MOLEWOOD
OUTLOOK

Summer 2001



Molewood Residents Association

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 ANDREW	96, THE AVENUE	586028

PAM LUTNER	107, COWPER CRESCENT	581329
JOAN MURRELL	38, COWPER CRESCENT	587595
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	423026

Molewood Outlook

URGENT !- please give your IMMEDIATE attention to action required on SACOMBE ROAD development !

xxxxxxxxxxxxx

Welcome to Summer

at long last!-
AND, of course to another edition of OUTLOOK.
The gardens on the 'onion patch' are getting even better with each year of maturity of our picturesque, much sought after estate and *we want to keep it that way* with no encroachment in the form of a new development in the middle!
More on that later .....

Thanks to all who have paid up their sub's with a smile ,which *still* remain at only £2 p.a.!
Apologies for not producing this edition sooner, which was due to technical problems on our PC. Excuses !
It was to have been a *Spring* issue.
Spring ? What Spring ?
Following March, which ended *the wettest six months since records began,* we then suffered weeks of winter temperatures, and more rain!

Thankfully, the hustings, which got off to a *thumping* good start , and the elections are now all over.
No prizes for guessing the results !

Let's keep our *local* representatives working hard in *our interests !*

A.G.M.

It was almost standing room only when over 100 members crowded into the School Hall for the . AGM on May 2nd ——the 36th.!
It was also well supported by local Councillors, including PETER RUFFLES who rounded off the evening with his fascinating slide show of old Hertford.
Councillor Ruffles expressed the view that any development on Sacombe road would probably not take place for another 8-10 years .....(optimistic ?.)

PC COLIN CLARE of the Police Liaison Committee Crime and Disorder Section (the nearest thing to the old ' local Bobby') mentioned that our Molewood is one of the safest areas in Hertford , hence the reason for keeping more police in crime-ridden areas rather than our own patch.

He thanked KEN LUPTON for all his hard work as Neighbourhood Watch Chairman, but reiterated Ken's views that more support would be appreciated from residents to ensure that it *keeps that way !*

The old hoary chestnut ' RAT RUN ' was raised which, as we all know, is NOT working as it would be impossible to police transgressors who could always claim to be ''visiting shops...friends, etc. '' i.e. *accessing.*
A full report appears later.

Other matters discussed were :-

The Garden Centre (another planning application - but no further work done)

Grass Cutting (Peter Ruffles suggested it would be ideal to have the grass cut '' when it needed it'')
Ideal - if a Contract of this nature could be drawn up, although the new contract promises that the greens will be cut every three weeks.

Water Rates Discount (See Joan Murrell's article.)

Chairman, GUY THOMAS thanked all who contributed, including the School for the use of their premises.

As usual a congenial atmosphere prevailed helped, no doubt, by members partaking from a large selection of delicacies washed down with liquid refreshments including red and white *vino* !

A MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEER....Dennis Goodrum (422492)

After retiring in 1984, I joined up with the Hertford W.V.S. Scheme on a non regular basis i.e. as an emergency volunteer. In due course I was put on the rota as a regular weekly driver and that is how I remain today, although as a fortnightly driver. For a large part of my time I was partnered by my wife, but since the arrival of a new grandchild, her energies have been redirected !

There are five separate rounds covering the town, and each round has between say 12 and 20 plus meals Your rota duties switch between any of the rounds, unless you state otherwise, and it is usually possible to be replaced if you need a day off. As in all things technology has made its appearance. For some years meal containers were made of metal, with a tray containing hot coals at the bottom, but now we have polystyrene boxes which keep meals hot and don't cause a rug in the car boot to smoulder!

For the most part our clients are very pleased to see us, and some like a chat to brighten their day. They are not all old – some are younger with disabilities or other health problems, and sometimes they take some time to answer the door, a fact usually recorded in our "round book". Diabetic needs are provided for, and you have to be careful to deliver the correct meals, which are specially marked, to the client. Sometimes this has occasioned a quick return when the wrong meal has been handed out!

Meals are only delivered on Monday, Tuesday and Friday, but there are arrangements with other sources by which meals can be provided on other days. At present our meals cost £1.40 per day and can be paid weekly or daily or by monthly account. In order to become eligible for meals, clients have to be recommended by their doctor.

