Molewood Residents Association

THE NEW 'MOLEWOODIANS'





COMMITTEE MEMBERS

NAME	ADDRESS	TEL.(ALL HERTFORD)
CHAIRMAN		
GUY THOMAS	14, THE DRIVE	503443
TREASURER		
DENNIS GOODRUM	43, THE AVENUE	422492
EDITOR		
ALLAN STREETON	22, COWPER CRESCENT	423682
SECRETARY		
PENNY ANDREWS	96, THE AVENUE	586028
PAM LUTNER	107, COWPER CRESCENT	581329
JOAN MURRELL	38, COWPER CRESCENT	587595
KEN LUPTON	23, DESBOROUGH CLOSE	306723
MARIE ARCHER	55, THE WICK	581965
KATE HARRISON	105, COWPER CRESCENT	558959
JANE COOPER	3, WOODHALL CLOSE	584365
GEOFF CLARK	17, THE AVENUE	552913
HELEN GRAHAM	31, THE AVENUE	558168
JANE CLARK	5, WOODHALL CLOSE	587917
PETER LEVER	125. THE AVENUE	422503

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KEY TO COVER PICTURES:-

(Top Photo) L to r. Joan Murrell,Ken Lupton,Helen Graham,Allan Streeton,Pam Lutner,Jane Cooper,Guy Thomas.Dennis Goodrum,Jane Clark,Penny Andrews,Geoff. Clark

(Bottom) L. to R. Marie Archer, Dennis Goodrum. Joan Murrell, Allan Streeton

THE NEW MILLENNIUM

Summer 2000

MOLEWOOD OUTLOOK

THE AGM OF THE MOLEWOOD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION TOOK PLACE AT BENGEO PRIMARY SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAY 3RD. MAY 2000

We had feared that, after many decades, our Residents Association was going to fade with the passing of the old Millennium, never to be heard of again !

The *old* committee had appealed over some years for new and younger blood to bring new ideas and fresh impetus into a group of individuals who had seen the sun setting beyond the water tower for a long time and they now yearned for some space in their lives for other things. Appeals brought little response, bringing nearer the probability of the last rites on an Association which, as stated in our letter prior to the AGM, has been instrumental in achieving so many amenities and improvements to existing conditions – even if we do say so ourselves !

As Councillor Peter Ruffles pointed out at the AGM, we are one of the longest running and have been a more active Residents Association than any others in the area.

But our last ditch effort to rescue the injured steed paid off handsomely following the resignation of SEVEN of our long-serving members at the AGM. PAM LUTNER also stepped down as Chairperson ,making room for new and younger members.

At this stage on behalf of all the residents we would like to say :

THANK YOU PAM FOR ALL YOUR HARD AND DEVOTED WORK AS CHAIRPERSON OVER THE PAST DECADE OR SO.
WE ALL WISH YOU THE VERY BEST FOR THE FUTURE !

Fortunately Pam will still be on hand as a committee member to give us the benefit of her vast experience as and when needed.

Thanks also to the other gracefully resigning members. Long may they continue to enjoy the amenities they helped to create, plus, we hope, many more in the future.

The new younger committee members will no doubt reflect younger Molewoodians views and attitudes, especially those with school children.

We therefore go forward with fresh motivation and renewed energy !

Heading our revived/revised team will be incoming Chairman **GUY THOMAS.**

GUY moved to Bengeo from Barnet in 1992. He is married to CAROLINE and they have three sons - Benjamin 8, Harry 5 and 3 year old Miles.

Guy works as a Human Resource Consultant with Business Link Hertfordshire.

His hobbies include squash, walking and D.I.Y.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

It has been longer than we can remember since the last increase in the subs (in groats at the time ?) For sure, the £1.50 existing sub. was worth substantially more than it is today.

So in accordance with the Rules of the Association, a copy of which is annexed to this 'Outlook', your committee has decided to increase the annual subscription to £2, which we assume has met with your approval as almost all residents have paid up with a smile - for which many thanks!

