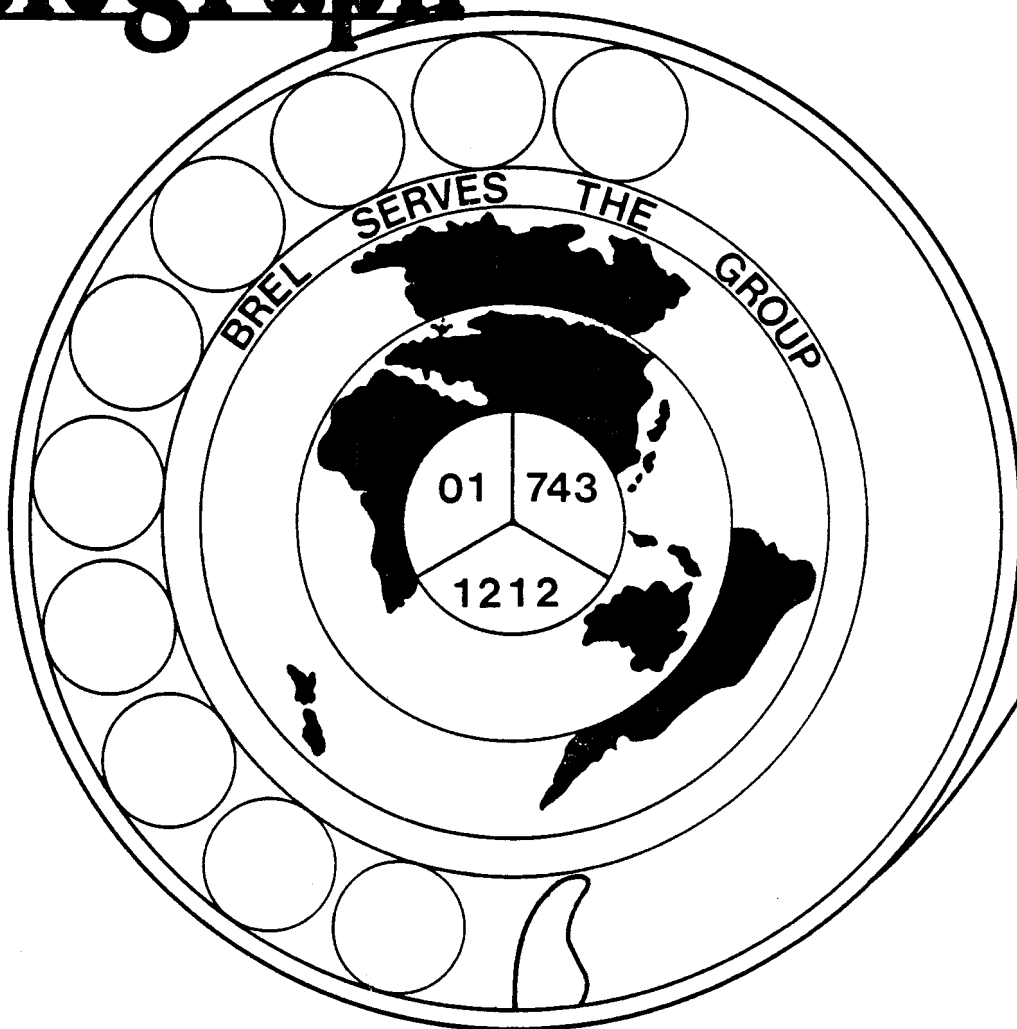


APRIL/MAY 1986

bush

telegraph



# BUSH TELEGRAPH

## VOL. 28 NO. 2

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### COVER

**George Price**

### EDITORIAL BOARD

**Fiona Robson**

**Anne Buchanan**

**Ted Morrison**

**Geoff Holder**

**Peter Walters**

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## EDITORIAL

Generally speaking most of us live an ordinary routine existence. We work 5 days a week, catch up on the household chores at the weekend and somehow fit in a social life as well, visiting friends, entertaining or having a night out. Once a year we trundle off on our holidays for a break from the routine and hopefully come back refreshed to take up the routine of life again. Occasionally the routine is broken by some significant event which seems to add a bit of excitement to life whether it be a Coronation, Royal Wedding or a World Cup Competition. The conquest of space has now become almost routine apart from the thankfully rare tragedies. Those who lived through the times will forget the excitement of the moon landings and the day-to-day coverage on TV. Some of us will remember that our lunch-times in the old lecture room when the likes of James Burke and Patrick Moore gave us blow-by-blow accounts of the space flights. They certainly broke up the working routine for most of us.

