





MOLEWOOD OUTLOOK
Christmas 2003

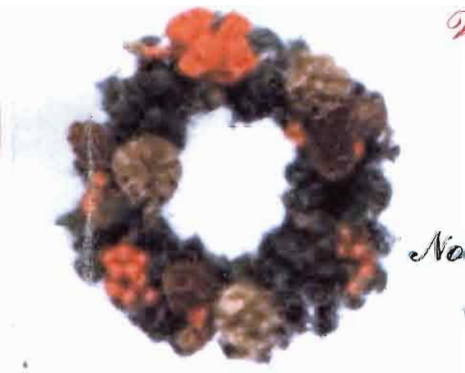
I'm Your Christmas Tree, All Brightly Lit

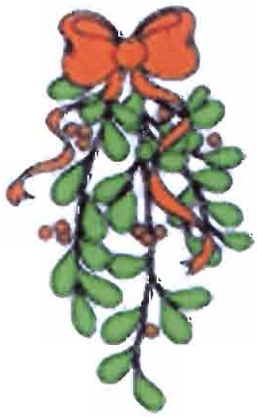




I'm your Christmas tree, all brightly lit,
Hung with angels, coloured balls, and elves.
Underneath my boughs your presents sit,
If you've behaved yourselves

Why must we wait till early Christmas morn?
To open up our brand-new games and toys?
Why gifts for us the day that Christ was born
If we're good girls and boys?





Now listen to your Christmas tree: I'm wise
In all the ways of faith that you must know.
I'm here because of what I symbolise:
Green through ice and snow.



There is a world beyond what we can see
Where, by grace of God, we can receive
God's greatest gift: to live eternally,
If only we believe.



Merry Christmas

Molewood Residents Association

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A WARM WELCOME

to one and all Molewood and peripheral residents in this festive season !

Well, we remarked about the long hot summer and autumn drought when there was even talk of hosepipe bans.
Then - the heavens opened up in late November !
The whole of a normal November rainfall drenched many parts in just 72 hours.
Lawns have started to resume their natural green hue, water butts are full to overflowing,and all is lovely and soggy once more !
Oh - and by the way the Environment Agency has issued a winter drought warning and *there could be a hosepipe ban on the way !*
(Funny old world !)

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R.A.F. ASSOCIATION -Wings Appeal

In the last issue of this magazine I thanked all those who had contributed so generously. At that time the finalised figures were not available, which are:-
Molewood Collection(Ken Lupton)..£436.69
Hertford and District £4761.10
As you can see these were even better than last year which was a record. The branch wishes to thank everyone who played their part in making this years collection such a success.

Ken Lupton
Vice President,
Hertford & District Branch,
RAF Association

The excellent seasonal computer-generated
front cover and poem with Christmas theme was done by Melanie Lamprecht,



age 16 of *Cumberland Close who is in the* first of a 3-year Hairdressing and Beauty course at Ware College.
At a reasonable cost Melanie will also make a photomontage on the PC from photos of any family special occasion.
Thank you Melanie for providing us with such a colourful and artistically composed front page !

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HELP !!!!!!!

We still DESPERATELY need some help with the deliveries *and would welcome one* or two volunteers to help us out on the ' rounds'
This only takes up to an hour 2/3 times a *year* so, if you're fit you would be doing everyone a great service by helping out.
ALSO we still need a SECRETARY just to come along to our occasional committee meetings,take and type minutes.

Please 'phone H. 423682
Many thanks !
(Some YOUNGER helpers would be particularly welcome !)

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ON YER BIKE !

At this time of year it is almost permanently night time which, coupled with rain, frosts and a low dazzling sun gives poor visibility for drivers.
One local driver mentioned that there are some cyclists who do not ensure that their lamps are in top condition, which is *essential* for their own safety.
Please make sure that you are clearly visible to all road users at all times, if possible by wearing reflective clothing.
AND *car* drivers, please ensure that *you* also have the maximum possible visibility and all *your* lights are working.!

Did anyone out there *really* understand it ?.....

