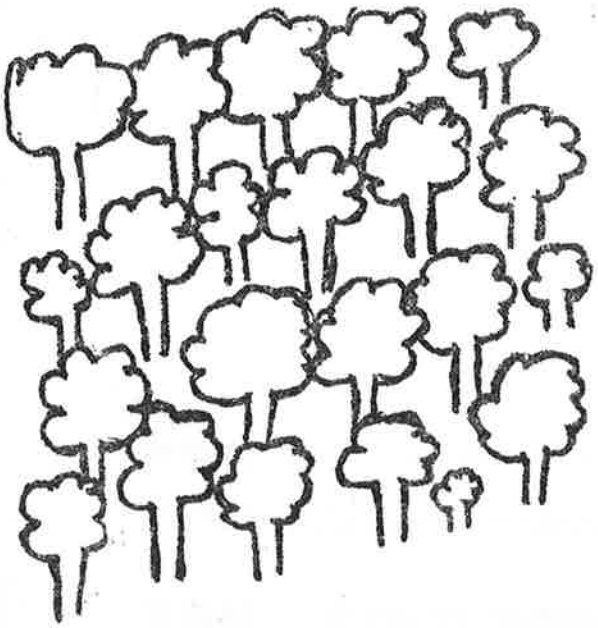
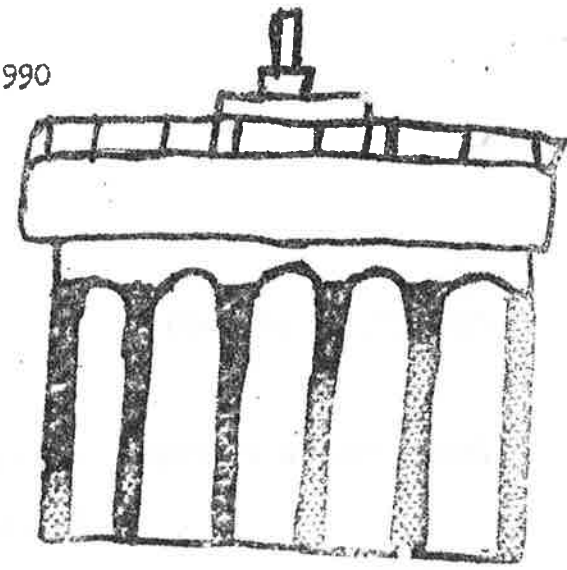
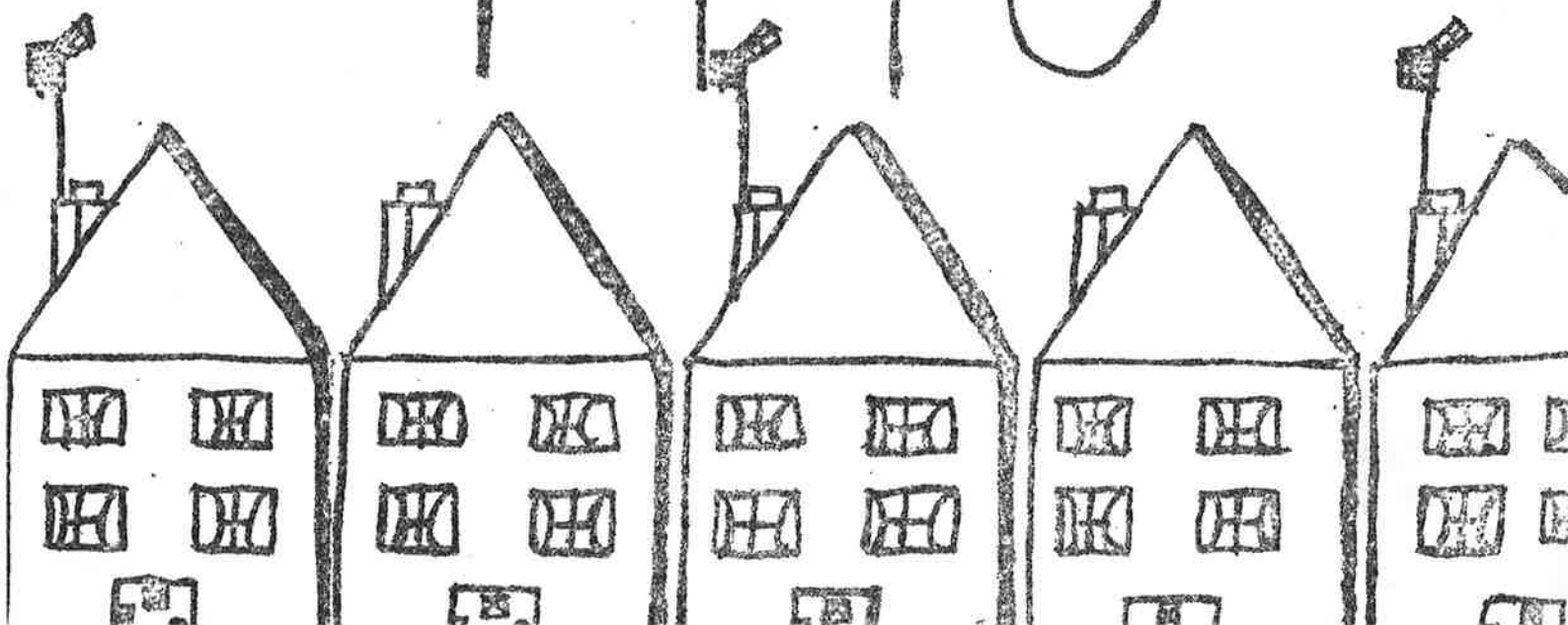