In June this year, BREL is to stage a two-day "open-day" event when it will play host to a large influx of important visitors from all walks of life in the industry. Past achievements and current activities of the laboratories will be on show in a rare display of beating the drum for Wood Lane. Such an occasion has not taken place for thirty years. Obviously to stage such an event will involve a lot of hard work for many people but it will be different and definitely rewarding. Any break from routine usually is.

# PERSONNEL NEWS

**Welcome To**



MR N.H. SPENCER  
PATENTS & LICENSING DEPARTMENT.

&

MRS J.A. WISE  
PATENTS & LICENSING DEPARTMENT.

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## **Farewell and Best Wishes To**

Mr J.R. Lausch from the Patents Department

Mr P.A. Bailey from C.A. Manufacture

Dr G. Pitman from Polymer Materials

Mr. A.C.D. Hayes from Polymer Materials

who have taken up alternative employment.

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## **Service Award**

Congratulations to Mr.G.A. Hamilton from the Physics Department who completed 20 years service in March 1986.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Words cannot express the support you gave me during the loss of my dearest wife Elsie. I want to thank you all for your messages of sympathy and condolences, it is heartwarming to know that one has so many friends.

I also wish to thank you for your floral tributes and it was gratifying to know that you were there at Pardon Wood.

Elsie had many friends and those of you who knew her know she had a great sense of humour and was always cheerful and will be greatly missed.

Thanking you gratefully once again for your support.

Sincerely,

JOHN GATES

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## mea culpa

Sir,

As you cautiously admit in the opening sentence of your March editorial, "There is a phrase which runs something like.....".

Punctuality is, I believe, the politeness of Kings. The Royal Prerogative, on the other hand, is something to be exercised daily - preferably without fouling the footpath!

Yours faithfully,



J.M.R. Hagger

# HEALTH AND SAFETY

## HEALTH AND SAFETY BULLETIN

Early in March 1986, members of the Fire Crew and Health and Safety Committee attended an on-site fire extinguisher training session organised by Mr. K. Belfield of Chubb Fire Security. The session consisted of a lecture on Fire Prevention, a film : "Understanding Fire" and culminated in a demonstration of fire quenching with extinguishers and fire blankets during which all present participated.

The bleeper alarm system with personal pagers for members of the First Aid Team is now operational under the control of Geoff Hoder.

A leaflet entitled "Working with VDUs", published by the Health and Safety Executive will be issued to all staff using visual display units. The leaflet answers questions that are most commonly asked about VDUs and makes suggestions on how to prevent problems arising from continuous use.

New regulations outlining the "Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences" (RIDDOR) became effective from 1 April 1986. The Personnel Department have been issued with the regulations together with modified reporting forms.

Our recent application for membership of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) has been approved and will entitle us to make full use of their comprehensive services including training, publications, journals and posters.

In a further attempt to control vehicles from speeding on the premises, an additional "sleeping policeman" road pacer will be positioned between Brazier and Site Services buildings where pedestrian traffic is frequent.

John Watson

## FIRE AND ACCIDENT REGULATIONS, MARCH 1986

BREL Fire Regulations have been up-dated and re-issued, with the procedure to be adopted in the case of a serious accident now incorporated, and making use of the emergency telephone number 222 in both situations.

The term "serious accident" is to be interpreted as including acute medical conditions such as heart attack, and the procedure provides the means by which First Aid assistance may be obtained more rapidly in such cases, following the installation of a paging system. Up to four First Aiders (the number of pagers at present available) will respond to an emergency call, which is why the use of the 222 number is restricted to serious cases only. Please do not use the new procedure for minor cuts and abrasions, etc. Attention in such non-urgent cases can (and should) still be obtained by contacting any of the First Aiders listed at the front of the current Internal Telephone Directory, either in person or by telephone.

