few of somebody else's!

Flowers for all occasions

One of our members has recently opened a shop in Warren Place, Hertford. It is a shop full of flowers and is known as 'Betty's Florist'. Not only will Linda Warwick of Peel Crescent sell fresh and silk flowers but she will also undertake orders for weddings, funerals, and table decorations.

Moreover for the residents of Molewood there is a special discount of 10%! Just go in - with some proof that you do live in Molewood and take advantage of this very kind offer.

We wish you every success!

The North of Hertford Gravel Extraction Proposal

Every story it is said has a beginning, a middle and an end. The gravel pits' story had its beginning some five years ago and we are in the middle now, but what will be its end?

The three vested interests are, as everyone must know by now, Pioneer, Redland and County Councillor Ralph Abel Smith who owns most of the land. He was approached by the Council and asked, together with the two companies, to draw up plans for this enormous undertaking to prevent piece-meal development, although even that would have better than this wholesale destruction.

After several years of working on their proposal, wasn't it strange that their planning application notices (on white paper not the usual violent yellow) should have been displayed on the land just a week before Easter? This is a time, like Christmas, when people have other things on their minds. These notices said that plans were available at Wallfields and all objections had to be in within three weeks!

Your alert Committee did not hesitate, there was no time to lose, but investigations at Wallfields revealed - no plans! Someone had jumped the gun!

However Duncombe Hall was booked for a public meeting on 6th April and an advertisement was put into the Mercury just in time. We had 2000 leaflets printed.

Then the planning applications were withdrawn and apologies displayed instead!

We were left with a lot of righteous indignation at the timing of the whole thing and a hall booked for an advertised meeting when we were advised that we shouldn't say or do anything publicly until the application notices had been restored!

We didn't put up our posters or distribute our leaflets but it was too late

to cancel the meeting. So we went to Duncombe Hall to explain events to whoever turned up and in view of the haste and lack of publicity we did not expect many.

In the event a gratifying fifty plus people arrived including representatives from Chapmore End and Beane Valley Association and John Barnes the 'footpath-man'.

So the non meeting turned into a good meeting after all.

Now here is Dorothy Bradley's account of what happened next ...

Action on the proposed gravel pit extraction

Over fifty people attended the meeting at Duncombe Hall on 6th April - people who showed a real concern for the environment and their children's futures. It was decided that further action should be organised by a committee representing all the local groups and associations. Welcome offers of help were received.

A meeting of all interested bodies took place at Waterford Village Hall on the 14th of April. Its main purpose was to form a Steering Committee to coordinate action but at the suggestion of Chapmore End it was voted that at this stage a Liaison Committee was preferable. This is now composed of two members from each of the committees plus Mr. John Barnes. Posters and about five thousand leaflets prepared by the Molewood Committee were given out for distribution in other areas, to publicise the public meeting to be held at Sele School.

The hall at Sele School was packed to over flowing on the 20th of April. It was apparent that many people had not realised the frightening implications of the Redland Pioneer proposals until the Chairman Mr. Randal Metzger announced that eight hundred and fifteen acres of land would be affected for thirty years!

This message was emphasised by the video film made by Mr. George Sandell of the Beane Valley Association - a truly horrifying record of the depradation already caused by gravel extraction in the area and the problems, dangers and health hazards suffered by residents in the surrounding regions.

George Sandell and John Barnes warned of the dangers of being deceived by the glossy literature produced by Redland/Pioneer and their promises of restoration. They have an abysmal record of years of broken promises of land resembling moonscapes still left untouched years after the gravel has been exhausted, despite prosecutions against them.

A collection after the meeting raised over £500!

It is to be hoped their advice has been heeded and that thousands of individual letters have by now been received by Councillors, Mr. Bowen Wells M.P. the Press and of course the Director of Planning, Mr. David Beales.

The County Councillors are almost certainly the final arbiters. If we the people they represent are apathetic we have only ourselves to blame for the consequences.

Dorothy Bradley

So that's it so far. Incidentally the confusion of deadline dates for letters arose because of the muddle about the date of the planning application in the

first place. The application finally appeared in the Mercury on the 22nd of April and so the letters had to be received within twenty one days inclusive of that date - hence May 12th. However because this thing is so big and receiving so much attention, the time limit for everyone to express their opinion has now been extended until the autumn.

As the County Council is all important in this matter I am publishing the complete list of Councillors' names and addresses. It is likely we shall have to lobby each and every one and ask which way they intend to vote. This could be expensive but a small price to pay surely if we can win and keep the countryside for our children?

