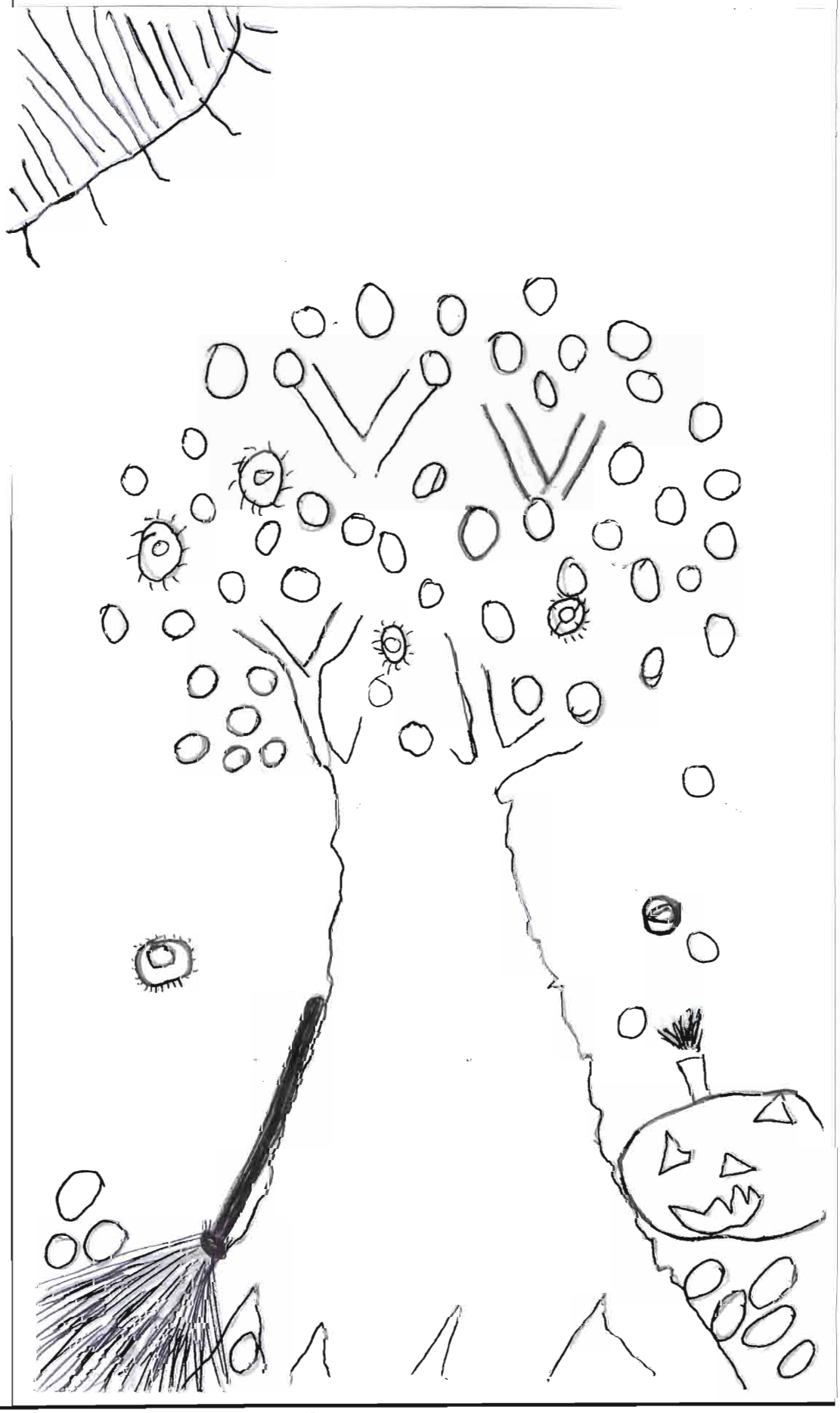
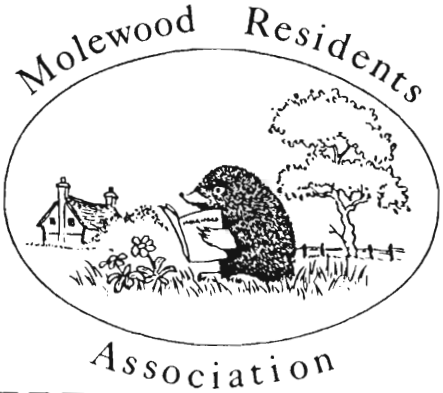
MOLEWOOD OUTLOOK

