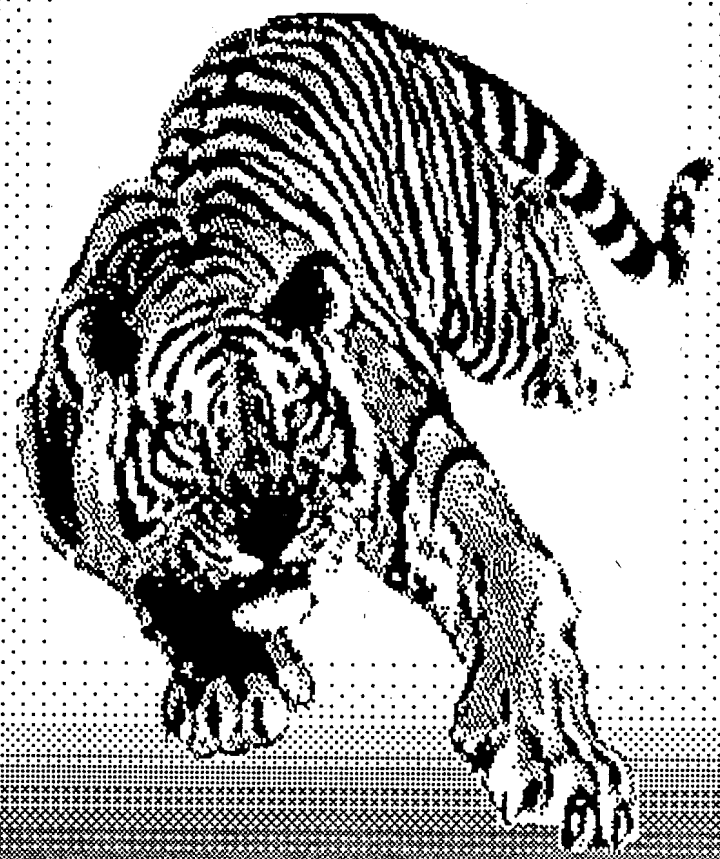


sept 86

Bush Telegraph



COVER

By
Kim Booth

EDITORIAL BOARD

Peter Walters
Ted Morrison
Kim Booth
Geoff Holder
Anne Buchanan

This issue of Bush Telegraph has a few changes in style. This comes from the adoption of "new technology" at the Wood Lane printing presses.

Laser Technology will not do much to improve the content. That's up to you! So, all of you budding

authors, put quill to parchment, or finger to word-processor and let us have it.

Address all correspondence to
**THE EDITOR
BUSH TELEGRAPH**
and drop it in the internal mail system (or stick a stamp on and send it from home).

Introductions can be arranged to this new technology. All you have to do is get in touch. With the tools at your fingertips - the world will lie at your feet!

And, if you are wincing at that little gem, why not show us that you can do better!

PERSONNEL NEWS

NEWCOMERS A warm welcome is extended to the following (relatively) new members of staff :

D.E. LORD	CAM	2.6.86
M.R. TUBBS	Communications	10.6.86
D.J. WATKINS	CAM	19.6.86
S.B. MORRIS	CAM	7.7.86
D.J.E. MURNANE	CAM	28.7.86
M.R. EARL	Site Services	28.7.86
C.S. BOOTH	Mathematics Department	4.8.86
C. HIDE	CAM	4.8.86
D. CAMPBELL	Site Services	11.8.86
D. RUTHERFORD	Site Services	18.8.86
D. MATHERS	Administration	7.7.86

LEAVERS : Farewell and best wishes to :

S.K. ROBERTSON	Polymer Materials Department
D.J. GLOCKNER	Site Services
Miss F. ROBSON	Patents
T. EVANS	Site Services
J. HEGGIE	Personnel Department
C.J. GRIGGS	CAM
D.K. SEVANT	Polymer Materials Department
M.S. HUDSON	Mathematics Department
L. MILES	Polymer Processes Department

LONG SERVICE AWARDS

R.G. MAIDLOW completed 20 years service on 16.6.1986.
I.P. HIGGINS completed 20 years service on 6.6.1986.
C. BUCHAN completed 20 years service on 11.7.86.

TRANSFER : Best wishes go to :

C.R. MELBOURNE who has commenced employment with BICC-CITEC Ltd.

JOHN HEGGIE

John Heggie left the company in March after a varied career at Wood Lane and 17 years service.

He joined BREL as a Rotaprint Operator in the Administration Department in 1969, and went on to become the assistant to the Education & Training Officer. In 1975 he was promoted to the Training Officer post and shortly afterwards took on the responsibilities of Personnel Officer.

John gave the company many years of his working life and expertise and I am certain all will concur in wishing him every success in his new venture.

Anne Buchanan.

OBITUARY

C.J. "ARCHIE" ANDREWS

Archie Andrews, who died suddenly on 14th July 1986 originated from Alton in Hampshire. He was a gifted footballer playing professionally for Portsmouth, Crystal Palace and finally Queens Park Rangers.

On completion of his footballing career, he was employed as a shopfitter and in the licensed trade until 1978 when he joined us as a security man. He was later transferred to the Works Services Department working as a joiner.

Archie will be remembered as a gentle and amiable man, with a generous sense of humour, who was at all times helpful and co-operative. He will be sadly missed.

The funeral took place on 21st July at Mortlake Crematorium and was attended by Site Services colleagues and Company representatives. On behalf of his family and the department, I would like to thank the many people who expressed sympathy and donated to the floral tribute. The contributions in excess were donated to the British Heart Foundation Appeal.

John Watson.



A new Director of Communications & Electronics at Wood Lane

Dr. Mike Tubbs

Welcome to Dr M.R. Tubbs

Dr. Mike Tubbs joins BICC from Lucas Industries PLC where he was Manager to the Product Research & Development Division. In this role he was responsible for all control product R & D for companies in the Lucas Group - aerospace, automotive and industrial products.

The product R & D division consisted of four departments - electronic control, transducers, electronic devices & materials and computing & systems. Products ranged from self adaptive electronic control of ignition and fuelling to torpedo drives, silicon sensors to thick film circuits, CAE (computer aided engineering - expert systems) to Nickel/Cadmium batteries.

He has also worked for Battelle and for Rank Xerox where he joined the Rank Xerox Development Laboratory, in the early 1970's, to set up the Applied Research Department. Later, he became responsible for technology and materials in the Rank Xerox Engineering Group.

A physicist by training, he obtained his BSc and PhD from Bristol University. At Warwick University he spent some years as a senior lecturer, and headed the Optoelectronics Research Group. This years 'A' level results are awaited by his daughter, who hopes to follow Dad's footsteps to Bristol - and study Law.

Mike Tubbs' interests include offshore sailing, art and his fifteenth century farm house (which appears to stand up to the rigours of time better than some modern properties). During his first few weeks at BREL he has been visiting the BICC operating companies. These, he finds even more widely spaced (geographically) than those in Lucas.

*We wish him all success,
working together with us
all here at Wood Lane.*

THIS WEEK ...NEXT WEEK

This Month..... Next Month (or the one after)

(Editorial Board)

This edition of the BT as everyone will realize from the range and somewhat dated nature of some of the articles has been published rather later than originally intended. As on all previous occasions when this has happened we will try to ensure it doesn't happen again but who can tell when work will intervene.

To help us publish more regularly, change our style of presentation and possibly many other things, Kim Booth has volunteered his services as a member of the editorial board...we welcome him most cordially. Just as we welcome Kim however, we say goodbye and many thanks to Fiona Robson who has decided to move on to GEC in Wembley.

CONGRATULATIONS - 1

To Mrs. Reba Dutta of the Personnel Department who has been awarded the IPM Certificate of Personnel Practice following successful completion of a course at the S.W. London College Centre for Higher Business Studies. Reba now has affiliate membership of the IPM.

CONGRATULATIONS - 2

To Christine Finney, formerly of John Endacott's, now Bruce Keen's empire, who recently gave birth to twins.

Work experience at BREL

Boys from Tonbridge School (no not Tunbridge Wells - "...everyone says that!"), have been to Wood Lane to see if industry matches up to their expectations. Their careers master, Martin Turner, arranged for the entire lower VI form to spend a week out in the world of commerce, after their summer exams.

Six lucky lads drew BICC Research and Engineering. Only one of the six had even heard of BICC before. "Well it's not like Rolls-Royce is it?" quipped one. "Cables didn't sound very exciting." from another.

*"Never heard of
BICC..."*

The boys were all set a project for their week. Some were asked to look at energy management and the cost benefits associated with the various concepts. Others were set to work on a cost analysis of BREL - "We do have to give all of the documents back at the end of the week". Should make interesting reading!



In no particular order Daniel Wood, Iain Fox, Nicholas Manger, Toby Read, Daniel Bayley and Iain Manley

Half-way through their week, what were their impressions? "It's really quite high-tech isn't it?", "It's not quite as I expected"; and canteen food? "Really good. People tell me it's gone down a bit recently. Well it must have been something before".

The Wood Lane 6 were all science students, although from the 120 boys in the lower VI the split is about 50/50 arts/science. They all expect to go on to do a degree course - and after that? "We're expected to go out and make money."

