THE MOLEWOOD OUTLOOK FEBRUARY/MARCH 1991

EDITORIAL

Well, since our last edition another Christmas has come and gone, and we are well into the second year of the last decade (of this century, I hasten to add!). We were granted an extension of time in 1990 - and we hope you all made use of the extra second!

More weather records have been broken with the highest ever recorded temperatures during our long hot summer, followed by an early winter freeze, yet more gales, and earlier this month plummeting temperatures with thick snow making the onion patch look like a Xmas card. (What's all this "global warming"?) All this, plus a terrifying war in the Gulf and a renewed I.R.A bombing campaign has happened in a few short months.

Bengeo has been well and truly placed on the world map with dramatic events unfolding in Bengeo Street, which the National Press graciously described as 'Millionaires Row'. Egoes might have been further boosted by Bengeo being described as the 'Stockbroker Belt'.

'Mug' shots of some of us were in your local 'rag' prior to the Gravel meeting at County Hall in October, which ended ecstatically with the H.C.C.'s total rejection of the Pit plans, following previous rejection by the E.H.D.C.. Now, with an appeal being lodged by the developers, we may all yet be called to 'rally to the flag' once more, but more from our C.A.G.E friends later.

First, with the worst of the winter hopefully in the past, we can look forward to Spring (at Hampton Court?) and a good year for all!

Our COVER PICTURE reminds us that Spring is just around the corner. Our friendly mole watching the first of the Spring flowers was drawn by LOUISE ETHERIDGE who lives at 13, Cowper Crescent. Louise is eleven years of age and is a pupil of Simon Balle school. She is a keen swimmer and belongs to Hertford Swimming Club. Louise's other interests include playing the violin, hockey, reading as well as belonging to Holy Trinity Choir and 2nd Bengeo Guides.

If you would now like to know more about ..... Helping the boys 'over there' ..... parking on verges ..... Hertford's lost churches ..... gravel ..... Hampton Court ..... skeet shooting ..... Neighbourhood Watch and MANY more burning issues then ..... read on .....

CAGE

As you are all aware now, Redlands are going to appeal against the decision not to allow working of the North of Hertford 'megapit', as the press calls it.

CAGE is dedicated to fighting the appeal, and plans are being formulated to this end. It is estimated that the appeal could possibly take up to one year to come through.

CAGE is confident that we have a very strong case, and with the emphasis on the green issues gaining strength, it is thought we have an excellent chance of winning. On saying this, we will be depending on the public to support CAGE and the Councils when the time comes. In the next few months you will receive newsletters, keeping you up to date, and giving details of what is required from everybody, because in some shape or form, it will affect everyone.

In the meantime, if you would like any information, please contact George Sandell, Chairman of CAGE, on 509422.

Pam Lutner
CAGE Committee Member

MALCOLM MOULDING has contributed some interesting articles on Hertford's history in past editions of 'Outlook', and now gives us some fascinating insights into .....

..... HERTFORD'S LOST CHURCHES

None of Hertford's churches is much more than one hundred and fifty years old! Of the five churches in the town (on which I have written previously) All Saints and St. Andrews provide some interesting history.

Both were rebuilt in the late 19th Century. St. Andrew's earlier church was rather small and in a dilapidated state by the 1860s. It was rebuilt in 1869, and the main benefactor was Earl Cowper of Panshanger. Within St. Andrew's Parish is included the old parish of St. Nicholas, the church of which stood on the bank of the River Lea behind Woolworth's until 1700 when it was described as being "ruined". St. Nicholas Church was closely connected with Hertford Castle, which was a palace of royalty in the middle ages. Weever's Funeral Monument gives a list of graves in its ancient churchyard which included those of servants, grooms, and ladies-in-waiting to the House of Lancaster. From time to time bones have been dug up in Maidenhead Street which date from this time.

All Saints today includes the old parish of St. John's which had its own church in Railway Street until 1729. This stood on the site of Hertford Priory Church, built in the 12th century and destroyed in 1540. The Priory Church was called St. Mary the Monk, and had a great bell which was cast in a sand-mould beneath the nave at the time of construction. The ancient Priory graveyard has also yielded many bones from building excavations.

