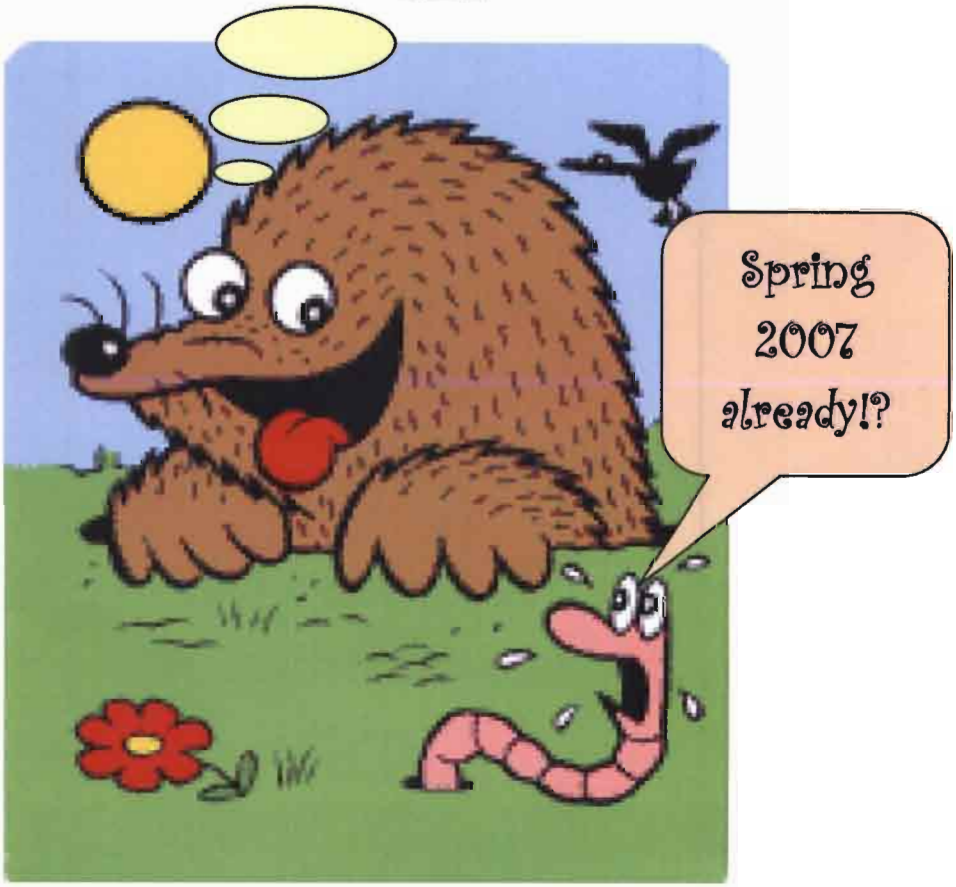
Time for Molewood Outlook!



A word from the Editor (Allan Streeton)

We hope you like our new look format for this issue.

The committee are looking forward to hearing your views on all Molewood matters at the AGM on the 9th of May.

We appreciate your support and remember this is YOUR newsletter and we welcome any input from residents.

The next issue should be around autumn time. Some of you will have some exciting, interesting or amusing stories from the summer, so why not share them with us by emailing details to myself, Allan or Cary at either;

allboye@ntlworld.com or cary@hand-coded.com

Annual General Meeting

This is to give notice of the 42nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Molewood Resident's Association.

It will take place at Bengeo School on Wednesday, 9th May from 7.45pm for 8pm prompt start.

We hope to be able to welcome local councillors, a representative from CAGE and there will be a short talk from the local ward constables; Mel Perryman and Andrew Nash.

We hope you can join us to hear about the latest plans for gravel extraction, the rat run, crime and to raise any other issues you are concerned with in this forum.

There will be the usual free refreshments, including wine and soft drinks, so come along and meet the neighbours, in what we hope will be an interesting meeting.

