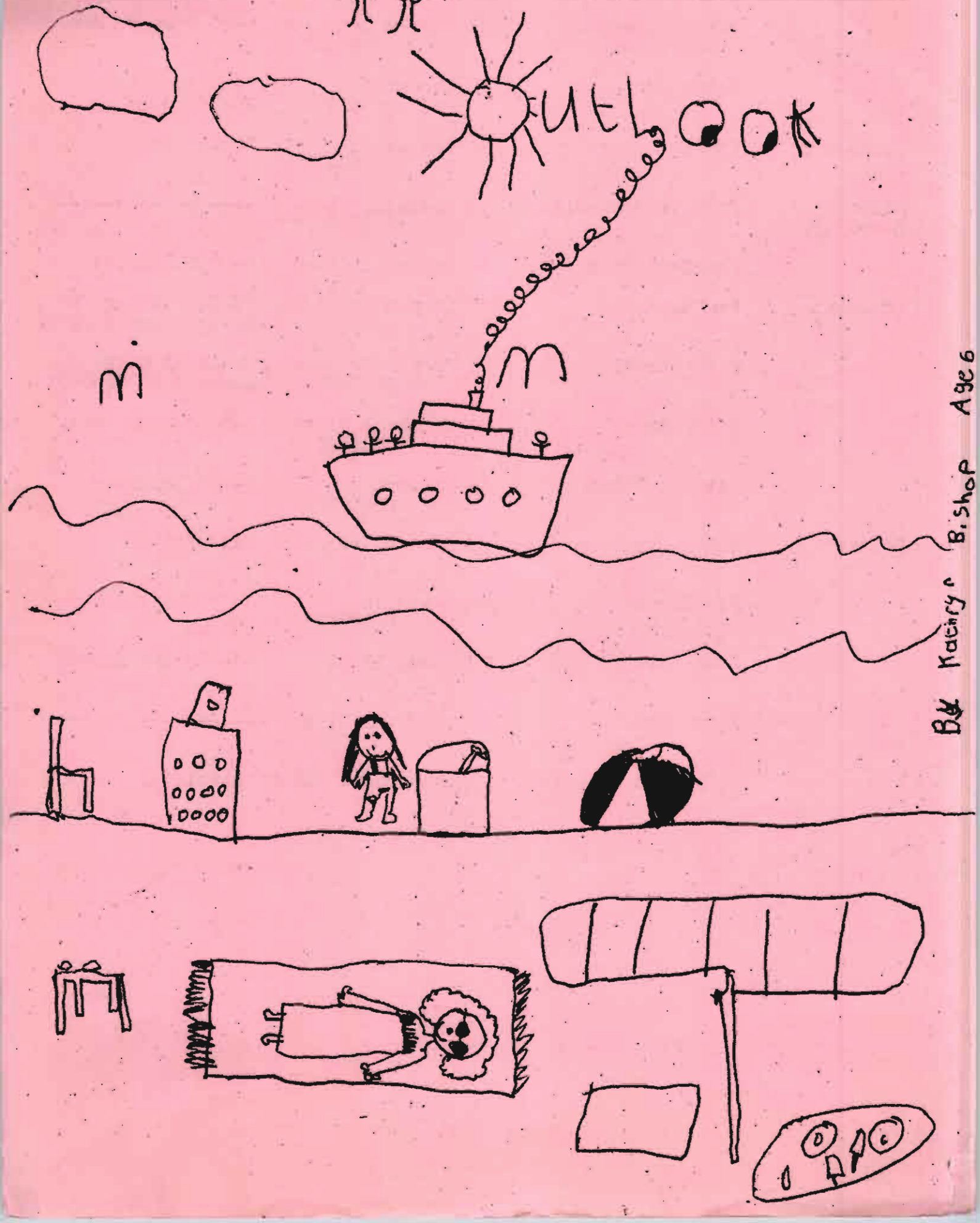
Molewood Outlook

Autumn 1993



By Katie B. Shop Age 6

COMMITTEE 1992/93

	NAME	ADDRESS	ROUND
	Olive Church	122 Cowper Crescent (583412)	1-75 Cowper Cres.
	Brian Euler	52 The Wick (558619)	2-66 The Wick & The Orchard
Treasurer	Dennis Goodrum	43 The Avenue (587341)	Lodge Close
Minutes Secretary	Francis Cotterill	31 Woodhall Close (589585)	----------
	Jan Leggetter	14 Woodhall Close	1-57 The Drive
Chairman	Pam Lutner	107 Cowper Crescent (581329)	77-109 Cowper Cres. 98-142 Cowper Cres.
	Joan Murrel	38 Cowper Crescent (587595)	Woodhall Close & Cumberland Close)
	Heidi Scott	6 Woodhall Close (558208)	2-96 Cowper Cres.
	Gilbert Smith	15 The Drive (583168)	2-58 The Drive
Editor	Allan Streeton	22 Cowper Crescent (586217)	Molewood
	Pat Thomas	64 The Wick (587901)	1-73 The Wick
	Joan Walkom	12 Woodhall Close (587297)	61-133 The Avenue
	Harry Walkom	12 Woodhall Close (587297)	----------
	P.C. John Baldwin	Neighbourhood Watch	'Bobbie'

Firstly, we apologise for the late arrival of Molewood Outlook! (Yes, it was supposed to be a 'Summer' issue).

Well, how are you all? Refreshed, we trust, after your summer holidays which may, by now, be but a memory, like that of our talented young cover page artist.
Whether you sizzled in Cyprus, baked in Benidorm, fried in Freyjus or just shivered in Shanklin we hope it was worth it and that you are all now set for Christmas - after which, we start all over again!

We also hope that you made sure that your 'castle' was well barred and burglar-resistant - if not PROOF, friendly neighbours watched your property in your absence and watered the plants and fed the cat - or vice versa! Remember, you can inform the police when you go away, although they cannot personally put a 24-hour guard on your house. There are SO many things that can be done when houses are left unoccupied even for a short period of a few hours. Basically, do NOT advertise your absence i.e. papers in the door, milk bottles on the door step. It's also not a bad idea to make sure your Contents insurance policy hasn't lapsed before a holiday. (Also, carefully check the details!)

