

BUSH

dec 1978

TELEGRAPH



# BUSH

vol. 21 no. 1

# TELEGRAPH

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



## Cover

"The pudding with the less fattening centre"

Original photo - Norman Davis  
Artwork - Lindsey Buchan  
Studio work - Bob Maidlow

## Editorial Board

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



# Editorial

It is perhaps unfortunate that just prior to the Christmas period the Company reviews the progress during the year and draws up its plans for the future. This inevitably means that any associated unpleasantness will come to a head at a time when people are looking forward to a few days relaxation and festivity. This year our colleagues in the Corrosion Department are all too aware of this combination of events as their future hangs in the balance. It would be gratifying to learn that, by the time you read this editorial, the efforts being made by Managers and Department Heads to find a happy solution to this problem had been successful. This would be better than any material Christmas present, and would prevent any involuntary additions to the "loss of many familiar faces" referred to by Mr Banks in his seasonal message to staff

Taking up a pleasanter point from the same message, and covering our blushes as much as possible, we have been truly delighted with the response to our efforts over this first year of revived publication. A count, probably a few short, shows that 115 staff and pensioners have made some contribution over the year, and we thank each and every one of them. A special word of thanks to the Typing Pool, Studio, Print Room and General Office without whose monthly efforts nothing would be possible.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas with your families and friends, and a successful and fulfilling New Year.

# Christmas Message

The first full year of the new Bush Telegraph has been completed, and I have found every copy both helpful and enjoyable. The year has passed so quickly that I have had to collect together my copies to convince myself that we really have had one every month. As you probably know, we were not entirely confident that a monthly publication would be possible. I must congratulate the Editorial Board and all the contributors on so handsomely, informatively and interestingly filling the pages.

Without reducing in any way space available for readers' contributions, we in management should be occupying a larger share of the magazine. My New Year's resolution will be to make more use of its pages. Editors please prompt. I hope others will join me. With the changing scene of Wood Lane there is so much news to give in pursuit of our desire that all the staff members should be well informed.

1978 has seen the loss of many familiar faces, either seeking new fields or retiring. Christmas is a time for remembering and we shall miss them. We wish them all successful new ventures and welcome the many new staff members who have joined us to build on the past and to create new opportunities.

My thanks to you all for your efforts of 1978. May you have an enjoyable, rewarding Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Sincerely  
John Sauls.

# Personnel News

## STARTERS

Welcome to:-

Miss S.B. Yeoh who joins us as a Secretary/  
Shorthand Typist in the Patents Department.

S.L. Ralph who joins us as an Assistant Technical  
Officer in the Communications Department.

D. Cole who joins us as an Assistant Technical  
Officer in the Physics Department.

## LEAVERS

Farewell to:-

Andy Fry of the Product Engineering Department who  
leaves after 9 years to take up alternative  
employment.

Justyn Davies of the Mathematics Department who  
leaves after 2 years to take up alternative  
employment.

Brian Helliwell of the Conform Project Team who  
leaves after 7 months to take up alternative  
employment.

## APPOINTMENTS

Stefan Verne has been appointed Personal Assistant  
to Mr Banks with effect from 1st December 1978, and will  
relinquish his responsibilities as Head of Polymers Department  
by 31st December.

Bob Puckowski is appointed Head of Polymers Department  
with effect from 1st January 1979.

## RETIREMENTS

Best wishes for a long and happy retirement to  
Danuta Turasiewicz of the Product Engineering Department who  
has been at Wood Lane for 16 years.

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# Canteen

The efforts of Don, Ruth and the rest of the canteen  
staff to maintain a healthy supply of comestibles during the  
bread strike has been greatly appreciated, especially by those  
of us who habitually get up too late to have breakfast. Some  
of us wonder if we dare suggest that you only have home-baked  
bread rolls in future - they are so much nicer than the factory-  
produced ones. Any chance?

# Diary of Events

Date	Event	For Information
Mon 8th Jan " " "	Last day for contributions to BT Badminton vs St. Pauls Mixed (Home)	Editorial Board Vic Banks
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
Mon 22nd Jan	Publication Day BT	Editorial Board
Tues 23rd Jan	Sea Angling Trip	Andy Platt
Wed 24th Jan	Badminton vs St. Albans Mens (Away)	Vic Banks
Wed 14th Feb	Film Show; 6.30 pm Main Hall "Law and Disorder", "Rhythmic" and "The Pre Raphaelite Revolt"	Annette Mattock
<u>Regular Events</u>		
Tuesdays	Badminton	Vic Banks
Thursdays	Badminton * Air Pistol Shooting	Vic Banks Denis Groombridge
Weekends	Hot-Air Ballooning	Roger Millward or Denis Groombridge
* Except Thursday 21st December.		

## Obituary

Miss C.C. Amor

All her colleagues and friends at Wood Lane will be sorry to learn of the death, on Sunday, 10th December, of Clare Amor, four days before her 77th birthday.

She joined us in May 1943 as a Clerical Assistant and was shortly afterwards placed in charge of the General Office, where her organising ability soon resulted in an efficient service to the whole Wood Lane site. She remained in this capacity until her retirement in December 1961. She returned on a part-time basis in July 1965 to work in the Personnel area, handling the attendance records, a task to which she gave the same energetic attention until September 1971.

Clare endeared herself to all who knew her, for although forthright and down-to-earth in her manner, she was always ready to help anyone in difficulty — a sterling character who will be sadly missed.

D.D.L.

# Thank You

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I appreciate very much indeed the very generous gift to me on my retirement.

The card has two supplementary sheets to accommodate the very large number of signatures and messages of goodwill. It was my intention to decypher all the names and to send to each of you a personal note. The task is beyond me! Apart from the signatures I recognise and those I can read! there are some which are little "code pictures" and I haven't got the key. Then too, some of you have used only your first names; and quite a number of you share these. So, please, may I be allowed to ask you to accept this general letter as my very personal thanks to each of you.

I have an invitation to attend the Christmas Luncheon (Pensioners!) on the 15th December and am more than happy to accept this. Since I have attended these since their inception it will not be a new experience but it will be of great interest to change sides. I look forward to seeing many of you on the 15th but, for the immediate future I shall have some contact with Wood Lane.

Already I have started to investigate the market for a super Lawn Mower - I live quite near to a large Garden Centre and have seen a number of "models" which are attractive.

Again, my grateful thanks to all of you for your gift, but more particularly for your friendship over the years and for your good wishes to me on retirement.

Yours very sincerely,

N.E. Davis

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## The Pond

Gene says:-

If, during the winter months, you see the pond is frozen over, please do not break the ice, as the shock waves can kill the fish. A replacement pond heater is being acquired and will be installed as soon as possible.

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Reports coming out of Uganda suggest that the Uganda army is now marching the goose step. President Amin is reported as saying "What is good for the goose is good for Uganda".

# The History of Electric Wires and Cables

By R.M. Black

## PART 11. FERRANTI AND THE DEPTFORD POWER STATION

The London Electric Supply Corporation was registered on 26th August, 1887 with Sebastian Ziani de Ferranti as Engineer and Electrician. It was this appointment that allowed him to start upon the plans that he had conceived for the electric lighting of London. Ferranti's plan was indeed ambitious and according to the account that he gave some years later, in 1922:-

"I aimed at lighting the whole of the North side of the Thames. Mains were run from the City in the east to Chelsea in the West and from the Thames right up to the parts adjoining Hampstead. Then legislation came along and knocked the scheme on the head".

This area was to be supplied with electricity from a generating station located at Deptford on the South bank of the River Thames about eight miles from the heart of London. The output of the station was to be such that it would be capable of supplying current for the electric lighting of the whole area at an unprecedented ac transmission voltage of 10,000 volts. The location of the generating station on the river some distance from the town had the advantages that at Deptford the land was cheap, unlimited supplies of water were readily available and sea-borne coal could be obtained at low prices. There would be no noise from moving machinery to disturb the slumbers of local residents and no traffic congestion occasioned by the carriage of coal through the streets to fuel the power station boilers. For a parish of 200,000 lights, it was estimated that the fuel requirement would necessitate the passage of some 200 cart-loads of coal each day.

Work on the proposed new power station at Deptford began during April, 1888 under Ferranti's direct supervision. He had only recently on 24th April, 1888 married Gertrude the second daughter of Mr Francis Ince, one of his original partners in the firm of Ferranti, Thompson and Ince Limited which had been formed in 1882. Gertrude de Ferranti was later to write:-

"The principal thing I remember during those first months of married life was Deptford, and again Deptford. We talked Deptford and dreamed Deptford. There were many nights when Basti did not get to bed at all, staying at Deptford and snatching what few hours rest he could in the little cottage".

The erection of the station was rapid and in October, 1888 the Press were invited down to witness the progress made. They were enthusiastic in their praise. "Engineering" wrote:-

"The new electrical machinery is so enormous as compared with anything in existence, that it may be deemed a perfectly novel creation, a monument to the confidence reposed by the directors in

their engineer Mr S.Z. de Ferranti".

The "Electrical Engineer" of 26th October, 1888 commented:-

"On Wednesday the designer of the great Deptford installation was laughingly dubbed the Michael Angelo of that installation, because from first to last, from foundation to top of highest turret, architecture, materials, foundations, and machines, all were specified or designed by one man, and the credit of the success of the really first central station in England will have to be given, without detracting one iota in favour of any other person, to Ferranti.... It required not only courage on the part of the engineer, but also a degree of confidence in himself that few men possess in the earlier days of industrial development".

At the same time that work commenced on the building of the station, consideration was given to the problem of transmitting power to the capital. Arrangements were made with the railway companies (the London and Brighton, the London Chatham and Dover, the Metropolitan and the South Eastern) for permission to carry the trunk mains along the parapets and bridges to the distribution sub-stations in London. Six mains or conductors were to be provided, two of which would be brought to Cannon Street, two to Blackfriars Bridge and two to Charing Cross. The use of railway property offered considerable saving in that it precluded an approach to each parish and vestry for permission to excavate their roadways. In the event, four mains only were laid.

Originally it was intended to transmit the power from Deptford to the Grosvenor Gallery by means of jute insulated cable made by the Fowler Waring Company. This was entirely satisfactory from an electrical point of view, but suffered from the disadvantage that its inflammable nature in close proximity to passing steam locomotives gave it a tendency to catch fire. Ferranti therefore decided to use a type of mains that he had specified in his patent application of 1885.

This Patent Specification had described a complete distribution system for electric lighting. Current from the generating station was to be transformed, or converted as he termed it, down from the supply voltage to 100 volts for supply to customers. The specification also described the mains to be used:-

"The mains for conveying the current I form of concentric tubes drawn one over the other with insulating material between them".

The insulating material proposed was paper saturated with shellac in solution.

The decision by Ferranti to use impregnated paper for the insulation of his high voltage main has been further elucidated in the private notes written by G.L. Addenbrooke of the United Telephone Company to Mrs Ferranti shortly after Ferranti's death in 1930:-



"The outstanding problem therefore seemed to be what was the highest voltage at which transmission could safely be worked? Early in 1886 one evening, Ferranti knowing I was in the habit of visiting the cable companies, asked me what was the highest voltage which manufacturers applied to cables. On my reply that as far as I knew such tests were never made, he asked me what was the highest voltage they put on cables? I replied that the highest voltage I knew of was at Silvertown where they had a 600 volt battery, which was chiefly used for breaking down faults, but that they would not put more than 200 volts on the classes of insulation the telephone used. We then turned to the length of spark in air. Kelvin's table gave roughly 100,000 volts per inch. From experiments I had made with a small induction coil I found that if the terminals were brought in contact with an insulating surface, sparks would pass over from three to four times what they would in air. In case of fractures, therefore, the voltage across a thickness of insulator should be reduced to, say, 25,000 volts per inch. Ferranti suggested 10,000 would be a good working voltage. This left the necessary thickness at about 0.5 inch, the extra strength of the insulation providing a further large factor of safety. It was practically a foregone conclusion that such a cable must be concentric to avoid inductive effects, and we began to think of a cable on these lines and the way it could be insulated.

Gutta percha was ruled out on account of its low melting point. Rubber looked most promising, but a rough calculation of the quantity required at the then price of rubber showed that such a cable would be very costly. Ferranti then asked what other insulating materials there were. There was a list with notes in Munro and Jamieson's pocket book (of Electrical Rules and Tables). I took up my copy and suggested that we should go through them. When we came to paper, Ferranti asked what sort of insulator it was. I mentioned that impregnated with paraffin it was used by the Submarine Cable Company for condensers. Ferranti asked if brown paper would do, when I replied I knew no reason why it should not. Now, brown paper could be got in rolls and copper tubes could be procured in 20 ft lengths. Ferranti suggested that 20 ft lengths of paper might be cut off and wrapped round the inner tube after impregnation, the whole could then be slipped into an outer tube which could be drawn down on it through a die. I then said, in the Telephone Company we are using a good deal of Ozokerite, which was harder than ordinary paraffin, had a higher melting point, and had practically as high insulating properties. Ferranti asked me if I could get him some, this I did and a short length of tube was taken, paper passed through melted Ozokerite was wrapped round it, and another tube was slipped over the whole, this then being drawn down. The ends were then turned off in cones and the paper Ozokerite was found to turn well and cleanly. This trial length was tested and found to stand a high voltage well. The difficulty was the joints. As

regards these, Ferranti being with me shortly afterwards said he thought he had arrived at a solution. In a notebook which I kept for our joint experiments we thereupon made two sketches which show the principle adopted successfully.

Shortly after he patented the method. Little more was done further at the time, but no doubt Ferranti had in mind that special machinery would have to be designed to make the cable practically".

