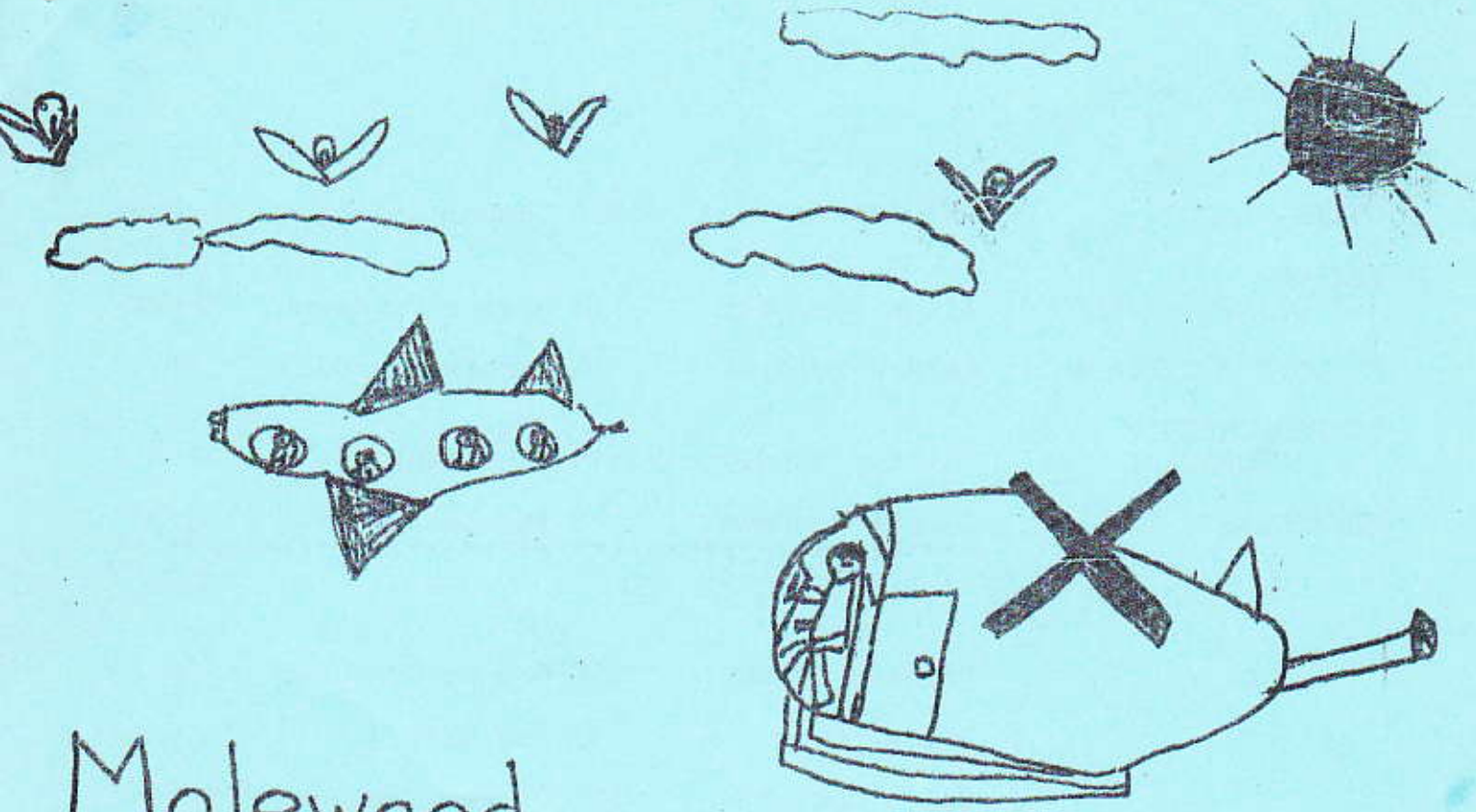
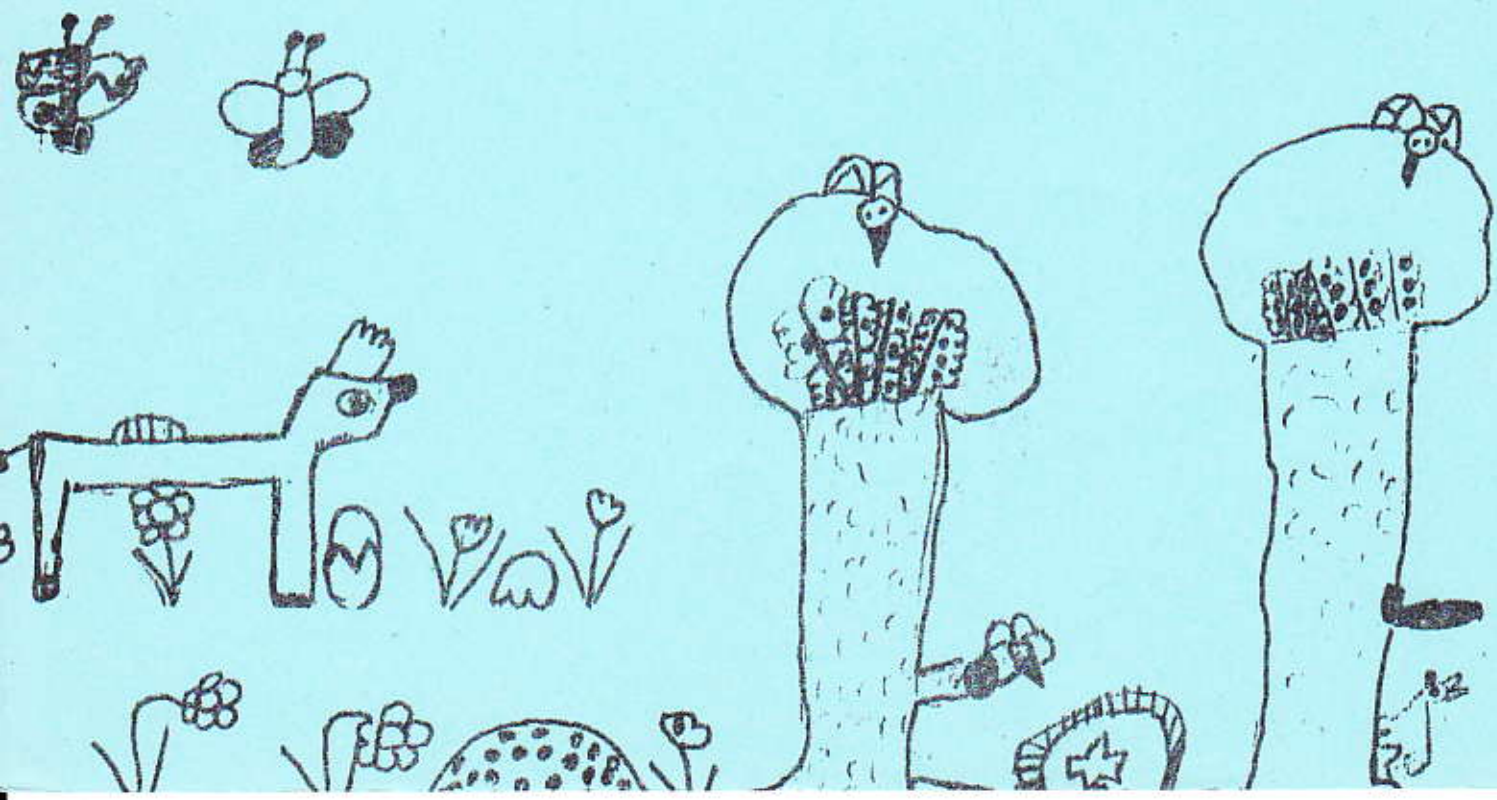


