MOLEWOOD OUTLOOK

CHRISTMAS 2001



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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GUY THOMAS	14, THE DRIVE	503443
TREASURER		
DENNIS GOODRUM	43, THE AVENUE	422492
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ALLAN STREETON	22, COWPER CRESCENT	423682
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PENNY ANDREW	96, THE AVENUE	586028

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JOAN MURRELL	38, COWPER CRESCENT	587595
MARIE ARCHER	55, THE WICK	581965
JANE COOPER	3, WOODHALL CLOSE	584365
GEOFF CLARK	17, THE AVENUE	552913
HELEN GRAHAM	31, THE AVENUE	558168
JANE CLARK	5, WOODHALL CLOSE	423026
KEVIN BEADLE	24, DESBOROUGH CLOSE	551431

MOLEWOOD CHRISTMAS OUTLOOK 2001

The **FESTIVE SEASON** is almost here again (it started just after the summer hol's!) when we can sit back and enjoy the food, telly, friends and, most important, the FAMILY !

For many hundreds of families in NEW YORK & WASHINGTON this will be the saddest Christmas. *ever* !

So, on a sombre note we remember the tragedy involving the single worst act of terrorism *ever* committed on 11th. September. This almost unbelievable event horrified practically the whole world and our thoughts go out to all the victims and their families , some of the friends of whom will reside in this area.

We can only hope and pray that there will be no further similar incidents following on from this ghastly atrocity or the terrible events since !

ANOTHER sombre reminder goes with the fun of fireworks.

The display of fireworks these days starts before Nov. 5th. and extends for at least a week after Guy Fawkes night. Other *excuses* for creating a mini WW2 blitz is Christmas and birthdays plus, it seems, *any* celebration ! Quite often these explosions, etc. go on far into the night, later than the present laws allow.

But PLEASE remember to protect your children and make sure any displays are strictly controlled as, every year many are badly injured, and some even disfigured through lack of parental control or carelessness.

Don't let an evening of fun and spectacle end with a hospital visit and tears.

Oh - and please try and protect our four-legged domestic friends. They are often terrified as they cannot understand what all the noise and explosions are about.

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Our creative young resident who drew the colourful seasonal cover picture is...

Amy O'Gorman age 12, of Woodlands, Molewood.

Amy is a pupil of Presdales School.

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Some years ago we held a QUIZ NIGHT which was a roaring success and at the last AGM you elected to have another one. SO....we have arranged one for January 22nd

It's one of those occasions when *neighbours become good friends !*

The last one turned out to be almost ' standing room only ' so..... *don't delay.....*

..turn to the back page for full details.....now !

GRASS

The garden at No. 2 The Wick has had a smartening up generally , thanks mainly to the efforts of neighbours, although, the mild weather caused the grass to soon lengthen once more. We hope the owners/agents will continue to maintain the standard.

Talking of which.....

The general standard and frequency of grass cutting on the estate has improved, thanks to our persistent ' nagging', although we are endeavouring to get the Council to have cuttings cleared up by the Contractors after each mowing.

The very mild weather continued right to the end of the very warmest October yet when daily temperatures were still well in excess of 60 deg.F. - but didn't it RAIN !
On *one* day we had the equivalent of the whole of a normal *month's* rainfall !
Luckily, being at the altitude we are, flooding was not a big problem on Molewood.

NOTICE BOARDS

Some of these are getting somewhat ' tatty', having been weathering the elements for a decade or so, and are in need of a little renovation.
If there are any public spirited D.I.Y.'ers out there who could smarten the Boards up, we should be eternally grateful! (contact any committee member, please)

WATERFORD HEATH



With the 'Indian Summer' fauna has continued to flourish keeping our local mini- eco system green and pleasant, although the rains have made the various walks quagmires of mushy clay.
This would have been even worse were it not for the fact that, since the foot and mouth crises, many of the original walkers have not returned.
This last summer the heath was rarely used except for a small number of regular dog walkers.
Much information on wildlife is on the notice boards strategically placed on both North and South Heaths, and butterfly and fungi walks are likely to re-start in the Spring.
At present the Footpaths Society is endeavouring to establish which paths are *Rights of Way* as against *Permissible Paths,* which involves extensive research into archives.
It's there for YOU to enjoy , so.....watch this space!