Well, forgetting holidays for now let us return to May 13th and the eventful ... Annual General Meeting:-

... ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ... 13th May 1993

Once again we had a record turnout (with NO hiccups this time) in the dining room of the old Junior school where a lively meeting took place with up to 80 members in attendance! Many of the old subjects were discussed with many new ones also aired, followed by victuals and wine, putting us all in the right mood to be whisked away to the fascinating land of 'Ice and Fire' - Iceland and to be held spellbound by descriptions supported with beautifully photographed slides.

One of the old 'favourites' was our canine friends.
From press reports it would appear that non-dog owners/lovers are on the prowl demanding by laws to restrict the movement of dogs in public places. A not very palatable statistic shows that ... 1000 TONNES of dog faeces and a MILLION gallons of their urine are excreted on our public places every DAY!
TOXOCARA is a disease caused by dog excrement and every week one child in Great Britain suffers serious eye disease from this. There is, however, medication to protect dogs against worms which cause Toxocara.

There seems little doubt that it is only a matter of time before ALL dogs will be confined to private grounds, which would be a great shame. Not much of a prospect for dog owners - let alone their pooches!

So, let's try and prolong the evil day by trying to keep our pets 'potty trained'! As much as we love them, we cannot put their freedom before the next generation some of whom could lose their sight or suffer some other debilitation from the 'worm' which causes Toxocara, all because we did not train Bobo to relieve himself in OUR back yard or bother to take a poop-a-scoop round with us and use the new 'bins'.

