molewood residents' association

Outlook Summer 2012

Diamond Jubilee street parties

In our Spring edition we offered to support your very own street parties. Here are the highlights of the 4 events we sponsored. The Association donated a total of £320 from the money we raise at events like the quiz and your subscriptions.

The Wick

The Wick's Jubilee street party on Sunday 3rd June was a huge success, attracting neighbours and friends from nearby roads and further afar. There were prizes for the children for best crown and best-decorated bike, followed by games and races on the green.



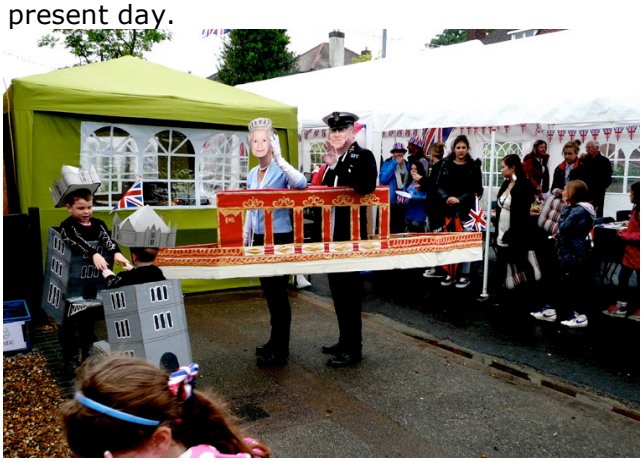
Lodge Close

The Jolly Lodgers of held their Diamond Jubilee street party on Monday 4 June and got the best weather of the extra long weekend. Organiser Linda Smart said, "All in all it was a fun day which started at about 1pm".



The Drive

Over 100 residents and their families joined in the celebrations. As well as the competitions there was a quiz, treasure hunt, face painting and a wonderful display detailing the history of The Drive from the first houses through to present day.



Woodhall Close

The party began with all the residents gathering for a glass of Pimms to toast the Queen.

Then it was off to the green for races and games. The Queen herself even made a brief appearance to join in the egg and spoon race!



To see the full stories and all the photos go to our website at http://www.molewood.org.uk/jubilee.php

We'd love to hear your stories and see your photos of the Molewood estate now and in the past. Here is an example sent to us by Lynne Whittingham.

June Dyer: reflections on 49 years in Bengeo

My husband, Ron, and I moved to Bengeo from Tottenham in 1963, together with our three children, Paul, Angela, and Sandra. Coincidentally Ron had been evacuated here during the war. It was a lovely sunny day in August when we arrived and, whilst weather and neighbours welcomed us warmly, the local wildlife was less friendly. Soon after arriving a lone wasp (renegade or hitman?) seized his opportunity and stung my 7 year-old daughter, Angela. There have been no further conflicts, so maybe this was just a warning shot.

We had lovely neighbours – Eric Shaw, Olive and Fred Church, Joan and John Roberts, Will and Queenie Purkiss, and Paul and Toni Liffers. On 2nd May the following year (again, a sunny day, unlike this year), I went into labour with my fourth child. Olive had already given me a lift to the hospital during a couple of false alarms a few days earlier but on this occasion Ron was working nearby in The Avenue. My son, Paul, ran and got him to come home before settling himself in front of the TV to watch West Ham beat Preston 3-2 in the FA Cup final. Ron took me to the hospital and Lynne was born that day, her name being chosen by Eric's mother.

In those days, we had doorstep deliveries from the milkman and I fondly remember the time when ours was delivered via horse and cart. The horse seemed to know the round as well as our milkman and knew exactly which houses to stop at. Part of the daily routine was to put the empty glass bottles out at night, and bring in the new bottles the following morning. I remember that, one sunny evening, my eldest daughters, Angela and Sandra, saw this as an opportunity to be helpful. We didn't know what they had been doing when they appeared in our hallway after an evening out "playing", but they were in hysterics. After several attempts to find out the reason for their mirth had failed, only being met by heightened levels of laughter, they finally led me outside and pointed to our neighbour's house. There were literally hundreds of empty milk bottles around the doorstep. I'm sure that the milkman was exceptionally grateful, although I don't remember anyone being quite as amused as we were.

In 1969, the River Beane flooded. I was in Hertford at the time and it seemed that every route I took was blocked by flooding. Fortunately, I met up with my daughter, Angela, as she was trying to get home from school, which eased some of the stress. We finally got home after someone had rowed us across one of the flooded areas. When Lynne was playing in the garden, Will Purkiss would be in his garden pruning his roses and keeping an eye on her. I think he enjoyed talking to Lynne and watching her play as they were the best-tended roses in the country. They used to have sherry and mince pies with us every Christmas Eve and we used to leave a stocking on their doorstep the following morning. I remember that the stockings got bigger and more elaborate each year.

From 1975 to 1980, my son owned the newsagents shop in The Avenue and I managed it for him. Our timing could have been better. There was a long period during which newspapers were often on strike and, without the aid of computers, we were continually having to amend the newspaper accounts, resulting in a lot more work for much less reward. We officially opened at 7am but had to be there a lot earlier to get the newspaper rounds ready, and I remember asking one of the paper boys to unlock the door for me as I couldn't quite reach the upper lock. When leaving at night, I used to stand on my glasses case to give me the extra inch that I needed. I always enjoyed looking at the gardens on the short walk from our house to the shop, and remember that Pam Lutner's was always exquisite.

