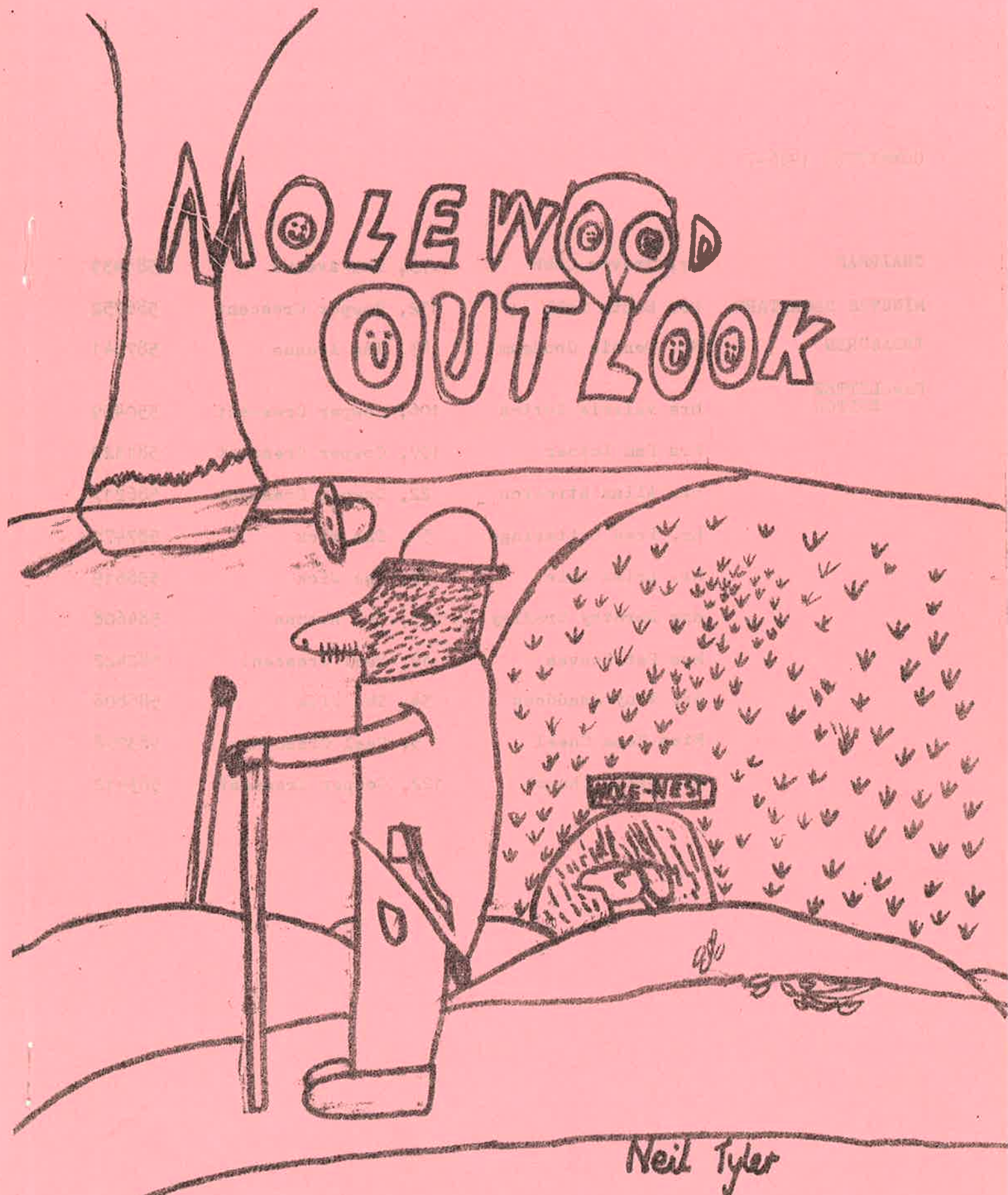
Winter 1986

MOLEWOOD OUTLOOK



Neil Tyler

COMMITTEE 1986-7

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MINUTES SECRETARY	Mrs Betty Hall	132, Cowper Crescent	586752
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Molewood Outlook

Winter 1987

Thank you very much for all the kind comments received about the last 'Molewood Outlook' in the Autumn. It is always nice to know that it is appreciated.

I feel that it has grown from being a simple newsletter into something more like a magazine containing as it does a wide variety of interesting items.