For the full accident procedure, see pages 14-15 of the new Fire & Accident Regulations booklet.

G.F. Holder  
for H & S Committee

# FOR SALE

1	Teak Finish Gas Fire	-	£30.00
1	Small Teak Finish Gas Fire (ideal for hallways)	-	£30.00
1	Elica Cooker Fume Extractor	-	£25.00
1	9 foot Pine Curtain Rail with rings	-	£ 5.00
2	Bedside Cabinets (white)	-	£ 5.00 each

Please ring Terry Evans (X-245)

## WOOD LANE DEVELOPMENTS

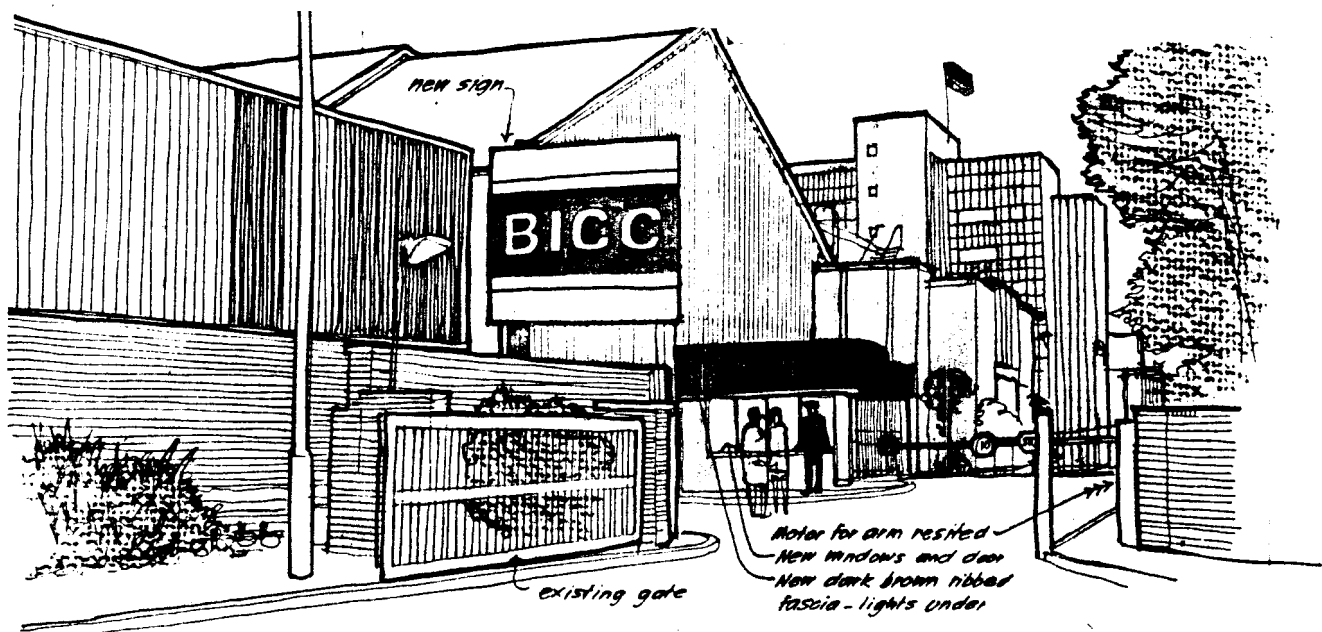
### MAIN ENTRANCE IMPROVEMENTS

Work involving the refurbishment and alterations to the gatehouse and main entrance areas is well under way and generally on schedule.

Initial work involved sewer installation and building work for toilet and tea-room facilities in the gatehouse. This was followed by construction of the gas meter house and adjoining storage facility in the area previously occupied by the BOC Nitrogen vessel. The public payphone and notice-boards eventually will be housed in the sheltered area between the gatehouse and the west entrance to HV4 building.

The gable wall of HV4 building will be clad with plastic coated profiled metal sheeting similar to that on Brazier building.

An illuminated box sign, in the modified BICC logo, will be installed at the front entrance above the west end of the North Road boundary wall.

