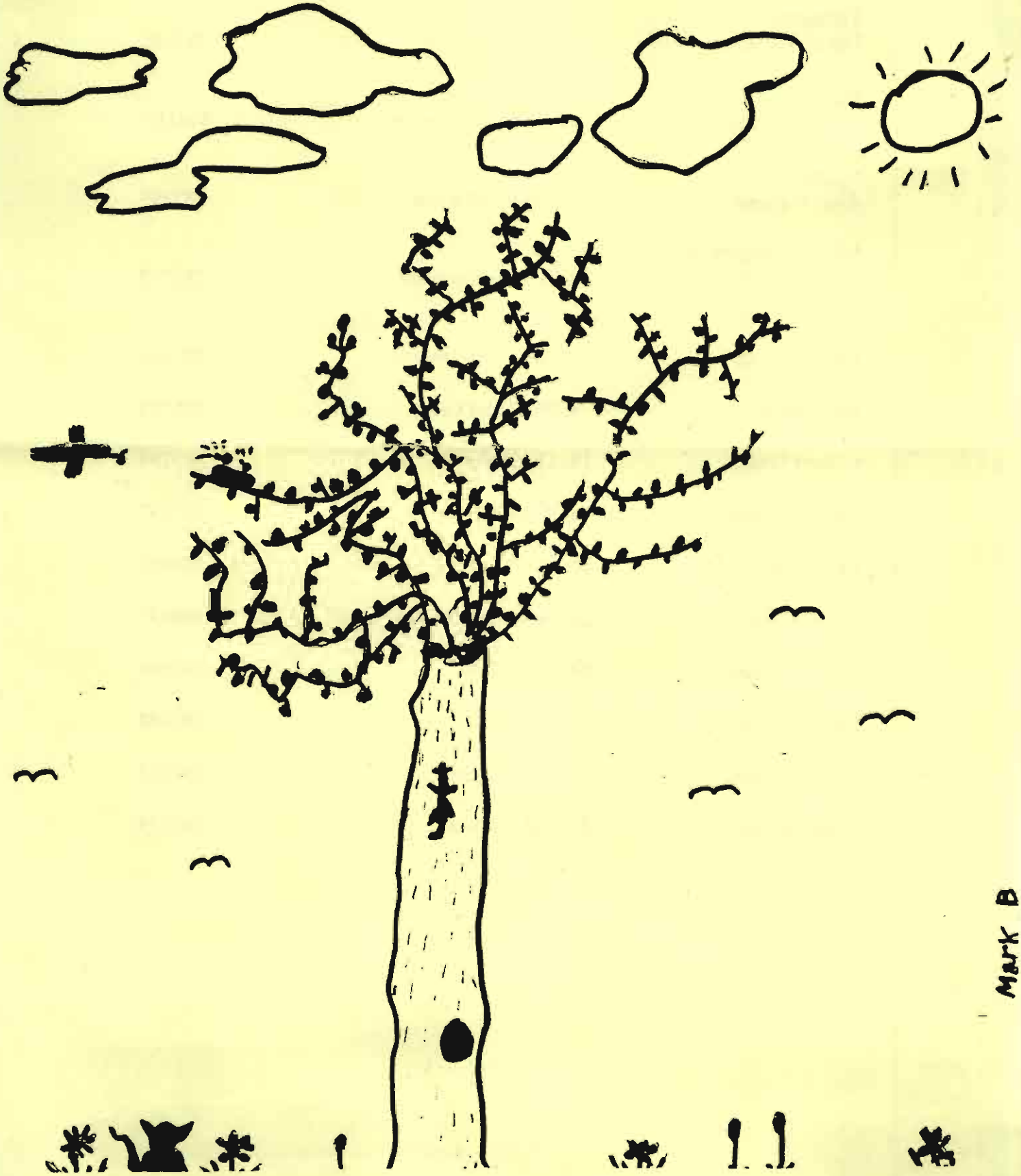
MOLEWOOD OUTLOOK

Molewood Residents Association

SPRING 1996



Mark B

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

NAME	ADDRESS	TEL.
Chairperson Pam Lutner	107, Cowper Crescent	581329
Treasurer Dennis Goodrum	43, The Avenue	587341
Editor Allan Streeton	22, Cowper Crescent	586217
Secretary Joan Walkom	12, Woodhall Close	587297
Minutes Secretary Joan Murrell	38, Cowper Crescent	587595
Olive Church	122, Cowper Crescent	583412
Heidi Scott	8, Woodhall Close	558208
Gilbert Smith	15, The Drive	583168
Harry Walkom	12, Woodhall Close	587297
Pat. Betts	42, The Wick	504057
Ken Lupton	23, Desborough Close	586037
Marie Archer	58, The Wick	581698
Ronnie Cuneen	34, The Drive	581098
Jane Digweed	31. Lodge Close	581107
Malcolm Scott	53, Lodge Close	587939



MOLEWOOD OUTLOOK
SPRING 1996



SPRING In the Air ?
(or may be you don't feel that energetic !)

After a long hard winter, the coldest in fact for five years, showing no signs of abating into April and (almost) a White Xmas -it is once again the time when a Molewood gardener's fancy turns to the delightful subject of...begonias..... beetroot....., manure.....slugs —*and*

summer holidays



Another year nearer the millenium and *another* warm welcome to all. Here's hoping that this heralds another season like '95 with Mediterranean temperatures in the high 20's (80's in 'old money') but *not* with the drought we suffered last year !

An evocative picture is drawn on the cover by our young artist of the season -Mark Bryant , age 10 ,of Cowper Crescent who is a student of Bengeo School, is an Arsenal supporter and plays football himself for ' Bengeo Tigers'. He also swims for Hertford Swimming Club.
Mark scores and collects £5 for his admirable artistic talents!.

Much has happened on the question of parking around the school recently and there is *more* from Malcolm Moulding on our local history - *both* in this issue!

A.G.M - 7.30 p.m. 15th. May 1996

With TWO very important issues currently occupying everyone's mind and *both* involved with digging up the land beneath our feet, namely GRAVEL EXTRACTION and CABLE-LAYING, this could be a lively meeting.