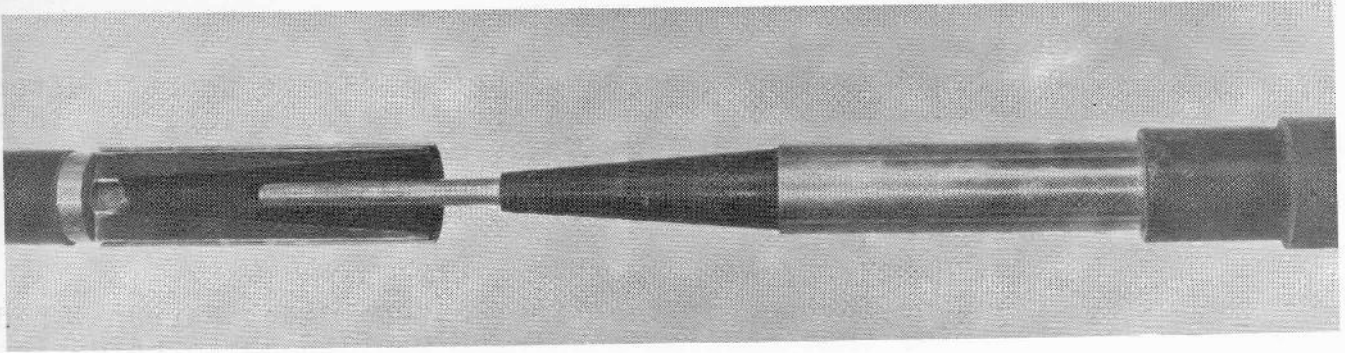
The proposal to use this simple concentric design of tubular main did not, however, meet with Post Office approval. In a paper read before the Institution of Electrical Engineers in 1889, W.H. Preece, the Chief Engineer to the Post Office, said:-

"It is quite certain that if a single conductor between Deptford and London were subject to rapid alternations under a potential difference of 10,000 volts, the current returning by way of the earth, every telephone circuit in the metropolis would be disturbed and probably rendered unworkable".

Preece carried out a series of experiments with a lead sheathed concentric cable and found that when he used the sheath as a return for ac at a frequency of 80 cycles/sec (near the frequency of a Ferranti alternator) interference in a telephone line resulted. When, however he used the outer conductor as the return all was well. He came to the conclusion that an earthed sheath placed over the concentric main reduced the electrical interference to negligible proportions. Ferranti acted upon this information and the following well known construction of the Ferranti main resulted:

A copper tube, 13/16 inch diameter and 20 ft long was insulated with wax impregnated paper rolled on spirally from sheets 20 ft in length and about 36 in wide, either by hand, or later, by special machines which avoided straining the paper. The sheets of paper were overlapped during application until 0.5 in of insulation had been applied. The outer conductor, of the same cross-sectional area as the inner one, and 31/16 in in diameter was slipped over the insulated inner conductor and the combined assembly drawn through a die in a heavy tube draw bench to compact the outer conductor down on to the paper insulation. A further 3/32 in of waxed paper was then rolled on to the outer conductor and the whole enclosed in a thin iron tube of 2½ in diameter. The iron pipe had a brazed seam and the space between the paper and the iron was filled with hot compound from a central injection point.

The jointing technique developed for these mains was of considerable importance. Of necessity joints had to be simple, as in the four 7 mile mains laid between Deptford and the West End there would have to be over 7,000 of them. It is believed that Ferranti obtained the idea from the old wooden water mains, some of which are preserved in the Guildhall Museum, and which consisted of logs with a male cone at one end which fitted into a female cone in the end of the next log which in turn had a male cone at its other end.



Photograph of Demonstration Joint used in Ferranti's School for Jointers (1889).

In practice, joints in the main were prepared at Deptford, where the manufacturing of the requisite number of 20 ft mains was carried out, by removing 17 in of the iron pipe from one end of each section, cutting off the outer copper conductor and turning the end of the inner insulation down on a hollow spindle lathe so as to form a male cone from the end of the outer conductor to the end of the inner one. The inside of the inner conductor was then reamed out for a length of 9 in. At the other end of the main, 11 in was cut off the iron tube, and the insulation between the conductors was turned down to a female cone corresponding to the male cone at the other end. The inside of the central conductor was also reamed out. To joint two lengths of the prepared main, a solid copper rod 18 in long was driven into the central conductor for half its length and a sleeve of copper pushed over the outer conductor. The sleeve was secured in place by means of a corrugating tool which indented both sleeve and outer conductor. The two mains were then drawn together by means of a screw jack, whilst heat was applied to the joint to make the two conical surfaces adhere to one another. The copper sleeve was then corrugated to the other outer conductor.

Before bringing the ends of the main together an iron sleeve was slipped over one length. This sleeve was so shaped as nearly to fit the protective iron pipe, but elsewhere was somewhat larger in diameter, and in the enlarged part a sleeve of prepared paper was placed. When the jointing of the outer conductor was complete, it was wrapped with the prepared paper to bring the diameter up to that of the iron pipe, the sleeve was moved into position and hot wax was forced in through a hole in the sleeve to displace air and to fill up any spaces not occupied by the prepared paper. The ends of the sleeve were fixed down to the protective pipe by corrugations applied by a tool and the hole through which the wax was introduced closed by a screw plug.

There was, of course, considerable criticism of the use of a voltage as high as 10,000 volts with these mains, and doubts were cast on their safety in the event of a fault. Ferranti devised a demonstration to alleviate their doubts and to convince even the most sceptical of their safety. Before a large number of witnesses Harold Kolle, Ferranti's personal assistant, held an uninsulated cold chisel to the live main with his bare hands while a colleague with a sledge hammer drove it through both conductors. As the chisel cut through the main, the main fuse link cut off the supply without damage to the equipment or injury to the very brave man involved! There is an apocryphal story that Kolle, asked later if he had not been frightened, replied 'Frightened? I was scared out of my life. Young Henty\* had never used a sledge hammer before!'.  
\*Young Henty is a character from the novel 'The Story of the Young Henty' by G. A. Henty.

(\* C. Henty, who was the son of the then well known war correspondent and writer of boy's stories G.A. Henty.)

Meanwhile, at the Deptford station things were taking shape. A main building 210 ft by 195 ft by 100 ft high had been erected on a 4 ft thick concrete raft some 350 ft from the river. 24 boilers had been installed in one of the two boiler houses, each of which would be provided with its own basement for fires, ash runs and so on and with hoppers on the roof and a storage capacity for 40,000 tons of coal.

Two 1,250 horse power engines had been erected and run and the alternators for them were almost ready. These engines were of the vertical Corliss type and each had a flywheel 22 ft in diameter and weighing 60 tons from which its alternator was driven by means of 40 cotton ropes 5 inches in circumference. The alternators, which were wound for 5,000 volts stood 14 ft 6 in from their base plates and had armatures 13 ft in diameter. Two 10,000 H.P. engines and their 10,000 volt alternators were also in an advanced stage of construction. These weighed 500 tons a piece and were designed by Ferranti. Except for the castings required, the whole of their construction was carried out at Deptford under his direct supervision. Even the turning of the great shafts was done at the power station.

Originally, it was intended to install twelve 10,000 H.P. generating units, but the complete plans were partially forestalled by the operation of the Electric Lighting Act of 1882, and the subsequent Board of Trade Enquiry held in 1889, which in effect split up the area which was to have been supplied from Deptford among a number of small rival companies.

On top of all this the scheme was beset with a number of disconcerting and almost disastrous series of accidents. One of the jointers was killed by a passing train during the installation of the mains along the railway embankment. One Joseph Selway aged 37 of 13, Henrietta Street, Deptford was killed in the explosion at Stowage Wharf (the site of the power station) on 9th April, 1889. This occurred while the works were being inspected by Major Marindin, who headed the Board of Trade Enquiry; a steam pipe of one of the engines burst and Selway was blown 28 feet by the explosion and three other men were seriously injured.

A disastrous fire occurred at the Grosvenor Gallery while it was being used as a temporary sub-station. A power arc had occurred during switching which set fire to the wooden roof before it could be extinguished. This resulted in the complete destruction of the sub-station and loss of supply from the 15th November 1890 when the fire occurred until the following February. During this period a number of the customers were lost and there was no income, only considerable expenditure. The opportunity was taken to push ahead with what Ferranti referred to as 'the permanent work' to an extent which could not otherwise have been possible. The whole of the overhead transmission lines radiating from the Grosvenor Gallery were removed and replaced by underground cables.

The Board of the London Electric Supply Corporation were not however, very happy about these misfortunes. They had lost a large amount of money, and as the prospects of obtaining the virtual monopoly of the electricity supply of London began to fade so did their confidence in their Chief Engineer. At the meeting of the shareholders in March, 1892 it was announced that during the year "the engagement of Mr de Ferranti has ceased by effluxion of time".

Ferranti was free to transfer elsewhere his experience, his patents, and his unrivalled knowledge of high voltage technique. He did not have long to wait as the Directors of the newly formed British Insulated Wire Company having taken the opinion of W.H. Preece as to the value of the Ferranti cable patents, offered him a seat on their Board, acquired his patents, and insured his life for the sum of £20,000.

In retrospect, Deptford was a magnificent and daring enterprise. Ferranti had no precedent to guide him, and in his Engineer's Report of 1891 he writes:-


"I desire to call attention to the fact that from the commencement of your operations to the present time, no engineering or electrical difficulties whatever have arisen which I have not been able to overcome, and at the present moment I know of no weak point in your system, and consider success to be now assured".

In the opinion of Colonel Crompton "electricity supply owes far more to Ferranti than to any other man. All the substantial features of supply are founded on his work at the Grosvenor Gallery and at Deptford".

## **ELECTRIC LIGHTING.**

### HIGH PRESSURE SYSTEM v. LOW PRESSURE SYSTEM.

The Corporation supplies Electrical Energy on the High Pressure System by Meter.

 HIS SYSTEM, when properly arranged and controlled, as it is by this Corporation, is equally as safe as the Low pressure system, besides which it has the great advantage of giving an

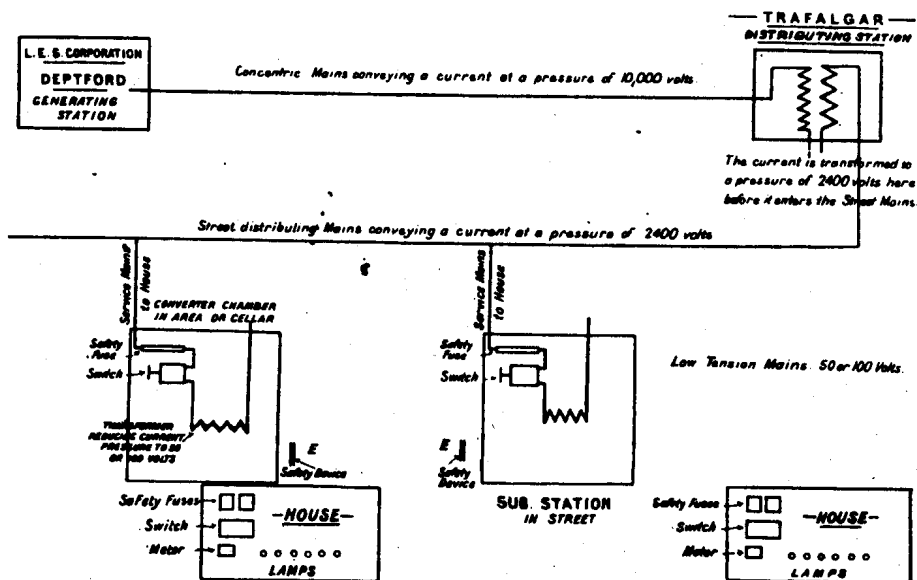
#### EQUAL AND REGULAR LIGHT

throughout the whole of the premises, however distant the farthest lamp may be from the point of supply.

An idea appears to exist that the High pressure system is more dangerous than the Low pressure system. This is erroneous. The following is the opinion of Mr. W. H. PREECE, F.R.S., the Engineer-in-Chief and Electrician to the General Post Office, as expressed by him in his address as President for the year, at the Meeting of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, held on Thursday, the 26th January, 1893.

"The prejudice against High pressure is still strong. It is thought to be unsafe, but time and experience will eradicate this impression as they ultimately eradicate every fallacy."

The following is a diagram of the system and connections.

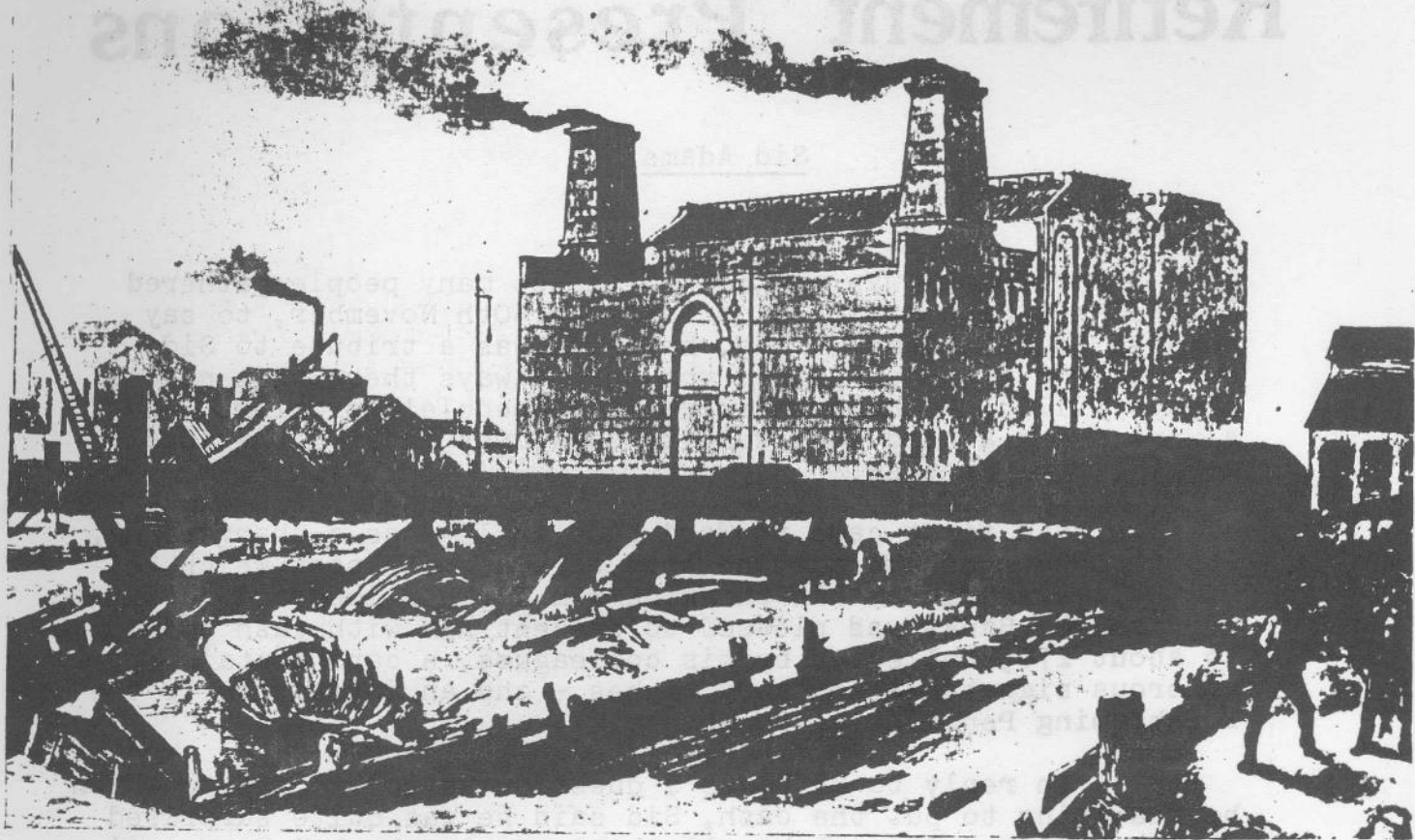


It will be seen that the High pressure at the point of entering the Consumer's premises is Reduced to a pressure of 50 or 100 volts, which is similar to the pressure of the Low or Continuous Current system.