CYCLISTS

A number of cyclists, many of whom are in their late teens, are riding at some speed along the pavements, putting walkers, especially the elderly, at great risk.
Some have even had races along pavements and greens.!
So, if you have cyclists among family or friends, please warn them as injury could lead to claims or prosecution against the parents!

SACOMBE ROAD DEVELOPMENT

(Local Plan: Second Review)

NOW we come to the great thorn in nearly all our sides....
FIRSTLY thanks to all of you who submitted the required form to the Council.
In their insistence in only accepting protests on this form, rather than letters, etc., was it assumed that less people would be bothered to grapple with another piece of legalese ?
If so, the Council may have been disappointed as the response has been overwhelming.
All the forms are in the data bank and it is unlikely that any assessment will be made before the year end.
So what *exactly* is the procedure ?

We established a week or so ago that at least *TEN THOUSAND* responses, over all the various areas likely to be affected, had been received to the proposed District Plan, most of which were probably *objections !*

As this is all going in a *data-bank* we are no further forward than when we issued the last Outlook . A recently revised time scale suggests that it will be Spring/Summer '02 before results of the response are known.
Assuming there are no amendments, such as the Sacombe road site being withdrawn from the plan, it will be sometime later still before any Public Enquiry is held, which in itself would also last several months.
We are therefore looking at a final decision date of *late 2003 earliest !*

The Local Authority have to consider all the objections and representations made to it in accordance with the Regulations. Consideration of other objections and representations (for example those which are received outside the six-week objection period) is a matter for the authorities discretion.
If the authority consider that an objector has provided insufficient information, they will offer an opportunity to provide further comments.

We will certainly keep the situation closely monitored, but should any readers acquire any further information which might be of interest, *PLEASE DO LET US KNOW !*

Residents may have found the Mercury report on the expected approval of a planning application to build 21 flats in Parker Avenue rather disturbing.
This anticipated approval was *in spite* of fierce opposition from local residents and the Town Council !
There may not be many similarities between this application and Sacombe road, although there are similar principles at stake, especially on the question of an increase in traffic.

It so happened that the application has since been refused in its present form !

Even more disturbing was the more recent report on a Planning Consultants study which recommended draconian acquisition of privately owned lands in or near town centres to build new homes.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

It was very disappointing to find that from some 550 houses, where the letter requesting volunteers for Co-ordinators for Neighbourhood Watch was delivered with the Molewood Outlook, only 4 persons bothered to return the slip saying that they were prepared to act as Co-ordinators. In fact, one of those was already a Co-ordinator and was responding to say that he wished to continue.

We have been very fortunate, or maybe lucky, as we have only had three incidents in the last nine months. Maybe it is the fact that we have so few problems that people are not interested in Neighbourhood Watch. Conversely, it may be that people do keep a watch on what goes on in the area but do not wish to make a formal commitment. It is very much the hope that the latter is the case but how nice it would be if only we had a network through which vital information could be readily passed to all quarters of the local community and not as at present to, at best, 10 individuals.

As you may be aware there has been a large reorganisation of the Police Service in Hertfordshire which has meant the loss of faces that we have known in the past.

P.C.Clare has been posted to Borehamwood.

As far as Neighbourhood Watch matters are concerned our contact point is still Jill Dockley. However from an incident reporting point of view the number to ring is Hertford 533000 where you will be put through to the Incident Room.

If you have decided to become a Co-ordinator please ring Ken Lupton on Hertford 306723 or contact him at 23 Desborough Close.

ROAD RAGE 1...?

