Molewood Outlook

A word from The Editor

We would like to repeat what we said last autumn, that we all enjoyed the weeks of real summer weather.

Alas, apart from an early hot spell, this year here in our corner of the South East has been disappointing, although early Autumnal gold's created artist's dream scenes!

Still we were still blessed on the super Molewood Fun-day in September and all had a good time!

Local changes are taking place once again in our shopping parade as well as on our committee with more members seeking pastures new. You can find out more inside.

We look forward to another interesting year for Molewood and hope that the coming Christmas season will be something special to all!

With best regards,

Allan Streeton
allboye@ntlworld.com or
cary@hand-coded.com



The Molewood Resident's Association would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Chairman's Report for Newsletter Nov' 07

Membership
Is currently around 500; and we are grateful to our loyal band of helpers who do the door-to-door collection of the annual subscription, which remains at £2. As advertised elsewhere, in Outlook, we are in need of additional volunteers to look after small street sections.

Committee
The Committee continues to meet every 6 to 8 weeks and would value a greater feedback, from Residents, about matters, which it is felt that we should be considering. Two Committee members are moving away from Molewood: Geoff Clarke and Mick Hale. We thank them for their contributions and wish them luck in their new homes.

Finance
Nick Gough, an existing committee member has been appointed by the Committee to act as Treasurer in

place of Mick Hale, until the AGM, when we trust that he will be duly elected to this position. Thank you, Nick! And, also, thanks to several sponsors who have subsidized our Newsletter and our Family Picnic; and, thereby, allowed us to conserve our funds.

Social Events
The big event of the year for the MRA was without doubt, our Family Picnic, in September. We are indebted to Desiree and James Power for organizing this event very competently. Those families who attended all seemed to be having a wonderful time. Hopefully, we can do the same again next year.

Local Matters
Colin Underwood is keeping in touch with the Council over the development of the "Rat Run" and reports that we should be hearing in January when the experimental new traffic restrictions come into force. And thanks to Kevin Beadle, we continue to be represented at meetings of CAGE.

Best Wishes
Brian Laming (Chairman)

Committee Members

Chairman
Brian Laming — 49 Cowper Crescent, Tel: 583512, blaming@hotmail.com

Treasurer
Nick Gough — 11 Lys Hill Gardens, Tel: 423723, ndgough@ntlworld.com

Editor of Molewood Outlook
Allan Streeton — 22 Cowper Crescent, Tel: 423682, allboye@ntlworld.com

Secretary
Joan Murrell — 38 Cowper Crescent, Tel: 587595

Other Members:

Marie Archer — 55 The Wick, Tel: 581965

Kevin Beadle — 24 Desborough Close, Tel: 551431

Janet Moy — 18 Desborough Close, Tel: 586645

James Power — 59 The Wick, Tel: 501353, Jamespower539@hotmail.com

Helen Graham — 31 The Avenue

Cary Portas — 15 Desborough Close, Tel: 411217, cary@hand-coded.com

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Notice Boards

We apologise for having let some of these deteriorate into a sorry state but help is at hand! Handyman Bill Adams has kindly agreed to help re-instate these for us.
Thanks Bill!

Bloomin' Marvellous!

For the fourth time, Cowper Crescent resident Joyce Woods has won in the category of **Best Kept Medium Front Garden** in the Hertford in Bloom 2007.

Well-done Joyce!

Playing fields:

Older children are sometimes playing in the enclosed children play area. Please remember this play area is strictly for the use of the fixed play equipment.

Bengeo Ward Councillor's Surgery

Meet your local councillors at the following place:
Church Hall, Duncombe Road

10 – 11am on the 1st Saturday of each month

Tell them your views on local services and get help and support where needed.

Bengeo Primary School – Update from the Headmistress

As always the Summer Term was a busy one, with sports day and all the usual sporting events trips.

Our Year 6 children had a great end of term party to send them on their way, and we understand they have settled well into their respective secondary schools.

At the end of the Summer Term we had an OFSTED inspection and we were delighted to receive their report, which praised our school as 'Good with some outstanding features'.

It was good to see so many of you at our annual fete 'Bengeo Day' as always we are always pleased with the support we receive from our local community and I am sure most of you heard our firework display on the 3rd of November!

Our Parents' Association work hard to organise all our fundraising events and we are very grateful for their time and energy.

Mrs. K.R. Hallahan
Head teacher

New Grocery Shop – 'The Pantry'

Residents will be delighted that we are having a local grocery/convenience store nearby once again.

The new incumbent is CORINNE SMALLWOOD who lives in Wellington Street. She will be sprucing the existing premises early in the second week in January 2008.

The Pantry will supply freshly baked rolls, delicatessen, fine wines, beers and spirits, confectionary and speciality foods, as well as the basics at reasonable prices.

