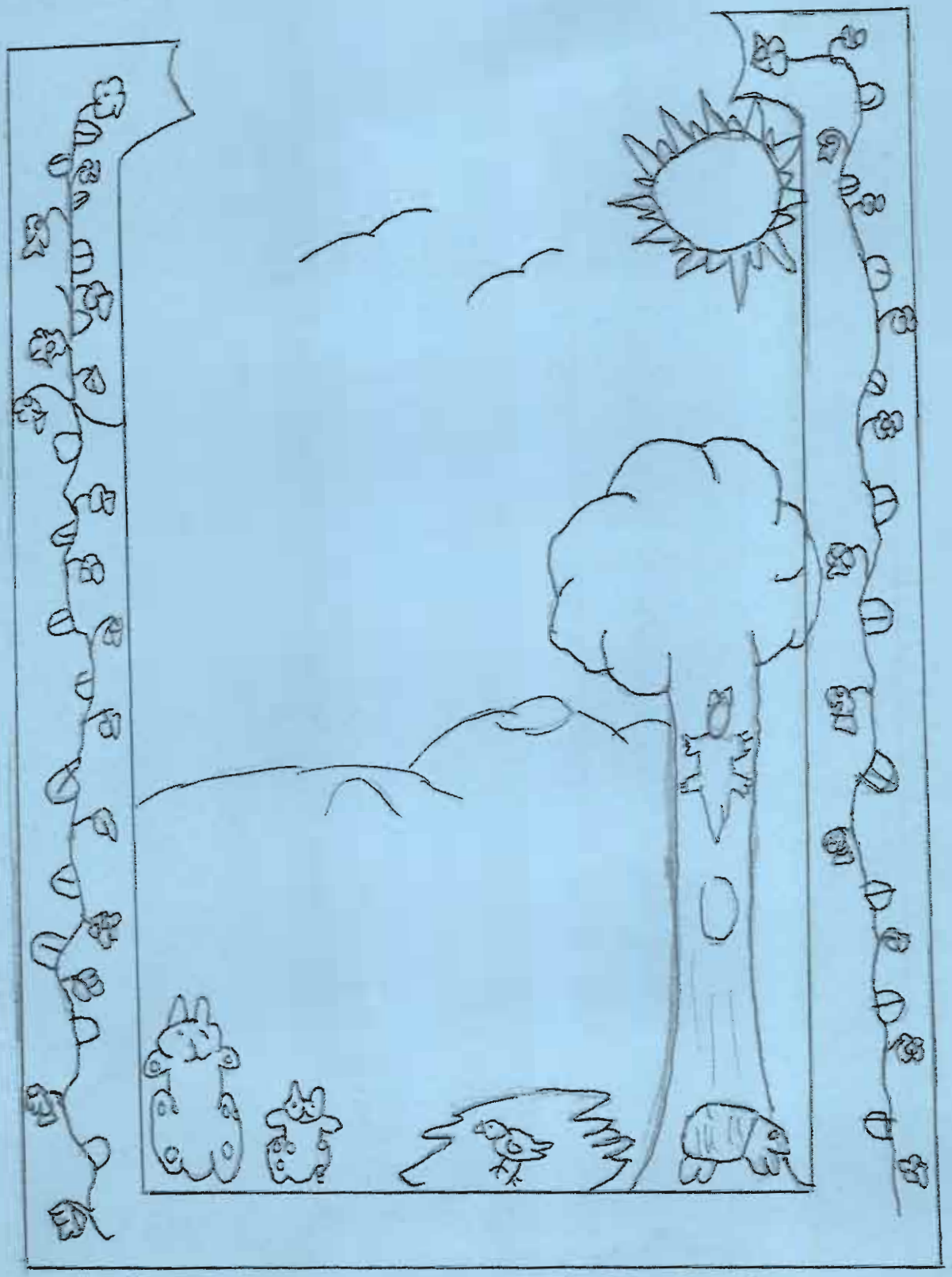
MOLEWOOD OUTLOOK

Molewood Residents Association

Spring 1997



by Peter Ibbetson age 8

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

NAME	ADDRESS	TEL. No.
	(All Hertford)	
Chairperson		
Pam Lutner	107, Cowper Crescent	581329
Treasurer		
Dennis Goodrum	48, The Avenue	422492
Editor		
Allan Streeton	22, Cowper Cresc.	428682
Secretary		
Joan Walkom	12, Woodhall Close	587297
Minutes Secretary		
Joan Murrell	38, Cowper Cresc.	5787595
Olive Church	122, Cowper Cresc.	588412
Heidi Scott	6, Woodhall Close	558208
Gilbert Smith	15, The Drive	588168
Harry Walkom	12, Woodhall Close	587297
Pat. Betts	42, The Wick	504057
Ken Lupton	28, Desborough Close	586087
Marie Archer	55, The Wick	581965
Ronnie Cunneen	84, The Drive	581698
Jane Digweed	81, Lodge Close	581107
Malcolm Scott	58, Lodge Close	587989

In...this..... *.....issue..of.....*

MOLEWOOD OUTLOOK

.....CAGE....A.G.M
CABLE TEL.....
..ENTERTAINMENTE

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH.

.'.HOUSE & GARDEN '

SPRING 1997

HELLO....ONE and ALL !

We hope you all survived the hurricanes in February.....the" driest January in 200 years and the driest two years since records began".(This, with the millions of gallons leaked by water companies, watch out for the hosepipe ban announcements!)

.....the sub-zero temperatures of an arctic Christmas!.....the 'flu mini-epidemic..... CableTel (*more on that later*).....Euro squabbles.....AND of course the boring political hustings leading up to the General Election(A comment by a listener to a campaign speech:- " One thing that the speaker and I have very much in common—neither of us knows what he is talking about!")-

