

# St Albans News

The Voice of our Neighbourhood



June 2008

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## Amenities and the Resource Management Act

In the Resource Management Act 1991, amenity is described as “those natural or physical qualities and characteristics of an area that contribute to people’s appreciation of its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence, and cultural and recreational attributes.” However, this definition, as concise as it may be, does not quite capture the idea of “sense of place.” What is it that makes a place pleasant, understandable and welcoming to its residents and

perhaps a town memorial or clock. Take a look at Leeston or Oxford as examples.

Within towns and cities the sense of place becomes lost within the confusing network of one-way streets and motorways, large shopping malls and their associated car parks, and drab streetscapes of few trees and many multi-unit slab-sided apartment units with blank boundary walls. But for the name on the street or on the side of the shopping mall you could be anywhere in

New Zealand.

What was distinctive and that which makes up a coherent sense of place has been lost.

Is it possible to build places that recognize public amenity values and that contribute to a sense of place? Many planners and architects from the New Urbanists to Richard Rogers seem to think so. Richard Rogers in *Cities for a New Planet* (1997) said, “if we wish to reinforce our neighbourhoods and grow sustainably, then (London) needs to cre-

ate communities that offer an affordable and humane quality of life.” He advocates, “dense schemes (i.e. intensification) with public streets, squares and parks that mix shops, workplaces and schools—the model of a sustainable community—instead of compounds that cram the maximum number of individual houses onto the site.” Substitute Christchurch for London and perhaps this may sound familiar?

Also back in 1997, John Chaplin, a local architect, commented on the forthcoming Plan Change that introduced the L3 and L4 zones. He said, “Intense public concern has been voiced about the loss of urban vegetation that has accompanied residential



A Special Local Amenity - Peggy’s Park  
(The Packe Street Park and Community Gardens)

visitors alike?

Perhaps some of the elements in a landscape or streetscape that contribute to this are the grouping and relationship of both natural and built elements such as trees, vegetation, open space, street width, and the scale and relationship of buildings. It is also the perceived vitality of a place with both commercial and community activities; the absence of constant traffic noise; and the grouping of recognizable community landmarks and facilities. Many villages had this grouping as an almost natural quality, in that there was a town centre or square and a local reserve with playing fields, alongside or nearby was located a church, a hall, some local shops, and

*Continued on page 3*



### St Albans Pool:

Last week, the St Albans Pavilion & Pool Group delivered their Business Plan to the CCC staff and elected Councillors for review.

This document and a CCC staff report will be used to help the Councillors make a critical decision in the next few weeks. The decision the Councillors will make is to grant, or not to grant, the group 20+ months to raise the necessary funds to build a community owned pool facility at no cost to the rate payers.

I'm very impressed with this group's leadership, the significant pro bono (free) services given thus far, and the hard work of the many dedicated volunteers. Their vision of a modern family-orientated facility meets all the criteria for our community as well as the greater metropolitan population.

The decision is straight forward. Elected Councillors will vote to either allow 20+ months for the group to raise the necessary funds to build the Pavilion & Pool facility or to kill the project once and forever. The right answer is to give them the time to raise the money. Councillors need to give them the chance to succeed or fail. Let us hope the Councillors do the right thing!

**City Building Issues:** We continue to get calls, visits and

letters regarding the apparent lack of consistent application of the City Plan when issuing building permits. We are gathering this information, researching and trying to learn more. We will publish our findings in a future St Albans News, and will invite officials to participate in further meetings to help us gain clarification and understanding.

**St Albans News Survey:** Thanks to all of you early birds for promptly returning your completed survey forms.

It is gratifying to see how complete and thoughtful each survey has been, and we have already received over two hundred responses with many, many more expected.

For those of you who have yet to complete your survey please do so now. The information we compile will be made available to the public and will be published in an upcoming issue of the St. Albans News.

**Another 'minor' mistake.** As many of you remember at our public Caledonian Apartment meeting, someone asked why people were not notified when the project went from 56 to 98 apartment units. One of the City staff remarked that people weren't notified because the change was only 'minor'.

In The Press newspaper of 21 May an article regarding the 24% rent increase mentions the city "massively underestimated in information given to city councillors." Instead of "only 10 tenants would breach the housing affordability measure set by government, but the true figure is about 1,300 tenants." I'm sure the majority apparently decided the difference between 10 and 1300 was just a 'minor' error and hence once again voted for the 24% increase.

Bill Demeter - Co-Chair of the  
St Albans Residents' Association

### Mātāriki Celebration at

**Packe Street Park/Community Garden**

**125 – 129 Packe St, St Albans**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

**10am – 4pm (weather permitting)**

The celebration will take the form of a working-bee to prepare the garden for next season's planting

Lunch will be provided and served at 12 noon

We will plant a greengage tree!

Everyone welcome.

## Events Calendar

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 31 May  | Small Projects Fund CCC applications close (941 5408)                  |
| 5 June  | 10am Mātāriki Celebration at Packe Street Park (366 3844)              |
| 10 June | 12.30pm InterAgency meeting (374 2465)                                 |
| 12 June | 7pm Immigrant Open House (374 2465)                                    |
| 15 June | 11am Ratana Church Service, Rehua Marae (355 5606)                     |
| 17 June | 7pm St Albans Residents' Association meeting (374 3465)                |
| 24 June | 7.30pm NZ-Japan Society (355 9903)                                     |
| 27 June | 2pm St Albans Garden Club, Berwick Street. Monthly meeting. (389 6458) |
| 15 July | 7pm St Albans Residents' Association meeting (374 3465)                |

The St Albans Residents' Association wishes to acknowledge and thank the following funders for their support:

- \* Shirley/Papanui Community Board – for a grant towards our Youth Holiday Programme of \$8,300
- \* Fuse Partners - for the Donation of a heater



**St Albans  
Community Centre**

Te Pokapū Hapori o Hato Ōpani

## Amenities and the Resource Management Act

*Continued from the front page*

intensification in some areas.” And, “increasing the area of public space is an important response to intensification. Adequate reserve contributions must be obtained from areas subject to intensification to enable councils to buy additional public open space in those areas.” The Chairperson of the hearings committee for the Council at that time, Cr Jolyon Manning commented, that in his experience, “most people wanted to retain the provisions of the Act which could protect their amenity values and promote integrated development”. His view formed by listening to 18 months of submissions to the Plan, was “that the protection of amenity values was fundamental to the concerns of many submitters.” (Press Feb 17 1998).