Also, the A.G.M. provides an opportunity to see our neighbourhood friends -as we have not seen them before
This year there will be some *Musical treats—by your fellow residents ! !*



In addition drinks will be available on which to quench your thirst and victuals on which hunger may be sated !
What more could one ask ?
Moving amongst you, we hope, will be our local Councillors ready,willing and able to answer any questions and listen to your views.

So—come on down once again to Bengeo County Primary School at 7.15 - for 7.30 p.m. start - on Wednesday the 15th. May——(give the telly a rest)

C.A.G.E.

We apologise for intruding on your pre-and-post Christmas indulgences with the little green C.A.G.E. leaflets , but we thought that we could beat the developers at their own game when it was thought that objections needed to be in fairly soon after the festivities were over. As it happened the panic was unnecessary - but at least we were ahead of schedule!
Moving forward to mid-Feb. - thanks again for all who wrote individually to the Council following the C.A.G.E.'s leaflet dropped once more on your mats.
The *green* leaflets were for *C.A.G.E* to assess the general mood regarding the development, but the *imperative* forms were the later white ones urging *all* to write your *own* letters expressing *your* feelings in this matter which had to be in to County Hall by the end of February.
As CAGE Chairman, George Sandell wrote in a recent letter to the Mercury, Redland and Pioneer withdrew their first application *eight* years ago following strong objections from the public which included five days of public hearings by County Councillors.
H.C.C. rejected their second application after massive public objections which were repeated at the eight week public enquiry which followed Redland's appeal against county's rejection.
Last year Redland withdrew its appeal to the Secretary of state, so avoiding a final decision by Whitehall. Last December it made another applicatio under the guise of "an extension to Rickney's pit"
Many members of the public visited the two exhibitions by the companies of their proposals.
The outcome of all the meetings and door-to-door