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MOLEWOOD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 9TH May 2007 at 7.45pm for 8.00pm

AGENDA

1. Introduction

2. Minutes of 2006 AGM

3. Matters arising therefore

4. Chairman's Report

5. Financial Report

6. Election of Officers:-

   Chairman: **Brian Laming is available for re election**

   Secretary: **Joan Murrell is available for re election**

   Treasurer: **Mick Hale is available for re election**

   Auditors: **Tom Busby is the existing auditor and we need to elect an additional auditor; or else, pass a resolution to amend our Rules to allow for us to have only one.**

7. Election of Committee Members:

   The following existing members have agreed to continue: Marie Archer, Kevin Beadle, Geoff Clark, Nick Gough, Helen Graham, Janet Moy, Cary Portas, James Power, Allan Streeton

8. Cage Update

9. Ward Policing

10. Invitation to any council representatives present to address the meeting.

11. Any Other Business

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A Message from the Chairman

A year ago, I was appealing for volunteers to "add new blood" to your Committee and I am glad to say that these were forthcoming. With their added strength and enthusiasm, we are now in a position to play a more active part in the provision of social opportunities for Molewood Residents.

If this is what you want, we hope that you will show your approval by supporting the events we arrange; such as the very enjoyable Quiz Night held in March and the Family Fun Day which is being planned for September. We are also providing representatives of our interests in connection with C.A.G.E. and, also, the controversial traffic problems associated with the "Rat Run". I hope that we are doing what you want BUT EITHER WAY, your presence at our AGM on 9th May is your opportunity to approve, condemn or offer some suggestions for improvement.

Brian Laming

Committee Members

Molewood Residents Association

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These views will be lost unless we act.



Fields at Chapmore End

Campaign Against Gravel Extraction – Bengeo needs to act NOW!

Once more, this subject raises its head and the Chairman of CAGE, George Sandell has written a letter to the Mercury warning of a new application for gravel extraction between Bengeo and Chapmore End.

Your Resident's Association has taken a leading role in supporting CAGE over a long period of time and now, again, we ask you to pull the troops into action once more and write to the council to oppose this before it's too late!

George Sandell writes:
Nineteen years ago, Hertford & Ware woke up to a nasty shock when an application went in to dig the biggest gravel pit in Europe, covering 900 acres north of Hertford. What followed, many readers will remember; was a massive response from the local community and the formation of CAGE to resist the wholesale destruction of our local landscape.

Since then, together with the Hertford Civic Society and others, we have kept the gravel diggers at bay. Had they won at the first attempt, most of the land between Bengeo and Chapmore End would, by now, have been destroyed and the digging would have gone on for another 10 or 20 years.
Now we have another fight on our hands, for the current application is for 10 hectares (24 acres) and this is likely to be the first of further applications which, if not resisted will cover much of the same area that was planned in 1988.

What will in mean to the residents of Hertford and the surrounding area? Let me name but a few: HGV traffic on the B158 Wadesmill Road, where there is now none; noise, dust and loss of access to much of the area where now we should expect tranquillity; the possible pollution of Hertford's water supply and, lastly, damage to local wildlife.

While the formal closing date for objections to the original application is long past, it is not too late for readers to make their views known to the county council, either directly to the county development unit at County Hall, Hertford, or through your county councillor. It's been a long haul and, sadly, such stalwarts as John Corbett and Pam Lutner are not longer with us, but we owe it to them to continue to try to retain the area north of Hertford as a landscape worth campaigning for and not losing it forever under gravel-hungry bulldozers.

Please don't leave it to the few locals in the immediate vicinity to try to stem the creeping tide of gravel workings, but support them by picking up pens and writing now!

George Sandell, Chairman

The Application to extract sand and gravel from Rickney's Quarry is due to be considered by Hertfordshire County Council on Monday, 29th May at 10am at County Hall, Hertford. The original meeting on the 24th April has been cancelled.

Do please come and support us in our efforts to keep the gravel diggers at bay.
This may be our last chance! Enquiries 01992 500422

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Bengeo Water Tower – a view from the top

If you live on the Molewood estate you can't have failed to notice the water tower and have probably used it as a landmark on the way home - particularly from the north. At 100 feet (30.5 metres) in height it is visible for many miles. If you take look closer up through its screen of trees you'll see that it is quite ornate. I certainly prefer it to Tonwell's much newer tower.

When it was built in 1930 we had a Borough Council and they were in charge of the water supply. We have them to thank for deciding that appearance should come before cost because of its location in 'a growing residential district of the town'.

The tower was designed by consultants LG Mouchel & Partners Ltd; the forerunners of Mouchel Parkman who are twinned with the county council in Hertfordshire Highways. The tank holds 200,000 gallons of water. It is actually two tanks - one inside the other. It was built by it cost the princely sum of £7,000.