Also, we hope you did not suffer from S.A.D.(Seasonal Affective Disorder) This ' modern' complaint is a state of depression brought on during the winter months by continual starvation of daylight(No more worries about that for a month or two !!)

We hope the mysteries of the universe were unveiled with a night sighting of the Hale-Bop comet, which skimmed the Bengeo rooftops by a mere 120 million miles !(If you did miss it, you will get a second chance in another 24,000 years time!)

We also hope that you enjoyed early April temperatures higher than the Costa's, Majorca and even Bermuda - although your gardens may not have !

We are also glad that 3 Valleys managed to keep *our* water pure , without a trace of -er- *cryptosporidium* !!

TWO events dominate the calendar of our little corner of the universe.....

A.G.M.The A.G.M., to be held this year on TUESDAY MAY 13th. at Bengeo County Primary School at 7.30 pm.

You are all cordially invited to come along and, if you so wish, let us know of matters which concern *you*(and most likely *all* of us !) and indulge yourselves in the usual free food, wine and friendship.

After 'business' is over we will have a special treat this year on a subject which has created a great deal of interest, namely the creation of a wildlife Nature Area at Waterford Heath (formerly Waterford Pits).

A talk from the GROUNDWORK TRUST by Mark Fishpool with slides PLUS another show on the BADGERS of Hertfordshire by Audrey Randall promises to make it a *very* interesting evening !

Some time in May members of your committee will be out and about, moving amongst you to relieve you of the annual sub.of £1.50.

So, start saving .....*now!*



ENTERTAINMENT EVENING

By popular demand following the success of last years entertainment staged at the A.G.M