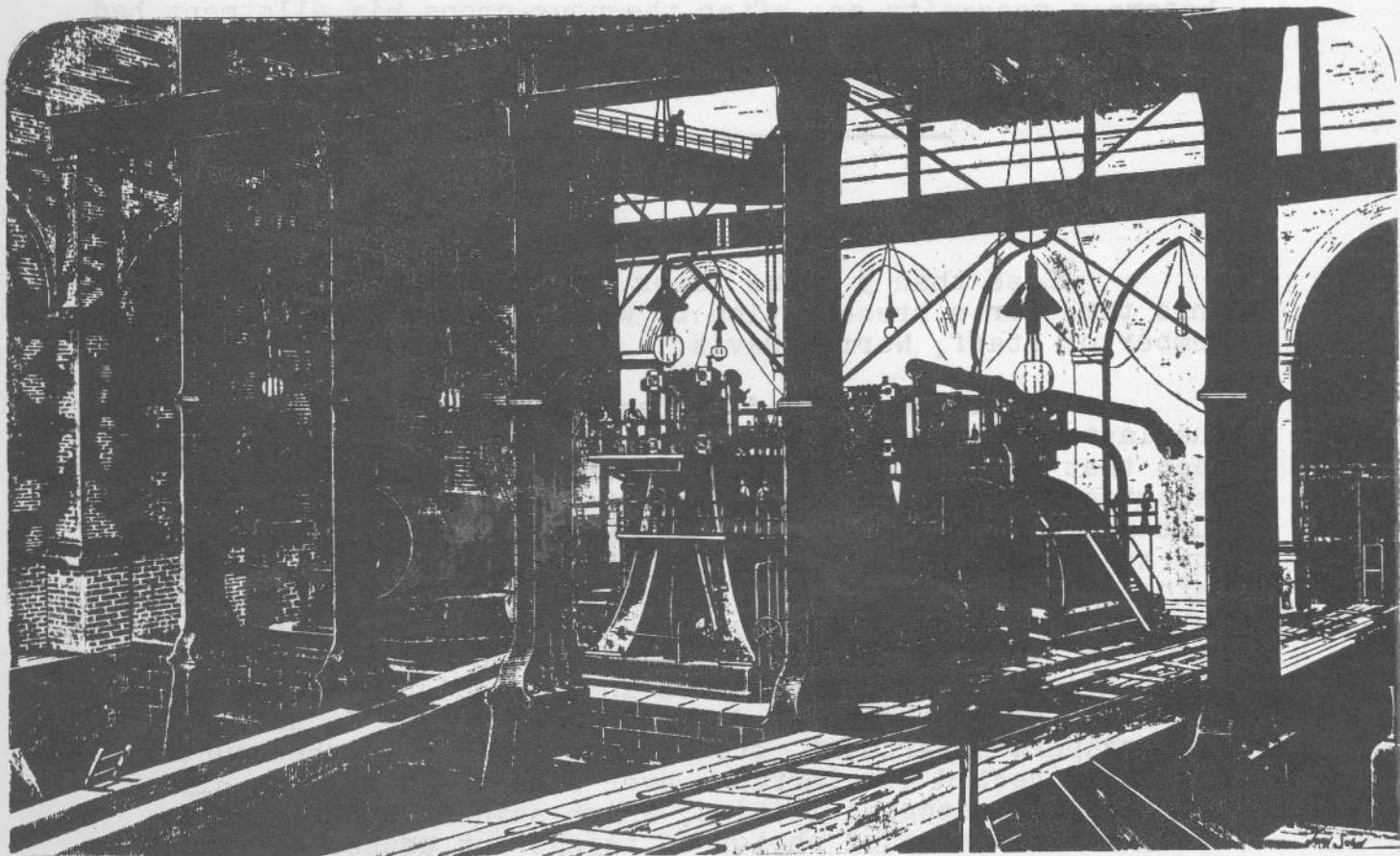
At no point are the High pressure supply wires in contact with the Low pressure service wires.

This Corporation supplies current to H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, at Marlborough House, a large number of the Nobility, Clubs, Hotels, Theatres, &c., &c., where a good and continuous light is the first consideration.





Drawing of Deptford, 1889, from the *Illustrated London News*.  
(The engine houses of this historic building still exist and form part of the Central Electricity Generating Board Deptford Station.)



Contemporary engraving of Deptford Power Station in 1889  
(from *The Engineer*).

# Retirement Presentations

## Sid Adams

Mr Banks was pleased to see so many people gathered in the Main Hall at 12.15 on Thursday 30th November, to say goodbye to Sid Adams. This, he felt, was a tribute to Sid, who was one of those people who were always there when needed, always willing to help to solve other people's problems, and always doing a good job, despite sometimes lacking the ideal machine for the task.

Sid first came to Wood Lane in 1944 as a charge-hand, but very soon became machine-shop foreman, the post which he had held ever since. In thanking him for his long and faithful service, Mr Banks was pleased to present him with cash amounting to about £70, collected by his colleagues, a card containing numerous signatures and good wishes - and an invitation to the forthcoming Pensioners' Lunch.

In reply to Mr Banks's question as to the use to which he was going to put the cash, Sid said he was quite surprised at the amount - it must be all those people who had been saying to him over the years "I'll see you're all right at Christmas!" The money would go towards buying a fridge-freezer, which had become a necessity as, after the poor crops his allotment had provided in 1977, he had put in extra rows of beans and carrots, and was now overrun with the things!

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## Norman Davis

Less than 3 hours later the Main Hall was packed again, this time for a presentation to Wood Lane's longest - serving member of staff, Norman Davis.

Norman, explained Mr Banks, was an "original", in fact the last of the originals. Such an accolade arose from the fact that he joined Callender's Outside Testing and Research Department in February 1930 whilst it was still at Ormond Yard, just north of Chancery Lane, and with his retirement there is now no member of staff from the old site still at Wood Lane. Before the war Norman was on the clerical staff under Archie Butler, whom many longer-serving members of Wood Lane will remember. During the war he had a varied career; he was commissioned in 1942 and served in the Indian Army for about 3 years. Returning to Wood Lane he set up the Industrial Photographic Department, one of the earliest in the country, and has directed its fortunes ever since. As well as his photographic responsibilities, which said Mr Banks always resulted in wonderful photos of things but caused difficulties when it came to people, Norman found time to take part in various social activities, be an active member of various committees at the Institute of Incorporated Photographers, and be a staff representative first with the old staff association and then with EESA, of which body he was elected BICC national chairman earlier this year.

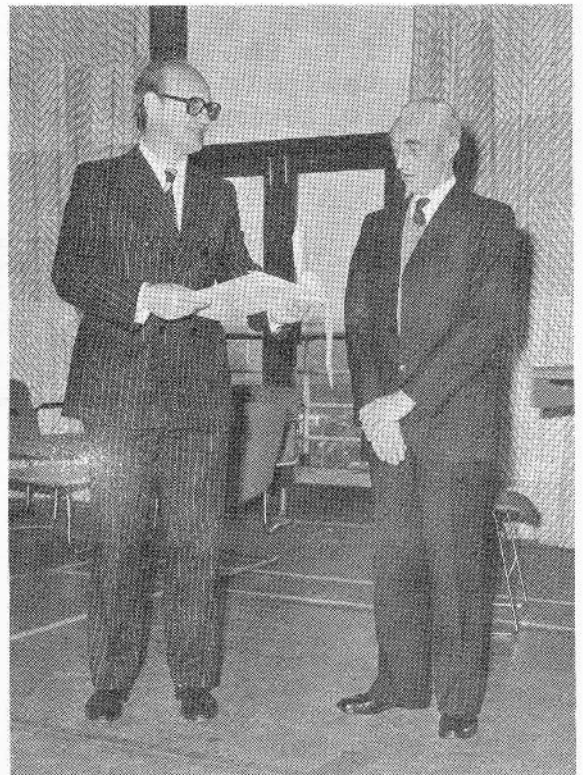
Thanking him for 48 years loyal and devoted service, not just to BICC as a company but to the individual members of staff each with their individual "priority" job, Mr Banks presented Norman with £114, a card overflowing with signatures and messages - and his pensioners' lunch invitation!

In his reply Norman thanked everybody for the money which he was putting towards his 5th lawnmower (the other 4 don't work!). This time he has promised himself one that he can sit on and drive up and down the private road outside his house.

Recalling the days at Ormond Yard he said that he had worked in a converted kitchen (which hadn't been converted!) whilst colleagues resided in an old furniture repository. There was only one toilet for the whole site - near the kitchen.

Norman paid special tribute to all those who had worked with him in the Photographic Department over the years, especially Bob Maidlow and Doreen Greenbury. He said there was probably a grain of truth in the opinion once expressed that he didn't live his life, he sat on the fence and watched others lead theirs. The studio had been an ideal place for this, with so many people passing through, and was at times like a confessional - although he didn't think he had always been a sympathetic listener.

He concluded by joining Sid Adams in inviting everybody to a drink later that evening.





# 8½ Revisited

We can't help feeling that you (some of you at any rate) have been trying to force us to resurrect the "Page 8½ Column", that irreverent hotch-potch of quotes, misprints, juxtapositions and oddities which amused our readers and confused our printers from 1967 to 1973.

Bob Black, for instance, couldn't resist the two headlines from the Overseas Trade Exhibitions section of "Trade and Industry" for 29th September.

"British firms wide awake at anaesthetics congress"  
"UK lingerie trade uplifted by German Market"

If you think those were deliberately contrived by some bored sub-editor trying to brighten his day, then how about this one from a recent copy of "Electron", spotted by Pete Walters.

"BOSS extends Grope System"

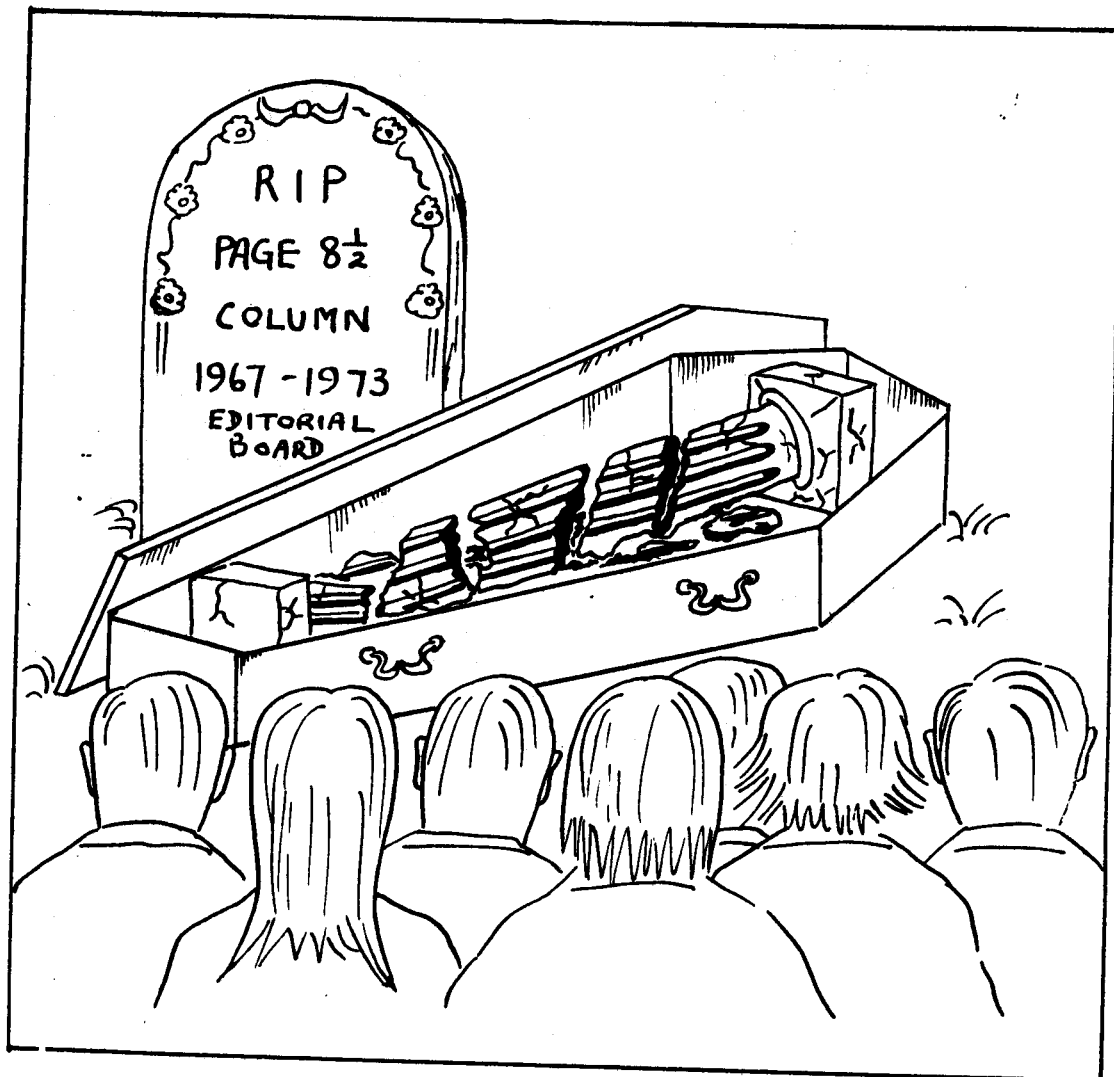
Before all you lovely secretaries go rushing off to the blacksmith, or more probably the micro-electronic engineer these days, for protective devices we should explain that it's all to do with a spooling package for an on-line printer.

