

BUSH

nov 1978

TELEGRAPH



BUSH

vol. 20 no. 12

TELEGRAPH

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



Cover

See "The History of Electric Wires and Cables"

Editorial Board

- David Green
- Denis Groombridge
- Mike Hagger
- Richard Hammond
- Geoff Holder
- Ann Kirby
- Ted Morrison



Editorial

Once again we have to comment on the apparent lack of interest taken by the majority of staff in the achievements of their younger colleagues, achievements recognised in the annual prize-giving ceremony. Many of those who failed to support the successful students were students themselves once, and no doubt they appreciated a bit of encouragement from time to time; some have undoubtedly received prizes themselves on such occasions. A particularly disappointing aspect was the absence of so many heads of departments and section leaders. Five departments, having between them seven people with headship status, featured among the list of prize winners. Only two of those seven were in the audience. This is an unacceptable level of support for something which occupies half an hour per year, and for which due notice was given in the Bush Telegraph, in a notice to all staff and on a BT Memory Jogger. Both Mr Banks and Mr Heggie emphasised the importance of further education and the Company's commitment to it at all levels. Most of you didn't hear those speeches. Next year we suggest that you do.

* * * * *

Nobody came rushing forward to fill the vacancy on the Editorial Board, but we are delighted to report that, after a little gentle arm-twisting and turning-on of the old charm, we have persuaded Ann Kirby to join our ranks. Many of you will already have encountered Ann in her capacity with the Personnel Department. Those who haven't will find her in the north-west corner of the 2nd floor in McFadzean. Welcome Ann.

Personnel News

STARTERS

Welcome to:-

A. Charalambous who joins us as an Assistant Technical Officer in the Transmission & Energy Dept.

Miss V.A. Hooyveld who joins us as a Technical Assistant in the Chemistry Dept.

E.P. Shuttleworth who joins us as an Assistant Technical Officer in the Transmission & Energy Dept.

L. Miles who joins us as a Technical Assistant in the Polymers Dept.

M. Fox-Male who joins us as an Assistant Technical Officer in the Patents Dept.

I.L. Manning who joins us as a Technical Officer in the Transmission & Energy Dept.

R.E. Brown who joins us as an Assistant Technical Officer in the Metallurgy Dept.

LEAVERS

Farewell to:-

Arthur Boardman of the Physics Dept. who leaves after twelve years to do a full-time course in work study and organisation.

Denise Speed of the Chemistry Department who left at the end of September to take up a full-time teaching post. She had a total of 28 years association with Wood Lane, the last 11 as a consultant.

RETIREMENTS

Best wishes for long and happy retirements to 2 very long-serving members of staff who retire at the end of November:-

Norman Davis of the Photographic Department who has been with the Company for over 48 years.

Sid Adams of the Machine Shop, Works Engineering Department, who has been at Wood Lane for 34 years.

WEDDING

Congratulations to Jackie Horvath (Chemistry Department) on the occasion of her marriage to Barry Copas on October 28th. We wish them both every happiness.

Diary of Events

Date	Event	For Information
Thurs. 23rd Nov.	Technical Society, 1.30 pm Main Hall "A Perspective on Energy" (Phil Dey)	John Heggie
Wed. 6th Dec.	Last day for contributions to Christmas BT	Editorial Board
Wed. 13th 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
Fri. 15th Dec.	Pensioners Christmas Lunch	Fran Lam
Fri. 15th Dec.	Christmas Disco 8 pm	Yvonne Ferrier
Sat. 16th Dec.	Childrens Christmas Party	Typing Pool
Mon. 18th Dec.	Sea Angling Trip	Andy Platt
Wed. 20th Dec.	Publication Day B.T.	Editorial Board
Thurs. 11th Jan.	Executive Council Meeting	Pete Walton
Wed. 17th Jan.	Film Show; 6.30 pm Main Hall "I'm Jumping Over Puddles Again" and "Beat the Devil"	Annette Mattock
<u>Regular Events</u>		
Tuesdays	Badminton	Vic Banks
Thursdays	Badminton	Vic Banks
Weekends	Air Pistol Shooting	Denis Groombridge
	Hot-Air Ballooning	Roger Millward or Denis Groombridge

RAFFLE

Tickets (10p each or 3 for 25p) are still available from the Typing Pool for the raffle in aid of the Children's Christmas Party. The draw is due to be made on Friday 8th December and there are now 4 prizes:- Kenwood Blender, Scotch, Martini and Wine.

Access Road

There have been many complaints recently about the dangerous and anti-social behaviour of the cigarette wholesalers at the end of the access road. The matter has again been taken up with Hammersmith Council, and they in turn sent the following letter to Mr C. Sonabend the owner of the business. The letter, dated 6th November, is reproduced below.

Dear Sir,

PREMISES - 34 WOOD LANE, W12

I refer to your occupation of the above premises and the conditions thereof. As you are aware, the access road running from Wood Lane along-side your premises to the rear of the site is a very busy access from a traffic and pedestrian point of view. I understand that recently there have been a number of cardboard cartons and similar boxes stacked along the pavement which has meant that pedestrians have had to walk into the roadway. If these articles are the responsibility of your company I should be most grateful, therefore, if you would ensure that these are kept within the premises so as not to obstruct the footpath.

Also you will be aware that we recently demolished the "watchman's" hut between the main gate and your premises in order to increase the width of the footpath at this point so that pedestrians did not have to walk along the roadway. I have noticed several times on visits to the site that cars have been parked on this area thus negating our effort to improve the footpath at this point. I should also therefore be most grateful, if any of these vehicles do belong to people having business on premises, that you could ensure that they are not parked in this particular location and, indeed, if these vehicles belong to other persons your co-operation in keeping this area clear would be much appreciated.

If staff still find their progress along the access road obstructed they should continue to report the matter, either direct to Mr Lam or through their representatives.

Site Entrance

Work on the "triangle", which progressed rapidly after the transfer of the land had been completed, ground to a halt about 4-5 weeks ago. Mr Littler explained to the BT that this was due to a delay in delivery of the lamp standard for the centre of the island and two "Keep Left" signs. As soon as these arrive they will be erected, the electricians will lay the required cable, and the tarmac surfacing will be applied.

CHRISTMAS DISCO

December 15th : 8.30 - 1.00 a.m.