enquiries shows a clear and virtual unanimous outcry against the application.
The latest in this stony issue is that Redlands and Pioneer have used a legal 'loophole' to take the final decision out of the hands of the Herts County Council and go straight to John Gummer, Environment secretary.
This appeal for 'non-determination' by the County Council is *justified,* say the mineral giants, because of the length of time the Authority has had to make a decision.
Previously the Environmental Secretary had stated that he was "minded to grant" the plan if amendments were made including reduction of the extraction area of Rickneys Quarry by 25%.
This the companies did in the autumn '95 plan. But County Councillor Knott said that much had now changed in Hertfordshire which now *fulfills* its gravel extraction quota 100% and that the new plans would still mean a " distusting blight" on the land around Bengeo.
George Sandell said that he believed the mining companies wee just trying to delay the inevitable and is confident that Whitehall will agree with the views of Hertfordshire.
Members of the East Herts Council Planning Committee are making the County Council aware that they are opposed to any further extraction at Rickneys.

MOLEWOOD COACH OUTING

" Didn't we have a lovely time the day we went to....."
.....London ?
On a wet and cold afternoon a week before last Christmas a group of wet and cold Molewoodians sheltered from the rain under the Avenue shops' awnings. But they were soon whisked away in the warmth and luxury of a Sampson's coach and taken up to London to 'see the lights'.
This turned out to be much more *illuminating* thau we expected as we ended up with a full tour of the City and the West End with a professional courier-guide explaining all the places and buildings of historic interest in our capitol city.
We saw grand old St. Paul's bathed in a palc green light and the opulent interior of The Barbican centre - a 'comfort stop'. From there we cruised along the brightly decorated main West End shopping streets and past hotels which we all intend staying at --after we have chosen the right lottery numbers!.
The tour was rounded off with a traditional fish and chip supper at a very old pub. set in cobbled streets overlooking the Thames .
All agreed that this was a great half day out, so much so that we hope more coach trips can be arranged in the future.
Watch this space.....

PAWS FOR THOUGHT:



Howls of protest may well follow but the future looks bleak for persistent offenders whose pooches continue to defecate on the highways and by-ways.
A 'genetic fingerprint' with a D.N.A. database containing a genetic profile of dogs in a small village is being considered by their local Council which, if successful, could spread to other areas. These genetic 'pawprints' taken from hairs from local dogs are matched with minute 'samples' taken from pavements and the owners of the dogs may then be prosecuted.
The first £100 fine was imposed on a person walking a friend's pooch in Ware recently when he did not scoop up the mess.
This amount is likely to be increased to a maximum of £1000 !
After some *snappy* exchanges in the Commons recently a Bill is likely to be passed in The Lords which will mean some hefty fines for those who fall foul of this law
Another *foul* deed cost the local perpetrator - or his owner -£165 whilst his dog was out on its own !
For the sake of...health, cleanliness and in the interest of your *best friend* , don't be dogmatic.....*please* use the poop-a-scoop and the bins!

LOCAL HISTORY

From the super highway of the 21st. century to the ancient history of our county town (we cover it all !) MALCOLM MOULDING has written another article, this time on the "new history of Hertford".
In the following Malcolm tries to point the way forward for those interested:-

HOW THE "LOCAL HISTORY OF HERTORD" SHOULD BE TOLD NOW (Plus a short bibliography of books on the area)

In this article I will attempt to encourage a new book. Of course there are already many important books about Hertfordshire dating from Chauncy's (1700), and Sessions Rolls from 1600, but I believe our town deserves and is still waiting for a true scientific Local History in the modern sense.