Then Molly Nalon came along to tell us firstly that, in the course of her genealogical studies, she had written to the National Association of Funeral Directors and received a reply from the Secretary - Mr R. Heaven, and secondly to ask us to tell all staff in Hillingdon and Northwood to be on the alert following this advert in the "Ealing, Greenford and Acton Advertiser",

**ADVERTISEMENTS** required at Northwood and Hillingdon Cemeteries. Previous experience is desirable but not essential. Weekly wage of £52.47 inclusive for a 40-hour week. An incentive bonus scheme is also in operation. Applications to the Cemetery Superintendent, Springfield House, Hayes End Road, Hayes, Middlesex. Telephone 01-573 1981, extension 81.

We were thus convinced that it was time to look at old 8½ itself, but as you can see it would be a shame to disturb the poor broken thing.

So, instead we've decided to start a new occasional diary column as a repository for the bits and bobs that you delight in sending us, and we enjoy receiving. We're calling the newcomer "DYSPHAGIAN DIARY", a title which you may exclaim is a little hard to swallow, but we hope to make you eat your words in the New Year.



Here's a notice from a garage wall, spotted by one of our pensioners, Miss Nickel,

"We the willing  
Led by the unknowing  
Are doing the impossible  
For the ungrateful.

We have done so much,  
For so long  
With so little,  
We are now qualified  
To do anything  
With nothing".

She gave us the impression it reminded her of Wood Lane! Surely not?

Finally for this month we couldn't resist a couple of misprints from our big brother "The Link". October's issue featured a young Prescott apprentice whose hobby was making precision replicas of old firearms. Somehow the extract on the left seemed chillingly appropriate. The one on the right, from the November small-ads, proves that we're all young at heart.

The finished article is something which would enhance anyone's mantelpiece or trophy room, and indeed there is already a growing demand for examples of his kilful handiwork.

**SUPERIOR COACH BUILT  
DOLLS PRAM, almost baby size,  
ideal for Xmas present for 7-70 year  
old. £18 ono. — Tel: Parbold 2237.**

# Wine Tasting

Mr "Circumference" Cocks, perhaps the only man I've ever known whose girth exceeded his height, was responsible for teaching me the rudiments of geography. Amongst his weapons, in what must have been a ceaseless battle against obstinacy and ignorance, was a small brown text-book whose author incurred the perpetual wrath of the great man by introducing many topics with the words, "It is not easy to (something or other).....", and then proceeding to enunciate roundly on the subject in a manner so fundamental and basic that even the most numbskull third-former was not left entirely without hope.

You may wish to ask what all this has to do with the 15th annual gathering of Wood Lane's oenophiles which took place on Friday 10th November in the Main Hall, and I think you would be justified in doing so. But I think you will forgive me, and I think old "Circumference" would too, if I say that, with an event so long-running, well organised, well attended and successful, it is not easy to find something new to say about it. However, in the best traditions of the small brown book, here goes.

It was a sell-out days in advance; there were rumours of a black market but nobody would actually admit to having paid over-the-odds for a ticket. Those in the know were prowling around before the "off" hoping to beat the scrum, but they need not have worried, there was plenty for everyone, although there was the usual handful of anti-social types who insisted on grabbing a bottle and sitting down with it on one of the side tables completely against the requests of the organisers. With the mild early November weather the chilled white wines were very popular whilst a heavy Spanish red was compared to paint-stripper - it wasn't that bad!

Despite the bread strike Annette had begged, borrowed or bought sufficient French loaves to accompany her usual excellent buffet to which David Goff added an extra touch of colour with the smallest tomatoes in town and Dennis Cooper provided (again) the background music which included some tracks by - "BREAD"!

There were some old, and not-so-old, friends around including Peter Revell who politely declined to write this report on the grounds that he now has more work to do than he ever knew existed, and Eileen King who sold the raffle tickets; I haven't a clue who won.

By the end of the evening some people were so confused that they were seen drinking coffee from the machine, whilst others actually went home with their spouse.

On behalf of everybody who attended I say thank you to David Goff and Denis Groombridge for their efforts with the liquid side and Annette for the food, and in the words of the first reporter back in 1964, "Pleashe have another one shoon".

MH

# A History of The Film Section

## Part IV

by Ted Morrison and Tom Ruben

The 1973-4 season was destined to become the most unpredictable, and from our point of view the most disastrous, since we had started.

The season opened normally with the now well-established Soirée evening, when we showed THE NIGHT OF COUNTING THE YEARS, an Egyptian film directed by Shadi Abdelsalam which had been a surprise hit when it was shown at the 1970 London Film Festival. Beautifully photographed in Egypt, the film told the story of a search for some of the country's ancient treasures by an official of the Cairo Museum. Intrigue abounded, and the result was a fascinating and very unusual insight into the past and the present. The rather small audience saw the film projected without interruption thanks to the dual projector system we had installed in the previous season.

We next showed the Italian film INVESTIGATION OF A CITIZEN ABOVE SUSPICION in October, and in December a Czech film, VALERIE AND HER WEEK OF WONDERS. Thus far the season had progressed on a normal course, but it was now, in the middle of winter, that the power crisis struck. Suddenly we were all embroiled in power cuts, four-day weeks, lack of heating, early shut-down of TV and so on. In this climate it was not surprising that the functioning of the Social Club also suffered. The Bush Telegraph ceased publication, cutting off our main means of communication with our members and potential audiences, and - worse - the uncertainty of electricity supplies forced the cancellation of both the January and February 1974 film shows.

Eventually a semblance of normality returned, and the April and May film shows, SHOCK CORRIDOR and THE ROYAL HUNT OF THE SUN took place as arranged. But the power crisis was not without its lasting effects.

It took nearly four years before the Bush Telegraph was re-started. Because paper was short for many months we reduced the size of our programme notes from eight A5 pages to four. For the same reason, and also because we decided that two of the seven shows in the coming season were to be devoted to the films we had had to cancel in the previous season, we discontinued the annual Film Poll in 1974. The programmes that year, and ever since, have been decided by the Film Committee, but they have of course always been open to suggestions and requests from the members.

When in 1971 we lost use of the Lecture Room we had also lost the considerable benefit of having our own projection room. In partial compensation the Company had agreed to pay for a new electrically-operated screen in the Main Hall, and this was finally erected in time for the beginning of the 1974-5 season. The actual installation proved to be a major

operation by the unsung heroes of the Works Engineering Department. First the screen proved too large to go into the lift or up the stairs, and it had to be hauled up the outside of the building on to the balcony and thence into the hall. Then scaffolding was erected at the east end of the hall, and one Saturday morning the screen was manhandled into position by all available personnel.

The advent of the new screen was welcomed with open arms by the members of the film committee, as it marked the end of the hazardous monthly performance of literally building the framework of our previous cinemascope-sized screen which stood on a pair of tripods, and then with the help of willing hands from the audience hoisting them on to tables in order to bring the screen to the correct viewing height. This performance had in itself provided considerable entertainment value to members of the audience who turned up in time to witness it.

The new screen was first used for the opening of the new season in October 1974 when we showed Franco Zeffirelli's version of THE TAMING OF THE SHREW, which was followed by the usual soirée. Since the new screen is perforce situated at the very end of the hall, the picture is a little larger than it was on the previous screen, and consequently it is also somewhat dimmer. This was particularly noticeable on this occasion, since we showed the film in its original Cinemascope format by using an anamorphic lens, which cuts the screen brightness by a factor of at least 2. The result was an image on the screen whose illumination was barely acceptable. The committee decided that something had to be done about this, and quickly since we were due to show another 'scope film in December.

The ideal solution would have been to buy two new projectors, but since this was out of the question on the grounds of cost another way had to be found. The solution we finally hit upon involved replacing the relatively inefficient lamps in the projectors by a newly-available type of quartz-iodine pre-focus lamp running at mains voltage. The conversion involved making adaptors to fit the new lamps into the lamp housings, and some re-wiring since the original lamps ran at 110 volts. The result was very successful, giving an image on the screen some 75% brighter than before, and shedding plenty of light on the escapades of Elliott Gould and Donald Sutherland as two Korean war doctors in Robert Altman's anarchic M.A.S.H (the origin of the highly successful TV series).

Other films shown in this season included the two postponed films, GETTING STRAIGHT and Roman Polanski's send-up of horror films THE DANCE OF THE VAMPIRES, Humphrey Bogart in THE CAINE MUTINY and our first western for many years, THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN. The season ended with a double bill of Ealing Comedies, PASSPORT TO PIMLICO and Alec Guinness as a would-be research chemist in THE MAN IN THE WHITE SUIT, which was at times reminiscent of Wood Lane. This show marked our 21st anniversary, and we also included a film from our very first show in April 1954, FELIX WINS AND LOSES.

Attendances during this season had been abnormally low, ranging from a low point of 17 to 50 for M.A.S.H, and averaging only 29. The main reason for this was that we no longer had the Bush Telegraph to carry our publicity.

Before closing this instalment, we would like to mention an engagement that the Film Section has kept every December for many years now. For as long as anyone can remember Eileen King has organised a Children's Christmas Party every year. Part of the entertainment has been provided by a film show, and this has for a long time been run by the Film Section. Although a considerable variety of films has been shown over the years, we find that Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck have been consistent favourites.

The Wood Lane Christmas Party takes place just before Christmas. Bloomsbury Street have a similar event just after the New Year, and for the last two or three years we have been projecting for their event also.

To all our readers, we wish you a very Merry Christmas, and assure you that we will be back in the New Year with the next instalment.

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# Poets Corner

## IT'S ONLY A GAME

On Tuesday night I rushed aloft for top deck badminton,  
To battle in the annual tournament.  
Up there with blunted weapons armed,  
Where some believed they would be harmed  
As rackets smashed at shuttles with intent.

'Twas just my luck to draw Group One against the mighty 'Macs';  
The Hon. Sec. gave me 'scratch' and shattered dreams.  
He has a wicked sense of fun  
When handicapping everyone,  
But more especially me, or so it seems.

'Tis Wednesday now, suffice to say, I'll try again next year;  
Well, there is no harm in thankful wishing.  
And beware, the year's not ended,  
All my friends with rods extended,  
I'll try and win a trophy, deep sea fishing.

Alan Bangay

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What is another name for an Irish Fly?  
Paddy Longlegs.

# Leadergram

Compiled by Geoff Holder

For any new starters at Wood Lane who may not have met one before, this type of puzzle used to appear in a now long-gone magazine called "THE LEADER" - hence the name. Start by solving the crossword-style clues and entering your answers in the appropriate places in the panel opposite. Then transfer the individual letters as you go to the square below, according to the numbers in each small square. Soon you will find that you can see what the other letters in an incomplete word below must be, in which case the letters may be transferred back to the panel, helping to solve further clues, rather like the "across" and "down" in an ordinary crossword.

When complete, the first column of letters in the panel will form the name of an author and the title of one of his works, while the square below will contain a passage from that work. (No punctuation, the words being separated by black squares only, some words running from one line to the next).

1	J	N	A		4	N	D	6	E	7	M	H		9	B	10	L	11	X	12	R	13	C		14	U	15	J								
16	E			17	K	18	X	19	F	20	E	21	T	22	U	23	G	24	A		25	X	26	U	27	A		28	G	29	K	30	F			
31	X	32	B		33	E	34	Z	35	Y		36	L	37	M	38	V	39	C	40	Y	41	F	42	Z	43	J		44	P	45	L				
46	M	47	K	48	Q	49	D	50	F	51	X	52	A	53	F	54	G		55	B	56	V	57	J		58	P	59	T	60	R	61	E			
62	W	63	F	64	U		65	N	66	C	67	A		68	Z	69	M	70	J	71	Y	72	B	73	N		74	C	75	U	76	W				
	77	P	78	Q	79	L	80	Z		81	E	82	V	83	S	84	R	85	D	86	C	87	W	88	A		89	U	90	T	91	J				
92	D	93	W	94	M	95	K		96	V	97	N	98	B	99	E	100	Z		101	G	102	J	103	B	104	L	105	Q	106	K	107	N			
108	V	109	R		110	U	111	A	112	P	113	S	114	F	115	J	116	Z	117	D		118	M	119	T		120	D	121	P	122	M				
123	K		124	Q	125	G	126	C	127	U	128	B	129	Y	130	L	131	T		132	S	133	M	134	C		135	M	136	U						
137	C	138	X	139	R	140	H	141	L	142	A	143	D	144	N		145	Z	146	B		147	S	148	H	149	L	150	A	151	D	152	F			
	153	A	154	C	155	V	156	B	157	K		158	F	159	P	160	M	161	X	162	S	163	E		164	K	165	R	166	B	167	C				
168	Q	169	F	170	W	171	H	172	Y	173	D	174	C		175	G	176	A	177	Z	178	D	179	W	180	F	181	M	182	C		183	U			
184	W	185	J	186	Q		187	A	188	Q	189	N	190	P		191	Q	192	X	193	Y		194	B	195	F	196	C	197	J	198	S				
199	Y	200	Q	201	A	202	N	203	W	204	G	205	Z		206	A	207	Q	208	H	209	F	210	K	211	Y		212	Y	213	Z					
214	R	215	T	216	N	217	B	218	K	219	S	220	V	221	J		222	P	223	E	224	J	225	U	226	C		227	W	228	S	229	Q			
	230	R	231	D	232	Q	233	H	234	Q	235	T	236	C		237	S	238	L	239	Q	240	P		241	V	242	F	243	Y	244	T				
245	S	246	R	247	D	248	Q	249	H		250	N	251	Q	252	K	253	L	254	X	255	S		256	E	257	Y	258	J	259	W	260	U			
261	F	262	C																																	

A	204	3	150	176	142	111	24	88	47	51	153	27			
B	98	9	55	194	166	32	217	156	103						
C	242	167	136	19	39	134	226	154	256	196	86	137	74	66	182
D	120	92	231	129	49	5	143	173	85	179	247	151	72	117	
E	146	30	16	20	50	81	61	99	33	6	187	256	228	163	
F	242	180	241	114	209	169	53	152	158	196	41	63	19		
G	175	23	28	204	125	174	54	101							
H	148	208	233	8	140	249									
J	102	115	1	15	185	91	224	221	70	43	57	197	258		
K	252	47	106	144	17	95	28	171	218	210	123				
L	141	46	253	36	104	79	10	130	238	169					
M	94	122	160	37	46	118	43	183	135	7	181				
N	4	2	202	250	216	107	97	189	65	144	73				
P	77	189	58	240	190	222	112	121	44						
Q	191	48	234	78	186	229	239	182	248	124	200	168	105	251	207
R	201	145	84	214	230	60	12	109	244	139					
S	237	219	228	162	132	147	113	255	245	83	198				
T	21	218	235	244	90	119	59	151							
U	127	183	136	260	110	44	26	235	89	22	75	14			
V	108	82	241	220	96	38	56	155	71	232					
W	184	259	87	203	227	93	62	179	170	76					
X	11	51	157	139	192	31	254	25	18	161					
Y	40	193	129	212	172	211	243	199	257	25					
Z	116	34	213	42	80	177	145	68	100	205					

For Mary, December 25th? (8,4)

Insubstantial substance of 2? (9)

Line of popular song - to the tune "Entry of the Gladiators" of course! (4, 2, 3, 6)

I'm her mad sex-pot, in a figure of speech! (5, 9)

Slit the envelope, and find you're welcome any time. (4, 10)

Child's play in a stable environment. (8, 5)

Act about strategy, and spread out the troops. (8)

Finely ground, yet may have rough edges. (6)

In mid-ocean, (especially when the waves are 60 ft. or more?) (2, 3, 4, 4)

Christmas dinner gobbler. (5, 6)

Hint - don't throw it into the wind! (7, 3)

Unquestionably built by Dina. (11)

Has had seven marks of penance. (6, 5)

Soft softly softly we hear them eaten with relish up North. (5, 4)

In the words of a certain song, where to be "lookin' fer Henry Lee". (6, 3, 6)

Many such houses would confuse the postman! (10)

I renew calls for underground storage places. (4, 7)

Last German counter-offensive of World War II ends near here. (8)

When what goes up must traditionally come down! (7, 5)

What one should NOT do, while watching one's flock by night! (5, 5)

Seed-husk for a friend of Mowgli? What an outcry! (10)

Disturbed in bed, irate is what the wife is likely to be, if you come home thus from the office party! (10)

Second in the queue - as is Prince Charles? (4, 2, 4)

Chilling tale, not necessarily credited to another. (5, 5)

Send your completed puzzle to reach Geoff Holder (Polymers Dept.) not later than Monday January 8th 1979, when those received by that date will be put in a hat, and the sender of the first one drawn will receive a prize of £2.