Buffet : Bar extension : Lucky ticket

Further details from Yvonne Ferrier (272)

The History of Electric Wires and Cables

by R.M. Black

PART 10. VULCANIZED INDIA-RUBBER AND THE GROSVENOR GALLERY

In retrospect the year 1871 was an important one for the electric cable industry, if such it could be called at that time, bearing in mind its preoccupation with telegraph cables, for it was in this year that Gramme perfected the ring dynamo and a really satisfactory and economic source of electric power became available. This enabled arc lighting, which had been discovered by Sir Humphry Davy in the early years of the century, and which had found application in light-houses around the coast, to be applied on a larger scale. The Gare du Nord in Paris was illuminated with arc lamps in 1875. Their use spread rapidly, particularly with the development of an improved arc lamp by Paul Jablochhoff. In 1878, these improved lamps, known as Jablochhoff candles, were used in London for the lighting of the West India Dock, Billingsgate market, Holborn Viaduct and part of the Thames Embankment.

In general, very little is known of the type of cable employed in these installations. Often earth returns were used in conjunction with a plain copper wire supported on some form of insulator. In the cases of the Thames Embankment and the West India Dock installations however, it is believed that the cable consisted of seven strands of 16 gauge wire covered with gutta percha and taped. The wires were enclosed in troughs underground where they gave little trouble. Unfortunately, the West India Dock installation was discontinued after five years due to the termination of the contract between the Jablochhoff Company and the Metropolitan Board of Works.

Vulcanized india rubber was also employed to some extent for arc lighting installations. This material which owes its English name to its use by Joseph Priestley for the erasure of lead pencil marks, had been introduced by William Hooper in 1859. In the Letters Patent of that year for the invention of "Improvements in insulating and protecting telegraphic conductors", Hooper describes the process as follows:-

"I first coat the conductor with india-rubber, as has before been done, and I afterwards apply over the first coat another coat consisting of india-rubber combined with sulphur (or a substance having a similar action) in the proportions suitable for producing, when heated, vulcanized, or hard, or semi-hard india-rubber. The two coats above mentioned I separate the one from the other by a layer of a material which will prevent the action of the sulphur of the outer coating on the inner coat when the heat necessary to change the outer coat is applied".

Hooper's core thus consisted of a layer of pure rubber next to the copper conductor, an un-vulcanized layer, known as the separator, and an outer layer or jacket of vulcanized rubber. The cable could be finished with a jute braid for additional mechanical protection.

It was not until 1911 that a really tough outer sheath was developed for application to rubber cables. This was done by St. Helens Cable and Rubber Company of Warrington, who, in addition to their cable making activities had been manufacturing solid rubber tyreing by an extrusion process for the wheels of horse-drawn vehicles, particularly hansom cabs. From this was derived the term 'cab tyre' sheathing. Designed to be "of great mechanical strength, water and corrosion proof, flexible smooth and un-kinkable", it was ideally suited for the protective sheathing of cables for such arduous duties as might be experienced in collieries.

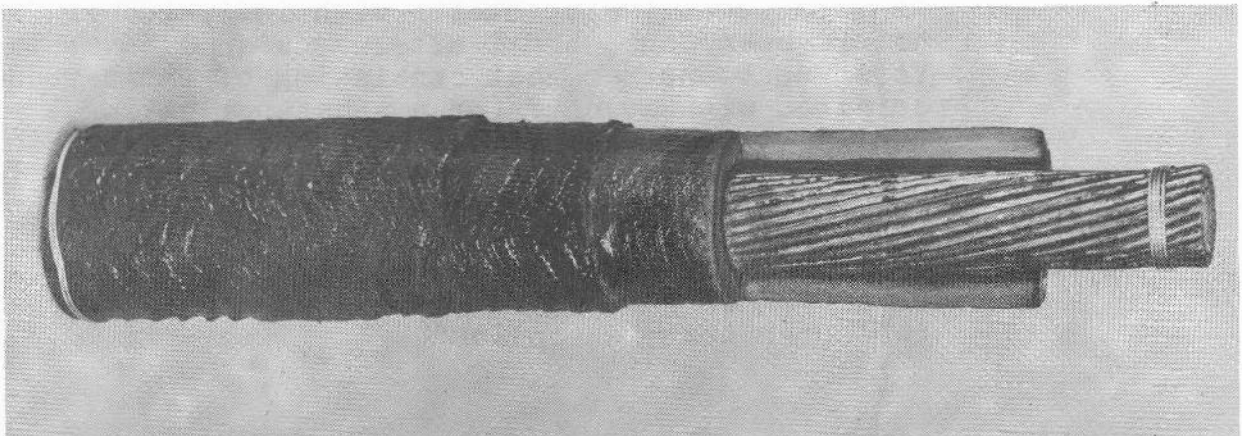
The Grosvenor Gallery Installation



Sebastian de Ferranti
(1864-1930)
Aged 20

In the cable collection at Wood Lane there is a short length of vulcanized rubber insulated cable (see photograph) which was made by the India Rubber and Gutta Percha Company in 1886. This consists of a 19/15 gauge tinned copper conductor insulated with 0.21 in of pure and vulcanized rubber and an outer covering of double jute braiding. The cable was designed to be used at 2,400 volts single phase AC. It is a sample with rather interesting associations as it was used in the famous Grosvenor Gallery installation. The claim to fame rests not so much on the Gallery itself, although W.S. Gilbert included a reference to it in a memorable aria, but also by its connection with its young Chief Engineer Sebastian Ziani de Ferranti. Ferranti was to play an important part in the development of the electricity supply industry, and even in the history of our own Company.

It all began with the Paris Exhibition of 1882 at which the newly exploited electric light played an important part among the exhibits. The Earl of Crawford, one of the commissioners appointed by the British Government to visit the Exhibition and



to report back, on his return suggested to Sir Coutts Lindsay, who was the proprietor of the fashionable Grosvenor Art Gallery in Bond Street, that he should install electric light in the Gallery. Sir Coutts agreed, and early in 1883 a pair of Marshall's semi-portable engines were erected in an outbuilding behind the gallery. These were belted to a couple of separately excited Siemen's alternators generating single phase current at 2,000 volts. The plant supplied arc lights in series, and an automatic regulator kept the line current constant at 10 amp. The lighting was superior to that obtained from gas but perhaps there is more in Gilbert's lines than would at first appear:-

Apallid and thin young man
A haggard and lank young man
A greenery-yallery, Grosvenor Gallery,
Foot-in-the-grave young man. ! (Bunthorne)

Interest in the plant soon spread among the local shopkeepers and residents and requests for supplies of electricity were initially met by installing individual transformers or secondary generators as they were called, in the house of each consumer. The primaries of all the transformers were connected in series with the line, in accordance with the system then recently introduced by Gaulard and Gibbs. The high tension current was transmitted by overhead cables supported from poles on the house tops. This overhead system had the advantage that despite the restrictive provisions of the 1882 Electric Lighting Act, nothing more was involved in obtaining permission for the installation than the consent of the house-holders and of the vestries concerned.