In 1700 Henry Chauncy told us about the villages and towns and Landed Gentry with some good references and surveys of our town which created an important base history for later writers. In 1728 Salmon gave us a page or two, in 1812 Clutterbuck's great monumental tome of Herts yielded even bigger insights into Hertford's history, and in 1830 Lewis Turnor, drawing on all these, produced the first excellent " History of Hertford" with a first class town map. In 1871 John Edwin Cussans included new information again, still mainly on big houses and estates. Not until 1912-14 was the Victoria County History expanded to include topographical information of a significant nature. Dr. Page's important " History of Hertford" came out in 1959 and was re-issued recently. Cyril Heath's and Len Green's photographic portraits and fine Elsden Edwardian scenes gave us a new dimension, but in my view there is a vacuum still to be filled, by a new history.
Without these forerunners we are of course poorer; those of us, few as we are, who take an interest in Local History on our own patch have to bridge the gap between the writings we have studied and those to come. I personally have looked at many over the past thirty and more years, and have now come to the conclusion that we are in need of some new thinking and a new history book written by a "Time Team" which interested parties may consider commissioning. It must break cleanly with past thinking about Kings and Queens at Hertford Castle, and incorporate ideas used for other areas by such advocates as W.G. Hoskins, M. Beresford, L. Munby, Alan Rogers, RCHM and other professors in the new modern scientific discipline of Local History. A recent book on archeology, a closely related subject, points the way, which I will outline directly, but first let me say that such proposed new history, possibly entitled " The Local History of Hertford" should contain many more maps than just Speed's map section of the Theatre of the Empire of Great Britain, important as this is to any book. The new book requires several extracts from Ordnance Survey maps illustrating the urban growth of 19th.-century Hertford, and so on into the 20th-century, showing the developments in rail and road traffic and industrial growth.
It will include topographical findings in the latest publications added to new research in a topographical Local History framework planned along precise lines of approach.
For example, a good topographical account of " The Folly" has already been produced by Rosemary Bennet, which sets a pattern for expansion throughout the town's "blocks" of development in the 19th-century. No in-depth account has yet been written illustrating the shift in the weight of population from the old Town Yards to the outskirts, and the growth of the Council estates (and private estates) at Horns Mill, Hertingfordbury Estate, Gallows Hill, Sele Farm etc. Such demographic movements are vital to the proper study of local history.
One new book points the way forward: "Ware and Hertford from Birth to Middle Age" by Clive Partridge and Robert Kiln, written mainly from an archaeological stand-point. In this well researched book the surveys of the northern and southern Hertford Burhs (A Burh was a fortified place in early times and Hertford was fortified against the Danes by the Kings of Wessex) provide a link from which a local history could be developed. Appendix A by Sal Garfi delineates the boundaries of the ancient Saxon Burh in the Old Cross area and on the other side of the river. It offers a conjectural assessment that Hertford may have been a walled town which grew out of and around the "King's Land " (another interpretation of the name "Heortforda")
If this is so Fore Street ran straight out East from the great gateway, and the present ancient Gatehouse arch follows the same alignment. Burgage plots grew round here, and common fields outside. The history of Hertford Castle itself might be turned on its head by this kind of research.All through the years the best minds, like H.C. Andrews of Hertford Museum and his successors, and the Archivists at County Hall have advanced their findings which have been passed from book to book. Now all this should be collated, supplemented as suggested with the proper material and maps, and the true "Local History of Hertford" written and printed—*perhaps in time for the Millenium!*

NEIGHBORHOOD NOISE



More prosecutions are taking place against ' noise poluters', one such case being against a neighbour in the

adjoining house causing too much noise by 'gridding' her fire (cleaning out the embers) each morning !

A Private Member's Bill has been backed by the government which means that noisy neighbours could soon face £40 on-the-spot fines by Councils and confiscation of their stereo and disc equipment if they exceed 35 decibels between 11p.m. and 7 a.m.. Also, Courts could impose penalties of up to £1000 on *any* 'noise poluters'!

All Molewoodians, of course, are calm, considerate citizens who totally respect the privacy of their neighbours, so we are sure that a warning about responsibilities under the Noise Abatement laws is unnecessary.

(We don't have any ' neighbours from hell' on our patch !)

NOW to briefly review the problems which faced us last year and where we stand currently:-

THE SPINNEY(at the rear of Cowper Crescent)

This small plot of land belongs to the County Council and should not be used by anyone outside the H.C.C.and is at present being used as a Nature Study Reserve by the school so - please do not dump any rubbish there.

Thanks.

NOTICE BOARDS.

We have increased our siting of these boards by several over the last few months and our thanks go to Bill Adams of Cowper Crescent who made these up for us so professionally!