this event was held at the School in March. Who would have thought that our Estate was seething with such talent ?
The ' cheap evening out' was subsidized by the Association, only costing Molewoodians and friends £1.50 each!
Local artists who gave of their free time providing the entertainment were:-
Dennis Goodrum (A *treasure* on the piano !)
Neville Parry ,in straw boater who, in spite of a bad cold, managed some magnificent songs from the shows, including some old favourite Al. Jolson melodies.
The Avenue resident Joan Cook did her well known impersonation of odd-odes poetess Pam Eyres.
'Rodeo Ruth' (Allen) of 55, The Drive gave a magnificent demonstration of Line Dancing with some audience participation.(We won't say too much about a certain Editor of this mag.who gave a demonstration of how NOT to do it !).
Many residents have taken up this excellent form of entertainment *and* exercise.(Pam will give you details)
Gerry Harrison of 105, Cowper Crescent held the audience spell bound with an enchanting performance on acoustic guitar.
'MARMON MAGIC & Co.juggled and joked their way through some exciting examples of co-ordination.
All this was compared by committee member Ken Lupton.
Prizes were given in Bingo, raffles and a winning entry ticket prize draw and a fine assortment of hot snacks provided sustenance.
The hall was packed to capacity and, as well as the entertainment, it was an opportunity for us all to meet up with old friends!

Linda & David SMART and family of Lodge Close express their appreciation of the evening :-
"We would like to thank you for a very enjoyable evening.
We understood that children were able to come along and when we realised that our own were the only two, we wondered how fellow residents and the children would feel.
However, we can only say again that it was a thoroughly entertaining family evening and how much the children enjoyed it all. Leona winning her egg at the Bingo just made her night !
We know just how much hard work goes into organising a function like that and you must have been pleased with all your efforts.
Our thanks go to all the committee and all the people involved in making it such a good evening !"

Well, *that* makes it all worthwhile !

<u>BENGEO COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL</u>
Head teacher SANDRA FORD writes as follows :-
" May I offer an apology to those residents who were inconvenienced by the intruders on our site during the Easter holiday.

Securing such a large site boundary is an impossible task but we will continue to do our best with our limited budget to improve security and deter trespassers in any way we can. I have spoken to PC Clare, our community officer, and if intruders on school grounds are obviously causing damage or are being verbally abusive, please telephone 01992 533000 to report the incident.

As Easter was early this year we packed a great many activities into a <u>very short term.</u> On Friday 14 March our local MP, Bowen Wells, visited the school. We also had a farewell lunch on Monday 24 March for Mr. Bill Hunter who has been a long-standing Governor of the school.

Our main fund-raising event of the year, Bengeo Day is planned for 14 June and I look forward to seeing many of you there."

Some of the residents whose gardens back on to the playing fields are more concerned at the verbal obscenities,heard quite clearly, by some of the older youths who unlawfully use the field for a kick around the goal posts, which are very near residents' gardens.

Sandra Ford also points out that the *only* matches likely to be authorised will almost certainly, have a number of adults also in attendance.

Rather than get involved personally with any youths, it is suggested that a photograph, or better still a video film, is taken of any particularly troublesome youths, but it is hoped that steps that are now being taken will avoid any further annoyance !

COVER PICTURE

A reminder that Spring , which sprung a little early this year, comes from Peter Ibbotson age 8, of 67. The Wick whose drawing adorns the cover and who is the lucky recipient of £5. for his efforts.

Thanks Peter, this has put us all in the right frame of mind for getting out into the sunshine digging and planting!

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Police Community Partnerships are to be set up giving *us* all more of a voice in matters than at present.
It is hoped that more members of the public will attend than the present rather restrictive PCC's.
There are also plans by the County Council to put extra bobbies on the beat, although at an extra cost to the tax-payer.
To most of us this is well worth the extra cost, with an extra 32 policemen next year.
Let us all hope that this may bring about a situation where we can all feel perfectly safe on the streets of Hertford— particularly after closing time on Fridays and Saturdays !..