Arc lighting was not ideally suited for ordinary domestic use and in consequence, domestic electric lighting had made little headway until the practical development of the incandescent filament lamp by Edison and by Swan in 1878.

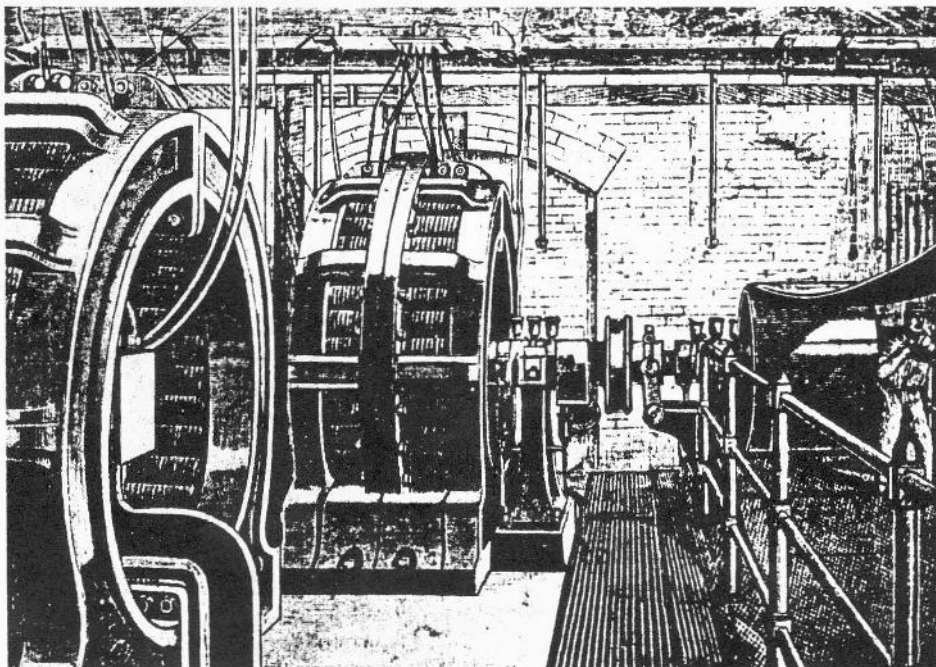
The result of all this was that the small installation very soon became seriously overloaded. It was decided therefore, to establish a permanent generating station under the gallery and on a considerably larger scale. The necessary construction work was commenced in December 1884. This involved the excavation of a vault or engine room 65 ft long by 51 ft wide underneath the gallery to accommodate the generators, while the boilers were housed in the basement of a new building and connected to the engine room by means of a tunnel 50 ft long. This tunnel also served as a ventilating shaft, air being moved by a 72 in rotating fan. A chimney, 110 ft high was built for the discharge of the flue gases and exhaust steam.

Sir Coutts Lindsay then joined the Earl of Crawford and Lord Wantage in forming a small private Company to be called Sir Coutts Lindsay and Company Limited, but which was more familiarly known as the 'Grosvenor Gallery Electric Lighting Works' or as 'The Grosvenor Gallery Company'.

The new station went into service towards the end of 1885. The generating plant again consisted of a pair of Siemen's alternators driven by belts from all or any one of three horizontal Marshall engines, depending upon the load upon the station. From the start a great deal of trouble was experienced, and indeed the installation proved practically unworkable. Numerous complaints were received arising from poor regulation, loss of supply, overloading and breakdowns

until the situation was fast becoming desperate. Several years before Sir Coutts had become acquainted with the young Ferranti, then only nineteen but in business building alternators to his own design at a works in the City, what was more natural in the circumstances than to turn to him for help and advice. Advice was soon forthcoming, Ferranti condemned the series system, advocating in its place the use of a parallel system with transformers to his own design, which he was able to demonstrate to the Directors.

On the 13th January, 1886, the Directors appointed Ferranti Chief Engineer of the company in full charge of the station. In the space of a few months Ferranti managed to carry out a complete overhaul of the system. The overhead network was remodelled for parallel working, transformers of his own design were installed in place of the Gaulard and Gibbs series devices, the voltage was increased to 2,400 volts by connecting the windings of the Siemen's alternators in series instead of in parallel (each alternator had two sets of 1,200 volt windings), and new switchgear was designed and erected. The vulcanized india rubber insulated cable used for the overhead supply network was that supplied by the India Rubber and Gutta Percha Company and was suspended by leather thongs from a steel catenary wire which ran between suitable iron masts erected on convenient roof tops and a lattice tower on the roof of the gallery itself. Two cables, spaced 12 inches apart were used in each connection, being shackled off at the masts. The cable was supported in Johnson and Phillip's 'fluid type' insulators. By 1888 some four hundred premises were being supplied with electricity.



In 1887 the Siemens machines were replaced by two 750 horse-power alternators, illustrated here, specially designed and built by Ferranti using copper tape in place of the round wire. Each of these was designed to supply ten thousand 10 candle power lamps, but in the event they proved capable of heavier loads, one of the machines ran for a long time with 19,000 lamps without suffering injury.

So successful were the new arrangements that customers who had been infuriated by the repeated breakdowns which had occurred with the earlier system had their confidence restored and the demand for new supplies increased rapidly. The directors decided to form a new company to take over the station and to extend operations in accordance with the ambitious plans of their Chief Engineer; to supply electricity to London on a really large scale. The new company, The London Electric Supply Corporation Limited was registered on 26th August, 1887 with an authorized capital of £1,000,000 in shares of £5 each of which over half was subscribed, and with Sebastian de Ferranti as Engineer and Electrician.

(to be continued)

THIS MONTH'S COVER

The cover photograph is a view of the ruined cable station at Foilhummerum Bay which formed the terminal point for the 1865 and 1866 Atlantic Telegraph Cables described in Part 9 of "The History of Electric Wires and Cables" (B.T. October 1978). The photograph was taken by Mr Michael Brampton of Garnett College SW15, to whom we are indebted for the loan of the negative and permission to use it. Large colour prints of this photograph and others on a similar theme are with Bob Black in the Library and may be seen on request.