The Meals Service provides a vital public service, and deserves support from the general public. Considering the number of people now retired there should be plenty of volunteers, but this is not entirely so, and completing the rota depends a lot on the use of the emergency volunteers. So spare Hertford Meals on Wheels a thought, and consider joining if you are able. It takes roughly two hours between leaving home and returning on each occasion and for those who act as drivers there are mileage repayments. SO HOW ABOUT IT?

Dennis (unbelievably nearly 80 and a very talented pianist!) gives details of his Treasurer's report on a separate page)

MRS MOLE'S NATURE NOTES .....-Joan Murrel

A few weeks back, about the middle of March, I was cycling along The Avenue, turned that sharp corner into Church Road when I noticed a frog/ toad trying to hop across the road. So I got off my bike and put him on the footpath that slopes down to Molewood Road and the river. Then I noticed four more hopping across the road. I managed to catch two more – you can only pick them up one at a time as they are quite difficult to hold being so wriggley and slimy. The other two then got squashed by a car. I hunted around and found four more. I was there for about half an hour and rescued about nine but sadly I left six squashed corpses lying in the road, poor souls.

Spring seems to be a very dodgy time for wild life. I was watching the blue tits bringing all their little twiggy bits to the nesting box and trying to push them through the hole into the box. The trouble was, they would try and push them in horizontally, so most of the twiggy bits dropped on to the ground underneath, poor little birds, all those journeys they make too and fro, I am tempted to give them a helping hand and poke all the wasted bits into the hole – but would Mr and Mrs B.T. appreciate my help!

RED CROSS.....Allan Streeton

e-mail -alboye@ntlworld.com : H. 423682

Many years ago I became an authorised driver for the local Red Cross in Hertford taking local people to hospitals, clinics and other establishments for various treatments, consultations, etc. This provided me with a great interest and I was able to meet people from the mainly elderly and sometimes a little infirm, and also felt that I was putting something back into the community, having lived in Bengeo for nearly 35 years.

Red Cross headquarters is situated in Baker Street and it not only provides *door to door* transport by local people in their own cars, but the Red Cross drivers also wait, sometimes for an hour or more whilst the patients are treated or have a consultation.
Some patients are in and out within the half hour but longer waiting times can be a bit frustrating unless, like me, you enjoy ' people watching'.
In some cases, where transport is available and drivers are willing to do so, people can also use the service for purposes other than visits to hospitals or clinics etc. i.e. social visits or holidays, although this is very much subject to driver availability.

If anybody would like to avail themselves of this service I would be delighted to give further details or they may wish to ring direct to the co-ordinator on 01992 509323 and ask for Len Milbourne.

At the same time there may be others on this estate who would like to give an hour or two each week, or however much time they wish to devote, to transport patients to such hospitals as County, Herts and Essex, Princess Alexandra, etc. A reasonable mileage allowance which usually more than covers the cost of any journeys is given by the Red Cross and the charge is passed on to the patient with added VAT.

USE 'EM - OR LOSE 'EM !

We wrote previously about using the Avenue shops. We wonder how many local motorists start out with this in mind and, finding every space occupied , speed off down to Hertford to get their supplies ?
(To those householders who *permanently* park their cars in the two shopping bays.....*PLEASE* don't !) and....once again.....
SPEEDING in The Avenue is *still* a problem, not only by some residents but also those using the cut-through Rat Run.
The Police have been made aware of the situation and may well be making spot checks from time to time.
Before any serious accidents occur, especially to children or the elderly, PLEASE KILL YOUR SPEED and, if you know of anyone who habitually uses this estate like Brands Hatch, ...warn them also !

RAT RUN

This matter still raises its ugly head apart from the fact that its "head" is never lowered and a firm of consultants were once again looking into this matter in March to see what solutions could be found for those affected.

As stated by our friendly neighbourhood bobby at the AGM, policing this existing system would be most difficult as almost anybody could claim that they were using it for "access only" i.e. to call on friends, to shop, etc

TRAFFIC CALMING AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

To help you decide which measures you think would be best,here is a description of the various possibilities:-

JUNCTION TABLES

Junction Tables are large flat top humps constructed across junctions to reduce the speed of approaching vehicles. They also provide a level place for pedestrians to cross.

