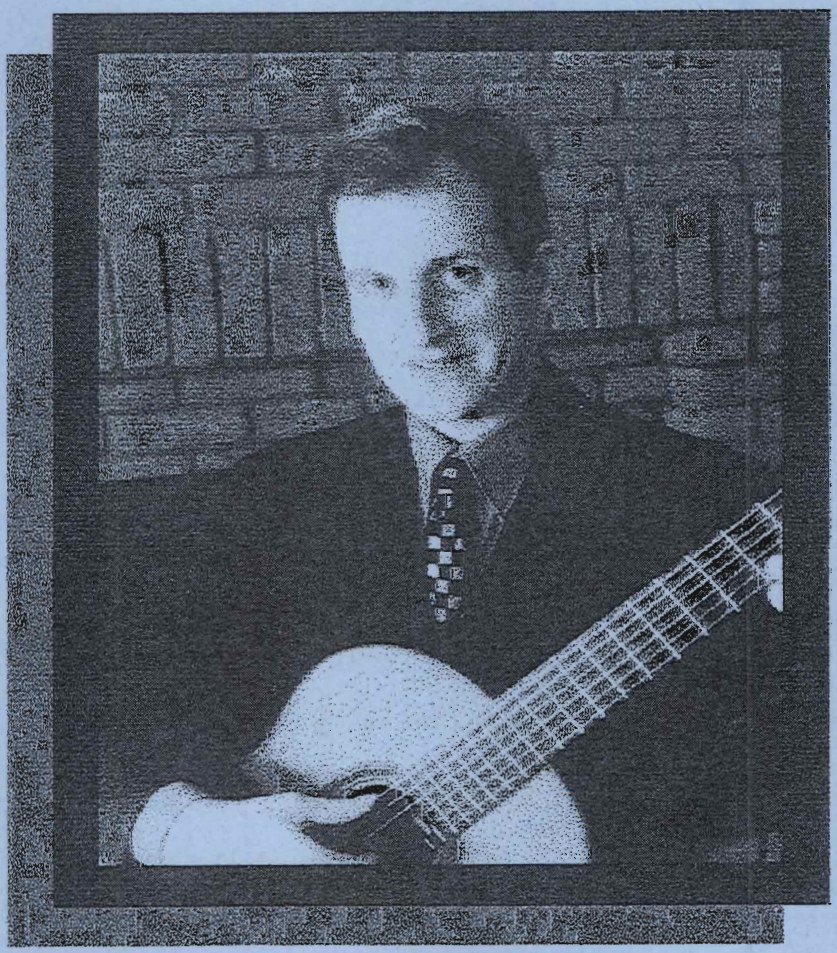
MOLEWOOD OUTLOOK

SPRING 1999



JERRY HARRISON

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

NAME	ADDRESS	TEL.NO. (All Hertford)
Chairperson		
Pam Lutner	107. Cowper Crescent	581329
TREASURER		
Dennis Goodrum	48. The Avenue	422492
EDITOR		
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SECRETARY		
Joan Walkom	12, Woodhall Close	302350
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Olive Church	122, Cowper Crescent	583412
Heidi Scott	6, Woodhall Close	558208
Harry Walkom	12, Woodhall Close	302350
Pat. Betts	42, The Wick	504057
Ken. Lupton	28, Desborough Close	586037
Marie Archer	55, The Wick	581965
Malcolm Scott	53, Lodge Close	587939
Kate Harrison	105, Cowper Crescent	558959
Rhoda Strachan	102, Cowper Crescent	302507
Jane Digweed	31, Lodge Close	581107.



MOLEWOOD OUTLOOK

SPRING 1999

WELCOME to another issue of ' **OUTLOOK'** –the penultimate before the millenium (if we reach there with World War 3 at times on the brink !)