Golf

"BATEMAN CATERING SILVER CUP GOLF"

BREL has been invited to enter a team of three for the above competition, in which most of the leading organisations in the UK will have the opportunity to compete. The invitation states,

"Silver wine goblets specially selected from Garrard, The Crown Jewellers, will go to the winners of the 16 area finals. The prize for the last 8 teams will be an expenses-paid weekend at Gleneagles, including the 36-hole finals played over the famous Kings' and Queens' courses, with the winning team receiving a handsome Silver wine cooler and individual Silver goblets from special guest Peter Alliss at a presentation dinner".

The closing date for entries is December 31st, would anyone interested in taking part please contact Fran Lam as soon as possible. The only restriction is that you must play off a handicap of 18 or less (men) and 27 or less (women).

Health and Safety

Observations on The Fire Drill Held on 30th October 1978

The recent Fire Drill was monitored by five observers, three from the Health and Safety Committee and two from Administration.

Observation at the Gate House, which is the Control Centre, gave a reasonably good indication of the speed of events which were briefly as follows:-

11.17 hrs.	Alarm Sounded.
11.20	First Management Personnel at Gatehouse.
11.21	First Staff Counter Station reports coming in.
11.23	Two visitors (to Mathematics) delivered to Gatehouse.
11.25	Reporting completed.

The majority of Staff reports came in before 11.23 and consequently within 6 minutes of the sounding of the Alarm. By 11.25 the record showed that 6 Staff personnel were officially "unaccounted for" and the names of all were known. Three of these were observers. The other three were in fact at their assembly points but, through no fault of theirs, could not receive back their flextime keys and were therefore correctly reported as "unaccounted for".

Thus within 8 minutes of the Alarm the system had checked a possible total of about 270 Staff and had positively identified 6 who were officially "unaccounted for".

This second practice confirms that the present system could achieve the primary objective of the Fire Regulations which is to reduce to a minimum the possibility of injury to personnel during an emergency.

Comments received from Management, Staff and the observers are being collated and will be used to further improve the system and its operation. At this stage the Health and Safety Committee would like to make the following comments:-

- 1) Please read again your copy of the Fire Regulations and make sure you understand those parts which affect you.
- 2) If you have any doubts about interpreting the parts which apply to you please ask for clarification, in the first place, from your Section Leader or Head of Department.
- 3) Please remember that if you are taking the keys and flag from your Flextime Counter Station then you must take all of the active keys. (Fire Regulations para 4.4).
- 4) At the Assembly points Flextime keys must be returned to those present as quickly as possible in order to identify anyone who is missing or to prove that the group is complete. Whatever the outcome of this check the result

must be reported without delay to the Gatehouse. Report correctly and do not leave until your report has been entered. If a senior member of Staff is not present in the group then this action must be taken by one of the members of the group.

Finally the Health and Safety Committee would like to thank all who have made useful and constructive comments both on the Fire Regulations and Safety matters in general.

BREL
Health & Safety Committee
2nd November 1978

EDITORIAL NOTE

No doubt one of the matters raised after the practice was in connection with the delivery lorry which was allowed on site during the exercise, (to deliver to whom?) But, right or wrong, it had its amusing side - the driver, on seeing the senior management at the gate, thought that they constituted a strike picket line and was quite prepared to turn back rather than run the gauntlet of such a venomous looking lot!

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editorial Board (-1),

I am writing in order to convey my appreciation of the kind sentiments you expressed in the October edition of the "Bush Telegraph". I was very fortunate in having the opportunity to serve the Wood Lane "community" through the B.T. The credit for making the B.T. a success should, I believe, be directed at all those who have made contributions - no matter how small.

The "back-room" staff rarely get a mention, so I will take this opportunity of thanking all in Photographic, Typing, Printing and General Office who consistently gave (and continue to give) more support than could be reasonably asked for.

I have left Wood Lane with very fond memories - and a special lasting attachment to the Bush Telegraph.

Kindest regards,

Peter Revell

Prize Giving

The annual presentation of prizes to students who had successfully completed courses of further education took place in the Main Hall on Wednesday, 8th November. For the second successive year the number of staff who bothered to come along and support their colleagues, and hear the very pertinent comments of Messrs Banks and Heggie, was disappointingly small.

Opening the proceedings John Heggie (Personnel and Training Officer) reviewed some of the difficulties which faced industry at present. The newspapers and TV, he said, had given great coverage to the numbers of unemployed and the problems of school leavers, but the inescapable fact remained that BICC and many other industrial companies were acutely short of staff with the necessary skills and qualifications. The conclusion was that young people who accepted the opportunities to train and qualify had a large selection of good jobs open to them. But industry had to compete for staff against the more academic jobs such as local and central government and the many professions which were not primary producers. There were still people, he continued, who had the same view as his old headmaster who regarded industry as a place for those who had failed. It was necessary for industry, upon which the country relies, to change this image once and for all.

The present position at R&EL was that we had been unable to recruit all the qualified staff necessary. It was therefore encouraging to report that 20 school leavers have joined us this year, and they are all taking courses in further education. In this way the Company hoped to make itself reasonably self-sufficient in qualified staff, but it would be impossible to do so completely.

In 1977-78 R&EL had 18 students of whom 14 were successful, and of the others 2 were partially successful under the modular system employed for TEC courses. All these achievements made a valuable contribution to the future of BICC, a large part of which rested at R&EL.

Mr Banks, speaking before he presented the prizes, noted some recent changes at Wood Lane and in the country at large. In the last 12 months public awareness of new technologies, such as microelectronics, and their impact on society had expanded enormously, both major political parties had stressed the vital importance of manufacturing industry and the importance of professions and the role they play in society had been better understood. This coincided with a changing role for BICC and R&EL where distinct growth of demand in new areas was being recognised at a time when it was difficult to find new people, and staff turnover had risen to 10% per annum. As well as an encouraging generation of more long-range work, the demands of sponsored work continued. This all added up, Mr Banks concluded, to a need for new young staff and as a big company BICC must do as much as possible to satisfy its own requirements.

Mr Banks congratulated all the prize-winners, whose names are given below.