And this is where good neighbourhood planning for preservation of amenity values comes in. There needs to be a strong public debate about what is good and worth preserving about local neighbourhoods, and what can be done to enhance them? It is not enough to leave it to Council planners who do not know the area, and whose brief is to facilitate the private interests of developers over community interests. We do have a strong sense of place in St Albans. We need to prepare now to leave that characteristic of community concern and valued heritage that makes up St Albans’ unique set of “amenity values” for the next generation.

*Doug Craig*



### New at the Community Centre

#### St Albans Community Online Discussion Forum

Are you unhappy with yet another liquor store opening in your community? Do you want to share some information about urban planning and building projects in St Albans? Or would you like to announce an AGM or other events of your community group, sports group or church? Then visit the new addition to our website at: <http://stalbands.gen.nz/forum> The forum allows you easy access and posting of information for all to see.

**Immigrant Open House.** Are you a new immigrant or even an old one? Then you are invited to our Immigrant Open House on 12th June at the Community Centre at 1047 Colombo Street, to share stories, discuss issues, network and enjoy each other’s company. If you would like to attend, please call Alison on 379 6305 and let us know, so we can organise catering accordingly. Please note the date change !

#### St Albans Leisure Group

The group is now meeting on Tuesdays at 10pm. New members are welcome, bring along your friend or neighbour. Phone Anne or Alison on 379 6305.

### St Albans News, June 2008

#### Vol.15, Number 5, Issue No. 161

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Send your contributions and adverts to:  
St Albans News, P.O. Box 21-102, Christchurch

email: [news@stalbands.gen.nz](mailto:news@stalbands.gen.nz)  
phone: 374 2465 or 379 6305, fax: 374 2467  
website: <http://www.stalbands.gen.nz>

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The opinions expressed in this publication are solely those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of the St Albans Residents’ Association.

## Resource Management – When can you get in on the Act?

There have been a number of developments, big and small, in our community that have been profiled in the St Albans News over the last few months. Change is happening all around us, sometimes seemingly without consultation or involvement from the community. The purpose of this article is to provide a brief outline of when and how locals can get involved with the process so our voices do get heard.

The resource management process is intended to be collaborative, and there is a heavy burden on the Council to (correctly) balance the interests of the applicant, locals, the environment, to interpret and apply the relevant plans, policies and law and decipher submissions and expert reports—it is no wonder that they sometimes “get it wrong.” There will be times when lawyers and experts are needed, but generally informed proactive citizens will be able to get involved and (hopefully) influence outcomes.

So what is a Resource Consent?

Every day people ask the Council for Resource Consent under the Resource Management Act (the Act) to carry out activities from altering their dwelling or subdividing their property, to constructing a multi-storey apartment block. Activities that meet the standards in the District or Regional Plan can be done “as of right” and locals will be unable to object. A Resource Consent is permission from the Council for an activity that might affect the environment, and that isn’t allowed “as of right.” The Christchurch City District Plan is readily available on the Council website and at libraries attached to Council Service Centres.

If the Council considers that the effects of an activity will be “more than minor,” or if they are requested to do so, they will publicly notify an application for Resource Consent. They will also publicly notify an application if they consider that special circumstances exist, or if the City Plan says they must. Being publicly notified means the Council will advertise the application, and people get the opportunity to make submissions for or against the activity. It is possible to take a neutral stance on the activity but submit information that you think will help the Council in its decision making.

If the Council considers the effects of what is proposed will only be minor, or if the City Plan says the Council need not publicly notify the application, it will generally not notify and instead only serve notice on “affected persons.” In this case only those parties who have been directly notified by Council can make a submission.

When will you be an affected person?

An affected person is a person, or a group of people, whom the Council thinks will experience effects due to the proposed activity that will be significantly greater than, or different from, the effect on the general public. This is decided by the Council using its own discretion, the rules in the City Plan and the Act for guidance.

If you’re an affected person, the applicant might ask you for your written approval for the activity. If an applicant gains written approval from all affected persons, and the potential effects from the activity are less than minor, the Council will probably not provide anyone with an opportunity to make a submission. The application then becomes ‘non-notified.’ Non-notified applications are faster and cheaper for the applicant.

What about publicly notified applications?

Anyone can make a written submission to the Council about a publicly notified application. You don’t have to be an expert, but you will need a good understanding of what is relevant and put this in your submission in a concise way.

The first step is to study the application. You can do this at the Council offices if you don’t already have a copy. Council officers can help to explain any part that is not clear to you. Attached to every application is an Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE). This will tell you about the positive and negative environmental effects, and how the applicant proposes to reduce any negative effects. You need to think about whether you consider the AEEs description of the likely effect is full and accurate and the scale of likely effects is acceptable.

If you wish to make a submission, forms are available from the Council and online. Guidance as to what to put in your submissions is available online from the Ministry for the Environment. At this stage you may like to seek expert advice or opinions to assist and support your submissions. Most importantly, be sure to get your submission to the Council before applications close.

Once the submissions period closes, Council will be in touch with all submitters with the process to follow for that particular application. However, that process is beyond the scope of this article.