.....GRAVEL EXTRACTION

Most will have received an assortment of documents from the County Development Unit at County Hall advising them that the " Second Deposit Draft of the Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan Review will be placed ' on deposit' for public inspection and consultation from Monday 13th. October to Monday 24th. November 2003 "
Copies of the Plan were available for public inspection at libraries and various public offices.

If you submitted representations on the First Deposit Draft there would have been the " Council's response " to this, giving you the choice of maintaining your objections or withdraw them.

We presume that residents are hardly likely to ' formally withdraw them '!
Two forms were enclosed, the first to confirm your existing representation and the second in respect of the Second Deposit Draft.

The forms contained lots of legalese *gobbledegook* and, we believe, in addition to bemusing all in sundry, gave little time for everyone to digest and take the appropriate action.

THE DEADLINE WAS MONDAY 24TH. NOVEMBER.

Your Committee has written re-affirming original objections.

Should an application be made to extract gravel from the proposed Rickney site extension the Association would raise objections in the normal way, to include:-

The close proximity of the site to residential areas.

The danger of gravel and waste lorries using the narrow winding Sacombe Road.

Dust blowing across the nearby school and houses.

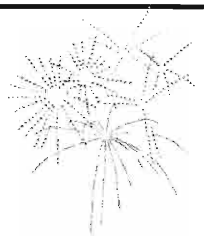
The endless noise of machinery.

The ruination of an exceptionally beautiful countryside area.

The worry that household waste would not be excluded from the site infilling.

The position was also explained in Michael McMullen's Parish Council Newsletter, October 2003, a copy of which ALL households on the estate should have received.
He explained that the 1st. Draft of the Minerals Plan Review the H.C.C. recommended that the land around Rickneys be considered a ' Preferred Area' for gravel extraction.
There was a Revised Preferred Area Map for inclusion in the 2nd. Deposit Draft showing some reductions like the Lammas Lands and the non-plantation parts of the Flowersash and Upper Stoneyhills Woods, both of which have now been excluded.
We maintain that there is *no need or justification* for 3 preferred Areas and that it was *essential to respond* to the H.C.C. at this stage as there will very likely be a Public Inquiry.
If you objected to the 1st. Draft in 2002 you will have received a form to complete and you were asked to respond to Julie Reeve, at County Hall by the 24th. November.
If you did NOT object to the 1st. Draft, the HCC have said that your objection to the 2nd. Draft will not be accepted and a letter to H.C.C. could be appropriate.

FULL plans. etc. can be viewed locally by contacting *KEN LUPTON.*



THE BIG BANG !

Mercifully for many, especially our four footed family pets, Guy Fawkes night has been and gone again, with only the empty shells strewn around. Quietness descends over Molewood.
Well, not quite !
Not only do the fizz bangs start well before November 5th, but keep on going well *after* !
Fireworks are now used for many occasions, birthdays, Christmas and many other excuses to shatter the peace and tranquillity of the neighbourhood.
We applaud the *School's P.T.A.* for sending around letters to households in the vicinity warning them that they would be holding a display on Saturday November 1st. and that they would endeavour to keep disruption to a minimum. How very thoughtful !
If only all groups arranging firework parties were similarly considerate.
As part of a crack down on anti-social behaviour the Government announced that setting off fireworks after 11pm has been banned, except on ' special occasions ' such as New Year's Eve and ' religious festivals '..
Sale of fireworks will also be restricted for most of the year.
With about £70 millions worth going up in smoke each year this will be welcomed by many - and their pets , 25,000 of whom were treated for firework injuries after 2002 fireworks night !
No doubt all those adversely affected by the noise and danger of fireworks would like to see the laws go further and restrict the supply to ' organised' and controlled displays.
Further information from Environmental Health (01279)655261

If you plan a big party over the festive season (with or without fireworks), why not warn your neighbours beforehand ? They would appreciate it.
No-one in their right mind would want to miss the look on our children's faces as they watch the dazzling array of colour unfolding above the back garden, but is it worth the horrific injuries sustained each year to people and family pets ?