Do YOU think we should have our *own* celebration at the end of this century, if we get there !: If so.....what ? Bring your ideas along to the AGM

SPRING was certainly sprung upon us with a sudden tropical spell in mid-March when temperatures soared to an unseasonal 70°F. bringing our estate from the gloomy depths of winter to a blaze of colour with the daffodils blooming along the verges.

It made all our back-breaking work last November worth while !

As expected, the good weather did not last and we soon returned to cool Brittania –real cool.!.

One contributor seems to agree about the daffodil display.....

'' May we just say thanks again
For making all of our domain
So beautiful to behold.
With daffodils of brightest gold.
Not hard gold that you find in rings
But of the kind denoting Spring.
The hard work and what you 'd thought out
Is scattered everywhere about.
We think this year they're even better
P'rps it's 'cause the Spring was wetter.
And though we soon start summer time
Nothing could be more sublime
Than all the beauty we can view - of daff's ''

Joan L. Cook

Having had our ego nicely boosted we move on to:the.....

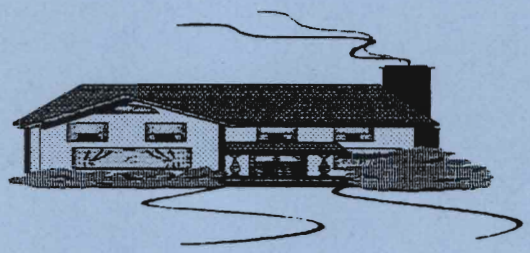
A.G.M.



This year our **Annual General Meeting** takes place in our 'home' venue, Bengeo County Primary at 7.30 p.m. on

THURSDAY 20th. MAY(Please try and arrive by 7.15pm).We are sorry not to give you longer notice and look forward to seeing you to participate in the usual quaffing

of food and wine or, if you prefer,cordial (like the atmosphere) and some *special* entertainment by a resident JERRY HARRISON on his GUITAR.
It is always nice to have our ' home grown' artists at the AGM but more on that later.
ALSO, our Community Liason Officer PC Colin Clare, who attends our Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators meetings plans to attend.
Our *newly-elected* Councillors will, we hope, be in attendance as will **ROSE MOORE** of Groundwork Hertfordshire to update us on *Waterford Heath.*
We hope to have covered all matters of concern to residents, whose interests we are pledged to support, but if you think we have omitted anything of importance, please tell us . The AGM, is an ideal forum !
We cannot win them *all* but, as Confuscious said..." It's better to aim for the moon and only hit a high tree".
One caller to the Ed asked if we could "lighten up" the contents of this newsletter a little.
Gladly !..... but *many of the events do require warnings about such things as bogus callers, burglaries, careless road users, protecting ones home, etc. etc which we feel constant reminders are always in order.*



HOUSE & GARDEN

With Spring once again in the air Molewoodians are busy in their houses and gardens.
When it comes to building extensions or even additional houses on existing land *planning* permission is essential.
As in one recent case on the estate there are *environmental* laws which conserve *Green Belt* land and can result in planning applications being rejected ..
The HEF (Hertfordshire Environmental Forum)is offering 'friendly advice' with a booklet encouraging people to help reduce the impact of extensions and new buildings on the environment.
Although many of the suggestions are not mandatory it is hoped that people will consider the ideas carefully prior to building. Like 'gray water' recycling systems which re-uses water from the bathroom to flush the toilet, which would pay for itself over a period of time if you have a meter.
One suggestion is to use drought resistant plants to save on watering in hot weather .
We hope!
Use of tropical hardwoods should be avoided unless they carry an FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) logo. This avoids de-forestation of natural ancient forests leading to loss of wildlife habitats and climate changes.
Use of peat is also discouraged whereas solar panels are encouraged.
So, if you are thinking of improving, extending your home or even building a new one, get in touch with the H.C.C and ask for---the H.E.F.

Garden competition

It is always a difficult task judging gardens , as there are always so many excellent contenders. In a previous 'Outlook', confirmed at an AGM, we did say that some of our regular top performers were happy to stand aside and let some 'new faces' collect well-deserved prizes for their efforts.

