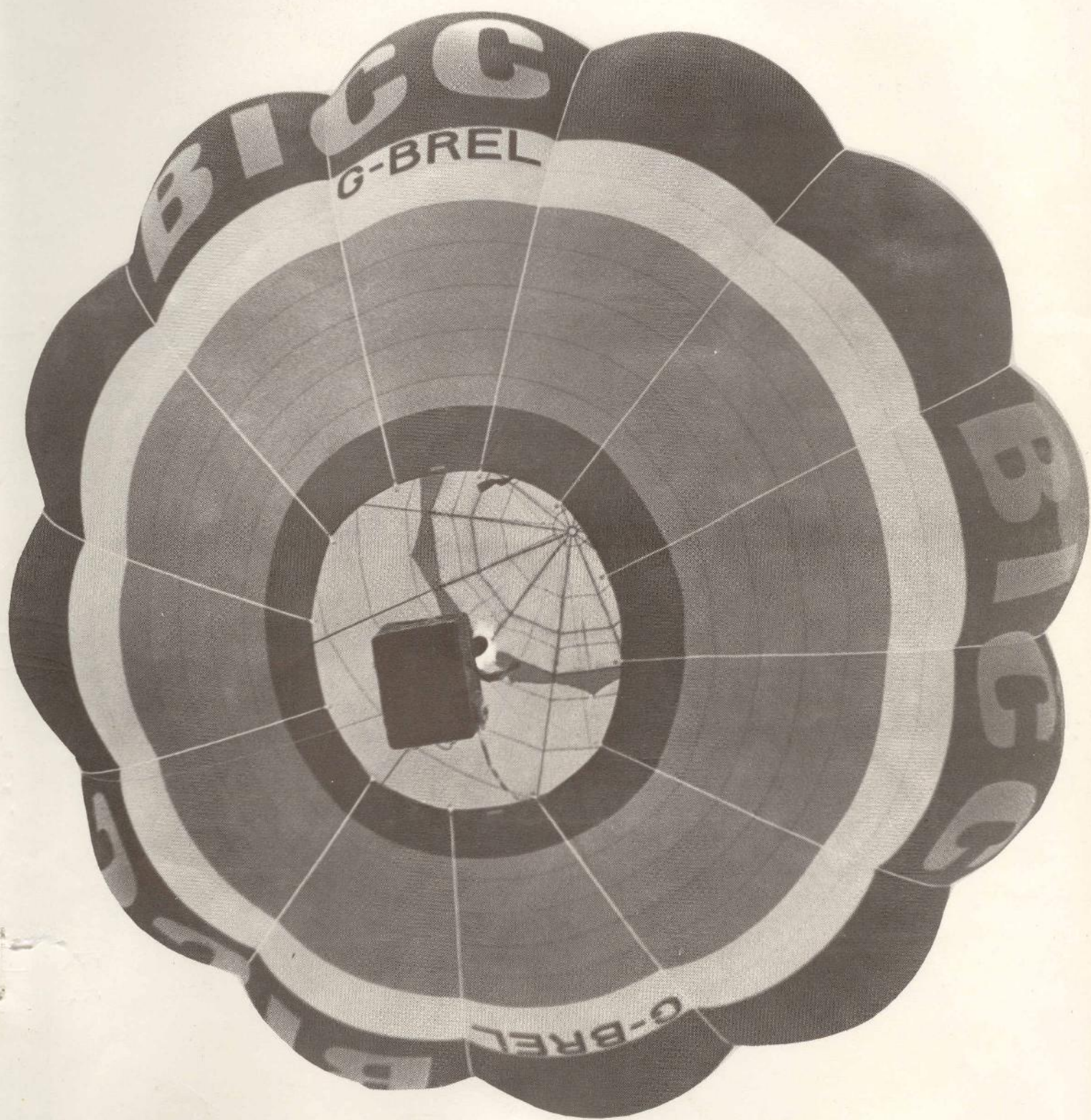


BUSH

oct 1978

TELEGRAPH



# BUSH

vol. 20 no. 11

# TELEGRAPH

the magazine of **R&EL** wood lane



## Cover

"ASPECTS OF  
G-BREL"  
1st Prize  
(Joe Lou)

## Editorial Board

David Green  
Denis Groombridge  
Mike Hagger  
Richard Hammond  
Geoff Holder  
Ted Morrison  
Peter Revell



# Editorial

Many of the growth industries of recent times have not been industries in the manufacturing sense, but services, bureaucracies and pressure groups. Into the last named comes the environment/ecology lobby which in recent years has influenced the introduction of much tougher laws on pollution, health and safety, the protection of wildlife, screening of drugs and a host of other things. Taken in isolation it is easy to make a case for each piece of legislation and justify its desirability. But there is a growing voice which is looking at the total effect and saying "STOP". The thesis is that the innovative and productive energies of industry are being severely restricted to the point where the Western economy, as a life-style is under threat, a threat which is being compounded by groups persuing unrelated and selfish aims under the fashionable health and environment flag. Some of the recent troubles in Fleet Street are supposed to relate to the health of workers, and it may not be too cynical to ask how much per hour will relieve the danger.

The ultimate vision of industry totally crippled by legislation and restriction may be hard to accept, as may the view that Londoners will die prematurely from lung disease if all asbestos isn't removed from tube trains - an operation currently being carried out at the White City depot incidentally. Extreme views such as these are traps for the unwary. We should avoid too much cotton wool protection as much as the non-caring attitude of the past. As in many things the middle view is often the most reasonable.

# Personnel News

## STARTERS Welcome to:-

F. Bowerman who joins us as a Fitter in the Works Engineering Dept.

C.A. West who joins us as an Electrician in the Works Engineering Dept.

A.G. Barrett who joins us as a Trainee Patents Assistant in the Patents Dept.

Dr. D.E.M. Ness who joins us as a Technical Officer in the Polymers Dept.

C. Williams who joins us as an Assistant Technical Officer in the Physics Dept.

Miss S. Goddard who joins us as a Clerk/Typist in the Personnel Department.

## LEAVERS Farewell to:-

Peter Revell of the Chemistry Dept. who leaves after eight years to do a PhD.

Brian Irving of the Maths Dept who leaves after nearly two years to take up alternative employment.

Susan Gardner of the Administration Dept. who leaves after one year to take up alternative employment.

Karen Edmundson, who left at the end of August, after 4 years as secretary to Dr. Margolis.

Stan Row of the Works Engineering Dept. who leaves after 4½ years to return to his former job as a milkman.

## WEDDING

Congratulations to Tony Martin (Chemistry Department) on the occasion of his marriage on September 23rd. We wish him and Margaret every happiness.

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## COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

Don't forget that we are always on the lookout for good quality photographs for our cover. £2 for those we use. Contact any member of the Editorial Board.

# Biccarella



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## For Sale

Hillman Imp 1967 (super)

12 months MOT (Oct' 79)  
4 months Tax (Jan' 79)

Items replaced include:-

Gearbox, Radiator, Universal joints and Steering Rack.

Regularly serviced - mechanically reliable  
NOT original engine

Price £225

Contact Richard Hammond - Chemistry Department



# Diary of Events

Date	Event	For Information
Mon. 6 Nov.	Last day for contributions to BT	Editorial Board
Wed. 8 Nov.	Prize-giving - Main Hall (Mr. J. Banks) 12.00	John Heggie
Thurs. 9 Nov.	Sea Angling Trip	Andy Platt
Fri. 10 Nov.	Wine-Tasting; 7.30 pm Main Hall	Dave Goff
Wed. 15 Nov.	Film Show; 6.30 pm Main Hall "Images", "Louisiana Story"	Annette Mattock
Mon. 20 Nov.	Publication day BT	Editorial Board
Thurs. 23 Nov.	Technical Society; 1.30 pm Main Hall (Phil Dey)	John Heggie
Wed. 13 Dec.	Film Show; 6.30 pm Main Hall "Hollywood Cowboy", "Early Sound Films (1896-1926)" and "Lieutenant Daring and the Plans of the Minefield"	Annette Mattock
Sat. 16 Dec.	Childrens Christmas Party	Typing Pool
Mon. 18 Dec.	Sea Angling Trip	Andy Platt
<u>Regular Events</u>		
Tuesdays	Badminton	Vic Banks
Thursdays	Badminton	Vic Banks
	Air Pistol Shooting	Denis Groombridge
Weekends	Hot-Air Ballooning	Roger Millward or Denis Groombridge

## HOW ABOUT YOU?

As we have mentioned on another page Peter Revell is leaving the Editorial Board. This leaves a VACANCY. Under the terms of the Sex Discrimination Act we are probably barred from advertising for a female recruit, so we had better say that it would be desirable to have a person capable of enunciating the female point of view. If the person also came from a department or area of interest not already represented on the board that would be an added advantage. But don't be put off by our preferences - it's enthusiasm that we really want, so please volunteer, NOW.