BBC WIN FOR BICC MAN

It was Howard Spencer's fast reflexes and encyclopaedic knowledge of cinema history that won him the title of Film Buff of the Year in 1985. Unlike so many of the mindless quiz shows which flood today's air waves, promising the winners plush cars and tropical holidays, this programme rewarded Howard with a simple trophy and a free cinema pass ...and the knowledge that few men in Britain could equal his phenomenal recall of films past and present.

over 1000 people apply for the competition each year

Now working as a clerk in BICC's Group Patents and Licensing Department, Howard's fascination with the cinema began early. From the age of ten, he would save up for the weekly ritual of the shorts and the longs (remember the ball bouncing over the words of the songs so you could sing along?). He has a passionate interest in musicals and a yearning for the "corny old films of the 30's". Channel 4 has proved its worth by providing a tremendous range of films - so much so that Howard admits he now rarely goes to the cinema.

At week-ends, he is often to be found in the library of the British Film Institute doing research "just for interest's sake" into the lives of film stars and producers and the history of the industry.

As over 1000 people apply for the competition each year, you have to be dedicated to win. The first selection is made by an aptitude test and then regional heats follow. These whittle the number down to 16 for the semi-finals and then to a nail-biting 4 for the final.

Whilst describing himself as "ambivalent about censorship", Howard expressed concern over the number of recent films which appeal to man's baser



They call him "QUICKFINGER" (Robin Ray on Howard Spencer)

instincts or seek to glorify violence. "I wouldn't watch some of them on principle".

Howard is now hoping to enter "Name that Tune" for which his knowledge of musicals should stand him in good stead. When asked the inevitable question - Which film would you choose to be marooned with on a desert island?, he was hard put to choose between "Singing in the Rain" and "Casablanca" both of which he has seen on countless occasions. But even Howard was stumped by the final question of the final quiz ..."What did Claude Rains throw away at the end of Casablanca?..."

F. Robson

HEALTH AND SAFETY BULLETIN

A programme of training in resuscitation methods, required under our High Voltage Regulations, was organised during May and June by Geoff Holder. Staff involved with electricity in the course of their work were given comprehensive training by an Instructor from the London Branch of the British Red Cross Society.

The problems created by vehicles illegally parked in Ariel Way were discussed with Hammersmith and Fulham Council and the local police force. As a result, P.C. Nuraegbe of the Hammersmith police has been delegated to organise a "Business Watch Scheme" which involves liaison with the local industrial community and arranging meetings to help prevent similar problems occurring.

The recent Fire Insurance Survey resulted in an encouraging report from Mr. Tadinan of Jardine Insurance Brokers. His report mentioned a noticeable improvement in general housekeeping and improved safety standards.

Work commenced recently on the mezzanine floor and office refurbishment in the HV1 and HV2 areas. To ensure the health and safety of all concerned, the areas involved have been designated as "no-go" areas to all except authorized personnel.

John Watson.

IF THE CAP FITS....

Seen on a noticeboard at Leigh recently :

T H I N G S N E V E R C H A N G E

"We trained very hard but it seemed that every time we were beginning to form into teams we would be re-organised. I was to learn later in life that we tend to meet any new situation by reorganising and a wonderful method it can be for creating the illusion of progress, while producing confusion, inefficiency and demoralisation."

Gaius Petronius, AD 66

PATENTS CORNER

No. 4 in a series of inventions that didn't quite catch on.....

VACUUM SEALED LONG JOHNS

U.S. Patent

Oct. 28, 1980

4,230,114

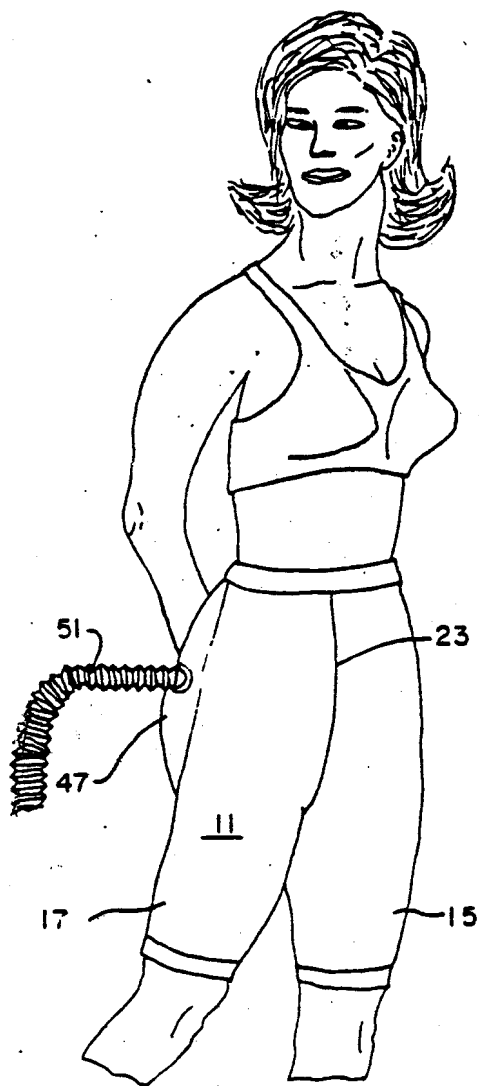


FIG. — 1

The ideal foundation garment to wear beneath today's tight fitting fashion outfits, these Long Johns can be attached to a vacuum pump to achieve a literally skin-tight fit. Alternatively, as a supplement to the inflatable suspenders of Patents Corner No: 2, the pump may be switched to 'blow', supplying warm air etc. The model above is filling her Long Johns with golden syrup, possibly accounting for her somewhat cross-eyed expression.....

ANNUAL PRIZE GIVING

On 26th March in the presence of about 50 people, Dr. George Moore made the presentations to successful students at the annual prize giving ceremony.

The proceedings were opened by Miss Ann Buchanan who made a witty speech about possible awards to some of our national figures. She then introduced Dr. Moore following the presentations, Dr. Moore said that he was pleased to see such a wide range of subjects being successfully completed but was disappointed that there were no women receiving prizes this year. He felt that they must be encouraged more. Nothing succeeded like success. There was a great debate on the educational needs of the UK going on at present. Education figured largely in the present and the future and a broad spread of interests should be encouraged. Today's successful candidates were a good example of the work force and they should look to the whole of BICC for opportunities. At BREL the key elements to BICC were:

- (1) Relevant research and development
- (2) High quality
- (3) Courage

The proceedings then closed and the students were entertained to lunch by the senior management.

EDUCATIONAL AWARDS 1984/85

NAME	DEPARTMENT	COURSE PASSED
PARAMJIT AUJLA	PLANT & PROCESS ENGINEERING	3rd YEAR TEC CERTIFICATE IN MECHANICAL & PRODUCTION ENGINEERING
PAUL BARKER	PLANT & PROCESSES ENGINEERING	2ND YEAR TEC CERTIFICATE IN MECHANICAL & PRODUCTION ENGINEERING ACTON TECHNICAL COLLEGE
STEPHEN BISHOPP	POLYMER MATERIALS	2ND YEAR HIGHER TEC CERTIFICATE IN POLYMER TECHNOLOGY NORTH LONDON POLYTECHNIC
KEVIN DOWLING	COMPUTER AIDED MANUFACTURE	2ND YEAR TEC CERTIFICATE IN ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING ACTON TECHNICAL COLLEGE
RICHARD FRASER	PHYSICS	1ST YEAR BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL CERTIFICATE IN ELECTRICAL/ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING POLYTECHNIC OF THE SOUTH BANK
STEPHEN FROST	POLYMER PROCESSES	1ST YEAR GRADUATE PRI IN POLYMER TECHNOLOGY NORTH LONDON POLYTECHNIC
LANCE HARDIMAN	ADMINISTRATION	1ST YEAR TEC CERTIFICATE IN ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING ACTON TECHNICAL COLLEGE

NAME	DEPARTMENT	COURSE PASSED
STEVE HARRISON	COMPUTER AIDED MANUFACTURE	FINAL YEAR HTEC CERTIFICATE IN ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING ACTON TECHNICAL COLLEGE
GREGORY HAWKES	POLYMER PROCESSES	FINAL YEAR HTEC CERTIFICATE IN POLYMER TECHNOLOGY NORTH LONDON POLYTECHNIC
GORDON IRWINE	POLYMER MATERIALS	1ST YEAR HTEC CERTIFICATE IN POLYMER TECHNOLOGY NORTH LONDON POLYTECHNIC
ALAN McDONALD	ADMINISTRATION	1ST YEAR TEC CERTIFICATE IN ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING ACTON TECHNICAL COLLEGE
JOHN McGILLIVARY	COMPUTER AIDED MANUFACTURE	1ST YEAR HND CERTIFICATE IN ELECTRICAL/ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING SOUTHALL TECHNICAL COLLEGE
CHRISTOPHER MORRIS	POLYMER MATERIALS	1ST YEAR HTEC CERTIFICATE IN POLYMER SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY NORTH LONDON POLYTECHNIC
PAUL NAYLOR	RADIATION	2ND YEAR BTEC HNC CERTIFICATE IN CHEMISTRY POLYTECHNIC OF THE SOUTH BANK
PAUL RAJ	PLANT & PROCESS ENGINEERING	3RD YEAR TEC CERTIFICATE IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING SOUTHALL TECHNICAL COLLEGE
DAVID SEVANT	POLYMER MATERIALS	FINAL YEAR HTEC CERTIFICATE IN POLYMER TECHNOLOGY NORTH LONDON POLYTECHNIC
STEVEN SMITHERS	ADMINISTRATION	MECHANICAL ENGINEERING CRAFT STUDIES PART III CNC PART I HOUNSLOW BOROUGH COLLEGE
MARTIN TOWNSHEND	POLYMER PROCESSES	FINAL YEAR HTEC CERTIFICATE IN POLYMER TECHNOLOGY NORTH LONDON POLYTECHNIC
NIGEL VOYCE	ADMINISTRATION	1ST YEAR CITY & GUILDS 205 CERTIFICATE ACTON TECHNICAL COLLEGE
MARK WILKINSON	POLYMER PROCESSES	1ST YEAR BTEC CERTIFICATE IN POLYMER TECHNOLOGY NORTH LONDON POLYTECHNIC