A man was taken to court for throwing peroxide over the vicar. He was charged with bleach of the priest.



# Executive Council

A long meeting was held on the 9th October with Mr J. Banks in the chair. Several matters were raised from the minutes of previous meetings and these are elucidated below:

(i) An estimate for a new court, including fitting, has been obtained (approximately £1500). Mr Lam is to be contacted so that this expenditure can be included in BREL's budget for next year.

(ii) A valuation has been received for the sale of the piano which resides on the 5th Floor of McFadzean. The money eventually raised from this sale is to be used for some major item of plant for the club.

(iii) A Christmas Disco is to be held following the success of the previous one. It is hoped that some of the profit from that event will be used on refreshments and/or a better mobile disco for the Christmas Disco.

(iv) A long discussion was held re. the club's insurance responsibilities. It appears that any third party is covered by the Company's 'blanket policy' but that BICC personnel are not covered for Social Club activities. The Club rules have been found to contain some ambiguity and therefore this matter is to be rectified as a matter of urgency.

(v) The Club television set is to be replaced due to unreliable performance (it is now 10 years old) by a new 22" colour set which, with the discount offered by the rental firm, will not be much more expensive than the current one. (This replacement has in fact taken place).

(vi) The snooker table is to be re-covered even though this will mean that the section's budget will be exceeded. It was agreed that this was acceptable as the table is widely used. (Again this has been carried out).

(vii) A request for the use of club equipment by other social club sections was put forward with special reference to the use of the balloon van by the Sea Angling section. In theory, it was felt that there was no real problem, but in practice it was considered that the use of the van by more than one section was not a good idea, as the van had been bought specifically for use of the balloon section and was to be maintained by that section. It was decided that the van could be used only on occasions of special merit. With reference to the balloon some club members felt that the arrangements regarding the balloon crewing left much to be desired and a meeting between these people and the Balloon Section is to be arranged.

(viii) Financially, the Club is in a relatively sound condition and no dramatic changes are anticipated between now and the end of the year.

(ix) Under any other business two points were raised. These were:-

(a) The resurrection of the Football section by Roger Roberts. Some money was made available for the running of this venture and, if, the section proved successful then a further review of the situation would be made.

(b) With regards to any Section Secretary resigning his post, the Social Club Secretary must be informed as to the extent of existing club equipment and as to its whereabouts. Non-compliance with this stipulation could result in equipment becoming 'lost'.

The meeting closed at 6.45 pm with the date for the next meeting being fixed for early January 1979.

# Technical Society

The latest in the series of Technical Society lectures was held on the 23rd November and titled A Perspective on Energy. The speakers were Phillip Dey, head of transmission and energy, and Russell Pride. Phillip commented that the subject of energy was obviously very diverse and because of time limitation, for the purpose of this lecture, he intended to concentrate on the various aspects investigated at Wood Lane during the last two years. He started however by giving general background information on the world wide energy situation and how this affected both the UK and particularly BICC.

Essentially interest in this field started, in the BICC group, during 1973 when a review of energy/power technology was included in the management plan. This resulted in several meetings, to formulate the areas of interest, and various reports on the subject. The energy department was then set up in 1975 under the overall control of John Endacott. At present the department employs eight staff investigating projects involved with conservation and efficient utilisation of energy, and keeping a watching brief on the energy scene.

Predictions based on the period from 1961 indicate that the world energy requirement will continue to increase by about 4.5% per year with oil continuing to be a major source of energy and nuclear power expanding at a slower rate than might be expected. Because of the difficulties involved in making predictions as to how long a particular reserve may last the values obtained can only be used as a guide but at present it is estimated that the oil will last 36 years, gas 45 years and coal several hundreds of years. The estimated life of each of these may in time be extended by an extraction process that has an efficiency greater than the 50% generally obtained. At present the UK is self sufficient in natural gas and about 30% in petroleum but this latter value should increase significantly. However assuming a 3% energy growth in the UK it is predicted that there will be a deficiency in conventional energy resources by the year 2000. The dependance of our economy on energy was illustrated by reference to the UK expenditure during 1977 which showed that the UK fuel imports exceeded exports by about £3,000 M. With the future short fall in energy supply world wide interest has concentrated on:-

- (1) Conservation i.e. insulation of buildings, energy management.
- (2) Development of alternative supplies.
- (3) More efficient use of primary fuels.
- (4) Long and short term energy storage.

Phillip then turned his attention to work at Wood Lane which falls broadly into categories (1) and (2) given previously and described work in the field of solar energy. He described a solar collector designed by his department which was capable of producing high temperatures in excess of 100°C during the

summer period and 65°C during the autumn months. While computer simulation had indicated that the appropriate size solar collector coupled to the optimum storage tank could make a building self sufficient the initial outlay would be very high and Phillip did not consider it worthwhile for most applications in the UK. Several other areas of interest were then mentioned including heat pumps and an office heating and ventilation system which utilised a thermal wheel.

At this point Phillip Dey introduced Russell Pride who concentrated on energy monitoring. Russell described a series of measurements involving the McFadzean building which were aimed at obtaining information on the utilisation of the energy. Monitoring is by means of various sensors connected back to a mini computer which would ultimately, it is hoped, control the energy flow. While the initial outlay on an energy monitoring system would be high it was stressed that a 1% saving at a typical BICC factory would cover the cost of the computer. On a more light hearted note Russell informed us that while he had been describing the visual display unit, coupled to the computer, 7p. worth of electricity had been used in McFadzean.

At this point John Heggie thanked the speakers and closed the lecture.

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# UFOS

It is 10 years since the BT published a series of articles on the subject of UFO's which created a fair amount of discussion at the time. Currently the subject is very topical again both in reported sightings and as a theme for a major feature film. We thank Mike Fox for the following item and invite the BT's original authors (and any others) to comment.

A paper with the title "Insects as Unidentified Flying Objects" appeared in Applied Optics for 1st November. The authors, P.S. Callahan and R.W. Mankin, are with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Insect Attractants, Behaviour and Basic Biology Research Laboratory.

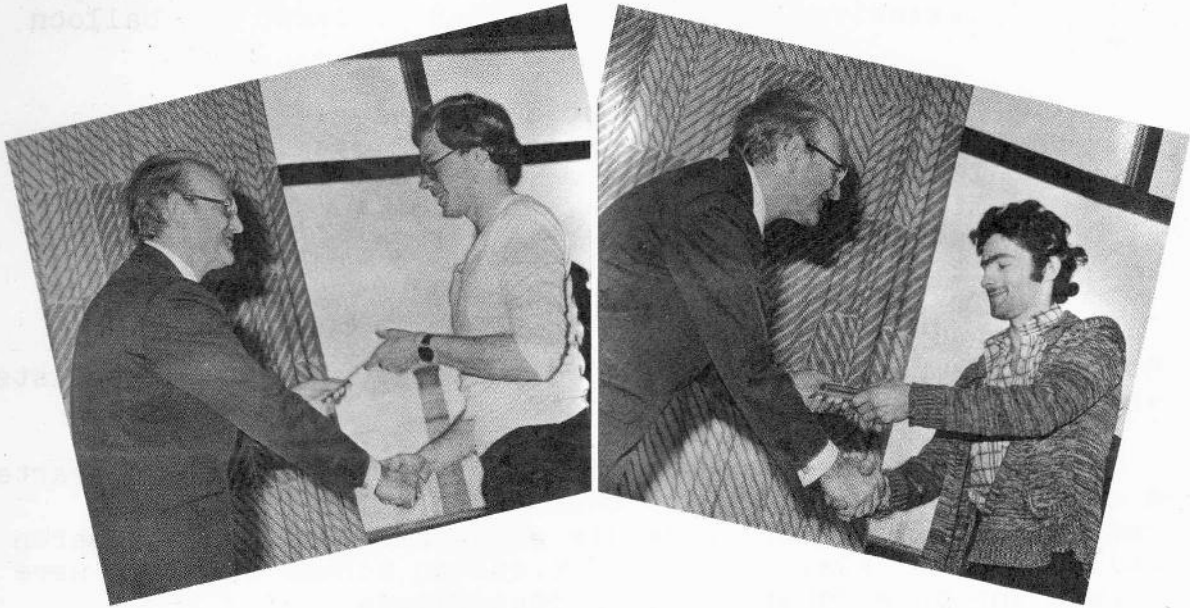
Various species of insect, subjected to strong electric fields, showed coloured corona discharges. The authors show that some UFO's behave remarkably like swarms of insects, and expect that they would light up in the vicinity of thunderclouds. In particular, it is suggested that a series of UFO displays in Utah may be due to migrations of the spruce budworm (a moth which infests conifers) which is known to be drawn in great numbers into the updraft of a prefrontal thunderstorm.

The authors suggest that reports of nocturnal UFO's could be used to track these damaging insects. I suppose they have to justify their research somehow.

# Prize Giving

Our photographs show two of this year's successful students, Richard McHale (Polymers) and Les Greenwood (Works Engineering), receiving their prizes from Mr Banks.

Any student who would like a copy of his presentation photograph should contact Bob Maidlow in the studio within the next month.



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## Alcohol

I am pleased to report a considerable response to my note in last month's BT suggesting the formation of a wine and beer-making group at Wood Lane. The interests of those who have contacted me are various (wine and beer from kits, from basic ingredients, fruit wines, flower wines etc.) which should provide the basis for a group in which all members may gain the knowledge to improve or even extend their wine and beer-making activities. By the time this note is published I hope to have arranged an inaugural meeting, which I will report on next month.

P.W.W.

# Section Reports

## Gabrielle - Hot Air Balloon - Recap 1978

Maybe I am prejudiced and everyone knows that I am full of hot air but I do believe that after our first season with Gabrielle ... we have lift off.

It all began in January when Tom Bonikowski and myself started our campaign and Mr Banks accepted our proposal for a hot air balloon. I then spent the next 3 months talking to you in the B.T. about ballooning. Remember the first January article plagiarised from Anthony Smith of Jambo gas balloon fame.

"It is destiny without destination  
It is pointlessness which gives great purpose  
It is enchanting  
It is funny  
It is idiotic  
It is supreme  
It cannot last yet endures"

Now in December there are a goodly number of BREL Balloonists who would second these sentiments.

Gabrielle was ordered in February; in March we started a series of teach-ins which culminated in April with a resoundingly successful lecture given by Tom Sage of Cameron Balloons Ltd. Also in April the colour scheme and logo were agreed and manufacture could proceed apace.

Came the big day at the end of May when delivery of Gabrielle was made, unfortunately delivery was made in the middle of a thunderstorm and no maiden flight was possible. Equally unfortunately this seemed to set the weather pattern for the rest of the year, it has not been the best of years for balloonists.

And so the maiden flight was delayed until 19th June 1978 and had to coincide with our first official function. That was the very successful flight over Nottingham University with a film cameraman on board. And the crew, thanks to the teach-ins, were able to perform very satisfactorily then and thereafter, ultimately helping Gabrielle and Chris Kirby to 3rd place in the National Balloon Championships in September.

We did have our misfortunes including that which happened to Nick Thearle. When Nick broke his leg the progress of our first Pilot under training (PUT) was sadly interfered with and we had to appoint a new PUT, Joe Lou. However, overall a very successful first year of Ballooning.

Forty flights were made in all, including nine on tether, and fifteen members of the A&S club, excluding the pilot and PUT's, share a total of thirty flights.

Ladies first - they are:-

Yvonne Ferrier	Dave Green
Sandra McCormick	Geoff Holder
Annette Mattock	David Goff
Barbara Groombridge	Jonathan Goff
Caroline Goff	Stuart Castle

Roger Millward  
Dave Millward  
Denis Groombridge  
Graham Taylor  
Derek Edwards

For next year, Ray Bailey has agreed to act as a deputy pilot, beginning with the "ICICLE BALLOON MEET", January 5th, 6th and 7th, at Newbury. This is a regular "fun" meet open to all-last year there were around eighty balloons present! So well worth coming to see.

### MUSIC AND THEATRE SECTION

The principle function of this Section in recent years has been the organisation of party visits to performances of opera, ballet and theatre. A number of theatres and opera houses in London offer reduced price tickets to organisations such as our Social Club if these are purchased in advance in blocks, usually of a minimum of 20 seats. In the past the Section has made many visits to the English National Opera at the Coliseum and occasional trips to Covent Garden and Sadlers Wells. In recent months two visits have been organised to the National Theatre; the first, to see The Cherry Orchard was much enjoyed by those who came but the second, to a performance of The Double Dealer was something of an anti-climax as the performance was cancelled 30 minutes before curtain up due to a lightning strike by the scene shifters.