It has been suggested by some members that they would like to see the Association organise another Social event, such as a dance, outing, etc. Many will recall the success of the Canal Cruise a year or two ago, as well as other enjoyable group outings.

SO -let us hear your suggestions...PLEASE as, without them we cannot know what YOU want!

It is hoped that some money will be used for two more seats placed stragetically on the estate (' Millennium Seats ') Seats are always a welcome restplace for the growing number of elderly pedestrians.

YOUR SHOUT !

The following is another welcome contribution to our newsletter from Headteacher Sandie Ford with the latest school news.

(May 2000)

" During the past term we have been making the most of our local facilities. The younger children visited Waterford Heath and enjoyed finding out about the variety of plants and animals to be found there.

Year 5 children walked into Hertford to look at the canal and riverbanks. Pupils in year 6 again took part in the Citizenship Project held at Morgans School in Hertford.

We are also fortunate to have tremendous support from P.C. Colin Clare who visits school regularly to talk to the children on a range of issues.

Our Governors have been active in promoting the Road Safety initiative in the area and the children have taken part part in " Walk to School Week ".

Caring for the environment is an on-going theme in many of our learning topics. Two of our year 6 pupils came second and third in the CPRE-The Hertfordshire Society-poster competition for the Village of the Year, and we are taking part in the Local Authority's " Energy Challenge".. In spite of the miserable weather the children have been really helping us to save energy and protect the environment.

We are happy to be able to provide the venue for the Molewood Residents' AGM and understand that the Committee is continuing to flourish, providing such a good association for the area.

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BENGEO DAY....
(July) Well, rain may have stopped play at the Centre Court, but on the same day visitors' enthusiasm on Bengeo's big day out couldn't be dampened !

CAR WARS !

A letter received in March from NICK GOUGH of Lys Hill Gardens echoes the thoughts and actions of our committee over many years:-

" We all have reasons for living where we do but the abundance of well-tended green space in our roads must be near the top of most peoples' list of reasons for picking the Molewood Estate.
It is therefore saddening to see people prepared to park their cars on public grass areas. It happens in Woodhall Close because of the design of the road and its houses, but should not happen anywhere else.
Unfortunately I see it taking place along the Avenue and in Lys Hill Gardens.
Cars belong on the road, in the lay-bys at the shops or ideally in the garages and drives at most of our houses. If there is no more space at any of those then it is time for all of us to consider seriously whether we need so many cars"

We sympathise with the sentiments expressed and have campaigned against parking on greens for many years, although, as a committee, we cannot enforce the laws which prohibit this illegal practise.
With so many families now owning several vehicles it is not possible for all vehicles to be parked in garages or driveways and we can only - yet again -ask that cars are parked sensibly leaving neighbours able to enter and exit their own drives safely !
Cars should not be parked in the shops' parking bays on a permanent basis as this area is principally for delivery vehicles and buses.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Since the last issue we have been very fortunate that there have been few cases of burglary within the area of our Neighbourhood Watch. In fact there have been just two involving theft from garages. This does not mean however that we can be less vigilant. One of these days our area may be pinpointed and it is all the more reason that we all keep a look-out for anything that looks abnormal. Do not forget that if you notice something going on in your location that you are not happy about ring the police. It is much better that they are aware and can action the matter at the time rather than be called in some time later when the chances are that it will be all too late.

Thefts from garages was mentioned earlier. It is surprising the number of people who leave their garages open where tools etc. can be seen from the road or pathway. This is inviting trouble especially when the occupant has just gone to deliver children to the school or just nipped to the local shops.

A large proportion of thefts that occur are drug related and the thief does not really want the item that he is stealing for himself but rather to sell it on at say a boot sale to get money to buy drugs. So it is that these types of thefts/burglaries are of an opportunist nature and garages and sheds left unlocked are just what the thief is looking for. The same applies to doors and windows in the house itself - if the house is left unoccupied and doors and windows are not secured then it is an invitation to a burglar to enter and steal.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Residents Association the question was asked why do we not see a local bobbie, like John Baldwin, these days? The answer is that the local police numbers are such that they cannot afford to have a local policeman on the beat especially in an area like ours where the crime rate is so low. Until such time as the police resources in terms of manpower is increased then we will not see a neighbourhood policeman like John Baldwin in the area. This does not mean that should an incident occur that requires police presence that they will not respond. All calls will be prioritised and dealt with accordingly.