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

NAME	COURSE PASSED
CHRISTOPHER PRENDERGAST	COMPLETION OF B.Sc. IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING IMPERIAL COLLEGE
PREM CHAPHEKAR	2ND YEAR B.Sc. IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING IMPERIAL COLLEGE
JOHN WILLIAMS	2ND YEAR SPECIAL ENG.PROGRAMME BRUNEL UNIVERSITY
PRAVIN PANCHAL	2ND YEAR B.Sc. IN ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING BRUNEL UNIVERSITY
PAUL MERCKX	1ST YEAR B.Sc. IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING IMPERIAL COLLEGE
KEITH KONDAKOR	1ST YEAR B.Sc. IN ELECTRICAL/ ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY
PAUL WYNDHAM	1ST YEAR B.A. IN ENGINEERING CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY



Two prize winners receiving their awards from
Dr. George Moore.

FILM QUIZ

1. WHICH HARRY RECENTLY HAD HIS DAY MADE AND WHY?

2. IN WHICH FILMS DID THE FOLLOWING PLACES FEATURE?
 - (A) TARA.
 - (B) MANDERLEY
 - (C) SHANGRI-LA

3. WHAT ARE THE FULL NAMES OF THE FOLLOWING FILM STUDIOS?
 - (A) M.G.M.
 - (B) W.B.
 - (C) U.I.

4. "THE GREAT GATSBY" HAS BEEN FILMED THREE TIMES. ROBERT REDFORD PLAYED THE TITLE ROLE IN THE LAST VERSION. WHO PLAYED IT IN THE SECOND VERSION?.

5. WHAT WAS THE SUBJECT OF "KRAMER V KRAMER" AND WHO WON A BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS OSCAR FOR HER PERFORMANCE IN THIS FILM?.

Questions supplied by Howard Spencer. Answers to any member of the Editorial Board - a small prize will be awarded to whoever is judged the winner.

AROUND THE LABORATORIES

The long delay in bringing this edition of the B T to press has made the following game a little out of date. However, any of you with a memory stretching back a few months might appreciate the game.

Take on your workmates in this new, easy to play, board game. All you need is a dice and some counters. When you land on a hazard square, refer to the table below and carry out the instructions. See if you can beat your friends to the parking space and clock-in before lunchtime.

Hazards

- | | | |
|------------|-----|--|
| Square No. | 3. | Gatehouse Barrier Down - Miss a turn. |
| | 5. | Drive through puddle, splashing your boss - Hurry on 4 spaces. |
| | 6. | Topple into trench with new gas main - Miss a turn. |
| | 12. | Speed Ramp - Miss 2 turns fitting new suspension. |
| | 20. | Another trench - Go back 3 spaces. |
| | 21. | Visitors Cars only - Ahead 3 spaces. |
| | 28. | Potholes - Miss a turn fitting another suspension. |
| | 32. | Collision with oncoming car - Miss 2 turns exchanging insurance details. |
| | 34. | Avoid car embedded in Rutherford II - Have another turn. |
| | 37. | Fail to avoid barrier outside Rutherford II - Miss a turn. |
| | 39. | Knock down your boss - Hurry on 6 spaces. |
| | 43. | Speed Ramps Again - Miss 2 turns swapping your car for a jeep. |
| | 46. | Knock down your Head of Department - Hurry on 8 spaces. |
| | 52. | Blind corner - go back 3 spaces. |
| | 57. | Speed Ramp vanishes - Have another turn. |
| | 60. | Company Cars only - Ahead 2 spaces. |
| | 63. | Collison with Fork Lift Truck - Miss a turn retrieving Oxygen cylinders. |
| | 67. | Run out of petrol - Miss 2 turns having a nervous breakdown. |

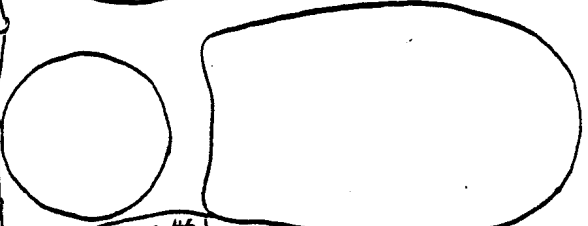
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HV4 BUILDING

HV3 BUILDING

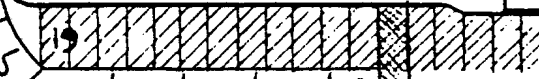
HV1 BUILDING



FARADAY BUILDING

MCFADZEAN BUILDING

SITE SERVICES BUILDING

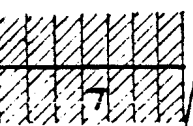
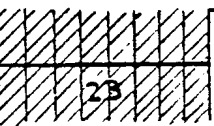


RUTHERFORD I

RUTH'F.D. II

BRAZIER BUILDING

GARAGE



FINISH

NGS



LETTER FROM NEW ZEALAND (1)

21.5.1986

Dear Friends,

Thought it was about time to give the good old BT another item - it appeared a bit on the thin side last time - is this to cut down on the postal costs ?!

Well, I guess it had to happen one day, the sort of Livingstone/Stanley experience. Vic and Ann Denholm arrived on our doorstep so to speak a few weeks ago. They were on a whistle stop tour of the South Island and took time off for a visit. They both looked very fit and well and we spent most of the time talking about BREL and the current developments and happenings - they certainly keep well informed !

After all the publicity and excitement, Haley's Comet turned out to be a real fizzer, at best with a short tail fairly early on and just a faint blur at the time the Experts predicted that it would be at its best. Unless equipped with some fairly powerful binoculars, ancient man would not have seen the coming and going of this one so we can only look forward to the next passing in 76 years' time.

I'm sure the next item will cause a few laughs, but our youngest is quite keen on soccer and has joined a local club. I went along with him to enrol and found myself being talked into being a coach for the under eights. I have a squad of nine and our record to date is lost 2, drawn 1 and won 1. As many of you will know I don't have a lot of football knowledge; but at least I know more than the under eights - I think ! I now realise where I made my mistake, all the other kids were accompanied by their mothers at the enrolment - one lives and learns.

The winter has been late coming and we've had a superb Autumn with temperatures reaching 20°C on most days, and up to a couple of days ago since well before Easter. We had a good blustery southerly come through earlier this week and this transformed the Alps from sombre grey to a beautiful white, from top to bottom and it even made the front page of the local paper ! A day later and all the lower slopes had cleared. We went to the hot springs at Hammer today and relaxed in the pools at a pleasant 40°C for an hour or so. The township is set in a small plateau completely surrounded by mountains, their caps dressed with snow. The only access is by one road which winds through a mountain pass. It is about one and a half hours drive from Christchurch. We rounded the day off with a beer at the Horunui Tavern, the most English of pubs we've come across to date, and a Chinese take-away when we got home.

Another useful accomplishment these days is tree felling ! We felled three large trees last week-end and spent the rest of the day logging with a chainsaw. We have two very large ones still to fell so we are building up our nerve at the moment. They can only fall one way or disaster.

Regards,

Stuart Castle

LETTER FROM NEW ZEALAND (2)

Kapiti Coast,
New Zealand.

21.4.86

Dear Friends and Old Time Colleagues,

Once again a letter from the North Island and with quite a shock I realized it was late 1985 that I had last penned a letter to the Bush Telegraph, but when one has passed the three score years and ten time passes so very quickly! I should say "a year is just a blink!"

We are now entering into New Zealand's late Autumn after one of the finest Summers on record, in fact today we are experiencing the first rain for many weeks. One hopes it might continue at least until our gardens are well and truly soaked, it isn't a very pleasant chore having to spend two or even more hours each day using the water hose on the wilting flowers - really it is very hard to understand that in some parts of the islands huge tracts of farm land have been devastated by torrential rains! This happened three weeks ago, whilst Ann and I were spending a delightful touring holiday the other side of the Cook Straits, more about that later. Last week I sat and watched live on T.V. the two centenary rugby games, first from Cardiff Arms Park and Saturday from Twickenham and both games well worth the effort of rising at 3 a.m. and 1.30 a.m. with the growing silvery moon sinking into the waters of the Tasman beyond Kapiti Island. Two months ago the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh again paid their four yearly visit to New Zealand; needless to say I won't dwell on the egg-throwing and bum-baring incidents which marred the tour. The latter were viewed with horror and disgust by all well-meaning Kiwis throughout the two islands. The past few weeks we have had much interest in Halley's Comet and both Ann and myself have witnessed some wonderful sightings, tail and all! I guess the fact that we live in the country with no city lights is an advantage. Some weeks ago we had a delightful surprise visit from my old Cook Strait Cable colleague Norman Waterhouse and his very charming wife Celia. Time really did speed by, talking about past and present friends and their worldwide involvement in power cable work.