All Saints Church of today dates from 1895. Prior to this the previous church was destroyed in 1891 in a terrible fire which took with it valuable relics and brasses of old Hertford families, these included Christ's Hospital gallery, which the school's children occupied at services, the Hertford Corporation's pews and the funeral monuments of the Lords of the Manor of Hertford Priory and their successors at Balls Park. On the fateful November night an eyewitness saw the fire from Queen's Road, an old man who died not long ago and saw it as a boy - "saw flames leaping from the tower, and heard the crackle of burning timber, then the crash of the bells falling to the ground".

The churchyard was cut short by the Hertford relief road in 1965, when many graves were removed to behind the church, and a pavement of

old tombstones laid east of the tower. The clock was added in 1967 from Kingsmead School. The churchyard is Hertford's largest still, with many old yews, horse-chestnut avenues and Victorian monuments in it. The whole area surrounding All Saints Church is a priceless conservation relic from the older town.

May it long remain that way!

Malcolm Moulding

Thank you Malcolm. We look forward to further articles, which we understand will cover Hertford Schools, Gaols, Railways, Inns etc.

HAMPTON COURT ..... SYLVIA HESTER

At last the days are getting longer and our thoughts will soon be turning to Spring.

We are hoping to arrange a day trip to Hampton Court, and with this in mind I went along there earlier in the year. I did not go into the house because of the proposed visit, but wandered around the grounds where there is one of the biggest mazes in the country. I went to nearby Busby Park and took a stroll by the River Thames where canoe trials were taking place and where, from March onwards, river trips can be made between Hampton Court and Kew and Richmond. So, there would be plenty of choices for everyone to have a really enjoyable day out!

The coach fare will be approximately £6 per person. Entrance price for the house is £4 plus £1 for the maze and the river trips vary according to length.

We are hoping to arrange the trip for Sunday 12th May. If you are interested, contact me as soon as possible please on Hertford 558561 or Brian Euler on Hertford 558619.

Sylvia Hester

..... Come and join us ..... you'll have an amazing time!

CHRISTMAS CHEER

This Christmas your Committee organised a highly successful social event, not this time a public one such as we have arranged in the past and will be arranging in the future - Hampton Court - but a purely private function. We took ourselves out to dinner!

On a cold night in December we met, together with wives and husbands, at the White Lion in Bengeo Street. The pre-dinner drinks in the bar set the mood for the evening. You might think that after all our meetings, which never end until after eleven o'clock, we might not have much to say to each other, but this was not so.

Most of us had already opted for the full traditional spread, but there were other dishes and those who chose them were very satisfied. I can speak for the Christmas gourmets and our meal was excellent! We began with prawn cocktail - lots of prawns - and moved on to turkey and all the trimmings, followed by Christmas pudding and coffee. Not

only was the food excellently cooked, it was hot, plentiful and reasonably priced. The wine was not included of course, but the crackers were.

We all enjoyed a lovely evening, many thanks to Kim and John Lynch for providing a meal of such excellent value. I wouldn't be surprised if we were all there again next Christmas.

Just to set your minds at rest, yes, we did pay for ourselves, your subscriptions are safe!

Valerie Sutton

CORRESPONDENCE COLUMN

We have requested Mr. Meadows, the Assistant Director of Technical Services, to consider much needed repairs in Cowper Crescent. Lack of funds in the 1990/91 financial year was blamed for the post-ponement of repairs last year. We hope that the 1991/92 budget will give this priority. Mr. Meadows is not very hopeful, but will ask for a routine inspection to be carried out.

The gale damaged trees in Molewood are still causing concern. So far we have been unsuccessful in our attempts to enlist the Council's help. As you may know, the owner of the wood cannot be traced. Some Cowper Crescent residents are worried about the threat of unstable trees near their gardens. Fred Church has written to Councillor Roger Martin and we are hoping that he will be able to help.

Residents have been given permission to plant bulbs on the Estate. No doubt they are hoping that inconsiderate car owners will refrain from parking their cars on the greens!

A Molewood resident has written suggesting that a Sunday visit be organised to the Ideal Home Exhibition. As we are, as yet, uncertain of the response, and in view of the projected outing to Hampton Court, it is probably too late to organise such a visit this year, but, if interest is shown, we can consider arrangements for March, 1992. Let us know if you think it's a good idea. (Don't forget 'suggestion boxes').