This means to a great extent we are responsible, as far as we can be, in being watchful in what goes on in the neighbourhood and where necessary making sure that anything out of the ordinary is reported to the police immediately. By doing so we will perhaps be able to prevent a lot of heartache especially where elderly people may be concerned.

As most people will know we do have a system called VOICEMAIL by which the police can transmit messages by telephone to individuals living on the estate who have agreed to be on the system. A large proportion of residents are indeed on the system. In addition we have a number of Co-ordinators to whom the police can contact should it be necessary who in turn can pass messages on to residents. This is of vital importance, if for instance, a high priority message needed distributing and the Voicemail system had failed. Our particular 'Watch' is a big one and unfortunately the number of Co-ordinators does not meet the needs. We therefore need volunteers in all areas of the 'Watch' to help to keep the system viable. The question that is sure to be asked is "What does it entail". In true terms not a lot. As has been said the crime rate in the area is extremely low so the number of calls that a Co-ordinator is likely to action is very small. If a call is received needing the information to be passed on ,then that would be to the houses in the immediate vicinity. In addition every three months or so a Co-ordinator meeting is held at which the local police are in attendance.

Anyone who would like to volunteer to help please contact Ken Lupton on 306723 or call at No 23 Desborough Close who will be pleased to give any further information.

LIST OF CURRENT CO-ORDINATORS

		Tel.
Ken Lupton	23 Desborough	306723
Gilbert Smith	15 The Drive	583168
Rod Day	13 Cumberland	586096
Edith Ruggles	17 Lys Hill	503527
Pat Brooks	87 Cowper	587809
Pam Lutner	107 Cowper	581329
Ron Cain	73 Cowper	589741
Pat Betts	42 The Wick	504057
Lynette Middleton	The Cottage High Molewood	500490

As you can see there are lots of areas that do not have cover **SO PLEASE HELP.**

DEVELOPMENTS

We are all only too well aware of the massive housing projects taking place in Hertfordshire over the next few years, the original idea of *green belt* having been somewhat shaded.
On our own doorstep we have the field adjacent to the play area and sports field in Sacombe road which has been graded as *brownfield* suitable for *in-fill* housing development, something that all householders in that vicinity will be up in arms over !
Apart from obstructing the existing scenic view of rolling countryside it will exacerbate the already mounting vehicle problem, especially at school-run times, not to mention the added congestion likely with access to Sacombe Road !
At present this area is first on the reserve list but should any of the areas on the main list be considered unacceptable then this site would become ' first line'.
This *could* take place in as little as two years from now !

More details as and when they become available.

GARDEN CENTRE

One small pocket of re-development which will be *welcomed* by all on the estate is the return of the old GARDEN CENTRE in Sacombe Road, after many years of dereliction.
As you no doubt will have noticed the remains of the old building have been demolished and the site prepared for new buildings.
It is hoped that this may be up and running by next year and, for an estate containing such a group of green-fingered enthusiasts, it will be ideal to have a garden centre so close at hand again !

Watch both these spaces !

BENGEO FUN-DAYS

It always rains on a Sunday (plus the other 6 days !) but that didn't dampen the enthusiasm of participants in TWO July Sunday events:-
BENGEO DAY at Bengeo Primary County was a roaring success with a record sum being raised. in spite of the frequent heavy showers.
No doubt actress GILLIAN TAYLFORTH'S presence made a difference.....and .....

Our Avenue shopping parade was festooned with balloons for the other *fund-day* when 169 cyclists took part in a **BIKE-A-THON** when they raised £40,000.
SHEILA HAND of Lodge Close championed the cause of the more *mature* residents proving that at 69 she could still show the youngsters a clean pair of cycle clips !
The sum raised went towards the breast unit appeal.