Autumn 2003





COMMITTEE MEMBERS

NAME	ADDRESS	TEL.(ALL HERTFORD)
CHAIRMAN		
KEN. LUPTON	23, DESBOROUGH CLOSE	306723
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MOLEWOOD OUTLOOK - AUTUMN 2003

A very WARM welcome to new and existing residents on the Molewood Estate.

GLOBAL WARMING ?

Would it or would it not be the very *hottest* day ever recorded ? On Saturday 9th. August we had already seen temperatures zoom up well in to the 30's C. and, they said 10th. August could send us sweltering up to an all-time record of 100deg. F.

Even in 2002 the summer stayed cool until the season was half over but 2003 ?.....phew !

Yes, here in the S.East we broke through the magical 100deg.F(37.9C) for the first time EVER !
We ALSO certainly broke all records for the hottest August EVER with early September still very warm.
Why bother going abroad to places where temperatures may be even hotter than the ones we moan about at home? (Although NOT on 11th. August when we beat all the usual world ' hot spots!)

SUBS

These still remain at £2 p.a. per household - after all these years !

Although there are still some collections outstanding we THANK everyone for paying up with a smile and hope that we are keeping you informed on all matters of concern to us all.

Many thanks for the super seasonal front cover picture by NIAMH PARRIS, age 6 who lives at 37, The Avenue and who, deservedly, receives the usual award of £5.

WILLOWS can make you WEEP !

What could be nicer - sitting under a weeping willow out of the sizzling summer sun ?
NOT so nice for your property, which should be at least 130ft away from any willows.
So thirsty are the willows, particularly during dry hot weather, they can soon suck the earth dry, hence usually being located near to water. They will push out roots to soak up moisture and cause foundations to break up, with disastrous results.
Garden centres are even being urged to withdraw saplings of willows from sale !
Clay and peat soils are particularly susceptible to shrinkage on drying out.
If you are worried speak to an expert and, possibly your insurers but do not cut down any willows *before* getting expert advice .

SACOMBE ROAD development

10,000 objections to the overall development plan have been received by the EHDC !
It is still classified as *green belt* and will remain so until any realignment with Sacombe road is considered by the Inspector.
Although about 5 years away he could might well decree that the area could be built on, subject to planning permission.
Further consideration is being given to the overall plan in the new year.
We will keep our eyes open and try and give you an update in the next M.O.

A BLOT ON THE LANDSCAPE

Dumping rubbish is an offence and nothing was more *offensive* than the huge pile of rubble tipped just inside the entrance to Waterford Heath gate (south) in mid-August.
Fortunately, swift steps were taken by one or more of our intrepid team of dog walkers to get this removed.
Although unlikely ,should anyone witness such potentially dangerous acts, please 'phone the police immediately !
As mentioned in previous Outlooks, fly-tipping offences carries some hefty fines !

SOCIAL EVENTS

Many suggestions are made from time to time although, frankly, there is a reluctance for people to put in the time and hard work to organise trips out, especially with our limited resources.
Also, other organisations like U3A always have these things well organised !
The one remaining social event that never fails for us is the QUIZ NIGHT.

So we are arranging for another one to take place at Bengeo School towards the end of January 2004.

Final date has yet to be agreed. Look out for this later then.....
come along: eat, drink and win some prizes - and get to know each other a little better !