SACOMBE ROAD

Much has been said and printed in this publication about the *threat* lying on our own doorstep, *in the field between* the school playing fields and the play area field on which an application has already been made for housing.
The latest information from the East Herts Planning Office is that the Draft Housing Plan will not be completed for issue until 2008.
In that issue the re-alignment of the Green Belt boundary from its present position on the Spinney side of the playing field, agricultural land and school along to Sacombe Road will be proposed.
Should the re-alignment be approved then the agricultural area will be removed from the Green Belt and the area will become available for development without any of the constraints of the Green Belt. The area has the capabilities for 70 houses.
Until any re-alignment takes place any proposals to build on this area will still be constrained by Green Belt rules.
Any proposals to develop would have to go through the normal planning actions and residents would have the opportunity to object should they so wish.

In the long term, folks, it looks as though we might well have some form of development in this ' in-fill' plot !

(BUT -We shall keep fighting !)

Worthwhile Voluntary Help

We are asking for help to prepare and deliver our Meals on Wheels in the town of Hertford.

Our meals are cooked in our WRVS kitchen in Baker Street. We cook from 75 - 80 meals Monday, Tuesday and Friday.

We deliver meals in pairs, a driver and a mate. The driver can claim 38.7p a mile.

We need help urgently in the kitchen 9.30am - 12 noon. The meals go out at 11.30 in the morning and the service ends at approximately 1pm. We have a rota and most Volunteers help once a week or once a fortnight.

Please get in touch with :-

ROSEMARY SWALLOW, the WRVS local organiser on 01992 583936 where you would be warmly welcomed !

(See also Notice Boards)

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YOUR SHOUT !

The Autumn issue of Molewood Outlook contained a brief article about the Bengeo water tower, and mentioned that it was built around 1930. Reading it reminded me of at least two memories of long ago.

When the tower was being built, I was living with my parents and elder brother at No.8 Church Road, from where we had an uninterrupted view of the work going on across the fields.. Westfield Road was there but not made up, and with only two or so houses at the Duncombe Road end. We must have wondered why the tower was built so far out in the country, but it seems that a much larger Bengeo was planned even then.

It would have been in 1940, after the fall of France, that some of us L.D.V. (Local Defence Volunteers (forerunners of the Home Guard) spent a few nights on top of the tower. There were fears of a German invasion, and we were up there to keep a watch for invading parachutists; there was a strong rumour that if they came, some might be dressed as nuns, so as to cause even more confusion. We were unarmed, had no radio or telephone (mobile phones had not been invented), and had no idea what to do if the enemy came, so it was just as well that none of them did.

After the new water tower was in use, the old one at the corner of Duncombe Road and Tower Street was demolished; during the 1939-1945 war the site was used for an Air Raid Warders' post, and for the Bengeo air raid siren, both of which had a fair amount of use.

Whilst on the subject of water, no doubt some of you readers may remember the reservoir next to the twitchell from the top of Port Hill to Byde Street.

This used to supply part of the town (I think the Cromwell Road area) through a large diameter main under the upper footpath of the hill and across Hartham. The newer bridge from The Warren to Hartham was put there above the main to make it less obvious. The reservoir site has now been filled in and built over.

Edgar Norman
150, The Avenue

Another letter: this time about.....

FOOTPATHS at GOLDINGS

I rang County Hall to find out what the position is with regard to walking on footpaths at Goldings. It seems that as part of the planning agreement some use by the public is to be allowed. The County Council is keen to have an input from local people to help them in claiming footpath use. I was sent several forms to give to friends.

For more information please tel;. 01992 555232 and ask for Sean Hanratty. He is the Definitive Map Officer, Rights of Way Unit, Environmental Management Group; and will be please to discuss the matter or send more forms, etc. More forms can also be obtained from the internet at www.hertsdirect.org/row

Please return forms to Sean Hanratty at County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford SG13 8DN .

H.C.C. will be advertising the subject of footpaths at Goldings soon, but the more people get involved the better !