A CUT ABOVE THE AVERAGE ?

In May our new Chairman, Guy Thomas took up the cudgels with Environmental Services, E.H.D.C.about the length of time and quality of cutting of our greens.
How long was it ? Estimates put it at over 12" at times !
The reply from EHDC states that the specification " does not make any allowances for quality or meeting the demands of the seasonal fluctuations of growth"
The current contract is due for renewal on 31st. March next when, hopefully,the specified number of cuts may be increased from the present 6 per year.
Don't hold your breath !
Some conscientious residents took the law and their mowers into their own hands and proceeded to make a far neater and professional job of the lawns than the so called professional grass cutters. Well done !
However, for liability reasons this is *illegal* although born out of frustration over the *mess* to which the greens have been reduced.
The ridiculous controversy over whether we are treated as *residential* rather than *highways* still exists.
We have sent photos of a - then - recent cut to bring to the attention of the Council what a fine mess the lawns were in.
It is particularly frustrating when one sees the neat state of lawns on other estates and even the greens adjacent to the *highways* in Welwyn Garden City !
A cut late in June did reduce the height somewhat but still left the greens unkempt with the grass left strewn around the place.
If all the residents were as dilatory with their private lawns the estate would be in a far worse state!
Your committee are pursuing this matter with the utmost pressure and *will do everything in their power to improve on the situation where we are one of the WORST maintained estates in this region.*
THIS we guarantee !
We strongly recommend that everyone writes a personal letter to the East Herts District Council(after all, YOU have to pay for the 'cuts' !)

WATERFORD HEATH

Many of us will have watched the slow evolvement of the Heath, following the restoration from Gravel Pits and with, allegedly, the wettest April and May on record, the growth of fauna and flora has been phenomenal.
Wild flowers like *bird's-foot trefoil, bee orchard and ox-eye daisy:* wild life like *kestrels and herons, ringlet and grizzled skipper butterfly* are in abundance. This is over a glorious vista taking in Beane Valley and Bramfield wood.
Your Association played a role in its transformation and it is gratifying to see such a large area made suitable for **walkers,** hikers and horse-riders, although during the weekdays it is almost solely used by local dog-walkers.
Recently swathes have been left for walkers following the cutting back of blue and white *goats Rue.* Colourful though this was it was blanketing the area preventing the development of other interesting species.
The area is great for owners and their pooches both of whom get much needed exercise as well as being a meeting place allowing both species to ' socialise'.
It does cause problems however in an area which we have often written about previously which is dog fouling. As we have reiterated the faeces can contain *toxecama (* dangerous to children)and some footpaths are strewn, although it is hoped that dog bins will be in place before long.
There are lots of *rough* areas where it would be very difficult to locate the dogs' chosen sites and it would completely defeat the object of the (dog's) exercise to keep the poor muts permanently leashed.
It is a delight to see them leaping like gazelles and chasing each other in the long grass.
(The dogs enjoy it too!)
We appeal to owners (known to each other as " Butch ", " Rover" etc.) to *keep the paths clear,* in the interest of *all* users of this lovely tract of open countryside.
As the notice at the entrance says " Please take your litter home with you "
If you receive this in time Waterford Heath events are as follows:-
Celebration Event Saturday 22nd. July
Fungi Walk Saturday 3rd. September
More information about WATERFORD HEATH has been provided by ROSE MOORE of Groundwork Hertfordshire who writes:-

"We are now at the end of our three year Changing Places Programme at Waterford Heath. The Changing Places Programme is a National Groundwork Programme, sponsored by the Millennium Commission and has made a significant contribution to the issues of derelict and neglected land through the regeneration of a total area of over 1,000 hectares. Waterford Heath is one of 21 Changing Places sites across the country which range from the transformation of former colliery sites to the regeneration of a redundant chemical waste tip .

The consultation process for the project started in 1996 and resulted in the creation of a very keen Steering Group, which is made up of representatives from the Herts and Middx Wildlife Trust, The British Horse Society, local residents associations and Parish Councils.