So, we have selected gardens, which we feel are worthy of prize wins outside of our regular top-notchers.

BUT we congratulate the regular winners for their continued excellence in producing gardens, which make our estate the picture it is today. and hope that our regular ' Alan Titchmarshs (or 'Charlies') will join the winners at the AGM to cheer them on.!

AND , the winners are.....

1st.	Mr. & Mrs. Prime	9, Woodhall Close
2nd.	Mr. & Mrs. Celia	23 , Lodge Close
3rd.	Miss Beaveridge & Miss Strohm	51, Cowper Crescent
4th.	Mr. & Mrs. Canalella	38, The Wick
5th.	Mr. & Mrs. Holyfield	44, Lodge Close
6th.	Mrs. Moy	18, Desborough Close
7th.	Mr. & Mrs. Bailey	44, The Avenue
8th.	Mrs. Anderson	9, Desborough Close

The following were highly recommended:-

42, The Avenue
128, The Avenue
4, Cowper Crescent
87, Cowper Crescent,
120, Cowper Crescent
36, The Drive
56, The Drive

Many others have done so much in their gardens to enhance the appearance of the estate that it makes selecting winners all the more difficult and we wish them success in next years competition !



PETS....

Congratulations to our canine friends – not to mention their walkers -who are helping to keep our estate clean and free from the diseases which faeces can cause by using the bins placed strategically around.

The very few recalcitrant owners know who they are and will no doubt wear hangdog expressions when they have to cough up a hefty fine one day !

Security cameras installed to fight street crime are trapping dog owners who allow their dogs to foul pavements in LOWESTOFT.

Fortunately we have not reached the stage where such measures are necessary but.....did we see something move in one of the reflectors in those once much-maligned bollards ? Cat owners may find it more difficult to control their moggie's ablutions , but their neighbours may still get into a flap when a calling card is deposited on their favourite bed (garden!).

If you can, try and keep these problems within the confines of your own property.
Constant BARKING is quiet often a cry of frustration, loneliness, etc.quite apart from shattering the peace of our neighbours. You may not even be aware that 'Rex' has been barking himself hoarse whilst you were out. Your friendly neighbours may be too polite to tell you so find out from them.
There may be an easy solution from pooch psychologists.
HORSES pass through the footpath from Cowper Crescent to Peel Crescent.
Unfortunately what *passes through* the horses concerns pedestrians.
It is an offence for such deposits to be left on public footpaths although, except say for some special equinine nappy we are not sure what the solution is !



JERRY HARRISON (See cover picture)

The GUITAR is one of the most romantic and versatile of instruments, and should provide the perfect ambience following the every day practical matters discussed at the forthcoming AGM!
Jerry is married to Kate who is on the Association's committee.
His musical training involved master courses throughout Europe by leading guitarists including David Russell and Vladimir Mikulka.
He began his performing career with solo recitals at the age of fourteen and he has performed throughout the U.K. and in Norway where he was also invited to lecture. A tour of Denmark including a live national radio broadcast was conducted in 1987.
Jerry won the 1990 international Sanchis Guitar Competition sponsored by Guitar International Magazine and he taught at the Dundee International Guitar Festival in 1998.
His versatile styles range from Classical, Film, TV & Musical, Latin American, Jazz & Flamenco, Beatles, Simon & Garfunkel to Ragtime and Blues.
So, whatever your choice of music, come and join us at the AGM.

"The song of a piano is a discourse
The song of the cello is an elegy
The song of the guitar is.....a song"
Eugenio D'ors

IRENE CHERRY

Friends and colleagues of Irene Cherry were saddened to learn of her death early in April this year.
Irene who lived in The Wick, served on the committee of this Association a few years ago.



CARS
(OLD) CROSS –ABOUT THE RAT RUN ?