Corinne will also be serving teas and coffees, hot soups, filled rolls and sandwiches, a selection of delicious cakes and other snacks to sit down and enjoy over a chat with friends or to take away.

She is looking forward to providing the local community with a friendly helpful service and free home delivery will be available for pensioners or the disabled in need of a helping hand with their shopping.

She invites anyone to pop in and have a look around and looks forward to serving us all.

Committee Member Changes:

Sadly we bid farewell and good luck to Treasurer Mick Hale, wife Carol and family, who are moving away from the estate to pastures new in the unchartered wilds of Suffolk.

We say thanks to Mick for his work with us and wish them all Bon Voyage!

The committee has unanimously agreed that existing member Nick Gough will be the new Treasurer, subject to approval at the next AGM.

Another loyal member of the committee will shortly up sticks into the glorious West Country when Geoff and Linda Clark move from their bungalow in the Avenue.

Once again, many thanks Geoff for your work in keeping our membership lists up to date and Bon Voyage!

This leaves a vacancy in Geoff's computer duties, which we hope will be filled by the time you read this.

If any of you are interested in joining the committee or helping out in any way, please let Brian Laming or one of the committee members know. All help is welcome!

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Your Membership Renewal – Time Again!

Dear Members,

Yet another year has gone and very soon after our AGM in May, your committee and their helpers will again be knocking on doors for your annual subscriptions.

The subscription money allows the committee to pay for events such as the free summer picnic, planned for later this year and to have money available for legal fees to fight the gravel extraction applications.

We are pleased to advise you that the subscription will remain at £2, which is largely due to the continuing sponsorship of Steven Oates Estate Agents, which have reduced our printing costs.

Please make your collector's job as easy as possible by having the correct money ready. If they were unfortunate enough to call when you are not at home or at an inconvenient time, they would appreciate if you could contact them as advised in the note they will leave.

We are aware that it can be disrupting to keep calling for subscription monies, so your support in calling our volunteers back will make a difference not only to the impact on their time, but also to reduce disruptions to you!

We extend a very warm welcome to new arrivals to Molewood and wish 'bon voyage' to those seeking pastures new.

Bengeo Rat Run – We need Your VIEWS on the latest measures.

You should all have received a letter from the Highways Dept. outlining the details and the timetable for the experimental traffic measures for the 'rat run'.

It looks very much as if the major impact for Molewood residents could be an increase in traffic along The Avenue, Church Road and Elton Road during the morning rush hour.

Once the measures go live in January 2008 it is important that any adverse impact on resident's safety is recorded.

In order that we can properly respond at the appropriate time you are encouraged to report any specific incidents to Colin Underwood, e mail val.colin@hotmail.com.

He will be co-ordinating a response from the Residents Association at the completion of the trial.'

The trial will involve:
The East Herts Joint Members Panel current proposals for an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (six months) are:

- No right turn into Cross Road from Bengeo Street (morning ~~peak~~ rush hours)
- Tower Street will be one way (easterly)

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS
Working together for a safer Hertfordshire
HERTFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY

E-news from Herts. Constabulary

If you are interested in finding out the latest news from Herts Police, you can now subscribe to their on-line email service.

With the latest news, advice and information, you can find out what initiatives and schemes are in place to help make Hertford a safe place to live.
Just follow the link from **www.herts.police.uk**

FOR LOAN

To all long term and new residents alike, we would like to inform you that the Association still has a **FERTILIZER SPREADER** for loan.

Please contact Helen at 31 The Avenue for further details.

The Secret is out!

The Secret Garden has launched a new coffee garden, say proprietors Alison and Jo. "Why not come along and sample our selection of home made cakes and delicious sandwiches or maybe frothy cappuccino, hot chocolate or just a nice cup of tea!"

All products are FRESH!



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C.A.G.E. is still active. Are You?

Background:
The Molewood Residents Association, under the leadership of Pam Lutner, was among the founders of C.A.G.E (Campaign Against Gravel Extraction) in April 1988 and since then we have fought hard to resist more gravel working in the North of Hertford area.

Rickneys Pit, which was given permission in 1954, was active in the 80s and 90s and has, under new owners, been granted an extension of 10.4 hectares (24 acres) Small, though this might seem, it is only part of an area of some 200 acres which has been nominated as a preferred area by the County, which C A G E has been trying to defend.

Extensive representations were made both at the time of the original application in 2006 and when a Supplementary Environmental Statement was submitted in February this year. We made a good case but conditions have changed and the goalposts moved since the days of the Mega Pit Applications and now we need to ensure that the conditions attached to the permission are as strict as can be negotiated.

This is taking a lot of time and effort on the part of the committee and if C A G E is to continue the campaign to defend the area it needs support from all those who are at risk of finding the gravel pits on their doorsteps in the future with all the attendant problems of noise, dust, traffic and lower house prices.