# New Telephone Exchange

When we said in last month's BT, that "Opinion is divided as to whether the new facilities will work smoothly from the word go", we didn't anticipate that the "go" on October 2nd would turn out to be a complete "no-go". As well as being a disappointment to staff, it was particularly galling to the Administration Department who had worked like beavers to ensure that all details of how to use the new phones had been circulated, and new directories compiled, printed and issued before the date specified by the Post Office for the change-over.

As you already know the PO admitted complete responsibility for the mess, and the following telex was subsequently received by Fran Lam.

FOR THE ATTENTION OF MR LAM

FURTHER TO YOUR MEETING WITH MR WELSH ON MONDAY I WOULD LIKE TO CONFIRM THE CURRENT SITUATION AS FOLLOWS:-

THE NEW PABX INSTALLATION WAS NOT BROUGHT INTO SERVICE LAST WEEKEND AS SCHEDULED DUE TO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES APPEARING IN THE INTERNAL WIRING OF THE BUILDING WHICH FEEDS ALL THE TELEPHONES, PARTICULARLY THE EXTENSIONS WHERE AUTOMATIC ~~TRANSX~~ TRANSFER OF CALLS IS REQUIRED WHEN THESE TELEPHONES ARE UNATTENDED. OUR ENGINEERS ARE NOW WORKING ON THE WIRING AND IT IS HOPED THAT THE INSTALLATION WILL BE BROUGHT INTO SERVICE DURING THE WEEKEND OF 14 OCTOBER. THIS WILL BE CONFIRMED WITH YOU NEARER THE TIME.

PLEASE ACCEPT OUR SINCERE APOLOGIES FOR THIS SET BACK AND THE INCONVENIENCE CAUSED.

J M SMITH - SALES SUPERINTENDENT  
FOR WEST TELEPHONE AREA

REF: S2.2  
01-743 1266  
EXT 660

4  
5 OCTOBER 1978

At the time of writing the prospect of meeting the target of October 14th has receded, but not too far we hope. May we repeat our request from last month that staff exercise patience with any teething troubles, and give Sandra as much assistance as possible in her new duties.

# Health and Safety

A meeting of the BR&EL Health and Safety Committee was held on Tuesday 26th September.

Among the subjects discussed were:

1. Hazard Reporting

A commercially-produced system for use by Safety Representatives was demonstrated. It received the general approval of the Committee and may well shortly be adopted.

2. Tours of Inspection (Sept - Oct 1977)

A number of items, mostly small ones, are still outstanding. Further tours will be made to check on these.

3. Fire Regulations

These are becoming out-of-date due to organisational changes, and changes in listed personnel. They will be up-dated and re-issued shortly. Further Fire Practice drills will be arranged.

ALL PERSONNEL ARE ASKED TO MAKE SPECIAL NOTE THAT THE NEW NUMBER TO RING IN CASE OF FIRE IS NOW

222

and not 363. It is hoped shortly to mark all telephones with a sticker denoting the new number.

4. Procedural Document

A document entitled "Procedure for Safety Representatives and Safety Committees in the BICC Group of Companies" was discussed. Originating at Prescot, it may need some revision and adaptation before coming into effect at BR&EL.

For the general information of the Staff at Wood Lane and Alperton, the present members of the Health and Safety Committee are:

Mr. J. Littler (Chairman)  
Mr. J. Heggie  
Dr. R.M. Black  
Mr. G.B. Wills  
Mr. A.J. Moore  
Mr. R. Millward (ASTMS) (Vice-Chairman)  
Mr. G.F. Holder (EESA) (Secretary)

# The History of Electric Wires and Cables

## PART 9: THE SECOND AND THIRD ATLANTIC CABLES 1865 AND 1866 By R.M. Black

The failure of the 1858 cable resulted in a loss to the Shareholders of the Atlantic Telegraph Company of some £500,000 and this discouraged any further attempt for several years. A further discouragement was the failure in 1859 of the Red Sea cable upon which some £800,000 had been invested.

The matter was taken so seriously that a Select Committee was set up by the Privy Council to enquire into and report upon the whole field of Submarine Telegraph Cables. The report concluded that the failures experienced were due to causes that might have been guarded against had adequate preliminary investigations been made.

Much could be and was learned from the experience of 1858. Hitherto, the conductors of all telegraph cables made in England had been insulated by The Gutta Percha Company, while the finishing, armouring and laying of the cables had been carried out most successfully by Glass, Elliot and Company. The division of activities between Greenwich and Birkenhead had not been entirely successful, as closer liaison would have precluded the different lay of the two halves of the cable. The two firms therefore decided to unite to form a single company to be called The Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company. The new company was formally registered on the 7th April, 1864 and its directors immediately agreed to subscribe £315,000 towards a new Atlantic cable the first £285,000 having been raised by Mr. Cyrus Field, who had estimated the cost of the cable to be £600,000.

### Cable Design

After the most careful consideration together with prolonged investigation and numerous experiments, the design of the new cable was evolved. It was to be different from its predecessor in that the conductor was to be 7/.048 in compared with the 7/.028 and for this all copper with a conductivity of less than 85% of pure copper was rejected. The manufacture of the cable proceeded as follows:

"The centre wire of the copper strand was first covered with a coating of gutta percha, reduced to a viscous state with Stockholm tar, this being the preparation known as Chatterton's Compound. This coating must be so thick that, when the other six wires forming the strand were laid spirally and tightly round it, every interstice was completely filled up and all air excluded.

"The whole conductor next received a coating of Chatterton's Compound outside of it; this, when the core was completed, quickly solidified, and became almost as hard as the remainder of the subsequent insulation. It



was then surrounded with a first coating of the purest gutta percha, which being pressed around it while in a plastic state by means of a very accurate die, formed a first continuous tube along the whole conductor. Over this tube was laid by the same process a thin covering of Chatterton's Compound, succeeded by a second tube of pure gutta percha, then another coating of the Compound, and so on alternately until the conductor had received in all four coatings of gutta percha. The total weight of insulation thus applied was 400 lbs to the nautical mile, against 261 lbs in the cable of 1857/8."

The cable was tested by immersion in water at 75°F for 24 hours followed by measurement of the insulation resistance. After this the cable was stored under water in specially constructed tanks.

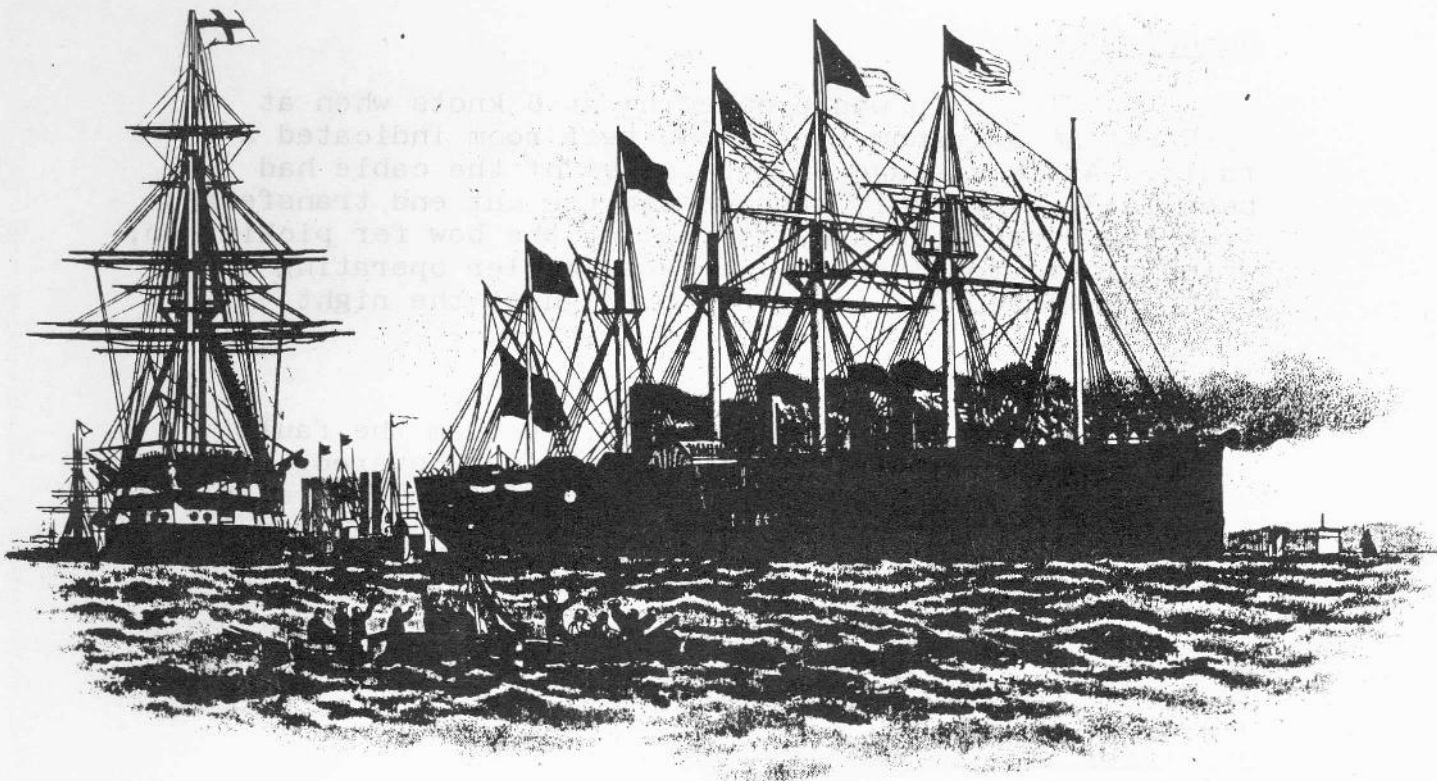
The gutta percha core was next covered with a bedding of tanned jute and over this the armoring comprising ten 13 BWG iron wires was laid, each wire being separately covered with yarns of manilla hemp. It was calculated that this protection would enable the cable to withstand a load of 7 tons 15 cwt equivalent to the suspension in water of 11 miles of its own weight. W.T. Henley of North Woolwich assisted in the manufacture of the heavily armoured shore length.