There are ways of cutting the cost and labour. A letter could be written two or four times and photocopied on to A4 paper and then cut up, you would then only need to fill in a Councillor's name on each one. Each letter would have to be put into its own addressed envelope but all these letters could be put into one large envelope and sent to:- "Members' Correspondence, County Hall, Hertford", for the price of one stamp.

This is for the future. Please keep this list as it will not be published again.

At the time of writing we have had organised gravel walks and been on television, so we are not doing too badly in keeping interest up, but we must not become complacent.

The 'opposition' has staged its own exhibition manned by very articulate and plausible men. They say they have learned from their past mistakes, they will not infill with rubbish because of the methane danger and they will not put their steep banks as close to houses as they did on Sacombe Road. We have to remember however that Pioneer and Redland are not new inexperienced companies just finding their feet they are large and influential. Did they really not know about methane? Did they really have to be told that steep unseeded banks right outside garden boundaries are not good? Or are they anxious to allay our fears with soft words now, before the next application goes through?

When, or if, it does go through what then? Can we trust them?

County Councillors 1988

Division	Name	Address	Party
21 Hertford Rural	R Abel Smith	Woodhall Park, Watton at Stone, Hertford SG14 3NE	C
6 Waltham Cross	N Ames	15 Grenville Close, Waltham Cross	C
15 King's Langley	Dr. A Anderson	Leaside, Rucklers Lane, King's Langley. WD4 9NQ	C
34 Hitchin South	D Ashley	12 Nuns Close, Hitchin. SG5 1EP	*C
38 Letchworth South	D Attwood	22 Waysbrook, Letchworth. SG6 2DT	*S & LD

Division	Name	Address	Party
40 Offa	Dr. D Billing	55 Walsworth Road Hitchin. SG4 9SX	L
25 Ware South	C Bowsher	Nassau, Little Widbury, Ware. SG12 7BA	C
76 Welwyn G. City	A Brind	12 Whitehorn, Welwyn G. City. AL7 3EX	L
9 Hemel Hempstead	A Britton	'Holly Blue', Westwick Row, Leverstock Gr. Hem. Hemps. HP2 4UD	* C
71 Hatfield East	Mrs H Burningham	14 Hillside Road St. Albans. AL1 3QL	C
55 Old Stevenage	Mrs M Cherney	29 Dunn Close, Stevenage. SG1 1SB	* L
72 Hatfield North	Mrs S Clark	11 Elm Drive, Hatfield. AL10 8NR	L
70 Haldens	F Clayton	61 Hillfield, Hatfield. AL10 0TY	L
50 Sandridge	L Coates	38 Marshalswick Lane St. Albans. AL1 4XG	* S & LD
59 Chorleywood	F Cogan	Holly Cottage, Dimmocks Lane, Sarratt, Rickmansworth. WD3 6AR	C
24 Ware North	M Coleman	3 Easington Road, Dane End, Nr. Ware. SG12 0LX	S & LD
27 Bushey North	M Colne	1 Chiltern Close, Bushey. WD2 3PZ	S & LD
58 Abbotts Langley	P Croft	5 Linsey Close, Longdean Park, Hem. Hemp. HP3 8DA	S & LD
12 Hem. Hempstead	P Doyle	113 Saturn Way, Highfield, Hem. Hemp. HP2 5PD	* L
1 Cheshunt Central	Miss J Drew	3 Albury Ride, Waltham Cross. EN8 8XE	C
48 St. Albans South	R Durrant	195 Marshalswick Lane, St. Albans. AL1 4XA	* C
35 Knebworth & Codicote	R Ellis	Bridge House, Station Approach, Knebworth. SG3 6AT	C
10 H. Hempstead North E.	W Evans	237 St. Agnells Lane, Hem. Hempstead. HP2 6EG	S & LD