**Abigail Little**

*Abigail Little is a solicitor practising commercial and property law at Mortlock McCormack Law. She can be contacted at: [abigail.little@mortlock-mccormack.co.nz](mailto:abigail.little@mortlock-mccormack.co.nz)*

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## To Be or Not To Be

To Be or Not To Be Currently there appears, from my point of view, a different feel about being on the Community Board. It's not because I am the Chair and the role is different from when I was a member, or the fact we have three new members, but I have the feeling that Community Boards are at a pivotal phase of their existence. Community



Boards have been around for twenty years, next year, and have grown into what I thought was a pivotal role and a need in and for the communities that we represent. For me that first phase out was when the Remuneration Authority, three committee members in Wellington, who decided to reduce Community Board members' wages. My role, as Chair, has had a 36% pay cut and the members had a 16%. The

increase went to Councillors—which I am not saying was wrong as they work hard and the decision was out of their hands—but with the reduction of Councillors the workload has increased at Community Board level, and I work thirty hours as the Chair a week, and there are not many employers out there today would employ me on working around those hours. All Boards have delegated authority to make certain decisions, these delegations have not changed and are in fact up for review in June, but lately I feel as if our delegated authority has and is getting less and less. I know around the country that many of the Community Boards don't have the delegated authority that we have in the City, and some Councils want to become one Unilateral Authority, but this doesn't change the frustration that I still feel as an elected member in Christchurch. I just can't seem to put my finger on the reason why I feel like this, as Mayor Parker has been very supportive of Community Boards and allowed one Council meeting a month to just deal with Community Board issues, and this has proven to be an invaluable link between Councillors and Community Boards. Community Boards are just so important for the community and need to be used to the full capacity or the only option left will be... well that really is the question isn't it?

*Megan Evans, Chair Shirley/Papanui Community Board*

## The New Zealand Historic Places Trust Conservation of Historic Buildings and Sites



Providing advice about the conservation and protection of heritage buildings and their sites is a core activity for the New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT) and is established under the Historic Places Act 1993 (HPA). Buildings and sites can be registered with NZHPT as either Category I or II, depending on their assessed cultural heritage significance. These registrations are often protected as listings in the Council's District Plan.

Owners of heritage buildings are likely to be required to apply to the local Council for a resource consent when proposing to alter or make additions to listed heritage buildings, and as part of that process NZHPT can provide advice as to the most appropriate solutions that will have the least impact on the cultural heritage values of the building or site.

NZHPT supports the conservation and adaptive reuse of heritage buildings, both commercial and residential, and supports owners finding contemporary uses with minimum loss of heritage value. NZHPT can provide funding assistance to the owners of Category I buildings only in private ownership for conservation works.

Your first port of call for obtaining advice about your heritage building or site (whether listed or not) is to call the office Ph: (03) 365 2897 or refer to our website guidance documents:

[http://www.historic.org.nz/publications/SustMgt\\_guidance\\_series.html](http://www.historic.org.nz/publications/SustMgt_guidance_series.html)



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## Together we Can Cut Crime in Christchurch

Although I have lived in central Christchurch most of my life and I have always felt safe, many residents, especially the elderly, are anxious about rising violent crime and do not feel secure in their homes.

Last week I held a "Cut Crime in Christchurch" public meeting in the Town Hall. Invited guests included Garth McVicar from the Sensible Sentencing Trust; the Mayor Bob Parker; and police officers Superintendent Dave Cliff and Inspector Gary Knowles. It was an opportunity for the community to have their say on crime issues and the Town Hall was packed. It was great to see so many people that cared.

Many family members and friends of victims came to show their concern. As a mark of respect we observed a minute's silence for those who have been victims of crime in our city and those who had first-hand experience of the results of violent crime.

The police are committed to active policing along the lines of the "Zero Tolerance" model used in New York. By cleaning up minor law violations, such as graffiti, breaching the liquor ban, and not wearing helmets, police stop the escalation to major crimes. They are also rostering more police on the beat on weekend nights.

Alcohol and violence goes hand in hand, and we are concerned about the ready availability and abuse of alcohol.



Busloads of drunks are dumped into the late night city and bars need better control of excessive drinkers.

The central city is awash, with over 550 liquor outlets and many operating 24 hours. The voluntary lockout of bars after 4.00am has helped but alcohol is still available at convenience stores.

Mayor Bob Parker is keen to tighten up licensing laws and I agree with him.

It is a small number of repeat offenders who cause most of the problems. Concern was expressed about the number of violent offenders that are being released on bail and home detention, and violent offenders getting shorter jail sentences, meaning that they are out on the streets more quickly. I am also concerned about the amount of "P" that is being manufactured in

Christchurch. The link between violence, child abuse and drugs like "P" is not fully understood.

The weekend following the meeting and a week of publicity about "Zero Tolerance" was particularly quiet for the police. Let's hope it continues!

I invite you to my Free Community Seminar: Understanding the Dangers of "P," at 7.00pm on 16th July, 2008. Email me at: [nicky.wagner@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:nicky.wagner@parliament.govt.nz) for more details and tickets.

*Nicky Wagner, National MP*

## On Top of the World

When Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay reached the summit of Mt Everest, the view was in one sense breathtaking and in another a postcard cliché. Yet the world recalls forever that moment as a means to inspire us all to reach the 'summit' in our own lives.

Yet Hillary and Tenzing only reached the summit of Everest because of their army of supporters who gave up their own personal ambitions. And therein lays the truth when each of us 'summit.' We have only made it because we were allowed to put our crampons into someone else's carefully cut footholds. Then, like Hillary and Tenzing, we too unfurl our flag and claim the summit as ours.

We then stand and take in the view, but instead of bright lights and colour, we see—as did Hillary and Tenzing—a mass of white jagged peaks filling the horizon. Gone are the green valleys, the deep blue sea and the people.

Sitting at the summit of our careers, with the arduous climb behind us, somehow we have lost so much more than we ever gained. For we are alone and trapped atop the mountain fearful of a catastrophic slide into obscurity.

We steel ourselves daily against any assault on our precarious position.

But...should we be brave enough to descend from the summit, we soon find ourselves immersed in a vibrant world where freedom of being can be seen in the flags flying freely

in the breeze, the bells of the temples ringing out across the crisp still air and the chanting of the priests that instils a sense of soulful peace. For there is more to see and experience in the lanes and byways of the valleys, than that which is possible from the summit.