I have been up the tower and can tell you that the view is fantastic. I had written to Three Valleys Water to ask if I might take a party of neighbours and fellow civil engineers inside. They wanted me to understand the difficulties of climbing all the way to the top so I finally arranged to meet the Production Manager there on 5 November two years ago. It was too dark to take photos but the 360-degree firework show was something to behold.

Unfortunately he retired shortly afterwards and I haven't been able to get anyone in the company to respond to my requests since then. So if there are any Three Valleys employees on the estate.....?

Nick Gough

19 February 2007



A photo of Bengeo Water Tower

Sunday Bus Service – Update

We have had correspondence with various Councillors and the Transport Unit at County Hall on the question of a Sunday bus service and not surprisingly, it comes back to funding.

The matter is to be reviewed again in the light of next year's budget provisions at County and District level.

So watch this bus stop space!



Do you have a Water Meter?

After squelching knee-deep in mud for the later part of winter, we are pleased to hear Three Valleys Water has lifted the hosepipe ban. However, the Environment Agency has classified Hertfordshire as falling in the area at most risk of 'serious water stress'.

One of the solutions is compulsory water metering, which can lower bills by upto 15 percent for the elderly and families where children have moved on. Pressure from plans to build 20,000 new homes and the growing occurrence of water shortages have prompted the debate to be had and so Three Valleys Water are in consultation with its customers to see what their feedback is.

Environment Agency chief, Barbara Young hopes that water metering will help to secure what is a valuable water supply for the future. "We need more action and we need to do things differently if we're to secure our water supplies for the future" (Mercury Feb 16th). More than a third of Three Valleys Water customers already have meters, which could rise to 50 percent by 2010.

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Burglary Increase – Crime Prevention Advice

Written by James Power
Committee Member & Police Officer (MET)



We appear to have had a rise in Burglaries recently.

Certainly the ones that I am aware of have occurred in The Wick and Desborough Close.

There has been a trend of entering through the front door during the night either by force or with doors being left latched but unlocked as an exit in case of fire. However in one case entrance was gained through the rear during daytime. There have also been a number of attempts mainly through the rear of the property and strangers have been cold calling on door steps either selling or pretending to sell tickets or merchandise.

I would like to give our residents some hopefully good crime prevention advice. Make sure that all windows and doors are locked both when you are asleep and are out. I know people are concerned about locking their front door at night so as to exit in case of fire. The ideal situation is to dead lock the front door and leave the keys in a close and accessible place that only you are aware of; a good place would be a drawer in a table stand or even a cupboard under the stairs.

You should never leave your house or car keys out in the hallway or hanging from a piece of string. A common method of burglary is to 'fish' the keys with a small stick or bamboo cane and tilt the stick up so that the keys slide along it to the letterbox. Numerous houses are broken into and a great number of cars stolen from driveways in this manor. In a worse case scenario the burglar can steal your property from downstairs and then make off in your own car!!!

Be wary of strangers calling at your front door. Many would be burglars use this as a means to reconnoitre your property. They can check out your security, and work out what times of day you are likely to be out. If they are opportunists they may even attempt entry at this point if you have left something unsecured. You don't always have to answer the door to a stranger. You can always speak to them through a window or using a spy hole.

Any legitimate caller will have ID, which you can demand to see. Whilst they are outside you can call the persons company/ department to confirm their identity, but don't accept a mobile phone number, always call a landline. If you are in any doubt, don't let them in!

If a burglar disturbs you, the first thing you should do is call the police so that you can get help on the way. If you are alone then try to secure your room either by locking it or barricading the door in some way.

If you are concerned for other family members after calling the police try to secure their rooms, if you are unable to do so and or have alerted the intruder that you know they are there then it is of my opinion that you should shout as loud as you can, telling the intruder that you have called the Police and to get out of your house.

One thing you should bear in mind above all else is that burglars will usually be carrying some form of tool or implement that they will use to break in. These implements can become weapons such as a crow bar or a screwdriver. If you pursue and or corner the intruder in your home they are more likely to use it as a weapon to aide escape. That being said and not wanting to overly alarm you, burglars do not usually want confrontation. They just want in and out with as little fuss as possible.

If you leave your home, particularly after dark leave your TV and lights on. Don't switch on any light that you wouldn't normally have switched on if you were at home. Giveaways for burglars are people who go out and switch on their hall way light and/ or extra lighting. If you don't usually have them on this acts as an advertisement announcing you are not at home.