I should like to see it expand still further and if you have anything you would like to offer for inclusion, I should be pleased to see it. You may have noticed that one article in the last 'Molewood Outlook' was signed 'A Molewood Resident'. You don't have to have your name printed if you don't want to, but of course I should have to have the name supplied and I wouldn't publish anything that arrived anonymously.

I am always on the look out for good news. Sometimes I pick up items from the local press and sometimes I just hear about things - weddings for example, but I probably miss quite a lot of interesting news which would all help to enliven the 'Outlook'. Please let me know of anything you would like to see in the next edition. My address is on the inside front cover and there is still the 'Suggestion Box' in Trevor's shop.

Meanwhile ...

The Cover Picture

The picture on the cover of this edition of 'Molewood Outlook' was drawn by Neil Tyler when he was nine years old. Sorry it took so long Neil! He goes to Richard Hale School now!

It looks as if the moles in the drawing are stirring themselves and coming out for a look round now that Spring is in the air. Let us hope it is not too far away.

Although Neil likes animals very much, he does not keep any four legged ones as pets, perhaps preferring wild animals, however he does have a goldfish named Bengal.

Apart from enjoying Nature Neil's other interests are mainly indoor pursuits. He enjoys drawing very much and also playing Chess and Bridge. He belongs to both the Chess and Bridge Clubs at school.

Thankyou Neil!

Calling all young artists

I am coming to the end of my supply of cover pictures and I am ready now to accept more to be used some time in the future.

Any one still at school, whose family belongs to our Association, can send in a picture - one only please.

What I want are line drawings in black ink - ball point etc - on white paper the same size as this Newsletter. The theme can be anything to do with Molewood - moles and water towers are usually very popular, or you may like to

do something connected with the countryside in general - animals, birds, the seasons. Please sign it on the front and write your name, address and age on the back.

Give your picture to any Committee Member. It may be quite a while before yours is used but it will be, so don't give up hope. Look forward to the day when your drawing goes through the letterboxes of almost every house on the Estate!

Apologies

I have discovered that some of last Autumn's 'Molewood Outlooks' were printed without page eighteen! Page sixteen was printed twice by mistake!

Since no-one has actually complained it is possible that none of the faulty copies were distributed. However if you did get one of these then you may pick up another copy at 'The Avenue Stores'.

The 'Green Page Section' is only published once a year and it would be a pity not to have a complete list of local information when it does come out.

Lost

A wedding ring belonging to one of our members has been lost in the vicinity of The Little Chef at High Cross at the beginning of February.

The ring is of an octagonal design.

Please contact The Avenue Stores if you have any information.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

I am pleased to say that our Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is on the whole working very well, it has certainly made people more aware of their surroundings with a marked increase in 'phone calls reporting anything out of the normal.

We remain virtually trouble free - fingers crossed - and hope it may continue!

However there are two causes for concern.

1. Still far too many garages are being left open for hours at a time displaying all their contents to passers by! Some garages contain freezers and most have tools or ladders in them. What an invitation!

2. It isn't clever or macho to ride a bike with no lights after dark! It is stupid!

Don't leave it too long before reporting even the slightest incident - phone immediately however insignificant you think it is.

Either phone the Police Station or your nearest Deputy coordinator.

We still have a supply of special security marker pens available from Trevor Cobb at 'The Avenue Stores' or from me.

All deputy coordinators carry a supply of leaflets, stickers etc. especially the red triangles for your doors or windows essential for the scheme to work properly. They all await your calls.

I am sorry for the delay in getting the street signs. The original signs approved were 15" x 12" in size and in keeping with other signs up and down the country and would have been easily seen by everyone. Unfortunately for us, living in the East Herts District Council area, it has been decided that they were too big and the size has been reduced to 9½" x 7½". We the Committees of the Molewood Residents Association and Molewood Neighbourhood Watch, feel that this is too small to have any impact. Discussions are taking place with other interested bodies and we will let you know of any decisions as soon as possible.

Please let us know your comments on this important issue as it is for your benefit and protection. Letters or calls to any Deputy or the Coordinator as soon as possible please.

It is very disappointing to have no response whatever from Lodge Close to be represented on the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, so I can only presume they are not interested. It is a pity because the scheme really does work. Maybe a talk with our own Neighbourhood Watch Officer P.C. Mark Harrigan would help? Please phone him at Hertford Police Station 587711 or me at 581329 if you would like to talk about what the Scheme involves.