No response to a request in the last issue of "Molewood Outlook" for young people to volunteer to deliver leaflets - disappointing, but not entirely unexpected, I'm afraid. A pity!

Remember that letters and suggestions from residents who <u>are</u> prepared to make some contribution will be welcome.

Dorothy Bradley

SHOOTING AT THE LEA VALLEY ASSOCIATION GROUND, BRAMFIELD LANE, HERTFORD

As you may be aware, there is a lot of correspondence going on regarding the noise pollution arising from the above. Briefly, the update is that the Environmental Health Officers and East Herts District Council have acknowledged that there is a nuisance amounting to a health hazard.

Over the last six months or so, constant noise readings have been and still are being taken to prove this. If this affects you and your family personally, for example if you are unable to use your garden particularly in the summer, it makes you feel frustrated and angry, it causes you mental anguish with the constant banging and then you are not alone, it affects a lot of people this way, especially a nursing home near to the grounds. Please write a letter to say so.

You may think that at the moment it does not worry you, but read on ..... There has been a decrease in the shooting over the last year, BUT this is only due to the fact that the club is aware that they are being monitored and are trying to keep a low profile so that they can gain permission to expand. However, there is constant pressure and vigilance by the recently farmed "Hertfordshire Environmental Association" a committee set up to fight this nuisance. If we do not support this and the Environmental Health Officers NOW, it is possible you may have up to seven days shooting well into the evenings - floodlighting has already been experimented with - and a great increase in the constant BANG! BANG! BANG! especially at weekends.

With no restriction on the club, it is envisaged that it will increase membership and will aim to introduce International Olympic traps and ranges which are extremely noisy. Incidentally, did you know that all members have to wear ear muffs because of the noise?

Please spare a thought also for the people living right on top of it, the noise barrage from the guns causes some rooms in their houses to be unusable while the shooting is in progress.

Please send your letters NOW to - Mr. A. Pitcher, Chairman, Hertfordshire Environmental Association, Orchard House, Broad Oak End, Hertford, or hand in to Pam Lutner, 107, Cowper Crescent for passing on.

"BLOOMING GOOD"

Once again, we "Molewoodians" put on a lovely garden display last summer, despite it being another very hot one.

Bengeo was favourably commented on for its efforts towards the town's entry for Britain in Bloom, in which, eventually, Hertford and Sidmouth were joint runners up in the National Competition. Thank you for all the hard work.

Our own garden competition was as usual very difficult to judge, with some excellent displays, especially hanging baskets and tubs. Thank you to the shops who helped a lot in this way, many customers expressed thanks for the tubs and baskets.

The garden competition winners were as follows:

1st Mr. and Mrs Voller, 1, Desborough Close
2nd Mr. and Mrs Paveley, 22, Desborough Close
3rd Mr. and Mrs Reid, 140, The Avenue
4th Mrs Digweed, 31, Lodge Close
5th Mr. and Mrs Kenney, 34 The Avenue
6th Mr. and Mrs Donocs, 143, The Avenue

Best Basket or Tub, or Window Box

Miss Zena Cheel, 5, Peel Crescent. for hanging basket

Well done everyone, keep up the good work, it is always very pleasant walking round the estate, it gives residents and visitors alike a lot of pleasure.

The following gardens were commended:

29 The Avenue
35 " "
113 " "
128 " "
138 " "

9 Woodhall Close
27 " "

11 Cowper Crescent
13 " "
38 " "
72 " "
79 " "
104 " "
51 " "

30 Peel Crescent
22 " "
57 " "
59 " "

16 The Wick

20 Lys Hill Gardens

33 The Drive

The winners will be invited to attend the AGM in May, together with the Spring Garden winners, when they will be presented with their prizes, so happy gardening ahead!

PARKING IN GENERAL ON THE ESTATE

It has been brought to the Committee's notice that cars are being driven on to the greens, verges and footpaths around the estate. We would like to point out that these are part of the public highway, and any damage arising could constitute the offence of wilful damage. With witnesses, legal action could be taken, with the offenders having to pay for damage caused.