With the summer months almost here it is tempting to let the fresh air in through open windows when popping down the road for a minute, or at night..
This is just what your friendly neighbourhood burglar wants, to give him time to be in and out with your videos and cameras——quietly and quickly !
Also, consider having such equipment security marked - it helps possible identification should they be retrieved after being stolen
Most burglars are *opportunists* and much less likely to tackle a house where this involves any risk of being detected. A few simple measures can put off a potential thief, and most of these have been mentioned in previous M.O.'s but, with the holiday season approaching here are some reminders:-
Leave an empty house...*looking occupied.!*
Try, where practical ....
to leave a radio or TV - on (preferably tuned into a 'talk' station) : leave lights on when going out in the evening.,or, whilst away ,use lights which switch on and off at staggered times: use outside lights with sensors which switch on for a limited time: leave a car in the driveway (Some neighbours will be only too pleased to get one of their cars off the road !) . Keep hedges tidy and have a friend remove mail from the door mat: Try and have window and door locks fitted. If you wish to go to the expense, then Burglar Alarms are the ultimate,and they should meet British Standard 4737 *and* be properly maintained.
Another expensive item is a security video camera, although there are cheaper imitation ones which could prove a deterrent and which are easy to install (So easy that *even* grown ups can understand them !).
Oh, and car thieves will be very grateful if you leave the keys in the car in the driveway! The car may still be there later but....where's the entertainment system gone ? You can have this engraved.with the index number of your vehicle by firms listed in Yellow Pages.
Remember, the Police will always come round, survey your property and advise what sort of improvements, if any, are required—*free* !
Also free is the police videos " Safe as Houses" and " Are you Watching?"

The good news is that your household policy should be there to ' pick up the pieces'-but *check it out !*

Watch out for very hard-sell , aggressive Burglary Alarm Salesmen who have been calling on elderly people on the Estate.
If you have ANY information on this subject, please 'phone the police.

.NEIGHBOURHOOD noise

We have written on this subject in some detail previously and do not believe it is a big problem on this peaceful Estate.
Should you be unlucky (?) enough to have a budding Spice Girl'next door and a friendly request to keep the decibles down at 2.30am fails ,then you have another option.
As from April the local authority has powers in connection with a new offence, namely *Night Noise.*
For details get in touch with the National Society of Clean Air and Environmental Protection (NSCA) on (01273) 26313[

WHEELIE BINS:

We have mentioned previously about unsightly bins on show in front gardens long before and after collection times and how this is another clue to the possible occupancy of the property
ALSO, this can be a very useful 'tool'for burglars to gain access to windows
In your own interests, please store bins in a shed or garage - anywhere where they cannot be used as a step-ladder..

WEB SITES

No, not the internet this time—but ' Operation Spider' ('Banishing Burglars from Hertfordshire')
Yes, it really seems to be working !
The chances of your home being burgled in Herts is actually *dropping.*
Whilst this is due to Police initiative it is really down to *us.*

NEIGHBOURS !

We say many thanks to neighbouring ,neighbourly Watermill Estate Residents Association & *Neighbourhood* Watch for keeping in touch.
We see that Community Liason Officer, PC Colin Clare had agreed to come to their AGM(May be we shall see him at ours ?)
They, too, are very concerned with the two BIG issues currently featured in this M.O. namely CAGE and CABLE-TEL.

(HERTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Created at Local Government Reorganization in 1974 the Town's motto is:-

PRIDE IN OUR PAST, FAITH IN OUR FUTURE

The full 1997 Annual Report is available from the Council containing information on the following services :-
Allotments: Anglia in Bloom & Hertford in Bloom Local Competitions: Cemetery and Closed Churchyards: Footpaths and Bridleways, and many other services.
We thought you would like to be reminded who *your* local Councillors are.

There are 15 Town Councilors representing 4 Wards and the 4 for BENGEO ward are:-

Dianne Desmulie 16, Lodge Close	Tel. 550874
John Findlay 19, Port Vale	Tel. 558244
Brian Littlechild 5, Boudary Drive	Tel. 501439
Richard M. Ovenden 6, Lodge CloseC.	Tel. 583202

C.A.G.E.

Campaigne Against Gravel Extraction
Rickney's Gravel Pit Inquiry.

