

Spring Edition 2017

Stop Bengeo Quarry - Update



The Stop Bengeo Quarry (SBQ) campaign continues with the ferocity of a tornado – this issue has galvanised the whole community into action. The developers have re-submitted a revised application with HCC opening a new public consultation. In the run up to the deadline for responses there has been a wealth of activity around the local area with the SBQ group drumming up as much support to oppose the quarry as possible. The SBQ group have encouraged local people via leaflet drops to residents to write into HCC with their objections as well as setting up an online survey to gather opinions. At the time of writing the petition has 1,500 signatures. The SBQ group's Facebook account has been at the heart of getting information out to the public – they published a letter from The Public Health Service at County Hall recommending a dust monitoring station in the school grounds suggesting this would be a win-win situation for all. Local parents of children who attend Bengeo Primary expressed shock and outrage at this statement saying that if there is a need for a monitoring station there is obviously a risk to the health of the pupils. SBQ has stated that the government's own guidelines for a safe distance for a quarry should be a minimum of 1000m from sensitive areas.

On Saturday 18 February some wonderful volunteers, including Nick Gough from the MRA, ran a stall at the Hertford Farmer's Market in town. Hundreds of local people came along to speak with the SBQ group and find out what was going on – this was a fantastic way of getting the message out to the wider community.

Local MP, Mark Prisk, has formally objected to the revised application for gravel extraction at Bengeo. In his submission he says that the risks to the local water supply are unquantified; the scale and location of the application is inappropriate and the potential impact on the environment and risks to local health are unacceptable.

The SBQ group have encouraged members to come to the meeting at **County Hall on 22nd March** where they will decide if they will approve the proposal – with the strength of local feeling we all hope HCC make the right decision for our children, residents and local countryside.

The SBQ group have done a wonderful job so far in generating support and keeping local residents informed on developments. To keep up to date you can read more on their website **(www.stopbengeoqaurry.org.uk)**; on the MRA website **(www.molewood.org.uk)** or join the SBQ Facebook group **(search: Save Bengeo's Countryside – Stop the Quarry)**.

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Thank you to Emmet

Emmet O'Sullivan volunteered to take over as editor of the Outlook in 2012 and brought a bright, fresh look to 13 issues of our newsletter since then. Unfortunately his work as an architect in London has meant that he has found it impossible to devote the time he would have liked to keep the newsletter looking so good. He stepped back as editor to be graphics editor from late 2015 but has unfortunately had to 'retire' from this role completely. The MRA would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to Emmet for all his hard work and new ideas. You can see his work and other back numbers going back to spring 1976 - 40 years of Molewood history - on our website at **www.molewood.org.uk.**

The Greyhound Pub Will Re-Open Soon!



Many of you will remember the devastating fire that happened at The Greyhound in early January. It was a dramatic morning with the Hertford fire brigade in attendance, rescuing one person from an upstairs window. The pub's management had only just changed hands in October 2016 with Kate and Ella Rowley taking over the day to day running of this popular establishment. The fire started in the commercial kitchen downstairs with smoke and fire causing damage to 80-90% of the inside of the pub. McMullen's Brewery decided that the damage was so severe that the pub would have to undergo a complete refurbishment with works well under way now. Having spoken to a Greyhound representative, Outlook understands that Kate and Ella hope to be up and running sometime around May but a definite date cannot be given at this stage of the refurb. When the pub re-opens it will still be serving food: good pub grub and pizzas at lunchtime and with a flavoursome Thai menu in the evenings. Tuesday nights will still be quiz night and there are plans for monthly live music. The MRA wishes Kate and Ella all the best with the re-opening of the pub.

Waterford Heath Update



Since our last issue, work carries on apace on Waterford Heath. Various works have been undertaken including a new picnic bench installed on the southern end of the site by volunteers working with the Wildlife Trust. Other volunteer groups have been working hard recently improving the area for all, completing jobs such as repairing sections of fencing, maintaining access steps and removal of dead hedges. The circular walk on the heath, officially opened in June, now has way-marker posts along its length and maps at strategic points for those wishing to navigate the route. One of the biggest most recent jobs has been the removal and pruning of some dangerous trees adjacent to Sacombe Road on the edge of Great Molewood. Over the late winter and early spring the following works should be carried out: further limited tree safety works; on various areas of scrub on the north heath grizzled skipper banks will be cut back; further scrub will be cut back in the settling beds on the south heath; some of the scrub near the river will be reduced; general infrastructure improvements and repairs will be completed. Well done to all the volunteer groups working hard to keep this area in top condition. If you would like to get involved with helping to improve and maintain this area please contact us and we can put you in touch with the right people.

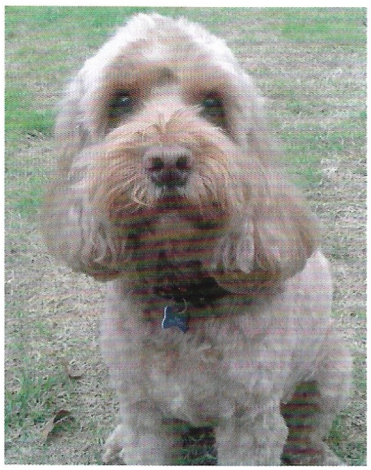
The Bengeo Night inc. MRA's AGM

'Pizza and Prosecco'

Join us for a fun night out at **Bengeo Primary School** on **9th May at 7pm.** There will be an update on your Association's activities followed by pizza and prosecco. Guest speakers TBC. If you want to get involved with the Committee in anyway come along or get in touch via email.