Benefits

Reduce vehicle speeds at junctions. Highlight junctions to motorists. Provide level crossing point for pedestrians. May deter rat-running traffic

Possible Disadvantages

Pedestrians may not take care. Vehicles may drive onto footway unless bollards are used.

CHANGE IN PRIORITY

Give way signing at junction can be changed so as to introduce delays for rat-running through traffic.

Benefits

Will reduce the speed of rat-running traffic. Will increase journey times and may reduce rat-running traffic.

Possible Disadvantages

Some drivers may divert to alternative routes and that is also undesirable

EXPERIMENTAL RIGHT-TURN BAN

The imposition of a morning peak hour right turn ban into Cross Road from Bengeo Street would be difficult to enforce, but very much simpler than the current "access only" signs.

Benefits
Will have an effect on rat-running traffic, but relies on effective enforcement.
Possible Disadvantages
Traffic will take an alternative route that may still be undesirable.

ONE WAY STREET
Used to lengthen the journey to discourage rat-running and to ease the conflicts at junctions where residents' cars are being damaged by through traffic

Benefits
Can discourage through traffic. Can reduce movement conflicts. Can improve parking arrangements. Can incorporate contra-flow cycle routes in appropriate circumstances. Can create width for new or wider footways.
Possible Disadvantages
May lead to higher speeds because of the absence of opposing traffic. May require additional speed reducing features. Will increase the length of some journeys. Will increase traffic on some roads.

ROAD NARROWINGS
Road Narrowings are width restrictions which are used to narrow the road on either one or both sides of the carriageway.

Benefits
Reduce traffic speeds. May deter rat-running. Prevent parking at hazardous sites.
Possible Disadvantages
Require greater levels of driver skill to negotiate. May cause conflicts. Increased signs. Can reduce available parking for residents.

Other options include road closures involving the installation of a permanent closure to the section of Byde Street between the junctions of Wellington Street and Farquhar Street. This would be the most effective means of stopping "rat-running", but would reduce freedom of access for local drivers. A bypass could be provided for cyclists. A lockable gate could also be installed for use by emergency services, but this facility would not be available for residents.

Alternatively, some residents may wish to leave things as they are and so opt for the following: "do nothing option" this would maintain the 'status quo'. There will be further reports in the press and your comments are, as always, invited.

WATER RATES – SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE – PART 1

Following on from the recent enquiry at the last AGM as to how many people there had received their surface water rebate from Thames Water. The Molewood estate properties are entitled to this rebate because Ofwat decided that Thames Water could not charge for rainwater which did not drain into the sewerage system. Quite a few people at the meeting were not aware of this fact but it was mentioned in a previous Molewood magazine. This is the number to ring to request an application form 0845 300 234 – mind you, so far I have telephoned Thames Water three times and they keep saying they have run out of application forms, but it is annoying to think that we have been paying for something unnecessarily. I think the rebate for one year is only about £15 but adding together the number of properties on the estate, Thames Water have done pretty well out of Molewood.
(Ed's note:- ! I received the current rebate of £15.50 plus confirmation that my standing charge has been reduced.
So keep trying !)

HOW TO REDUCE THE COST OF YOUR WATER/SEWERAGE BILL – PART 2

If you are currently 'unmetered' your water charges are based on the rateable value of your property, a very outdated measure which I believe is an estimate of its rentable value at some time in the distant past, a method which preceded the poll tax. This bears no relation to the actual water usage. If you have a meter installed you will pay an annual charge plus a charge per cubic metre (220 gallons) of water used. Your usage will depend on many factors of course – how many persons in the household, how much you water your lawn etc. In our case (with two people in the household) the bill has reduced from £346 pa (99/00 based on rateable value) to £150 pa (00/01 based on water meter) this includes the £15 saving mentioned earlier. We continue to use water the same as we've always done and we seldom water the lawn anyway.

Three Valleys Water will send you an information pack (0845 769 7985) and will fit a meter FREE. They will also supply a free HIPPO which is a small folding plastic box which fits in the toilet cistern and reduces slightly the quantity of water used with each flush.
George Marven 586027

LOCAL BUS SERVICE
(ERRATUM)
Apologies for an error in the last Outlook mentioning a Sunday bus service.
This of course should have read—
SATURDAY !

BIRD KILLERS!