Patrick McKenna (Product Eng.) BSc Mechanical Engineering
Terry Alleyne (Polymers) HNC Chemistry
Richard McHale (Polymers) HNC Applied Physics
Jeffrey Pine (Polymers) HNC Applied Physics
Stephen Grey-Wilson (Product Eng.) ONC Engineering
Derek Glockner (Works Eng.) Full Tech. Certificate
Bernard Renwick (Product Eng.) B.Sc Electrical Engineering (III)
Rajesh Dave (Communications) B.Sc Electrical Engineering (I)
Rob Corne (Polymers) HNC Applied Physics (I)
Tom Gurrie (Physics) HNC Applied Physics (I)
Jackie Laidler (Physics) HNC Applied Physics (I)
Olric Morrison (Communications) C. and G. Elect. Tech. (V)
Leslie Greenwood (Works Eng.) C. and G. Mech. Eng. Craft (II)
Kulbinder Heer (Product Eng.) TEC Mech./Prod. Eng. (I)

(We hope to have some photographs from the prize-giving in time for the Christmas issue)

Wanted

ACCOMMODATION

I am urgently seeking self contained accommodation, or flatshare within reasonable commuting distance of Wood Lane. Maximum Rent £20 p.w.

Please contact:

Yvonne Ferrier
Extn. 272

Own room in shared flat/house required Western/South Western area of London by single person. If you can help please contact Bob Brown in Metallurgy Department 243.

New Telephone Exchange

At a meeting with Fran Lam on the 8th November the latest position was reviewed. The Post Office said that of the 180 extensions in the new system between 30 and 40 still required attention. In some cases this included further wiring as additional faults in the existing system had been found during recent weeks. No date was fixed for the switch-over.

Exclusive

CROSSWORD ACE ROMPS TO 4TH WIN

In an exclusive interview with the Bush Telegraph Colin Coleman, that amiable physicist from Polymers, revealed the secret of his phenomenal success with The Link crossword. Four times he has won the coveted £2 book token, three of the wins coming in 1978 and the last two in consecutive months.

Colin has been practising on The Daily Telegraph crossword for 15 years and once won the Saturday prize puzzle. With a sense of modesty which should disarm the cafeteria regulars he expressed the view that the Saturday one was easier than the everyday version. He used to be demoralised by a lady on the Central Line who always completed the puzzle before Hanger Lane, but since purchasing his nippy little Renault he hasn't had to contend with such opposition. He has also taken to doing The Sun crossword (whenever it appears on page 3?)

With The Link Colin likes to complete their crossword in the first evening, but sometimes it takes a second evening and "a nice relaxing bout of washing-up" before the final answers come to him. He used to do crosswords in the bath but said that the trouble there was that biros soon stopped writing when held upside down. Now his flat only has a shower - perhaps The Link should consider a waterproof version!

He thinks a good supply of reference books (Pears, Roget, Chambers, Book of Quotations etc) has helped him, and is going to buy Brewster's Phrase and Fable with his Link prizes.

He has never made up a crossword, but if he ever did he has a favourite clue which he would use - and it's unrepeatable!

For Sale

ULTRA model 64504 radio/record player (4 speeds).
2 speakers model 64507 (15 ohms, 5W).
Bought in 1972. Fault in one amplifier.

£20 o.n.o.

Enquiries to Bob King (tel. 320)

11 Plus

The solution to last month's puzzle was:-

M = 1, S = 2, J = 3, K = 4, E = 5, C = 6, A = 7
D = 8, B = 9

The divisor and dividend thus read 7431212 (ding!)

A History of The Film Section

Part III

By Ted Morrison and Tom Ruben

1971 was the year when we welcomed our friends of the Commercial and Patents Department to Wood Lane. Their move from Bloomsbury Street did however have serious repercussions for the Athletic & Social Club, and not least the Film Section, in that we lost the Lecture Room, which had been our home for many years. Apart from seating an audience of 80, at a squeeze, the Lecture Room was equipped with a bar at one end behind which there was our projection room. This meant that the audience did not have to suffer from projector noise. Alas, all was to vanish, and now this space forms part of the Commercial and Patents Department offices.

Our new home, the Main Hall of McFadzean, seemed like an aircraft hangar in comparison, and can comfortably hold well over 100 people - a feat that we have achieved only on rare occasions, and which, with your help, we would like to repeat!

An immediate problem was the reappearance of projector noise for the first time in 18 years. This was only partially alleviated by a curtain around the projectors, which are now situated on the balcony at the west end of the hall. The new curtains we acquired when the hall was recently redecorated have improved the noise position somewhat since then, however.

The first film of the 1971-2 season also marked the occasion of the first ever combined film show and soirée in the Main Hall, an event which has continued to this day (previously the film had been shown in the hall, with the soiree taking place in the lecture room). On that occasion over 80 people attended to see the Cinemascope epic ZULU, starring Michael Caine as a Zulu war hero, but sadly the average attendance for the rest of the season dropped to little more than half this number (food for thought)!

The next show was a double bill, featuring the then little-known CHARLIE BUBBLES, starring Liza Minelli and Albert Finney, who also directed the film. In support was our first film from Latin America, THE HOUSE OF THE ANGEL, by the Argentinian director Leopoldo Torre Nilsson who died a few weeks ago. At Christmas another double bill, and both British: Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor in DOCTOR FAUSTUS, supported by Robert Fuests's JUST LIKE A WOMAN.

Following Polanski's ROSEMARY'S BABY in January, February's advertised attraction was THE BLUE MAX, supported by an Australian short, THE GALLERY. There was however a last-minute addition to the programme - the premiere of the first film produced by Wood Lane's newly-created Cine Section. SERPENTINE SERENDIPITY is an idiosyncratic view of Hyde Park by Dennis Cooper and Denis Groombridge, and to film this epic they had hired a 16mm camera for the weekend. Their efforts were well received, and a recent re-run of the film drew even greater applause from the audience - was the film ahead of its time?

Other films we showed in the 1971-72 season were Lindsay Anderson's public school drama IF....., Terence Stamp as THE COLLECTOR of Samantha Eggar, and Catherine Deneuve as Luis Bunuel's BELLE DE JOUR. Two of the films in that season had been in the top three places of the previous year's Film Poll. Unfortunately for us, though, they were popular elsewhere as well, and we had found that they were fully booked up to the summer of 1971. We therefore included them in the 1971-2 programme, and made sure of getting them by booking in the spring, before the 1971 poll was conducted.