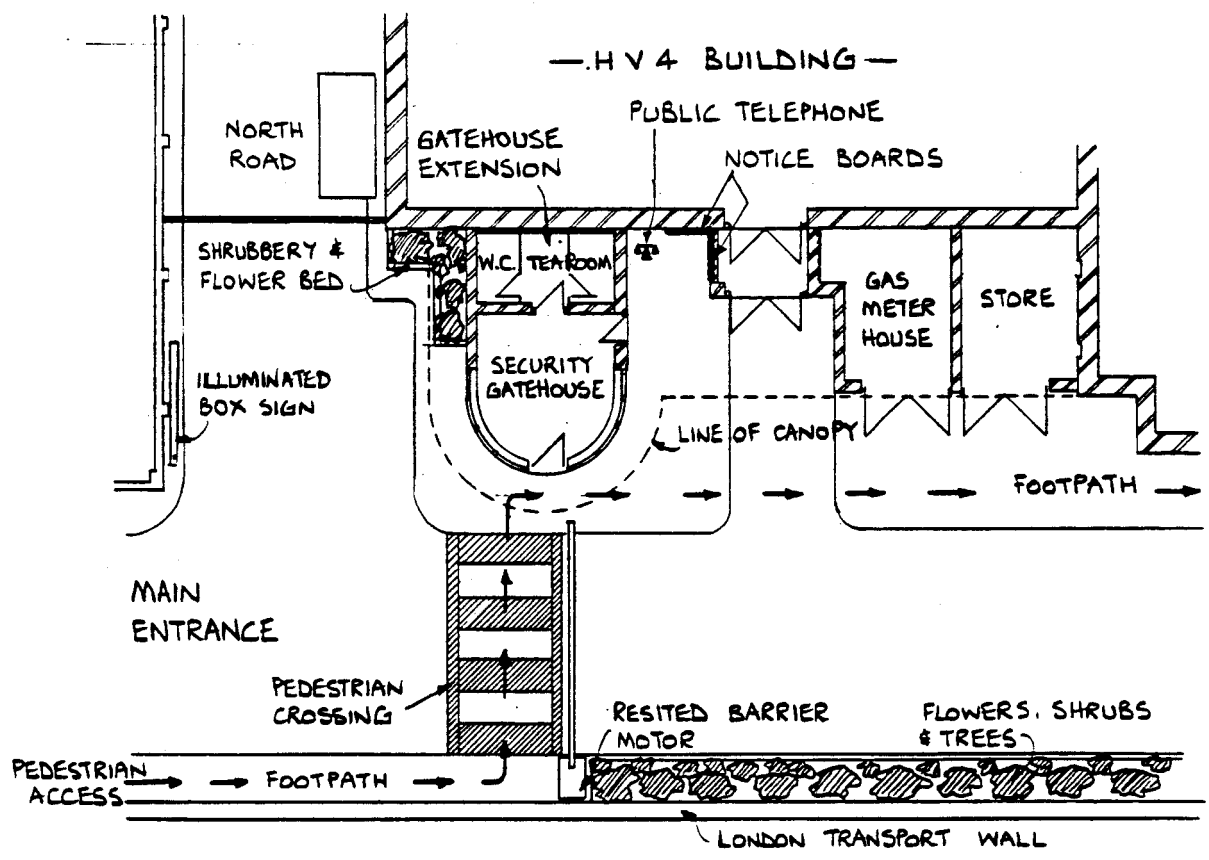


SKETCH VIEW OF SECURITY, STORAGE, H.V.4 AND H.V.3

A zebra-type pedestrian crossing will be laid adjacent to the resited road barrier and the footpath extended across the west end of HV3 building on the verge previously occupied by shrubs and bushes. It is hoped that the zebra crossing combined with the 10mph maximum speed limit for vehicles will further the campaign to realise a safer pedestrian environment on site. The accompanying sketch illustrates the revised pedestrian access at the main entrance.

The footpath alongside the London Transport wall will be removed and transformed into a flower bed incorporating shrubs and trees.

An additional L-shaped flower bed is to be sited outside the gatehouse north wall.