' low mileage: One careful owner: good con. mot '
If you are selling your car and you stick a ' For Sale' card in the car window... Beware ! You may be breaking the law and cars have-been towed away by Councils and *crushed* , even though they were taxed and insured correctly.
Apparently it is illegal for an unlicensed person to *trade* in this way.
Some London Councils, weary of having valuable road space taken up with cars for sale is using the 1990 London Local Authorities Act which prohibits street trading without a license.
Presumably other councils may also have the same, or similar, powers.
We are told that such draconian measures are unlikely to be taken here, although abandoned cars are causing problems and will be taken away by the Council - and the owners charged a fee !

ROAD RAGE 2.....?

Much has been and is still being said about the RAT RUN, although we thought that it had run its course.
Our previous Neighbourhood Bobby more or less ' put the matter to bed' at the last AGM.
The situation was mainly aggravated by the congestion resulting from the traffic light installation at Old Cross.
So, if you still feel aggrieved, as many obviously do, then pester your local Councillor !

WATER TOWER

Whilst assurances have been made that no dangers exist from emissions of radiation from the water tower, we are endeavouring to establish whether any recent survey has been carried out on long term *cumulative* effects .
We will keep you informed of any further news on this matter.

Nick Gough has researched the history of the Water Tower and asks reader whether anyone might have a contact at Three Valleys Water who could arrange a tour of our tower for interested residents.
Nick states that our landmark was built around 1930 and was designed by LG Mouchel & Partners.
He has a copy of the detailed history of local Water Towers for any interested parties.

Thank you Nick Gough for your research !



HOUSE & GARDEN.....

MRS. MOLE'S GARDENING NOTES.....

If anyone spies a low crouching figure in the front garden, late at night, do NOT call Neighbourhood Watch. It's me - out hunting for slugs !
I have my torch and my pot of salt and directly I spot one they get a squeeze of salt and—*ping* it just shrivels them up.
I know this probably sounds very cruel and nasty, but I *feel* pretty nasty when I discover a few bare stalks left from what was originally a nice healthy delphinium plant. I expect you are thinking to yourself ' why on earth doesn't she use slug pellets?', but I'm still not sure whether they might harm the birds and hedgehogs if they then eat the slugs.
Incidentally, I know there is a lot of talk and hooha about global warming but - what about global freezing ? Could the seasonal weather pattern be changing ? Maybe it's the Bengeo climate: this year my bulbs came into bloom early November.
Has anyone else noticed strange plant behaviour ?
Joan Murrel

now.....DIG THIS.....

We hope to resume the GARDEN COMPETITION starting with the SPRING 2002 edition.
....Watch this space in the next Oultlook.

and this.....
Bulbs are being planted in the Lys Hill garden bed, thanks to one or two of our more energetic committee members !
Please keep people and pets off and give the Spring flowers a chance to grow.

2nd BENGEO GUIDES SUMMER CAMP 2001

During the last week of August twenty-one of the 2nd Bengeo Guides, along with a similar number of 3rd Hertford Scouts spent a week camping in the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire. The campsite chosen was a real 'green field site'; a large, open space in the forest well off the beaten track, and when we arrived the grass was well over 3ft high!

The trampling feet of forty plus young people, and the pitching of all their sleeping, cooking, dinning and washing tents soon began to flatten this down a bit and by the evening of the first day the site already had a very lived in look about it.

The Monday saw everyone set off for their first days activities in warm sunshine, which was just as well as no one shut their tents and most of them looked as if the entire contents of all the occupants kit bags were strewn around inside and out! The on site leaders set about sorting this out and the cooks set about preparing the evening meal. Cooking for 63 people on a gas cooker in a tent in a field is no mean feat, and by early afternoon with tea laid out we were ready to hear about the Guides and Scouts exploits on their return to camp.