MARCH 1990



MOLEWOOD OUTLOOK 1990



COMMITTEE 1989-90

JOINT CHAIR PERSONS	Bryan Thurston	102 The Avenue	584139
	Pam Lutner	107 Cowper Crescent	581329
EDITOR ('MOLEWOOD OUTLOOK')	Mr. Allan Streeton	22 Cowper Crescent	586217
MINUTES SECRETARY	Miss Ruth Harrison	14 Desborough Close	587457
CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY	Mrs Dorothy Bradley	115 The Avenue	584608
TREASURER	Mr. Dennis Goodrum	43 The Avenue	587341

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Mrs Valerie Sutton	106 Cowper Crescent	550459
Mr. Brian Euler	52 The Wick	558619
Mrs Olive Church	122 Cowper Crescent	583412
Mrs Edith Copeland	122 Cowper Crescent	583412
Mr. Brian Bower	28 The Avenue	586321
Mrs Elizabeth Walden	11 Cowper Crescent	553606
Mrs Irene Cherry	49 The Wick	581084
Mrs Eileen Beale	13 Peel Crescent	587503
Mrs Sylvia Hefter	59 The Wick	

EDITORIAL - Batten down the hatches!

Well, welcome to 1990 and a new decade, which certainly came in with a vengeance, less like a lion, more like a raging bull wreaking havoc and destruction throughout this land! MOLEWOOD seemed to be in the centre of the 'eye'.

Stories abound of unnerving experiences during the worst of the gales when one entrance to the estate was completely blocked by a massive tree across The Avenue. One Molewoodian thought his time was up whilst standing (only just!) on the corner of Cowper and Peel Crescents when a massive gust clawed tiles from rooves before his very eyes and a large fence went sailing past him, having been wrenched from its concrete stakes.

Whatever happened to those crisp, cold and occasionally snowy winters we used to have? Let's hope that there will be no repeat performances and that residents have now fully recovered from the traumas of a 'mild' winter, and that their properties have been restored to their former glory AND that we SHALL have a repeat performance of 1989 in the summer of 1990!

Our request for contributions was met with a response that could only be described as ... underwhelming! So, if there's anyone out there, please let us have YOUR articles, views, criticisms - or praises! ("Hello .....? Hello .....?")

We see that some residents in other parts (of the globe) are already preparing special events for New Year/Century Eve celebrations. If anyone has any ideas for something very special for 31.12.99, let us hear about it (even if we are knee deep in sand and gravel). More about that later.

As Brian Bower mentioned in the Autumn '89 Newsletter the matter of Social Events will be organised ONLY at your response. In fact, some response has been received, and there are several who have mentioned garden/flower shows, so we are working on this theme (see announcement). In the meantime your committee will continue to keep your interests at heart and try to find solutions at its monthly meetings.

Don't forget - there's still plenty of room on our pages for all that talent out there. We have placed a 'suggestion box' in the Avenue Greengrocers' shop, so .....?

Whilst on the subject of talent .....