PLAN VIEW

# LETTER FROM NEW ZEALAND

Thursday, 13th March

Dear All,

Greetings from the Antipodes as the summer draws to a close and the winter sports enthusiasts look forward to the first snow on the mountains and the start of the ski season. The summer has been fair with 3-4 good days following 1-2 overcast days. The temperatures have not been quite as high as last year, and we have had rather more rain this year. Still, it brought welcome relief to the farmers after an exceptionally dry period, when the top soil was blown off some of the land, and thousands upon thousands of sheep had to be transported to greener pastures.

At the present moment, NZ is gripped with comet fever, with school children all heavily involved in projects. The best view is forecast to be from the southern hemisphere, and the clear skies here are thought to offer some of the best viewing in the world. The comet will be at its best in the first half of April, and arrangements have been made to turn off the street lighting for 30 minutes every night when the skies are clear - I couldn't see this happening in the UK!

The year since leaving BREL seems to have passed very quickly and we have all become "KIWI-ised". The children still retain some English accent, but the vowels are becoming more drawn out and the stress on certain words and phrases has changed. I have also gone native and invested in a pair of "walk shorts" and long socks (Vic Denholm please note) which I wear to work on hot days. I felt a bit self-conscious at first, but nobody seemed to notice!

We have now got used to our environment, with good views of the Alps, wide roads, American trucks and overhead power lines - the latter are slowly being undergrounded, which is good for our business. I have even got to quite like lamb!

An item of interest to longer-serving BREL staff - I met with Norman Waterhouse a few weeks ago at Queenstown, the tourist centre of South Island, set alongside Lake Wakatipu in the heart of the Alps. Norman was in NZ in connection with the Cook Strait cable, and he took the opportunity to visit us in connection with a projected submarine cable across the lake. We had a good day cruising the lake on a high speed launch provided by the local power board. Norman also called into Christchurch on the way home. During my trip to Queenstown we landed at Mount Cook airfield, set deep in the Alps. It was quite exciting flying through the mountains rather than over them, and landing on what can be best described as a bush airstrip under visual flying rules (VFR). You find a gap in the clouds and down you go!

We have been caught up recently in the Royal Tour, which I am sure made the headlines in the UK, with eggs and bared bottoms. Funnily enough, the family had never seen the Queen or the Royal Yacht, so we made the most of the opportunity. Britannia still



looked very good in spite of her age, and showed no signs of her adventures in Aden (sorry, South Yemen). She looked very impressive at night during the Beating of the Retreat.

Well, guess it's time to close now,

Regards to all, and best wishes.

Stuart Castle.

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## BICCARELLA

Denis Groombridge provided the only caption for the Yoga bound Bicarella seen in the last BT.



Caption:-

My boyfriend asked me if I would try the lotus position, it turned out to be rather cramped in his sports car.

# THE OCCASIONAL DIARY

OF A SUBURBAN MAN  
(AGE INDETERMINATE)

'P E N N Y      B A Z A A R'

Shopping is not a pre-occupation greatly beloved of the average male. Tolerated out of necessity on occasions, but rarely courted in its own right. Oh, there are exceptions of course, but these are usually associated with man's legitimate interests, such as cameras, hi-fi, golf clubs, dusty second-hand books, or accessories for his personalised four-wheeled ego trip. Point him however in the direction of a supermarket or department store, shoe shop or dress shop, and man assumes the kind of pained expression Adam displayed when he first realised that he had sacrificed part of his anatomy to create woman and not, as he had fondly imagined, a highly polished Jack Nicklaus No. 3 Wood.

But beware, subtle forces are at work, tempting recalcitrant man to change his ways. And who is gently massaging this change? Why, none other than the High Street's leading light, Marks and Spencer.

It seems like forever that St. Michael has been everyone's favourite brand, but not so many years ago there was a gay young thing ("gay" in the old-fashioned sense of course) of impeccable breeding who was asked, at a party, by Lady So-and-So as to where she purchased her outfit.

"M & S"

"Ah, yes" said M'Lady "Marshall and Snelgrove do have a few nice things these days don't they."

Today M'Lady, along with a million or so others, is probably a holder of Lord Sieff's latest whirlwind, the Marks and Spencer "Chargecard", and therein lies the ploy.

Flushed with the overwhelming success of this latest plastic aid to retail seduction, and overjoyed at being able to match customers' names and addresses to length of pocket, width of wallet and power of purse, the game of re-cycling hard-earned money from pay packet to cash register has assumed a new twist.