NEW SEATS

We now have the necessary permission to install one on the Wick green.

Two more will be sited, one on the Lys Hill/ Avenue green (after the dog bin has been relocated) and the other at the Sacombe road end of The Wick.

CABLE-LAYING



Even as you read this machines could be digging the ground beneath your feet, hacking up the highway to make way for the - 'Information Superhighway' of communication technology.

The new *digital* telephone exchange will have features like 3-way calling, call diversion and call barring and will bring *internet* directly into the home with over 40 T.V. channels to hop around ! ' Tomorrows World' technology promises developments in telecomputing, home security, video phones, video-on-demand, interactive home shopping and banking, electric power control and metering - *if* you want it !

Unlike the gravel situation the cable companies have a franchise from the Government giving them cartre-blanche permission to dig and lay cables across the whole country, without the formalities of planning permission.

In our case CableTel are the contractors and we believe that all the investment is coming from America to fund this multi-million pound scheme.

Basically, the work being done is for the new services to be there for as and when required with 'spurs' outside each house from the main cable so that 'phones etc. can be connected up when required, at a cost of approximately £50.

We understand that subscribers to the new service will soon be able to keep their existing 'phone numbers and will also be able to obtain T.V. signals to include all the existing satellite channels -if required..

CableTel have given householders an assurance that they will make every effort to complete any excavations quickly and with as little disruption as possible.

In the past the average 'phone bill has been halved with cable but, with B.T. fighting back, it is as well to consider carefully *all* the options before setting out on this new branch of the 'superhighway' !.

Full details of the work envisaged will be sent

by CableTel soon.
,The' big-dig' is expected to take place during June/July, but in the meantime you can ring them for further information *free* on 0800 602 603.

LETTERS to the ED.

It is gratifying to know that there *is* a readership out there and that *both* of them have written to us!:-

" Rescued December 10th. 1995 - a Tawny Owl from 7, Woodhall Close.
Raymond Bilton found the owl at 8 a.m. on a Sunday morning sitting on the garage roof adjoining Mr. & Mrs. Prime's property. He could see from the window that something was wrong.
It was being attacked by other birds although it was quite a large owl.
It is now being cared for by Michael Robins for Raptor Rescue an organisation dedicated to care for sick and injured birds of prey.
Mr. Robins told Mr. Bilton that the owl will be released from Woodhall Close when it is fit.
May we thank Raptor for the kind help that was shown for the bird. Mr. Robins will keep us informed of the bird's progress.

Applications for membership to:-
Raptor Rescue (Mr. Bert. Stone)
32, Pear Tree Walk,
Cheshunt,
Herts EN7 6RQ "

Thank you for that insight into *rural* Woodhall Close and we hope that our Tawney friend was released , as planned.

Our *other* reader writes:-

" Congratulations on the Autumn issue !
Just two points arising-
Firstly, could some instruction be given (either by our policeman or the schooi teachers) to mothers collecting children by car. Why do they load their children into the car from the *centre* of the road ?
There are hazards enough to drivers using The Avenue at collecting time without having to cope with car doors opening on to the road.
The children should be put into the car from the pavement side.
Better still, they should be taught to use their legs and WALK !

With regard to the article on local history - ' A Perfect Printer ' Mr. Moulding (and others) might like to know that the " old white-haired printer" was my husband's uncle, Fred Ranson and his assistant at some point was Freddie Gutteridge.
'Uncle Fred.' lived all his life in Hertford in the house in Dimsdale Street by the river, being looked after by his sister Nell. On the day he died Nell came downstairs, sat in her chair by the window and just quietly died also, her life's work of looking after Fred. having ended !