So if you are busy climbing to the summit or sitting atop of it, ask yourself this...are you truly on top of the world? Or...is there something missing in your life? Are you brave enough to dare to believe in a better tomorrow? Can you begin to imagine how colourful your life might be?

Are you prepared to let go and no longer be in control? Because when you free yourself from the expectations of others, when you allow peace to engulf your soul, when you sit in quiet contemplation with no need to serve others, and when you can truly see what there is to love about you...then you will have reached the summit of your soul.

And you will truly be on top of the world. Reach for it right now!!

*Lyn Nikoloff*

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## Discuss Local Issues in the Canterbury Online Public Issues Forum

Contemporary urban life provides few opportunities to get to know our neighbours, let alone to discuss civic affairs with them. Even in St Albans, it is rare to have a neighbourly conversation over the back fence. How can the citizens concerned about in-fill of those back gardens organise themselves to respond? They can use this fine publication, and can meet over kitchen tables, or at the Community Centre. But how can we engage around issues affecting the whole city, or indeed the whole of Canterbury? It is difficult to get to meetings. Letters to the Editor are just that: edited.

E-Democracy, the use of the Internet to increase participation in the democratic process, provides one solution.

The Canterbury Online Public Issues Forum enables Cantabrians to engage with each other around issues affecting the region. You can view the discussions, and register to receive email deliveries and make posts of your own at the following address:

<http://canterburyissues.org.nz> Established in April 2007, the forum is run by an independent, non-partisan steering committee, which ensures that the forum is managed without bias, so that all voices can be heard. The steering committee is accountable to the Canterbury Communications Trust, the organisation that runs Plains FM. A Forum Manager ensures that participation stays within clear guidelines. The forum is based on the model established by E-Democracy. Org (<http://e-democracy.org>), and used to run successful public issues forums in the US and UK.

The forum fosters civil debate on controversial topics such as water, boy racers, and urban development. The diversity of the participants in the forum ensures that a wide range of perspectives is offered. Although debate is often robust, it is respectful, and characterised by openness to others' points of view. The forum reflects and enhances the richness of the Canterbury community.

You will always find an audience for your point of view in the Canterbury Online Public Issues Forum. Interesting and well put arguments tend to receive thoughtful responses. The forum currently has over two hundred members, including several prominent local politicians. The local decision makers create the opportunity for genuine public engagement, in a truly public place. Unlike submissions, or questions delivered by email, questions in the forum, the answers given, and failure to answer questions are all permanently visible on the Web. The forum allows citizens to

set the agenda of public conversations, rather than simply responding on matters where public input is sought.

The forum has four main guidelines. Participants must use their real name. Posts must relate to Canterbury in some way. Participants must be civil, and only two posts per day are permitted. These guidelines encourage people to think carefully before they post. Within these

guidelines, however, any topic is permitted. Posts are not edited or deleted.

As the forum uses an email group, messages posted to the forum are usually delivered by email. After joining the forum, it is possible to choose the "digest" setting where a maximum of one email per day is delivered. For those unfamiliar with email and the Web, some assistance may be helpful to get this set up. St Albans' own NeighbourNet at 1047 Colombo Street would be a good place to get help. The computers at NeighbourNet could also easily be used to view the discussions in the forum, without joining.

As the General Election approaches, the urgency of conversation to address local issues is increasing. Now is a good time to join the Canterbury Online Public Issues Forum, raise the issues that matter to you, and ask your local politicians to respond to you there.

*Dan Randow*

**W.H. McMenamin**  
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# Antarctica Haiku

This is a special contribution by Year 5 and Year 6 students of the St Albans School of the Extension Programme of the Young Writers' Workshop led by Judy Calder. New Zealand music composer and writer Patrick Shepherd provided the ignition for this term's senior young writers. In conjunction with the NZ Artists in Residence programme, Patrick experienced an awesome time down at the bottom of the world. He shared his experiences and some of his new compositions with a selected group of senior students at St Albans School. This is a sample of their work

Frost flowers bloom  
From glaciers  
Salt crystals.  
**Ruby Beresford**

Baby penguins  
Huddled together  
Russian dolls.  
**Marcel Foster**

Ice wind  
Claws  
Howling wolf.  
**Marcel Foster**

An arrow  
Frozen in time  
Orion's belt.  
**Phoebe Carswell**

Dry landscape  
With no borders  
Frozen deserts.  
**Jack Bosworth**

Travellers spit rocks  
From lumpy porridge  
Snow water boils.  
**Jordan Whitteker-Love**

Auroras travel  
In a flock  
Antarctic migration.  
**Hugh Mercer-Beumelburg**

Six months of sun  
Followed by darkness  
Mothers all out to sea.  
**Tori Maxwell**

Rock and ice  
Declare war  
Human indifference.  
**Hugh Mercer-Beumelburg**

Blue whales  
Seven cars long –  
Global warming.  
**Pippa Wipperfurth**

Blue eyed shags  
Circle the sky  
Six months of summer.  
**Gabrielle McDonald**

White spheres  
Warm in winter sun –  
Icebergs hatch.  
**Pippa Wipperfurth**

Icebergs float  
A continent melts  
Tear drops.  
**Jake Jeffries**

---

PIRATES OF THE SKIES  
**Ruby Beresford**

Pirates of the skies  
Raise skull and crossbone flags  
On ghost ships.

Penguin skeletons  
Cry like clarinets  
Frozen in time.

Emperor eggs  
Are royal treasure  
Of the cryosphere.

Outlaw skuas  
Use scimitar beaks  
To raid the underworld.

SCYTHE WINDS  
**Jack Bosworth**

Antarctic winds  
Cut like scythes  
In a spirit landscape.

Stalagmites shatter  
Like ice flowers  
Blooming in snow.

Explorers huddle  
In frozen huts  
To survive the night.

Katabatic breath  
Harvests a countryside  
Warped by ghosts.