Some of our regular customers have been asking why there have not been any parties organised to the ENO of late. Well, the answer is that prices of entertainment in London have risen dramatically in recent years and this has particularly applied to the ENO bargain offers, to the extent that many of them no longer appear attractive enough to justify the gamble of purchasing a block of 20 seats that might prove difficult for the party organiser to sell. Their block booking price for the more popular operas is now £3.90 which is probably more than all but the most ardent enthusiasts are willing to spend. At Covent Garden the block booking prices for opera vary between £6 to £8 and for ballet between £4 - £5 for evening performances.

However the National Theatre often offer blocks of seats at £2 each and we also get the occasional bargain from Sadlers Wells so if you are interested in opera, ballet or theatre and are not already on my mailing list, do get in touch; these offers are often made at short notice so it is not usually possible to publicise them in the Bush Telegraph.

The Section is also a member of the Glyndebourne Festival Society which gives us priority booking facilities for the Glyndebourne season; everyone on the Section mailing list will be receiving details soon after Christmas.

## BADMINTON SECTION

### MATCHES

Three matches have been played in the last 2 months. Two mixed doubles matches ended in defeats for Wood Lane but a victory was recorded in the mens doubles match against St. Albans. This match saw the return of two stalwarts from the past - Mike Squelch and Keith Elder. A somewhat easy win was marred by injury to one of our opponents, Denis Groombridge having to play with three different partners, including Joe Lou with whom he recorded our 'visitors' only win of the night.

A visit to Swiss Cottage to play Marks and Spencers ended in a 6-3 defeat, Vic Banks and Sandra McCormick winning two but failing against a rather strong pair, the female part of which had represented Guernsey in the Commonwealth Games or something! Some friendly!

In the mixed doubles match against St. Albans, the first two rubbers went to 3 games and took nearly two hours to complete. Both were narrowly lost and virtually decided the outcome of the match, which was lost 6-3, Vic and Sandra recording two wins with Dave Goff and Glenys Derrick winning one.

The results to date are given below, together with a number of future fixtures:-

(a) Mixed			(b) Mens				
23.10.78	Marks & Spencer	Away	3-6	8.11.78	St. Albans	Home	8-1
22.11.78	St. Albans	Away	3-6	11.12.78	St. Pauls	Home	
8. 1.79	St. Pauls	Home		24. 1.79	St. Albans	Away	
21. 2.79	St. Albans	Home		7. 3.79	St. Pauls	Away	
4. 4.79	St. Pauls	Away					



Sandra Claus

"..... and what are you  
doing for Christmas ? "



## WINTER 1978 AMERICAN HANDICAP TOURNAMENT

Apologies to all for the rather hurried arrangements!  
Twenty-four entries were attracted and the draw has been made:-

### Group 1 : Tuesday 5th December

Richard McHale & Sandra McCormick	-2
Dennis Cooper & Chris Butlin	-4
Graham Taylor & Dave Green	+4
Alan Bangay & Eleanor Tarbox	Scr

### Group 2 : Thursday 7th December

Denis Groombridge & John Taylor	-4
Mayur Patel & John Childs	-4
Vic Banks & Guy Secrett	-3
Bruce Keen & Glenys Derrick	-5

### Group 3 : Tuesday 12th December

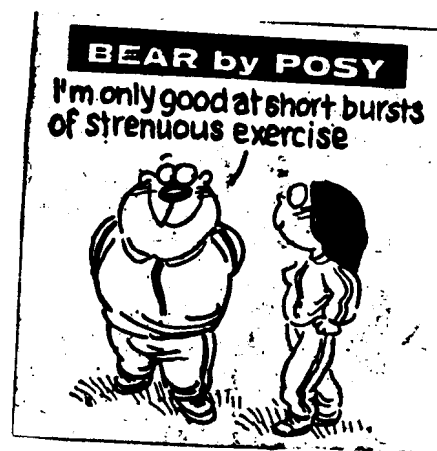
Joe Lou & Ron Arekion	+4
Dave Goff & Pete Walters	+8
Keith Elder & Les Miles	+2
Mike Squelch & Eileen King	-6

Two games to 15 points (no setting) are to be played against each pair in the group. The winners of each group and highest second will form a Final Group which will be played in early January.

May the best pair win, despite the 'fiddled' handicapping!

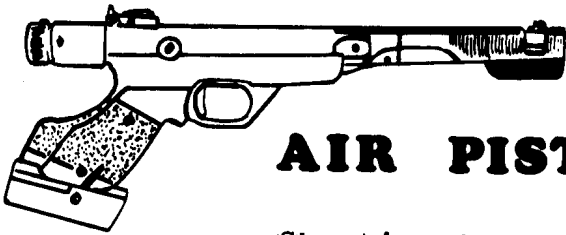
### Club Evenings

Club evenings are held every Tuesday and Thursday or, should I say, the Main Hall is available every Tuesday and Thursday. Tuesdays are well attended but plenty of opportunity is available for people to play on Thursdays, even if your inclinations may be somewhat akin to our 'Bruin' below!



Vic Banks





# AIR PISTOL SHOOTING



Member of

Shooting Averages

at 30/11/78

Pos.	Name	Average	Pos.	Name	Average
1	Ian Fennemore	45.5	7	Pete Walters	32.2
2	Joe Lou	44.0	8	Tom Dore	27.5
3	Denis Groombridge	42.3	9=	John Graves	24.0
4	Stefan Verne	41.5	9=	Yvonne Ferrier	24.0
5	Bob Maidlow	37.6	10	Janet Walters	18.5
6	Pat Donovan	32.3			

It is pleasing to note the reappearance of two names from the "past" in this months averages, Ian Fennemore and Yvonne Ferrier. The accuracy of Ian's shooting appears to be unimpaired by his absence from our Thursday evening sessions, whilst Yvonne has improved on her previous scores. A special welcome is due to John Graves, who is not only our newest recruit but who has agreed to serve on the committee (now a triumvirate) to help ensure the smooth operation of our shooting evenings.

Our first year's activities were rounded off on November 30th by an AGM, preceded by a handicap competition, the winner receiving a bottle of wine. Following on her success in our previous, and more complicated, handicap competition Janet Walters took this prize as well. Eleven members of the section attended the AGM, which combined presentation of prizes to Joe Lou (NARPA national championship), Denis Groombridge and Janet Walters (internal handicap competition), survey of the year's events and possible plans for the future. The main discussion of the evening centred around the question of individual standards, their improvement and problems of devising competitions in which all members of the section could take part with a realistic chance of success. In addition a number of interesting suggestions for extending the range of our activities were discussed.

## The Film Column

### PUDDLES, DEVILS AND OTHER ENTERTAINMENTS

Our next film show on Wednesday 17th January is a double bill. I'M JUMPING OVER PUDDLES AGAIN is a sensitive story of a boy recovering from polio who teaches himself to ride. BEAT THE DEVIL is an adventure film directed by John Huston, starring the unlikely combination of Humphrey Bogart and Robert Morley. While you are entering this in your new diary, also make a note of the rest of our season : LAW AND DISORDER on 14th February and ENGLAND MADE ME on 14th March.

"A LOVELY PASTEL COLOURED HALL"

The following appeared in "Film", magazine of the British Federation of Film Societies:

**Societies in Commuterland + BICC**

It has been a busy month rushing about to see some of the societies on my new doorstep. Running a society in London presents problems. How do you adapt to commuter timetabling? One answer is to screen immediately after work on the premises providing snacks if required. BICC do this in a lovely pastel coloured hall with projectors adapted by Tom Ruben to throw an excellent picture. Given the enthu-

siasm there it is not too surprising to find them starting their silver jubilee season — not many can match that record. They have a neat alternative to the bulky projection box which takes up valuable space. A curtain track on the ceiling outlines the area of the "box". Thick, heavy curtains are stored in a slim box against the rear wall and simply run round the track before the performance. Two holes let the picture out but the material traps most of the motor noise.

NATIONAL FILM THEATRE

Ernst Lubitsch, the German and Hollywood director of such films as TROUBLE IN PARADISE, NINOTCHKA and HEAVEN CAN WAIT, is this month's NFT choice. There is also Robert Stevenson, who has been directing films in this country from 1936 to the present day, and a series of films putting the spotlight on a number of Hollywood composers.

CHRISTMAS ON TV

As every year, the TV networks are competing with each other to put on the best films. We give a partial listing below:

Day	BBC-1	BBC-2	ITV
Fri 22	The Thomas Crown Affair	The Nun's Story	
Sat 23	Tora Tora Tora	Shall we dance, (first in a series of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers films)	
Christmas Eve	El Cid Chisum	Custer of the West Follow the Fleet (Fred/Ginger)	The Bible - in the beginning Godspell Charade
Christmas Day	The Sound of Music True Grit - Further Adventures Clambake (Elvis)	Swingtime (F/G)	Diamonds are Forever Battle of the Planet of the Apes
Boxing Day	The French Connection The Boatniks	Carefree (F/G) Hatari!	The Day of the Jackal
Wed 27	Carry on Girls The Wizard of Oz	Top Hat ( )	Charlie Varrick

## SEA ANGLING SECTION

1978 has been the sea angling section's most active and successful season. The weather has been fairly kind allowing 8 outings out of 11 to take place so far, and with the last trip (18th December, Littlehampton) still outstanding, competition for the various prizes is still keen.

The latest positions in the various competitions are as follows:-

The Golden Pollock, awarded to the person with the highest aggregate weight of fish from any four trips. The leading contenders this year are:-

Gene Nalon	76 $\frac{3}{4}$	lbs
Derek Glockner	67	lbs
Alan Bangay	63 $\frac{1}{4}$	lbs
Chris Buchan	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs
Graham Taylor	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs

Specimen Fish, calculated as a percentage of the weight required for an ABU Gold Award:-

Andy Platt	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	lb	Black Bream	125%
Graham Taylor	3	lb	Black Bream	100%
Bob Maidlow	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	lb	Small Eyed Ray	86%

Specious Award, for the highest number of species landed:-

Gene Nalon	11
Graham Taylor	11
Bob Maidlow	10
Alan Bangay	9
Chris Buchan	9
Derek Glockner	9

In total 18 species have been landed so far.

### Heaviest Fish

Derek Glockner	34	lb	Conger Eel
Gene Nalon	20	lb	Conger Eel
Alan Bangay	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	lb	Tope
Graham Taylor	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	lb	Spurdog

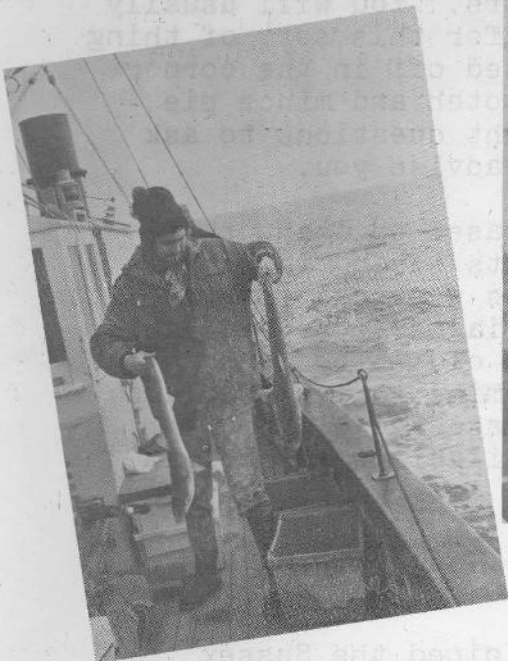
The accompanying photographs (courtesy of Alan Bangay) show some of the highlights of 1978, and if anyone fancies joining the rogues gallery next year they can be sure of a warm welcome.

Interested? Further details from Andy Platt 356

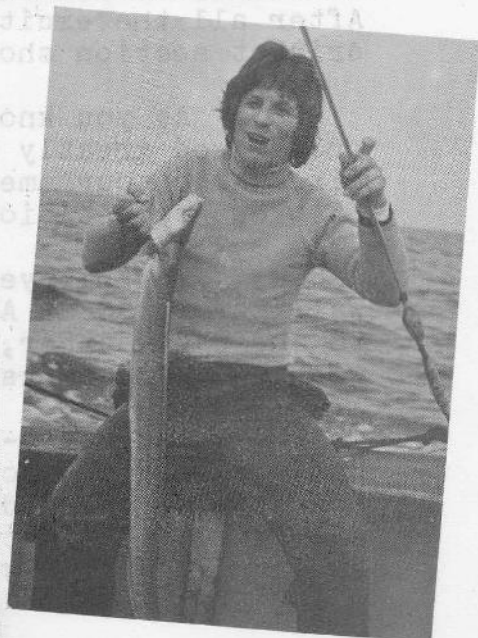
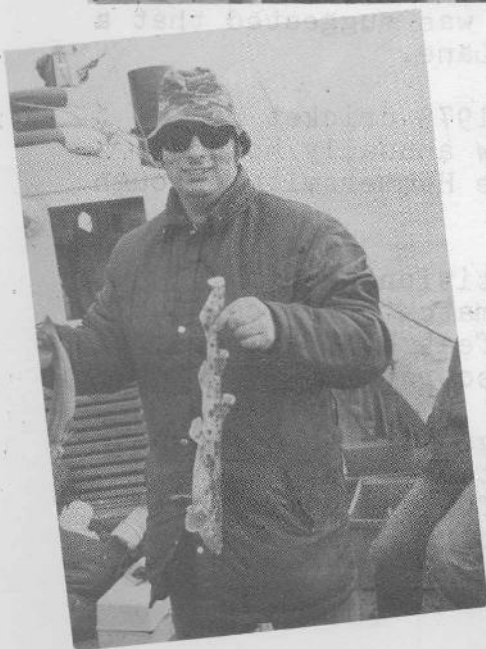
P.S. First trip of the 1979 season will be on Tuesday 23rd January on board "Quickfire" from Brighton Marina.

GENERAL REPORT

Christmas is a good time to start thinking about your family history. It's the time when grandpa and Nabel come to stay and you can be sure that the time will be desperate for you. You will usually start asking questions about the time you spent on the boat.