#### The Great Eastern

A director of the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company, Daniel Gooch was also a director and share-holder in the company which had literally floated the 'Great Eastern' the largest vessel in the world at that time, a six masted, five funnelled paddle steamer. This had been designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel just before his death, but had proved rather a white elephant in the Far East passenger trade. Due to the winding up of her company, she was soon to come up for auction, and when she did, Gooch bought her for £25,000 forming The Great Eastern Company and chartering her to Telcon for £50,000 of the cable shares. The vessel was ideally suited for laying the new cable as she could carry the 7,000 tons of cable, the necessary 2,000 tons of iron tanks (one of her funnels was removed to make way for one), and 8,500 tons of coal for her boilers.

#### The 1865 Expedition

A complete account of the 1865 expedition was published soon after by W.H. Russell who accompanied it, and his description does more than justice to what was to be an epic in the history of submarine cables. His account has recently been reprinted and is well worth reading in its original form.



THE "GREAT EASTERN" LEAVING SHEERNESS WITH THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH CABLE ON BOARD, JUNE 30, 1866.

The heavily armoured shore-end was to be laid from Foilhummerum Bay near Valentia by the SS Caroline after which 'The Great Eastern' would take over and lay the cable in one continuous length from Ireland to Newfoundland.

Saturday 2nd July

Operations commenced with speeches by The Knight of Kerry, Sir Robert Peel and Mr. Richard Glass (the Managing Director of Telcon) outside the Instrument Room at Foilhummerum. Richard Glass concluded his speech as follows:

"So far as human skill has gone, I believe we have produced all that can be desired. We now offer up our prayers to the Almighty that he will grant success to our undertaking."

The Doxology was then sung and the engineers secured the shore end. At 2 pm the Caroline proceeded to sea, towed by HMS Hawk and at 10.30 pm buoyed the end 26 miles WNW of Valentia in 75 fathoms of water.

Sunday 23rd

The Great Eastern arrived and at 3 pm the buoyed shore-end was joined to the landward end of the main cable from the after tank of the Great Eastern. The joint was completed by 5.10 pm and at 7.15 the ship was under weigh and paying out the cable as she went. Signals were exchanged continuously between ship and shore according to a previously laid down routine.

Monday 24th

The ship was proceeding at 6 knots when at 3.15 am the galvanometer in the test room indicated a fault. At this stage only 84 miles of the cable had been laid. The cable was cut and the cut end transferred from the stern machinery to that at the bow for picking up, which after trouble with the steam boiler operating the winch commenced and continued throughout the night.

Tuesday 25th

Picking up continued and, at 9 am the fault was discovered after 10¼ miles had been recovered. This was found to be due to a short piece of armour wire, 2 in in length penetrating the insulation. The cable was re-spliced, the picked up portion being rejected, and paying out started again. After ½ mile communication with the shore ceased altogether. After much consultation and testing the light on the galvanometer scale suddenly reappeared and at 4.15 pm laying was resumed.

Wednesday 26th

The cable was now getting into deep water (down to 1,750 fathoms from 200).

Thursday 27th

Bright bounding sea and a clear blue sky.

Friday 28th

474 miles from Valentia and all going well.

Saturday 29th

The weather was foggy or rather hazy and at 1.10 pm there were signs of 'ill-omened' activity about the Test Room. The engines were slowed and in five minutes the great ship was motionless. The electricians had found a 'Dead earth' indicating complete destruction of the insulation. The cable was again cut and hauled in when at 9.50 pm the defective portion was found and cut out.

Sunday 30th

Fog with drizzling rain. The sea was dead calm and The Great Eastern 'seemed to float on a grey and polished surface of a cloud'. During the reversal of the cable in preparation for again paying out, the cable had become entangled in the machinery and had to be cut and re-spliced. Laying resumed at 10.08 am.

Monday 31st

Examination of the fault suggested that there might be a possibility of sabotage of the cable by someone aboard.

Tuesday 1st August

The Great Eastern continued on her way, increasing speed to 7 knots.

### Wednesday 2nd

At 8.06 am Greenwich Mean Time another bad fault was detected. Nothing was left but to cut and pick up the cable once again. During this operation one of the Foremen found a piece of armour wire sticking out of the cable in the flake under that which was passing out of the grating. This suggested that perhaps, after all the faults were due not to sabotage but to the cable itself.

As the cable was being hauled aboard just before reaching the dynamometer "the cable parted, flew through the stoppers, and with one bound leaped over intervening space and flashed into the sea. The shock of the instant was as sharp as the snapping of the cable itself. No words could describe the bitterness of the disappointment. The cable gone ! Gone for ever, down in that fearful depth ! " They had only 600 miles further to go. Attempts were made to grapple for the cable.

### Thursday 3rd

Grappling continued but without success and with the loss of the grappling rope. The fog came down.

### Friday 4th

Morning found the great Eastern drifting in a dense fog. Grappling attempts continue.

### Saturday 5th

No change in the weather.

### Sunday 6th

Very thick until after midday.

### Monday 7th

Grappling continues, at last tension on the line.

### Tuesday 8th

After raising the cable from a depth of 2,500 fathoms through a mile of water, the line again snapped. But it was determined to make a third attempt before sailing for England.

### Wednesday 9th

Lost sight of the buoy marking the position of the cable.

### Thursday 10th

Good weather - grappling resumed and the cable again partly raised, but the tackle was not strong enough and the hawser snapped. This was the end. The Great Eastern had no more suitable hawser aboard so she set sail for home arriving off Crookhaven on the 17th August.

It was now too late in the year to resume operations so it was decided to postpone a further expedition until the following year and in the meantime to manufacture a completely new length of cable. This would be laid in the Spring of 1866 after which the Great Eastern would return to mid-Atlantic, grapple for the 1865 cable, splice it and continue to Newfoundland, so that there would then be two cables spanning the Atlantic.

#### The 1866 Expedition

During the winter the cable handling machinery aboard the Great Eastern was strengthened and improved by provision for picking up by both fore and after gears thus precluding the change from stern to bow which had complicated the 1865 operations. Stronger grappling equipment was also provided.

The shore-ends of the cable were again manufactured by W.T. Henley but were of a new design in which solid armour wires replaced the three-stranded type used before. A further innovation was the reduction in size of the cable by three stages from shore to deep water, as became usual in practice.

The 1866 expedition itself proceeded almost without incident. On the 7th July the shore-end was landed in Foilhummerum Bay, on the 13th the Great Eastern took the end aboard, spliced the cable and commenced paying out. There were two instances of fouls in the tanks due to broken armour wires catching neighbouring turns and flakes but these were sorted out by stopping the ship and manhandling the cable. Fourteen days later the Great Eastern arrived off Heart's Content, Trinity Bay Newfoundland where the shore-end was joined and landed. After coaling, the Great Eastern and her accompanying ship again put to sea on the 9th August and arrived at the grappling position on the 12th.

After many failures, during which the cable was hooked, surfaced and lost again, bad weather encountered and position lost through drifting marker buoys, the Great Eastern and the SS Medway at last hooked the cable and between them raised it successfully to the surface. It was at once tested and to the relief of all, its condition was found to be perfect. Without delay, it was joined to the cable aboard the Great Eastern which at once commenced to pay out cable on the 680 miles back to Heart's Content. On the 8th September the shore-end was successfully landed thus completing a second line of communication across the Atlantic.

There were great celebrations both in England and America. Congratulations and honours were bestowed on many of those who had taken part. Professor Thomson and Mr. Glass and Mr. Canning (Managing Director and Engineer respectively of The Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company) were Knighted by Queen Victoria and Baronetcies were conferred upon the Deputy Chairman of the original Atlantic Telegraph Company and upon Mr. Gooch.