Ron worked for the Co-operative Insurance from 1967 until 1991, when his failing health meant that he had to retire early. This gave him the opportunity to do things that he had never got around to doing when he was busy working. We were lucky to have such a good neighbour in Anthony Liffers (Paul and Toni's son) who took him on a number of day trips, notably to the Houses of Parliament, which Ron often talked about. Sadly, Ron passed away three years ago. My daughter, Lynne, and her family moved in with me but I feel that it is now time to move on. So after 49 wonderful years I have now put the house up for sale. I will miss all the friends I have made during that time and, as you can imagine, having worked in the shop for a number of years, I have met a lot of lovely people and will take a lot of happy memories with me.

To see the full story and all photos of June and Ron go to our website at http://www.molewood.org.uk

Diamond Jubilee bench

The committee decide that to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and to contribute to the improvements in the play area we should provide a new seat marked with a plaque saying that we gave it. Like the jubilee party support, this will be coming from the money we raise at events like the quiz and your subscriptions. Committee members Amanda Dial and Liz Walton met Rowan Perrin of East Herts District Council at the playing field on Wednesday 27 July to agree where the bench should go. It will be set on the eastern edge of the open space, to the left as you look at the side of the new houses. This will be in the sun and far enough away from the playground to be able to be in relative peace and quiet.

Traffic news

Back in April we wrote on our website "The majority of the work will be carried out by Morrison Utilities working on behalf of National Grid to install new gas mains and connections into every house. The work will take 6 months. While bits of road are closed Hertfordshire Highways and BT will also be doing their own urgent work to keep down disruption". The roadworks have passed the tricky phase when there was no route through lower Bengeo and the queues on Port Hill seemed to get noticeably longer. By the time you read this the new Sainsburys supermarket will be open and we will have begun to get an idea how the town copes.

Social

We have wanted to organise an outing for residents but have struggled to come up with an idea that seemed attractive to enough people to make it worthwhile. Our sponsorship of the jubilee parties seems to have gone well so we thought we'd offer the same for outings or other events. If any group of residents is organising something for a number of families in their street or in other parts of the estate drop us a line and we'll consider topping up your budget from the association's funds. We are aiming to organise another quiz at the Bengeo Club in November. Preference will be given to residents who have paid their subscriptions.

Committee

Our Annual General Meeting took place at Bengeo Primary on 24 May. About 30 of you joined the committee, 2 of our local councillors and musicians from Presdales School. We are planning to invite MP Mark Prisk along to next year's meeting which we've pencilled in for 16 May 2013. As usual nibbles were provided by our brilliant catering crew of Marie and Barry Archer with Joan Murrell. Brian and Carol Ayres sorted out the complimentary drinks as efficiently as ever.

Chairman Brian Laming stood down after 6 years' sterling work. Brian Ayres also decide to take a back seat from the committee but very kindly offered to continue to be our liquid refreshments supplier.

Website

Thanks to Paul Ogier we now have a fantastic website at http://www.molewood.org.uk/jubilee.php. Why not make it your home page? We'd really like your ideas, stories, film clips and pictures. Go there and see Marilyn Taylor's History Of The Drive, more old Outlooks, details of local businesses and much more.

Waterford Heath

As most dog walkers will know, a couple of minutes walk from Bengeo is the most fantastic wildflower show you are ever likely to see. We were pleased to hear that the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust has secured an 85-year lease at the 100-acre site from gravel company Lafarge. This means protection and a future for the wildlife there. See some lovely pictures here: www.flickr.com/photos/steve_chilton/803344844/.

Your committee

Chair
- Nick Gough — 11 Lys Hill Gardens

Treasurer
- Alan Sewell — 16 The Avenue

Secretary
- Liz Walton — 69 The Wick

General members
- Marie Archer — 55 The Wick
- Amanda Dial — 114 Cowper Cres
- Peter Dougherty — 47 The Wick
- John Edwards — 8 The Wick
- Joan Murrell — 38 Cowper Cresc
- Rachel Ogier — 103 Cowper Cresc
- Ben Penrose — 104 Cowper Cresc

What's On

7 July Olympic Torch Relay

15 July Folly @ The Folly

20 July Bengeo Primary breaks up

27 July – 12 Aug Olympics

5-27 Aug Hertford Music Festival

29 Aug – Sept Paralympics

5 Sept Bengeo Primary goes back

Wanted

Someone with word processing skills to put together our newsletter.
Contact us at enquiries@molewood.org.uk

Supported by Lanes
Property Agents
Hertford 01992 582000
he@lanesproperty.co.uk

Subscriptions July 2012 – June 2013

Supporting the Molewood Residents' Association still only costs only £2 per year. This enables us to address issues of interest to residents and contribute to local initiatives as well communicating with residents and others through the website and newsletter.

To join for 2012/ 13 fill in the slip below and put it with your £2 payment through the letterbox of our treasurer, Alan Sewell, 16 The Avenue.

I/ we want to join the MRA for 2012/13. I enclose my £2 payment for this year's subscription.

My/ our name is .....

and I/ we live at .....

I/ we would be happy to be contacted by email about local issues by the residents' association so here is my address .....