There is no need whatsoever for this as all houses have driveways. The only exception is Woodhall Close, where half the road has no parking facilities or driveways. I have been trying to get this rectified with the Council, with little success so far, if every resident of Woodhall Close would like to write a letter of support, I will try again, as one of the major hazards of parking here is that there could be problems with emergency services getting through. The greens have also been planted with daffodils and crocus for everyones enjoyment and it is soul destroying to see them trampled on or driven over after the hard work of planting to enhance the estate. More will be planted in the Autumn, some volunteers please to plant a small area near you. Thank you!

WHILE ON THE SUBJECT OF PARKING .....

Aplea from the shopkeepers of the Avenue shops ..... please do not park vehicles in the two parking lay-bys in front of the shops. Customers are being prevented from using these by some thoughtless residents who are parking their vehicles there, often for a whole weekend, thus causing further problems in the adjoining roads. There are very few houses that do not have adequate parking, so please could we ask for a little more thought and consideration for the shops livelihoods and customers? Thank you.

A PLEA

If you have room on your drive PLEASE park your car(s) on it! Quite apart from the inconvenience to neighbours and other road users, parking on the road INCREASES the chances of damage to YOUR car as well as a car break-in or theft.

DANGEROUS TREES

The Committee have been asked to look into the dangerous state of the trees in the wood behind 110-126 Cowper Crescent.

With the strong winds over the last two or three years, many trees are down or in a dangerous state. Mr. D. Beales, Director of Planning is dealing with this, so if there are any queries please contact him at E.H.D.C., Wallfields, Hertford.

WHILE ON THE SUBJECT OF TREES .....

The trees surrounding the Bengeo Water Tower have now had a Tree Preservation Order placed on them.

This means no one is allowed to cut, prune etc without permission from E.H.D.C.

Greetings all.

Ah well, Christmas has been and gone for another year, but regrettably New Year Resolutions are not on the priority stakes for the criminal. Although Bengeo as a Neighbourhood Watch Area has done well in reporting suspicious incidents and as a result of information received Police have been able to react accordingly, it is quite obvious that the criminal is getting away with far too much.

Statistically speaking Bengeo doesn't do it bad generally crime wise, there are certain offences which are a constant itch on the area, because of this if we don't scratch that itch a little more often the villian is going to realise that Bengeo is an easy touch and we're all going to suffer. Please, please, please if you see or hear somet something which TO YOU is suspicious REPORT IT IMMEDIATELY and let your coordinator know as soon as possible. Likewise if characters knock on the door and you don't like the look of them, ask for identification and report it IMMEDIATELY, not half an hour later, that's far too late. I want to talk about a specific offence which is now getting beyond a joke, especially in certain areas. This involves the theft from motor vehicles. It is everyone's duty to protect their property. Persons day in and day out ask about locks and alarms for domestic doors and windows, others spend hundreds of pounds on protection. However ask people to spend money on what to most is their second most expensive possession to the house and the suggestion falls on deaf ears. Millions of pounds per year is involved in auto thefts (of and from) and most of this mainly comes out of owners pockets NOT INSURANCE COMPANIES. So think about it. If you've got a reasonable motor vehicle which contains a reasonable stereo and it's left outside during the day, evening and night, especially at railway stations during daytime and in quiet roads at night PROTECT IT, get a DECENT alarm fitted.

The price is negligable compared to the amount you will need to spend replacing windows, dashboards and the stereo itself.

I hope some of the magazine readers will read this and think about what I have written. I am not being alarmist as the statistics are there for everyone's appraisal.

John Baldwin

We know of one very considerate family (OUTSIDE the Estate, we hasten to add) who thoughtfully left a ladder outside the back of the house when they went away for the weekend. It was conveniently placed against the wall leading up to a bedroom window.

This was the answer to a burglar's wildest dreams, who showed his appreciation by shinning up the ladder, climbing in the bedroom and - well - helping himself. Through these columns he now wishes to thank these considerate householders, knowing that he will never become redundant whilst such generosity exists.
(The above is actually true, although the people concerned are unlikely to repeat their kind invitation!)