So ended the first stage in the history of submarine telegraphy.

To be continued.

# Letters to the Editor

Gentlemen,

Your reference in the BT for August and September to Pernax bird guards takes me back over forty years when I worked for the North Wales Power Company which was the supply undertaking covering North Wales, Shropshire and parts of Cheshire.

We had considerable difficulties with birds causing outages by settling on insulators on our 11 kV lines. Unfortunately (for us) most birds had two legs and in order to achieve greater stability they had a habit of landing on an insulator and then extending a second leg on to the earthed cross-arm causing a momentary phase-to-earth fault which invariably was sufficient to trip the breaker in the unattended substation. On such occasions a line patrol was sent out and as evidence of the cause of the fault they brought back a dead crow retrieved from the foot of the pole.

For reasons of economy, many of the earlier circuit-breakers were not of the auto-reclose type but in later years the installation of the latter considerably alleviated the trouble. At the same time, what I believe to be Pernax guards were fitted although the actual name may not be the same. They comprised a cone having a sharp apex and made of a hard rubber-type compound. The cone was mounted on a stem and bolted or screwed in to the cross-arm adjacent to the insulator thus depriving birds of their "second leg" footing. Incidentally, I think the name "Pernax" related to the insulating material employed rather than the complete guard but I could be wrong about this.

Because the rural substations were unattended and many outages occurred during the day-time, the incident would not be known to us until reported by a consumer. One such consumer had three all-electric TT dairy farms in the area and we could always rely upon him to advise us which he always did in the same manner on each and every occasion, namely "Is that the North Wales Power Company?"....Yes...."Then ask those fellows who is going to milk my bloody Cows" He would then ring-off without even mentioning his name!

Yours sincerely,

A. Johnson. Pensioner

(Mr. Johnson was formerly Librarian of the Technical Library, Prescot)



# Technical Society

At 1330 on Wednesday 4th October, it was standing room only when John Heggie announced the start of the winter season of Technical Society meetings.

The talk was entitled "Optical Fibre Cables", and after a brief introduction by Dr. K.W. Plessner, Ray Slaughter spoke about systems and measurements. A brief history of the development of optical fibres was outlined, particularly noting the "breakthrough" made by Corning Glass Works in 1970 when attenuation was reduced to 20 dB/km. Ray Slaughter went on to say that research in the field is still progressing and that experimental fibres have been made with an attenuation of only 0.6 dB/km, giving a signal distance of 50 km. The distinction between step index and graded index fibres (where the refractive index profile is varied parabolically) was made and demonstrated with the aid of slides. The methods of introducing light into fibres and the electronic method of superimposing signals on the light beam was explained. It is perhaps difficult to envisage 120 simultaneous telephone calls travelling along one glass fibre only 0.125 mm in diameter! After speaking about the problems associated with measuring parameters such as bandwidth, attenuation and profile, Ray Slaughter handed over to Pat Andrews.

Pat informed us of the many different types of glass fibre and of their method of manufacture. Starting with the simplest type consisting of pure silica coated with optical quality silicone resin and progressing to those prepared by the Double Crucible method - favoured by the GPO and Japanese. Details of a typical drawing furnace and take-up mechanism were given and then Pat went on to describe fibres made by the Chemical Vapour Deposition Process. Two methods included under this heading are at present being used extensively to produce large quantities of high quality fibres suitable for transmission of signals over large distances. At this point a very interesting demonstration was activated. A television camera was focussed in the audience and the signal was passed through an optical fibre to a television monitor. The picture quality was extremely good. What made the demonstration so interesting was the optical fibre was produced entirely at Wood Lane. The fibre was 770 m long, had an attenuation of 6.7 dB/km at 1.06  $\mu\text{m}$  and a bandwidth of 230 MHz.

Due to last minute arrangements to meet foreign visitors, John Taylor was not able to present the part of the talk relating to cable making, so Dr. Plessner deputised. Dr. Plessner explained that the first Corning fibres were obtained in 1974 and that many types of cable had been prepared for extensive field trials. Several slides were shown giving a clear indication of the construction of PSP, Jubilee (made in 1977) and other types of cable. A humorous note was produced when Dr. Plessner showed a slide of a kestrel photographed at Taplow "leaving a message for Buzby".

Dr. Plessner pointed out that work in this field is still progressing at a rapid rate and that many more field trials are being planned for the near future.

After a few brief questions from the floor had been answered, John Heggie thanked the speakers and concluded the proceedings. Everyone agreed that it was an illuminating and very worthwhile lecture.

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## X-word Competition

Ten entries were received by the closing date, of which only six were correct. The first name out of the hat was Tony Jordan (Physics Department).

Your prize Tony will be despatched by Securicor very shortly. Special thanks, but no prize to Arthur Boardman, whose plain brown envelope will be offered to the Tate Gallery!

For those who didn't manage to finish it, the answers to the crossword can be found below.

### ACROSS

1. Locust 7. Asylum 11. Hopscotch 12. Member 15. Eaglet  
18. Plead 19. Brush 22. Waltz 23. Pointer 24. Acorn 27. Actor  
28. Fleet 31. Street 33. Hip 34. Sierra 35. Blare 37. Kenya  
38. Taxi 39. Ripe 41. Piece 44. Misty 48. Hearse 50. Gap  
52. Ashore 54. Idiot 55. Coral 57. Eiger 58. Turn 59. Control  
61. Nice 62. Heave 63. Quito 64. Iago 66. Perfuse 68. Neil  
71. Start 73. Tiree 74. Stave 75. Lesson 77. Lot 78. Loosen  
79. Herod 81. Poppy 82. Oral 83. Weir 85. Pansy 88. Wrath  
92. Chaste 94. Tap 96. Enough 98. Torso 99. Moral 101. Opera  
102. Cabinet 103. Devil 106. Paste 107. Poach 110. Eyelid  
112. Degree 113. Kitchener 114. Kitten 115. Number.

### DOWN

1. Lamp 2. Come 3. Shed 4. Tor 5. Ostrich 6. Nonstop 7. Ace  
8. Shaw 9. Lull 10. Metz 13. Elect 14. Barrel 16. Gallery  
17. Ether 9. Boa 20. Until 21. Her 24. Ash 25. Orb 26. Neatest  
28. Finesse 29. Era 30. Tay 32. Trace 34. Sepia 36. Exe  
37. Kim 40. Whit 41. Pair 42. Iron horse 43. Cart 45. Thin-on-  
top 46. Yogi 47. Mere 49. Educate 50. Goneril 51. Parquet  
53. Receive 55. Covet 56. Louse 59. Cap 60. Lie 64. Isle  
65. Gash 67. Frog 69. Easy 70. Lens 72. Toronto 74. Soprano  
76. Norse 78. Loire 80. Day 81. Pew 84. Act 85. Par 86. Assail  
87. Paris 89. Topdog 90. Hue 91. Y.H.A. 93. Honey 94. Tobacco  
95. Panther 97. Grace 99. Map 100. Lee 103. Desk 104. Vest  
105. Like 107. Peru 108. Arab 109. Heir 111. Din 112. Den.

# R & EL Cross-Wire Annealer

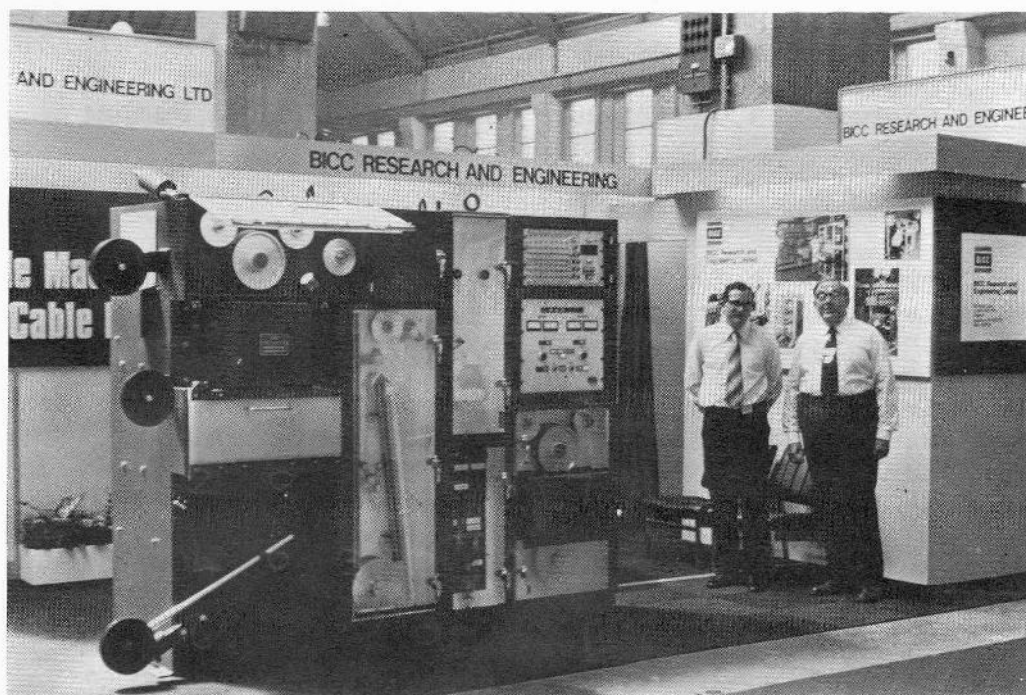
WINS GOLD MEDAL FOR R&EL AUTHORS AND FEATURES AT