An innovation that season was the introduction of Reaction Slips. These provide the audience with an opportunity to give their comments on the films, and are a recognised feature of many other film societies. We introduced them following a request at the previous Annual General Meeting.

In the 1972-73 season, two major changes occurred. One was beneficial to the society, while the other was, through no fault of our own, reluctantly forced upon us.

The improvement came with the purchase of a second projector. Up to this time films had been projected on a single projector, in recent years a Bell & Howell purchased in 1963. The use of a single projector had meant that feature films could not be presented without at least one interruption to allow reels to be changed. At this stage an opportunity arose to buy another similar projector cheaply, the catch being that it lacked a transformer and speaker! Nothing daunted, we purchased the projector with the encouragement of the Social Club, and set about building a switching unit to allow the two projectors to be used with one transformer and one speaker. This also provided a degree of remote control, and the resulting instantaneous changeovers between projectors gave uninterrupted projection of feature films, an improvement greatly appreciated by all.

Dual projection was first used when on our opening soirée evening we showed John Schlesinger's FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD, starring Julie Christie and Terence Stamp, and beautifully photographed in Cinemascope in Dorset. This was the first of four British films, the next being Jerzy Skolimowski's DEEP END, with Jane Asher, John Moulder-Brown and Diana Dors. Thirdly there was KES, a sensitive study of a friendless boy (David Bradley) growing up in a grim northern town, with only the kestrel that he has tamed to turn to; and finally BILLY BUDD, directed by Peter Ustinov and starring - again - Terence Stamp. We also showed Franco Zeffirelli's ROMEO AND JULIET and an unusual French film DON'T DELIVER US FROM EVIL.

The season reached its climax, though, in May when we showed "An Evening of Cinema in the Thirties". We started with THE MAIL PILOT, an early and exuberant black-and-white Mickey Mouse, and FAIRY ON THE PHONE, an entertaining instructional film from the GPO Film Unit on how to use the telephone. Then there was SOUTH SEA SWEETHEART, a hilarious puppet film by George Pal extolling the virtues of Horlicks, a Laurel and Hardy comedy TOWED IN THE HOLE, and a Technicolor view of Pompeii and Vesuvius in eruption, THE ETERNAL FIRE. These films, which were interspersed with some screen advertisements of the period supplied by 'Doc' Watson, constituted merely the first half of the programme. In the interval Georgina came down the aisle selling ice cream from the tray while 'Max' McAllister provided

the musical interlude on the organ. To complete a memorable evening we had W.C. Fields starring in THE BANK DICK - a highly popular choice.

However, as stated, the 1972-73 season also heralded a less popular change, when the size of our season was reduced. The sale of programmes for a film show will, on average, provide no more than half of the cost of hiring films. The balance is provided by our subsidy from the Social Club. In the 1972-73 season we, like many others, had to concede to the ever-rising film hire charges. In order to control our budget we reluctantly reduced the number of shows in the season from nine to seven.

(to be continued)

Technical Society

Phil Dey (Head of Transmission and Energy Dept.) will give a talk to the Technical Society on Thursday 23rd November at 1.30 p.m. in the Main Hall. The talk is entitled "A Perspective on Energy". All staff are invited.

Concessionary Trading

A new concessionary trading facility for staff of R&EL has been arranged with:

LADBROKE WHOLESALE CLOTHIERS LTD.,
3, HYTHE ROAD, LONDON, NW10 6RR.

which is roughly 1½ miles from here along Scrubs Lane.

The name of the wholesaler belies the range of goods available for sale; a short and incomplete list of items is given below;

Clothes	-	jeans, anoraks, jumpers
Toys		
Films	-	Kodak, Polaroid
Cameras	-	Kodak
Kitchenware		
Glass ware		
Radios	-	small portable
Watches	-	digital
Soap, Washing-up Liquid		
etc.		

The items are too diverse to be listed fully, but anyone interested in using this trading facility should contact Denis Groombridge, Ext. 212, as he holds the customer registration card. It should be noted that a minimum order of £10 applies and so two or three people could band together if necessary to reach this target.

Section Reports

SNOOKER AND BILLIARDS

Regular players will already have noticed that the table has now been re-covered with, it should be said, a better quality cloth than was previously used. The cost of this left precious little change from £100, and the difference between this sum and the Section's grant of £50 has to be made up by the 4p per frame levy. So please remember, and pay as you play! (And no smoking over the table!)

The Billiards Tournament, "Spot White '78", has now reached the quarter final stage - in fact it reached it some weeks ago, but only two of these matches have been settled, at the time of writing. Tony Jordan and George Price have still to finalise things after a preliminary skirmish, while Pete Mercer and Clive Carroll have not yet taken cue to table. Let's see a bit more action here!

I would like specially to record my thanks to George Price for presenting the Section with a new trophy, in the form of a suitably-embellished shield, for the winner of the present Billiards Tournament and subsequently for annual competition.

Geoff Holder

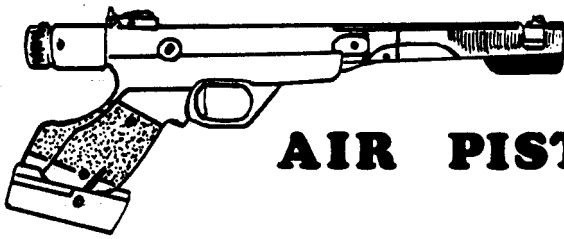
GENEALOGY SECTION

The section is in the process of applying for associate membership of the Federation of Family History Societies. This is the umbrella organisation for all groups interested in the subject, and is now strong enough (with about 100 member groups and societies) to lobby government departments and local authorities for the provision of better access to archives. It has been very active for instance in the move to release those registers of births, deaths and marriages which are now over 100 years old.

To comply with the requirements of the Federation we are preparing a draft set of rules for the section. These will be circulated to all members prior to an adoption meeting which will be called as soon as possible.

One of the least used groups of material available for family history research is the collection of documents known as the "non-parochial registers". These comprise the pre-1837 registers of Nonconformist churches and should always be consulted if there is any suspicion that an ancestor of this period was a dissenter. The registers have recently been moved from Portugal Street to Chancery Lane, where they may be inspected in the Long Room.