Just when we thought the dust had finally settled on this long standing fight by the community against further extraction works, we are off again.
On the 17th. February there was a Pre Inquiry meeting at County Hall to be followed by 16 meetings through the months of May-June, All at County Hall.
The purpose of these is to consider an *Appeal* by the Extractors against —

' Non Determination of Planning Permission within the Statutory 16 Week Period for an Extension to the Existing Rickneys Quarry for the Winning and Working of Minerals(Sand & Gravel), Restoration and Associated Development: Rickneys Quarry, Nr. Hertford.'
CAGE will be giving evidence and supporting the County, District, Town & Parish Councils plus Hertford Civic Society against Redland and Pioneer, who want to make Rickney's FOUR TIMES BIGGER !.
The actual datesand times of the hearings are:-

MAY...28th. 29th. 30th. (All at 10 am)
JUNE...3rd. 4th 5th. (10.30,10,10.30am respectively)
JUNE...10th. (10 am)
JUNE 11th. 12th.13th. (10.30 am)
JUNE...17th. 18th. 19th.20th 24th. 25th. (All at 10 am)

Your presence at the inquiry will be important to this case !

Chairman George Sandell writes:-

" SO, WHAT IS C.A.G.E. UP TO ?

A good question, but one that I am happy to answer.

.It's nine years since that first bomb-shell hit us and Molewood Residents Association was in the forefront of that first battle.

The continued pressure on the gravel companies has reduced the original 900 acres to 220 acres, but that is still 220 acres too much !

CAGE sis now preparing evidence to put before the Inspector at the Public Inquiry which starts on 28th. May. We hope to persuade him to recommend that the application by Redlands and Pioneer should be refused.

We shall be holding awareness walks around the threatened areas during May and June so that folk will know exactly what is being proposed.

Pretty pictures at exhibitions are all very well but a look at the site will allow everyone to see for themselves just what is at risk.

How can YOU help ?

We need to do a survey to establish certain facts, so if you are able to help please let Pam Lutner know.

We also need your support throughout the period of Inquiry but *especially* on the opening day 28th. May and 17th - 19th. June when our evidence will be presented to the Inquiry.

We need the backing of everyone to convince the Inspector that we are not prepared to see our environment lost to the grave-diggers.

Thank your for giving CAGE your support over this last nine years - just one more heave and victory could be ours !

I will be giving an update and latest information at the M.R.A. AGM on 13th. May."

Thank you, George.

In fact one Awareness Walk will take place from Michael McMullen's Stoney Hills house on 15th. June....*Watch out for further details on the posters.*

FOOTPATHS

On the 11th. and 12th. April Redlands held an exhibition at Bengeo School with maps and explanations of proposed footpath re-routing which many Molewoodians attended and voted against.

Unfortunately VERY little notice was given of this meeting, leaving very little time to publicise the event sufficiently to muster the number of residents to attend.

NEWSPAPERS

Through all weather and conditions the paper boys -er, sorry ' persons'-who deliver our 'daileys get very little praise - only scorn if there are any hold ups.

With more and more sections and extra leaflets, especially week-ends it must sometimes be a weighty problem, not to mention the difficult task of getting it all through some of the letter boxes with springs designed to defy entry but very good at removing part of a finger !

So, for their unfailing early morning stint when most of us are shuffling around bleary eyed, we say THANKS...what *would* we do without them ?

APHRODITE MAGIC ?

Congratulations to Cyprus honeymooning residents Nigel and Lisa Claydon of 15, Cowper Crescent who became the proud parents of THOMAS on 29th. January.

THE BISHOPS OF BENGEO

Wedding bells, rather than basket balls are in Kevin Bishop's mind at present.

Basket Ball ace Kevin of 24 Cowper Crescent is marrying his Atlanta bride,Claere at the Hertford United Reform Church on Saturday the 21st. June

Kevin met his bride whilst he was attached to the Georgia University . Kevin and Claire plan to settle in this country where, for the time being, Kevin will continue with his education .at Loughborough..and, of course, his basket ball !



WATERFORD HEATH

This subject was covered in the last M.O. and again in the forthcoming AGM.

If possible please *refrain* from uprooting of those self-set tree seedlings in your garden 'Spring Clean'.Instead, nuture them so that they can be replanted.

The following species are required: oak, ash , thornbeam, field maple, hawthorn, hazel, silver . birch and wild cherry.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Leave the traffic fumes behind you this summer and enjoy a relaxing time in your own local Town park on the following dates:-

MAY 11th. All day- Birds of Prey at Hertford Castle Open Day.