## BASLE EXHIBITION

We are delighted to report that Tom Bonikowski (formerly Head of Control Engineering Dept., now Chief Engineer, BICC Pyrotenax, Hebburn) and Bruce Keen (Head of Development, Product Engineering) have been awarded the Gold Medal in the Non-Ferrous Division for their paper on the R&EL Cross-Wire annealer given at the 1977 Wire Association Annual meeting in Cardiff, the first such meeting to be held outside North America. Bruce was at pains to point out that the annealer, the paper and the award would not have materialised without the support and co-operation of Messrs Tennant, Salamon, MacDonald and Hasell and their colleagues at BTCL, Prescott, and of course all staff involved at Wood Lane.

The annealer was the featured exhibit at the recent the bi-annual International Wire Exhibition in Basle, Switzerland. Our photograph shows Bruce Keen and Alex Taylor on the R&EL stand. This was the first occasion on which R&EL had participated at any exhibition and it marked another step in an evolutionary process which the now Product Engineering Department embarked upon about 10 years ago.

At that time a deliberate step was taken to involve Wood Lane and Alperton in the design and construction of plant for the BICC group; not merely prototype construction but equipment for full-scale



factory usage. There were two criteria adopted for justifying effort on a particular project. Firstly the equipment had to be unavailable commercially, and secondly its development had to form part of a high value programme or lead to a family of equipment for wider application.

Many significant developments, including automatic capacitor winding equipment and special tension control devices, have resulted from this policy, and the Product Engineering Department is now supplying plant to an annual capital value of about £¼ million. The point has now been reached at which it is pertinent to ask whether there is a worthwhile market for such products outside BICC. The purpose of the stand at Basle was to gauge the potential world-wide interest (the Basle exhibition is the premiere one of its kind) and it is encouraging to report that a considerable number of enquiries were received and discussions initiated on possible licencing arrangements for various designs.

There is no immediate danger of Wood Lane becoming an assembly line for the mass production of PED's wares - space precludes such ventures - but with the expertise developed over the last ten years it would be foolish not to reap the maximum benefit. There is nothing unique in organisations exploiting developments originally made for their own use (witness the export success of British Rail Engineering Ltd (BREL!!)). The situation is being kept under constant review, and it is hoped that the organisation will be capable of responding to requirements, however they evolve.

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## Thank you

Margaret and I wish to thank our friends at Wood Lane for the lovely present given to us on the occasion of our wedding.

It will, I hope, add to our comfort this coming winter and for many more years to come.

Tony Martin

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## Prize Giving

The annual prize giving will be held in the Main Hall on Wednesday 8th November at 12.00. Mr. Banks will be presenting the prizes to the successful students. Everybody welcome.

# Cross Number

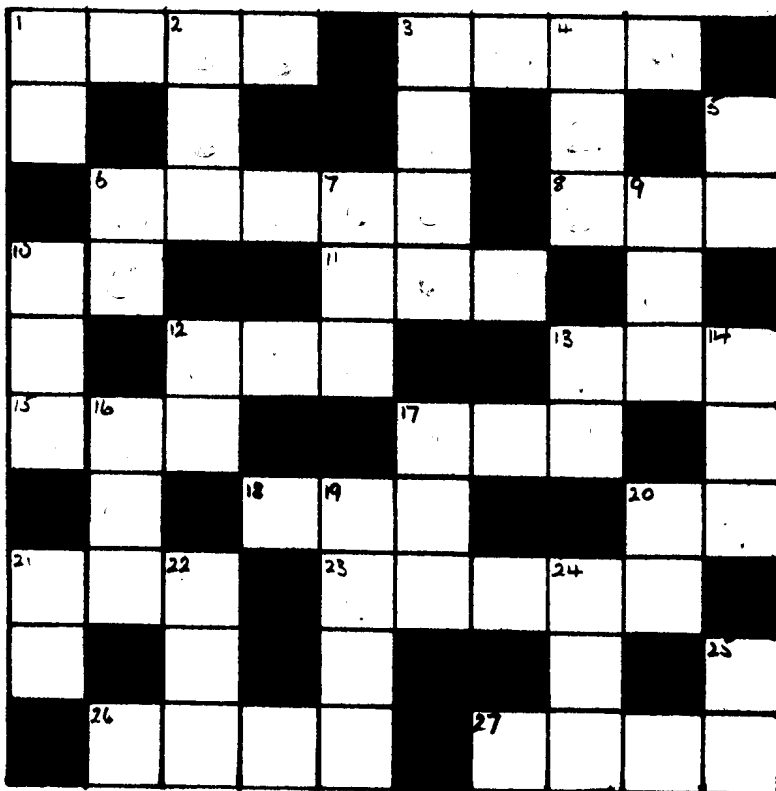
The last time we tried one of these it stumped the lot of you, so this one is easier. All the clues have numbers as the answer, otherwise it's like a normal crossword. Send your entries to reach Mike Hagger by noon on Monday 6th November. A £2 prize for the first correct entry picked from the hat.

## ACROSS

1. When England lost sight of its future?
2. Twelve in 3D
3.  $x^x$  ( $x$  an integer) 6
4. Carbon fibres couldn't make it roll
5. VC
6. Unlucky bakers' dozens?
7. Root 6 across
8. 8 across plus 17 down
9. An Isaac-like number
10.  $x^2y$
11. Old furrow yardage
12. You know what this meanz
13. Bush bus, Uxbridge Bound
14.  $y!$  (another integer) 8
15. Last year, Jewish style
16. Not the Marylebone Cricket Club

## DOWN

1. Bingo legs?
2. We don't think this will help you in Australia
3. The year of Alf and Bobby... ....and Willie and Pickles?
4. But (see 2 down) this may at Wood Lane
5.  $(x-3)(x-2)$
6. Oh 'ell, Jacobites
7. Printer's ream
8. Lord Nelson? No, Nelson at Lord's
9. As old as Methuselah
10. Keytime
11.  $xy$
12. The lowest prime number containing 3 others which added together make a 4th
13. Powerful stuff this ammonia
14.  $2(x^2+y^2)$
15. Who do we appreciate?
16. Britannia's monetary domain, or "Pennies from Seven"?
17. "Now, of my three score years and ten, \_\_\_ will not come again" (Housman)
18. Pigs can't fly - but elephants?
19. Double Disney doggies
20. Light, light element (At.No.)



# A History of The Film Section

## Part II

by Ted Morrison and Tom Ruben

We left the first part of this History with our first 'scope film, VIVA MARIA, in 1967. That season was notable also for other events. At Christmas we showed a film that is a favourite of one of us, the British A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH, written, produced and directed by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger. And if you want to know what all the fuss is about (and if the BT plays its part by publishing early) you might just catch the film again at the NFT on October 16th or 17th.

That show was dogged by gremlins of a technical kind, and we had to swop projectors half way through. The gremlins at the final show of that season were of a different kind, caused by a rival attraction. We were due to show Luis Bunuel's THE EXTERMINATING ANGEL; but at the same time BBC TV were showing the final of the European Football Cup between Manchester United and Benfica, and we were in danger of having no audience. The situation was saved when we decided to integrate the two events. The start was brought forward half an hour to six o'clock, when we showed the main film, and we turned on the TV set for the start of the match at 7.30. This turned out to be an exciting game which Manchester United eventually won 4-1 in extra time. The film show was finally able to resume at 10.30 for a further forty minutes, with two short films. At over five hours this was by far the longest show in our history.

Other noteworthy films in the season were RASHOMON, the film by Akira Kurosawa which first put Japanese cinema on the Western map when it was shown at the 1951 Cannes Film Festival, and Peter Watkins's THE WAR GAME. This film was made by the BBC, who however decided it was not suitable for showing on TV because of the realistic way in which it depicted the likely results of a nuclear attack on Britain. After much argument in the national press the film was eventually made available through the British Film Institute to responsible bodies - like your society.

The films shown in that season had been selected following an innovation, the Film Poll. Up to that time (and again today) films had been selected entirely by the committee, using as one of the criteria what they thought the members might want to see. The purpose of the Film Poll was to ask this question of the members themselves. The committee drew up a list of about thirty films which, with brief descriptions, was published with the June edition of the Bush Telegraph,



and readers were asked to vote for the five films they would most like to see. Although for various reasons it was not always possible over the years to show all the top films in the poll, the results have proved valuable in guiding committees when selecting film programmes. In that first year the three top films were VIVA MARIA (23 votes), THE WAR GAME (16 votes) and JAZZ ON A SUMMER'S DAY (12 votes). This last film was shown in a programme put on jointly with the Jazz Section.