This set the scene for the majority of the camp and each day the children returned with their tales: hikers talked of hacking their way through the under growth, they had some very over-grown footpaths to contend with due to their lack of use during most of the year as a result of the foot and mouth problems; canoeists of the coldness of the water and who fell in first; pot holers of who got stuck where; pony riders of who had the friskiest mount and the sorest bottom; cyclists of who went the fastest or conquered the steepest slope, without falling off; survivalists of who had built the best shelter, cooked the best dinner and of just how dark it was in the woods at night; and those on the high level rope course of just how brave they all were jumping for that trapeze so high up.
The last afternoon saw all the patrols compete in a very wet and muddy assault course through the woods and then after a fish and chip supper, the cooks had the evening off, the camp finished in the traditional Guide and Scout way with a camp fire at which all the patrols and some of the leaders, performed.

Down Memory Lane.....



15 YEARS AGO - MOLEWOOD OUT-LOOK...

A CANAL TRIP was aranged bythe Association for residents and friends.

This was on the 'Princess of the Chilterns' along the Grand Union Canal, rising through five locks.

This was a very enjoyable Autumn treat through the lovely Chiltern hills.

Would the residents like to repeat this for some time next year?
Let us know, please ...

AND.....

20 YEARS AGO

DEVELOP MENT of Molewood by Court Homes Ltd.
Last minute appeal by Court Homes against Council's refusal to grant planning permission for residential development in Molewood.

A public enquiry was held later at Castle Hall when the appeal was dismissed !

(Who said " *Fings aint what they used to be* " ?)

1st Bengeo Brownies – Pack Holiday

On 14th September 2001 we went on our first ever Pack Holiday to Norton Bury Farm which is just North of Letchworth. The 20 Brownies and 5 leaders all arrived at the converted farmhouse amongst a lot of excitement and noise on the Friday night. We soon got to know where all the rooms were by completing a treasure hunt. Bedtime soon arrived but there was certainly a lack of sleep that night. The last Brownie finally drifted off at gone midnight and the first was to awake by 6 in the morning!

Saturday morning saw us all off on a three mile walk along the newly constructed Garden City walk to Standalone Farm. We spent a few hours at the farm admiring the animals, feeding the birds, seeing Daisy the cow being milked and playing on the adventure playground. Fortunately we did not have to walk back to Norton Bury as the leaders organised the cars to transport us all back. We spent the afternoon completing various crafts including painting flowerpots, natural collages for bookmarks and designing our own jigsaws. In the evening we had an indoor campfire, due to the good old British weather, where our favourite songs were sung and each Six did their own performance to the rest of us.

Sunday was our last day and we started off by sewing animal finger puppets, which took us far longer than anticipated! We completed the weekend with games outside that consisted of the assault course, earth balloon and parachute games. The parents finally arrived to take their rather tired, but still excited children home.

I would like to pass my thanks on to all the leaders who supported me on our first Pack Holiday, as well as the Brownies who made it enjoyable to us all.

Nicola Roche (Badger)

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK ? ——————— —

' OPTIONS ' — Now CHOICE

After 10 years `Bill and Madeleine are swapping the dark, cold winter days of Bengeo for a prolonged stay in the Thailand sunshine, having disposed of their greengrocery business to *Ian Brady.*
''But, don't panic ! " says fellow Molewood resident Ian, he will still have the same experienced staff.

Before taking over Ian spent 3 months going to New Spitalfields Market with Bill, firmly establishing himself with suppliers and to selling quality products.

Ian and wife Mary have lived in Bengeo for 24 years and have 3 sons, all of whom attended Bengeo school.

He has a keen interest in sport, being the President of Hertford Cricket Club and a Vice President of Hertford Rugby Club. He plays cricket in the summer and can occasionally be seen refereeing football matches.

Ian would like to thank all the customers who have wished him well in these early weeks and welcomes any suggestions and ideas from customers - new and old.

Ian states that Christmas order forms and trees are available from the shop now.

Good luck, Ian !

From a well-known resident.....

Dear Neighbours,

It's great to be given the chance to say 'hello' through the pages of the excellent Molewood Outlook.

It has been such a big contrast being Mayor, since May. I left my day job, or rather exchanged my day job, which was based in Central London, for a much more varied routine based in Hertford. It has given me the chance to meet far more Bengeo residents, as so many people from our neighbourhood are involved in the voluntary activities which make up the true fabric of Hertford. Gone (for a while) is the frustration of only meeting my friends and neighbours fleetingly during precious weekends. Instead I have gained a better insight into the weekday life of the town, which drives its success, its community feel and its warmth.

***Hertford has had a good run since May, with** Medieval Night, the summer Fun Day and the rededication of the War Memorial being significant 'whole town' events which have involved young and old. I have visited Evron, our twinned town in France and thoroughly recommend it to you as have all those of us who have been before me. I have also met up with a charming delegation from Wildeshausen, our twinned town in Germany, (which our family visited six years ago) and I know that numerous local families have enjoyed offering hospitality to visitors from both towns in the past.*

Looking forward to the New Year, I am hoping to establish a 'new tradition' for the town: the observation of Holocaust Day, which falls each year in late January (formally Sunday 23 January in 2002). This day is for remembering and protecting against the atrocities which occurred in Europe in the last world war, to make the connections with the genocide and ethnic cleansing which took place so recently in Ruanda, and again in Europe in Bosnia. Hertford welcomed families to settle here from Bosnia and there are surely memories of the holocaust among families living here. While I had set my sights on doing this when elected last May, I did not know then that the events of 11 September would make the themes of respect for the religions of the world and peaceful cohabitation so vital. I am also looking forward to seeing more of the great artistic talents of the town when we have our annual arts celebrations in May: the Music Festival; Theatre Week; the Art Society exhibition and the Photographic exhibition.

Christmas and the New Year season bring many attractive mayoral engagements but I've had to miss a few of these in the last week as Rob and I became grandparents for the first time and were called away to Bristol to see daughter Siân, her partner George and the new baby girl. This marvellous event was 'planned' for January but Tallulah surprised us all by coming early and in time for her first Christmas. May I thank you for the friendship and support which you have shown me in my role and wish all Molewood residents a peaceful festive season and good health and happiness in the New Year.

Councillor Dianne Desmulie
Mayor of Hertford

GLOBAL VILLAGE

If you could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look something like the following:

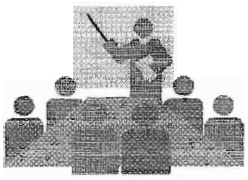
There would be:

57 Asians : 21 Europians : 14 from the Western hemisphere, both north and south : 8 Africans.
52 would be female : 48 would be male.
70 would be non-white : 30 would be white.
70 would be non-Christian : 30 would be Christian.
89 would be hetorsexual : 11 would be homosexual.
6 people would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth and all 6 would be from the US. !
80 would live in sub-standard housing
70 would be unable to read.
50 would suffer from malnutrition.
1 would be near death; 1 would be near birth.
1 (yes, only 1)would have a college education.
1 would own a computer.

When one considers our world from such a compressed perspective, the need for acceptance,
understanding and education becomes glaringly apparent !
(One wonders.....
would the village *green* be made considered as a *brownfield site ??)*

SCHOOL MATTERS !

Our Headteacher writes:-



" By the time you read this I hope that the traffic calming work outside the school will be complete. This is a scheme which has been organised by Herts County Council in conjunction with the " Safer Routes to School " initiative and I would like to thank residents for their patience whilst this work has been in progress.

We hope it will have the desired effect and slow the speed of traffic along The Avenue. During the summer holiday, and more recently, we have unfortunately had several incidences of vandalism on our premises.

For the first time ever, graffiti appeared on the site, and we have also had several broken windows. Please do contact Hertford Police Station if you have reason to believe that there are trespassers in the school grounds as we wish to maintain our site in good order.We have received news that PC Colin Clare, who has been Community Liaison Officer for the school for five years, will be moved to Borehamwood Police Station from 1 October. We will really miss his valuable expertise and his connection with our school and wish him well in his new post.
Our new contact will be a Sergeant Singleton and we look forward to working with him in the future.