Molewood Outlook

Spring 1992



COMMITTEE 1991-2

CHAIR-PERSON	Pam Lutner	107 Cowper Crescent	581329
EDITOR ('MOLEWOOD OUTLOOK')	Allan Streeton	22 Cowper Crescent	586217
MINUTES SECRETARY	Ruth Harrison	14 Desborough Close	587457
CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY	Dorothy Bradley	115 The Avenue	584608
TREASURER	Dennis Goodrum	43 The Avenue	587341

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Valerie Sutton	106 Cowper Crescent	550459
Brian Euler	52 The Wick	558619
Olive Church	122 Cowper Crescent	583412
Brian Bower	39 Peel Crescent	586321
Eileen Beale	13 Peel Crescent	587503
Val Underwood	33 The Avenue	552007
Heidi Scott	6 Woodhall Close	558208

WELCOME to the first issue of this Nwesletter for 1992!

"That was the year that was" ..... 1991.

But, what about 1992? Well, at long last we can have a respite from the war of words that has been constantly raging ..... claims and counter-claims ..... allegations and denials. Whatever our personal hopes and aspirations there is nothing more we can do ..... it's in THEIR hands now. We refer, of course, to ..... the C.A.G.E. Enquiry at County Hall! Thanks go to C.A.G.E. and their helpers in their untiring work on all our behalves. More on that later.

FIRST ..... YOUR big evening out is:-

A.G.M. 8p.m. Tuesday 12th May 1992 at Bengeo Junior School for the A.G.M. followed, as always, by some light refreshments and entertainment. Last year we had a record turn out, to be beaten, we hope, by 1992! A further reminder with details will arrive through your doors shortly, but we can reveal at this stage that you will see how your garden SHOULD grow when you listen to a talk by a representative of VAN HAGE'S, aided by a super slide presentation.

As most of you will know, many changes are taking place at Bengeo school, and we are hoping to feature more from this local seat of primary education in this and future issues.

The artists behind this Molewood Outlook's cover picture are again pupils from Bengeo Infants' School, which provides us with an opportunity of saying congratulations to Shirley Patey on her appointment to Head Teacher of the new combined Bengeo County Primary school to take effect from September.

APPEALS:-1.We still need help on the committee. Even if you do not have the time - or inclination - to come to the monthly meetings, PLEASE get in touch with any one of the committee if you feel you could assist with deliveries. An hour or two a MONTH would be sufficient! (The response to our previous appeals was underwhelming!)

2. One of our committee recently received a minor injury to his finger while making a delivery through a member's letter box, the large dog inside bit his finger and hung on. Happily this incident appears to have been satisfactorily settled, but it is worth mentioning that some letter boxes are not 'user-friendly'. The problem arises with letter boxes which might be more appropriate to Fort Knox, and to deliver papers so that they do not protrude on the outside (a give-away) articles have to be forced sometimes through two very strong springs, or stiff brushes. This can be painful, and also leaves fingers very vulnerable to dogs. So if you have a dog, please consider fitting a secure cage on the inside of your front door, it could be a child who gets bitten next time.

3. If, as seems likely, we have another dry summer this year, it would be nice if some of the residents in the Avenue, lucky enough to have the newly planted trees outside their houses could adopt them and nuture them with occasional watering, please? It would be a shame if they died after we have waited thirty years for them. You will be delighted to know that more trees are planned for the autumn and during spring of '93 more will be planted including in The Drive.

4. Many extra Neighbourhood Watch window stickers were delivered

recently, some of which have not yet been displayed. If you have them ..... please display them ..... it all helps!

5. Parking - dare we reiterate - NOT on grass verges ..... please!

M.M.C. (Molewood Millionaire's Club!)

We are now delighted to publish the complete list of 'les nouveaux riches' who won prizes in the 500 Club that we ran to raise money for C.A.G.E. We thank everyone for their enthusiastic participation.