A booklet spearheaded by Douglas Hurd the Home Secretary and called "Good Neighbour", is available for loan from all Deputies and is also on show in 'The Avenue Stores'.

Finally, any information concerning our area - burglaries, bogus offidals etc will be posted on boards around the Estate, in the windows of 'The Avenue Stores' - Trevor Cobb and the 'Newsagents' - Janet Moy. Please look for these to keep you up to date with all the relevant goings on.

Pam Lutner
Coordinator

Overhanging trees

Complaints have been received about trees overhanging pavements so far that people have to walk round them.

Please have a look at your trees and shrubs and imagine a blind person walking past your house. Would they be able to pass freely? The fact that most of us are not blind is irrelevant, nothing growing in a garden should be allowed to obstruct the pavement, so please check.

Congratulations

Mrs Shelagh Ryan of The Wick has gained her Open University Degree in History. This is an achievement in itself but when you think that while studying she moved house four times and had two children the mind boggles!

Now she's writing novels! Whatever next? Let us hope that she stays here long enough to make Bengeo famous as 'the home of a great author'!

Congratulations!

Forthcoming events

Roll out the barrel!

Many of you will remember with a glow of pleasure the 'Spring Supper Dance we

held last year, so you will not need any encouragement to come to our next extravaganza which will be a 'Cockney Night' on 28th February.

By the time this magazine comes out you will have seen several posters around the Estate with all the relevant details, but here they are again. The date is February 28th, the time is 7.30 - 11.45 and the place is the Sele Farm Community Centre.

Please try to come in cockney dress, there will be prizes for the best costume and the best hat. The more costumes there are the more atmosphere there will be.

The food and the entertainment will also follow the cockney theme.

The price is £4 a ticket. This has been carefully budgeted to give you value for money while just breaking even. This is an event we are organising for your pleasure, not to make money.

Do come! If you missed out last year make sure you don't miss this one!

Tickets are available from all Committee Members or from 'The Avenue Stores'.

AGM

The AGM will be held on 14th May at the Parish Hall, Duncombe Road at 8.00 pm. This is definitely a low key event compared with the 'Cockney Night' but important nonetheless.

Please come and attend the meeting, you wouldn't believe how cheered up we Committee Members are when we feel we are getting your support.

Have a glass of wine with us at the AGM, 14th May, 8.00 pm., in the Parish Hall.

Come to the Auction

Two days after the AGM on Saturday 16th May we are trying a new venture and this time it is hoped to raise some money for the Association. We have had to buy a new duplicator and this has seriously depleted our funds.

We are having an Auction! It will be held at the Parish Hall, Duncombe Road, that has been booked, but all other information will be published later.

In the meantime don't throw anything away! Keep it, auction it and make some money for yourselves as well as for the Association.

Trevor's talk

As we move into 1987 and look forward to better weather we hope that our forthcoming 'Cockney Evening' will add some warmth to a dull, cheerless and cold spell. We did however seem to miss the worst of the heavy snow, once again proving of course that Bengeo is a 'special place'.

This takes me on to a serious point which should be given some thought.

We are not only an amicable social group but we are geared to action, discussing local issues at our Committee meetings every few weeks. We take ourselves very seriously as I am sure you would expect and would therefore like to believe our collective views are worth hearing.

I have just received a letter from the local police expressing appreciation for our cooperation in setting up and running the 'Neighbourhood Watch Scheme'. The feeling is that our efforts have helped to deter crime and certainly we have had very little trouble in the past year.

We too have great faith in our Scheme and have received great courtesy and cooperation from the police.

This may sound very comforting and everyone should be happy, but if this were so "Why can't we have our signs?"

Some months ago we asked the Council for permission to put up signs at all entries to the Estate saying 'Neighbourhood Watch Area', - a reasonable request surely?

We are still waiting, having heard unofficially that we are to be offered unacceptably small signs, entirely unsuitable for the purpose and unreadable from a short distance - particularly from a car. A waste of time and money!

I am sure the Council would wish to support our Scheme - the biggest in the area with five hundred houses - and some way will be found to solve this problem.

The Association has a powerful local voice and is determined to use it, representing as the Association does a large slice of public opinion in the Hertford area. Used sensibly it is both a sounding board and a communicating medium, something our elected representatives would do well to bear in mind.