Up to this point we had usually had six or seven shows per season. For the 1968-9 season the bold decision was taken to increase this to nine, one every month from September to May. The season opened with our second film in Cinemascope, the original THE PINK PANTHER. Later on we showed IT HAPPENED HERE by Kevin Brownlow and Andrew Mollo, which like THE WAR GAME was another attempt to show what might have happened in war if it had happened here - "it" this time being the occupation of Britain by Nazi Germany in the Second World War. The film was made over a period of eight years at weekends and in their spare time by a mainly amateur cast and crew, and the story of its making was graphically described in a tape-recorded talk by Kevin Brownlow which we played after having seen the film.

This film produced a very large audience of 80, and nearly as many people came along a couple of months later to see an International Selection of "Underground" Cinema. We showed a feature-length film from the USA, CHAFED ELBOWS, and short films from the Netherlands and Great Britain.

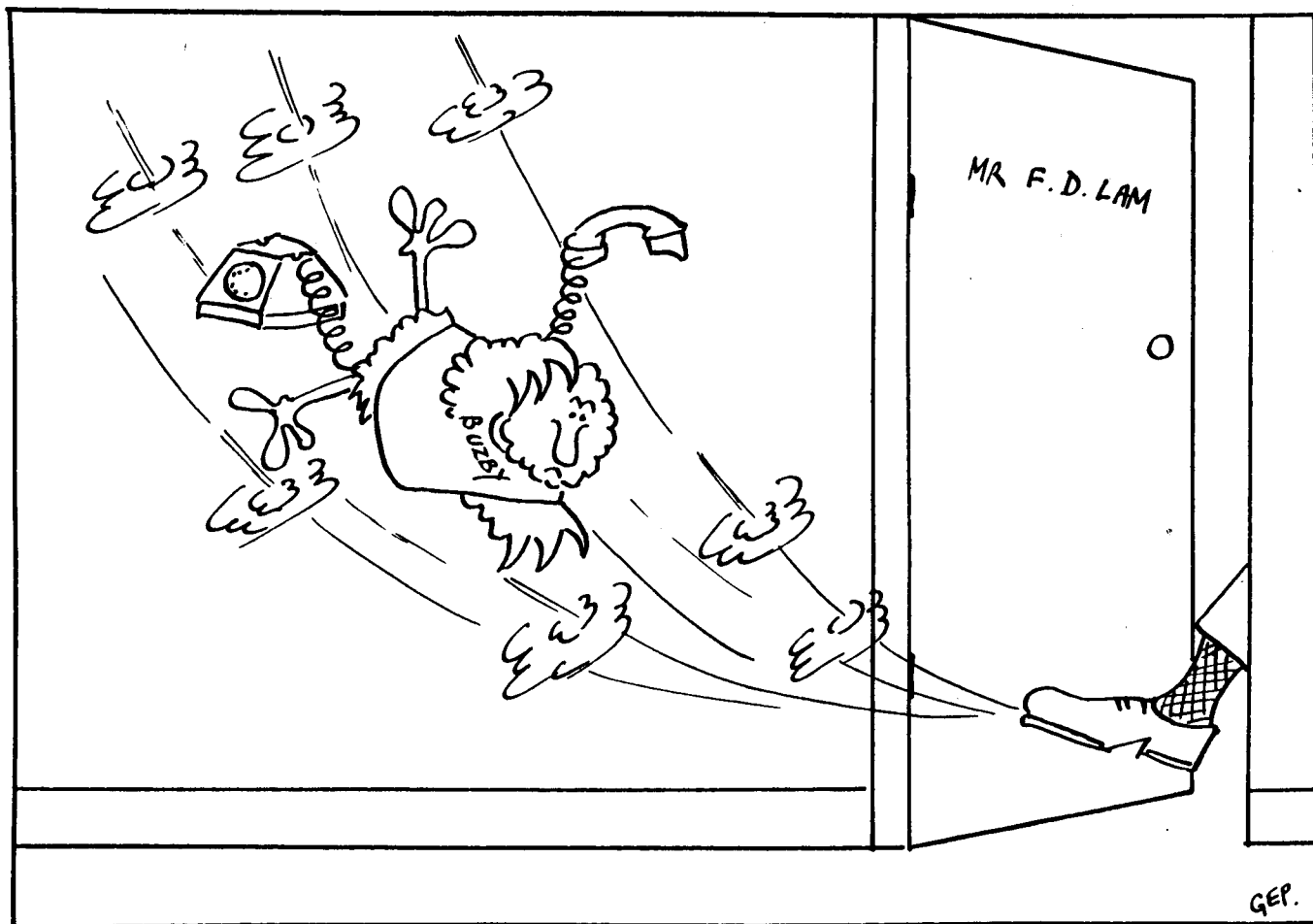
The 1969-70 season was noteworthy in many respects. It started with our hundredth film show. For the occasion we chose the film which had had a runaway win in the third Film Poll, TOM JONES starring Albert Finney. Being in Cinemascope, we had to screen the film not in our usual home, the Lecture Room, but in the Main Hall; this was just as well, because we had a record audience of about 140. Perhaps this was accounted for in part because following the film the audience were for the first time invited to a Soiree, with food and wine provided in the Lecture Room. This was so successful that it has since become an annual event at the first film show of each season.

Another innovation that season was the first Film Section Brochure. We decided to replace the single sheet of paper listing the season's films with a multi-page illustrated booklet giving full details. With its oblong A5 format, that first brochure contained 32 pages and was unashamedly modelled on the programme booklet published by Cambridge Film Society. The next season we reverted, for some reason, to a single sheet, but every year since then we have published the brochure. The design of that first one was so successful that this year's tenth edition differs very little from the first one.

We had been encouraged by high attendances - averaging over fifty - the previous year, when the season had been extended to nine shows, and we decided to increase it yet again by having a show in June 1970. In doing so we perhaps over-extended ourselves, for we had not taken sufficient account of the counter-attractions of summer weather, or the inadequacy of the black-out provided by the Lecture Room curtains, which combined to produce a small audience watching a pale image of Stanley Kramer's nuclear war picture ON THE BEACH. So in the next season it was back to nine shows.

It started with Ken Annakin's THOSE MAGNIFICENT MEN IN THEIR FLYING MACHINES, followed by the second Soiree. Other films in the 1970-71 season were a delicious (literally) French comedy LA TREVE, a Japanese ghost story KURONEKO, an Italian science-fiction film THE TENTH VICTIM, and Jane Fonda in Roger Vadim's BARBARELLA. The season ended with a double-feature programme, Anthony Harvey's DUTCHMAN, from Britain, and another French comedy, THE ORDER OF THE DAISY. Truly an international selection.

to be continued



# Section Reports

## CRICKET SECTION

Talking to Alec Bedser, Chairman of the England selectors, one gets the impression that he wasn't too upset that the 6-a-side final took place after the party to tour Australia this winter had been announced. Certainly the sight of those traditional enemies Metallurgy and Polymers contesting the fourth climax of this popular competition would have done nothing to convince Mr. Bedser that he and his colleagues had overlooked any possible candidate for a trip to the sunshine.

After Mr. Groundsman Kendle had marked out the pitch, and various interloping footballers had been evicted to distant parts of the Scrubs, Peter Raw won the toss and Metallurgy elected to bat. They quickly lost Bob Lewis to a splendid square leg catch by Pete Walters in the first over, but then Peter Raw joined Rees Llewellyn in a partnership which lasted until the final over when Rees, by then displaying just a hint of total collapse, lost his middle stump to Mike Hagger's "slower one". From the last ball of the innings Mike Kendle hit the stumps with a brilliant throw from fully 40 yards, running out Peter Raw, but a total of 51 always looked formidable.

Geoff Devitt and Mike Kendle started the Polymers reply in brisk fashion taking 23 from the first two overs, but the pace slowed dramatically when Bob Lewis went off injured and Alan Bangay came on as 7th man. First Alan stopped a certain 4 by coaxing the ball to rebound into his path from a tree, and then he bowled an over of such cunningly variable length, direction, flight and pace that only 4 runs resulted from it. Despite an untypically expensive final over by Peter Raw the task was too great and Geoff and Mike, although undefeated, were 10 runs short at the close.

So congratulations to Metallurgy who follow Polymers (twice) and Physics as holders of the invisible cricket trophy.

### METALLURGY

Bob Lewis	c. Walters	b. Holder	2
Rees Llewellyn	b. Hagger		20
Peter Raw	Run Out		27
Ken Heard	Not Out		2
Norman Fairey and Dave Goff (did not bat)			

TOTAL 51 for 3 wkts.