The new tax exiles are:-

			£
MAY	TAYLOR	THE DRIVE	100
	NOBLE	DESBOROUGH CLOSE	60
	SHARP	THE DRIVE	40
	MARVEN	WOODHALL CLOSE	20
JUNE	CLARK	COWPER CRESCENT	100
	HOLMAN	THE WICK'	60
	COOK	THE DRIVE	40
	HUTTON	THE AVENUE	20
JULY	WALSBY	THE AVENUE	100
	KNOWLES	WOODHALL CLOSE	60
	RIST	LODGE CLOSE	40
	BURTON	WOODHALL CLOSE	20
AUG	GREAVES	PEEL CRESCENT	100
	ALLEN	THE DRIVE	60
	MORRIS	DESBOROUGH CLOSE	40
	SCOTT	LODGE CLOSE	20
SEPT	BRISBANE	COWPER CRESCENT	100
	MORIZEGLIO	DESBOROUGH CLOSE	60
	NORMAN	ORCHARD CLOSE	40
	CROSS	THE WICK	20
OCT	DIGWEED	LODGE CLOSE	100
	KNIGHT	LODGE CLOSE	60
	PEARSON	COWPER CRESCENT	40
	MANN	COWPER CRESCENT	20
NOV	BRIGGS	COWPER CRESCENT	100
	SWALE	LYS HILL GARDENS	60
	EVES	COWPER CRESCENT	40
	ARMSTRONG	LODGE CLOSE	20

SUBS - 1992/93

For the first time since 1988/89 the annual subscription has been increased from £1 to £1.50 per household.

Make a note in your diary and celebrate the ..... 4th July in style! Come and join us on an .....

ANNIVERSARY WALK - 1992

The Public Inquiry at County Hall has now ended. The experience will have left its mark on all of us and the words 'County Hall' will never mean quite the same again. As we settle back into our normal lives many memories continue to stay with us.

Written 'Closing Submissions' have been provided by Redlands, the Herts County Council and the E.H.D.C. Aggregates Group for the Secretary of State. Regrettably, taking into account the Parliamentary Summer Recess, I cannot see our getting a decision before the Autumn at the earliest.

Looking to the future, for our supporters, who come from an area which stretches from Potters Bar to Stevenage, we plan to organise a light hearted 'Anniversary Walk/Party/Get together' at Stonyhills probably on Saturday evening, 4th July 1992. No raffles, no speeches. Last year 300 came and although the date may not be convenient for some, we hope that many of those who we met at the Public Inquiry will come.

A variety of walks could be arranged (not going near Rickneys!) for those liking a stroll. You would not have to go on a walk - it would be good just to have your company. This could be followed by John Barnes' famous entertainment on the piano. Light refreshments similar to those provided last year would be available. Nearer the time, more detailed information will be sent out to those who came to events at Stoneyhills in 1991. Any queries please ring me on 0920 463430.

Michael McMullen

Following on from this, some observations from a staunch campaignes and regular attender in the public gallery .....

The Mega - Inquiry

Well, it's over! What has become known as the 'Mega-Pit' application has reached the end of its public hearing, and the future of six hundred and fifty hectares north of Hertford, hangs in the balance. It began on November 5th 1991 and ended on February 24th 1992.

Working people of course could not attend, those who could attend but didn't, missed a fascinating experience, as those who could and did, will know.

On the first day there was an air of lively anticipation in County Hall's imposing Council Chamber, as the leading 'actors' introduced themselves. Mrs Brushfield, the Inspector, sat in lonely splendour on the high dais under the HCC banner. In front of her and to her left were Mr Harrison QC and his junior Mr Lindblom, representing Redlands. Opposite them were Mr Burford QC and his junior Mr Morgan for Herts County Council. A few feet away to their right sat Mr Stoker, appearing for Easts Herts Council, C.A.G.E., the Footpath Society, the Civic Society etc., somewhat ironically known as the 'Agreggates Group'. To each side of the Inspector and surrounding all the lawyers, were dozens of files, maps, books and testimonies, some in smart, custom-made containers, but many more in cardboard boxes straight out of supermarkets. Behind everyone else, ranged against the curved wall of the Chamber sat the public.

Redlands put their case first, calling witnesses and consultants retained by them. Listening to the glowing descriptions of the beautiful landscape they wanted to give us, longer footpaths, more trees and gentle slopes, better in every way than what we have now almost made us feel churlish and ungrateful for declining their generous offer. At no time was their profit mentioned, they were far too altruistic for that to cross their minds!

But as each Redlands witness was cross-examined it was a relief to get back to a more rational and realistic view, and to watch the weak points in their case being revealed; the ultimate unnaturalness of the landscape, their appalling record in restoration and broken promises for instance.

Finally it was the turn of Mr. Stoker with his deceptively casual approach.

His witnesses included all the local representatives, the lay people, amateurs in this field, but the only ones who would be personally affected.

They must have been nervous, having to wait for so long before being called, and having heard the particular brand of sarcastic and cunning cross-examination that came from Redlands side. How can you, for instance, answer the question "A long footpath is better than a short one, isn't it? Unless you know the quality of the footpath. A long, smooth path through attractive countryside, is better than a similar short one, but if the path is rough stoney, muddy or close to a main road, then the shorter the better.

However, if our witnesses were nervous it only served to make them all the more effective. They were not let off lightly, but not one of them faltered or gave an inch in their convictions. They were, without exception, very impressive.

On the very last day came to the question of conditions. On the basis of Redlands own figures and evidence, HCC had drawn up what it was assumed would be achievable conditions, regarding the time scale, hours of work, decibel levels and so on. There were ninety-five of them.

Mr Burford for HCC ran through them quickly, referring to the agreement he thought had been reached with Redlands. So it was a shock when Mr Harrison for Redlands stood up and denied agreement on many of the most important issues.