LONG LOST LIVES  
**Jordan Whitteker-Love**

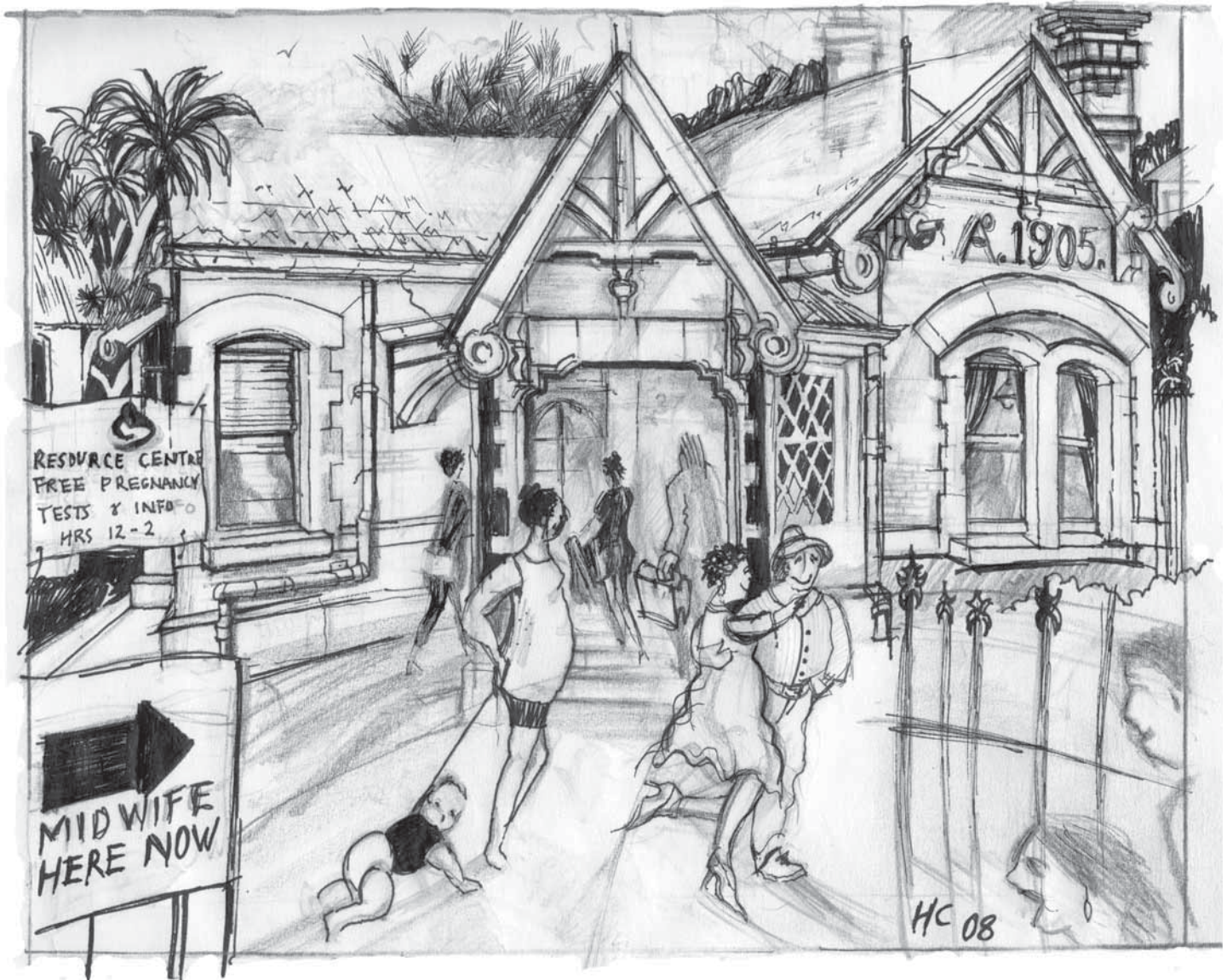
Adèlie penguins  
Are artists exploring  
An unframed continent.

A blank canvas  
Stretches across the horizon  
As snow paints the painter.

Webbed footprints  
Look like the crown  
Of an Emperor.

Daily survival  
Is an art form  
In a landscape of contrast.

## College Of Midwives National Office



Karen Guilliland is it's founding president and has been honoured for her services to midwifery. Now she is CEO. You have seen her on TV and heard her on radio talking to Kathryn Ryan and others on a range of issues. Here she is caught on paper with a grand executive satchel which is probably full of clever ideas for finding money -not from the government. This place is entirely self supporting. It is admin. plus everything else. It has various health contracts, education programs for midwives - many pay subs to use the clinic. The home birth association and local groups are represented. Teens are always welcome. "It is still health and community centred," says Karen Guilliland.

The National Office moved here 5 years ago from the Bealey Ave Bishop St corner -to a mighty mess. Hundreds of stinking mattresses and a shower in a cupboard. This place famous many decades ago for the Williman husband and wife team who lived on site and ran a school for slow learners. Joan Williman is still alive and visited recently with photos and history. A splendid building - with a resident bellbird - spoiled by aluminium window frames and a decramastic roof which I have failed utterly to convey. What I see instead are rows of little mountains. There is a mix of people the day I visit - a farmer type with an elegant wife,

an expectant young mother towing a big boyfriend who is being spurred on by friends in a parked car. All of them supporting and being supported by active, well resourced staff - and supremely comfortable sofas and chairs

*Hilaire Campbell*

### Old House

Under lamplight with china owls peering  
Down, the room of the kauri house glows warm;  
The garden shivers from the snow, skies clearing  
And leaving behind a Spring-blast of storm.  
Above the pelmet lies a bamboo hat  
Last worn in a Japanese winter, and small  
Curios and pictures remind me that  
Life catches bright colours beyond these walls.  
In kitchen lies a plastic camel train  
Made years ago by deft and nimble hands  
And on the window glass reflections stain –  
Our memories sifting through time like sand.  
Under lamplight I see the shadows still,  
This old house creaks, though its heart never will.

*Mark Elderton*

## Letters to the editor



69 Caledonian Road as it looks today

Dear Editor

I looked with interest at the photo of the house on the front page of the May issue as it seemed very familiar to me - 69 Caledonian Rd - yes it was our house !