BAND CONCERTS AND OPEN DAYS ON SUNDAY AFTERNOONS on:-
4th and 11th.:May:
1st. June : 6th..July.
3rd. August
7th.September
13th. & 14th. September— Heritage Weekend and Castle Open Days *and* Band Concert.
11th. October - B Company (Royal Anglian) Freedom Parade.
5th. November (Morning) Remembrance Service - Garden of Remembrance, Salisbury Gates, The Wash, followed by Coffee at Mill Bridge Rooms.
21st. November (Evening) Mediaeval Night - Castle Open Evening.
12th. December (Evening) Carols at the Castle.
Some of these dates are *provisional* so please check nearer the time.

CABLETEL

Cable Tel Beds and Herts is a franchise of Cable Tel, one of the U.K.'S largest cable communications operators who develop, construct and manage state-of-the-art fibre optic cable networks that deliver telephone, television, FM radio and internet access services to homes and businesses.
Those old enough to remember will know that this estate used to be allotments, hence the nic name ' the onion patch' !
We could be forgiven for thinking that, over the past year, the whole estate was being returned to allotments !
This *Information Superhighway* has finally caught up with Molewood, although our *highways* have been anything but *super* for some considerable time !
Also, not to be sniffed at were additional road-excavations on local Gas problems.
Although the main work has finished, the estate is still in a very untidy state and we hope that CableTel will rectify this as promised !We now ask .....was it *worth* it all ?
Well, it depends: if you are perfectly happy with your old B.T. 'phone service and satisfied with the four T.V. Channels (now five, *if* you have been lucky enough to get tuned in !) then.....probably not.

If, on the other hand you are a couch potato with square eyes - or a sports fanatic and don't mind the extra converter box and coping with yet another piece of equipment *plus* another remote control, then the extra channels are very exciting and the overall cost including Cable linked 'phone is very competitive, with local cable-to-cable calls discounted or free..
There are lots of ' bells and whistles' included like ' call divert'. 'call-barring' and 3-way conversation on 'phones (if you have a ' tone' 'phone)and 'locking parental control' on T.V.s
Also, you are automatically linked into Channel 5. on TV and video.
You can also hook up your FM radio into the network.

According to OFTEL customers are changing to Cable at the rate of 50,000 a month.
But, before switching to Cable it is advisable to check for the latest offers on installation and connection charges.

There are of course many other 'phone services which offer competitive rates on long distance and international calls. All one has to do is dial a short number and the call is then routed through one of these services, like Mercury, World Telecom, A.T 7T., Swiftcall. etc..
In the end it is up to all to study the various tarrifs on telephone services, at the same time deciding whether you wish to be connected to the existing Cable network and have a multi choice in channels - at the risk of having your *dahlias* disturbed !

You can opt to have the TV service only, retaining your BT 'phone, or even switch back to the old 'phone service at a later date.'

DAWN CHORUS WALKS.

If you feel like getting up with - or before -a lark there arc ' Dawn Chorus' walks arranged for Saturdays 17th and 24th May, (and here'sthe rub) they arc from 4.15 to 7.....AM !
Insomniacs .....please 'phone (01707) 260129, Mark Fishpool..

ON THE BUSES

Anyone who travels by the local 333 bus route will have seen or have been handed the new route which operates on every day other than Sundays and public holidays.
If not, pick up one from the bus driver or bus station or 'phone 583445 or 01920-485285., or the library.

A NEW service designed to avoid the car ' rat-run' is from Molewood to Hertford North station which could also be useful for children going to Sele school.

If you care about HERTFORD you can join the .....

HERTFORD CIVIC SOCIETY....

The main aim is to stimulate the interest of local residents in the quality of the environment in the town of Hertford and the surrounding district.
This includes architectural design, town planning, conservation. etc.
The Civic Society have achieved many victories in their fight against ill-judged developments over the years as well as being involved with others in protecting the environment from excessive gravel extraction.
Full personal membership is only £5 p.a. or £2.50 for pensioners,and Mrs. Sangster of Mole End, High Molewood, SG14 is membership secretary to whom application should be made.