Throughout the Inquiry Redlands had dismissed fears of the time scale involved, implying that the work would all go ahead as planned in seventeen years. But when in condition number 24, HCC gave them up to the end of the year 2015 - twenty three years - they would not agree, on the grounds that they might need longer!

No. 19 laid down 7.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m. Monday to Friday, and 7.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Saturday, as the working hours. Redlands wanted permission to apply for additional hours.

Redlands suddenly found the decibel levels-based on their own figures unacceptable, they wanted more flexibility, in other words higher levels.

No. 18 said the number of HGV movements in any one day should be no more than six hundred. Redlands now said it was totally unacceptable to limit them to this number in any one day.

No. 92 referred to a liason committee between Redlands and the local community, with rules and regulations approved by the Minerals Planning Authority, but Mr. Harrison, their QC, wanted to draw up their own constitution, with no reference to the MPA.

No. 94 asked that Redlands should put up a performance bond with the MPA, this would be a guarantee that they would keep their promises, Redlands gave a flat 'no' to this very reasonable request. If they had any real intention of keeping their promises they would have nothing to fear.

Most significantly, in spite of all their avowed intentions to 'improve our countryside', Redlands will not guarantee that there will not be applications to import and tip waste, for further excavations, for the building of houses and/or other industrial use, at some time in the future.

Despite all this however, we did feel that the Inspector was very able experienced and astute, more then capable of cutting through Redlands' hypocrisy, distortions and diversionary tactics. All we can do now is to wait, and trust that she will come to the right decision and recommend to the Secretary of State for the Environment that he should throw this application out.

Valerie Sutton

The Secretary

Sadly, we shall be losing our 'young blood' on the committee within the next month or so, as RUTH HARRISON is hoping to become a 'homeowner' herself and may have to move away. She may with luck, find a property near enough to Molewood, in which case she has promised to lend a hand from time to time.

Her reflections are expressed in .....

All change

I have been Secretary on the Molewood Residents Association Committee for three years now. I have enjoyed every moment, and it only seems like six months! Unfortunately I am not able to stay on the committee as I may be moving out of the area, so someone is needed to replace me.

Meeting the other committee members regularly is, perhaps surprisingly, one of the best parts of the job, and we certainly have some laughs, otherwise we wouldn't do it.

The committee find out about local issues and also problems on the Estate. We try to sort these out and so make life that little bit better for everyone.

So, if you have just moved here and want to get to know people, or if you have lived here for years and would like to improve the area, ring any of the telephone numbers on the inside of the front cover and have a chat.

We urgently need more committee members, it is not hard work and you would be most welcome. The only qualification you need is a sense of humour! So I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting, or, of course, at the A.G.M.

Ruth Harrison

With car and car-contents thefts in this country reaching almost epidemic proportions, we are sure the following article by DAVID BROOKS will be of special interest to every resident.

Vehicle Crime - Vehicle Watch

This country has the worst car crime problem in Western Europe, with a car being stolen, broken into or vandalised every twenty five seconds.

Valuable police time is taken up with this growing problem. In order to try to cut vehicle theft, VEHICLE WATCH was launched in the latter part of last year by most of the counties in the U.K.

This initiative was taken up by Hertfordshire Constabulary supported by Summit Motor Services Ltd., National Windscreens and Cobra Car Alarms.

To join the scheme all you have to do is display the relevant coloured sticker on your vehicle. Vehicle Watch costs you nothing, having your vehicle stolen will cost you a good deal.

The YELLOW stickers displayed will clearly indicate that the vehicle should not normally be mobile between the hours of midnight and 5a.m. One sticker is positioned centrally at the top of the windscreen, and one positioned in the top right hand corner of the rear window.

Once stickers are displayed they will give your authority to the Hertfordshire Police to stop and check the vehicle and driver, during the Vehicle Watch period.

If you need to use the vehicle during the Vehicle Watch period, you must ensure that you carry adequate identification with you, and remember your postcode.

The ORANGE stickers operate under the same principle as the yellow ones, but they cover the period 10a.m. to 4p.m. Monday to Friday.

These stickers are ideal for people who use their vehicles for commuting to work and leave them parked in car or rail station car parks all day.

Stickers can be obtained from Hertford Police Station. However, it is anticipated that they will be available from committee members of the Residents Association when they call to collect your subscriptions for the coming year.

Once stickers are placed on your screens it is not that easy to get them off, and so this is a further deterrant for a would be thief.

David Brooks
Panel Member -
Hertford and Ware Crime
Prevention Panel

A Police 'Surgery' was held at Bengeo Infant School on Sunday 22nd March where residents were able to discuss with PC John Baldwin matters of local concern, and when CRIME PREVENTION advice was given, along with cycle stamping.

Just to show that we are trying to keep the interests of Molewoodians at heart .....

Correspondence Column

Correspondence regarding emergency access to Woodhall Close has not resulted in any action being taken. Although sympathy with the residents has been expressed, the consensus seems to be that Woodhall Close is no worse than many other residential streets in the County. The funds required to ease the problem "cannot be justified". Under the circumstances residents will, no doubt, do all they can to park sensibly.

We can inform Cowper Crescent residents, concerned about the trees in Molewood, that we are still awaiting a response to our suggestion of a meeting between their representatives and Mr. Schofield.

In response to an invitation from Mrs Elizabeth Townsend, two representatives from your Committee attended an initial meeting of a Planning Action Group to hear about plans for the enhancement of Hertford town centre. The East Herts District Council Planning Department will welcome comments from many groups in the area on the extensive work they plan to carry out, commencing at the end of March. We shall keep you informed and your reactions will be conveyed to Mrs Townsend.

We have written to Mr Mike Hall thanking him for the tree planting in The Avenue. Apparently they intend to plant more.

We welcome opportunties to commend initiatives by our local representatives!