NOT IN MY BACKYARD.....

One resident , who has a *return frontage* alongside another road, has had problems with rowdy youngsters who frequently let balls fall into her garden.
Apparently, when the balls are returned to the youngsters it is met with abuse.

If neighbours can get together and solve this problem,amongst themselves it is better than bringing in the local 'bill' !

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

We are reminded once again to watch out for:-

CASHPOINT CRIMES

Use of a *Lebanese Loop* whereby a card is maintained in the machine but can retrieved by the offender after the owner has left to tell the bank staff of his ' stuck' card.

DISTRACTION BURGLARIES

Elderly people are the most vulnerable to these criminals.
Neighbours can be helpful in keeping an eye on callers and forestall the crime or obtain a car no. and call the police.

THEFTS

Thefts from vehicles during school ' picking up time ' are *easy pickings* ,so mums beware !
Also, nature reserves where dog walkers park their cars whilst Fido gives them their daily walk are favourites to car contents thieves.
Some people believe in leaving all car windows open, with nothing of any value inside which discourages thieves from smashing in glass, (Weather permitting, of course !) Do not leave anything of value on show.

Notices are normally posted on the Boards and crimes reported via the 'phone link to co-ordinators.
HERTFORDSHIRE is recognised as one of the safest counties in England !
However, many vulnerable residents live ' in fear of crime'
The HOME SECURITY SERVICE aims to address these problems by helping with fitting of security measures for those who are an actual or potential home burglary victim in one or more of the following categories:-

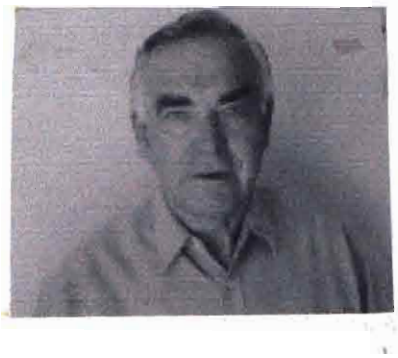
60 or over
Single Parents
Vulnerable or housebound.

Other users may also qualify for some assistance. For more details in this area Tel. 01438 728788

A. G. M.

With the fine summer weather and some counter attractions the turn out for the 38th. AGM was somewhat depleted, although all the usual faithful supporters and local councillors made the effort, for which many thanks !
Sadly, it does mean however that less than 50 houses of the 500-plus were represented! !

RE-ELECTION:-
Guy Thomas, who had been Chairman of the M.R.A. for the past three years did not stand for re-election owing to work and family commitments.
He was thanked for his enthusiastic work and for his accomplishments during his term of office.
The existing members were all re-elected although no nominations for a replacement Chairman were made at the meeting.



Ken Lupton

However, at a subsequent committee meeting KEN LUPTON agreed to take the Chair for one year only as, he too, has other commitments like Neighbourhood Watch Chairmanship, etc.

With his tours-of-the-Castle commitment plus other duties and taking into account his *maturity,* he does not wish to be tied indefinitely to the MRA Chairmanship.
Committee member KEVIN BEADLE hopes to be able to stand for Chairman at the next AGM

NOTICE BOARDS
We hope to make more use of these with matters outside the M.R.A. such as social events, CAB information, missing pets, etc. So, if you have any non-commercial matters you would like displayed on boards, please let a committee member have details.

Under Neighbourhood Watch matters Ken Lupton reminded residents of the Local Police Contact 'phone No's :-

PC Robin Ansell H. 533034
Mobile 078734 179177
Jill Dockley H.533043
Police Station H.533000
(ask for control room)

ACCOUNTS for the year ending 31st. March 2003 were circulated at the meeting. Copies are available on request.

SPRING GARDEN AWARDS

The Chairman presented awards to this year's winners.

YOUTH
A suggestion was put forward that we could also have a *Young Peoples' Committee,* alongside the 'old troupers'. What an excellent idea - an injection of youth !