Mid-March Ann and I began a three week motoring holiday down in the South Island which we both enjoyed very much indeed, travelling down the West Coast and staying in Nelson, surrounded by huge wine growing vineyards. From what I can gather New Zealand wine is world-famous, but being now T.T. I cannot vouch for the latter. Continuing still on the West Coast we visited Greymouth, a town which hasn't changed from its heyday in the coal mining industry. From Greymouth we travelled to Franz Josef Glacier and on the way stopped off at Hokitika, the latter the centre of the green jade industry, and gold too is still being found in this area. Between Greymouth and the latter town is a true replica of an Old New Zealand town around 1850. Ann took my photograph standing in the stocks in front of Shanty town jail, all good fun. The Franz Josef Glacier is a splendid and breathtaking sight, the glacier itself forms at over 9 000 feet and continues down 12 miles into the lower valleys. This region is well named the Southern Alps!

Further south we stayed a while in Arrowtown quite close to Queenstown. To arrive here we motored over Haast Pass, the summit of which is 2 400 feet above sea level, over unsealed roads, a great experience. To the North of the pass lies Mount Cook National Park, an area in which eight peaks rear their heads over 10 000 feet and of course the great Mount Cook itself, beautiful in its eternal mantle of snow, rearing into the heavens to an altitude of 12 600 feet.

From Arrowtown we travelled to Teanau, our last call before turning North East. At Teanau we visited Lake Manapouri West Arm Power Station where a coach takes visitors a 1½ mile journey into the machine hall. Here in the very heart of the mountain is a great granite cavern which houses the seven generators, and water leaving the turbines flows out through a seven mile tail-race under the mountains and discharges in Doubtful Sounds Deep Cove. The scheme took ten years to build. Moved on to Dunedin, eventually arriving at Christchurch and with great pleasure Ann and I met Stuart Castle, his lovely wife Tess and their gorgeous children, Ben, Emma and young James. I never thought twenty odd years ago that Stuart, then a young starter at Wood Lane, and I would eventually meet 12 000 miles away in New Zealand. Stuart is much involved with the local football team, "Shamrock", and looked very impressive in his green coaching over-shirt and a huge white shamrock on the back of same, (not a leaf but the word!) We spent a pleasant half-hour looking through the 'Bush Telegraph' together, seeing the people we knew at the Xmas pensioners' party and news of people who have joined the retirement brigade. I can once again vouch for the latter - "It's Great!" ("I second the motion," from Ann). Incidentally, Stuart was wearing "shorts" and I think wears them to his work, most Kiwis do. Both he, Tess and the children all had a really super tan.

Well folks, I think this is it for now - looking forward of course to the "Cup Final" again in the early hours, all very exciting.

Regards to all our friends,

Yours sincerely,

Ann and Vic Denholm.

NEXT PUBLICATION DATE

To emphasize our commitment to more regular publishing of the BT the publication date for the next issue will be

Friday : October 31st

The deadline for submissions to be included in this "Halloween" issue is Friday, October 17th.

The Christmas issue will be published during the week beginning December 8th.

THE OCCASIONAL DIARY

OF A SUBURBAN MAN

(age indeterminate)

"ALL IN A GOOD CAUSE"

If Church Halls didn't exist someone would have to invent them. Their spartan combination of minimal charges with minimal heating appeals to a wide cross-section of all that is best in Britain's peculiar brand of local amateur endeavour. Scouts, Brownies and Play Groups; Keep Fitters, Resident Associations and Allotment Societies; Sales of Work, Christmas Bazaars and AGMs all contrive to provide a steady, if unspectacular, additional income for the local incumbent. Earlier this year it was our turn to augment the clerical coffers.

Us ? oh, we're a kind of GLC group, or Gentle Local Coercers, and the event as our Annual Easter Fair, which is a polite suburban synonym for Jumble Sale. Being almost permanently impecunious the objective is abundantly clear to the most feeble minded - money. Money - and plenty of it - to finance the printing of yet more of our gently coercive literature, for distribution to a local community that we believe, implausibly no doubt, might thus be persuaded to see things our way. In practice our carefully manicured prose is probably treated far from gently, no doubt on a par with the average double glazing leaflet.

The Fair's format changes little from year to year. For weeks beforehand the Ladies Committee charm all unwanted (and some not-so unwanted) ex-Christmas presents from their hiding places and categorise them into Toiletries, Fancy Goods, Jewellery, White Elephants and other time-honoured groupings. Threats of social ostracization hang over those of their number who do not undertake to bake bread or cakes for the home-made goodies stall, although the donation of a few pots of the previous autumn's prune and rhubarb preserve may just afford a reprieve. The men meanwhile reserve their energies for the big day, secure in the knowledge that a hearty bout of trestle table erecting, and some loud voiced salesmanship on the Tombola stall will again prove their indispensability. Except that is for "The Colonel".

An amazingly sprightly near-octogenarian, The Colonel was for many years an estate manager in East Africa until the wind of change began to blow too strongly. Returning home he became a kind of trouble-shooter cum eminence grise for a number of small companies owned by Lord Thingummy, under whose benevolent writ he had previously exercised authority over vast tracts of the British Empire. Happily for us his Lordship did not require a regular 9 to 5 attendance, and military determination and enterprise was soon a feature of local coercion. The spin-off is an amazing annual miscellany of wares from the shelves of local merchants in support of the Fair. Though why the off-licence always has a surplus of Spanish Sauternes to donate remains unexplained.

Above all The Colonel is also the Coercer's Hon. Treasurer. Collecting donations and subscriptions, running the Prize Draw and the raffle, hiring the hall and negotiating a discount for cash with the dog-collared gent therefore provide the perfect excuse for acting as unofficial Major (or perhaps Colonel) Domo of the day.

His ideal weather is heavy rain in the morning (to keep people round and about) with a bright spell just before the doors open at 1.45p.m. prompt ! "On no account" proclaims The Colonel "should anyone be admitted beforehand." The Colonel opens the doors at 1.35 p.m. and, with the chuckle of a naughty 8 year old, explains that if the punters have money to spend who is he to keep them waiting.

In no time at all the shoe boxes and old ice-cream tubs are rattling with coinage. Pensioners mingle with young mums amongst the bargain hunters, and one or two semi-professional antique dealers cast a disdainful eye over the proffered wares. Mr. Big (friend and neighbour to the whole community) drops in for a go on the Tombola, and promptly wins a disgusting bottle of plonk which he had so generously donated the night before, whilst Mrs. Big and the middle of the three delectable Miss Bigs nose through the second-hand books in search of a saucy Penny Dreadful froms Messrs. Thrills and Swoon.

Highlight of the afternoon is a visit from the local M.P., who seizes the opportunity to engage in a bout of "pressing the flesh", a dual-purpose devise, for as well as banking a few votes for the future it successfully prevents him from opening his wallet too often. Eventually feminine persuasion extracts a round pound in exchange for some perfume of doubtful origin, "For my dear wife", and the harassed guardian of democracy scurries off to dispense more smiles and handshakes at yet another mind-numbing example of suburbia's never-ending preoccupation with good causes.

With merciful swiftness the afternoon races on, until The Colonel, with Snark-hunting fervour, excitedly tingles his bell. It is time for "The Draw". The suspense can be measured in fractions of a millivolt as the winning ticket is drawn, and the £50 voucher for Premium Bonds is won by - old Mrs. Wiggins. "Could be worth a quarter of a million" enthuses The Colonel. "She'll probably spend it on gin" says Mrs. Wiggin's neighbour, secretly hoping for a nip. Sundry consolation prizes ensue a reasonable distribution of contentment, and the Fair begins to fade away. The non-perishable residue is carefully packed for next year, trestle table erecting goes into reverse, and The Colonel quickly counts the spoils. "Better than last year" is the verdict, and an eruption of mixed feelings takes hold of the assembly.

Mixed ? Well, yes. That's another 12 months of pavement-pounder's ankle and letter-box pusher's wrist guaranteed.

HOMO SUBURBANUS

FOR SALE

TENSAI 20 band graphic equaliser - good condition : £20 o.n.o.

Contact Paul : Ext. 441

Hardback copies of "VIRTUES' COLOURFUL COOKING BOOK"

Retail Price	£15.95
Price to BT readers	£ 5.99

Contact Peter Walton for details : Ext. 212

L. P. 'S F O R S A L E

Saturday Night Fever	(Double)	£4
Queen Live Killers	(Double)	£4
Abba Arrival		£3
Neil Sedaka	Steppin' Out	£3
Hot Chocolate	Greatest Hits	£3
Elton John's	Greatest Hits Vol. II	£3
Wings	Wing's Greatest	£3

All perfect condition

Elaine Harding

Ext 293

O.N.O.

CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year's party will be held on:-

Saturday : December 20th

To ensure that Father Christmas brings sufficient presents for all the children who come to the party please complete the form below, and send it to Roy Fraser or Peter Walton by

Friday : October 17th

Child's Name	Age	Boy/Girl

Children aged 4-12 years of Social Club Members are eligible to come to the party.

OPEN DAY

Open day has been and gone. Hurrah! Well, what did we get out of it? No doubt the desired effects will appear. Our profile has been raised and it will be more difficult to ignore us in future. We made it to some of the national papers - see our sample selection elsewhere in this issue. But what about the changes at Wood Lane?

Smooth roads - wonderful!
Full flower beds - fantastic!
A fresh lick of paint - great!
All very desirable improvements in our working conditions. A splendid new reception, the list goes on. But there were other benefits.

How many more people across the site met for the first time during Open Day?

I certainly met quite a few. You know the feeling, "I've seen that bloke quite often, but I never knew his name or what he does". The collaboration required for such an event does make it easier to find out.

And then there was the "Staff Tour" when we could all go round and see some, at least, of what is going on in those areas seldom sullied by inquisitive feet. That was a real opportunity that otherwise is sadly absent.

Sitting to an unaccustomed lunch with some of the "guides" talk came round to the "BICC induction" course that used to happen. Does it still happen? How about a Wood Lane induction course to

simulate the benefits of an open day. Not in your first week at BREL, but after 3 months say, when you've found your feet in your own department. I am sure it would be to everyone's benefit.

Perhaps the biggest surprise from Open Day was the depth of talent that was revealed in public speaking. From a site full of researchers, normally bent double over bubbling test-tubes, came a host of confident eloquent presenters. And departmental heads were excluded!

What hidden treasures there are to be found, if one only takes the trouble to look!

KB

AROUND THE BUSH



Another Open Day Special?

• As if to join in with our smartening up for Open Day, this Inter-City 125 was finished off recently over Shepherds Bush Green. It carries hundreds of passengers a day without moving a centimetre. A local resident designed the train for a competition, looking at ways to brighten up the bridge. The GLC (RIP) paid £70,000 for the "sculpture" and British Rail have volunteered to pay for its upkeep

What the Press say

THE TIMES TUESDAY JUNE 17 1986

COMPUTER HORIZONS/1

The shake-up over gold

The computer manufacturing industry is poised to undergo a major transition brought about by global politics. Manufacturing techniques and the materials used in the production of computers and related equipment will soon change due to the fear that traditional materials may no longer be supplied from established sources.

Computer designs must also change to respond to the demands made by politicians. At the fore of that transition is the politics of South Africa which has made many industrialists frightened that the country's instability could substantially damage the electronics industries of the developed world.

Those industries depend heavily on gold as the principal material for coating contacts. The computer world depends on the precious metal's non-corrosive and hard-wearing properties and spends millions of pounds each year to that end.

Research has been pursued by many groups to find that alternative. Different manufacturers have had various levels of success. The disclosure last week that the British electrical group BICC had made a breakthrough in developing a process for a gold substitute for use in electronic circuits was timely.

The announcement was made on the same day that the price of gold and platinum soared in value on the world market, precipitated by the fears of commodity speculators.

The BICC process is the result of a three-year research programme. An alloy of palladium — a member of the platinum family — is used as the core of the novel contacts. Gold is not entirely eliminated from the process.

The precious metal is used sparingly

— a coating of gold is spread across the core but only a tenth of the current volume. While some of the supplies of palladium still come from South Africa, Canada and Russia provide substantial alternative sources of supply.

The BICC researchers have ambitious plans. They hope their process will give Britain a novel opportunity for export. Millions of pounds each year could be saved by the computer industry with such gold substitutes.

THE SUNDAY TIMES 22 JUNE 1986

Newest glitter beats gold

THE electronics industry has found a cheap alloy that is as good as gold. In fact, its corrosion resistance and the other qualities needed to make super-efficient electrical contacts are even better.

Based on palladium, a sister metal of gold, the alloy looks set to save the industry millions of pounds by replacing gold as the most corrosion-resistant metal; the alloy's cost is one-third that of gold.

This is good news for manufacturers of such high-performance products as hi-fi and recording equipment. The alloy's flawless conducting power is what is needed, for example, for perfect plug-in connections.

The search for alternatives to gold started when its price rose spectacularly in the late 1970s. Electronics companies tried using thinner layers of gold, or even none at all, to keep prices down. But when serious corrosion appeared it became clear that a cheaper substitute was the only solution.

By talking to companies making electroplating materials, scientists at the British electrical giant BICC settled on palladium-based alloys as likely substitutes.

Tests showed that one particular alloy not only had better ductility (important in manufacturing components) and suffered less from ageing, but was also cheaper. It also helped to reduce harmful diffusion or leaching between the metals used in electrical contacts, improving their performance.

But to determine whether this unglamorous alloy was highly resistant to corrosion, BICC had to go to the Battelle Institute in Ohio, where a jointly sponsored project is aimed at developing the first standard test for corrosion resistance.

In fact the new material was even better than gold at withstanding the corroding gases used in the test.

The researchers have not succeeded in making gold redundant, however. Wear tests showed that a layer of gold, just a tenth of that usually needed, has to be flashed on to the alloy to act as a solid lubricant. Even so, the new material is still far cheaper.

The first components using the palladium alloy should be produced next year by the Portsmouth subsidiary of BICC, Sealectro.

And other manufacturers are expected soon to find uses for the golden alloy: for example where corrosion resistance is important for looks, as on gold-rimmed spectacles.

Robert Matthews

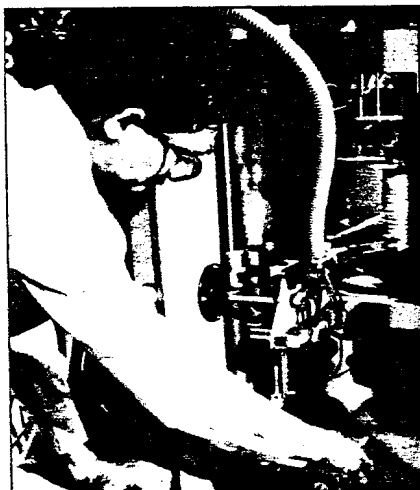
Computerised cable factory stretches 300km

Flexible cable coated with p.v.c. is rolling off a production line in London under the supervision of a computer system located some 300km away on Merseyside. The line, at BICC's Research and Engineering (BREL) establishment in Wood Lane, is part of a major programme to introduce computer integrated manufacture to BICC's factories.

The Wood Lane line is being used to develop and prove both software and hardware which will later be introduced in BICC's cable plants. It is acting as a satellite product line for a computer integrated manufacturing system based at BICC's Melling works which already includes a mainframe computer, 12 minicomputers and 285 microcomputers linked to 86 production machines.

The BREL line accepts manufacturing and quality instructions from Merseyside via BICC's internal telecommunications network. In return, it provides frequent status reports back to Melling on the quantity and quality of its output.

In another automation project at Wood Lane, a flexible



BICC's prototype cable reeling and testing cell: an automated alternative to manual techniques.

assembly cell for packaging and testing reels of cable is being developed. The cell is intended to replace slow, costly and unreliable manual

methods of producing and testing small production runs of cable reels.

The cell will take cable directly from an extruder, cut

it to length, wind it on to a reel and test it. The system will be able to produce 360,000 reels of cable a year using eight different reel sizes to accommodate 16 different types of cable from 1.6mm².

The satellite production line and flexible assembly cell were put on public show for the first time at a series of open days at the Wood Lane laboratories last week.

BICC spends about £26m on research and development each year—equivalent to about 1.8 per cent of the annual turnover of the group's activities, excluding construction work. At the first of the open days, BICC chairman Sir William Barlow admitted that this amount was "nothing like enough" and expressed a hope to spend more on r&d in future.

About a third of BICC's total r&d effort is concentrated at the Wood Lane laboratories. In recent years there has been a marked move away from traditional power cable work towards the new technologies of data communications, optical fibres and electronics.

The BICC researchers are, however, still working on some basic cable technologies such as improved processes for producing cross-linked insulation. Current work, for example, includes extending a single-stage process for extruding and cross-linking polyethylene to other polymeric materials to produce cross-linked alternatives to flexible rubber and zero halogen insulation.

NEWS

Electrical Review Vol. 218 No. 19 20 June 1986

Have you seen any articles in the press? If you have, cut them out and drop them in the mail to the Editor Bush Telegraph

BICC's think-tank opens its doors

'A think-tank of ideas for application' was how Sir William Barlow, chairman of BICC, described the laboratories of BICC Research & Engineering Ltd. (BREL) at White City in West London, on the occasion of the laboratories' open days last month which attracted over 400 visitors.

BREL provides Britain's leading cables, construction and components group with a central research facility, and supports and complements development work carried out by the four operating companies, BICC Cables, BICC International, Balfour Beatty and BICC Technologies.

BICC is perhaps best known for cable manufacture, and claims to be the largest cable-making operation in the UK. However, the company has a growing involvement in newer technologies such as



Sir William Barlow, chairman of BICC

optical fibres, data networks, and electronic systems and components, which is reflected in much of the work at BREL.

BREL is affectionately known within BICC circles as 'Wood Lane', though the address is now Aerial Way.