### POLYMERS

Geoff Devitt	Not Out	19
Mike Kendle	Not Out	19
Pete Walters, Mike Hagger, Keith Elder and Geoff Holder (did not bat)		
	Extras (2b., 1 lb)	3

TOTAL 41 for 0 wkt.

# The Film Column

## NOVEMBER FILM SHOW

Following the opening film show of the season at Wood Lane, THE FRONT PAGE, the next show on Wednesday 15th November is a double bill. Robert Altman's IMAGES is a tense psychological thriller starring Susannah York. With it we are showing one of the classic films in the documentary tradition, LOUISIANA STORY, filmed by Robert Flaherty in 1948. Programmes will be available early in November from any member of the Film Committee.

## LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

Yes, folks, it's LFF time again. The Festival this year starts on November 15th, and there is usually a mad scramble for tickets. If you're a member of the NFT you will receive a copy of the programme through the post. In order to stand any chance of getting tickets for the more popular films you should send off your application form as soon as you receive it. If you're not a member, ask Annette Mattock for a copy of the programme, and for details of how to join the NFT at half price.

## FILM RECOMMENDATIONS

At the NFT on November 8th and 14th, Michael Powell's PEEPING TOM. And at Wood Lane on November 15th, IMAGES and LOUISIANA STORY (see above).

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## HORTICULTURAL SECTION

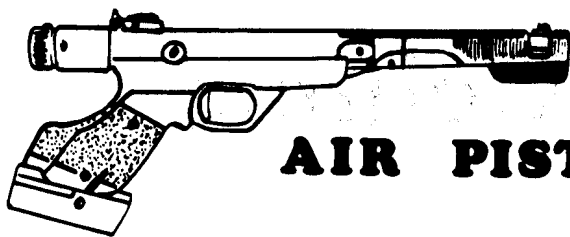
Autumn is now with us and we have to look back over the past season and plan ahead for next year. Shortly I hope we shall receive the seed catalogues and we shall be placing a bulk order for seeds, compost and possibly fertilisers before New Year. Anybody wishing to join in our discount purchase schemes please contact Frank Walker 279 or perhaps even 212.

Humush price £1.60 VAT included for 80 lb bag subject to minimum of 25 bags. Normal single bag price £4.21. Orders to FSW please.

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## FOOTBALL SECTION

The Executive Council has agreed to buy a ball for the Football Section (it already had a foot!), so come and join the fray. Roger Roberts is in charge, and he hopes to be arranging matches, lunch-time kickabouts and special training sessions in the bar for the long winter evenings.



# AIR PISTOL SHOOTING



Member of

Shooting Averages at 28.9.78.

Pos.		Ave.	Pos.		Ave.
1	Denis Groombridge	42.7	6	Keith Sichel	29.2
2	Joe Lou	42.0	7	Pete Walters	25.7
3	Bob Maidlow	36.6	8	Janet Walters	21.5
4	Roy Fraser	29.8	9	Roger Roberts	16.0
5	Pat Donovan	29.7	10	-	-

Apropos the note about falling attendance at shooting in September's BT, I am glad to say it seems that the slide has been arrested. We are always on the lookout for new members though, all that is required is a willingness to attend our meetings on Thursday evenings. No experience, nor possession of an air pistol is necessary - we have two 'club' guns and all regular shooters will be willing to share their knowledge of the sport with newcomers. In particular, we would like to attract more members to our, sadly depleted, ladies section.

By the time this BT is published our own handicap competition will have been completed. The final stages of the competition are providing some excitement however, there being three close contenders for the position of overall winner. Results of the competition and names of the winners of the mens and ladies trophies will be announced in the next issue of the BT.

## Social Club

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Social Club was held on Thursday 14th September in order that changes in the club's rules concerning membership and members' subscriptions could be made. The meeting started promptly at 17.45 hrs with 7 members present and all the proposed changes were agreed to.

As a result, all current members are to be asked to fill in a new authorisation form so that the increased subscriptions can be deducted from salary. Also, members who leave the Company's Employment will now have the opportunity to apply for Associate Membership of the Club.

P.T.J. Walton  
General Secretary

# Gabrielle

THE 1978 BRITISH HOT-AIR BALLOONING CHAMPIONSHIPS,

STANFORD HALL, RUGBY

On Saturday 9th September five members of BREL Athletic and Social Club were at the start of a week of adventure, the story of which was to stun the world (or at least get another article about Gabrielle in the BT). Denis Groombridge, Yvonne Ferrier, Joe Lou, Roger Millward and Nick Thearle were the crew on whom our invitation pilot, Chris Kirkby, was to rely in the forthcoming week.

Immediately after attending the first briefing the crew prepared themselves to spring into action, but the wind blew up and not one balloon flew for 3 days. High winds are bad news for balloonists but good news for kitists. Well, at least someone had brought a kite along and we amused ourselves for a good 15 minutes until one of the crew (and I won't say who she was) wrapped it round the topmost branch of a very tall tree, where it will probably remain for ever.

By Tuesday the weather had improved sufficiently to allow us to fly. The morning flight, to a goal nominated by the judges, produced a mediocre placing, but in the evening the flight to a pilot-declared goal left Chris quite respectably placed. In one field in particular (the landing field) Chris and Nick proved that whatever they lacked in cattle-sexing abilities and bravery, they more than made up for in their near-Olympic achievements in sprinting and high jumping.

So far in this article there has been no mention of Derry Moore, who worked very hard as a member of the panel of judges. After he had deducted penalty points from us for taking off too soon we had very little to do with him, and there will be no further reference to him here.

Wednesday's weather was so particularly foul that we convinced ourselves that there would be no chance of flying on Thursday; consequently much beer was drunk in the evening. Preparation for Thursday morning's flight (the weather was perfect) was painful and slow despite the addition of extra crew in the shape of David Green, but Chris, flying solo, managed to win the next task aided by lots of Ruddles bitter and favourable winds.

Friday's task was unfortunately the last one that the weather would allow. A good placing in this one (named the Gordon Bennett Memorial Stakes) meant that Chris and BICC finished third overall.

After the final results were announced came the dinner, for those still fit enough to stand after a week of getting up at 4.30 am. The case of champagne that we won ensured that very few of the Wood Lane crew were fit for anything at all, and details of Saturday must remain somewhat hazy.



So ended a most enjoyable week of hanging around in fields, sitting around in pubs, sleeping in vans and occasionally seeing the odd balloon.

STOP PRESS. Nick Thearle is alive and well and determined to live forever or to die in the attempt.

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FROM THE SICK BAY

To All my friends at  
Wood Lane and  
Alperton

Dear All,

I realise that this letter is long overdue and that I should have told you that I'm on the mend and contrary to popular opinion I still intend to come back.

Thank you all very much indeed for your cards, presents and visits. I really have been very grateful for them all. When you are completely immobile it does make a difference to know that there is actually a world outside and some people in it that care about you.

I don't know quite how long I'll be confined to bed yet, but once I do get up, I shall probably have to go back to Liverpool until I can walk properly.

They have made quite a large engineering job out of my leg and implanted a metal pin about 15" x  $\frac{3}{8}$ " right down the middle of the bone. (Must remember to keep well clear of any large magnets when I get back!)

The best feature of this pin is that it is hollow, so I'll still be able to fill my boots with beer!

Except for a broken leg I am in excellent health, and although this place isn't exactly like a mini-paradise in the East Midlands I am reasonable happy.

So take care everybody (especially those of you who are still ballooning!) and I hope to see you before Xmas,

Yours sincerely,

Nick Thearle

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# Found

On the 5th Floor McFadzean building some months ago. One dark blue cardigan, 38" chest. Will the owner please contact any member of the bar committee.

# Break a leg!

No not an expletive or an actor's good luck exhortation, but a description of an unfortunate incident that occurred on the day after the Hot Air Balloon Championships were completed.

Up to that point we had done rather well. Our pilot, Chris Kirby, had achieved third place despite my attempts as a task setter and scorer to nobble him. He was very complementary to Gabrielle and her crew and wishes again to express his thanks through this article.

This very enjoyable event also provided some promotional spin off for BICC; both Liverpool and Brunel Universities attended with us and will write their experience into the University Press. Also Gabrielle achieved several seconds exposure on BBC Midland Region Television.

Then came the tragedy during a flight on the very last day with myself as pilot, Nick Thearle as "PUT" and two passengers. The flight was terminated in a high wind and under difficult conditions; that is it had to be planned over a low tree and ahead of power wires therefore the approach was steep and the landing hard. After a 50 yard drag, Nick who had been operating the dump valve, was lying in the basket with a broken upper leg. No one is sure quite how the accident happened, but a pilot who followed with the retrieve did report the basket as landing awkwardly on one corner. Perhaps the sudden joggle as the basket set hard down was unsettling?

The accident has been reported to the C.A.A. Accident Investigation Branch.