The Molewood Estate is heading a pilot scheme for being a dog 'poop-free' estate - making it a more pleasant place to walk without 'putting your foot in it'. Poop-a-scoops should now be the 'norm' and bins are provided if you wish to dispose of Fido's mess before you reach home. Fines can be imposed on dog owners not complying!

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

JOHN BALDWIN, our ever-helpful neighbourhood bobby puts in a lot of time with the co-operation of our local Crime Prevention Panel - on various aspects of crime-prevention and solving, some of it his own (time - not crime!). This includes Crime Prevention Days, which are always a great success, with cycles being postcoded and windows of cars being security etched. More and more interest is being shown in personal and house alarms - some which can be used for either. Here are some points worth noting from his various news-sheets.

SHEDS AND GARAGES

ITEMS LEFT IN GARDEN SHEDS AND GARAGES ARE EASY PICKINGS FOR THIEVES UNLESS THEY ARE PROPERLY SECURED.

REMEMBER TO LOCK UP EVERY NIGHT. AFTER ALL YOU SECURE YOUR HOME, SO WHY NOT YOUR OUTHOUSES. DON'T LET THE OPPORTUNIST WALK OFF WITH YOUR VALUABLE TOOLS, BIKES ETC.

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO? SECURITY MARKING ITEMS WITH YOUR HOUSE NUMBER AND POSTCODE CAN BE A DETERRENT AND WILL AID RECOVERY IF STOLEN.

DO IT TODAY TOMORROW MORNING MAY BE TOO LATE.

BEWARE - BE ON THE LOOK OUT. MANY STOLEN ITEMS ARE OFF-LOADED AT CAR BOOT SALES.

TAKING THE RIGHT PRECAUTIONS CAN ALSO HELP GREATLY WITH AN INSURANCE CLAIM.

CRIME TOGETHER WE'LL CRACK IT

Sponsored by Hertford and Ware Crime Prevention Panel.

They should also have STRONG LOCKS secured by BOLTS.

FREE HOUSE SURVEYs. These are being requested by more people who are becoming security conscious and, in many cases, wishing to comply with the terms of their Contents policy. Insurance Companies are stipulating that certain locks MUST be fitted to doors and windows. (In fact John had a letter from his own company stating that British Standard B.S. 3621 locks were to be fitted to the front and rear external doors, two locks for patio doors (NOT one!) and locks to be fitted to all accessible windows including fan lights where it would only be possible for a rat(!) to get through! A 15% discount applies - in John's case IF an approved N.A.C.O.S.S. unit is fitted. He assures us that we "cannot win on any points"!

PEDDLARS! Watch out for anyone selling fish door-to-door and, John asks, please 'phone the police should anyone appear on your doorstep. You could be in for a very nasty dose of food-poisoning!

In fact treat any fishy callers with extreme caution, particularly now the evenings are drawing in and you cannot always see clearly who is out there. Always 'phone the police and, should you not get the courtesy you so richly deserve when 'phoning, tell John - he will sort it out!

Chains on doors are becoming increasingly necessary - sadly! There is also a card which can be affixed to YOUR door reminding you of what you should do on such occasions as mentioned, and this can be obtained from your co-ordinator. (By the way there is a meeting of co-ordinators on the 16th December next.

There is - or was (?) - another 'Surgery' in the Saloon bar of "The Greyhound" pub at 2.30 pm on Saturday 30th October.

Just to show how near home crime has become recently, here are the details of a recent Neighbourhood Watch notice placed on Boards:-

Cowper Crescent - September - Garage and Shed forced - items stolen.

14-18 Sept. Bike stolen - Desborough Close

19th Sept. Car stolen - 11.30 pm - Church Road

18-19 Sept. Theft from car - Balfour Street

19-20 Sept. Theft from vehicles - Eleanor Road

18-19-20 Sept. Damaged cars and thefts

22-23 Sept. Bike stolen from locked garage - lock forced after 9 pm

22-23 Sept. 02.10 am - Car stolen - Templefields

24 Sept. Car thefts, Bike thefts

RALEIGH INTERNATIONAL - MALAYSIA

Chris Sutton

Raleigh International, by their own definition, is 'a charity which aims to develop young people by giving them the opportunity to carry out demanding environmental and community projects in the UK and around the world,' and I have been selected to take part on an expedition.