U3A

More and more residents are joining the local branch of the University of the *Third Age*— "A time of creativity and fulfilment for older people "
In the last M.O. we mentioned the wine making group which is one of many activities available

It is a *university* in the original sense of the word: a *collective of people devoted to learning, and members are in the* THIRD AGE.
One in five of the UK population is in the Third Age !)
An activity which is gaining in popularity is the U3A SAILING CLUB. which takes place every week (except during mid-winter) down at Hertfordshire Young Mariner's Base in Cheshunt.
The base is at present undergoing a compiete £1m.development 'face lift' which will also incorporate Britain's first-ever climbing and caving complex, due to be completed by October, when the U3A Sailing section hope to have an'Open Day' when friends can be invited to see the new complex.
In the meantime if you have little or no experience in SAILING but would like to *learn*, please contact Pat. Davies on (01992) 554255.

ALSO.....

Whilst on the 3RD AGE subject, are you one of those entitled to £800 million ? (well, not *all* of it)
This is the amount the Department of Social Security maintain is due to pensioners each year in unclaimed inlcome support,etc.
Most of this will probably not apply to Molewoodians as it is for *tenants* rather then house owners.

But, if you would like to find whether there may be sums to which you may be entitled send for the leaflet ' Can You Claim It ?' with a SAE to:

Help the Aged Benefits Information Unit
St. James's Walk,
Clerkenwell Green,
London EC1R OBE

GREEN & PLEASANT LANDS ?

Sprinkler users may be forced by Water companies to fit meters, or face prosecution and fines up to £1000!

It seems likely that, in time, ALL households will have meters installed.

More on
WASTE WATER SERVICES:

From 1st. April Thames Water took direct management of the sewerage system from the local councils, promising us a " very high standard of service "

Any problems - please 'phone: 0645 200800 (local call rate)

PAWS FOR THOUGHT

Unfortunately, it would not seem the same if Molewood Outlook did not say something in favour of our beloved four-footed friends!



Yes, they are dogged by yet more legislation being considered to *suspend* licenses of owners whose pets defecate on pavements.
Before they bring back Capitol Punishment for this offence and if Rex *is* your best friend, do him a favour and take a poop-a-scoop when out walkies !

1997 SPRING GARDEN COMPETITION

The following addresses won this year's competition with some great bulbs and blossom displays.

1st.	Mr. & Mrs. Debnam,	35, The Avenue
2nd.	.Mr. & Mrs. Canancila,	38, The Wick
3rd.	Mr. & Mrs. Karn, .	16, The Wick
4th.	Mr. & Mrs. Scott,	53, Lodge Close.
5th.	Mr. & Mrs. Payne,	116, Cowper Cresc..
6th.	Mrs. Singers,	136, Cowper Cresc.
7th.	Mr. & Mrs. Linsell,	26.Peel Crescent
8th.	Mr. & Mrs. Waterfield	42, The Avenue

CONGRATULATIONS to the householders and thanks once again to the previous regular winners for standing down and giving others a chance.
Come to the AGM and get your prizes and....
Now.....GO for the summer comp!

OTHER MATTERS.....

which your committee are actively following up with the various authorities:-

THE AVENUE:&SACOMBE ROAD
Bollards are in place but with some areas missing. We are endeavouring to get these replaced with *proper* ones here and in other areas.

CABLETEL:
We are trying to get damaged grass verges reinstated.

PLAYSPACE-
We hope to see the proposed improvements to this take place 'any day' now !

SEAT —outside the ' Shopping Basket'. The general consensus of opinion is that it needs to be turned around the other way facing towards the shop. This we are trying to arrange with the Council.

xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

We wonder.....Why is there only ONE monopolies commission ?

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Final Thought:

COURAGE is the first of human qualities, because it is the quality which guarantees ALL others.

(Sir Winstone Churchill)

See you in the Autumn

ENJOY THE SUMMERTIME !