Dorothy Bradley

Lee Valley Shooting Association

Those of us who are affected by noise pollution and would like to be able to enjoy our own homes and gardens in peace, will have been dismayed to learn that the Lee Valley Shooting Club has been granted its club house, with all that implies for the future increase in membership. Some parts of the Estate lie in the direct sound path from Bramfield, and the guns can be heard clearly even indoors, with the double glazing closed.

However, at a recent meeting of the East Herts District Council Planning Committee a vote was taken and on the recommendation of David Beales, Planning Officer, the application went through.

Our three local councillors voted as follows:-

Liz Banks	- against
Bill Hunter	- for
Roger Martin	- abstained, on the grounds that he had been advised that there were no legal objections left.

The schedule of permitted shooting hours takes effect from July and is as follows:-

LEA VALLEY SHOOTING ASSOC. BRAMFIELD RD., HERTFORD

SCHEDULE OF PERMITTED SHOOTING TIMES

1. CLUB SHOOTS AND CORPORATE DAYS

1.1	SUNDAYS	Oct. - Mar	2 per mth.	10.00 - 13.00 hours
		Apr., May, Sept.	1 per mth.	10.00 - 13.00 hours
		June, July, Aug.	1 per mth.	10.00 - 13.00 hours
1.2	SATURDAYS	May - Sept.	2 per mth.	10.00 - 18.00 hours 5 hrs max shooting/day not contiguous with a Sunday shoot
		Oct. - Apr.	2 per mth.	10.00 - 16.00 hours 5 hrs max shooting/day not contiguous with a Sunday shoot
1.3	THURSDAY	Oct. - Apr.	Each Thurs.	10.00 - 17.00 hours 4 hrs max per day
		May - Sept.	Each Thurs.	10.00 - 20.00 hours 8 hrs max per day
1.4	TUESDAY	Oct. - Apr.		10.00 - 17.00 hours 4 hrs max per day
		May - Sept.		10.00 - 20.00 hours 6 hrs max per day

1.5 BANK HOLS. New Year's Day may be substituted for nearest weekend entitlement. Bank Holiday Mondays may be substituted for nearest weekend entitlement.

2.0 COMPS. 2 Sundays per annum in addition to Club and Corporate Shoots shall be allowed for Club, County or National Championships.
November - March ONLY: 10.00 - 16.00 hours
6 hours maximum per day.

3.0 TUITION May take place during any of the above times and additionally on Wednesdays and Fridays.
May - September 10.00 - 19.00
October - April 10.00 - 16.00
On Saturdays not referred to in paragraph 1.2 above may take place between 10.00 - 16.00 hours
6 hours maximum per day.

NOVEMBER 1991

This looks, and is, complicated. What it means is that the only day in the week when we can be sure of quiet is Monday, other than Bank Holidays, on every other day there may, or may not be, shooting.

Also, take 'May to September Thursday 10.00 hrs - 20.00 hrs maximum per day'. This does not mean that if they start at 10.00 hrs, they are obliged to end at 18.00 hrs. They may begin at 10.00 hrs, shoot for an hour, have a break, start again and so on, so that the shooting can legally stretch over the full time span.

The Lee Valley Shooting Association has sent me their fixture list until June, so at least we may have a rough idea of what to expect until then.

April

Sunday 12th	Club Practice	10.00 - 1.00
Easter Monday 20th	Trophy Shoot	10.00 - 1.00

May

Sunday 3rd	Club Practice	10.00 - 1.00
Thursday 7th	Evening Shoot	4.00 - 8.00
Thursday 14th	Evening Shoot	4.00 - 8.00
Sunday 17th	Trophy Shoot	10.00 - 1.00
Thursday 21st	Evening Shoot	4.00 - 8.00
Thursday 28th	Evening Shoot	4.00 - 8.00

June

Thursday 4th	Evening Shoot	4.00 - 8.00
Sunday 7th	Club Practice	10.00 - 1.00
Thursday 11th	Evening Shoot	4.00 - 8.00
Thursday 18th	Evening Shoot	4.00 - 8.00
Sunday 21st	Trophy Shoot	10.00 - 1.00
Thursday 25th	Evening Shoot	4.00 - 8.00

This is, of course, just a list of the organised events, it does not mean there will not be shooting at other times.

From now on, I shall publish further fixture lists as they arrive, in future Newsletters.

Valerie Sutton

First Aid

It is comforting to know that there are at least some amongst us who can now cope with emergencies, although we hope their new-found skills will not be required.

The Molewood Residents Association First Aid Course at Bengeo Junior School had its final session on 31st March, at a cost of approximately £8 per person.

If you are interested, please let Pam Lutner know, to see if we can arrange another session (if we can remove all her splints!)
Tel. 581329

Advertising

We are considering, subject to no laws being contravened, placing 'small ad's' in this magazine. Although very cheap compared to newspapers, it would provide anyone on the Estate with a little publicity for their services, at the same time providing a few extra funds for the committee to spend on matters of communal interest.

The exact amount has not been decided but it would only be a £1 or so per insert.

If anyone out there would be interested in placing an advert, please let the Ed. know.

Public Notice Board

It is hoped to have a 'proper' notice board erected on the green opposite the shops.

This will enable us to give more publicity to forthcoming events which, until now, have sometimes only appeared on home-made boards or trees in residents' front gardens. Other notices concerning the community will also be displayed. In the same vicinity .....

Water Tower

Requests to lower the dishes have at the time of going to press, brought no response, so legal action is now being sought. Watch that space!

Do We Care?

Remember the case some months ago - reported in the national press - of the woman and her son in New Haw found living in dreadful conditions? Would we notice something was wrong in our immediate neighbourhood? Sadly the answer may well be "No", comments a reader of one of the Sunday papers, adding that we live in isolation: the outcome of a "materialistic" society, beating our own paths to success. We are more concerned with our cars, gardens, holidays, fitted kitchens and even - the ladies - hair-do's.