My name is Chris Sutton, I am 20 years old, live in Cowper Crescent and have just been accepted to go to Malaysia for three months in October next year. I was offered the place after attending their rigourous selection weekend which is designed to test for teamwork, ability to work under stressful conditions and to expose strengths and weaknesses.

Malaysia lies in a long crescent between southeast Asia and the islands of Indonesia. It is divided into two regions. The western peninsula Malaysia borders southern Thailand and is home to ten of the twelve Malaysian states. The island of Borneo holds the eastern section and the other two states. Malaysia itself is situated between one and seven degrees north of the equator and is 1600 km long.

The two Borneo states are covered with dense hilly equatorial rainforest providing a challenging but interesting environment. The average year round temperature is 28 degrees and short heavy daily downpours are likely. Community work features heavily in this expedition. Tasks such as building bridges for remote villages, constructing water supply systems and generally helping the native villagers have all been done in previous expeditions. As well as oommunity work, previous trips have helped with conservation projects, including working with WWF Malaysia in the Mata Ayer Forest Reserve in the north of the peninsula. The venturers assisted scientists to collect information on the diverse variety of mammals. They also helped collect information on orang-utans and deer in particular. Marine biological surveys are also regularly carried out, providing the chance to dive from the island of Pulau Mengalum, conducting surveys on the reefs while looking for coral and sponges for researchers to use in their search for anti-cancer drugs.

This expedition is the chance of a lifetime for me, but in order to go I have to raise three thousand pounds to pay for my three month stay plus travel and expenses. This is another challenge I have to overcome in order to go. One of the ways I intend to raise money is in car boot sales, which means that I have to collect lots of articles to sell. If you have anything at all you could donate to me I would be most grateful, as you would be helping me a little bit further on my way.

If you can help, please phone me on 550459 and we can arrange a time for me to collect whatever you can donate.

Thank you Chris. We look forward to reading of your adventurous trip on your return. In the meantime readers, articles for Chris ... please!

Many thanks to ANDREA HUMPHREY of The Drive for giving us the following excellent insight into the history of the Water Tower, and the reasons for her leading the campaign to curtail further development.

BENGEO WATER TOWER

In the 1920's there was a problem with supplying enough water to the higher parts of Hertford and Bengeo in particular. There was already a Water Tower in Bengeo on the corner of Tower Street/Duncombe Road and a covered reservoir between Port Hill and Farquhar Street. However due to the low pressure pumping system being used and small capacity storage, water supply was becoming a problem, especially during the summer months. In 1927 the Hertford Corporation received over 50 complaints from Bengeo residents. Land in the borough could not be developed until a better supply of water could be provided. So in 1927 the planning committee approved the design of the new Bengeo Water Tower, using the "Hennebique Ferro concrete construction," with a holding tank of 200,000 gallons of water, and a new high pressure pumping system. It was only then that the new housing development of Parker Avenue, Gosselin Road, Palmer Road and Revels Road could be built, and then later The Drive, Westfield Road and the Molewood Estate.

We are very pleased to be able to inform you, that at the last E.H.D.C. Planning meeting (Wednesday 6th October, 1993), Mercury Communications request, to heighten their aerial on the Tower, was rejected. The Council Planning Officers recommended refusal, and the Committee overwhelmingly supported the motion. (See abstract of agenda below). Thank you to everyone who wrote letters of objection and to Councillor Roger Martin for all his time and effort. Mercury Communications may lodge an appeal, we will keep you informed.