Don't tell tradesmen or visitors to you're home that you are going out, whether it be for the night or on holiday. Some burglaries occur after work has been completed in the home by tradesmen ... so choose them carefully ...word of mouth/ recommendations are the best way to do this. If you have expensive or desirable items in your home, be wary of leaving them on display in your front or back rooms; sometimes to a thief, it's too good to resist. All of this is basic security.

Below are additional items you can buy to make your home more secure.

Good precautions to have in the house are PIR

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lights, (lights that have sensors), and a house alarm. If you do not want a house alarm, good cheap alternatives are small sensors that you can buy that attach to a door or window frame. They are activated by key, if the door or window is opened. They sound an alarm either instantly or on a time delay. This can give the appearance that the house has an alarm system. You can also use timer plugs for lights and/or the TV; essentially a plug with a timer that connects the mains electricity to a device. That way you can give the appearance of being in when you're actually out. These can be bought from any DIY store or even places like Woolworths. A loud dog (whatever the size) is good for crime prevention. If you don't have or want one though, you can purchase a Dog barker; a speaker with a dog bark recording and is triggered by increase in noise levels.

I have been to some homes where the front door bell is connected to a camera that uses your TV as a monitor. This allows you to see who's at the door and can also record there face although this is the more expensive end to the range.

Often good crime prevention works. A lot of burglars are opportunists and will often b e put off by good security. They usually just want in and out in as short as time as possible with little fuss. You don't have to spend a lot, or go over the top by if you are secure in you habits and have some small and inexpensive gadgets you can protect your home.

Written by James Power – Police Officer (MET)

Bengeo Ward Councillor's Surgery

Meet your local councillors at the following place: Church Hall, Duncombe Road

10 – 11am on the 1st Saturday of each month

Tell them your views on local services and get help and support where needed.

Headlines Expansion Plans

Headlines Hair Studio would like to announce the expansion of the existing salon, which will incorporate the first **L'Oreal Colour Studio** in Hertfordshire and a luxury spa treatment area.

This is due to our very high client demand. **Opening on the 5th June**, look out for details of the launch day to come.

From the **HEADLINES** Team

Bengeo Primary School – Update

There has been another busy term here at school.

There have been many sporting achievements, our football team have got through to the final of the Hope Cup, and this will be played after Easter.

Due to their outstanding performance in Tag Rugby, four of our pupils have been selected to play in the County Youth Games in May.

Our children in Key Stage 1 had the excitement of watching chicks hatch. The eggs were delivered to us with their own incubator – it was wonderful to see them hatch out and grow so quickly! The children enjoyed watching their progress and we were all mesmerised!

Kath Hallahan
Head teacher

New Plant Nursery on Sacombe Road

Driving down Sacombe Road, there is a hive of activity next to the allotments. A new garden nursery is being built on the former Bengeo garden centre site opposite the playing fields.

East Herts Council's development control committee approved the plans for Major Henry William Shepherd, who also runs Watton Nursery in Ware Road, Watton-at-Stone.

This is despite opposition from Hertford Town Council, who argued that the site is in the green belt and believed it would have a 'detrimental impact' on its rural character, causing light pollution and increase traffic.

Residents from Shepherds Court also raised objections due to the proximity of their development to large greenhouses, which will have a visual impact.

The glasshouses will cover a total floorspace of 23,142 sq ft (2150 sq m), and will rise to a maximum height of about 14ft 9in (4.5m). The site will also have 95 car parking spaces.

This development can only be used for the growing and sale of plants.

The Rat Run – Your opinion counts!

Much is happening with the on-going issue of the 'rat run' (the run of roads cutting through lower Bengeo from Bengeo Street down to Beane Road.

Colin Underwood (the Resident's Association representative) has reported that he would appreciate any feedback on the new measures outlined below, from our members. You can contact him on val.colin@hotmail.com with your comments.

The East Herts Joint Members Panel current proposals for an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (six months) are:

- No right turn into Cross Road from Bengeo Street (morning peak hours)
- Tower Street will be one way (easterly)
- Parking restrictions on Byde Street and both sides of Balfour Street

Your Membership Renewal – Time Again!

Dear Members of Molewood Resident's Association,

Yet another year has gone and very soon after our AGM in May, your committee and their helpers will again be knocking on doors for your annual subscriptions.

The subscription money allows the committee to pay for events such as the free summer picnic, planned for later this year and to have money available for legal fees to fight the gravel extraction applications.