Heather Fogg

We spoke to footpath *supremo* John Barnes who said:-

" When the County Council sold Goldings, councillors promised that as part of the deal the public would be provided with rights of way across the area. However, we have had similar promises from our councillors in the past, for instance, in 1982 we were promised a park and rights of way at Panshanger by 1989, but now the County Council states that those rights of way will not be provided. I know of no mechanism by which we can force councillors to comply with their promises.

If there is evidence that a right of way existed at any time in the past, then we could ask the County Council to modify the definitive map of rights of way to include that path. It seems unlikely that such a large area as Goldings would have had no paths across it. Forty years ago in the 1960's, some of the then old people in Hertford told me that there were paths across Goldings.

If we had evidence or witnesses to show that a path had been used, without let or hindrance, for any continuous period of twenty years, then the presumption is that the path is a right of way, but it is most unlikely to do so (see Section 265 Highways Act 1980)

We could put pressure on the candidates at the time of local elections, but election campaigns last only a short time and then we are back to where we were before. I think we would have to mount a campaign similar in size to that of CAGE , but then we would be in for a long haul, certainly several years !

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



How attractive the Christmas trees look, some with presents around them ready for excited little fingers to eagerly unwrap them.

Sadly, it may not be Santa lurking outside but opportunist thieves who frequently pounce at this time of year.

HIDE any parcels away until the big day and save little smiles turning to big tears !

The Ghost of ' **Christmas's PAST'**
Strolling once again down *memory lane* we show some extracts from ' Outlook' at Christmas time 1992:-

Cover pic. -Kirstey Perry, age 10

Article by John Barnes about proposal to construct a southern relief road.

An article on - surprise, surprise -CAGE

Report on a ' Children's Fun Afternoon' on the field off Sacombe Road, including a treasure hunt, sack and egg and spoon race. Winning names included Alastair Cooper, Mark Bryant, Kirstie Perry, Catherine Russell, Sarah Cotterill.

An article by Malcolm Moulding on a ' Survey of the Town of Hertford ' made by Sir Richard Smith, Surveyor General to King James 1, in 1621 from the Archives of the borough of Hertford.

Small donation to a ' fighting fund' by the Association towards legal fees in fighting the menace of Skeet Shooting'

Dog Fouling:- No money from Council to supply bins.

Neighbourhood Watch:- Bengeo
Bobby John Baldwin produced a monthly News Letter on a whole list of matters concerning safety on the roads and in houses, door to door peddlers, safe cycling, etc. etc.

Letter from Shirley Patey, Head Teacher at Bengeo School announcing that the Infants and Juniors schools were amalgamating to become Bengeo County Primary School.

She also shared with us the following, composed by a group of students:-

SCHOOLS IN UNION

There's a dream I feel, so rare, all the school in union, so real,
The school as one.
Gathering together..one mind one heart,
Every child, every teacher, once joined never apart.
Searching for the best in me, I will find what I can be.
If we win, lose or draw, it's a winner for us all.
All the school in union, the school as one.
As we climb to reach our destiny, A new year has begun.
We must face hard maths tests, or else we will fail.
We must try to be brave, like Jonah in the whale.
All the school in union this school as one, as we climb to reach our destiny, A NEW SCHOOL HAS BEGUN.

Back to the Present.....

LEYLANDII

The beloved/despised Leylandii still a thorn in the sides of some neighbours of those who cherish them !
Now the controversial conifer has been cut down to size by a parliamentary bill which means that homeowners could face fines of to £l,000 if they refuse to trim back hedges which are ruining views or blocking out light.
Local authorities will have the power to deal with offending trees with the owner picking up the tab for the ' surgery '.

So, if you or your neighbour's leylandii is causing a problem, have a friendly word and see if you can compromise on an agreement before calling in ' the man from the Council' and causing more aggravation !

MRS. MOLE'S RETURN
(From Oz. !)

At the time of writing it's such a beautiful day it makes up for the other miserable days we put up with this time of year.