Trevor Cobb
Chairman

Now we have an account of a breathtaking trip that a girl from the Estate went on last Autumn. It is written by her mother.

The holiday of a lifetime

Jane Grimmett of The Avenue was very fortunate last year to be selected to go with a party of mentally handicapped young men and women on a trip to 'Disney-world' in America. It was organised by a group of Hertfordshire policemen and women who are well known, particularly in West Herts, as 'Mencop'.

The party, including helpers totalled twentyfour. They left London Airport on the 22nd of October. The policemen accompanying the party wore their dress uniforms and attracted considerable attention during the trip. Whilst on the plane the party were given VIP treatment. Each member of the party was given a picture of the plane autographed by every crew member.

The hotel accommodation was first class and all the rooms occupied by the group were situated next to the large swimming pool.

The eight day stay was crammed full of visits to the many parts of 'Disney-world' all of which were amazing. The most popular however appears to have been the visit to 'Sea World', where the dolphins and killer whales provided a spectacular show. Afterwards the party was invited to stay behind and were allowed to view the stars of the show at close quarters. Indeed they were invited to stroke the baby killer whale! Apparently not everybody accepted the invitation!

As well as the extravaganza of 'Disneyland' there was the hospitality of the American police to be enjoyed. The Sheriff of Orange County arranged some

special treats and one evening there was a real 'Country and Western' party.

The holiday went all too quickly. The party arrived back at London Airport somewhat jet lagged but bearing many gifts and momentoes of the trip which had been so stimulating for them.

It had all only been made possible by those members of Mencop who had worked so tirelessly to raise the money so that these youngsters could experience the holiday of a lifetime.

Rosanna Grimmett

More news from the Bengeo Beat Officer

Well, here we are, 1987 and a belated Happy New Year to all, but not for some residents in New Road, Bengeo, who were burgled on New Year's Eve, when electrical goods worth about £600 were stolen.

It just goes to prove that thieves work any hour, any day and New Year's Eve is no exception.

Firstly a warning ..... Bogus Gas officials, who, on the 23rd of January, visited a house in Gosselin Road, Bengeo to 'investigate a gas leak'.

Fortunately, the elderly occupants' son was in the house and when he challenged the three men, asking for identification, they left to 'get it from the truck'. Needless to say, they did not return.

In this case, no property was stolen, but please be warned, Gosselin Road is not so far away from you.

If in doubt, don't let them in. If they cannot produce an identity card, don't let them in. They may be completely genuine, but chances are they are not. If in doubt, lock them out, call for police, who will check all 'suspicious persons'.

As the old saying goes, 'it's better to be safe, than sorry'.

Moans and groans time ..... Yes, people are still parking on the double yellow lines, outside the 'Spar' shop, Bengeo Street.

I appreciate that not all offenders will be reading this newsletter, so please pass this on to your friends who are not in the Molewood Residents area.

If you park on the double yellow lines, you stand a very good chance of getting a £12 parking ticket!

The lines are clear enough and mean 'No Parking' at any time, this includes Sundays.

It is very dangerous to park at any junction, let alone this one, so please be warned, no more friendly words of caution, from now on tickets will be issued to all offenders.

No,,not all offenders live in the Bengeo area, but a high percentage do. Your inconsiderate parking, could cause a serious road traffic accident, you have been advised!! Enough of the problems we associate with the motor car.

In general, things are quiet at the moment and to be quite honest I hope it stays that way. We will never be a 'Crime Free' area, but if we make things

more difficult for the potential thief, then the chances are he will go somewhere else, maybe your next door neighbours. Perhaps that sounds harsh but that's the way it is, you know that, so please be aware at all times. Lock doors and windows, shut your garage door when you take the car out, leaving your bicycles, mowers, freezers etc on show to those people who walk past your house, possibly the thief, who is being given your property with open arms. (You might as well leave your front door open).

If you do not take security precautions, then expect to lose your property, if not today, then perhaps tomorrow, or the next day. Those of you who think, 'It'll never happen to me', are living in another world, so please, make it harder for the thief, 'Lock Him Out'.

Well, there we are, more words of wisdom from your Neighbourhood Officer, until next time!!

Kindest regards
P.C. Mark Harrigan

Following my invitation to local clubs and groups to write something for the Outlook about their activities I am pleased to say that I have received three responses.

They all sound very interesting, why not start the new year by joining a new group?