The arguments go on....and on !
Having heard the voice of the people at various public meetings and displays on alternative layouts for the Old Cross junction it is apparent that even *the people* cannot agree on one solution.
If you can remember the 'good old days' when the car journey down to town took a fraction of the time it takes in the rush hour nowadays you probably just want to see the lights go and the 'magic roundabout' re-installed. If, on the other hand, you are a pedestrian.....
The Rat-run is affected by the situation and we were corrected in our last issue of M.O. and have printed the reader's letter in the 'Your Shout' column.

DRINK DRIVING

Police blew the whistle on drink-drivers last Christmas when they introduced Fast-track drink/drive prosecutions, where motorists have been in court less than 24 hours after being stopped for ---- not just filling up their vehicles !----is likely to be maintained.
The Police say that they are taking a tough stance on anyone who they catch driving with excess alcohol and " there will be no excuses.". Anyone who tests positive will not only be dealt with rigorously by the police, but will also risk losing their license and, in some cases, their job''
Some police forces in the north of England were offering the public up to 500 pounds to inform on those they suspected of drink-driving .
Makes the occasional glass a little unpalatable !
Fast Track also applies to such offences as *Joy Riding* thus preventing offenders from committing similar acts whilst awaiting a delayed Court hearing ..
There will be plenty of celebrations taking place in a few months time with, no doubt, plenty of imbibing especially with the proposed 36 hour extended opening time from New Years eve ,but please don't take your car for a drink or it could be a miserable start to '00 ' for you !
PARKING - ...(.Always guaranteed to blow a few gaskets !)
One irate resident, who obviously wishes to remain anonymous, asked if there was anything that we could do about a neighbour's vehicle being "permanently" parked outside the complainant's house, even though the owners had plenty of room on their own driveway(No, it wasn't *your* neighbour !).
The short answer is, we believe,'no'. Unless a vehicle is causing an obstruction or contravening any existing laws, anyone can park where they like on a public highway.
Well, on second thoughts, there *is* something that can be done which *can* be very difficult, especially when feeling over the offending vehicle may be running rather high. It is....to have a friendly word with the 'perpetrators'.
There may be a very good reason for cars being parked on roads, such as building works on the property, breakdowns, car repairs/maintenance, emergencies, school runs, driveway already full with cars, but in many cases it is just too much bother to drive the car in and out !
In this green and pleasant estate one of the joys of residents is to look out on to greens or just watch the world go by. Gazing out on to a row of vehicles, including some commercial vans

inhibits this joy, so please *try* and keep any vehicles you have parked on your own driveway whenever possible.
Many areas, especially London suburbs, have no option as they have no driveway or garage where , given the opportunity , residents would leap at the chance of taking their vehicles off the road!

Signals

Back to roundabouts:
There seems to be a growing tendency for drivers to not even bother to indicate where necessary particularly on roundabouts, presumably because the effort of raising one finger is just too much (except, perhaps,by way of a hand signal !)
Apart from the obvious danger to other road users this can be extremely hazardous to pedestrians who may cross the road assuming a driver is going straight across when in actual fact he is turning into the path of the walker.
With much quieter hydrogen/electric cars on the road ahead it may be that we will have to rely on *sight* more rather than *vroom vroom* !

IS **YOUR CHILD** SAFE IN YOUR CAR ?

WHAT could be more important than protecting our youngsters from possible horrific injuries in the event of a car accident?
But when POLICE and Road Safety Officers checked vehicles arriving at Bengeo school they found several children not wearing proper belts/restraints and gave advice to other drivers about the way their safety seats were fitted.
Hopefully, all those advised have since taken steps to ensure their childrens protection but *free* professional advice can be obtained by 'phoning H. 583044 or 509828 and asking about *Herts County Council, Fit Safe/Stay Safe.*

SECURITY MARKING

On Sunday 23rd. May between 10am and 2pm you can have your car window or bicycle **security etched** with your POST CODE etc.at:-

Hertford Police Station

come along and see what a good impression is made !