The COVER PICTURE on this issue was done by the extremely talented .... HELEN WOODMAN (age nine) of 103, The Avenue showing that the standard of design is reaching new heights of excellance with every new issue. HELEN attends St. Joseph's School in North Road and is in St. Clement's class. As well as her artistic talents, she is also keen on ballet and badmin-ton. Her other interests include the 9th Hertford pack of Brownies and singing in the St. Joseph's School Choir. She has lived in Bengeo for five years and has two brothers, Phillip and Richard. Thank you for your contribution Helen.

We already have another drawing 'in the can' for the next issue after the A.G.M. (probably May/June) but would welcome any new ones. Reminder: On A4 paper: black and white only: fairly bold outlines, please (assists in the printing) include the title Molewood Outlook and with name, age and address on the back. Thank you young Molewoodians.

JOINT CHAIRPERSONS' REPORT

Where has the time gone? I can't believe I have been a member of the Molewood Residents Association Committee for twenty six years! Yes, thats how long the association has been going, and very successful it has been and still is. I can truthfully say I have enjoyed every minute of it, even having to fight the various planning applications that have threatened us over the years.

We on the Molewood Residents' Committee have become a respected Association over the years as we represent over six hundred houses with a 90% membership. We have proved many times that many voices are taken notice of.

I think we are very lucky to live where we are, and hope it will stay as nice as it is now, everyone is very friendly and I have served with a wide variety of hardworking, friendly and willing people who have made up the Committees, and I would like to say thank you to all past and present members.

Pam Lutner

BRITAIN IN BLOOM

I hope everyone is enjoying how pretty the Estate is looking with the crocuses and daffodils in bloom on the greens as well as the blossom coming out. What a tempermental person Mother nature is, blowing us around one day, smiling the next, it certainly gives us plenty of scope for conversation. Seriously though, I hope nobody experienced anything too frightening in the recent gales. We certainly don't want them again in a hurry!

With an exceptionally mild winter - many plants and shrubs are flowering weeks ahead of normal - keep a lookout for sudden frosts at nights, some protection may be needed on tender flowers such as camellias and magnolias, which can suffer badly. If plants are not too large, a protective wind break of special netting or sacking can be placed round them at night.

Roses will need inspecting earlier this year as pests have not been killed off as usual. After pruning, spray with a general pesticide for roses and start feeding earlier than normal. Please watch out for ladybirds - they are our friends, remove any before spraying.

I will be judging the Spring gardens competition anytime now, so out with the forks, spades and lawnmowers! We would like to extend our invitation to all the last Summer garden winners to join us on May 16th for the prizegiving at the A.G.M. The Spring prizewinners will be notified as soon as possible to join them.

Happy Gardening!

Pam Lutner

Yes - don't forget .....

A.G.M. WEDNESDAY 16TH MAY AT DUNCOMBE HALL.

REFRESHMENTS ..... AND SOME ENTERTAINMENT!

MOLEWOOD ESTATE - REFUSE COLLECTION

Concern has been expressed recently about the lack of an adequate refuse service during holiday periods. If the refuse collection is due to take place on a Monday or a Tuesday, it is cancelled, and the collection takes place a week later which means that there is no refuse collection for fourteen days. It is felt that this is unhygienic and also unsatisfactory, as areas which are collected on Wednesdays, Thursdays or Fridays always get a weekly service.

In the neighbouring borough of Broxbourne, if refuse is not collected on a Monday or a Tuesday there is a collection later that week and notices appear in the local paper. This means that all residents get a similar service and rubbish is collected within a period of eight or nine days, never longer.

Do residents have any thoughts on the matter?

LAVATORIAL LAUGHS

PETER PADWICK had a packed-to-capacity local audience at Bengeo Hall heaving with laughter at his hilarious presentation of ... The HISTORY of LAVATORIES, on 22nd November last. The talk was very informative and laced with side-splitting factual anecdotes supported with slides.

It was surprising how little hygiene there was in this country not all that long before some of our grandparents were born.

After a natural break and a delicious spread washed down with wine we went into the second half of the evening's entertainment entitled ..... "LIGHT". Peter was assisted by his talented partner Christine Ball in a miscellany of sketches and songs from the old 'Music Hall' days, complete with period costumes.

Audience participation was the order, and later Elizabeth Walden and Brian Euler entered into the spirit of the evening by joining the entertainers in a tongue-twister of songs. They just about managed to keep their reputations intact!

Special thanks to Pam Lutner and all her team of helpers who worked so hard preparing the food and drink.