The National Trust

Just over a year ago the Hertford Association of National Trust members was formed, and thanks to an energetic Chairman and enthusiastic Committee is a very flourishing group.

We have monthly meetings at Castle Hall, usually the last Thursday in the month. These are open to everybody by non-members of the National Trust pay a small entrance fee.

The speakers at these meetings are excellent and have covered such diverse subjects as the River Lea, Heraldry, the impact of the Grand Tour on English Country Houses and decoration and restoration of Great Houses. In November, a most enjoyable 'Victorian Evening' was held with songs from members of the Welwyn Operatic Society. Several hard-working members provided a hot supper for nearly 200 people.

In addition to these meetings an outing is arranged each month. Visits have been paid to Snowshill, Glos., Calke Abbey and Ham House. Theatre visits have been made and two long week-ends have been organised, one at Stoke for the Garden Festival and one at Eastbourne. On these last two trips visits were paid to local National Trust properties.

In May the group is stretching its wings and going to Bruges - Belgium, for a week-end. The only fly-in-the ointment for that trip is meeting the coach at 5 am in Hertford one Friday!

If you think you would like to join or come to one of the Castle Hall meetings please don't hesitate, we shall be very glad to see you.

Betty Hall

"Come and Join Us"

Hello, Hello,

Are you over 16 years old and female? - Would you like to join the largest Women's organisation in the country, with over 350,000 members? Interested?? You can join right here in Bengeo. We meet on the 3rd Monday in the month, at the Parish Hall, Duncombe Road at 8 pm. We are of course talking about the Women's Institute.

It was formed in Canada in 1897 by farmers' wives to improve conditions of rural life for themselves and their children. In this small way a great movement was begun and has now become one of the largest and most representative organisations for women in the world.

In England and Wales the first W.I. was formed in 1915 at Anglesey - Wales. There are now approx. 9,200 W.I.s countrywide.

I had the privilege of being a founder member of Bengeo W.I. in 1971. We then had a membership of 160. We started our meetings at the Parish Hall, moved to the Infants' school, then to the Junior school, then back to the Parish Hall, where we have been very happy to stay.

The W.I. is non-sectarian and outside party politics. Members can therefore be free to meet on common ground.

We have an interesting Speaker every month, hopefully something for every one. At Bengeo last year's programme included talks on "Wine Tasting", "Cake Icing" and "Embroidery". Members took lessons in playing golf and on canvas embroidery. We had outings to a stately home and a river trip, to name but a few of the events members have participated in.

The W.I. is the only women's organisation to have its own College, "Denman" which is at Marcham - Oxfordshire. There is a vast range of courses open to all the members. It's a great place to meet other members from all over the country.

There is so much more I could tell you about the W.I., the friends I have made, new interests I have acquired. So come along to meet us - we welcome visitors to our meetings and hope you will enjoy yourself so much, that you will want to join the W.I. I'm sure you will find lots to interest you.

June Smith

South East Herts Scottish Country Dance Society

Feeling jaded after Christmas?

Need some exercise to trim those inches and help you keep warm through the cold months?

Why not try Scottish Country Dancing?

There's a class in Bengeo Junior School on Tuesday evenings from 7.45 to 9.45pm. It's a friendly group which would welcome some new recruits.

We have a wide age range and if you talk to people in the locality you'll find quite a number in the Bengeo area who dance at this or some of our other classes.

The class is organised by South East Herts Scottish Country Dance Society and

if you want more information please contact:

Marian Meads (class teacher) Bulls Green 452

or Ann Kirby (Society chairman) Hertford 558634

Ann Kirby

Endangered trees

It has been reported by some residents that numbers of trees and hedges are disappearing from areas adjoining the Molewood Estate. Many people may not be aware that the areas affesected are covered by Tree Preservation Orders and are subject to planning applications.

The area of particular interest is Great Molewood, stretching from the footpath that runs down to North Road alongside the Pit, right round to the back of The Orchard.

The following has been received from Mr. Gavin Paul the Landscape Officer for East Herts District Council at Wallfields, Hertford.

"Applications to the Local Planning Authority are required for the felling or for tree surgery to trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order, trees within Conservation areas or by a planning condition. A written consent is required before carrying out such work."

Gavin Paul

If you are worried or concerned about loss of trees, please contact Mr. Paul tel. number 93/5 5261, who will be pleased to assist.