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.

MOBILE 'PHONES



A common sight around this estate currently is people, mainly younger ones, walking around with mobile 'phones stuck to their ears like limpit mines.
Hardly surprising as over 10 million of these low-power radio transmitters and receivers are in use nationally .
Some drivers reserve one hand solely for holding the mobile !
But could the microwave radiation emissions from these *trendy* status symbols heat up and disturb the electrons in the brain and cause damage, now or in the future ?
Some have already been linked to memory loss, although other reports say that frequent use has the opposite effect !
Another study has found that these could threaten the health of unborn babies.
One very frequent user collapsed and remained unconscious for a day due, she believed, to constant use of her mobile.

Children, some reports say, could be putting their lives on the line every time they call a friend on a mobile.
There are hands-free earpieces becoming available allowing users to hold the 'phone at a distance reducing the radiation entering the brain. Also other safety aids shielding users from radiation such as leather / polyester cases and carbon-impregnated foam are available.
There is even a Japanese jewel which generates negative ions and a copper pendant for the body's *bionenergy*!
All new inventions cause anxiety over possible harmful effects with predictions of catastrophies, although the scientific studies cannot be ignored.
Moderation may be the answer.
Mobiles are a boon particularly in emergencies and car accidents or breakdowns, especially with lone women drivers.
As many walking users are teenagers, presumably chatting up their friends out of earshot of prying ears, it may be the *parents* who will need the medical attention when they – pick up the tabs !
Apart from the *dreaded* video phones is the more welcome combined home and portable phone pack., when only ONE telephone number will be required for cordless and mobiles.
Calls (and *charges !*) will switch automatically from one to the other. The rather original name for this new system is *One-phone !*
Your homely P.C. may soon operate *everything* in future homes automatically.
Coming soon are weather censors that open and close curtains and windows. Nearly all appliances may be plugged in to your P.C. programme and make them *intelligent* '.
It's called *progress !*

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The **Voicemail Scheme** has proved to be most successful with some 453 members taking part. Ken Lupton would like to thank all those that joined and hopes that those that were not available at the time of enrolment to the Scheme will consider participation. Anyone wishing to do so should contact him. His address and telephone number appear in the committee list at the front of this magazine.
We are very lucky with the lack of crime in the Molewood area but that does not mean that we should not be vigilant at all times. At present there are cases of people, generally working in pairs, who knock at doors saying that they represent some organisation or other. Whilst one keeps the occupant in conversation the other attempts to enter the house generally at the rear of the building. It is essential that doors and windows are kept locked especially if there is only one person in the house at the time. This may be somewhat trying now that the summer months are approaching and the desire is to open up and let the fresh air in.
Something that we should be aware of is the need to look after the more elderly persons. If you have an elderly neighbour and can see someone trying their door keep an eye on what goes on— just in case!
Many have security chains but fail to use them and just trust anyone who comes to the door because that has been their way of life for so many years when opportunists villains were rarely heard of and locking doors was never a requirement. May be you could persuade them to use the chain or if they do not have one perhaps get them to fit one. After all it is being neighbourly to look after one another especially at this time when we seldom see a policeman in the area.
'Doorstoppers Campaign'

The Met. have agreed a code of practice with all the main service industries like Gas, Electricity, etc. to help us identify genuine callers and these are laid out in most of the services leaflets sent with bills.
The main targets of the conmen are OAPs.
HOLIDAY time is almost upon us again.
Time to leave all our troubles behind for sun, sea and----sangria !
We do not need to re-iterate all the precautions to take prior to departure, like papers lying on the mat behind transparent doors, Alarms, Security lights etc.(Yes, we know, it's all been said many times before, but it is so easy to overlook these apparantly *trivial* matters).There have been cases where 'squatters' have taken over convincing neighbours that they have been asked to occupy the house whilst they were away and ended up wrecking the home !
If you have made arrangements for anyone to stay and look after the house DO tell neighbours.
A new CRIME AND DISORDER ACT has come into effect with the aim of promoting a greater feeling of security and safety in the community.
Every *Police District* in the County has a three-year action plan and in East Herts a team including representatives from the police and District Council have consulted widely and identified a need for action in areas such as:
Young people: Violent crime: Burglary: Road and vehicle safety: Personal safety: Drug and alcohol problems: Domestic violence.