The writer remarks that the friendly corner shop has gone - not so in the case of the Molewood Estate! - the milkman and postman rarely knock, and states the writer, she could "pop off" without her neighbours knowing - or caring. She ends ..... "We are developing into a very uncaring society".

It is probably very unlikely to happen on this Estate ..... or - is it? If you suspect anyone could be suffering in this - or any other way - be "nosy" - it may save a lot of problems, or even a life!

Water Restrictions

Just to tap your memories, under the 'Public Notices' section of the Mercury was a "Notice of Application for an Ordinary Drought Order". Stripping aside all the boring legal jargon, what it 'boiled' down to was that we may have to restrict what we can 'splash' out.

Due to an "exceptional shortage of rain" (you hadn't noticed?) - a "serious deficiency of supplies is threatened".

You MAY be prohibited from using your hosepipe, sprinkler, or similar devices: filling your swimming pools (a disaster for every householder on the estate!): filling of 'ornamental pond's OTHER than fish ponds (a boost for pet shops!), and car wash machines. O.K. we can always give the car a good wash at home ..... NOT SO! The order would include "the washing of road vehicles, boats, railway rolling stock or aircraft for any reason other than safety or hygiene", cleaning buildings outside, (windows excluded - unless done by hosepipe, sprinkler, etc.). Use of ornamental fountains or cascades - even though the water may be RECYCLED, may also be banned.

Fuller details are in the edition of the local 'Mercury' dated 25th March, and a further notice is bound to appear when the Order is made. We are making arrangements for a communal bath to be installed .....!!

Once again Malcolm Moulding gives us some fascinating glimpses into the past, this time of our home town .....

The Founders of Hartford, Connecticut, U.S.A. by Malcolm Moulding

Much is heard of Europe these days, but as an old Hertfordian I often remember my father first talking about Hartford, U.S.A. when I was a child, and I have at last succeeded in obtaining some history of that town. Set at the heart of the beautiful "Yankee" Constitution State of Connecticut, home of the famous "Connecticut Yankee from New England", any Hertfordshire visitor could not fail to feel at home among the New England village greens, traditional churches and Colonial houses. All around Hartford familiar English names ring out; Windsor (where stands the oldest timber-framed house in the State, Fyler House, open to the public); Enfield, Manchester, Marlborough, side by side with Meriden, Naugatuck, Plainville and Litchfield.

Hartford, Connecticut, like its ancient namesake our Hertford, Herts, is a historic place - a city - which our little town is not of course. First settled by the Dutch in 1623 as a trading post at the head of navigation on the Connecticut River, today it has a population in excess of 130,000. It has a special association with our own old town here in Hertford, for it was from here in 1633 that Samuel Stone, who lived in Fore Street in a house where Barclays Bank now stands, sailed with his friends the famous Essex preacher Thomas Hooker and other nonconformists for America in the good ship "Griffin". On board ship during the long voyage Samuel Stone preached to the migrating flock. After they arrived at Boston they established a township called 'New Towne', (now Cambridge) Massachusetts, and their church, The First Church of Christ was established which became the Centre Congregational of modern times. Here Thomas Hooker became pastor, and Samuel Stone of Hertford, Herts, became the teacher.

Soon, however, there were arguments and legal tussles between established settlers and the new flock of migrants from England, which were not properly resolved to their satisfaction. As a result, in 1635, Samuel Stone set out from 'New Towne' with 60 volunteer pioneers to seek, with the colonial government's licence, a new settlement on the Connecticut. They migrated from the established settlements south through untamed wilderness, suffering considerable hardship and shortages, encountering Indians on the way. More than once they had to pull their wagon train into a traditional circle for their own protection. Fortunately the Indians were not particularly warlike, as they had already been in contact with white men and traded with them. These were the Quinnehtukqut from whom the State takes its name, which meant 'long, tidal river'.

The Dutch had been here for a long time, and had claimed the territory, but England had challenged them in places they had not settled. The Connecticut divides Massachusetts and Connecticut, and also separates Vermont from New Hampshire, and carried the first settlers to Windsor, Hartford and Wethersfield. At the old Dutch fort they founded a new settlement, and in 1637 Samuel Stone named it after Hertford, his birthplace. The city's name still retains the original spelling of our own town. Samuel Stone built the new church where he was pastor for 27 years until his death in 1663.

The fight for democracy after the English Civil War had its echoes across the Atlantic. Our own town, Hertford, was a Parliamentary stronghold throughout the Civil War. Hartford, Connecticut, received a quite liberal charter of independent status along with Windsor and Wethersfield in 1662 after the Restoration, when a practical constitution called the Fundamental Orders exercised judicial and legislative powers, but the Governor of New England, Sir Edmund Andros, tried to seize the Charter at one point, and it was hidden by Joseph Wadsworth and a group of citizens in a hollow tree in Hartford, now called the Charter Oak, where a plaque marks the spot where it stood until it was blown down by a gale in 1856.

Strangely enough, Hartford and Hertford share some common features: both towns stand at the heads of navigable rivers which flow south through fertile meadowlands towards their respective estuaries. The mighty Connecticut, 407 miles long, rises in the lakes near the Quebec border, and empties into Long Island Sound less than a hundred miles from New York City. The River Lea, 50 miles from its source at Leagrave, Luton, in the Chiltern Hills of South East England, enters the Thames at Bow Creek opposite the Island of Dogs, which is its ancient delta. In the Connecticut valley, tobacco is still extensively cultivated, and in summer whole fields can be seen quilted with great expanses of cheesecloth to shield the delicate leaves from the sun. Both Hartford, and Hertford have been extensively altered and rebuilt since the 1970s, and brushes are manufactured in both towns.

