

Easter Greetings

The clocks have gone back and Spring is with us.

Unfortunately we have been unable to get you a magazine since the colourful edition that Geoff Church put together for us last summer. If you would like to have a go at using your computer to help the committee please get it touch with us or come along to the Annual General Meeting at the primary school in May.

This short newsletter is based on our website. Have you visited our website http://www.molewood.org.uk yet? Please do it and tell what you think about it, what you'd like to see there or, even better, send us a story or some pictures of something about life on the Molewood that others might like to see. If you go there you can even see back numbers of the Outlook and admire Allan Streeton's great work for us over the years.

Another new thing last year was our new way of collecting your subscription. Rather than spend hours walking from door to door, often calling several times, we sent out a slip inviting you to pay our treasurer, Alan Sewell direct. This year we hope to begin the process earlier and to get it finished by October. But if you still haven't paid for 2011/ 2012 it is still not too late to drop your £2 round to 16 the Avenue.

Your MRA committee

Playground improvements coming

Thanks to Fairview, the builders of the new houses on the Serenity development on Sacombe Road, our children are going to get better play facilities on the field next door.

In May and June you should see the new equipment being installed. Residents in the houses nearby will be getting letters from the builders very soon with more information.

As well as a climbing structure, slide, swings and roundabouts for the smallest children there will be a 'Sportswall' with goal and basketball net and, around the edge of the field, a trim trail for teenagers and older residents to exercise. To see a map of what they are planning go to the MRA website http://www.molewood.org.uk.

Diamond Jubilee street parties

The last time the Asociation ran an outdoor event for all residents was the picnic in September 2007. Those that were there enjoyed it but the turn-out wasn't as good as we had hoped for. Ever since then we've struggled to think of something we could get more of you to come out to. Now it's Diamond Jubilee year the committee thought we'd try a different tack. We're going to let you do the organising but help out with the costs.

Any group of Molewood residents (probably a whole street) who sets up an outdoor party open to their neigbours can claim up to £100 against the cost. The catch? We'd like your stories and photos for the website please.

If you need to stop the traffic for your party on Sunday 3, Monday 4 or Tuesday 5 June the County Council will help you with that free of charge. Go to their website (http://www.hertsdirect.org) and type in 'jubilee street party'. The closing date for applications is 1 May.

Primary school places at a premium

Molewood parents joinined others across Hertford worried that there may not be enough places at local schools for children starting school. The added pressure of families moving into the new houses on Sacombe Road will only make things worse.

The County Council has just announced that places for an additional 30 Reception children will be available at Bengeo School in September 2012. This will mean for one year group only there will be 3 Reception classes of 30. These 3 classes will move through the school as one year group. The school will **not be** having a 'mobile' classroom. The extra class will be accommodated in the present Playgroup room. A new classroom will also be built which will be home to the Playgroup for a year. It will then be used as one of the school classrooms. Bengeo School will get a linking corridor between the two buildings.

Trip to the Swiss Gardens at Shuttleworth House, Biggleswade

Members of the committee are at the early stages of arranging a visit to the Swiss Gardens at Shuttleworth, Bedfordshire in 2012. If you are interested in supporting your committee and volunteering to support our more elderly residents please let Marie Archer know (55 The Wick/ 01992 591965).

Traffic news

Did you see the article on page 3 of the Hertfordshire Mercury of 2 February 2012? It said that the police handed out 40 £30 fines to drivers breaking the right turn ban. It also says that there us an access-only restriction on the estate so drivers should only be using those roads (including The Avenue and The Wick) if they have business on the estate.

Following the discussion by county and district councillors at the Highways Joint Member Panel meeting on 16 January 2012 the idea of using cameras and computers to stop drivers cutting through our estate to beat the queues in town was turned down. But amongst the things they agreed on was to ask the police spend more time stopping cars and vans coming into Cross Road from the north in the morning rush hour.

It's good that they are carrying out some enforcement, that they've reminded drivers of the access-only rule and that they have put it in the context of the concerns of local residents.

Some of you may have noticed the signs warning of up to 14 week closures for roadworks on Byde Street, Balfour Place, Nelson Street and Port Vale. National Grid Gas need to do this to install new gas mains.

Got any thoughts? Drop us a line enquiries@molewood.org.uk or button-hole your friendly local committee member.

New Outlook needed

In 2012 we hope to return to publishing the Outlook every 4 months. To do this we need all our residents to contribute stories, photos and even film clips. Visit the website and see the back numbers of our magazine that are there, the photos and estate agents' details of the estate when it was built in the early 60s and the film clip of a cow on the lose in Cowper Crescent.

We would welcome all your feedback and include a list of names of committee members to drop your ideas in to. Perhaps you are a budding junior journalist and would like to write an article for publication? Maybe you have an idea for a competition that would interest many residents? You may just want to share your experience of life in Molewood and Bengeo. All contributions are welcome.

In light of this request we are launching our first competition of 2012 with a photography challenge. The prize will be both a cover shot on the Summer edition of Outlook and a cash prize of £20. The runners up will also win prizes of £10 and £5 respectively. Please give your printed entries to a committee member or send it by email to enquiries@molewood.org.uk.

Olympic torch coming your way

You may have heard that the torch cavalcade is coming to the Lea Valley on 7 July. The route through Hertford and Ware has been revealed. It arrives at 10:12 then follows these roads: A414 London Rd from Mangrove Road, Fore Street, Market Street, Railway Street, South Street, Fore Street, Ware Road. Then at 10:38 it starts its whistle-stop tour of Ware.

To see the itinerary in full go to the BBC website at http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-17358291

Your committee

Chair
- Brian Laming 49 Cowper Cres

Treasurer
- Alan Sewell 16 The Avenue

Secretary
- Liz Walton 69 The Wick

General members
- Marie Archer 55 The Wick
- Brian Ayres 5 Cowper Cres
- Amanda Dial 114 Cowper Cres
- Peter Dougherty 47 The Wick
- John Edwards 8 The Wick
- Nick Gough 11 Lys Hill Gardns
- Joan Murrell 38 Cowper Cresc
- Rachel Ogier 103 Cowper Cresc
- Ben Penrose 104 Cowper Cresc

What's On

6-9 April Easter weekend

24 May MRA AGM at Bengeo School

26 May Bengeo Playgroup Fun Day

5 June Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

17 June Bayford Musical Gardens Day

24 June Hertford Carnival

7 July Olympic Torch Relay

15 July Folly @ The Folly

24 July School summer holiday starts

27 July Olympic opening ceremony

Molewood Residents' Association

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Thursday 24 May 2012 at 7:15 (for 7:30) pm

at Bengeo School

AGENDA

1. **Introduction**
2. **Minutes of 2011 AGM**
3. **Any Matters arising therefrom**
4. **Chairman's Report**
5. **Financial Report**
6. **Election of Officers:-**

   Chairman: Nick Gough has been proposed to succeed Brian Laming who is not available for re-election.

   Secretary: Liz Walton has been proposed to succeed Joan Murrell who is not available for re-election

   Treasurer: Treasurer, Alan Sewell has been proposed for re-election

   Editorial Team: nominees are needed to replace Nick Gough and Geoff Church

   Examiners of accounts: David Brooks and Colin Crannis are currently our Examiners

7. **Election of Committee Members:**

   The following are existing members: Marie Archer, Brian Ayres, Peter Dougherty, John Edwards, Rachel Ogier, Amanda Dial and Ben Penrose.

   More nominations are invited to bring us up to strength.

8. **Invitation to any elected representatives present to address the meeting.**
9. **Any Other Business**

Refreshments will be available and there will be musical entertainment after the formal business.

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