I did intend to go out and rake up the last of the autumn leaves but I got side-tracked watching the birds and squirrels. The green woodpecker looks stunning pecking away into the lawn and the spotted one is perched on the peanut holder having a real feast, and four squirrels are going absolutely mad chasing each other through the trees and along the fence.

As I've just got back from Oz. I suppose I would find it a bit cold and depresssing here, although their Spring weather can be quite wet. i.e. did you watch that fantastic rugby game played in the pouring rain ? I was so on edge I kept having to turn the TV off, it was getting too much for me to watch !

Did you also see in the Mercury Rugby Supplement that Jan and Rod Leggetter, two long term ex Woodhall Close residents were lucky enough to get tickets for the final, I bet they'll never forget that day.

Anyway to get away from sport, I had a great time in Australia.

This visit I climbed the Sydney Harbour Bridge something I've always wanted to do. Each person in the group is fastened to the bridge rail with a metal chain which takes a bit of getting used to as you climb the uphill steps, but when you reach the top the views are really fantastic, so if this has wetted your appetite take a tip and do the climb when the sun is setting over the harbour, you'll never forget it.

Still it is nice to be back home for Christmas and I hope you all have a very happy time, and next year turns out to be a good one for everyone.

RED CROSS

The local branch of the Red Cross are still looking for volunteer drivers for their ' driver and escort service'.

Although voluntary, expenses are paid for journeys and you only do the trips that suite your own arrangements.
(Why not put back something into the community ?)

For people with hospital appointments the Council run a *Dial-a-ride bus service at the* normal bus rates to local hospitals, although this often involves going ' around the houses' to pick up other users.

The Red Cross volunteer drivers take their ' patients' singly on a door-to-door basis, waiting whilst *they have their appointment* and then returning them direct to their homes, with some assistance if required. The cost is a little more than the Dial-a-Ride but is on a much more personal basis. The service can also be used for non-medical journeys i.e. visiting relatives, etc.

For more details contact:-
Len. Milbourn on H. 586609 (or the Ed.)

SCHOOL MATTERS !

Keeping our local young local school children's talents in mind.....

Children in Year 5 (Aged 9 and 10) at Bengeo Primary School were asked to write their ideas of what they would keep in "My Magic Box".
Here are three of the poems.

I will put in my box:-
The sweet smell of roses,
A white cat's meow,
The great heat of the Sahara.

I will put in my box:-
Berries from Jupiter,
The squawk of an eagle,
My father's last laughs.

I will put in my box:-
The darkness of a cave,
A black hole far beyond anyone's reach,
The twinkle of a new born star.

I will put in my box:-
The happiness of Christmas,
The sadness of death,
The warmth of a blazing fire.

My box is made of laughter and happiness.
The hinges are made of sadness I once had.
I will trek in the jungle
Only will I stop to get courage from my box.
Happiness to keep me warm
Even on the coldest of nights.

Abbey Kennedy

I will put in my box:-
The tooth of a dinosaur,
The finger of a monkey,
A gold coin the size of Jupiter.

I will put in my box:-
A diamond ring once worn by King Henry VIII,
The toenail of the oldest person on earth,
A pure gold football stadium.

My box is made of crystal and diamond with iron and silver.

I will take the box to the moon with me and there I shall set them free.
I will go back home and hope and pray that they are living okay.

Brett Rowden

I will put in my box:-
The gurgle of water going into a plughole,
The lights gone from a power cut,
And a smile of a teething baby.

I will put in my box:-
A curse from a witch,
A moon on the ground,
And humans in the air.

I will put in my box:-
The last moments of a snowman dying,
A cheer from a football pitch,
And the smiling sun *singing songs.*

My box is made from ice, gold and wind,
With faces on the lid and teeth in the corners.
And the hinges are made from unicorn's horns.
I will throw my box into another dimension
So it's safe from human eyes.

Cara Baker

(" The future's just begun ! ")

MOBILE 'PHONES

We mentioned about the use of these in a car and, as predicted, the law clearly states that it is now *an offence* to use a hand-held mobile 'phone whilst driving.