The site has a notable record. Building activities began on the site at the turn of the century when a power station was erected there by the Kensington & Notting Hill Electric Light Company. The power station was constructed to generate high-tension, 3-phase current to substations belonging to the Kensington & Knightsbridge Electrical Lighting Company and the Notting Hill Electric Light Company. One of these substations was situated in



BREL has investigated various noble metals as alternatives to gold for plating connectors used in electronic equipment. The Battelle mixed flowing gas chamber is a radically new method of carrying out environmental tests for resistance to corrosion.

by Tony Prins

the vaults below the Albert Memorial!

Wood Lane Power Station was eventually closed in 1928, having played a part in supplying the Franco-British Exhibition held in that area in 1908.

BICC's association with Wood Lane began in 1931, and in 1934 Lord Rutherford of Nelson opened the laboratories. In 1961, the new McFadzean Laboratory, named after the then chairman of the company, was opened by HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh.

Visitors to Wood Lane during the open days saw a wide range of demonstrations, encompassing such diverse subjects as X-ray diffraction, optical-fibre technology, lower-cost alternatives to gold, railway electrification, computer integrated manufacture and the intelligent building of the future.

In recent years, there has been a growing awareness of the potential of computers and information technology to reduce manufacturing costs, and this has led to considerable development and investment in computer-integrated-manufacturing systems.

BICC's cable factories operate within increasingly complex infrastructures of interacting manual and computer control systems, aimed at enhancing both production efficiency and product quality.

One of BREL's achievements in this area is a production monitoring and control system, which links all the manufacturing elements of plant and process control to the business system.

Such a system has been installed at BICC Flexible Cables at Melling, near Liverpool, linking a mainframe computer, a superminicom-



A computer-based system developed by BREL is used extensively by Balfour Beatty to simulate a variety of overhead electrification equipment for contracts through the world.

puter, 11 minicomputers, 265 microcomputers, 85 machines and 300 employees.

A demonstration during the open days showed a computer-controlled production line for manufacturing PVC-coated, flexible cable acting as a satellite to a cable factory, receiving manufacturing and quality instructions from the factory and returning frequent status reports on the quantity and quality of its production via BICC's internal telecommunications network.

Computers are also playing a major role in BICC's work on railway electrification. BICC became involved in this area in 1914 and, in the 1950s when 25 kV overhead systems were introduced, it became necessary to be able to recreate field conditions in the laboratory so that equipment designs could be analysed.

Consequently, BICC developed and ran a scaled-down model for performance assessments. In 1972, however, BREL developed a computer-based system to replace the physical modelling. It dramatically increased the precision of the predictions and meant that more complex problems could be addressed. The software is now used extensively by Balfour Beatty to simulate a variety of overhead railway electrification equipment for contracts all over the world.

BICC is one of the world's leading companies in optical-fibre-cable technology. In Europe, it claims to have pioneered the development of the ribbon-making process and the use of ribbons in new optical-cable designs, particularly those requiring large numbers of fibres. From an economic viewpoint, the manufacture of ribbon cables requires fewer process steps and lower-cost plant.

Such cables, of course, have to be joined, and a fibre-jointing unit is being developed at BREL to take advantage of the pre-grouping of fibres to speed up the jointing process.

The ribbon splicer, as it is known, is based on a highly successful single-mode fusion splicer, which was designed and developed at BREL and is now selling well worldwide. It allows single fibres to be quickly and ac-

curately aligned and then fused together under automatic microprocessor control.

A sequential splicing technique has been adopted by BREL for ribbon jointing and eight fibres can be spliced in 30 minutes compared with 2 h to splice eight separate fibres. BREL claims that 90% of the joints using the new ribbon splicer have better than 0.5 dB attenuation, the requirement for local-area networks.

Electronic connectors are another area of interest at BREL. Many of the millions of connectors used in electronic equipment are gold plated to provide stable contact resistance. The thin gold plating, however, tends to be porous, making the contact surfaces susceptible to corrosion.

As the price of gold has risen, alternative noble-metal coatings are being considered. BREL has found that a particular palladium (one-third the price of gold) alloy, when covered with a thin (about 0.1 µm) gold flash, is not only cheaper but gives better performance in corrosive atmospheres.

Connectors using the new coating are now undergoing extensive environmental testing and Sealectro, part of BICC Technologies, hopes to introduce a new high-performance connector based on the new technology later this year.

For the environmental testing, BREL is using a Battelle mixed flowing gas chamber, one of the first such systems in the UK. The Battelle test is a radically new method of carrying out environmental tests, and BREL is collaborating with other organisations to prove the test for national and international standards.

BICC supplies many of the electrical products used in buildings, ranging from mains cables and switchgear to lighting units, as well as being involved in construction and installation through Balfour Beatty.

The term 'intelligent building' describes the integration of the electrical and electronic services to provide a complete, managed environment. The fusion of various technologies and disciplines in this area is leading BICC to

develop products and systems for this rapidly growing market.

In power distribution within buildings, microelectronics provides many opportunities for improving protection technology and accurately monitoring and controlling the flow of energy. BREL has developed a novel residual-current device which detects leakage currents as low as 0.01 A and is now in production with Dorman Smith Switchgear, and a low-cost building telemetry system now marketed by BICC Transmittor.

In local-area networks, where data and computer resources are distributed throughout a building, BREL quickly recognised the value of the Ethernet-based international standard and developed a transceiver to enable computers to be interconnected.

From this work, in fact, emerged BICC Data Networks, now a leading LAN company supplying a wide range of products to the IEEE 802.3 standard. The com-

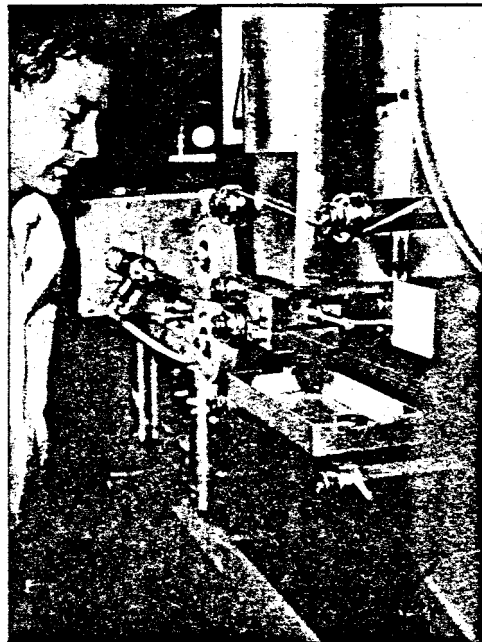
pany's Isolan products provide a range of equipment for LAN applications. The key elements in the system are the transceiver, which provides the basic connection point for network terminals, and the repeater, which is used to interconnect segments of a LAN.

Other elements include a fanout unit which gives transceiver-type connections for up to eight terminals as an economical alternative to individual transceiver connections, and an alternative repeater permitting the use of fibre-optic cables between LAN segments in separate buildings.

Products about to be launched by BICC Data Networks include a fibre-optic hub, a multipoint repeater and a multiplexer. The hub allows cost-effective interconnection of remote cable systems via fibre-optic transceivers, or the implementation of a fully fibre-optic network if required. The multipoint repeater allows several different segments to be interconnected and provides interfaces for all cable types, and the multiplexer provides an X25 or SNA gateway among other functions.

A range of intelligent controllers has been developed as part of the LAN system to allow connection of a variety of personal computers to the LAN. Each controller is designed as a plug-in card for the appropriate PC and provides additional processing power and memory, together with local transceiver functions. Thus the overall processing power of the PC is unaffected for its normal operations and a variety of card types allows flexibility in choice of microcomputer.