Mike



## GENEALOGY SECTION

Christmas is a good time to start thinking about your family history. It's the time when great-aunt Mabel comes to stay and you can be sure that when Boxing Day arrives everyone will be desperate for something to do, so that's the time to start asking questions about your ancestors. You will usually find that women have a far better memory for this sort of thing than men, so if great-uncle Fred has dozed off in the corner under the influence of his seventeenth scotch and mince pie don't worry. If you want to know the right questions to ask the genealogy section will be pleased to advise you.

Our existing members will be pleased to learn that the Public Records (Amendment) Bill had its second reading in the House of Lords on 23rd November. This provides for the civil registers of births deaths and marriages to be available as public records when they are 100 years old. The Lord Chancellor said that the financial and administrative problems connected with this exercise were being assessed on the assumption that such records would be available on microfilm at the beginning of 1981.

Mike Hagger (340)

p.s. Molly Nalon tells me that she has joined the Sussex Family History Group. Any member with interests in that part of the world should contact Molly (384).

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## CRICKET SECTION

For the past few years many people from various Departments within Wood Lane have enjoyed playing the game of cricket. The cricket section really got started after the very successful World Cup cricket series held in England in 1975. After all the excitement of that series it was suggested that a cricket section should be formed at Wood Lane.

As you know from that summer of 1975 cricket has progressed greatly at Wood Lane and we now annually hold a six-a-side tournament and also play in the Hammersmith borough 15 overs competition.

In this year's Hammersmith competition we met Wallingford CC at Alperton. Our lack of match practice, due to the bad weather, contributed to our defeat by 7 wickets, with only Vic Banks making a respectable score.

The six-a-side tournament was organised on a group basis this year, so everybody had at least 3 games. The competition changed to a knockout system for the semi-finals and final, with Metallurgy eventually beating Polymers by 10 runs in a high scoring game.

Looking forward to next year I hope that, with a bit more practice, a good combined cricket XI from Wood Lane Departments could be formed to play outside firms in an increased number of matches.

T.A.C. Alleyne

"SPOT WHITE" BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT

At the time of writing, (5th December) the Billiards Tournament has at last reached the Final stage. The results of the quarter-finals (best of three games) were as follows:

	Tony Jordan beat George Price	2-0
	Geoff Holder beat Denis Groombridge	2-0
	Keith Elder beat Terry Alleyne	2-0
and	Pete Mercer beat Clive Carroll	2-1

In the semis, (also best of three) Tony Jordan gave Geoff Holder a fright in the first game by leading virtually all the way up to a score of 80-odd, but then Geoff found a decent break to take him past and up to the 100 mark. The second game started the same way, but then Tony got stuck about half way and never got back into the game.

The second semi-final produced a real upset to the form book. Snooker champion Keith Elder won the first game fairly easily, but Pete Mercer must have put in some secret practice somewhere, before the second game, several lunch-hours later. Anyway, he so demoralised Keith that the third and deciding game was almost a rout. With Keith making all sorts of mistakes, Pete played accurate and enterprising shots and built up his score steadily to the 90 mark, to Keith's 30-odd. A rally by Keith came far too late, and Pete ran out a comfortable winner by 100-71.

The best-of-five final will be taking place over the next week or two, hopefully in time to start the 1979 Snooker Tournament early in January. With this mind, an entry form is given below:

---

To G.F. Holder, Polymers Department

Please enter my name for the 1979 Snooker Tournament.

Name ..... Dept. ....  
Tel. ....

(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

## BRIDGE SECTION

The season's programme is now well on the way with a team playing in the second divisions of both the Hammersmith and District, and London Business House Leagues.

In the Hammersmith League, despite having lost three of the six matches played, we have a well above average number of Victory Points.

The season started with a good 10-0 win against Wimpeys, but this was followed by defeats of 4-6 to N.T.G. 'C', and 3-7 to Heathfield. The defeat by N.T.G. was soon avenged, when we defeated N.T.G. 'C' and N.T.G. 'B' by 9-1 and 10-0 respectively. The other match resulted in a 3-7 defeat by Barons Keep.

So far only two matches have been played in the LBH League. These resulted in a win against Lyons and defeat by I.B.M.

Results to date:-

### Hammersmith League

	IMPs		Victory Points	
	For	Against	For	Against
Wimpey 'B'	115	11	10	0
NTG 'C'	42	58	4	6
Heathfield	37	56	3	7
NTG 'C'	89	46	9	1
NTG 'B'	74	13	10	0
Barons Keep	22	44	3	7

### L.B.H. League

	IMPs		Victory Points	
	For	Against	For	Against
Lyons	77	36	8	2
IBM	26	75	1	9

Roy Fraser

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## MODEL RAILWAY SECTION

If you're interested in railways (model or full-size) and wish to keep up to date you should join our magazine circulation list. Titles covered are Model Railways, Model Railway Constructor, Railway Modeller, Railway World, and Railway Magazine. Details from Mike Hagger (340).

## TENNIS SECTION

Balls in court! Yes that is essentially what the game of tennis is all about. But alas not many balls were hit on the tennis courts of Wormholt Park this year. The reason for this was that the weather between June and July was the worst for years, with heavy downpours and strong winds. But also there was a decline in the number of social club members who wanted to play tennis.

Anyway, hopefully, the section will continue to play tennis next year.

T.A.C. Alleyne

# SLIMMING — A CHALLENGE!

To the newly formed Slimming Club and others. Do you seriously want to be slim and fit? YES? Then why not come jogging with us one lunchtime and watch those calories go up in smoke (or at least a cloud of dust). We are the three athletic young chaps who have been frequently spotted running along Wood Lane.

Is there an easier way you ask? YES! If you don't fancy jogging, here are a few alternative ways to work off the Christmas pud:

- 1) Don't eat.
- 2) If you live more than 5 miles away, run to work. If you live closer, take a round about route.
- 3) Do not use the lifts, climb up the side of the building on a rope.
- 4) Run for buses that you don't want to catch.
- 5) If you have a craving for sweets, eat Gobstoppers.

Signed The R + P Runners

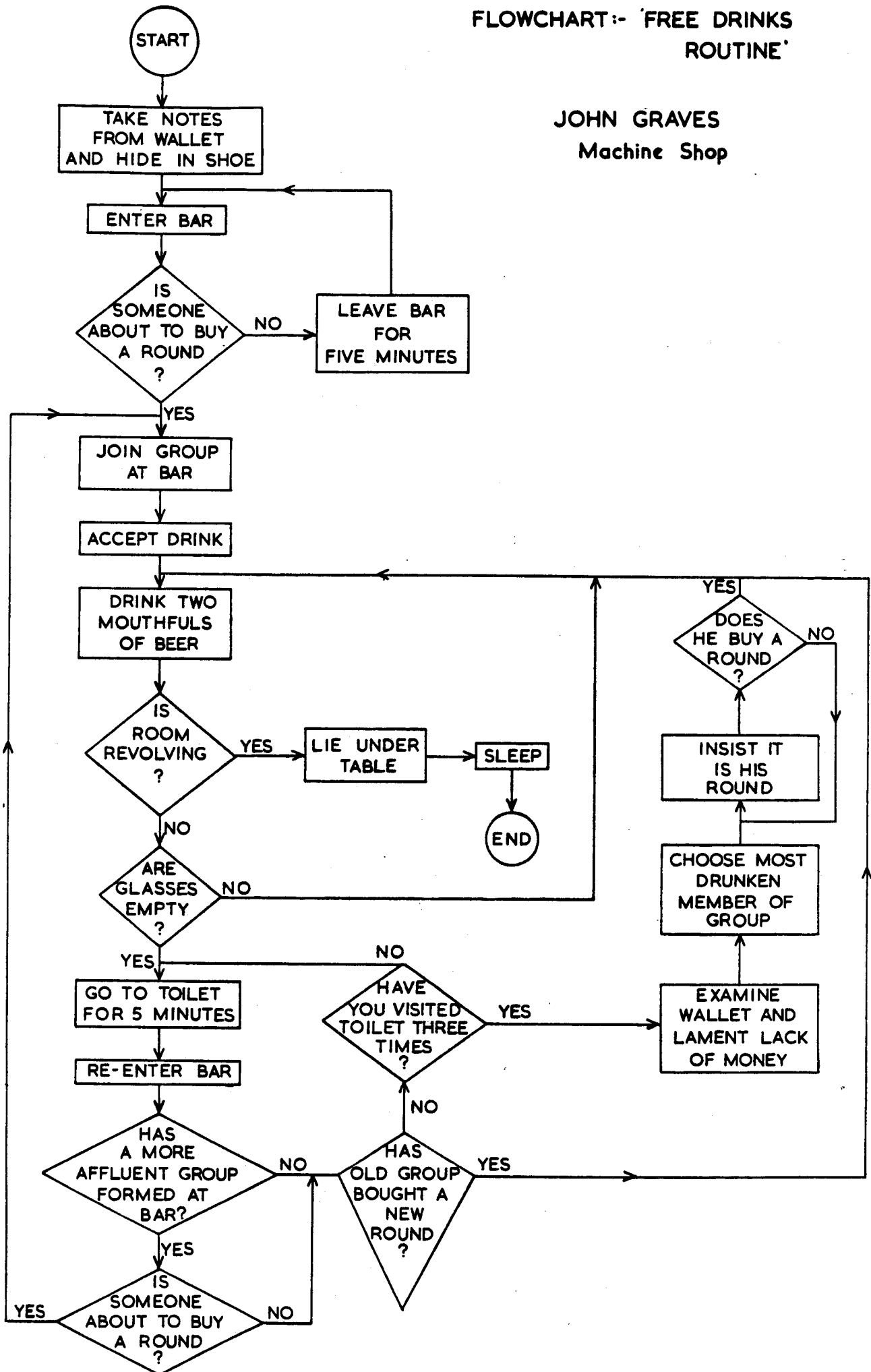
GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING Eating may seriously damage your chances.
--

P.S. Not this week.



FLOWCHART:- 'FREE DRINKS ROUTINE'

JOHN GRAVES  
Machine Shop



# The Way To Work(Or Not)

"3 only" he said, with a resigned air of one who knew what kind of a day was in store.

We had already stamped our feet for 20 minutes and there wasn't even a glimmer of light in the East, let alone the watery December sun. The irregular verb "to commute" was being conjugated yet again.

"BRITISH HI-SPEED SOUTHERN REGION REGRETS THAT DUE TO A HANDFUL OF ASLEF BULLIES YOU HAD ALL BETTER CATCH A BUS ..... (IF YOU CAN FIND ONE)".

We had, and secretly we glowed with selfish satisfaction at the thought of the 15 or so other unfortunates who had been left to stamp for another 20 minutes. Left, one might add, without The Times, without the warming, if acerbic, words of Bernard Levin, or a letter from the rector of Lower Cholmonderly suggesting that the first cuckoo was really Ray Buckton in disguise. We paid-as-we-entered - and stood.

Slowly, in short staccato bursts, we inched forward. The surrounding motorists did the same, they with their individual sense of frustration, we with our collective equivalent.

"Hitler made the trains run" said a thin-faced man in an effeminate fur coat and hat with fur-topped boots to match, "or was it Mussolini - or was it just to run on time when they did run .....", and he drifted away to resume rubbing the window with his furry arm to reveal the world outside.

Out of the gloom loomed the Odeon, where the latest sensational film "Nothing like Emmanuelle" was now in its third record-breaking day. An enormous woman was already sweeping away the detritus of the second day's lusting and leering. In her youth perhaps she dreamed of being a second Greta Garbo. Now she was content to gather up what Colonel Sanders had cast aside.

The dawn was dawning and the bus was moving faster now. Four stops were passed as the driver sped along with an imperious wave of the hand to the long-suffering, would-be passengers. Over the bridge and into the High Street where England's new nation of curry-coloured shopkeepers were already opening their doors, and wondering how the natives had come to the conclusion that striking was more profitable than working 16 hours a day, 7 days a week - especially as they were the same people who wanted services available at all times of the day and night.

The destination was closer now. The driver skilfully avoided another stop, where two of his colleagues were already fighting off the mobs, thrust himself in front of a customised Mini with twin exhausts, tinted windows and a reclining, if somewhat cramped, Aphrodite painted on the front wing, and deposited me in one piece within walking distance of work.

I burst into the lab, flung my briefcase into the air and shouted "Eleven minutes late, bloody good under the circumstances". Alas there was no Joan Greengross to comfort me, just the thought of doing it again in 8 hours time.

Someone once wrote that a commuter is,

"A man who shaves  
To take a train,  
And then rides home  
To shave again".

Me thinks chance would be a fine thing.

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## Missing Letter

All the "groups" in the following list are words from which one letter is missing, but that letter is represented at least twice, and often three or more times. For example,

OICE plus 2 'F's becomes OFFICE  
FFRVSC plus 4 'E's becomes EFFERVESCE

Add the appropriate letter to each of the "groups" below to discover the words. There are 26 altogether, which gives you a good clue. No prizes, strictly for amusement, answers on page -47-

- |           |             |               |
|-----------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. ASIS   | 10. ICED    | 19. SBDE      |
| 2. UY     | 11. REAE    | 20. UINUEREME |
| 3. YLI    | 12. EECUTRI | 21. NTATE     |
| 4. EARL   | 13. NIN     | 22. IETEE     |
| 5. AIUDE  | 14. CIOR    | 23. REIE      |
| 6. BRCDBR | 15. VRGRN   | 24. UUBE      |
| 7. ROY    | 16. FIA     | 25. IEGA      |
| 8. AAL    | 17. LUY     | 26. ULING     |
| 9. AKARD  | 18. JA      |               |

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### LIBRARY

Bob Black wishes to thank everybody who took heed of the recent notice in the BT about speedy circulation of journals. He had some copies returned which had only been out for 2 years! Keep heeding folks.

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### GRAFFITI CORNER

Anagrams lure - OK?  
Jargon rules - ongoing agreement situation?  
Descartes thought he was here.

# Puzzle - Math

The Mathematics Department thinks that you may like some little puzzles to keep you amused. They come in three sections, "easy", "harder" and "did you get a computer for Christmas?"

## EASY

Find the missing item in each of the following series

- 1) O, T, T, F, F, S, S, E, ?,
- 2)  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1, 3, 6, 12, 24, ?,

## HARDER

Again find the missing item

- 3) 3, 6, 11, 20, 37, ?,
- 4) 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 22, 24, ?, 100, 121.

## DID YOU ... ?

- 5)  $\sqrt{6+\sqrt{6+\sqrt{6+\dots}}}$  = an integer

What are the next two numbers after 6 which used in this way give a whole number.