A fixed penalty fine of £30 can be imposed, or a fine of up to £1000 if the matter goes to court.

Use of a mobile is *not* advised while driving, even with a ' hands-free' kit when a driver could still be prosecuted for failing to have proper control of the vehicle, if their driving is considered to be dangerous because of the distraction.

The simple answer is to set up your voice mail and return the call later.
It's a lot cheaper too !

CLEAN YOUR TEETH.....
FLUORIDATION

According to press reports the Water companies have now been given the green light by the Government to add FLUORIDE to our water supplies.

Critics say that it is linked to infant mortality, cancer, Down's syndrome and bone damage.

The Water Bill means that, in the event of anyone suffering ill health, water companies will not be liable if there is any legal action.

Naturally, the British Dental Association say that lack of fluoride is putting childrens' teeth at risk.

The Government could still be challenged in the courts.

If you have strong feelings about the new measures- contact your M.P.

MOBILE PHONE MASTS

We have written about the Sacombe Road 'phone mast and that, according to all the experts, it should cause no concern on the health question.

It seems the problem has not entirely gone away !

A ' landmark' court case in another area, where the mast erected was in much closer proximity to housing, was won on the basis that the 'phone company had no right to put a 40' mast so near a home, thereby causing ' health fears' to local residents. Scientists in Holland have revealed that the 3G signals "could cause extreme illness", and no-one has apparently proved that the masts are ' safe'.

The company have appealed against the Court's decision and it could take a long time for the mast to be re -sited.

Residents who have been campaigning may want to follow this other case through.

An Avenue resident writes that reception on her short wave radio programmes are frequently interrupted by brief police transmissions and wonders if the masts may be the culprits.

We doubt if this is the case as this type of interference occurred long before mobile 'phones were in use or masts erected.

BUT .....if you have any other thoughts on the matter....?

The following , first produced in the Spring edition of Outlook, raised many a smile, so we thought it appropriate to repeat it at this time of year

BLESS THE LITTLE CHILDREN.

If you know your bible, even a little, you will see the humour in these answers which came from a Catholic elementary school tests.

(NOT from our local school, we hasten to add !)

Kids were asked questions about the old and new testaments.

The statements have not been retouched or corrected in any way.

1 *In the first book of the bible, Guinessis, God got tired of creating the world, so he took the Sabbath off.*
2 *Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree.*
3 *Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark, which the animals came on to in pears.*
4 *Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night.*
5 *The Jews were a proud people, and throughout history they had trouble with the unsympathetic Genitals.*
6 *Samson was a strong man who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah.*
7 *Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.*
8 *Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea where they made uneven bread which is bread without any ingredients.*
9 *The Egyptians were drowned in the desert. Afterwards Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten amendments.*
10 *The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.*
11 *The seventh commandment is thou should not admit adultery.*
12 *Moses died before he ever reached Canada. Then Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol.*
13 *The greatest miracle in the bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still, and he obeyed him.*
14 *David was a Hebrew king skilled in playing the liar. He fought with the Finklestines, a race of people who lived in biblical times*
15 *Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.*
16 *When Mary knew she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carter.*
17 *When the three wise guys from the East side arrived, they found Jesus in the manager.*
18 *Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.*

XXXXXXXXX

Heard in the HOUSE.....

It was said that when a formidable female left wing M.P. accused Winston Churchill of being drunk, he is supposed to have replied...

"Yes madam, and you are ugly..... but by the *morning I will be sober*"!

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If any *internuts* out there would like to submit articles or letters via email, please address them to:-

allboye@ntlworld.com

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Well, in the Spring edition we wished everyone a wonderful summer - which it was, with an Autumn to match any New England Fall with all the multi-coloured leaves !

Which *leaves* us to wish all Molewood residents.....

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY and PEACEFUL NEW YEAR

(A message also endorsed by Hertford MP MARK PRISK)

Cheerio.....

Yes, back in the Spring