Would *you* deliberately maim or kill the lovely finches who sing away in your garden, or any other birds for that matter ?
Well, you might well be doing so even though it may be unwittingly .....by kindness !
Salmonella and E.Coli are affecting our feathered friends as well as humans and this is being picked up from infections found in bird tables. The food, mixed with bird droppings can be a lethal mix , so keep their drinking water clean and change the position of a bird table/feeder periodically and *keep it regularly cleaned out with disinfectant* - if only—strictly for the boids !

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

You will have read earlier the statement that our area has a very low crime rate.
Long may it remain so !
This does not mean we should reduce our vigilance.
As recently as June 2/3rd four houses were burgled in Bengeo Street . In one house not only was property stolen but because keys were also found it resulted in a car being stolen as well.
Please read the enclosed letter regarding Neighbourhood Watch and please volunteer to be considered as a Co-ordinator.

Ken Lupton
Chairman, Neighbourhood Watch

BENGEO WATER TOWER

I wonder if it has occurred to any Molewood Residents that this huge tower might be adapted for use to provide substantial energy covering all the Bengeo area ?
At the moment the Water Co. must get a really good return moneywise by allowing these mobile phone companies to use the tower for their signal transmitting purposes , but it still hasn't been positively proved whether or not they do transmit radiation in spite of all the assurances given by interested parties.
We all live at the top of a steep hill where we get a very strong wind force. Imagine how much green energy (free electricity) a wind turbine would provide if it was erected on top of the water tower ?(if the water tower were strong enough to take the wait of a turbine big enough to supply the area)
Alternatively, and this would probably be more acceptable to those living in close proximity to the water tower, why not put wind turbines across the Sacombe road field instead of the proposed 70 houses and probably 140 more cars. It would then definitely retain its status as ' green' and the farmer would also be able to use it for field crops.
I would be very interested to hear other residents' views on this idea. Would you please send any replies to the Editor.
Many thanks.
Joan Murrell.

YOUR SHOUT.....at the Police !

Yes, on Monday 9th. July at 7.30 in the Red Cross Hall at Baker Street you can have YOUR say to a committee who will be there to answer your questions.
If you want to alert the panel on a subject close to your heart you can write, fax or email to:-

Hertfordshire Police Authority,
FREEPOST,ANG 6281
Hertford SG13 8YS
Tel.555628 Fax 55625

e-mail annie.saunders@hertscc.gov.uk
Summaries of the Police Authority's countrywide Policing Plan will be available at the meeting. This contains the policing priorities and objectives for this year.
Parking available (''Excuse me, Sir, is this your vehicle.....'')

MOLEWOOD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2001

	2001		2000	
Income from Members				
Membership Subscriptions and Donations		1042		784
Interest Received (Net of Income Tax)		8		4
		1050		788
Less Association Expenses				
Annual General Meeting	180		200	
Newsletter & Notices	526		370	
Administration Expenses	36		52	
Competition Prizes and Trophies	—		90	
Donations, Presentations and Subscriptions	26		-	
Estate Landscaping and Amenities	—		58	
		768		770
Surplus(Deficit) for the Year		282		18

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH 2001

	2001		2000	
ACCUMULATED FUND				
Balance at 1st April 2000		531		513
Surplus(Deficit) for the Year		282		18
		813		531
REPRESENTED BY				
Cash:				
Bradford & Bingley Building Society		763		501
National Westminster Bank		50		30
Cash In Hand		—		-
		813		531

E. H. D. C. -Complaints

(*as if we would have any* !)

Anyone who is dissatisfied with *any* of the Council's services can follow a complaints procedure by writing to the EHDC at

FREEPOST ANG6624
PO Box 101
Hertford SG13 8YS

(01729)658512 eX.445

DEVELOPMENT (See back page)

Your local Councillors to whom you should write, are:

Dianne Desmulie, 16, Lodge Close (H550874)
Richard Ovenden, 6, Lodge Close (583202)
orPeter Ruffles, 62, Hertingfordbury Road(582722)

SOBERING THOUGHTS

Whilst we are all following our various self-indulgent summer pursuits, here are some moving final thoughts of the late American author *Irma Bombeck* after she found that she was dying from cancer:

'' I would have talked less and listened more:

I would have invited friends over to dinner even if the sofa was faded and the carpet stained.