Pets Corner

Welcome to Pets' Corner where our local pets get a chance to introduce themselves:



"Hi, I'm Bryn! I'm a cockerpoo – my mum was a cocker spaniel and my dad was a poodle. I came to live in Lodge Close eight years ago when I was a little puppy and couldn't even climb the stairs. I came from Wales where my name means 'hill'. I love going for walks on Waterford Heath and around Hartham. I also love cuddles on the sofa with my human mum and dad, who think they are in charge, although really I am. I hate thunderstorms, so as soon as I hear thunder I hide in the cupboard under the stairs and tremble. Don't feel sorry for me though, I only have to look at my dad with my sad brown eyes and he will share his lunch with me – don't tell my mum!"

If you would like to have your pet featured in Outlook please email us a photo and tell us all about them.

MRA Quiz Date

The MRA will be holding its annual quiz on **Friday 13th October at Bengeo Primary School.** Details for booking tables will be announced closer to the date. In the meantime, start getting your teams together and swotting up on your general knowledge.

Have your say!

If you would like to see a particular issue covered in Outlook please get in touch with the MRA via our general enquiries email – we are happy to try and cover issues that residents feel strongly about. Serious or light hearted, this is your Association and your newsletter – get in touch!

Xmas Lights Winners!

Molewood Residents' Association took to the streets again over Christmas to judge the external lighting displays of residents from all roads across the estate.

After 2015's inaugural competition a number of residents had notably upped their game opting to include laser shows and dancing snowmen in their displays.

The two categories, Brightest Bengeo and Majestic Molewood, were judged by a trio of Committee members, one dog and four smaller expert judges eagerly awaiting Father Christmas' arrival. Scores awarded ranged from 1 through to 11 (out of 10) with two clear winners and two commendations. Commendations were given to No. 4 The Avenue and last year's winner No. 16 Desborough Close; both houses maintained the very high standards of previous years.



Brightest Bengeo took on new levels with laser shows adorning household exteriors in a number of streets but the winner emerged as No. 22 Desborough Close with a laser show and lit tree just edging the competition and demonstrating the new standard for the competition. No. 20 The Drive bought the theme of a "White Christmas" to Molewood winning Majestic Molewood with a very cool look and moving reindeers display. Each winner's chosen charity will receive a donation of £25 – as such the MRA will be sending £25 to Battersea Dogs Home and £25 to The Stroke Association.

Neighbourhood Watch Coordinaters required

The Neighbourhood Watch community in East Herts now has over 11,000 members. For the past couple of years they have been getting short of Local Coordinators for Neighbourhood Watches including Ward and Area coordinators for our district. If you know of anyone, including yourself, who would be interested in becoming a local coordinator please contact the MRA via our email or speak to one of our Committee members and we will pass your contact details onto our local District coordinator. For those who take up the role supporting documentation, welcome packs, window stickers etc and training will be given.

Your Association

Molewood Residents' Association was formed in the late 1960's and represents residents of the Molewood estate, Bengeo. This is the area north from The Drive and west of Sacombe Road to the north of Hertford.

The aim of the association is to support Molewood residents and enhance their enjoyment of the Molewood neighbourhood. The association organises events and contributes to community events arranged by residents. The Association issues 4 Outlook newsletters each year. If you would like to read about the early days of the estate our website has copies of newsletters of the time.

Annual membership of Molewood Residents' Association costs £2 per household a year and will be collected door to door by committee members starting in June. This gives people the opportunity to discuss how the committee is doing and how it can work best to represent residents.

If you would like to pay in advance or if it is more convenient you can drop the payment along with contact details through the letter box of our treasurer, Alan Sewell, 16 The Avenue.

Your Committee

Chair	
Ben Penrose	104 Cowper Crescent
Treasurer	
Alan Sewell	16 The Avenue
Secretary	
Kath Richardson	126 Cowper Crescent

General Members

Nick Gough	11 Lys Hill Gardens
Catie Geering	46 Buckwells Field
Marie Archer	55 The Wick
John Edwards	8 The Wick
Emily White	27 The Drive
Colin Broomfield	73 Buckwells Field
Website Manager	Paul Ogier
Outlook Editor	Jo Beatty
Outlook Graphics	Richard Wykes

What's On?

Hertford Castle has a number of events coming up this Spring:

Hertford Arts Festival Launch
Friday 7th April 18.00 - 20.00
Tickets priced £5 each to include a complimentary glass of sparkling wine

Street Art Festival Part of the Hertford Arts Festival
Saturday 22nd April 10.00 – 16.00
This brand new event will take to the streets of Hertford Town Centre to showcase the local artistic talent.

Hertford Castle Craft Market & Open Day
Sunday 7th May 12:00 - 16:00
Free Entry although donations are welcome

Cars at the Castle
Sunday 4th June 12:00 – 16.00
Free Entry, Charity Donations Welcome.
The castle lawn will be home to an array of cars for the afternoon, from modern to classics

For more information on these and other events check out www.hertford.gov.uk/events

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To join for 2017/18 complete the slip and put it through the letterbox of our treasurer, Alan Sewell, 16 The Avenue.

I/ we want to support the MRA for 2017/18. I enclose my £2 per household payment for this year's subscription.

My/ our name is .....

and I/ we live at .....

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

email address .....