We are pleased to advise you that the subscription will remain at £2, which is largely due to the continuing sponsorship of Steven Oates Estate Agents, which have reduced our printing costs.

Please make your collector's job as easy as possible by having the correct money ready. If they were unfortunate enough to call when you are not at home or at an inconvenient time, they would appreciate if you could contact them as advised in the note they will leave.

We are aware that it can be disrupting to keep calling for subscription monies, so your support in calling our volunteers back will make a difference not only to the impact on their time, but also to reduce disruptions to you!

We extend a very warm welcome to new arrivals to Molewood and wish 'bon voyage' to those seeking pastures new.

Great Truths About Growing Old...

- Growing old is mandatory, growing up is optional
- Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get!
- When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there
- You're getting old when you get the same sensations from a rocking chair, that you once got from a roller coaster
- It's frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions
- Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician
- Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

E-news from Herts. Constabulary

If you are interested in finding out the latest news from Herts Police, you can now subscribe to their on-line email service.

With the latest news, advice and information, you can find out what initiatives and schemes are in place to help make Hertford a safe place to live.
Just follow the link from **www.herts.police.uk**

Stolen From Supermarket Basket

Once again we urge ladies to keep a close eye on their bags/purses whilst out and about.

Recently a resident had her bag stolen from ' under her nose'. It was in her super market basket and someone bumped into her after which no trace of her purse was found.

The best advice offered by the police is; If possible any handbags or items of value should be attached to the front of the owner and wallets are also best kept on the inside rather than in rear trouser pockets.

Molewood Residents Association

Presents...

Molewood Family Picnic 2007

Pack a picnic and come join in the fun

Free entry, with all activities free for residents

Confirmed:

Go Karting
for under 8's

Bouncy castle
for the little ones

Wine tasting
for the over 18s

To be confirmed:

Hog Roast

Ice cream van

Inflatable maze/slide

Giant Jenga

Watch this space!

12 till 4, **Sunday 9th September 2007**

Field behind Bengeo Primary School



Sponsored by:





KiddiKarts

Molewood Residents Association

BREEZE & WYLES SOLICITORS

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The Molewood Summer Picnic

Sponsored by

Breeze & Wyles

BREEZE & WYLES
SOLICITORS

"THE LEGAL PEOPLE"
in
Hertford

The solicitors firm of Breeze & Wyles is a practice with 5 offices in Enfield, Cheshunt, Hoddesdon, Bishop's Stortford and Hertford and have been in existence for a considerable number of years.

The Hertford office pride themselves on personal service at all times in trying to assess the needs and wishes of each client. The same culture applies whether the matter relates to conveyancing, wills and probate, family and matrimonial complications, commercial leases, business sales and acquisitions and indeed to all matters where we are instructed. We are highly computerised and our system also enables us to have direct access on-line to legal cases, draft documents and extensive legal material.

Our premises in Hertford provides parking and we are open from 9 am until 5.30 pm including lunchtime.

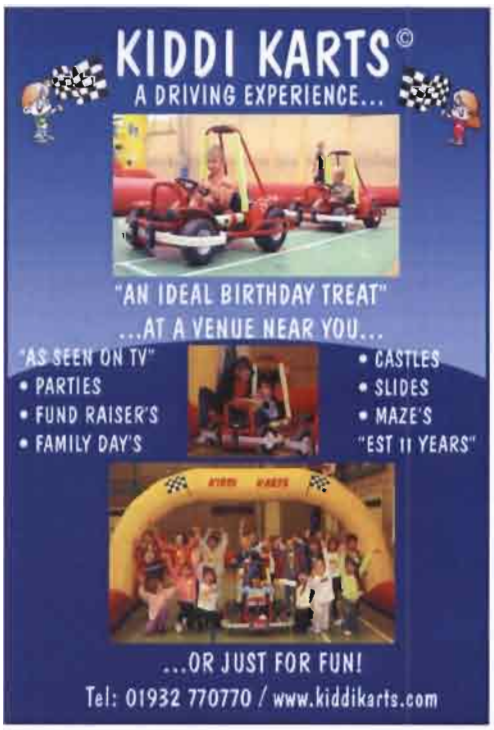
Finally, we are Lexcel accredited which is a high performance quality mark involving a vigorous and regular audit of our work by Lexcel.

Please contact us for all your business and personal needs on 01992 558411. Mr James Williams or Ms Olive McCarthy

Email addresses can be provided on request.

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