Division	Name	Address	Party
14 Hem. Hempstead Town	Mrs C Everall	Longacres, Frithsden Copse, Berkhamsted. HP4 2RG	C
5 Hoddesdon South	Mrs J Fiddy	'Janlea', 1 Westhill Road, Foxton, Cambs. CB2 6SZ	C
19 Bish. Stortford Chantry Thorley	Lt. Col M Fielder	'Gara', Station Road, Much Hadham. SG10 6AX	* C
31 Potters Bar South W.	R Fielding	'Courcelle', 35 Windmore Ave., Potters Bar. EN6 3BE	C
17 All Saints	J Forrester	397 Ware Road, Hertford. SG13 7EN	C
66 Meriden Tudor	R Fricker	11 South Riding, Bricket Wood, St. Albans. AL2 3NG	L
39 North Herts Rural	Mrs B Goble	1 The Aspens, Hitchin. SG4 9NB	* C
36 Letchworth East & Baldock	A Gorst	14 High Street, Baldock. SG7 6AS	L
30 Potters Bar North East	A Gray	Dryham Park Farm, Dryham Lane, Barnet. NE5 4RB	C
75 Welwyn	Dr. M Hall	15 Canonsfield Road, Welwyn. AL6 OPY	C
46 St. Albans North	Mrs A Hill	6 Gleave Close, St. Albans. AL1 4QG	C
42 Harpenden North E.	J C R Hudson	77 Station Road, Harpenden. AL5 4RL	C
26 Bushey Heath	J M A Hudson	25 Melbourne Road, Bushey, Watford. WD2 3LL	C
37 Letchworth North West	M Kearns	20 Sherwood, Letchworth. SG6 4SQ	L
41 Royston	Mrs P Kennington	18 Garden Walk, Royston. SG8 7HP	S & LD
67 Nascot Park	P Kiely	38 Tunnel Wood Road, Watford. WD1 3SN	C
52 Bedwell	Mrs H Lawrence	6 Silam Road, Stevenage. SG1 1JH	L
54 Chells	R Lloyd	1 Parkers Field, Stevenage. SG2 9JR	L

Division	Name	Address	Party
51 The Colneys	M MacMillan	5 White Horse Lane, London Colney. AL2 1JW	* L
2 Cheshunt North	E Martin	'Warren Lodge', 57 Carnaby Road, Broxbourne. EN10 7EQ	C
16 Tring	H Marwood	East Lodge, Park Road, Tring. HP23 6BU	* C
77 Wel. G. City West	R Mays	5 Fern Grove, Welwyn Garden City. AL8 7ED	L
64 Callowland Leggatts	Mrs E McNally	146 Abbots Road, Abbots Langley. WD5 0BL	L
68 Vicarage Holywell	Mrs S Meldrum	4 Essex Road, Watford. WD1 3EP	L
29 Lyndhurst	J Metcalf	53 Cunningham Hill Road, St. Albans. AL1 5BX	L
49 St. Stephens	M Moore	72 West Riding, Bricket Wood, St. Albans. AL2 3QQ	*S & LD
11 Hem. Hempstead N E	D Moss	19 Priory Gardens, Berkhamsted. HP4 2DS	L
57 Shephall	S Munden	77 Wigram Way, Stevenage. SG2 9UX	* L
33 Hitchin North East	F Peacock	1 Franklin Gardens, Walsworth, Hitchin. SG4 0BS	L
45 St. Albans East	D Perret	1 Roundwood Park, Harpenden. AL5 3AB	S & LD
22 St. Andrews	G Perret	70 Burnett Square, Hertford. SG14 2HD	* L
20 Braughing	Mrs J Pitman	Heath House, Patmore Heath, Albury, Ware. SG11 2LX	* C
61 Oxhey Park	W Buckland	43 Batchworth Lane, Northwood, Middx. HA6 3DU	C
65 Central Oxhey	Mrs A Ramsden	10 Waverley Road, St. Albans. AL3 5PA	L
4 Hoddesdon North	J Rose	39 Eversley Lodge, Park View, Hoddesdon. EN11 8PH	C
7 Berkhamsted	Mrs H Rost	Norcott Court, Northchurch, Berkhamsted. HP4 1LE	C