In addition to the consumables our very talented resident JERRY HARRISON once more enthralled the audience with his selection of acoustic guitar music.
Many thanks to Anne de Silva of ' The Shopping Basket' for supplying an excellent selection of food and drink, and to all who took part in organising the meeting.
(Absentees :- you don't know what you missed !)

MOBILE-MANIA !

We still see drivers with mobiles stuck to their ears like limpid mines, some even whilst turning tight corners or round-abouts.

No more—— your days are numbered ! You will be faced with a fixed penalty of £30 or a maximum £1000 if convicted in court of using a hand held'phone.

Although not necessarily considered *safe* a hands free device will avoid the above mentioned fines.

So, before you cause a serious accident whilst chatting on the mobile, save yourself some money !

'WHERE THERE'S MUCK.....'

Residents in Desborough Close had a rude awakening when they had to share in the cost of clearing sewers caused by a blockage in ONE of the houses.

All sewers today are *private sewers* until they join the PUBLIC sewer., which may be some considerable distance from your property.

A private sewer may serve a number of properties and may also pass through the gardens of many other properties and under highways.

The drainage authority is responsible for clearing blockages and maintenance in *public* sewers.

With private sewers responsibility lies with all those properties which benefit from the use of the sewer.

The problem may occur some distance from your property, but the responsibility and costs for carrying out any cleansing or repair must equally be shared between all those benefiting from the use of the sewer.

For full details see the EHDC leaflet ' Public/Private Sewers - Who is responsible ?' obtainable by 'phoning 01279 655261 (Public Relations)

SUMMER GLORY

As always the Molewood gardens were a blaze of colour under the implacable blue skies and in the shimmering August heat, when the winners of the summer gardens were selected, who were:-

1. Mr. & Mrs. Wood 46, Cowper Cresc.
2 Mr. & Mrs. Prime 9, Woodhall Clo.
3. Mr. & Mrs. Voller 1, Desborough Clo.

Best Containers:-
Mr. & Mrs. Parker 41, Peel Cresc.

Remember, our selection is just a ' matter of opinion' , so to all the other superb green -fingered residents, we say many thanks for making the ' onion patch'an estate of which we can be justly proud !

Congratulations to PAM LUTNER who, in spite of her prolonged illness, has again won the best large garden category in the 'Hertford in Bloom' competition 2003, thanks to a helping hand from relatives and friends.

GRASS
(The continuing battle !)

Not exactly ' The Green, Green ,Grass of Home' at the tail end of our long hot summer, but earlier in the year regular cutting was still required - but NOT carried out.

First of all no cutting took place at all for a while, then when it was cut some areas were omitted, THEN the cuttings were left to blow in the wind !

Eventually, Ken Lupton (who is on the cutting edge in such maters!) got the ' man from the Council' to view the untidy greens. The council threatened the contractors with a ' D Notice' which would invoke a penalty clause if they did not comply.

The grass was duly recut and a shredding and vacuum machine used leaving the area in pristine condition.

Permanently we hope.....but..... don't hold your breath !

PLANNING APPLICATION-MAST (Police Communictions Network)

An application has been made for a " temporary site (18months) 30 metres high ' Alifab' Mast ' with dish and ground based equipment cabin.
This can clearly be seen on the field adjacent to Sacombe road close to the existing mobile 'phone aerial .
Whilst Panning Permission was not granted the Council said that *the acts provide an action for applying retrospectively.*

Airwave is a state-of-the art, integrated, digital, mobile radio communications service for the police.
This is principally to enhance police radio reception which, hopefully, will help towards crime detection.
However, many local objections have been expressed by residents, particularly in view of its close proximity to Bengeo school and possible emissions of potentially harmful radioactive transmissions.
All the experts in the field of active transmissions agree that this complies with all relevant safety standards and guidelines set by UK and international expert bodies on the subject.
Radio emissions are so minute as to be no threat, in fact we could be far more at risk from equipment used in the home on a daily basis !
Objectors felt that the mast could have been erected on the Telephone Exchange as originally planned or our Water Tower, County Hall or the Hertingfordbury extended mast.
At this stage the Committee do not consider this to be of a nature whereby urgent action need be taken.