Mike Hagger



AIR PISTOL SHOOTING



Member of

Shooting Averages at 26.10.78

Name	Pos.	Ave.	Name	Pos.	Ave.
L.P. Lou	1	44.9	P. Donovan	6	31.3
D. Groombridge	2	40.3	P. Walters	7	31.1
R. Maidlow	3	37.5	K. Sichel	8	30.4
R. Fraser	4	36.8	J. Walters	9	24.8
T. Dore	5	35.8	P. Walton	10	11.5

Two competitions to report on this month:-

Firstly, the N.A.R.P.A. 1978 Championship Finals, held at RAF Cosford on September 17th. As reported in August's B.T., Joe Lou was our only participant in these Finals, selection being dependent on scores achieved in a twenty-card postal competition shot earlier in the year. In spite of having to travel to Cosford in the early morning following celebrations after the hot air ballooning championships, held at Stamford Hall, Joe achieved third place in the Shooting Sports Trust Division. Our congratulations go to Joe on his success which, along with his consistently high standard of shooting provide further 'targets' for us to aim at.

Secondly, our own handicap competition reached its conclusion during October. The competition was a test of consistent shooting, rather than achievement of a high standard of accuracy (to enable all section members to have a realistic chance of winning) and was shot over some months. To save the embarrassment of some section members (like the writer of this note) who excessively over- or underestimated their ability to shoot consistently I will give the names and scores of the winners of the mens and ladies prizes, and their closest rivals only. The winners were those participants whose nett scores, after adjusting for handicap, were closest to 1000.

Ladies Prize : Janet Walters, Score 1003
 Mens Prize : Denis Groombridge, Score 1012

Whilst Mrs Walters was always out on her own for the ladies prize and was the overall winner of the competition, Mr Groombridge had to face stiff competition for the mens prize, Roy Fraser (1013) and Joe Lou (1014) pressed him hard all the way, placings literally being decided on the last shots fired. Congratulations are offered to the winners of the competition and condolences to the rest (not losers, for I'm sure we all gained something by taking part - and after all there's always next year!)

The Film Column

Wood Lane Film Shows

By the time you read this, the first two shows of our Silver Jubilee season will have been held. The season got off to a flying start on 18th October when a large crowd turned up not only to see Billy Wilder's THE FRONT PAGE but also to join in the fun afterwards at our annual Soirée.

The proceedings were enlivened by the presence of Dave Watterson, the Secretary of the British Federation of Film Societies. We were most grateful to Dave for finding time in his very crowded schedule to come and visit us; he must have enjoyed himself as he asked if he might come again! We left him in no doubt of our intentions to try and improve on our efforts last year in the 'Film Society of the Year' competition, when we were runners-up in our section.

Christmas Film Show

On 13th December the main attraction is HOLLYWOOD COWBOY directed in 1975 by Howard Zieff. Also known as 'Hearts of the West', this is a very funny fictional look at the early days of film-making in Hollywood.

In support we have a film looking at another little-known aspect of film history. The earliest talkie is usually thought of as being THE JAZZ SINGER but in fact film-makers were attempting to add sound from as early as 1896, and we are showing a compilation of some of these efforts.

The other film dates from 1912, and is well-described by its title LIEUTENANT DARING AND THE PLANS OF THE MINEFIELD. Remember the date: Wednesday 13th December at 6.30 p.m.

NATIONAL FILM THEATRE

The London Film Festival continues at the NFT until the end of November. December is Epic month. Epics have of course been with us for a long time, ever since INTOLERANCE (1916) or even earlier, but this NFT season concentrates on historical epics of the 50s and 60s. Comedy is represented by seasons devoted to Woody Allen and to the Ben Travers British farces of the 30s and 40s. Other seasons are devoted to films from East Germany, Venezuela and the Arts Council. Other regular features of NFT programming are films from the Archives on Friday nights, and childrens films on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

FILM RECOMMENDATION

At Wood Lane, HOLLYWOOD COWBOY (see above). And in the West End, Claude Goretta's THE LACEMAKER, at the Academy 3 in Oxford Street.

HOT AIR BALLOON SECTION

Since the Nationals and that! We have been running our new van without due regard to the maintenance it should be having. Not that the group has been neglecting its van, far from it but there is still a lot more to be done. So folks when the weather really breaks be prepared to be press-ganged onto a van-working party.

For those of you who would still like to fly and have not yet turned out with the balloon, the schedule at this time of the year is perhaps a little less onerous. True, early morning flights are still possible but now we can fly in the early afternoon as well. On the subject of passenger flights may I mention that we have now flown quite a few family members.

There has been some criticism about our early warning system for alerting would-be aeronauts. So herewith our new system. You still telephone Denis Groombridge or Roger Millward but now I hope to add the gatehouse where you should be able to pick up stop-press information late on Saturday or Sunday. (Rain-check on the latter location, I haven't asked permission yet).

They will inform you as follows no more no less:-

Time of Meeting
Date of Meeting
Venue as a 6 figure map reference only

One of the following Meteorological definitions from which you must form your own opinion:-

Good
Possible
Poor
Cancel

This is all the information you will get, the informant has instructions not to embellish or advise further.

By the way talking about criticism I am still waiting to meet those critics who said they wanted a meeting with me.

Where are you?

Derry

Borrowed!

One universal sump plug spanner. Will the borrower please return it to the Motor Section.