We have been living in this house for the last 35 years and it has always felt special to me. Over these years we have had various visits from the descendants of Sali Mahomet (otherwise known as Icecream Charlie) who had the house built in 1908. It has been a great pleasure to show these family members around the house, some whom have come from as far away as Australia, and hear from them their reminiscences about the original family who had lived there. What we now have as the sitting room was in earlier times the dining room and once Sali had invited the whole of the visiting Indian hockey team to dine with the family - they must have had a very large table ! If any of the readers know anything more about the house we would be very interested to hear about it. Sali's story has been written up by Richard Greenaway in "Rich Man, Poor Man, Environmentalist, Thief" published by Christchurch City Libraries and gives the background of this family. I have attached a photo of the house as it is today - a gracious old lady - and a poem written by our eldest son Mark expressing his feelings about the house.

*Nan Elderton*

*We are grateful to Nan Elderton to have come forward with her interesting story, as we chose a picture at random from our archives to illustrate the front page article in last month's St Albans News. [Ed.]*

Dear Editor

We all understand the increased disorder that a liquor outlet can bring; alcohol abuse causes much of the violence in our city centre at the weekends

Alcohol is not just another consumer item; it's a drug that can be misused causing harm to individuals and to communities in the form of disorder, drink driving and violence. A shop selling just alcohol is very different from a licensed café or restaurant where locals may enjoy a drink, or not, with food and good company.

Much work has been done over the years on host responsibility and selling food with alcohol has been adopted by pubs around the city in an attempt to change the way we consume alcohol. But it has yet to change our binge drinking culture particularly amongst young people.

The Sale of Liquor Act certainly needs a comprehensive, public review and I'm pleased to see that the local Labour candidate is looking into it. Such a review is part of the Greens' drugs policy as well. The new liquor outlet in St Albans is yet another example of community concerns being ignored by the authorities that govern on our behalf. Until we have government, both local and national, that is responsive to the people directly affected by their policies we will continue to get such stupid decisions being made.

*Jan McLaughlan*

**Green Candidate for Christchurch Central 365 1995021  
206 6408 Jan.mclauchlan@greens.org.nz**

The Editor, Dear Sir.

I have noticed a growing trend that the St Albans News is publishing all sorts of unusual religious viewpoints. While I have no objection to people believing in anything they like, I do not feel that the newsletter is the place to promote such things. When you boil it all down, there are only two things that are real in this life. They are, passing on your genetic heritage to the next generation and leaving something valuable of yourself for following generations. The rest is superstition (belief) and cannot be proven to exist. Life is precious, and it is the duty of all of us to make things just a little better for us all while we have the time and opportunity.

*Dafyd*

*The St Albans News is a religiously neutral and independent publication, and we encourage articles about all kinds of faiths and philosophies that are practiced by the people of St Albans. If we were to restrict the publication of information about differing beliefs, we would not have been able to publish this readers statement of belief, either ... [Ed.]*

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## Who Are We? The people who run the St Albans Community Centre

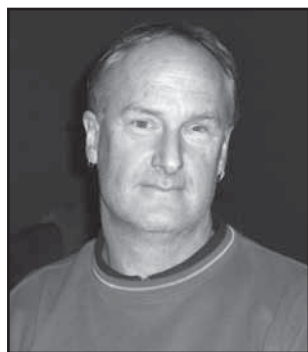
### ALLAN CAMPBELL

Allan Campbell is one of the volunteers at the NeighbourNet Computer Room. After retiring from his job as a librarian, Allan found volunteering at the Community Centre as a good way to share his knowledge and interest in computers with others. While enjoying his 'Big OE' together with his wife in 2004, Allan had experience in this type of volunteer position working at a community centre in London. He also volunteers at Burwood Hospital, teaching patients how to use the Internet and email. It is this communication aspect of the technology that sparks Allan's interest; the way that it allows people to communicate with family and friends on the other side of the world.



### IAN RAE

Ian Rae is the treasurer of the St Albans Governance Board. A member of the Board since mid-2007, he first became involved due to an interest in local roading and development issues. Originally from Melbourne, Ian relocated to Christchurch with his family in 2006. He now works part-time for the Gestalt Institute of New Zealand and does building work on the weekends, as well as caring for his two young children. Ian says that he has a passion for the arts in all of its forms, in particular the street artwork and sculpture present in his own home city. Through his role on the Board, Ian hopes to help create a 'community vision,' introducing St Albans to this new way of presenting the arts.



### ALISON ELMES

Most likely a familiar face to regulars at the St Albans Community Centre, Alison Elmes has worked as the Centre's community worker for the past three and a half years. This position allows her to keep busy with a number of tasks including organising groups, hall hire, funding applications, volunteers, and basically making sure the Centre runs smoothly. It was through her participation in Pilates and Tai Chi classes at the Centre that led her to this position. A resident of St Albans for the past sixteen years, Alison also enjoys ballroom dancing in her spare time.

*Kirsty Bliss*

## Mairehau Ladies Probus Club

We have vacancies for new members. We are a friendly club which offers social contact and companionship to retired and semi-retired ladies, meeting monthly at the St Albans/Shirley Club with interesting speakers and entertainment, and various activities such as a walking group (weekly), and bi-monthly bus trips. We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 10 am. Contact:

**Secretary: Leah Halkett, 385 6310**

**Asst. Secretary: Noelene Boyce, 385 6655**

## Mairehau High School Adult & Community Education Programme

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Ph 385 3145 or  
email lomaxa@mairehau.school.nz

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# A History of the St Albans Swimming Club, and the Edgeware Pool 1923 – 2008. Part 3

## PROPOSED PUBLIC SWIMMING BATH FOR ST ALBANS, 1930

Last month, Part 2 covered the fund-raising from 1930 to November 1933. Typical of the fund-raising was this carnival held by the St Albans Swim Club as reported in The Press 8th December 1930.