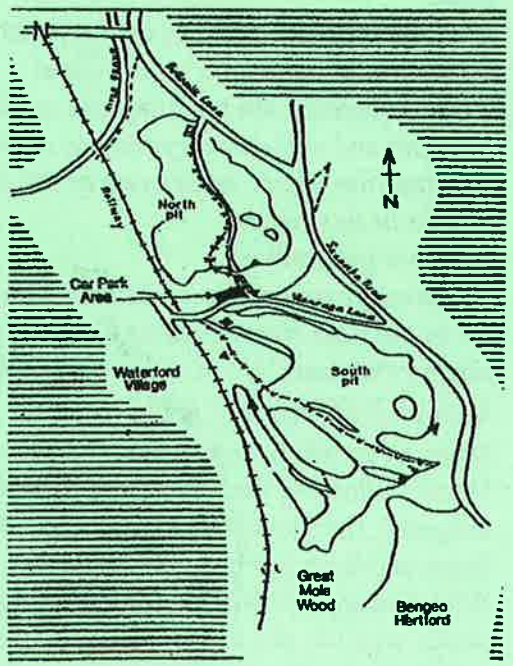
Over the years with much support from the local community and Redlands the Heath has undergone a series of developments and changes, predominantly habitat creation, for example, creating ponds, tree planting and creating glades which are attractive to butterflies. An Ecological Management Plan has been undertaken by Herts and Middx Wildlife Trust which has identified how rich in wildlife the site really is. One of our other main priorities has been to improve access to local people and we have therefore opened up a number of routes across the Heath.

Over the three years we have involved approximately 6 local schools with the Heath, three of the schools (Tonwell, Hollybush and Bengeo) have been involved in our GreenIT projects. Groundwork's GreenIT initiative gives school pupils the opportunity to be actively involved in the initiation, design and implementation of environmental improvements to their local area. Tonwell and Hollybush school have been involved with designing nature trail boards for the North and South Heath, which identify the different habitats and which can be found there.

Hollybush School also helped design a leaflet which has now been produced. Bengeo School have helped produce the information boards which have been recently installed.

An artist has been commissioned from Groundwork National Office to produce a piece of artwork that is representative of the 21 Changing Places Sites for Waterford Heath. A piece of artwork has been produced, titled 'Breaking the Mould 'based on the theme of the transformation from industry to nature. With the approval of the Steering Group, it is planned that the sculpture will be in place on the Heath by late summer.

A two day Celebration event has been planned for the Heath to mark the end of the project. These are Friday 15th September (Schools Festival) and Saturday 16th September."



VANDALS

In spite of all the efforts we and residents have made to improve facilities in the PLAY AREA our efforts have been thwarted by the work of vandals.
Goal post have been ripped out, doggy bins have been vandalised, etc. not for the purpose of acquiring by stealing but JUST for the sheer sake of wanton destruction !
If. as seems likely, the destroyers are youngsters and they are not brought to book, they stand an excellent chance of growing up to be hardened criminals.

If you see any such wanton destruction taking place please inform the police or should you suspect any local youngsters follow up with some enquiries.
In the long term you may be doing yourself, neighbours and even the youngsters themselves a good turn !

SILENCE of the NEIGHBOURS

According to recent research *one third* of Britons do not know their neighbours !
The days of chit-chat over the garden fence is rare , at least in this region of the U.K.
Most people lead a life of anonymity in their fortress ' castles'.
Strangely. also these days, *communication* is the name of the game with easy access to mobile phones, scores of TV channels. video games and, of course, a growing number of *internuts* with their dot. com. slash and daily e/mails, often to complete strangers.
Ah, but surely not *our* friendly little onion patch.....?
Well, how many residents go out of their way to call on and welcome newcomers to the estate or invite them in for a cuppa ?
Without having established a friendly rapport with those around us it makes it more difficult to communicate when problems arise. We would rather fume in our own house than make a first friendly approach, which would in many cases resolve matters and avoid them becoming *disputes.*
With the advent of 2 cars or more per household VEHICLES and parking cause more friction than almost anything else.
Rather than amicably discussing any possible disputes many would rather take immediate action which frequently has the effect of inflaming the situation at an early stage.
So, the next time someone parks opposite your driveway (on a narrow road)making it very difficult to enter and exit, have a friendly word before taking up the cudgels !
Remember....." It's good to talk "

AND -dare we re-iterate it....if you have a garage, space, or driveway PLEASE use it !
Well - we were rather worried that the **MOLEWOOD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION** had come to the end of the line and it may have been —" would the last one out please turn out the lights ".