"As one of our privileged Chargecard holders you and a companion are cordially invited by Mr. Beevers and his staff to a special evening preview of our new Spring Collection. The tills will be open should you wish to make a purchase".

We go, the wife and I, naturally. Curiosity at being "privileged" and the thought of being one of the chosen few tugs too hard. Once inside the store we're hooked - along with a thousand or two others, for "privileged" doesn't actually equate to "few". But the evening is undoubtedly special; the staff are extra smart, with red carnations in their buttonholes; a jazz band plays on the ground floor, whilst upstairs amongst the lingerie a quartet of charming young ladies, in fetching plum-coloured evening gowns of just sufficient delicacy to conceal their Underwired 'D' Cup

Crossover Uplifts, provides a selection of chamber music. Free glasses of wine and fruit juices are liberally dispensed; special cakes and chocs sampled; nuts and crisps are ladelled out by the truck load, and a girl with buttered Hot Cross Buns is almost swamped by eager tasters. The mass cossetting even turns the invitation card into a free draw for a £50 gift voucher, exchangeable at any - well, where else ? The whole evening is one of the most painless ways of going into debt yet contrived.

In not much over the hour we are outside in the rain knowing that St. Michael is probably well satisfied with his evening's work. The wife spent £100 on Spring outfits, and I chose a specially wholesome loaf of bread for the next morning's breakfast. Well, they aren't into golf clubs - yet!

HOMO SUBURBANUS

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# LONDON TO BRIGHTON BIKE RIDE

June 15th

DRIVER WANTED

It has been agreed that we can have the use of one or other of the Company vans to transport bikes back from Brighton, with petrol paid for by the Company, provided I can find an acceptably-qualified volunteer driver. (Staff member, experienced, over-25, clean licence).

So if you fancy a trip to the seaside at no cost to yourself except your time, I would be pleased to hear from you. As a Company team, we MAY be able to get a parking space for the van actually on Madeira Drive. If so, it would be advisable for the driver to get there fairly early, before the main influx of cyclists - say before 10am (probably a good idea anyway) - and I envisage leaving for home probably around 5pm, earlier if the weather lets us down. Final arrangements nearer the date.

Geoff Holder (X-347)

# GAMES EVENING

The Interdept. Games Evening was held on March 12th and, as last year, was a great success. Ten teams competed for the Bush Telegraph Trophy, held after the 1985 competition by Radiation. The format was essentially the same as last year, games played being: snooker, darts, blow football, scrabble, whist, bar skittles, putting, table tennis, shove halfpenny and a computer game. The only significant difference from last year was that blow football players had (or were supposed) to sit down to play. This diminished some of the rowdiness of last year but did not prevent the goal posts and ball being "written off" during the course of the evening. As can be seen from the table below, the competition was closely fought and the winners were not determined until after the final round of games. Polymer Materials pipped Polymer Processes to win the trophy, with Analytical Services and Plant/Process Engineering only one point further behind. Congratulations to the winners, commiserations to those who did not quite win and many thanks to everyone for taking part, not least the principal organiser Denis Groombridge and his erstwhile assistants Ian Fordham and Peter Walters.

Team	Score
Polymer Materials	24
Polymer Processes	23
Analytical Services/Plant + Proc.	22 each
Radiation/Physics/Opt. Trans.	20 each
Patents	19
Administration	16
Electronic Dev.	14

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## CRIE DE COEUR

### The Spirit of Wood Lane

I was noble and nude and antique,  
'Till I changed in the course of a week  
From patinaed lead  
To silver instead  
Then to bronze or the colour of teak.

RMB

A note on the antique lead figure that adorns our fishpond will appear in the next BT.

# SECTION REPORTS

## GENEALOGY SECTION

### DOMESDAY EXHIBITIONS

Generally regarded as the greatest administrative achievement of any medieval government, the DOMESDAY BOOK (this country's first "census") celebrates its 900th anniversary in 1986.

The Public Record Office - Chancery Lane is mounting an exhibition to celebrate the event, and, by all accounts it promises to sweep away the PRO's image of dusty books and parchment pages. Starting on April 2nd, the exhibition will be open Monday-Saturday, from 10am to 6pm, until September 30th. Entrance £2.50 (£1.25 Children and OAPs).