For those wishing to pursue this matter further the Panning Application no. is:- MM02 Airwave Ltd.3/03/1018/FP2EH)
Contact Warren J. Young-01923 831220

Mrs Mole's Ramblings
Don't talk to me about gardening in this lovely hot summer, you either go out in the daytime and get cooked, or leave the jobs until the evening and provide supper for all the midges and mosquitoes waiting for you.
I actually got the sunchair out of the roof and sat down to eat my lunch and relax in the shade when ...ouch...I was getting bitten in very naughty places – I now know what they mean by "ants in your pants". So I've taken defensive action and before venturing outside, I spray myself all over with YveSaintLorent Opium perfume, oo, la, la, and thank goodness I'm now an insect free zone.
My latest new venture was having a go at pressure washing the driveway where moss and weeds had taken over in between the bricks and they had lost their colour. I think there must be a proper way of operating the machine because when I did it, all the muck zonked up and covered my face and hair and clothes and my wellies were full of squelchy muddy water. In the end I was so filthy I had to take off my clothes and hose myself down in the back garden, but I must say it was well worth it, as it now looks really fresh and clean (the drive I mean !).
Joan Murrel

R.A.F.A.

Ken Lupton would like to thank all who contributed to the ' wings appeal' on his recent collection for the R.A.F. Association.

YOUR SHOUT !

Helpful contributor NICK. GOUGH of 11 Lys Hill Gardens writes:-

" I've done a little bit of research into the water tower.
Thanks to an article on the development of reinforced concrete water towers I am able to reveal that our own landmark was built around 1930.
It was designed by L G Mouchel & Ptnrs. who were the ancestors of the Mouchel TSC who designed many of the highway improvements around the county.
The legs on our tower are 75ft. high.
Being free from bracing they were said to make the tower a ' welcome indication of the growing appreciation of ferro-concrete as a material possessing distinctive artistic possibilities '.
Now, does anyone have a contact at Three Valleys Water who could arrange a tour for interested residents....?
PS Please see the article for the archives or pass it on to anyone who might be interested.

Thank you Nick.
The Ed. has the article at no.22, Cowper.
and.....
FROM AN ANONYMOUS CONTRIBUTOR:-

To Reclaim our Pavements

If only residents would cut back there overgrown gardens and motorists park on the roadway and NOT the paths unless absolutely necessary.

Thank you anon.
and we would add - once again - please park in your driveways. We appreciate that garages are often too full of ' clutter', but there is no excuse for leaving cars on the roadside when in many cases there is adequate space in the drive.

HUNDREDS QUEUE FOR NHS DENTIST

This July, following an advert in a local paper saying that patients would be accepted, people queued all night and even tried giving £500 bribes to get on the dentist's list.
We have only 23,000 dentists to serve 55,000,000 people in the UK,hence the desperate situation ; more and more dentists have left the NHS in the past 10 years. Said to be a contributory factor 40 to 50 patients have to be seen every day for a dentist to earn a *decent living (* He is allowed 6 minutes per check up)
The government said that everyone would have access to an NHS dentist by 'phoning NHS direct, by September 2001. The people in the above queue were told that they would need to go on a two year waiting list.
For a crown today the private cost is approximately £450. How will a family manage to have dental care ? Many people have stated that it is increasingly difficult to even find an NHS dentist.
The government has set a date, April 2005 for the dentists to come into the localised Primary Care Trust; Hertford comes into the Hoddesdon P.C.T.
This change is expected to improve the total care for the patient, but at this time it is both confusing and unclear: would this be why so many more dentists are leaving the NHS ?
It is also of concern that to train a dentist takes 5-7 years, thus the next few years will be very interesting to see if the P.C.T. can oversee and guide it through.
One LAST point of interest—are you aware that a long absence from dental treatment may result in your dentist removing you from his patient list ?
Marie Archer, The Wick.