NEIGHBOURHOOD NOISE With the summer months what better time to get stuck in to all those outstanding DIY jobs ?
Resulting noise is inevitable but remember the *recommended* hours for noisy works of any sort, such as chain saws, etc. is:-

Daytime weekly until 1pm on Saturday.
"..and on the seventh day..... ....."

The noises that some find irritating are 'music to the ears' of others, but many still look forward to a peaceful weekend away from all the strife and hubbub of the workplace, so please consider them and, where DIY work is essential, try and choose the *less* noisy jobs for the weekend.

LYS HILL GARDENS

When the willow trees were removed from the grass area at the top of the Close nearby residents wished to see garden areas planted in their place.
Your Association met with the Council and discussed the suggestion for which a plan was subsequently submitted. At the time, which was over a year ago, the Council said that nothing could be done until the roots had been killed by chemical action which had been injected into the stumps. This they estimated would take six months. When the six months had elapsed the Council were reminded of the action only to discover that the grass area was under the jurisdiction of the Highways Department and so had to be agreed by them. After a long drawn out set of discussions and paperwork we at last were told that agreement had been reached and that work would be contracted out. Since then, however, it has been discovered that the stumps have not been killed off and that they are now sprouting new growth which no doubt means that nothing can be done as far as the gardens are concerned until at least the autumn.
As the saying goes..."Watch this - or that - space"!

A CUT ABOVE, or rather, *below* the average!

In spite of our representations to the Council last year on the state of the Greens plus the fact that we are now into a *new* financial year, the standard of grass-cutting is still in a very poor state ! We are of course still endeavoring to get some improvement and for the new mown grass to be removed .
Why, we have pondered for some time, are our grassed areas so shabby compared to – say- Sele Farm ?
As we understand it (and you couldn't make this up-!) *our* greens are the responsibility of H.C.C. Highways, being considered as road *verges* whereas Sele is under EHDC where they are considered to be Greens and therefore have different *standards* of cutting ie the 'non-highways'get a smarter (or shorter) cut than ours .
This all goes back to the original development in the '60's .
This is no consolation AND SHOULD BE CHANGED !
LOBBY your new Councillors on this issue.
After all YOU have done to make this estate a 'garden' estate why should it be neglected all because of **red tape ?**

Why not write and complain individually as some 500 letters on the Council desk would carry far more weight than just *one* from your committee !
Please address your letters to:-

East Herts District Council
Wallfields,
Pegs Lane,
HERTFORD SG13 8EQ *(F.A.O Neal Hodgson*
Director of Environmental Sercices

PLAYSPACE

As always we are endeavouring to have the kiddy's playspace improved with new Play equipment.
We will look into the possibility of Lottery *money* being available.
Again – don't hold your breath!

LADIES TUESDAY CIRCLE – BENGEO
Our apologies for omitting to mention in the Autumn M.O. that meetings take place on the FIRST TUESDAY in every month at 8pm ((Bengeo Church Parish Hall.)

WATERFORD HEATH



We hope to have more updating on this at the AGM.
With the growing season blossoming after all that April rain most gardeners will have enough to do tending their own loving strip, but anyone with the time and inclination will be welcome as volunteers to plant young trees on this nature reserve.