ODD-JOBS

What do you do when you have some work to be done in the house? If you are especially handy you 'do-it-yourself', but how many of us are competent in plumbing, electrical work, gas installation and general building?

Well I know someone who is. He is also quick, thorough and doesn't charge the earth.

He hasn't asked me to write this and I have nothing to gain but when there are so many cowboys about it is refreshing to find someone who is reliable.

He has installed a 'dual-fuel' cooker for me, re-sited electrical sockets and plumbed in a new sink - incidentally noticing that the previous plumber had put in the mixer tap the wrong way round! I would have had a nasty shock when the time came for a new washer to find that the whole mixer tap would have had to have been removed and then re-seated.

If you would like to know his name and telephone number contact me, and I shall be happy to tell you.

Valerie Sutton
Hertford 550459

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?

I am sending food and other items to the troops in the Gulf on a regular basis.

I am in direct contact with the soldiers of BFPO 637, who are in the

desert awaiting to go into war. I am related to one of these soldiers, so I hear first hand about what is needed, and what conditions are like for them, miles from anywhere.

Their supplies of food are very limited and basic and parcels of little luxuries are a sight for sore eyes.

Letters are also very much appreciated, so if there are any young ladies out there who would like to help cheer them up, contact me, Pam Lutner, 107, Cowper Crescent, Bengeo, 581329.
(Lots of smaller packets are ideal for putting in pockets.)

Items I am sending that are otherwise unavailable to them are as follows:

BOILED SWEETS
OPAL FRUITS
MINTS
WINE GUMS
CHEWING GUM
REFRESHERS
SHERBERT SWEETS
BISCUITS, PREFERABLY NOT CHOCOLATE
PEANUTS, RAISINS
SAVOURY BISCUITS
GOLDEN WONDER POTS
SACHETS OF DRINKING CHOCOLATE
CUP OF SOUPS PACKETS
TEA BAGS
COFFEE BAGS
SHAMPOO
TOOTHPASTE
OPTREX OR SIMILAR EYE DROPS
SAND COLOURED COTTON SOCKS
FLAT PACK SOFT TOILET TISSUES
CIGARETTES

Eye drops have been requested as they are suffering from heat during the day and also sand storms, which is causing sore eyes. Sand coloured cotton socks (from Woolworths) are also very badly needed as they have to work in wet conditions underfoot, and coupled with heat during the day and washing facilities very limited, they are suffering foot problems. (Army issue socks are wool).

I would like to say a big THANK YOU, to all the people who have generously given so far, especially for all the parcels being left in my porch with no sender's name, the soldiers send their heartfelt thanks.

A letter of thanks is printed from one soldiers family below:

TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS

On behalf of my son, Ian who is serving in the Gulf, my wife and I wish to say how grateful we are to everyone who has given either money or goods to be sent out to the troops.

It is really amazing how much people give to unknown servicemen. I can tell you from first hand knowledge that parcels and envelopes get through and that they are very much appreciated.

As we can't thank each one of you personally, will you accept this letter with our genuine thanks for what you are doing.

For security reasons I am not signing my surname. I hope you will understand. Thank you all.

Val and Dave

Pam Lutner

SECURITY

This is another large part of Neighbourhood Watch. Everyone these days should take at least some basic precautions to protect their homes. Window locks, door chains, patio door extra locks, are just a few of the many items available to help deter the everyday thief. The styles and varieties are too numerous to mention here, but your Neighbourhood Watch Policeman, P.C. John Baldwin will be happy to discuss security with you, or if not available, ask for the Crime Prevention Officer who will arrange a visit for you - Hertford 587711. All Deputies and the Co-ordinator carry literature and booklets on the above subject which can be borrowed at any time, the list of names is below.

Recently, The Drive residents joined the Molewood Residents' Association. A Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is in the process of being set up for this street. It is more successful to have your own Watch, street by street if possible, as it makes it more managable. Letters have been posted to all houses, although I understand that not all have responded yet. It is in your own and everyone else's interests to reply as soon as possible please, as burglaries have already happened in The Drive. As soon as all your replies are in, a meeting can then be set up at the police station to explain everything, and window stickers and other leaflets can be given out. Please contact Mr. G. Smith, 15 The Drive, or Mr. O. Cunneen, 34 The Drive, now.