For those who missed out on this jolly evening's fun ..... next time ..... don't!

HOME TOWN

Anyone not yeat familiar with the contents of "HERTFORD, The Way Forward" yet, should in their own interests, make an effort to see that our town survives as "a healthy, bustling market town". In January there was an exhibition in the Corn Exchange of the initial plans by the District Council for overall improvements. The plans are still available for viewing at Wallfields for anyone not yet acquainted with the proposals. There is an assurance that ALL views for alterations and amendments WILL be considered. So, please go and see what YOU think and make any comments or suggestions in writing to:-

David Beales, Director of Planning
East Herts District Council
PO Box 102
Wallfields
Pegs Lane, HERTFORD SG13 8EQ

Something has to be done urgently, but it is no good grumbling after the event, if we don't voice our opinions NOW! Also, Herts County Council have produced guide lines on a STRUCTURE PLAN for Hertford concerning land use, also inviting views from the public.

NEIGHBOUR HOOD WATCH

Although in the last year we have had three burglaries on our Estate, generally the crime rate for Molewood is very low compared with some other adjacent areas.

However, it doesn't mean we can become complacent. Luck has a lot to do with it, as there are still unfortunately a few areas for concern, garages are still being left open with tools and ladders, freezers and other items on display, some windows are left open when houses are unoccupied. A burglary can take place in under five minutes! Have you walked round the Estate during an average day? It is like a ghost town for many hours, a burglar's paradise!

Top of the list for items stolen are:- videos, jewel ry, cheque books, ornaments, T.Vs, cash etc. With the increasing number of door to door canvassers and salesmen why make it easier for the would-be thief? Most are opportunists; a common occurance now is that the criminal drives up one of the motorways or the A10 from London, especially to look round estates such as ours. Please check your house before going out. Have you closed windows preferably with locks, closed that garage and locked it? It really only takes a few minutes and soon becomes a habit; surely it is worth the peace of mind?

Perhaps we can be better neighbours too, by keeping a friendly eye on nearby houses, push those free papers through the doors, wheel the wheelie bins back down the path, a real act of help this, as many are left out on the pavements all day while people at work, and as many have probably found in the recent high winds, a bin can cause a nasty accident if blown over.

A CASE OF NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WORKING

Recently a lady in Great Molewood Road, off North Road became suspicious of a strange car going up and down the road with the driver looking around him. She investigated, and after deciding the man was acting suspiciously, phoned the police. When they arrived, the man was discovered actually breaking into a house and they caught him red handed. It appears he had stolen a car in London and driven up the A10 with the intention of committing a burglary. This proves the point made earlier. Congratulations to this quick thinking lady!

I would like to say welcome to Mr. Monty Thomas who has volunteered to help with Neighbourhood Watch in The Wick. Thank you.

Sadly, I cannot say the same for Peel Crescent, we have no one, please don't stay out in the cold, come into the warm. We won't bite! There is a cause for concern here, as we have a large concentration of older folk living in bungalows who may be a little more vulnerable. Please be a friendly neighbour and represent your road - it doesn't hurt, I promise!

ANOTHER POINT FOR BEING EXTRA VIGILANT

Over the last three months we have had no local police officer, due to P.C. John Baldwin being put on to C.I.D. work until April. Unfortunately we in Bengeo do not seem to keep our local bobbies long. Either they are moved on, or put to other duties, so this is where Neighbourhood

Watch has to be seen to be working to help ourselves. Does anyone have any comments to make?

Please keep those phone calls coming however small or insignificant to you - it may be major to someone else.

LIST OF DEPUTIES ARE:-

	107 Cowper Crescent 581329	Pam Lutner Co-ordinator

Deputies:-

Brian Bower	28, The Avenue	586321
David Hall	132, Cowper Crescent	586752
Pat Brooks	87, Cowper Crescent	587809
Cherry and Ray Craner	73, Cowper Crescent	589741
Brian Euler	52, The Wick	558619
Heidi Scott	6, Woodhall Close	558208
Paul Liffers	118, The Avenue	587974
Edith Ruggles	17, Lys Hill Gardens	558549
Ruth Harrison	14, Desborough Close	587457
Margaret Read	Wroxham, High Molewood	586800
Monty Thomas	64, The Wick	587901

MORE THOUGHTS ON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - FROM RUTH HARRISON

NOT A WASTE OF TIME

The time and money which has been used over the years on Neighbourhood Watch and other groups has been done for the public's safety, you, the public, the person reading this article.