Ron Richmond of 23, Peel Crescent writes:-

"Every year I collect for R.N.L.I. (The Royal National Lifeboat Institution). My area is Cowper Cresc., Peel Cresc. and Cumberland Close.
This year I collected the princely sum of £95. 26 and I would like to thank the residents of these roads for their generosity and willingness to support such a worthy cause "

THE PHANTOM MOLEWOOD-EGG HURLER!

Putting a deposit on a car can be exciting but in May deposits found on at least two Cowper Cresc. residents' cars were less than welcome !

For some reason their cars were found with remnants of these W.M.D.- sunny side up !

It would appear that *eggs* had been 'lifted' from boxes outside the Co-op.to give cars a 'respray'.

Later shells of the missiles were found in one garden.

Since then the tempting missile boxes have been removed from outside the Co-op.

One crime the police didn't need to crack !

SCHOOL MATTERS..

The Avenue and Sacombe road is a problem during the school run, with all the mums transporting their kiddies, often only minutes walk from their homes. Plans are afoot to reduce parking spaces near schools, improve pedestrian crossings, cycle lanes and bus services and other ways of getting to school.
In some areas of course parents do not consider it safe for children to walk or bike to school. , although much healthier for the children !

TEETH is always a problem when kiddies go for the sweetest tasting things which can adversely affect their teeth later on.
Now there are plans for FLUORIDE to be added to the drinking water of another 13 million Britons by next year.We have written in previous Outlooks about these controversial proposals and, as with GM foods, the denying of any *choice* by the consumer.
The two schools of thought are:-

Possible connection between fluoride and cancer, brittle bones and thyroid disease.

Those in favour believe that:-

Fluoridation will cut tooth decay, more evident with children in ' deprived 'areas.

If you feel strongly on the above issue, or any OTHER issue, keep on to your local councillor or MP .

Done your current tax return yet ?
You could be owed part of the £300 million owed to pensioners, children and anyone on low income by the government on investments where interest has automatically been taxed at 20%.
Forms R85 andR40 are available from banks Building Societies or the tax office.
(Don't miss out !)

"UNTIL THE PIPS SQUEAK.. .....?"

A 'think-tank' has decided that *midde-class* families who have seen the value of their homes soar in recent years will have to cough up more and more from their fast dwindling resources!
The threshold for paying Inheritance Tax (at 40%) should be slashed.
Full council tax on all second homes.
New Council tax bands to squeeze more rates from properties, the value of which have *gone through the roof* (like ours ?)
Another increase in stamp duty.

In ADDITION - and just in case you might still have some money left - Water Bills could rocket by 30% !
This is for *modernisation*, something one would have thought Water companies ought to pay out of profits.

Keep your eyes skinned over local and national newspapers for more news on the above matters and *worry* your local M.P. and Councillors.
PROTEST - before all your money goes down the drain !

A DATE to remember:

Bengeo W.I. invites you to their Christmas Fayre to be held in the church hall, Duncombe Road on.....Sat. 29th. Nov.(between 1 - 3 pm)

Stalls, refreshments, raffle...

FREE admission

Mary's father has 5 daughters: 1. Nana 2. Nene 3. Nini 4 .Nono
What is the name of the fifth daughter ?

Nunu ?? WRONG ! Her name is Mary, of course !
(read the question again)

..and as the days dwindle down.....

WELL, THAT'S ALL FOLKS:

ENJOY THE LOVELY AUTUMN
The English don't usually say this..but..... LET US HOPE THAT WE GET SOME RAIN!)

WE MAY BE BACK BEFORE THE FESTIVE SEASON.
BUT..... IF NOT.....
..HAVE A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS !