MOLEWOOD OUTLOOK

Christmas 2002



MOLEWOOD CHRISTMAS OUTLOOK 2002

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A HAPPY & PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR

Welcome

to another edition of Outlook..and yet ANOTHER festive season.

We have lots of interest in this M.O. not least of all the situation on our own patch of Bengeo and beyond.....*Sacombe Road housing, the GRAVEL menace, Stanstead Airport, social events*...to name but a few.

Hopefully, by the time you read this we will be soon passing the *sad*dest day of the year - the shortest and can look forward to longer and longer days as the Spring beckons around the '03 corner !

RECORD BREAKERS ?

In the last issue we talked about the DROUGHT.
NOW we are told that this region has experienced the *wettest* November in 30 years, not to mention a severe electrical ' storm' which caused alarm and malfunctioning of some electronic equipment one Sunday evening.

The seasonal cover picture was drawn by Benjamin Thomas age 10 years who qualifies for the £5. reward.
WHO will be the lucky recipient for the Spring 2003 cover ?

SACOMBE ROAD development.

No further news at present, the matter having been ' sidelined' by the C. Council, thus delaying the issue of Structural Plan.
We hope to have more news in the next issue of M.O. following the discussion taking place on the 29th. January 2003.

The BRIGHT LIGHTS of Christmas.....?

Ho Ho Ho !.....Everything will be shining brightly this Christmas.
Some too brightly *Including*, unfortunately, some security lights on houses which, instead of illuminating the surrounding grounds almost seem to be searching for aircraft !

In these days of all to little daylight drivers face enough blinding lights from incoming traffic with badly adjusted headlight angle.

Recent additionai hazards are powerful security lights beaming directly out into the road.

So, if you have security lights please check the beam angle.
May thanks.....Ho Ho Ho !

GILBERT SMITH

We bid a sad farewell to another tireless worker of the local community, Gilbert Smith of The Drive who died age nearly 77 in November.
Gilbert , who had lived in Bengeo for more than 60 years, leaves June his wife for 39 years and two sons.
He was responsible for nation-wide telephone changes in 2000 and was a consultant with various cable franchises.
" He was one of those people who understood the complexities of modern technology" says his wife.

In addition to his official duties he had been a co-ordinator on our Neighbourhood Watch committee as well as serving for some time on the committee of this Association.

With the sad loss of Gilbert Smith there is need for a co-ordinator in THE DRIVE.
Any volunteers please contact KEN LUPTON at 23 Desborough Close, tel. H. 306723

RED CROSS.
Transport & Escort Service

For many years local volunteer drivers have been taking non car drivers to local hospitals, waiting whilst they have treatment, check ups, etc. and bringing them back to their homes. This is all done at a very modest cost to the patients.
Sometimes this can even be carried out for semi-social visits, subject to driver availability. Also, the local Red Cross branch in Baker Street are always delighted to take on more volunteer drivers, who are paid a mileage allowance to defray the cost of the journeys. Anyone prepared to devote on average an hour or two a week, or in using the Red Cross services please telephone Len Milbourn on H. 586609 or the Ed.

MRS. MOLE is hibernating at the moment but hopes to be surfacing with some interesting observations again in the Spring issue.

SHOTOKAN KARATE

Keep fit. Learn an effective way of self-defence.
Friendly club atmosphere. Full sports facilities.
Beginners' courses now starting.
No club membership fee.
Experienced Dan grade instructors.
WARE SHOTOKAN KARATE CLUB.
Wodson Park Sports Centre.
Monday 7.30-9pm, 7 year- old and above. Tel. H 420958
Friday 7.30-9pm 15 year-old and above

Statistics:- *97% of lawyers give the rest a bad name !*

MP for Hertford and Stortford
MARK PRISK is very interested in our Molewood Residents Association and has requested a copy of future editions of ' Outlook'.

We are hoping that he may be able to come to our AGM next Spring.

ARE YOU THE " Weakest Link" ?

Answer the following questions without stopping to consider them for long, that is....*immediately !*

1) You are in a race and you overtake the second person.
What position are you in ?
(No, it's not 'first': you're actually in SECOND place)

2) If you overtake the last person you are.....?
(Second to last ? Wrong again ! HOW can you overtake the LAST person ?)

For this one use no papers or calculators: it must be done in your head.
3)Take 1000 and add 40. Now add another 1000, then 30 and then another 1000. Add 20, another 1000 and then 10.

(What is the total ? You got 5000 ? Wrong again ! It is actually 4100.)
Now check it with your calculator.

4. Mary's father has 5 daughters: Nana, Nene,Nini and Nono.
What is the name of the 5th. daughter ?
(Nunu ? Oh dear -wrong yet again.!
It's Mary, of course)

If there are any local businesses who would like to utilise the Association's notice boards to advertise their services, please let one of the committee members have written details on maximum size A5 paper. These would remain on the boards for about 2 months and the ad. would ALSO appear in a following Molewood Outlook.
The cost would be £10 which would be reserved for supporting local campaigns such as CAGE.

Fierce quarrel between a girl and male acquaintance:
Girl:"If you were my husband I would put poison in your drink "
Man: "If you were my wife I would drink it "!

!

MATTERS OF CONCERN STANSTEAD AIRPORT

We have written and posted on Notice Boards information on proposals for the expansion of Stanstead, in addition to which much has been written in the local and national press.
Whether all the objections will make any difference to the final outcome, who knows ?
The deadline for consultation has now passed, although this is one issue where both County and the District Councils are behind the majority in opposing the proposals.
It is interesting that the proposals being currently considered appear to be identical to those proposed in...1965 !
A feature article on Stanstead proposals appears in ' Link'.
57,000 people living in East Herts receive a copy of this very informative periodical publication on such matters, but for the *internuts* amongst us the website to visit is :-

www.eastherts.gov.uk

'LINK' also reminds us of:-

1.No ' Kerb-it' paper collections between 21st. December and 5th. January.
(No Xmas cards or wrapping paper, please)

2. The ' dumps' will be closed Xmas day, Boxing and New Year days.

3. Remember to use the recycling facilities for all other disposables, including aerosols, cans and glass bottles and jars.

4. Watch out for the Wheelie Bin collection dates shown on the sticker on your bin !

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Following the rape of a 14 year old girl in Stevenage the police are urging women and girls to be on their guard and:-

Stick to busy and well lit areas.

Avoid short cuts through quiet, unlit secluded areas or alleyways.

Try to keep with friends rather than walk alone..

Do not speak to strangers.

Stay alert.

Do not use personal headphones whilst walking or jogging because you may not hear someone approaching.

Make sure that someone knows where you are going and tell them when you have arrived.

If you are worried that you are being followed go to the nearest busy place, such as a petrol station or garage.

Take a mobile phone with you if possible, but keep it out of sight.

Men should be careful not to walk too close to women or girls so as not to cause alarm.

In many areas of the world where there is comparative poverty people, including small children, can safely run around alone after dark.
It is a sad reflection on the state of our far more affluent society that the above precautions ARE necessary !
ALSO.....

.....with CHRISTMAS comes the inevitable spate of *opportunist* thefts with expensive presents lying under Christmas trees and elsewhere and cars being left filled to the gunnels with Xmas fayre.
Do not leave cartons that have contained costly items such as computers, play stations, etc. by the wheelie bin. Better to tear them up first or take them to the local ' dump'.
With the ' spirit of goodwill' we tend to relax our guard - for which the criminals are grateful !

ANY suspicions about possible criminal acts do not hesitate to phone the police Incident room in confidence on H. 533000 or ' Crimestoppers' on 0800 555 111.

A thought for Christmas:

Do you know what would have happened if it had been three wise women instead of three wise men ?

They would have asked directions,
arrived on time.
Helped deliver the baby,
cleaned the stable and
made a casserole-
brought practical gifts, and there would be Peace on Earth.

(and presumably..... never stopped talking about it !)

BENGEO SCHOOL'S

Head Teacher , Mrs. K.R. Hallahan thanks everyone for their kind support at the recent Christmas Fayre.

More on NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.....N/W co-ordinators have been advised, crime at bank ' holes-in-the-wall ' had been increasing, one having recently occurred in Ware.
Perpetrators of this type of sophisticated crime have devices which jam your credit card in the machine and whilst you enter the bank to report that your card has been ' chewed up ' the operator , having made a mental note of your pin number,' releases' the card and makes off with your cash withdrawal.

So, be vigilant and if you feel that someone is looking over your shoulder, do not proceed with the transaction.

C.A.G.E.

You should have received the December Newsletter on the Mineral Local Plan - Rickney's Quarry. In it are the main points you should make in your individual letters objecting to an extension to Rickney's Quarry.

THIS SHOULD HAVE REACHED COUNTY HALL BY 16TH. DECEMBER.

To some who are not closely associated with the current campaign all the talk of " Draft Plans", " Preferred Sites " etc. may not have much meaning.
Putting it simply.....
Last Chance .....
Yes, it is our last chance to preserve the area North of Hertford from the gravel diggers.
The area between Bengeo, Stonyhills and Chapmore End is under threat.
CAGE together with the Hertford Civic Society have put forward to the Mineral Planning Authority H.C.C. very strong arguments against the area being declared a 'Preferred Area' for gravel workings.
What is now needed is for letters to pour into the 'County Development' unit to add weight to those arguments from everyone who will be affected.
Just a few lines will do, expressing those concerns that will affect you and your family whether it be the proximity to Bengeo School, the landscape, footpaths, traffic complications, the history of local working's, or whatever is likely to affect you over the next twenty years or more.
Letters must be in by 16th December 02 latest, SO IF YOU WANT TO HELP PLEASE DO SO NOW
Send it to:
Head of County Development Unit
County Hall
Pegs Lane
Hertford
SG13 8DN
(If you have left it 'too late', it is suggested your letters may still be taken into account)
There's no harm in writing, is there ?
Be assured, that if we don't win this one all the effort that has gone into protecting the area since 1988 will be lost. !
Yes it really is that important.
With Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year
From
CAGE

AND OF COURSE.....YOUR COMMITTEE and helpers.

We are keen to get your reactions to the content of our Newsletter and ask that you please make any recommendations or constructive *criticisms. Please let us have your comments on the portion below (anonymously if preferred)by returning it to 22, Cowper Crescent.*
Many thanks.

COMMENTS:-