How many of you, after reading items put in the Molewood Outlook, actually do something to prevent crime? Just because there is a committee and you live in a Neighbourhood Watch area does not mean that you will be crime free.

I write these articles because I want to avoid it happening to me, and I don't want it happening to anyone else.

CONFERENCE OF CRIME PREVENTION

The results so far -

1. The Police alone can not crack crime, only with Local Authorities, Councils and Crime Prevention Panels can it happen.

2. Dealing with crimes against property produces the best results.

3. There is a need to 'recruit' young people into the prevention schemes as they often have innovative and worthwhile ideas.

4. The suggestion is that all the groups should get together to form a co-ordination committee in Hertfordshire to make it a safer society. The Police also advise architects on the best ways incorporating measures for crime prvention. Have pride in your area and be prepared to do more to combat crime.

CRACKING CRIME

The first step in preventing crime is understanding the background to it:

- Most crime is against property, not people.
- Most crime is not carried out by professionals, nor is it carefully planned.
- Property criminals thrive on easy opportunity.
- Crime is often committed by adolescents and young men, the majority stop offending as they get older, the peak age is fifteen!!
- The risk of crime varies depending on where you live.

Ruth Harrison

DOES YOUR WEEKEND GO WITH A BANG!

Do you enjoy your Environment? Do you enjoy your garden and look forward to another lovely summer outside?

This could be rapidly coming to an end - you could be shut indoors all day, wearing ear muffs and suffering from mental strain, waiting for the continuous BANG! BANG! BANG! Please read on .....

You will be aware of the intrusive and annoying noise pollution which is being caused by the clay pigeon shooting at the Lea Valley Shooting Association site in Bramfield Road, Hertford.

Over the last two or three years the noise has increased quite considerably in the week days as well as at weekends. This is now causing major concern in BROAD OAK END, BENGEO, SELE FARM, WATERFORD, STAPLEFORD, BRAMFIELD ETC.

In September last year, the LVSA LTD, submitted a planning application for a club house on the site together with parking for a jundred cars. This will enable what was a small club, only shooting occasionally, to expand into what is rapidly becoming a big profitable business. Present membership is four hundred, with a waiting list we are told of six hundred!

The club advertises itself as "HERTFORDSHIRE'S PREMIER CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING GROUND". Members travel from far and wide to come here, the reason being that pollution in green belt areas, and infringement of people's rights to enjoy their houses and gardens.

If this application is allowed to go through, you can expect to have shooting on at least five days a week, including weekends, with the possibility of up to eight hours shooting on some days. On top of this, there could be three-day shooting championships, and if thats not enough, the club are hoping to install an Olympic Trap Range! Details of this are too long to go into here, suffice enough to say life would not be worth living! To quote from an article:-

> "There are very few Olympic Trap Ranges in the country, mainly because local Authorities will not allow them, they are totally unsuitable for urban sport - more suitable in the Arizona Desert or the Steps of Russia - even old agriculture areas in the North. The mere cost of these traps would suggest that they would be used to their full extent to prove cost effective".

Another disturbing fact from another article, states:-

"Every blast of a shot gun drops more than an ounce of lead shot on the open countryside. Ten thousand shota could be fired in a day at a major clay pigeon shoot contest, each discharging an ounce of lead shot. Ten thousand ounces of lethal lead spewed into the countryside, six hundred and twenty five pounds, or more than a quarter of a ton of shot which can poison birds or animals and pollute soil and streams".

CONSERVATIONISTS TAKE NOTE!

An Association called "THE HERTFORDSHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION" has been formed to fight this growing noise menace, with representation from the aforementioned areas, and is now actively involved in hoping to stop or greatly reduce this noise. If you would like more information, write to C/O BROAD OAK END, HERTFORD, SG14 2JA, OR RING 558796 (ANSAFONE).

After many objections were made to East Herts District Council, and the Environmental Health Officers, the planning decisions was deferred for further investigations and reports. Several Councillors have spoken of their concern, and meetings have been taking place, with some of the residents having a consultation with Mr. Bowen Wells MP.

To be successful in getting this application turned down and the hours of shooting stopped or reduced, we need your support in the same way that CAGE was so well supported.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

Copies of main letter can be sent.

MRS P.J. GEALL
47 Fordwich Rise
Hertford.

MR. ROGER MARTIN
41, The Avenue
Bengeo, Hertford.