Down at Winchester, which was of course the seat of Norman Government and the place to which all the surveys for the great book were brought, there is a DOMESDAY 900 Exhibition in the Great Hall. Sponsored by the Local and County Councils plus the Sunday Times it takes visitors on a journey through late 11th century England. Open from 10am to 6pm, March 29th to November 1st, it cost £2 (adults) or £1 (children and OAPs).

If you do plan a visit to either exhibition, allow yourself more time than the American tourists recently spotted at Winchester Cathedral. "Gee, Martha, said Sam, "you do the inside and I'll do the outside" !

### DOMESDAY BOOK

Happily, after 200 years of effort, the complete county-by-county translation of the DOMESDAY BOOK has now been completed by Phillimores. Available in both hardback and paperback, and at prices ranging from £4.25 (Surrey, Middlesex, Derbyshire, etc.) to £19.50 (Suffolk), they are available through all good bookshops or via the publishers. (p.s. the current Phillimore catalogues are now available)

### OLD STREET MAPS

Searching the census returns in highly populated urban areas can be a nightmare, and Victorian street maps can be of great assistance. Alan Godfrey of Gateshead has recently started to publish reproductions of the Ordnance Survey 25inch to the mile maps of the late 19th and early 20th century, and the series already covers large parts of Londong, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Yorkshire, Lancashire, plus his native Tyneside.

## COUNTY RECORD OFFICES

The upsurge of interest in family and local history has put CROs under increasing pressure in recent years. More and more it is advisable to telephone in advance of a visit in order to guarantee a seat, and the handling of unique documents is become more highly regulated. The Association of County Archivists in conjunction with the Federation of Family History Societies have produced a new "Code of Practice" for visitors to CROs, and copies have been sent to all Section members at Wood Lane.

## RESEARCH DIRECTORIES

Forms for the 1987 edition of the ever-expanding Genealogical Research Directory have been sent to members. The 1986 edition lists over 100,000 surnames being researched by nearly 6,000 people in 25 countries - maybe yours is included. Some earlier Directories are in the Section's library.

The 1986 National Genealogical Directory has also just been published, and a copy can be inspected via the Section Secretary.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON ANY ITEM LISTED ABOVE CAN BE OBTAINED FROM MIKE HAGGER (X-268)

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## MOTORING SECTION

Due mainly to me failing to keep a correct record, two instruments are missing. They are both of the multimeter type:-

- (1) Gunsons 'Sparktune' for dwell angle and voltage measurements.
- (2) A Command 'Tune-up Analyser', used mainly for dwell angle but is described as an "engine condition analyser".

Please return to GCT.

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Recent purchases include a multimeter of the above type suitable for all the usual electrical measurements. A 12 volt operated timing light and some large ring spanners suitable for transmission flanges, hub centre nuts, crankshaft end bolts etc.

GCT.



# SEA ANGLING SECTION

Friday, 21st March saw the welcome start for the Section of the 1986 sea-fishing season with a trip from Brighton Marina with skipper 'Tubby' David May aboard his new boat 'Pescadora'. A moderate catch, mainly of channel whiting, was taken by each member in the party; refreshments were enjoyed later in 'The Grapes' at Pease Pottage.

Further boat trips for both reef/ground and wreck fishing will be arranged at regular (approximately monthly) intervals during the year, details of which can be obtained from the Section's new secretary, Derek Glockner (360). For your immediate information, the next fishing trip has been arranged for Friday, 2nd May. It will again be from Brighton Marina with David May and, hopefully, will result in good catches of spur dogfish.

New hands are welcome, whether experienced or wishing to 'give it a try' for the first time. Tackle is available through the Section or, if necessary, may be hired at a reasonable cost on most boats.

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# **SOCIAL CLUB A.G.M.**

**DATE TUES. MAY 13<sup>th</sup>**

**TIME 5.30 pm**

**VENUE MCFAD.  
5<sup>th</sup> FLOOR**



# **BALFOUR BEATTY SPORTS DAY**

**SATURDAY JUNE 7<sup>th</sup>**

**2 pm**