Ziller Driver
76, Cowper Crescent. "

PARKING

Following on from our correspondent's comments, no doubt you will have noticed the new white road markings at the junctions of Cowper Crescent and The Avenue.
East Herts District Council have reminded us that ..." *it is an offence under the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 to park a vehicle on the road so as to cause an unnecessary obstruction and the Police are empowered to enforce these regulations.*"
Residents will no longer be fuming at having to negotiate around the cars which were originally such a hazard at these junctions !
Also, further parking restrictions in the vicinity are at present under consideration, the outcome of which be conveyed to all parents in due course.
At a recent Government-sponsored conference for Science Week the ethics of the 'school run'raged.
It was maintained that these increase congestion and *add* to the risks of traffic accidents.
It was argued that, in driving them such short

distances will discourage children to walk to places later in life as well as harming their future health , the environment,and depriving the children of learning vital road skills.

One debater said that many parents who lived near to their children's schools could set a better example by walking *with* them.
Two reasons given for driving their children to school was security and road safety although, in transporting them, parents were *adding* to the number of cars thereby increasing the chances of accidents.
RoSPA claims that less then 10% of children now walk to school, compared with 80% in the Seventies.

Parents who leave their engines running outside the school gates may soon be handed 'smog tickets' by traffic wardens as part of an anti-pollution package.

A message from.....
HEAD TEACHER - SUSAN FORD.

I can hardly believe I am now half way through my first year at Bengeo School. It has been a busy eventful first term, and I am enjoying the opportunities to meet and work with local people.

We were particularly pleased to welcome parents and local residents to our Harvest Bring and Buy Sale in aid of the Isobel Hospice. We were delighted with the attendance at our Parents' Association Craft Fair in December. Raising money for extra resources is very much a part of life for schools now.

I hope you were able to attend the exhibition of plans for the extension of the Gravel Workings held at the school in December and January. Needless to say I wrote on behalf of the school expressing my concerns about the protection of the environment and local facilities.

Lastly, it may may be helpful to keep you up to date about the parking problem around the school. In January the Residents Association, Local Police Officer, Traffic Department and School met to draw up an action plan to try a different approach to this thorny problem. Let us hope a concerted effort will be successful.

Update on.....

KEVIN BISHOP



Tower of basket ball strength Kevin of 24, Cowper Crescent is away at Georgia University in Atlanta .
Whilst Kevin has enjoyed the experience in this totally different environment he is considering returning to England, probably to Loughborough university as he feels his potential is not being stretched sufficiently from either the sporting aspect or academically in the U.S. of A.

U3A

Many on this estate will be familiar with the excellent opportunities available through the University of the Third Age. Some of you already participate in one or more of the various functions for all who are, says U3A's Jack Hands, *middle-aged or over and not in full time employment.*
Whatever your interests it is likely that a class exists for you to improve in your chosen hobby or pastime and...make new friends at the same time !

The Hertford and District membership is growing at a very fast rate and already there are over 360 members who are taking part in weekly sessions in 50 activity and study groups such as sailing, languages, basket ball, luncheon clubs, art appreciation, bridge, embroidery, science and technology, walks, swimming, keep fit and.....well, you name it and there is probably a class for it - or one being considered.
Most sessions take place during the day-time, and the non-sporting classes usually take place in members' own homes.
There are also coach trips to places of interest, like the grand tour around. Stanstead Airport
Once a month there is a full meeting of all members at Castle Hall when, in addition to the business side, there is usually someone to give an interesting talk with illustrations on an enormous slide screen as well as a general 'get-together' of members with

a free 'cuppa' and biscuits !.
Pick up a leaflet in the library., or 'phone Colin Hadley the Membership Secretary on Hertford 584618. Membership is only £12 a year.
There's no need to be lonely in Hertford !

Correction
Apologies for June Smith who, in the Autumn issue we credited with an O.B.E. award: this should have read M.B.E.

SHOPS - CYCLE PARKING

Our local *spokesman* reports -that a cycle stand thas been installed at The Avenue shops by the Dry Cleaners. which should please cyclists and pedestrians alike..

House and Garden



BOGUS CALLERS

Make sure callers at your house are *genuine.*
Three Valleys Water have issued a leaflet listing ten simple, practical measures you can take to protect yourself and your property.