MRS R. SWALLOW
Bengeo Wick
Sacombe Road
Bengeo, Hertford.

MR W.R. HUNTER
114, Duncombe Road
Bengeo, Hertford.

MR. GLEN SEXTON
61, North Road
Hertford.

MR ROGER TUCKER
New House
Green Hall Farm
Bramfield, HERTS.

MR HENRY SARGENT
20, Burnett Square
Sele Farm, Hertford.

MR DAVID BEALES
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING
EAST HERTS DISTRICT COUNCIL
WALLFIELDS, PEGS LANE
HERTFORD. SG13 8EQ

MR R. MORTON
CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER
E.H.D.C.
WALLFIELDS, PEGS LANE
HERTFORD. SG13 8EQ

PLEASE NOTE, INDIVIDUAL LETTERS VOICING YOUR OBJECTIONS ARE FAR MORE EFFECTIVE THAN A PETITION. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT ON AN ISSUE THAT WILL EFFECT THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE'S WAY OF LIFE.

Since the above contribution was gratefully received, an article appeared in a recent edition of the "Mercury". This gave the LVSA the opportunity to assure the 'Herts Environmental Association' that they have "no plans whatsoever to increase clay shooting on the site". They are, they say, very aware of the environmental issues - especially noise. The LVSA are apparently linked to the "environmental friendly" Hertfordshire Groundwork Trust.
Suggestion: Read the article and make up your own mind - and then take whatever action - if any - you deem necessary!

Editor

CAUSES FOR CONCERN

To keep you in the picture concerning correspondence on matters on the "Onion Patch" (the original nickname for Molewood) the following information is from Correspondence between your committee and various Authorities.

Mr A.G. Walker, the E.H.D.C. Director of Technical Services has answeredour letter regarding three causes for concern on the Estate.

(1) The condition of the road surface in The Avenue where routine maintenance has proved to be totally inadequate. He will write again when he has more detailed information.

(2) Parked cars blocking access to and egress from garages behind The Avenue shops. He will "look into this matter".

(3) The attention of the Works Section has been drawn to the missing road sign outside No. 61 The Avenue.

Many residents have expressed anxiety about dangerous and illegal parking in Bengeo Street - particularly at the junction of Bengeo Street and Tower Street outside the Spar shop.

Inspector Brady of the Hertfordshire Constabulary, in response to our letter, has shown this matter to the attention of local patrols. I received a visit from P.C. Eric Fulcher who assured me that they are aware of general parking problems in this area. These problems are not ignored and are receiving the same attention as similar problems.

Residents, we are sure, will be reassured to know that, despite so many other responsibilities, the police showed such a sympathetic response to our local concerns.

One other matter. We are disappointed that, despite several requests, overhanging shrubs are still causing problems. Many residents have complained that, particularly at night, these can proove very dangerous. One resident had to replace a contact lens pierced by a sharp twig! The householder was informed some weeks ago, but no action has been taken. We are reluctant to call in the Council, as we are entitled to do, as this can proove very costly to the offender. We should prefer to offer help if this is required. So we'll wait and see!

Finally, remember to let the Committee know if you have any worries or problems with which we can be of help.

Dorothy Bradley

CAMPAIGN AGAINST GRAVEL EXTRACTION (CAGE)

So what's C.A.G.E up to then!!

When Pioneer and Redlands withdrew their application last February, to extract gravel from the North of Hertford area, C.A.G.E resolved to stay on 'amber alert' in anticipation of a renewed application.

Meeting regularly, the representation of the various association which form C.A.G.E have been able to gain much useful information and research and, in turn, have been able to give of their expertise to other groups threatened with similar applications.

Among the many things with which we have been involved are supporting and advising the following group.

Test Valley	Hampshire
Finchampstead	Berkshire
Weybread	Suffolk
Hovingham	Yorkshire
Passingham	Buckinghamshire
Wasperton	Warwickshire
Amwell Grange	Ware
Bedwell Park	Essendon
Sutton St. Nicholas	Hertfordshire
Wimbourne	Dorset
Woolston	Warwickshire

Representative of C.A.G.E have attended five public enquiries and have also given prepared evidence. Now this may sound as if we've been busy helping others whilst overlooking what our own needs were! So what are we up to then on our own patch?

Much experience has been gained, not heard in the field of Public Enquiries.