Hartford grew up on shipping and shipping insurance as a navigable port open to ocean-going vessels, and it is now the insurance capital of the United States, possibly the world. The old riverfront town was partly razed and rebuilt during the late 1960s and early 1970s, when the "Constitution Plaza", a centrepiece multi-million redevelopment was built. The high point of this is the Phoenix Insurance building, shaped like a ship and complete with a bow and stern, it is nicknamed "The Boat" and stands at the centre of a new landscaped and tree-lined plaza with malls and pedestrian precincts, restaurants and a 1,800 space car park. Main Street's tallest building until 1965 was the Traveller's Insurance Company, but this is now topped by the

Prudential Tower, with its tower light and view of Greater Hartford. Hartford is the Headquarters of some forty insurance companies dealing across the globe.

In the older part of the City the ornate domed 1878 State Capitol Building stands at the highest point of Bushnell Park, the Central Park of Hartford, with memorials and a statue of Lafayette. State Street is the only important thoroughfare untouched by modern development. On State Street, the Old State House is of Colonial red brick with a white dome, and is open to the public, as also is the Museum of Connecticut History opposite the State Capitol. In here is the Colt collection of firearms, the original Colonial Charter and State Archives. Next, Wadsworth Atheneum, America's oldest Art Museum, and the Morgan Memorial honouring a young Connecticut schoolteacher, Nathan Hale, who was captured and hanged by the British while spying on Long Island for Washington's army. 351 Farmington Avenue, formerly Nook Farm, is the house where Mark Twain lived and wrote Tom Sawyer, Huckleberry Finn and The Prince and the Pauper, and 73 Forest Street was once the home of the famous American author Harriet Beecher Stowe, and contains the original furniture. In West Hartford is The Children's Museum of Hartford, with Colonial artefacts, natural history displays and planetarium shows. At 1 Elizabeth Street is the flourishing Connecticut Historical Society with a library of more than one million books, manuscripts and newspapers.

227 Main Street West, the home of the Noah Webster Foundation, exhibits mementoes of America's most famous dictionary and its writer, whose first dictionary was published in 1806. The University of Hartford, with 10,000 students, is situated at Bloomfield Avenue. Hartford also has America's oldest newspaper, "The Hartford Courant" established in 1764. In East Hartford the giant Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Corporation largest in the world, employs more people than any other company in the State of Connecticut. The Colt Patent Firearms Manufacturing Company's main building is surmounted with a huge replica of a pistol! The Fuller Brush Company, the world's largest brush factory is also on Main Street, and the largest typewriter plant in the world, the giant Underwood Corporation, is on Capitol Avenue.

Greater Hartford has thirty parks including Elizabeth Park with its famous rose gardens, bowling green, tennis, playground and picnic areas. Colt Park, 106 Wethersfield Avenue, Goodwin Park, with 27-hole golf; tennis, swimming; Key Park, also with golf, tennis and swimming. Sightseeing tours are run by the Gray Line, which operates from New Britain.

Easy access to Connecticut is provided by Bradly International Airport at Windsor Locks just outside Hartford, with regular arrivals and departures. Many visitors are attracted to New England to see the royal colours of autumn in Connecticut's 5,000 square miles of wood-land. Hartford is one of America's great cities, and our old town of Hertford, England, played no small part in its beginnings.

Malcolm Moulding

Hertfordshire Constabulary Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter - J Baldwin

The life of a Neighbourhood Copper is not as straight forward as one would sometimes like to think. It may have become obvious to some of you lately that John Baldwin has not been around, certainly since the

beginning of the year. This has been due to a job I have been working on since September of last year, involving one of my pet hates, namely theft from motor vehicles.

Every now and then, a particular type of villain comes on the scene. He is a dangerous individual because no one is really sure what will happen if he/she is disturbed. The crime involves the night time burglar. When you are in the land of nod the villain is out working. A window, only a small one, is left open, or even ajar. That's all that is necessary for him to lift an internal catch, open a larger unit or a door, enter and steal your property. I repeat, no one really knows what will happen if he is disturbed. The chances are he is more scared than you, therefore the probability is that he will run, but who knows? This actually happened during the night of the 2nd February 1992 in BENGEO. So you have been warned. When you go to bed, shut and lock at least the ground floor windows and certainly those above ground floor and flat roof extensions, whether front or back.

Despite the success of the last two surgeries I have held in the Church Hall in Duncombe Road, I have to tell you that other accommodation is being sought. The hall's committee, has decided that, despite being a community enterprise, I cannot use the hall without paying for it. On hearing about my predicament, Mrs Shirley Patey of Bengeo Infant School has very kindly come to the rescue, and has offered a classroom for my use. I am deeply in her debt.

Sam Brown, the lovely lady who spends an aweful lot of time looking after your interests needs assistance. As you know, she also produces a magazine based on snippets of information gleaned from police sources. She relies on you however to give her the extra items of interest to make the package complete. Please remember, this is done of her own accord to keep all Neighbourhood Watches up to date with goings on, not only inside but outside their areas.

Well Ladies and Gentlemen, Christmas has come and gone for another year. From what we all know it was not only an expensive time but also for many, flu was one of the biggest problems. I certainly know from my own personal experience that this was the case. Anyhow, from me to all, I hope you enjoyed the seasonal escapade and my family and I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

For the start of any New Year, whether it's a business or another organisation, namely the police, certain objectives are considered. I suppose the old idea of knowing what the problems are and doing one's best to solve them have long gone. Now we have to spend large amounts of time proving what problems there are, and then have to provide statistics in order to show others what is obvious. Then we have to provide a document in order that strategies can be devised ir order to combat the obvious. Sounds altogether very complicated to me. You all know what our main problems are, auto crimes and burglaries. I do not intend to spend any time on these subjects as I have written reams on them in the past.