Much has already been done and it is hoped it will be an 'environmental success' for the Millenium !
Anyone with self-set trees such as oak, ash, hornbeam, field maple, hazel, silver birch or wild cherry please let George Sandell know.
Nine out of ten of Britain's most important wildlife sites have been damaged or destroyed over the past 50 years, so we want our little ' Watership Down' to thrive !
Species such as large tortoise-shell butterfly, the mouse-eared bat and the dense flowered orchid have been the *victims* of this depletion brought about by farming, house building, mining and roads.
Our little 'Eco-system' is beginning to mature and the *Dawn Chorus* walks are just restarting
Come along and 'commune with nature ' on the following dates:-

Saturday 15th. May	10.30am	Butterfly Walk with Alan Downie
" 22nd. "	4.30am	Dawn Chorus Walk with Bruce Taggart
" 25th "	2.00pm	Fungi Foray with Chris. Hames

All these walks will begin at Vicarage Lane car park.
Help to keep the countryside alive and well !.

YOUR COMMITTEE

Most of the MRA committee members have been serving for many years and some may consider that we could be almost 'past our sell-by date'!
We all enjoy the constant battle to obtain improvements in our estate and services but would like to see some new/young blood taking an active part with , hopefully, a new injection of fresh ideas.
Not that we are quite ready to be 'put out to grass' but we could do with some motivated younger members and will be 'campaigning' for this in the next few weeks.
So, if you are interested or know someone who *might* be interested please get in touch.

IT'S YOUR SHOUT !

Back to the CARS and a letter pointing out the error of our ways.....

" Thank you for all the work you have put in to the latest issue of 'Outlook'.

A few comments from someone with a little inside knowledge about the roads of Hertfordshire.(I work for the County Environmental Department)
In your piece about the Bengeo 'Rat Run' and Old Cross on page 2 you say "the signals were installed to ease traffic problems in spite of the fact that there had been no reported accidents in the previous three yours "
My understanding is that the lights were put in to ease the problems of pedestrians Talking to dedicated walkers they are very happy with the lights and found it very difficult to cross on the day when the lights failed recently.
Later on in the same piece you ask about "Public Highways " and "private" roads. I do not see how installing a bollard/barrier can create any private roads-that was not the case when the very permanent barrier was built across Port Vale by Mill Mead.
Yours sincerely N.D. Gough.(11, Lys Hill Gardens)"

Thank you: We await to see the next development in this on-going saga.

Well, after all that we *will* 'lighten up' – a little.....

A poetic contribution received last November is from Ms. N. Ottley a member of **Bengeo Womens Institute :-**

My WI is full of fun,
Speakers and demo's and raffles to run.
Rambles we go on, exhibits we praise
Jumbles, coffee mornings, we fill up our days.
On the serious side we fight for a cause.
But keep it non-politcal and within the laws
We knit and we sew from morning until night .
New friendships for the making is within sight.
Jam and Jerusalem, is not just our theme
We bring many together and work as a team
So find out your local WI night
Or an afternoon session, for you, may be right.
Just see what you're missing, I tell you no lie
For I sing the praises of my W.I. !,

CHURCHILL was at a reception imbibing well, as usual, when a pompous lady guest said to him ''Sir, you are drunk''.Sir Winnie replied ''May be and you, madam , are ugly but come the morning ------I shall be sober''!

WOMEN'S LIB.?

Making a trip to Kuwait after some years absence a visitor commented to a local that he was pleased to see that wives now walked in front of their husbands rather than a respectable distance behind them.
Presumably attitudes towards women had changed dramatically but what , he wondered, was the reason for the complete reversal.
''Landmines'' replied the local !

ELOQUENCE

True eloquence consists in saying all that is necessary, and nothing but what is necessary.
La Rochefoucauld

As the saying goes '' *The show isn't over until the fat lady sings''*
Our annual show, the AGM ,will not finish until JERRY HARRISON has given us all his guitar recital.

See you on the 20th. MAY !..... Back in this spot in the Autumn

BUT ----------for now.....

Summer is nearly here.....SO.....

Enjoy.....Enjoy !