Pam Lutner

Bengeo Street at the turn of the Century

Bengeo's main street was known in about 1900 as 'High Road', and was only a cart track. Before the First World War there was a wood behind Holy Trinity Church where the council houses now stand and a farm on the fork with Sacombe Road. The wood behind the Church was cleared to make way for the council houses opposite in New Road and the last piece of the original ground is the garden of the large timber-clad house at the end of the row. At the time New Road was just a narrow country lane leading from Bengeo Street down to the old Church and Manors, and old postcards show it as tree-lined and very rural indeed. One postcard dated about 1914 shows children playing in the middle of the street at the junction of New Road and Bengeo Street. In the picture a horse trough stands outside the Church wall and nearby is Pickerings old General Stores, where Spar is now. The farm on the fork was demolished to make way for Shepherd's Court, which stands on its site - hence the name.

On the other side of Holy Trinity Church near the shop called, until recently, Bengeo Stores, stands Mansfield Court, the modern flats which were built about 1970. They are named after the Bengeo councillor George "Sonny" Mansfield, a well-known and fondly remembered white-haired Mercury printer who became Mayor of Hertford. He lived in Bengeo for many years. The flats stand on the site of Bengeo's old Victorian brick National Schools and playground and quite a number of Bengeo's people went to those old schools, which were only replaced by Bengeo Sacombe Road Junior and Infants schools about twenty years ago. The boys' school was built in 1849 to accommodate one hundred and

sixty seven children, the average attendance was one hundred and fifty three, William Ellis was the boys' master. The girls' school was added in 1860 for one hundred and thirty girls, the average attendance was one hundred and ten, and Miss Marion Cannon was the girls' mistress. The infant school, built in 1860 for one hundred had an average attendance of seventy, Miss Emma Buckle was mistress of the little ones.

The old schools have gone, but a few of their old chimney pots have survived and can still be seen in use as flower pots in The White Lion yard opposite, and a plaque set in the wall behind Mansfield court flats shows that they are not completely forgotten.

At the time the White Lion Inn was run by Andrew Cotton, and nearly opposite the schools stood Bengeo Coffee Tavern, which was run by George Olney. Bengeo Working Men's Club was meeting in an old corrugated iron shed roughly where the modern club building stands, and William Farrow was club secretary. Next along the street was Mrs Fanny Clarke's grocery shop, then Robert Green's builder's yard.

There was another inn along Bengeo Street - The Globe. It was demolished shortly after the schools. Globe Court stands near the site. It was being run at the time by William Houghton, and a short distance away along Bengeo Street James Taverner had his wheelwright's yard.

Other craftsmen along there were William & John Wray the Hurdle Makers, and John Smith, bootmaker. John Cains was proprietor of the third inn, the Greyhound, at the time. The Greyhound is one of the oldest inns in Hertfordshire, although it has been largely rebuilt it dates from about 1724.

Malcolm Moulding

Well that's all for now. There's just time to tell you that the Social Events Committee of Holy Trinity Church is holding a Flannel Dance on the 9th May at the Parish Hall, Duncombe Road. Further details will be available later.

I hope you have enjoyed this edition, I look forward to hearing from you.

Valerie Sutton
Editor

N.B. When designing the Molewood Outlook cover Picture for forthcoming newsletters please include title "Molewood Outlook".

Yellow Pages

Equipment for Hire

Extension ladder Aluminium with easy reach	£1.00 per week	
Car ramps	10p " day	Hertford 587285
Jump leads	"	
Battery charger	"	
Preserving pan	"	Hertford 581329
Tree pruner (6' lightweight)	"	Hertford 586479
Bulb planter	"	
Lawn spreader	"	
Lawn roller	"	

Typing

Mavis Bishop — 24 Cowper Crescent — Hertford 586292

Typing for the duplicating service or otherwise

Bengeo Parish Hall, Duncombe Road

Bookings and enquiries

Church Hall Secretary

Gillian Cordingley — 14 Boundary Drive — Hertford 586854

Home Selection Pottery Parties

Eileen Rosier — 89 Cowper Crescent — Hertford 558530

Free Advice on all Insurance Matters

Molewood Insurance and Financial Services

Allan Streeton — 22 Cowper Crescent — Hertford 586217

Life Assurance, Pensions, Annuities, Investments, Mortgages - new, and conversions from Ordinary to Endowment, also re Mortgages.

Suggestion box

Inside the Avenue Store on the left is an attractive, blue-flowered Suggestion Box, just waiting for comments from our members.