Now, I think it is essential, especially at this time of year that if suspicious people are around report the matter to Police IMMEDIATELY, NOT 5 OR 10 MINUTES LATER, NOW, THAT MOMENT, AFTER ALL WE ALL WANT TO KEEP CRIME AS LOW AS POSSIBLE DON'T WE. I think from the statistics the crime rate is pretty steady and obviously we all want either to keep on this path, or if feasibly possible to reduce it.

The Old Pest House, Byde Street, Hertford

Possibly one of the oldest period properties in Hertford, dating back to 1763, steeped in history and antiquity and enjoying a delightful secluded location on slowly rising ground amidst quiet residential surroundings. (Since we left there in about 1954, FOURTEEN houses have been built adjacent to it). The house contains numerous features of the period, and it is understood that the majority of the dwelling retains the original materials and construction. There are numerous exposed beams throughout; particularly noteworthy are the pine timbers which extend the full height of the property, the oak staircase and interesting elevations. The property is scheduled as being of historic interest.

The gardens extend to just over 1/3rd acre and are extensively stocked with roses, shrubs and flowering trees. The grounds are terraced with kitchen and formal gardens, and there is a possibility that the land could be used as a building plot.

The following is a printed note from R. T. Andrews collection of newspaper cuttings as can be seen in the Hertford Museum Library:-

'By Indenture of lease and release bearing date the 10th and 11th of June 1763, T. P. Byde Esq., in consideration of 10s conveyed to Dr Yates and twenty-nine others a piece of ground in Port Hill Close, in the parish of Bengeo, in the county of Hertford, upon trust to build thereon a house for the reception of persons afflicted with Small Pox in the natural way only, in Hertford and Bengeo, as the said Dr Yates and others, his co-trustees, therein named, and the Mayor of Hertford, and the Vicar of All Saints, and the Rector of St. Andrews, in the said town of Hertford, the Minister of Protestant Dissenters in the same town of Hertford, and the Trustees of the Charities of Hertford, or any three of them should appoint, and when this said house should not be wanted for the purpose aforesaid, then the trustees, or the major part of them, should appoint some person to reside therein and take care of the same; and upon further trust that when the number of the said trustees should be reduced to seven, six or five, the survivors should convey the premises to twenty five others, for the purpose aforesaid, to the end that there should always be five trustees to act.

Upon this piece of ground the trustees erected a small tenement with certain monies subscribed for the object, which for some years was used for the purpose mentioned in the above deed. The building was generally distinguished by the appellation of "The Pest House". This took place after the introduction of inoculation for small pox, but before it became general practice. However, when inoculation became so widespread that it virtually put a stop to the ravages of small pox, the Pest House fell into disuse. For more than thirty years it served only as a home for the family of the man who was appointed caretaker by the trustees. (He was named John Smith, a snobber).

The trust was allowed to lapse and John Smith's son realised that they had lived there for so many years that he claimed 'squatters rights and successfully obtained ownership of the property!

Dr Dimsdale was the inventor of the small pox serum and became Baron Dimsdale due to his successful inoculation of the Czar Czarina and family, before the Russian revolution. A descendant of his, Baron Dimsdale, farms in Hertfordshire today.

Keeping in closer touch with your local school, here is an article by Alison Witchell, Assistant Head Teacher .....

Looking Back - Looking Forward

It is with a mixed range of emotions that I am writing this contribution to your magazine.

In looking back, it is with regret that I am cutting my links with the Bengeo area after all too short a stay. I am leaving my post as Acting Head of the Junior School at Easter in order to take up the Headship of Woolmer Green School, near Welwyn. Since joining the school in January 1991 with Don Harris as Headmaster, I have made many friends in this area and greatly appreciated the warmth and support I have received from parents and friends of the school,

Don Harris's death came as a great shock to the school and to the whole community. Many of us were determined that his many years of devotion to the school and to all the pupils in his care should be marked and remembered; contributions to his memorial fund came in quickly and have now totalled £1,500. We were all familiar with Mr. Harris's love of gardening and the pleasure he gained from our beautiful school grounds. It was therefore decided in consultation with the staff, pupils, parents and governors, that the fund should be used to develop these grounds. We have consulted with County Grounds Officers and the County Adviser for Environmental Education and decided to make the inner "courtyard" garden, of which Mr. Harris was especially fond, a particular focus for development.

Pupils have submitted design proposals and it is intended to make a start on alterations after Easter. The memorial garden is expected to include a pond, a commemorative seat and plants sown by the children to attract widelife and scientific interest - an outdoor classroom in fact. We also hope to develop the area by the car park with planting of trees and conversion of the existing pond to a "bog garden".

We should be most grateful of any assistance from friends of the school in this interesting project. Whether you are willing to help plant a tree or have any suggestions regarding suitable plants, we should be delighted to hear from you. The teacher co-ordinating the project is Mr. Judge.

As part of the National Curriculum, pupils are required to study local history and we are proposing to use Bengeo Street as a focus, especially during the last century. If you are a long term resident of Bengeo and have interesting memories, photographs or information, Mr Wang our history co-ordinator, would be most grateful to hear from you. Of course, we would take the greatest care of any materials lent to us and return them to you. Likewise if you have any memorabilia concerning the junior school which could form part of a focus of interest or display at the end of the summer term, please let us know.

You will be aware of the proposals for amalgamation of the Junior and Infants' Schools. Plans are now well under way for the opening of the new Bengeo primary school in September and it is with pleasure that we have recently learnt that Mrs Patey, Head of the Infants'School, has been appointed as Headteacher of the new school. In looking forward to this exciting development in the schools' history, I know you will join me in wishing Mrs Patey and the enthusiastic and hardworking staff of both schools every success for the future. I am most grateful to have had the opportunity to contribute for a short while to Bengeo Junior School.

Thats' it for now folks. ENJOY ..... Spring in Bengeo!