Division	Name	Address	Party
74 North Mymms	Mrs R Johnson	54 Mymms Drive, Brooklands Park, Hatfield.	C
32 Watling	H Saunders	53 Watford Road, Radlett, WD7 8LG	* C
47 St. Albans Rural	R Scranage	Bricket Lodge, Lye Lane, Bricket Wood, St. Albans. AL2 3TG	C
8 Bridgewater	F Seely	20 Rambling Way, Potten End, Berkhamsted.	* C
53 Broadwater	W Sheaff	7 Rookwood Drive, Stevenage. SG2 8PJ	L
23 Sawbridgeworth	B Smalley	The Old Nurseries, Widford Road, Much Hadham. SG10 6AT	C
56 St. Nicholas	B Stoneham	5 Chells Manor Cottages, Chells Lane, Stevenage. SG2 7AA	S & LD
43 Harpenden South West	Mrs I Tarry	28 The Uplands, West Common, Harpenden. AL5 2PQ	C
44 St. Albans Central	Mrs G Tattersfield	30 Sauncey Avenue, Harpenden. AL5 4QJ	S & LD
13 Hem. Hempstead S E	Miss R Thorpe-Tracey	7 Lukes Lane, Gubblecote, Nr. Tring. HP23 4QQ	* L
3 Cheshunt West	C Tyler	173 Churchgate Road, Cheshunt. EN9 9EJ	* C
60 Croxley	J Vosper	Saltram Cottage, The Green, Croxley Green. WD3 3HT	S & LD
63 South Oxhey	D Waddington	19 Ashburnham Drive, South Oxhey, Watford. WD1 6PX	L
73 Hatfield South	G Wenham	45 de Havilland Close, Hatfield. AL10 0DS (Vice Chairman)	* L
69 Woodside Stanborough	D Williams	12 Langley Way, Watford. WD1 3EQ	* L
62 Rickmansworth	A Witney	18 Nightingale Road, Rickmansworth. WD3 2DF	*S & LD
18 Bishops Stortford Central Parsonage	M Wood	4 Belgrave House, Stortford Hall Park, Bishops Stortford. CM23 5AQ	*S & LD

Division	Name	Address	Party
28 Elstree	B York	11 Beechwood Avenue, St. Albans. AL1 4XP	(Chairman) * L

* Members of the Planning Committee.

AGM

This year's AGM was a great success, seventy five or so members attended, making it one of our best yet. Those of you who did not come can kick yourselves because you missed a very good evening!

The official business was conducted briskly as it was quite straightforward. The usual concerns were expressed - badly parked cars for instance.

PC Jeff Mounter spoke about 'Neighbourhood Watch' and the level of crime in our area (low, thank goodness). He then answered questions from the floor.

Bryan Thurston gave an 'update' on the gravel pit situation. He and Pam Lutner are on the Liaison Committee, to be known from now on as the 'Campaign Against Gravel Extraction' - 'CAGE' - with the motto 'STOPPIT'. Bryan is the Vice Chairman.

You may think that things have gone quiet on the gravel pits front but there is a ferment of activity going on, the difficulty lies in keeping everyone informed.

When the official business was concluded the wine and cheese were served and then we all settled down, glass in hand, to watch Peter Ruffles' slides of old Hertford. It is amazing how quickly you can get used to a wider road or a changed scene. Seeing these slides brought it all back to those of us who have lived here for a few years and for those of us who have lived here longer, the memories of people, 'characters', were also revived.

No one wanted the show to end as Peter put on more and more slides, I shall look at chimneys in a new light from now on!

We all wish to thank him very much, both for his fascinating photographs and for his enthusiastic presentation.

In conclusion the old Committee wishes to welcome five new members to the Committee for the following year, - names and addresses are on the inside front cover.

To end on a personal note

I have been Editor of the 'Molewood Outlook' for five years now and it has grown and changed a lot in that time.

I have enjoyed it but I am beginning to feel that this "road goes ever on and on" ... and it is time I stepped off. In short I am resigning as 'Molewood Outlook' Editor.

Like Bilbo I am tempted to say "This is the end. I am going. I am leaving, NOW!" and disappear in a blinding flash of light! But of course I won't. I shall be more than willing to help the new Editor get started.

Who ever it is will be concerned solely with the writing and editing, some

one else does the typing and someone else again will do the printing.

If anyone is interested and would like to know more, please let me know. My address and telephone number are on the inside front cover.

Qualifications needed:- enthusiasm, legible handwriting, willingness to give time to it and the ability to count!

Anyone can do it!

Why don't you try?

Many thanks for all the kind words I have received over the years.

May we all have a very happy summer. I look forward to reading the next 'Molewood Outlook'!

Valerie Sutton
Editor

Future Events

If the following activities were organised it is very likely that I would want to take part:- (please tick where appropriate).

1. Theatre visits

   A. Musicals
   B. Dance
   C. Modern drama
   D. Shakespeare
   E. Other (please specify)

2. Dances

   A. Square dance
   B. Folk dance
   C. Ballroom dancing
   D. Disco
   E. Other (please specify)

3. Trips

   A. France (shopping)
   B. Canal or river
   C. Coach tour
   D. Specific visits (Oaklands etc)
   E. Other (please specify)

4. Anything else?

5. Thank you, but I am not interested in taking part in any events.

Name .....

Address .....