The final few words from our new Chairman GUY THOMAS echoes the thoughts of everyone:-
I am very pleased to ' take over the baton' from PAM LUTNER who has served on the Molewood R.A. committee for some 37 years !
We now have a mix of new and original committee members to take YOUR Association forward in the year 2000.
As there are some 550 householders on the Molewood Estate. it is important that the committee hears your views and concerns.
So if you have any views or comments that you want to make, please don't hesitate to let a committee member know and we can try and do something about it.
Thank you.

THE LAW

Nothing is impossible to the man who can, will, and then do; this is the only law of Success.

Mirabeau

Enjoy the rest of the..... *summer*?
(What's all this about *Global Warming ?* The summer was more than half over before it had begun !)

Back later in the year !

Revised Rules, Molewood Residents' Association

TITLE

1. The title of the Association shall be the Molewood Residents' Association.

OBJECTS

2. The objects of the Association shall be generally to further and protect the interests of the Molewood area residents.

AFFILIATION

3. The Association shall be independent of all political parties.

MEMBERSHIP

4. Membership shall be open to residents of the Molewood area on application and payment of the appropriate subscription.
5. Membership shall cease should the subscription not be paid within six months of the date due.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

6. The subscriptions shall be a sum to be agreed annually by the Committee.
7. The subscription shall become due and payable immediately following the Annual General Meeting each year.

OFFICERS

8. The Officers of the Association shall be a Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer who shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

MANAGEMENT

9. The management of the Association shall be the responsibility of a committee which shall consist of:-
   (a) The Officers
   (b) and other members of the Association who shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE

10. No business shall be transacted by the Committee unless five Committee members are present, one of whom being an Officer.
11. The Committee shall have the power to fill vacancies among the Officers which may occur during its term of office.
12. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt members onto the Committee; such co-opted members may not at any time constitute a majority of the Committee nor a majority at any meeting of the Committee.
13. The Committee may appoint a Vice-Chairman, an Assistant Secretary and an Assistant Treasurer and such sub-committees as it thinks fit but such sub-committees shall only be advisory to the Committee.
14. The time between Committee meetings shall not exceed ten weeks.

FUNDS

15. The funds of the Association shall be deposited as determined by the Committee.
16. All drawings on the funds must be signed by the Treasurer and one other Officer of the Association.

GENERAL MEETINGS

17. The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held in the second quarter of each year.
18. A Special General Meeting may be called by the Committee at any time and must be called by the Secretary on a requisition in writing signed by at least 5 per cent of the membership; such meeting shall be called within 21 days of the receipt of the request.
19. The Agenda of any General Meeting shall be circulated not less than 10 days before the meeting. Business transacted at a Special General Meeting shall be confined to matters stated on the Agenda.
20. Nominations for the office of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, for members of the Committee and for the Auditors shall be in writing signed by the proposer and seconder and by the nominee and shall be handed to the Secretary before the Annual General Meeting. If no such nomination is received for a particular post nominations for that post may be received from the floor at the meeting.
21. The Accounts of the Association shall be made up to the 31st March in each year and shall be audited annually by two Auditors who shall not be members of the Committee. Such Auditors shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.
22. The Committee shall not dissolve the Association without prior notice to the membership and the calling of a Special General Meeting.

AMENDMENTS

23. These rules shall be amended only at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting called for such a purpose. Notice of proposed alterations of the rules shall be made in writing to the Secretary 21 days before such meeting.

Rules as amended and agreed at A.G.M. 23rd May, 1988.