1. *Think* before you open the door.
2. Use the eye-hole and put the chain on before opening it.(if you don't have a chain, think about fitting one)
3. Ask the caller for proof of i .dentity, if you are not already sure of it.
4 If still uneasy about the matter,ask the caller to wait whilst you 'phone his organisation.
5. Study the clothing. Most Company staff will have a uniform bearing a logo or an i .dentity card.
6. If you are on 999.at ali *suspiscious,* call the police on 999 !

Many residents will alredy have made arrangements for this to be done but here is a timely reminder from PAT. BROOKS on the advantages: of.....



SECURITY MARKING

' Thieves like portable, high value easily saleable goods like T.V.s, videos, hi-fi, cameras, jewellery and antiques.
If you should be unfortunate enough to have any of your belongings stolen, how would the police know that they were yours, if the items were recovered ? The advantages of clearly marking your valuables with a unique personal code gives you a much better chance of getting your goods returned. They can be marked with your post code and number of your house, using special security marker pens, engraving tips or die-stamping.

You can purchase security marker kits from DIY stores or stationers. A kit is also available for any residents to borrow, free of charge from Hertford library.

Members of Hertford and Ware Crime Prevention Panel, Pat. and David Brooks, are willing to offer their advice on property marking or to security mark any itmes such as bicycles, mowers, etc.

Crime Prevention Panel (H. 587809) '

MORE RUBBISH !

Environmentally friendly wheelies may be on the way following a recent successful experiment with brown bins in Ware.
These are for *organic waste* which goes to a compost processing plant near Cottered and *born again* as soil conditioner.
You have bin warned !

Spring, like this newsletter, has been a little late this year, but we are now delighted to announce the .....

SPRING GARDEN WINNERS FOR 1996

1st. Mr. Bill Proctor, 40, The Wick.

2nd. Mrs. Jane Digweed, 31, Lodge Close

3rd. Miss Beaveridge and Miss Strohm 51, Cowper Crescent

4th. Mr. & Mrs. Scott ,53, Lodge Close.

5th. Mrs. Janet Moy, 18, Desborough Close.

6th. Mr. & Mrs. Kenney, 34, The Avenue.

From Pam.....

"Well done to the above, there were some beautiful flower displays this year, helped by a late Spring when the frosts have not been so damaging , so allowing some flowers to open, especially the Magnolias.
We hope everyone has enjoyed the recent crocus displays, and now the daffodils flowering in profusion around the estate.
We hope to plant more bulbs and shrubs this coming year to make the area even prettier.
Come and meet the winners of the Garden Competition at the AGM and collect some tips from them.
Maybe we mights see some new faces appearing in our prize lists !

Happy Gardening !"

COURTYARD ARTS



Following our article in the last M.O.' hard work and dedication is resulting in Hertford's new arts centre becoming a reality !
Congratulations on their £1000 gift from the Council in the form of a grant!
They are confident that most of the building on the Victorian stable block in Port Vale will be usable by the end of May and are organisi ng an ' opening event' on the 24th. May. In the meantime if you feel able to wield a paintbrush and have the time, they would be grateful for any extra 'hands'
For detalls of forthcoming events and/or procedure for future hiring of the hall and facilities, please 'phone Julie on 01920 460390.

McMULLENS TOUR

Those who have booked for this event on 23rd. May are to meet at 2.30 p.m. at ' The Cottage' at the rear of McMullens near the town library.
Although fully booked at present, anyone interested should have a word with Pam Lutner nearer the time just in case anyone may have dropped out.

HOLY TRINITY with CHRIST CHURCH, BENGEO.

A flower festival will be held at the church from the 1st. to the 3rd. of June with representations from organisations that contribute to life in Bengeo, including your Association.

Tibetan Proverb:- *' Better to spend one day as a tiger than a thousand years as a sheep '*

Remember: Tomorrwo is important.....IT IS THE FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF YOUR LIFE !

(Have a nice day.)

Other matters concerning us all like road surfaces, road signs and the general layout of the estate, including greens, are continually under review by your committee.
We are in constant touch with the various authorities on the questions of upkeep and maintenance.
With this and the floral displays we hope to keep our estate second to none in appearance and cleanliness !
If there are any matters which concern **you** ***PLEASE do not hestitate to let us know.***

See you in the Autumn