RECOMMENDATION

That planning permission be REFUSED for the following reasons:-

1. The proposed antennae, by reason of their siting above the level of the top rim of Bengeo Water Tower would be unduly prominent when viewed from many areas of Hertford and would be detrimental to the appearance of the tower itself. Furthermore, allowing this proposal could set a precedent for further applications to raise the height of the antennae which the local planning authority would find difficult to resist.
2. The local planning authority is not satisfied from the information available, that the technical requirements for the revised siting of these antennae is sufficient to overide its objections to the visual impact of the proposal.

A LOT OF BOTTLE!

MORE on home security: As has been mentioned before, one 'give away' that a house may be unoccupied is milk on the door step. This can be 'disguised' by keeping bottles in a covered container which are inexpensive to purchase from the dairy. The Enfield and St. Albans Co-op and Dale Farm Dairies have offered a discount of 10% on bulk purchases of five or more. If anyone is interested please 'phone Heidi Scott on 558208 or Pam on 581329 who can then arrange for the 'bulk' purchase. These would work out at between £2-3 a box only.

WICK FIELD

Worries have been expressed over "men's" foothall teams using the playing area for "fixtures", and steps are being taken to retain the whole area for kiddies.

STEPPING OUT!

After all the disruption we are at last seeing the completion of the pavement re-surfacing in Cowper and Peel Crescents which should ease the plight of pedestrians on the estate.

POST OFFICE

It appears that a local one is not feasable for now. These are FRANCHISED and cost about £17,000 for the franchise.

YELLOW PAGES

No response to the items for sale, rent or hire. Ads welcome ... no fees this time.

MOLEWOOD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT - YEAR 1992-93

1991-92		INCOME	1992-93	
490		Membership subscriptions	767	
15		Interest received - Bradford & Bingley	8	
-		Social Events	84	
-		Donations	4	
245		First Aid Course - entry fees	-	
	750			863
		EXPENDITURE		
153		A.G.M.	120	
-		Social Events	84	
239		Newsletter, notices etc.	316	
66		Garden competition - prizes	71	
53		Donations & subscriptions	65	
231		First Aid Course expenses	-	
21		Bank charges	7	
30		Depreciation on duplicator	-	
-		Notice boards	125	
-		Neighbourhood Watch signs (Lodge Close)	50	
-		Dog fouling signs	63	
	793			901
	(43)	Deficit for year		(38)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 1993

ACCUMULATED FUND

456		Balance at 1st April 1992	413	
(43)		Deficit for year	(38)	
	413			375
213		CASH - Bradford & Bingley	211	
24		Nat. West Bank - current	11	
26		- deposit	27	
-		PAYMENTS IN ADVANCE - social event	126	
150		deposit on copier	-	
	413			375

D.E.J. GOODRUM

18th April 1993

So, thank you for all those who supported us at the A.G.M. and for all the helpers and the guest speaker who helped to make the evening such a success.

NOW - on to matters discussed since the A.G.M.:-

Resignations from the committee:- Val Underwood and Brian Bowyer. Many thanks for all your help.

NOTICE BOARD - for the Estate (not individual garden boards). Sadly, this is something which we still are without, so we will have to make good use of the garden boards for now. BUT - we are still working on it. Watch the space on the Green!

TREES - The Spinney behind Desborough Close is being cleared of dead wood and the Council are doing a 'Woodland Management Scheme', and some deseased trees have been removed.

AD. BOARD - Following an enforcement notice served on the Bengeo Street house displaying the hoarding, it has been removed (as if you hadn't noticed!)

FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

MAN: If you survived me ..... would you marry again?

WIFE: Yes ..... probably.

MAN: Would he sleep in the same bed?

WIFE: Well, he would be my husband, dear.

MAN: Would you let him use my golf clubs?

WIFE: Oh ..... of course not dear.
He's left handed!

Once again, many thanks to contributors, helpers, typists, collators and deliverers and of course our young artist who graced the cover of this edition with such a fine detailed summer scene.

Also, thank you for paying your subscriptions promptly.

Cheers to all, until the new year. (Try and be back soon ..... er!)

Wherever you are - or go - have a great Christmas.

'Bye for now!