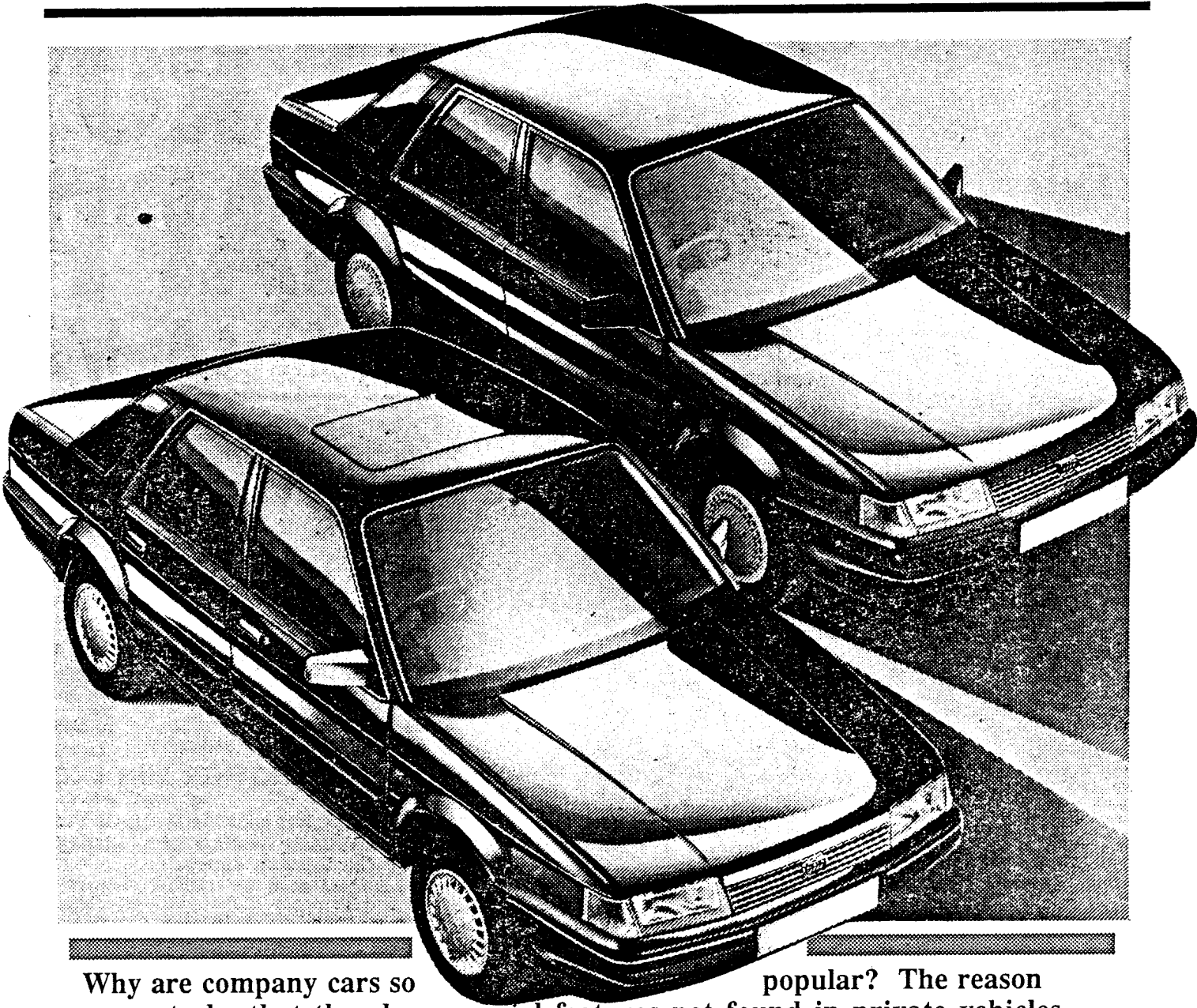
With a turnover of over £2100 million and over half its business outside the UK, BICC is firmly established in the international marketplace. The group's investment in BREL will no doubt keep BICC in the vanguard of progress by, as its slogan says, 'engineering tomorrow's world'.



BICC has pioneered the development of the ribbon-making process and the use of ribbons in new optical-cable designs, particularly those requiring large numbers of fibres.

HOW TO RECOGNISE A COMPANY CAR

Courtesy of
Les Ireland



Why are company cars so popular? The reason seems to be that they have special features not found in private vehicles. Automotive Fleet magazine provided this list

1. They travel faster in all gears, especially reverse.
2. They accelerate at a phenomenal rate.
3. They enjoy a much shorter braking distance.
4. They have a much tighter turning radius.
5. They can take bumps at twice the speed of private cars.
6. Oil and tyre pressures and battery and water levels do not need to be checked nearly so often.
7. The floor is shaped just like an ashtray.
8. They do not have to be garaged at night.
9. The tyre walls are designed for bumping into and over curbs.
10. They can be driven up to 100 miles with the oil warning light on.
11. They need cleaning less often, especially inside.
12. The suspension is reinforced to allow concrete slabs and other heavy building materials to be carried.
13. They are adapted to allow reverse to be engaged while the car is still moving forward.
14. Unusual and alarming engine noises are easily eliminated by the adjustment of the radio volume control.
15. No security is needed. They may be left anywhere, unlocked, with the keys in the ignition.



GOOD
NEWS
IF
YOU
DRINK
BEER!!



If you have ever felt guilty about drinking beer from a can there is good news. From today you can do it knowing you are helping a good cause. By saving the ring pull can (and the ring pull too!) you will be helping to raise money for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. An aluminium processing firm is offering approximately 1 penny for every aluminium can collected and this money will help to fund the Associations activities.

The cans collected must be all aluminium and these could be beer cans, Coca Cola cans or many others used for soft drinks or fruit juices. To see if the can is aluminium, test the side with a magnet. If the can is attracted to the magnet it's worthless, but if not it's valuable. Please help by starting to collect cans today. It would help to transport the cans if they were crushed but don't worry if your not strong enough to manage this!

So don't delay, start drinking today and help a worthwhile cause. Bring your cans to Trevor Wood (Room M123) ext 465 or call for further details.

GARDENERS WORLD

THE CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW




As always there was something for everyone at this years Chelsea Flower Show. A competition of hanging baskets sponsored by Plantpak produced one of the most interesting stands. In the three categories of flowering, foliage and cropping the plants ranged for the normal fuchsias/geraniums to strawberries, herbs and lettuces.

On display were many stands of bonsai and fuchsias but only one stand of stately delphiniums. The Delphinium Society was doing great business that day.

However, Erin the well known plant container manufacturer's showed an extremely tired looking bed of begonias which wouldn't have deserved a second glance if placed in a public park.

The sponsored small gardens now trendily called the courtyard garden appeared at first glance to be very synthetic and plants were squeezed in as though they were an after thought.

For the conservationists there was a delightful raised bed of wild flowers and grasses, alarmingly close to the weed control exhibition no doubt in case it got out of hand.



Dr. Iain Hengale

(Our newly volunteered Gardening Correspondent



"We started working flexi-time and that was the last I saw of him."

SOCIAL CLUB ROUND UP

TRIVIAL BRAINS OF BREL

6-A-SIDE CRICKET

PITCH 'n PUTT

What you may ask is the connection between these three activities of the Spring and Summer Seasons at Wood Lane ? The answer is that Engineers (and their associates) were unusually successful in all three.

Following three (or was it four, it's so long ago now I can hardly remember) qualifying rounds a team from Plant & Processes - Elaine Gillingham, Roger Brown, Peter Higgins and Otto Bauer were clear winners in the final of the first "Trivial Brains of BREL" competition. Given the outstanding interest shown in the competition and the enjoyment many people gained from participating it will be repeated..... with different questions.... next year and may well become a firm feature of the Social Club calendar of events.

The Pitch 'n Putt competition was won this year by Dan Tan, followed closely by Mark Findley (before he damaged his shoulder playing for one of our 5-a-side football teams). Congratulations Dan.... dare any other members of the Golfing Section turn up next year and put us once-a-year hackers into our places ?

Dan Tan featured, also, in this year's 6-a-side cricket competition as non-playing Captain of the victorious CAM-Analytical Services Team. Their victory in the final against Radiation was however of the slimmest margins and was based on strict application of the rules of cricket rather than of the rules devised by the organiser (who is a member of the Radiation Dept. - but that is considered irrelevant by the writer). Radiation scored 29 runs for the loss of all their wickets with one ball to go in their final over. CAM/AS scored 29 runs for the loss of 4 wickets with the winning run being scored off the final ball of their innings (Radiation might claim this included several dubious no-ball decisions by the umpire - but they won't, being sportsmen). Under the usual rules of the BREL 6-a-side competition this would have left Radiation as winners since scoring rate, defined as total runs scored/total number of balls received is the arbiter in matches ending on level scores. The rule was devised primarily to decide the winners of matches ending within the allotted 5-overs/team and to reduce the effectiveness of any particular outstanding batsman any side might have. Needless to say, attempted application of the rule caused rumblings of discontent from CAM/AS at the end of the final and with Radiation feeling that they had scored a moral victory, it was agreed that the rules of cricket should prevail. Thus CAM/AS became the 1986 6-a-Side Champions having lost fewer wickets in scoring their 29 runs. (What a palaver! Seems to me the writer is not amused - unsolicited comment from the typist).

BAR-B-QUE and HORTICULTURAL SHOW

The main connection between these two events is that the same people were largely concerned with the organisation and participation in both. However, whereas the Bar-B-Que had the "Gods" on its side in that the weather was perfect and everyone was in the mood to let their hair down after the pressures leading up to and during the Open Days, the poor late summer weather literally cast a bit of a cloud on the Horticultural Show. Little needs to be said about the B-B-Q and the Barn Dance (Marquee Dance?) that followed it except that it was an outstanding success.

For the first time since its revival, several year's ago, the number of exhibitors in this year's Horticultural Show was smaller than last year, holidays and the inclement weather of late having put some people off. However the event was enjoyed by everyone who attended. Congratulations go to David Goff the winner of the Brazier Bowl for the best exhibit in the show - a perfectly formed rose. Thanks to the principal organiser, Andy Platt and to the judges, Denis Willis - who judged flowers, fruit and vegetables - and Barry Howell who was brave enough to judge the home-made wines and beers. Barry enlivened the judging of the flowers with his comments on the wine...."best of a bad bunch, I don't like it, but I think it is the best". "Cough mixture - WHAT do Boots put in their country wine kits?". "I've never smelled elderberries like this"...

5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL and BALFOUR BEATTY SPORTS DAY

It is a pleasure to report that the 5-a-side football section of the Social Club appears to be going from strength to strength, at least in terms of the number of teams playing. In addition to our usual two teams in the Hammersmith Lunchtime League we now have an interest in an evening "Pub League" thanks to an initiative from Chris Willson of Maths. As far as results go..... well this year is not as good as the last if one considers the BICC side in Division I of the Lunchtime League, but a little better for the BREL side, who now reside in Division III. Both teams are however different from last year's, having suffered from defections to Universities, Polytechnics and other more gainful employment away from Wood Lane. The "spirit" is still there nevertheless and we look forward to greater success next year.