I would have taken time to listen to my grandfather ramble about his youth.

I would have sat on the lawn with my children and not worried about grass stains.

I would have cried and laughed less while watching TV -and more while watching life.

Instead of wishing away nine months of pregnancy, I would have cherished every moment and realised that the wonderment growing inside of me was the only chance in life to assist God in a miracle.

But mostly, given another shot at life, I would seize every minute..look at it and really see it...and never give it back.

Don't worry about who do not like you, who has more, or who's doing what. Instead let's cherish the relationships we have with those who DO love us.

And what we are doing each day to promote ourselves, physically, emotionally, as well as spiritually. Life is too short to let it pass you by.
We only have one shot at this..... and then it's gone.

-I HOPE YOU ALL HAVE A BLESSED DAY ! ''

LOCAL SERVICES

More names have been submitted of services which have proved very satisfactory to members, who are:-

Reliable Roofing Company - (01707) 272532

A.K. Carpets(Alan) - (01992) 552230

K. R. Miller (Artexing) - (01992) 624364

Bentleys (Plumbing, Heating) (01992) 500003

Any other services which readers have found particularly satisfactory, please submit details to the Ed.

SCHOOL MATTERS

A warm wlecome is extended to the new Headteacher of Bengeo School, Mrs. Hallahan B.Ed.Hons. previously Headteacher at Harwood Hill School, Welwyn G.C.
She is keen to continue their links with the community to ensure that they remain ''good neighbours''. She writes: '' It was good to have my first opportunity to meet with many parents and residents on 'Bengeo Day'.
Our ' Walking Bus' iniative continues to be popular and you may have noticed our new ' Cycle Park' being constructed on the site.
This is to encourage our older children to cycle to school once they have passed the necessary Cycling Proficiency Tests, which are being held at present.
I shall have more to report for your next issue when I have '' found my feet'' at Bengeo ''

TENACITY

I know of no such questionable badge or ensign of a foreign mind as that tenacity of purpose which, through all changes of fortune, changes never, abates no jot of heart or hope, but wearies out opposition and arrives at its port.

Emerson

Well, that's all folks.....
Whether you are chasing the sun (or staying in England !)... Wimbledon Watching or Molewood Garden nurturing - have a wonderful summer
Back in the autumn.

SACOMBE ROAD DEVELOPMENT

As residents are probably aware (and as discussed at the A.G.M.), included within the EAST HERTS, LOCAL PLAN is the proposed removal from the protected *Green Belt* of the following :

1. **Bengeo school and field**
2. **The adjacent agricultural field.**
3. **Recreational land adjacent to the Wick**

It is also proposed ,that the field is placed on the *Reserve Housing List,* which will bring it one step closer to development. In fact RIALTO HOMES have submitted a plan for 80 homes to be built on the site.
Independent Planning advice has indicated that the land adjacent to the Wick is likely to be targeted for extension of the development and possibly the outer margin of the school field, at a later date.
This can only happen if the protection of the Green Belt is removed.

The LOCAL PLAN will be placed "on Deposit" on the 28th. of June for a period of six weeks during which it can be examined and objections raised.
The planning advisor has suggested the following course of action for those concerned :

1. **Write now to the local Councillors asking for their support, outlining areas of concern, e.g. :**
- **The extension of the Town boundary into the countryside**
- **Increased traffic congestion ,especially at the school and through the 'rat run'.**
- **The threat of future linked development.**
- **Additional pressure on local facilities,e.g. Bengeo school.**

It is possible that the proposal will be removed from the Local Plan if there are sufficient objections, avoiding the need for a Public Inquiry

2. **Formal objection to the Council during the consultation period (Before the 9th.of August.) on the official form. The planning advisor has agreed to provide specific advice following examination of the full plans, once available. This information will be distributed to residents, together with the required form as soon as possible.**

   Please remember the Council must have *compelling* reasons for removing land from the designated Green Belt. This is stated clearly in its own publication, the "District Guide" as follows:
   "Ware, Hertford and Sawbridgeworth will not be allowed to expand beyond the existing boundaries. Every effort will be made to protect their existing character by controlling and limiting development. Existing " fingers" and " wedges" of open space penetrating from the countryside into the built up areas are protected by designating them as Green Belt"

   PLEASE ACT NOW!.....Write now (right now!)