Champagne Competition

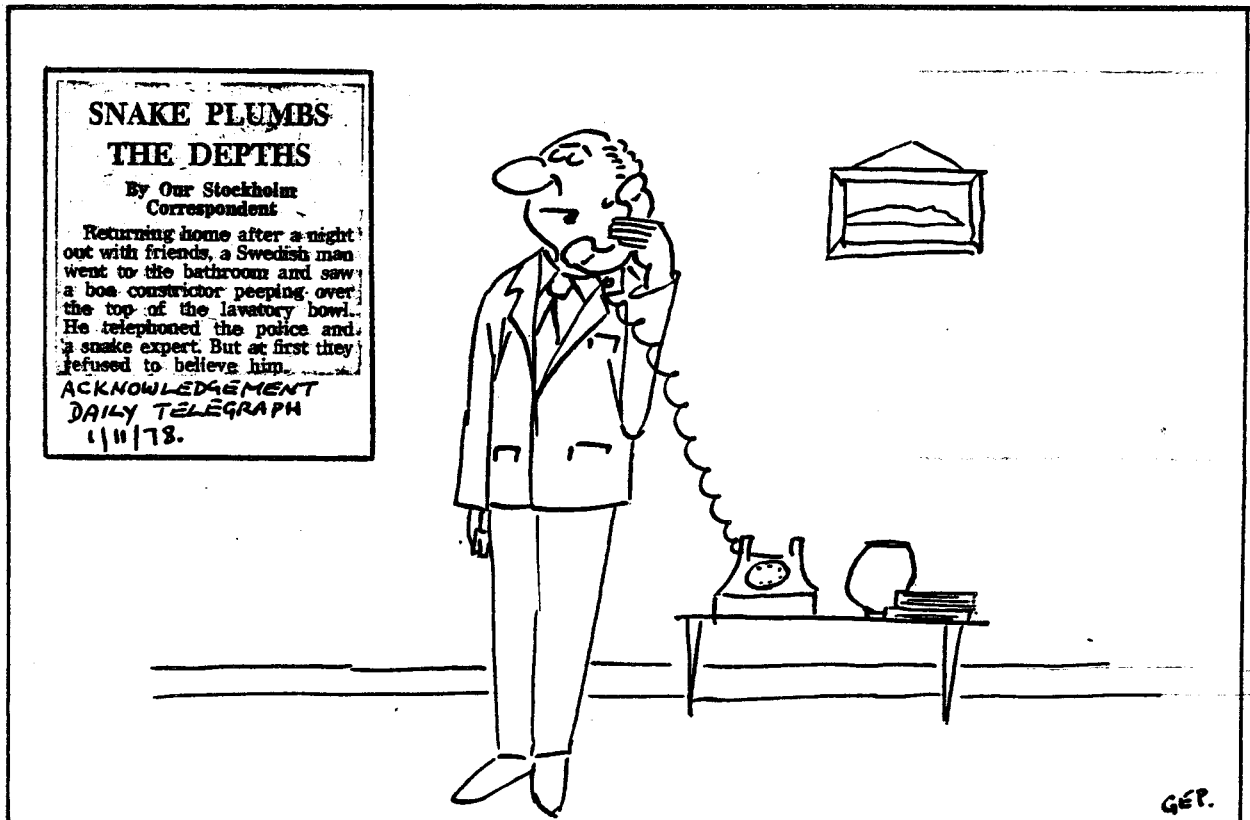


"A rag man", as all crossword fanatics will know, is an anagram - of "anagram", and "Sir's match" is another anagram - of "Christmas" - which will soon be upon us. So here is a chance to let your abilities with anagrams help your Christmas go with a bang (or a 'pop' at least).

All you have to do is construct the most appropriate (and the word is capable of wide interpretation) anagram from the phrase "A BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE". Send as many entries as you like to Denis Groombridge by Wednesday, 6th December. The entry considered to be the best by the Editorial Board will win a bottle of Moet et Chandon champagne. As you know "A BT page can fool them" - can you fool us, let's see what you can do.

Pensioners Corner

The pensioners Christmas Lunch will be held on Friday, 15th December at Wood Lane. You will either have received, or will receive shortly, an invitation to attend. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.



No! the bathroom is not full of pink elephants!

SLIMMING

Is any one interested in losing weight and not money? We are forming our own slimming club on site. If interested, first meeting at 1 o'clock on Nov. 23rd in the Design Office. For information contact Lindsey Buchan (209), Yvonne Ferrier (272) or David Green (322).

Social Club

NOTICE

At the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Social Club held on the 14th September, one of the items passed was for the increase in Members' Subscriptions.

In order that the increased subscriptions can be deducted from salary we have to get each member to sign an authorisation so that Salaries Department will deduct the increase.

An authorisation form is enclosed in this issue of the Bush Telegraph, which I hope you will kindly fill in, sign and return to me as soon as possible.

The forms have to be at Prescot by the middle of December so that the New subscription can be deducted in January's Salary.

P.T.J. Walton
General Secretary

Found

Whilst "clearing out" Peter Revell found a colour slide of the stern of an oil tanker (Esso Northumbria?). It is mounted in a pale blue Boots holder and marked "37". Claimants should apply to any member of the Editorial Board.

BUMPER CHRISTMAS BT

We shall aim to publish a bumper Christmas edition of the BT on Wednesday 20th December. If you have a contribution to make, and we hope you have, please send it to us no later than Wednesday 6th December. Articles, poems, cartoons, jokes, puzzles, seasonal recipes and gift-wrapped bottles of scotch will all be warmly received. Don't wait to be asked (or bullied), do it today.

Cross Numb-er

Was it really that difficult or are you all innumerate? 5 entries (one late anyway), all wrong! Methuselah was credited with an extra 30 years (it's in the Bible), Nelson stumped three competitors (111 supposedly signifies the Admiral's deficiencies and is regarded as an unlucky score at cricket), there was a disastrous hash on 6 to the power 6, and if anyone has seen a 307 down the Bush will they please report it to the London Transport lost property office!

The correct solution is given below:-

1	0	6	6		1	7	2	8	
1		6			9		2		8
	4	6	6	5	6		2	1	1
9	5			1	6	9		1	
6		2	1	6			4	1	1
9	8	1			2	8	8		3
	8		2	2	0			5	7
2	0	7		4	0	3	2	0	
0		4		6			0		1
	5	7	3	8		1	2	0	0

So, no prize, but you've a chance to make amends. We are offering a bottle of brown ale for the most convincing reason (in verse or prose or cartoon form - or even numerically!) why nobody can do our Cross Numb-er puzzles. Reasons to Mike Hagger by 6th December.

Alcohol

Since coming to work at Wood Lane nearly two years ago, I have been impressed by the number of people here who are, who claim to be and who have been makers of their own wines and beers. It seems to me that this wide interest could provide the basis for the formation of a group, perhaps as a section of the social club, with the aim of furthering our knowledge of home brewing and wine making. Activities could include, for example, lectures from recognised experts, visits to appropriate establishments, seminars at which a member of the group could describe his/her own techniques and recipes and possibly an annual tasting/competition. I should note here that I am not an expert or experienced wine and beer maker but do have an interest in the subject. I would like anyone who thinks that the formation of a wine and beer making group is an idea worth pursuing to contact me so that I can gauge the level of support and take the matter further (or drop it as the case may be).

Peter Walters (208)

**BICC
FILM SOCIETY
SILVER JUBILEE SEASON**

**Hollywood
Cowboy**

with

EARLY SOUND FILMS (1896-1926)
LIEUTENANT DARING AND THE PLANS OF THE
MINEFIELD.

WEDNESDAY 13th December

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