Derry

STOP PRESS

Good news from the hospital front; Nick's thigh has been successfully pinned and he was allowed to go home to his parents in Liverpool on Saturday 14th October.

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## CHRISTMAS

Christmas will again be celebrated on December 25th. The bumper Christmas number of the BT will hopefully land on your desk with a seasonal thud about the 20th. Please start thinking about your contribution now. Seasonal articles, special festive recipes, cartoons, poems, jokes, puzzies, competitions and brain-teasers will all help to make a lively issue. The Editorial Board will give you any help they can, but the deadline will be December 6th. If you can make it earlier, so much the better.

# Photographic Competition

## "ASPECTS OF G-BREL"

From the number of photos which must have been taken of Gabrielle at various locations throughout the summer the number of people who submitted entries for the "Aspects of Gabrielle" competition was rather disappointing. However the quality of the entries received was in no way lacking and we would like to thank Eleanor Tarbox, Brian Ledwith, Jou Lou and Tom Ruben who submitted a combined total of 19 pictures.

The 1st place winner you will have already seen on the cover of this issue and it was the unanimous choice of the judges, so Joe Lou receives our congratulations and, more importantly, the monetary prize of £3.

After the decisiveness of choosing 1st place, finding the runner-up was far more difficult, and as two prints were considered to be equally worthy of merit, two 2nd prizes of £1 have been awarded, one to Brian Ledwith and the other to Joe Lou (again!!)

On the facing page are the two 2nd place pictures, Brian's on the top right and Joe's top left, with a small selection of the other entries. Tom Ruben's photo which apparently gives us two Gabrielles for the price of one, is in fact a stereo-pair and should anyone wish to see the 3D effect, a viewer is available in the Diffraction Department on the 3rd floor of the McFadzean Building.

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## Wild Life at Wood Lane

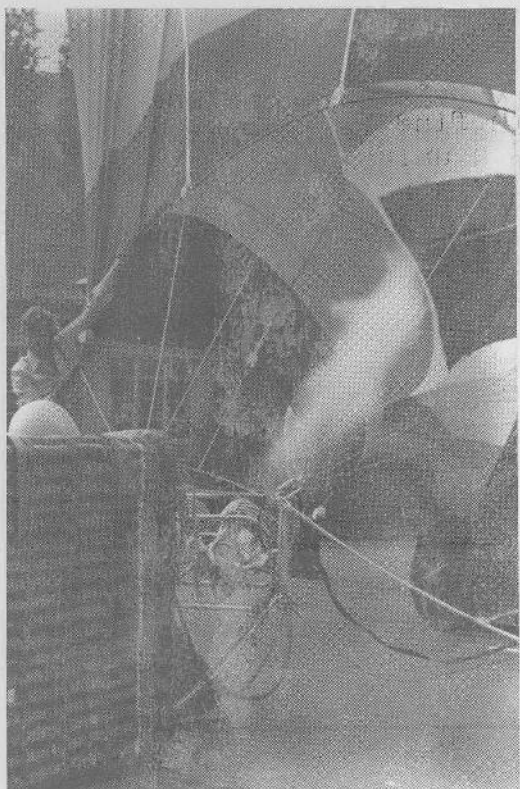
### NEWSFLASH

### WINTERING REDSTART

Those who read my article on Wildlife at Wood Lane last month may be interested to know that a cock black redstart has been heard singing recently and on October 6th was seen shouting from the TV aerial on McFadzean.

This is well beyond the normal date for migration to North Africa, and it must be assumed that he intends to stay for the winter. Mad fool - perhaps his mum didn't bring him up properly!

This is an uncommon occurrence, and I shall be delighted to receive reports of sightings and soundings throughout the winter months to see if he survives the weather, the food shortage, the cats and the kestrels.



MRS  
AK  
ED



issued his first edition in February 1971. During his  
period with the old editorial board, then



# 11 Plus

Just a little brain-teaser to find the complete long-division. Each letter represents a unique integer. Part of the answer may ring a bell (if you're lucky!). Full solution next month. Sorry, no prizes.

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{KSM} \\ \text{AK} \overline{) \text{JMSMS}} \\ \underline{\text{SBC}} \\ \text{MCM} \\ \underline{\text{MKD}} \\ \text{MJS} \\ \underline{\text{AK}} \\ \text{ED} \end{array}$$

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## PETER REVELL

On the twentieth of this month Peter Revell, one of the present editorial board, will be leaving the Company to study for a PhD in micro electronics and so end an association with the Bush Telegraph started some eight years ago.

Peter first became involved with the BT during the Christmas of 1970 when he assisted the then editorial board of Geoff Holder (editor), Mike Hagger, Denis Groombridge and Pauline Earles in the preparation of that edition with a view to taking over as editor from Geoff who was looking for a replacement.

Peter, with the old editorial board, then issued his first edition in February 1971. During his period as editor Peter attempted to stimulate interest in the social club and get more involvement of the staff with the magazine.

After about three years Peter retired as editor but remained closely associated with the magazine until publication ceased at the time of the three day week etc (1974). He rejoined last year to help establish the revived BT and has made significant contributions to the content and production of the magazine, contributions which will be greatly missed.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish Peter every success in the future and thank him for all the effort that he has put into the Bush Telegraph.

# Friday Night Fever (Part III)

Before I go into the details of BREL's third disco of 1978, may I apologise for the change in style of reporting from the accounts of "Snoopy" and "Son of Snoopy" discos. This is simply a result of a change of reporter, from two single, young chaps to a married fellow ten years older. Again, this is not any reflection on their reporting of the previous events only that they found other ways of raising a thirst/their blood pressure etc. on the night in question.

The audience at Disco III (for want of a better title) was large - eventually. Indeed for the first two hours it seemed that:- (a) few people were going to arrive and (b) those that did arrive preferred to drink rather than dance. Needless to say it was Mr. Roberts (Roger) who was the first to take the floor, having been asked to dance (or should I say "jiggle", borrowing a term from "It ain't arf hot mum") by a married lady, with her husbands' permission, of course. This started the "ball" rolling, slowly and intermittently at first, the "DJ" trying a variety of records to discover the preferences of his audience. I must say that the DJ was an excellent fellow in the sense that he could actually be understood when he spoke into the microphone (a help for older, hard-of-hearing members of the audience).

As the evening went on (and the "pubs" closed) the audience built up and the average number of people/sq. metre/minute on the dance floor increased. Notice that I have mentioned people, i.e. individuals, /sq. metre rather than couples on the dance floor for again\* it was noticeable (to me at least) that there was a significant number of young ladies who danced as a group rather than with young gentlemen; there was one young man, however, who appeared to spend the whole evening dancing alone. It may have been that the young ladies in question were strangers to Wood Lane and shy in their new surroundings but the young men, for the most part, were not. Questions thus arise as to whether some of Wood Lane's young men are bashful or whether they prefer beer to dancing with young ladies. One noticeable feature of the disco was the presence of a sizeable contingent from our Alperton outpost, a result of advertisements in the Bush Telegraph perhaps? (The Biccarella cartoon rather than the lady-with-spotted-cat picture!). In addition, the audience was swelled by employees of the DHSS from Acton including the group - dancing young ladies already mentioned, our 5-a side football opponents of the recent past.

The frenetic activity of the evening continued until closure of the bar was announced. This produced a slight hiccup in the proceedings and a perceptible thinning of the audience (indeed, this reporter left soon afterwards). Terpsichorean activities quickly resumed however to continue way beyond the intended closure at 1 am. All in all I



think that the evening was a very successful one, the 'music' was varied (there was plenty to dance/jiggle to), the company good and everyone seemed in good heart. On behalf of all those present I offer congratulations and thanks to Miss Ferrier for her organisation of the evening.

\*A similar observation was made at the Valentines Dance held in February 1978.

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## Wine Tasting

The annual Wine Tasting has been arranged for Friday 10th November in the Main Hall. Corks will pop at 7.30 pm; there will be the usual buffet. For those new to Wood Lane may we advise you to book your tickets early as there is an upper limit on numbers. Full details from David Goff (tel.243).

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## For Sale

A Black and Decker "Workmate WM625". Unwanted gift still in the box.

£25

ARGOS Price £29.95

Contact M. Jackson on 243

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### ANTIFREEZE

BP antifreeze will be available this year through the motor section. However instead of the usual ordering system, this year it will be a first come first served arrangement. 200 litres have been ordered so don't panic! this should be enough for everyone. BP Motor oil (20w-50) is also available at around £2/5 litres.

G.C. Taylor (322)

**BICC  
FILM SOCIETY  
SILVER JUBILEE SEASON**

Susannah York in  
**IMAGES**

with  
**Louisiana Story**

WEDNESDAY 15th November 6.30 pm

MAIN HALL 5th FLOOR

ADMISSION BY PROGRAMME 40p

Orders for sandwiches may be placed with members  
of the Committee or with your local representative  
not later than 12.00 p.m. on the day before the  
show