Names and Addresses of Co-ordinatorsand Deputies

Co-ordinator	Pam Lutner, 107, Cowper Crescent, Bengeo	581329
Deputies	Pat Brooks, 87, Cowper Crescent, "	587809
"	Cherry & Ray Garner, 73, Cowper Crescent	589741
"	Paul Liffers, 118, The Avenue	587974
"	Heidi Scott, 6, Woodhall Close	558208
"	Brian Euler, 52, The Wick	558619
"	Sylvia Hester, 59, The Wick	558561
"	Ruth Harrison, 14, Desborough Close	587457
"	Edith Ruggles, 17, Lys Hill Gardens	558549
"	Margaret Read, Wroxham, High Molewood	586820
"	Monty Thomas, 64, The Wick	587901
"	Mike Excell, 3, Cumberland Close	589597
"	Brian Bower, 28, The Avenue	586321

Thank you.

Pam Lutner

MOLEWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Molewood Neighbourhood Watch is now into its fourth year, and is continuing to gain strength. Regular meetings are held, where all aspects of security and other items are discussed. It is now recognised as being a successful Watch. Unfortunately, it is now an essential part of the affluent society that we live in, with more luxuries like videos, hi-fis, t.v.s jewellery, expensive ornaments and antiques making tempting pickings for the opportunist thief. For new residents to the area, Neighbourhood Watch is about caring for the surroundings and people and neighbours that you live with. It is not about being nosy and gossipy, it is helping the community to be a safer place to live in. The 'I'm all right Jack' attitude is

hopefully a thing of the past, with people much more willing to look out for the unusual.

Please do not think you are being a nuisance or wasting police time by reporting anything suspicious, many a small incident that looks trivial to you, can often be the link in a much bigger crime. F r better to be safe than sorry.

Some general things to be on the alert for are:

Door to door salesmen. Often this is used as a method to gain entry to your home, with the possible view to seeing what you have on show worth stealing. Many burglaries are committed by people pretending to be officials, i.e. gas repairs, electricity, telephone, water board, and many more. If you have not asked for any one to call, please do not let them into your home without checking their credentials first, leave them waiting on the door step, with the door closed or on a safety chain while you make a phone call to the relevant firm, if they are genuine, they will be happy for you to do this.

Strangers looking at or around neighbours houses. Are the owners on holiday, milk left out all day, at work all day, newspapers in the door still, fanlight windows left open with no one in? All these are give-aways that the house may be empty for long periods. This is where you the caring neighbour comes in.

Always report anything, however small or suspicious immediately, not even five minutes later, speed is essential. If possible, try to note a car's make, colour and registration, then a description of the person/s and which way they were heading. It is useful to keep a pen and notepad by the front door, with the police station number on it, 587711. After phoning the police, please contact the co-ordinator next so that I can do my part in issuing general warnings to the rest of the estate.

We used to have a 'Yellow Pages' section including items for hire from the Association. We dropped this for legal-cum-insurance reasons, but if anyone would like to BORROW - free of any charge - the following items, they are available at:-

No. 11, The Wick (Mr. David Black)
Tel. 587285

1. aluminium extending ladder
2. car ramps
3. battery charger and 'jump leads'

ALSO, David Black holds a motor for warm-air gas central heating for EMERGENCY use in the event of a breakdown, when a new replacement may not be immediately available.

HERTFORDSHIRE RIGHTS OF WAY SOCIETY

Whilst we get regular issues of their Newsletters, we do not feel that it is in enough people's interests to publish extracts as Hertfordshire Rights of Way members already get copies.

If you would like further information about this worthwhile and very active organisation, please contact JOHN BARNES at 84, Mandeville Road. Tel. Hertford 589143.

Well that's all folks!

A hearty thanks to all who have supported us, and to Dorothy Bradley who is such a congenial host at our monthly meetings.

If there are any D.I.Y.ers out there who could knock up some simple notice boards for a few front gardens, we should be grateful.

Don't forget the A.G.M. in May (date to be announced).

Lastly, we STILL need more members for BOTH this committee and the Neighbourhood Watch and/or helpers for deliveries, etc.

See you in the Spring/Summer .....