### OPENING OF THE SEASON

“The committee and members of the St. Albans Swimming Club are making strenuous

efforts to raise funds for the construction of new baths, which, it is projected, will be the largest and most up-to-date in Christchurch.

A further effort was the Carnival held on Saturday afternoon in connexion with the opening of the season at the present baths, which are situated in the St. Albans district school grounds. This function was well attended and there was a programme of interesting races. When declaring the season open, the Mayor of Christchurch, Mr J M Archer, wished the club success in their enterprise.

The present baths were adequate for school use but not

for competitive racing on a large scale. He trusted that the season would be a good one and that the new baths would soon be available. He understood that the new baths would be the largest in Christchurch and that would be a feather in the cap for St. Albans.” The Press 8/12/1930

“A feather in the cap” indeed !! The committee must have been spurred on to further fund-raising by these supportive comments, and in 1933 the pool committee estimated there was just about enough funds in the kitty to start work on the new pool.

The Committee moved into top gear with regular weekly meetings in Mr Thomson’s office and additional meetings on Friday nights when the workload demanded it. The fund consisted of £117 plus promises of donations to the sum of £50, and a further £50 to £100 was needed before work could begin.

For additional funds a deputation went to the City Council to request that the Council take over the maintenance of the St Albans playground so that the £331 held by the St Albans playground committee could be transferred to the pool fund. In the meantime, Mr Glue had submitted a price of £550 for the construction of an open-air pool, 100 feet long by 33 feet 4 inches wide, plus £120 for the fence, and

£80 for a dressing shed.

The Council agreed to supply water free for twelve months, and to make a donation towards the pool fund “depending on the next year’s financial estimates.” In December, the Mayor (Mr D S Sullivan) stated he was “very interested in the project and would give all the help he could.”

The Council agreed to pay half the cost of the boundary fence, and to provide five to six men to dig out the soil.

Around this time, the Canterbury Swimming Association was brought on board to assist with pool design, along with the recommendation the pool size be increased to 150 feet long by 36 feet wide. An additional cost of £170.

“Ways and means for raising the extra money were needed.” By February 1933, the pool committee were desperate for the Council to make a decision re the fence and the artesian well, as no progress had been made. Mr Thomson suggested that, as an alternative, the Council “may loan the money for the purpose.” The pool committee moved that a resolution be conveyed to the City

Council “that this committee would regard as an extreme favour an early decision from the Christchurch City Council re assistance with the fencing and supplying water in connection with the proposed public bath.” A request was also made to the Town Clerk for the pool committee to meet the Council finance committee.

In June the deputation met the Council finance committee and received a favourable hearing, “although it was improbable that the Council would grant all their requests.” The City Engineer had considered the cost of fencing and a water supply which would cost approx £270, and promised an early decision.

There was to be no early decision, but the pool committee received a letter in July from the Council stating that the requests re fence and the artesian well would be considered when the ‘estimates for the current year were being framed.’ !!

By this stage, the £331 in the St Albans playground fund was in jeopardy. The playground committee were “disappointed that no guarantee had been given in writing” from the City Council to defray costs for the new fence and well, and “while not wanting to put obstacles in the way,” they were reluctant to release the £331 from the playground fund until



Work progressing on St Albans Swimming Pool,  
Christchurch Times, 1934

Council assurance was received in writing. Pressure was now coming on the pool committee from the Canterbury Swimming Association to resolve these matters before 1st August, or the pool would not be built in time for the National Championships the next February, and they would revert to Auckland.

The St Albans branch of the RSA offered to subsidise the wages of returned soldiers used in the construction, and The Press "was granted the privilege of printing the photo of the bath plan."

By the end of July, Councillor Beanland had "authentically informed Mr Thomson that provision had been made in the current year's estimates for the sum of 135 pounds for the fencing around the bath and a further 135 pounds for the well," and Mr Thomson was hoping for confirmation in writing by the end of the week.

With opening day only seven months away (Feb 1934) major decisions still had to be made re pool design, and also for the community to raise the remaining funds required to pay for the actual pool, changing sheds and seating.

Mr Glue submitted written and signed estimates of £775 for a 150 foot bath and £600 for a 100 foot bath. Thankfully the Swimming Centre was not opposed to the 100 foot bath and the pool committee accepted that "150 feet was more or less an ambitious object and not a necessity for the National Championships."

With the limited funds available, the committee settled on 100 feet. On 24th August, the committee had received its letter from the Council confirming its contribution of £135 set aside for the fence and a further £135 next year for the well. At the same meeting Mr Glue's estimate for the 100 foot pool was accepted, and committee members were to meet at the pool site to start pegging out.

Councillor Beanland approved the site and pool specification as satisfactory, and public meetings were held to raise funds for seating and cubicles. Toc H were contacted re a gymnastics display and the Christchurch Sports Club offered an exhibition of boxing and wrestling. Applications were made to the Minister of Internal Affairs for participation in the Dominion Art Union. The Repertory Society were asked to perform "Charlie's Aunt" as a fund-raiser. Construction started in September 1933, and "Mr Glue hastened the excavation by procuring a horse and scoop."

At the same time the committee was deciding on seating and had visited a number of sports' grounds. They "considered that the seating accommodation at English Park, with a little improvement, would be best to erect." In October, a progress payment of £125 was due to the contractor and the committee secretary was instructed to write to the St Albans playground committee asking for a sum of £125 out of their funds. At the same meeting Mr Fyfe's offer of a detailed plan for the high dive was accepted.

Detailed plans were received in December for the changing cubicles, but the cost - which had now risen to £165 - was considered too high. To prevent any further delays a special meeting was arranged to change certain details and obtain a new estimate. The price was reduced back to £80 and work started immediately.

It was also "left in the hands of Mr Thomson to procure suitable timber for the diving boards." Around this time, the committee was also facing problems with the boundary fence and the cut off corner at the Edgeware Road entrance, and discussions were taking place with the Swimming Centre over pool rental costs for the championships.

The Centre settled on £5-5-0 a day with 20% of the net profit going to the pool committee.