Representations have been made concerning Ready Mixed Concrete Blockmaking Plants at Rickneys and at two other nearby sites. Written evidence has been researched and presented concerning the Redland Waterford workshops where we are anxious to see industrial activity cease and the area returned to a rural setting instead of risking it becoming another Foxholes Industrial Estate.

Last, but by no means least, C.A.G.E has continued to monitor the activities of the gravel companies and have maintained regular contact with the County Planning authorities, attending all planning meetings and involving itself in the consultations concerned with the new Draft Minerals Criteria and the Hertfordshire Minerals Plan.

C.A.G.E is a well established group which is well respected by the County Authorities and which the gravel companies realise will not go away!

Be sure of one thing - if and when another application is submitted, C.A.G.E will be ready again to 'repel boarders' !!

George Sandell

HURRY, HURRY, HURRY .....

At the time of going to press there were still one or two seats left for the

CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

ON Friday 25th May.
If you are interested please hurry and call PAM LUTNER - Tel. 581329

If you are too late, a further outing is planned for later in the year for ..... KEW GARDENS. So, if you have 'missed the boat' put your name down for KEW!

We extend a hearty welcome to SYLVIA HERTER who has agreed to become a committee member.

We hope to welcome the majority of residents of THE DRIVE after the AGM ..... and fee paying time (still held at £1!)

ST. LEONARD'S FESTIVAL - Friday 22nd June - Wednesday 27th June

This peaceful church built about 1120 by our Saxon forefathers under the authority of the Norman conquerors, celebrates its Festival in June. Many of you will know of its existence in a corner of Bengeo occupying high ground overlooking Hartham, in St. Leonard's Road off New Road. The church will be decorated with June flowers. Its ancient walls will once again welcome the music, prose and poetry at two concerts. To visit this church during the days of the Festival is an experience I can recommend to you. In its simplicity you will find comfort and peace as so many others have found down the centuries.

Please watch for posters, details of the concerts and sales of programmes. My name is David Hall and if you require details and programmes, please contact me, 132 Cowper Crescent, Hertford 586752,

St. Leonard's Church is open for services during the year from Whit Sunday, 3rd June, until 30th September.

David Hall

MAY I MAKE A SUGGESTION?

This Association now has not one but two bright new Suggestion Boxes, one in 'The Avenue Stores' and the other in 'Helen's'! Both are ready and waiting for your thoughts, comments and helpful suggestions.

We used to have a box in 'The Avenue Stores' a while ago and that was used occasionally. Now we have made it even easier for you to pass on your views, so how about it?

From time to time people complain that newspapers never print the good news, and they reply that good news is no news! How many papers would be sold with the headline 'Most teenagers are normal!' or 'No mugging this month'? Newspapers thrive on bad news ignoring the rest, and this can give a distorted view of the world.

However, I do not see why this should be true of a local newsletter like 'Molewood Outlook'. Surely we do want to hear the good news about our local community, if only to redress the balance with 'Neighbourhood Watch's timely warnings and the usual causes for concern?

I can not believe there have been no weddings, no births, no successes to celebrate since the last edition but we have not been told of them.

Allan, who took over from me as Editor, would love to have some really happy stories to print and I know I am not the only one eager to read them.

So, ... may I make a suggestion .....

Valerie Sutton

FOR SALE "Attractive 3 bed det. £3875. Freehold".

Or how about ..... "A very pleasing 3 bed semi-det. £3585. Freehold".

Or if you really want to splash out in Bengeo:-

"Semi-dat. 3 bed Chalet Bungalow with built in garage ... PRICE ER - £4080 with rates assessed at £36"
BEFORE you reach for your cheque books (or glasses), we have to disappoint you and say that the above are from the Agent's original details printed in May 1961!

How many residents have been here since the 'Onion Patch' was developed, we wonder?

Not a bad investment for just under thirty years.

Have you noticed many changes? Lets hear your views.

HERTFORDSHIRE RIGHTS OF WAY ASSOCIATION publish regular news sheets. If you are interested in their walks, talks and very successful campaigns, please contact them at 84 Mandeville Road.

HERTFORDSHIRE GROUNDWORK TRUST carry out fine 'green' work in association with similar bodies. Details and News page from Dennis Burningham, Glebe House, St. Albans AL3 4SN Tel (0727) 58901.

MORE news after the A.G.M. Why not 'come on down' to Duncombe Hall?

ENJOY THE BEAUTIFUL SPRING!