So how does it affect Bengeo?

The southern boundary of the Preferred Area virtually touches the northern part of Bengeo and, as things stand at present, it is anybodies guess when an application to extend southwards will be made.

So what can be done?

CAGE needs help from residents of Molewood who are willing to tackle the long term detailed knowledge of the technicalities of the subject to join them in keeping the gravel diggers at bay.

If you are one of the many professionals living in Molewood do please have a word with Kevin Beadle or with me on 01992 500422
As the saying goes; " Your CAGE needs you "

Written by George Sandell – Chairman of C A G E

PARKING



We know...."Not again"! BUT, once more local buses have been prevented from getting past cars parked inconsiderately!

PLEASE, pause before parking on the street and think whether or not a large vehicle could easily get through.
But please don't park on the pavement or on the grass
Some road obstructers have even had spare room in their own driveways!

(How would they feel if their car had prevented an ' emergency vehicle' gaining access to a fire or accident?)

DOWN MEMORY LANE....

Allan Streeton – long-standing Editor of the Molewood Outlook takes a peek into the past to give us an insight into the workings of our community back in 1991.

Looking back on a Molewood Outlook of autumn 1991, I see some very familiar names for some of the long standing residents of the estate.

Pam Lutner – Chairperson Dorothy Bradley – Secretary Dennis Goodrum - Treasurer

Amongst the committee members were...Valerie Sutton, Eileen Beale, Val Underwood, and Heidi Scott.

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Louisa Sapin (then 12) drew the front cover picture.

As with today's newsletter, there is an update from CAGE although 16 years make a lot of difference as you will see:

Many residents attended a Public Enquiry at County Hall and Michael McMullen wrote about the pending 'environmental disaster' giving all the dates of the proposed meetings and urging everyone to come along.

Pam Lutner and George Sandell added their articles strongly advocating everyone to lend support.

Many fund raising events for CAGE were organised SUCH AS... Barn Dance, Quiz Night, an Auction, Car Boot Sale, and a really super event:- Back-to-the-40's dance with Opus One, at Sele School, when members came along in costumes of the era, including US and British servicemen's uniforms,etc.. The funds reached the target figure of £15,000!

In addition, there was a change of ownership at the Avenue shop parade: Bill and Madelaine Battell took over ownership of the Greengrocers.

There was also an article on bad parking on the estate ....surprise...! Surprise! (...nothing changes!)

The Chairperson reported that the Association had been going for 28 years so we must be about 45 yrs. old now! (We may now be the longest standing R.A. in Herts.....WOW!)

NEIGHBOURHOOD NOISE
At that time there were many complaints about noise - Skeet Shooting, dogs, etc which thankfully doesn't appear to be a problem these days.

JOHN BALDWIN, Our friendly Neighbourhood copper always took a personal interest in our 'onion patch ' and always came along to speak at AGM'S and some of the committee meetings. He would also contribute articles to our M.O. on security matters and got to know everyone connected with the Resident's Association.

As you can see, some things have moved on, but many of the topics important to Residents in 1991 are still as current in 2007.

RAF Association:

"On behalf of the Hertford and district branch of the R.A.F Association, Battle of Britain Wings Appeal (Sept 07) I would like to thank all those who gave so generously to the 'house to house' collection in the Molewood area.

The amount collected was £321.80!

This has made a substantial contribution to the overall collection of just over £4000.

With thanks,
Ken Lupton
Vice President, Hertford and District Branch.

Neighbourhood Watch

The Neighbourhood Watch committee are made up of Co-ordinators who receive regular updates from the police on recent local crimes, which, thankfully, very few are on our estate.

Many are of a minor nature and are to raise awareness.

The latest update is regarding a phone scam, whereby you may get a card through the door from PDS (Postal Delivery Service) stating they haven't been able to make a delivery and asking you to call their number.

Don't make the call as it will cost you £15. Instead, report the matter to the Royal Mail Fraud office on 0207 2396655.

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Molewood Resident's Association Family Fun Day

Thanks to all who attended on the day and our Sponsor's; Breeze & Wyles, Kiddikarts and the Molewood Resident's Association for funding the event...

A great day out for Molewoodian's young and mature on Sunday 9th September. Fortunately the weather couldn't have been better for the Resident's of Molewood as they turned out with friends and family to the Family fun day.

With a hog roast, wine-tasting competition, bouncy castle, go-karts and ice creams were the order of the day as you can see in these photos.

Truly a great success thanks mainly to James and Desiree from the Resident's Association Committee, who organised the whole event. Hopefully we can do the same next year.




























John looks pleased as competition hots up. Is Barry's mind on hog roast?








Mmmm fun AND ice cream did I forget my birthday?









Thanks to Desiree for supplying these fabulous pictures – and to all who attended!