The school term is racing along, with Harvest celebrations and plans are already in hand for Christmas. Do look out for any events which our Parents' Association will be holding, there is usually plenty of publicity around the estate"

MRS. K.R. HALLAHAN (September '01)

TED BROWN

Readers will be saddened to learn that long time resident TED BROWN died recently.

Ted, of 2 Cowper Crescent at one time served on the committee of this Residents Association.

A retired teacher, he also took an active part in local Associations as he was also a member of Hertford Photographic Club and the Senior Citizens Club which currently meets at Mayflower Place once a month.

Ted and his wife Margaret have lived at no. 2 Cowper Crescent since it was built, about 40 years ago !

MANY THANKS.....

TO the following helpers who do not have time to serve on our committee but who have been willing to help us out:-

....Lynn Tait and Patricia Fowler for taking on some rounds on deliveries and sub. collections.
ALSO...Sylvia Watkins for being available to deliver paper work at short notice .
Your help is very much appreciated.

I.T.

INTERNET:-
If you have children please watch out for paedophile usage of *chat rooms.*

Worried ? Then get an advice booklet by ringing 0800 77 1234 or from t he website *www.wiseuptothenet.co.uk*

VIRUS

Viruses thrive at this time of year, but a bottle from Boots wont cure a very nasty one going the rounds at the moment !.

Good antivirus software usually detects and allows you to DELETE viruses, but - be careful as you could lose most of you records!

Food For Thought.....

The graveyards are full of indispensable men.

Charles de Gaulle

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

''You look angry''
''Yes, my wife* backed the car out of our garage this morning''
''So.....?''
'' I backed it *in* last night !''
(* For p.c. objectors change the gender to ' husband')

More Food for thought:-

Time...alas...there is no way to recover lost time, but you learn to make use of what is left once you have realised what you have lost.

Yvonne Hugh

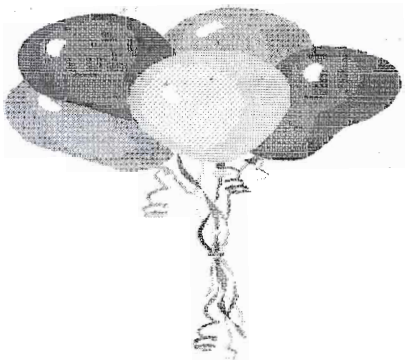


We always welcome YOUR contributions to this newsletter.

Any 'internuts' out there can send e/mail comments to:-

alboye@ntlworld.com

FINALLY---Get rid of the s.a.d.and----- Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy and successful New Year !





Back in the Spring

THE SOCIAL EVENT OF 2002

QUIZ NIGHT AT BENGEO SCHOOL
WITH FISH AND CHIP SUPPER
£5 PER PERSON

FRIDAY, 25 JANUARY 2002 – 8pm to 10.30pm

Thank you to everyone who filled in our questionnaire at this year's AGM.

Over 50% of you said yes to a Quiz Night so we have booked Bengeo School for Friday, 25 January 2002 from 8.00am to 10.30pm. See if those brain cells are still working after all the Christmas festivities!!!!

There will be 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes, so there is a lot to play for. A fish and chip supper will be provided, please bring your own wine, beer or other refreshments. Tables will be for teams of 4 or 6 people.

If you and your neighbours would like to attend the quiz night please fill in the reply slip below and return to the undersigned before 20 DECEMBER 2001.

We hope to see you there.

Jane Cooper and Jayne Clarke
SOCIAL SECRETARIES
.Cut along
here.....

I would like to attend the Molewood Residents Association Quiz Night on Friday, 25th. January 2002 at Bengeo School from 8pm to 10.30pm.

NAME: ..... NO OF PEOPLE ATTENDING: .....

ADDRESS: ..... AMOUNT ENCLOSED: .....

PLEASE RETURN THIS REPLY SLIP BY 1st. JANUARY 2002 *LATEST* TO EITHER:

JAYNE CLARKE
5 WOODHALL CLOSE

OR

JANE COOPER
3 WOODHALL CLOSE