"Also the Swimming Centre wanted assurance that the bath would be ready for the championships." By early January, the committee realised there wasn't enough time to erect the seating with volunteers, and tenders were called from contractors, the stipulation being work must be completed in ten days.

Emergency funds needed to be raised, and £11-8-0 from the Christmas Hamper solved the problem. (The Christmas Hamper was so successful an Easter Hamper was organised soon after.)

On the 11th January, Mr Glue expressed concerns that the fence hadn't been completed and that laying the concrete could be a concern with children in the area. Opening day was confirmed for the 10th February, and the MP for the area, Mr Holland, invited. (Mr Holland also gave a £5 donation). The pressure for completion was really on.

The high dive had to be put on hold till a later date, and the Swimming Centre was requesting that the pool be filled ten days before the championships.

The pool committee was "instructed to write to His Worship the Mayor asking him to open the bath and extend an invitation to the Councillors and Town Clerk."

CHCH. TIMES 5/1/1934 "ST ALBANS BATH READY FOR FILLING "- MUCH WORK TO BE DONE ..."

"While there is still a great deal of work to be done at the St Albans swimming bath before it will be ready for February, the actual bath is practically completed, and it is expected it will be filled for the first time on Monday morning.

There is still much levelling off to be done on the area, as well as the erection of fences and seating for between 500 and 600." With ten days to go, a hitch arose with the boundary fence on the east side of the right of way when the owners of the property withdrew their consent to erect the new fence. Mr Thomson agreed to re-interview the owners and the issue was resolved.

When the morning of the 10th February 1934 dawned, the community had achieved their aim to build a pool...it opened on time, and "Canon Bean took the first plunge."

Next month, part 4 covers the press release of the opening ceremony and the National Championships.

Compiled from the pool committee minute book 1930-1934, kindly loaned to the Friends of Edgeware by Hardie & Thomson.

*Paul Somerville*



## An Object Lesson ...

A Japanese company ( Toyota ) and an American company (General Motors) decided to have a canoe race on the Misouri River.

Both teams practiced long and hard to reach their peak performance before the race.

On the big day, the Japanese won by a mile.

The Americans, very discouraged and depressed, decided to investigate the reason for the crushing defeat. A management team made up of senior management was formed to investigate and recommend appropriate action.

Their conclusion was the Japanese had eight people rowing and one person steering, while the American team had eight people steering and one person rowing.

Feeling a deeper study was in order, American management hired a consulting company and paid them a large amount of money for a second opinion.

They advised, of course, that too many people were steering the boat, while not enough people were rowing.

Not sure of how to utilize that information, but wanting to prevent another loss to the Japanese, the rowing team's management structure was totally reorganized to four steering supervisors, three area steering superintendents and one assistant superintendent steering manager.

They also implemented a new performance system that would give the one person rowing the boat greater incen-

tive to work harder. It was called the 'Rowing Team Quality First Program,' with meetings, dinners and free pens for the rower. There was discussion of getting new paddles, canoes and other equipment, extra vacation days for practices and bonuses.

The next year the Japanese won by two miles.

Humiliated, the American management laid off the rower for poor performance, halted development of a new canoe, sold the paddles, and canceled all capital investments for new equipment. The money saved was distributed to the Senior Executives as bonuses and the next year's racing team was out-sourced to India .

Sadly, The End.

Here's something else to think about: Ford has spent the last thirty years moving all its factories out of the USA, claiming they can't make money paying American wages.

Toyota has spent the last thirty years building more than a dozen plants inside the USA. The last quarter's results:

Toyota made 4 billion in profits while Ford racked up 9 billion in losses.

Ford folks are still scratching their heads.

If This Weren't So True It Might Be Funny.

Possibly an object lesson for New Zealand now that companies are moving off shore.

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# St Albans Neighbourhood News ten years ago

## June 1998

What a fascinating time to be living in St Albans. Unfixed broken window at the gambling den - sorry, TAB; steel shutters for the new drug dealer - sorry again, liquor store; controversy over the Edgware corner (struck a nerve there); the Edgware pool thing rages on and the Caledonian concrete monstrosity is still in the pipeline.

A slippery slope methinks. Well, ten years ago, things were just a little more sedate. Donations were being accepted to furnish and furbish the new Community Centre. and the Residents Association meeting description was "a warm, positive atmosphere of a group of like minded community people". That is the way it should be.

Peggy's Park was a popular informal name for the Packe Street Park and Peggy Kelly richly deserves the acknowledgement for all the good things she has done for our community.

Ten years ago, the battle to not have a Telecom cellsite close to Shirley Primary School was getting costly, with appeals for money to top up the estimated appeal cost of \$60 000. Well time and technology and wisdom and knowledge have moved on. No-one comments on those towers any more. Maybe it is because they are not dangerous, and maybe

people would rather have the convenience of good coverage for their favourite form of communication.

City Councillor Garry Moore was made patron of the new Neighbour Net. Where are you these days Garry? We don't seem to hear much about any of your recent good works for the people of St Albans.

The New Zealand Historical Atlas, just published (June 1998) has a double page spread on the development of Christchurch, and in one corner is an early street map of our patch, St Albans. An illustration of the block of shops on the corner of Westminster and Cranford streets is shown. This block, erected in 1934 was part of a subdivision that advertised itself as being close to the tram terminus. Everyone used the trams. Those were much simpler, and more relaxed days.

Following on from my story about the Colombo/Edgware corner danger, it has been suggested - a little tongue-in-cheek - that we set up chairs, serve coffee and charge for the privilege of watching the crashes and near misses, and listen to the bad language of the frustrated motorists who really don't need more hassles. Do you think that idea has merit <grin>. Enough from me, take care of each other.

*Dafyd*

## Attention Mums at Home



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The St Albans News relies on your contributions. Please send us your articles, letters and notices. The deadline for the July issue is June 15th.

## Quote of the Month

"The attempt to combine wisdom and power has only rarely been successful and then only for a short time."

- Albert Einstein, Ideas and Opinions



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