Our team in the Balfour Beatty Sports Days Competition was undefeated but still did not make the semi-finals. The competition was run like a Mini-World Cup with teams split into four divisions, the winner of each division going forward to the semi-finals. Our team won its first game but could only draw its second despite being the obviously more skilful side. The team we drew with scored more goals in their victory over the side we beat and so went forward ... and actually won the competition.

11-a-Side Cricket

BREL's 11-a-Side Cricket season consisted of a fairly hectic period during June and July. In this time, we played 4 games, winning one, not winning three.

Our first game was a "friendly" against a team called the "Three Whippets", the match being played on a nice ground in Sheen (not an area one might associate with Whippets, hardly a flat cap or glass of real Midlands or Northern beer to be found). We lost this game, but gained revenge in a return played at Shepherds Bush Cricket Club. Our attempts at winning the Hammersmith Knockout Cup and the Hammersmith Plate competitions were unsuccessful, we were defeated in turn by a local youth club team (played on Wormwood Scrubs) and by Notting Hill Police (played on Perivale Park). Despite the defeats the team, as usual, played with fine spirit and look forward with hope to a more successful season in 1987.

L-B BIKE RIDE

Avid readers of the "LINK" as well as those Wood Laners who were persuaded to act as sponsors will already be aware that several members of staff took part in the Annual London to Brighton Bike Ride. This year sponsorship money raised by the ride was donated to the British Heart Foundation.

There is little, really, that can be added to the "LINK" article about the ride the weather was sunny and very hot, the presence of the thousands of cyclists led to apparent chaos all the way between Clapham Common and Brighton (apparent chaos the organization was quite good considering the number of people taking part), all Wood Laners completed the ride and most of those who intended to, managed to meet up on the beach at Brighton. One endearing memory of the post-ride idyll on Brighton beach (for the writer at least) was the sight of Rob Corne staring all around trying to find the rest of us when we were sitting not five yards away shouting to him at the tops of our voices as were many others who took up our calls. Was he tired, sun-happy or simply mesmerized by the topless bathing belles who seemed determined to turn Brighton into Nice for the day?

Finally I am sure everyone who took part would like to thank both Geoff Holder for organizing the BICC team and Graham Taylor who brought the Company van to ferry a number of us back home - we might never have made it without him !

CRI DU COEUR

Firstly an apology for the incorrect heading the the last BT, "Crie de Coeur". The error was however, pointed out to its perpetrator by only two people didn't anyone else notice?

Now for the article The history of the fishpond figure, as promised in the last BT, is brief.

The antique lead figure was bought and donated by Dr,. Brazier following demolition of the chimney which once occupied the site of the fishpond end of history.

As most of you may have noticed the figure has regained its patina having undergone metamorphosis from silver to bronze to unadorned lead in what now seems a very short period of time

Summer. In contrast to the author of the verse in the last BT. and in contrast to the views of many others, the author of the verse printed below appears to have some sympathy with the attempts to brighten up the figure.

FISHPOND FRED

Once more I am nude and antique,
No longer the colour of teak,
How I envied the goldfish,
To glimmer was my wish,
I did just that - for one week!

Anon.



"Fishpond Fred" pictured a few years ago in the company of Eileen King.

MEMENTO



Dave Geoff is the owner of this commemorative plate ... has anyone got similar mementos of events involving BICC, or even BREL alone?





SEA ANGLING SECTION



Since the previous issue of the 'Bush Telegraph' the section's activities have continued with four further boat fishing trips made from Brighton Marina.

A second ground-fishing trip (2nd May) made with skipper 'Tubby' David May provided better sport than in March with a good catch taken of whiting, spurdogfish, plaice, and red-gurnard.

Thus hopes were raised for the start of the three wreck-fishing trips arranged to take place with Cliff Lindbetter aboard his boat 'Chiquitita'.

On the first of these trips (2nd June) baited artificial lures scored well with a large catch of ling, plus one conger eel, taken. The second trip (4th July) was less successful. A perverse combination of a moderate but variable wind across a light tide made fishing particularly difficult. A mediocre catch of small cod, and smaller pollack was taken with the fish few and far between.

Fortunately third time out (28th July) proved lucky and dispelled the disappointment of the previous trip. The marine-line forecast of bad weather was false; and the skipper's more forthright prediction proved to be correct. Apprehensive members of the fishing party grew more confident as the day progressed as they motored some 20 miles seaward in ideal conditions - sunshine and a calm sea. Three wrecks were pinpointed which were fished at a depth of about 240 feet. A good mixed catch of ling, and cod was taken with baited artificial lures again providing the best results.

In total the catches from the wreck-fishing trips weighed 305 lb, at an average weight of approximately 10 lb per fish. A 22 lb ling (G. Taylor) was the heaviest caught in this period. A reasonable quantity (unweighed) of mackerel, and of the less welcome pout-whiting have added to these catches.

A surprising feature this year has been the apparent lack of pollack (and their substitution by ling) which, as a rule, make up a good proportion of the bulk catches during spring and early summer wreck-fishing trips.

Looking ahead further boat trips for reef/ground fishing will be arranged during the autumn. Details can be obtained from the Section's secretary Adrian Cole (243).

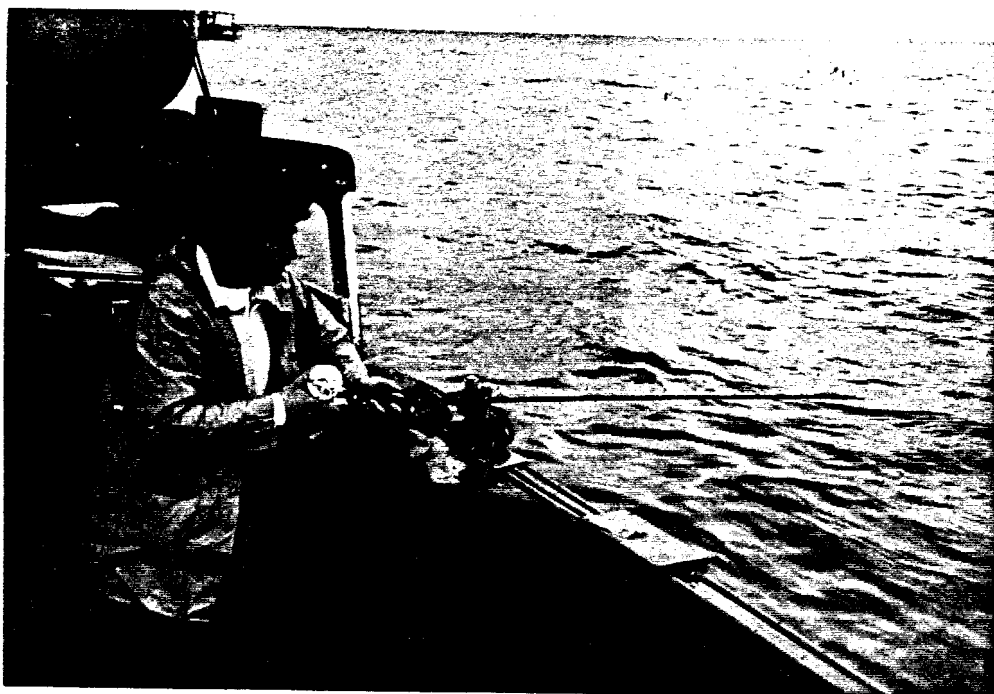
New hands are welcome, whether those of novices or experienced fishermen. Tackle is available from the Section for those who might wish to give it a try, or can be hired at reasonable cost on most boats.



Graham: with proof that the fish are there.



Aboard Chiquitita 2nd May: With a selection of Ling.



Derek playing the waiting game.

GENEALOGY SECTION

ADDITIONS TO LIBRARY

The following new publications are now in the Section's Library :

"Marriage, Census and other Indexes for Family Historians"
(FFHS - 2nd Edition 1986)

"Record Offices - How to find them"
(FFHS - 3rd Edition 1986)

"Index to Census Registration Districts"
(FFHS)

"Annals of the Poor" (Eve McLaughlin)

Our thanks to John Battle for finding the "Record Offices - How to find them" - abandoned, in pristine condition, in Wood Lane. Some unknown benefactor's loss is the Section's gain... and a saving of £1.50!

The updated IGI Microfiche have arrived and are being checked and collated. It is hoped that they will be available for general use very shortly.

DIARY OF EVENTS

End October/Beginning November

Interdepartment Five-a-side
Soccer Competition.
Contact Peter Walters for
details.

October 29th

Film Section Soiree and first
film of the year "Tootsie"

October 31st

Next BT

Early November

Wine Tasting.

December 20th

Childrens Christmas Party.

BICC Film Society - 1986/1987 Season

- October 29th - Tootsie
- November 19th - Midnight Express
- December 10th - Annie Hall
- January 14th - Defence of the Realm
- February 4th - Silkwood
- February 25th - The Blues Brothers
- March 18th - The Return of Martin Guerre

plus a supporting program of short films and soirees.