- 6) There are four three-digit numbers such that by adding together the cubes of the three digits one obtains the original number. They are 153, 370, 407 and one other. Which?
- 7) Find the four figure number which, when the digits of the number are written down in descending order and ascending order gives two numbers whose difference is the original number. The three figure equivalent is 495. Hint : if your first attempt doesn't work do it again.

Answers next month.

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Have you heard about the Irish butcher?  
He took six hours to hang up the mince meat.

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## FALL GUYS

The Post Office engineers wish it to be known that they were not responsible for the Christmas tree falling over at the main entrance.

# As We Said

A summary of significant news from the last twelve months, as reported in the Bush Telegraph.

- Dec. '77      The BT reappears on the news stands.  
The six BT veterans state that they are not prepared, collectively or individually, to continue indefinitely carrying the whole responsibility of producing the magazine.
- Jan. '78      The NMTP having been in existence for twelve months has a bright idea. Advertise!
- Feb. '78      Prizes presented for the academic year 76/77.  
Dismal support slated.  
Two members of the editorial board are proud to announce that they won typewriters in the draw.  
Typing Pool not threatened.
- Mar. '78      September start forecast for new PABX.  
Publication of diagram showing the new site entrance.
- Apr. '78      We proudly announce that the installation of new PABX is well advanced.  
Naughty limerick heralds latest BT competition.
- May '78      Bicarella removes her wraps.  
BICC television advertisement is considered not suitable for southerners.  
Overwhelming response to limerick competition.  
Ron Tarbox's illustrated entry lampoons everyone on site.
- June '78      Two long NMTP meetings held in preparation for the inflation of the hot air balloon at BREL.  
Ron Tarbox explains why he should have won the limerick competition.
- July '78      BT pledges to leave no brick unturned to get to the bottom of the "Costly Gate Miscalculation Horror".  
Ed board receive a punch from an Irish crossword fan.
- Aug. '78      Work to start on site entrance.  
Balloon attacked by battling bovine.
- Sept '78      Technical hitch prevents switch over to new telephone system. Geoff informs us we must pay up to play the game.
- Oct. '78      At least one member of the editorial board can keep his word — Peter left.  
BT exclusive, Christmas to be held on December 25th.  
Fran Lam reported for GBH to Buzby.
- Nov. '78      Another prize giving. Doesn't time go quickly when you are enjoying yourself. Dismal support slated.

Keep Left signs keep site entrance unfinished.  
Delivery driver thinks senior management are a  
venomous strike picket.

Dec. '78 The BT is unable to report that:-

1. The majority of the six veterans can be trusted to keep their word.
2. The success of the NMTP has exceeded expectation.
3. The site entrance is completed.
4. This is the last edition.

One success — the telephones work! Well nearly all.

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# NMTP

Since the report in the June issue, a few suggestions have trickled in, none requiring a meeting of the Panel for appraisal.

Action has been devoted to progressing the proposals already in hand and some changes in classification have resulted.

Class A	- Under Active Development	2 Ideas
	Another will be added in early 1979 from Class B.	
Class B	- Under Study	8 Ideas
Class C	- Shelved	6 Ideas
Class D	- Passed On For Report Back	3 Ideas

So the original 37 proposals and suggestions have now been whittled down to 19 ideas, with no additions since May 1978.

J.D. Endacott

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## MONEY

At the time of writing it is not known whether the banks will stay open beyond 12 noon on Friday 22nd December. Don't chance it!

There will be no facilities for obtaining cash from the Accounts Office on the 28th or 29th December.

# Oh God Not Turkey Again

The following recipe may well not be original, in fact the sauce is pure Elizabeth David, neither does it have any name that I know of, but it does provide a very tasty way of disposing of the last of that bloody turkey.

Not being written down anywhere, the amounts have the advantage of being flexible. The amounts given except for the sauce are very general and can be varied to meet the number to be catered for.

## Ingredients

1 Bottle White Burgundy (chilled)  
1 Glass (crystal)  
½ lb Cooked turkey  
3oz Mushrooms  
Small tin red peppers  
Few peas (for colour)  
½ pint bechamel sauce  
Turkey Stock

## Method

1. Pour and consume 1 glass of wine; repeat at regular intervals.
2. Make bechamel sauce as follows:-

Melt 1½ oz of butter in a heavy saucepan (do not allow to turn brown), remove pan from heat and add 2 heaped tablespoons of plain flour and mix with a wooden spoon to a thick smooth paste. Heat ¾ pint of milk and then add it little by little to the paste, mixing thoroughly between each addition until the paste is smooth. When half of the milk has been added return pan to a very low heat, continue adding and mixing until all milk is used up.

The sauce should now have the appearance of a thin smooth cream. Add 1 teaspoon of salt, 2 or 3 turns of the pepper mill and a generous scraping of nutmeg. Cook gently for 15 minutes, stirring constantly.

When the sauce is cooked, slice and fry the mushrooms in butter, chop the red peppers to small pieces, cut the turkey into bite size pieces. Add these items and the peas to the sauce and stir in. If the amalgam appears thick, thin by adding a little stock.

Before serving re-heat by the bain-marie system.



Serve with boiled rice (3 oz per person) preferably cooked in stock obtained by boiling turkey carcass.

Finally having finished the cooking sit back and and finish the wine in order to give an edge to your appetite.

If you're not keen on rice, the mixture makes an excellent filling for savoury pancakes or for a pie.

The Canterng Cook.

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RAFFLE

The raffle in aid of the Children's Christmas Party raised the magnificent sum of £63.70.

The prize-winners were:-

1st Prize	:	Ted Morrison	(Kenwood Blender)
2nd Prize	:	Andrew Ainger	(Whisky)
3rd Prize	:	Derek Edwards	(Martini)
4th Prize	:	George Brigden	(Wine)
5th Prize	:	Colin Coleman	(Wine)

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Seen by Mike Fox in ELECTRONICS TIMES:

"Warning light for UK tv industry as PAL patent expires"

Couldn't they prolong its active life?

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MISSING LETTER - ANSWERS

19. SUBDUE	10. KICKED	1. HASHISH
20. QUINQUEREME	11. DREADED	2. PUPPY
21. INITIATE	12. EXECUTRIX	3. CYCLIC
22. NINETEEN	13. ONION	4. YEARLY
23. REVIVE	14. SCISSORS	5. ATTITUDE
24. JUJUBE	15. EVERGREEN	6. ABRACADABRA
25. ILLEGAL	16. FRIAR	7. GROGGY
26. BUBBLING	17. FLURRY	8. MAMMAL
	18. JAZZ	9. AWKWARD

# The Ballad Box

Here's another offering from The Electrical Engineer's Ballad Book. This one has no date or original source but probably belongs to the first decade of this century. Seventy or more years on we sometimes get the impression that the sentiments expressed are not so outmoded as may be imagined, particularly on the subject of joints!

Heaven

By J.W.S.

If anything can lure me to  
Wild thoughts of anger or despair,  
If aught can ever make me do  
And say things rash, and maybe swear—  
    What's able to  
    Is cable through  
Which current leaks as though 'twere bare.

That's why because Life's limited  
I loathe the very name of Earth;  
That's why by me our sheathing lead  
Is valued chiefly at the worth  
    Of plumbed joints  
    And other points  
Whose failings cause us so much mirth.

Thus, if there only is a place  
Of Calm and Peace, I've half a mind  
To find it, and seek some solace  
For evil times left far behind.  
    But I must know,  
    Before I go,  
That there will be no faults to find.

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## Reminder

### EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

Applications for scholarships and bursaries for children of BICC employees in respect of the academic year starting September 1979 must reach the Administrator by 1st January 1979. Further details on the notice boards, or through Fran Lam or direct from Mr D.B. Spicer at Bloomsbury Street - but hurry!



# Champagne Competition



30 anagrams of "A BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE" were received by the closing date from a total of 10 people. A fairly good response, but considering the number of 'Telegraph' and other cryptic crosswords that are done (or attempted) each day, we feel that the numbers could have been larger.

However after due consideration of the 30 entries the Editorial Board proclaimed "'L! HE CAME TOP OF BT ANAG.", and the 'he' they were referring to was Peter Walton for his entry:

"GO HELP A MAN TO FACE BT"

(we hope that you don't really need help to face it). So the bottle of Moet et Chandon champagne goes to Peter with our congratulations.

Two further prizes of bottles of Pomagne were also awarded, second prize to Ruth Colquhoun for:

"BE A CHAP, GET ON TO F. LAM"

(we are not sure what we should get on to him about, but a good idea none the less) and third prize to Pat Donovan for his anagram:

"THAT ONE AMP FOG CABLE"

(possibly a bit low rated for use on Motorways).

We had hoped to publish a picture of the winner but it is said that a "BT PHOTO MANGLE A FACE" so we decided to leave it out. For your further enjoyment we offer below a short list of the other entries to show the diversity of the anagrams that were conceived and illustrate the state of mind of some of our readers:

"BATMEN GO ALOFT CHEAP"

"PANT! FOG! CAB!! LATE HOME?"

"ALE OF CHAMP GOT AT BEN"

"NOTE! FOG AT PALM BEACH"

"CATTLE BEG MAP OF NOAH"

"A CHEAP BT MOET FLAGON" (there was nothing cheap about our bottle).

The Editorial Board entirely refute the comment that was overhead in the corridor "OH! BT TEAM FLAG - NO PACE!", we are still as spritely as ever after completing a full twelve months publications.

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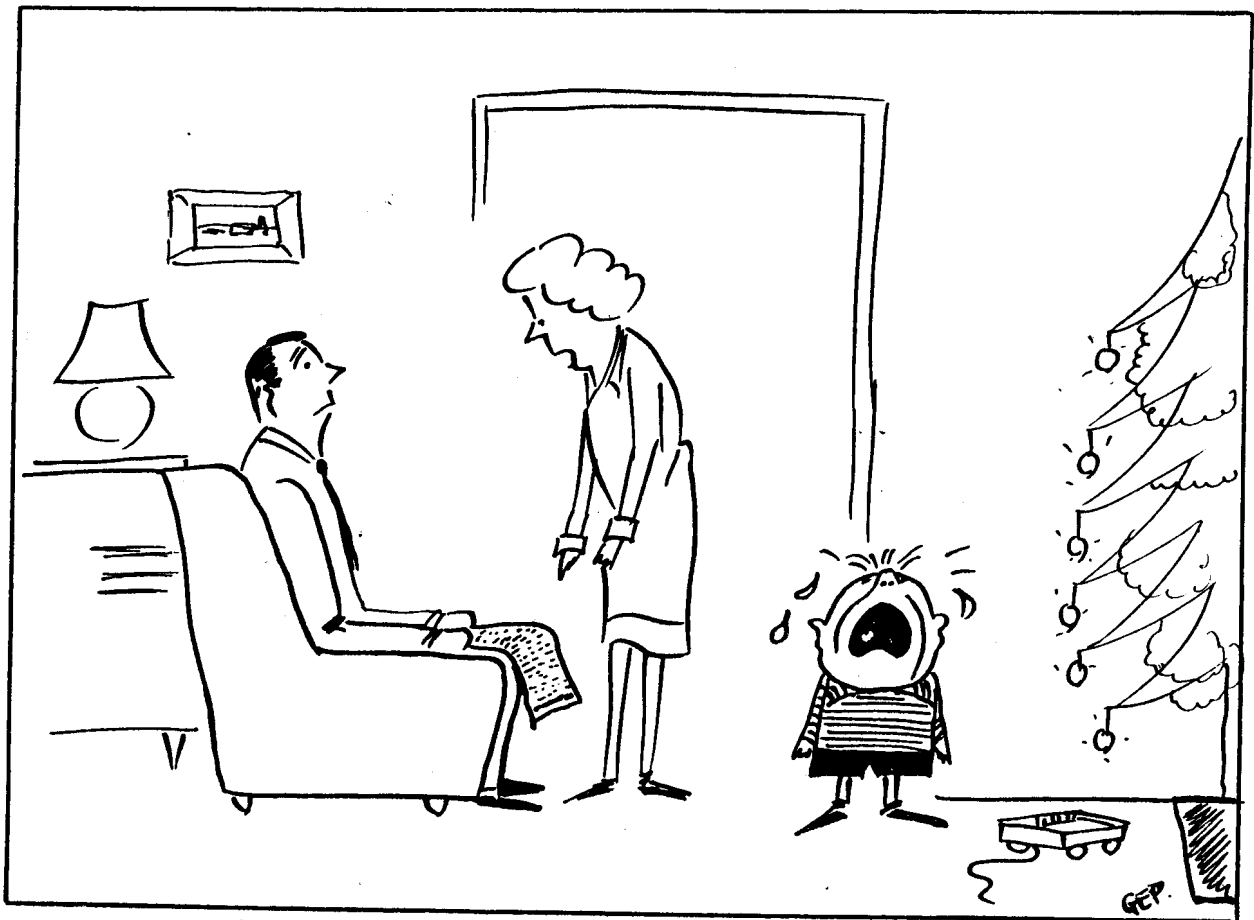
A Englishman, Scotsman and Irishman were arrested by the police. While waiting to be interviewed they decided that they would not give their correct names. Subsequently they were taken to the inspector's office. First the Englishman was asked his name. After a few seconds looking out the window he replied W.H. Smith. Next the Scotsman was asked his name, rapidly he replied F.W. Woolworths. Finally the Irishman was asked his name, after a long stare out the window he replied Kentucky Fried Chicken.

# Site Development

At a meeting of the Hammersmith Borough Council planning committee on Monday 4th December, the Company was granted outline planning permission to redevelop part of the adjacent British Rail land. However, don't expect to see anything dramatic happening as a consequence. At present we don't own any of the land. Negotiations to effect purchase are currently in progress with British Rail and Hammersmith Council.

The report in the Shepherds Bush Gazette which suggested that 200 jobs would be created is misleading. When making an application for outline planning permission for industrial premises it is necessary to provide some "guesstimate" of the increase in activities and the number of jobs which could possibly be generated during the next five years. Clearly it is impossible to give precise figures at such an early stage.

Staff will be fully informed if and when these plans begin to crystallise.



He's just found out about Father Christmas.

50 pages! what a mag!  
Oh Sandra, you're a dear.  
We promise there will be no more,  
At least until next year.

**BICC**  
**FILM SOCIETY**  
**SILVER JUBILEE SEASON**

**I'M JUMPING OVER  
PUDDLES AGAIN**  
*with*  
**BEAT THE DEVIL**  
starring **HUMPHREY BOGART**

**WEDNESDAY 17th JANUARY 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