

Bush

Telegraph

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BUSH TELEGRAPH

Vol. 28 No.4

Cover

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Editorial Board

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A Halloween Bush Telegraph!

Slim but out on time (we hope). Our next issue will be a Christmas special, so get your contributions in as soon as possible.

We bring you two pieces of news. The redundancies at Helsby make sad reading. Unemployment is one of the great blights on our time and BICC is in no way immune. As the old order crumbles, a new one must take its place. We are

the professional innovators and can expect to have some say in what the new is to be. So it is not innapropriate that our second feature is about BICC at the Innovation Centre.

Some feedback this month. We are always ready to print praise, but all shades of opinion have a place. Do drop us a line if you have anything on your chest.

DEAR EDITOR,

A Reader

Dear Editor,
It would appear, from comments that have been made since the latest issue of "Bush Telegraph" came hot off the press (or laser printer), that the general concensus of opinion is "highly commended", for both content and appearance.

The comment in the editorial about having the tools at your fingertips and

the world at your feet reminded me of the oft-quoted advice to the young man who desired to get on in the world: "Keep your nose to the grindstone, your shoulder to the wheel, your ear to the ground, and your eye on the ball!" How's that for anatomical contortions to achieve your aim?

Les. Ireland

N E W C O M E R S : WELCOME TO WOOD LANE

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| G. Randall | Polymer Materials | 23 June |
| K.D. Penman | Polymer Materials | 26 August |
| Miss J.C. Smith | Patents | 26 August |
| Miss SM L Sim | Optical Transmission | 1 September |
| M. Crutch | Communications | 1 September |
| S.L. Wright | C.A.M. | 8 September |
| L.X. Huynh | Student | 8 September |
| Miss A.M. Doran | C.A.M. | 15 September |
| G.A. Powell | Student | 15 September |
| Miss L. Curtis | Optical Transmission | 22 September |
| P. Shearer | C.A.M. | 29 September |
| S.J. White | Electrical Development | 29 September |
| G. Lusignani | Electrical Development | 29 September |
| P.M. Devlin | Optical Transmission | 1 October |
| H. Thapar | Polymer Materials | 1 October |
| M. Vincent | Physics | 1 October |
| R.G. Schtaklef | Mathematics | 1 October |
| Mrs. G.M. Jones | Optical Transmission | 6 October |
| N. Colyer | Polymer Materials | 6 October |
| T. Burns | Optical Transmission | 13 October |
| C. Lu | Polymer Processes | 8 October |
| H. Kashef-Hamandani | Electrical Development | 20 October |

L E A V E R S : FAREWELL AND BEST WISHES TO :

| | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| E d'Souza | Analytical Services | 31 August |
| A. Stringer | C.A.M. | 9 September |
| C. Chapple | Patents | 26 September |
| R.E. Price | Plant and Process Engineering | 10 October |

LONG SERVICE AWARD : 20 years service, Rory McNicholl, Physics, 1.9.86

RETIREMENT

Congratulations and best wishes to Ron Dunkley who retired from the H.V. Laboratory of the Physics Department on 31st August after nearly 40 years service.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Sandra Street and Brian West who were married on October 18th.

Bye Bye Bob !!!

Dear friends,

I would like to thank you all for your best wishes and very generous collection on my leaving BICC. I shall think of you as I shear, prune, chisel and strip in our Oxfordshire homestead.

I take many fond memories of BREL with me, especially of those times spent with friends met through the Social Club. Hope to keep in touch with you in the future.

Who's going to fill my jogging shoes??

Regards,

Bob Price

WHAT'S ON?

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| November 14 | - | Wine Tasting |
| Middle November (lunchtimes) | - | Interdepartment 5-a-Side Soccer Competition |
| November 19 | - | Film : MIDNIGHT EXPRESS |
| Week 50 | - | Next BUSH TELEGRAPH |
| December 10 | - | Film : ANNIE HALL |
| December 20 | - | Children's Christmas Party |

BICC BEYOND BREL

A PERSONAL VIEW

Despite the tales of success, achievement and corporate well being that have been reported in the Link and in the last edition of the BT, most people will be aware that there is another side to the coin. The company's Annual Report and (short paragraphs) in the Link may refer to adverse trading conditions, effects of recession, need to rationalise and the like, in practical terms these have resulted in redundancies in the operating companies. Many of us are all too (uncomfortably) aware of many long-time colleagues at Leigh and Helsby who have been declared surplus to requirements in the last few months. Some may say, "So what...be glad it's not you", for my part gladness is an irrelevant emotion in this context, sadness and possibly guilt at the loss of colleagues are more relevant.

Is it not one of the functions of BREL to devise new products and processes for the operating companies to enable them to gain new markets as well as to retain their share of established ones? Are we maintaining our share of a diminishing market or increasing it? Should we at BREL feel any guilt at job losses in the operating companies? What do the reductions in the operating companies mean for BREL? Your comments on any of these questions will be most welcome.

Peter Walters.

Good Cheer!

CHRISTMAS COMES BUT ONCE A YEAR

.....And once a year is enough to send millions all over the country scurrying into off-licences to exchange their hard-earneds for vast quantities of stuff they may later regret drinking. Will you?

Relax.

Plan Ahead....

1. Stroll along to your local branch of Boots, Superdrug or friendly home-brew shop and browse.
2. For a few pounds purchase a wine or beer kit or two of your fancy along with a few bits of basic equipment.
3. Follow the simple instructions.

By the time Christmas falls upon us you will be the proud owner of ample stocks of the fluid that:

- (a) Takes care of those unexpected guests
- (b) Gets you invited to that unexpected party
- (c) Allows you to thake your slirst well into the new year.

The experienced brewer will probably already have something on the go, but for all you would-be's now's the time to give it a try. Most kits will produce drinkable stuff within 8 weeks (some say as little as 3 weeks, but don't rely too heavily on these claims).

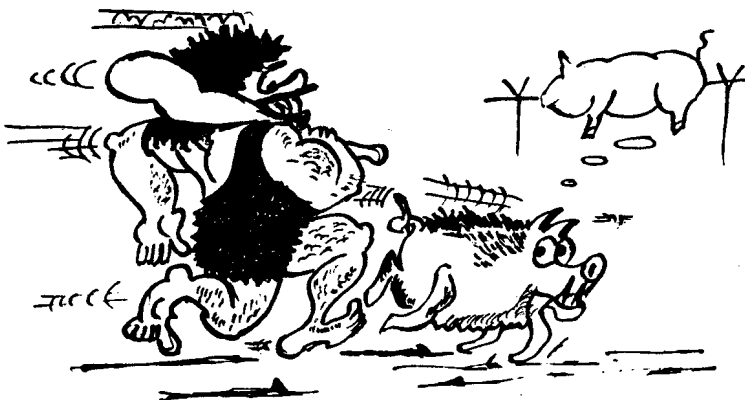
The range of kits now available is enormous, covering all types of beer and wine (including sparkling wine) and even more exotic things like "Pina Colada" and "Gin and Tonic". Of course they range in complexity of production too, some just require throwing in a bucket and kicking occasionally while others need a little more tender loving care. The instructions are often printed on the outside of the box.

Following your undoubted success, you may feel the urge to progress to brewing from real ingredients, in which case you will be interested to read Winemaker and Brewing magazine which

THE HOME MADE WINE AND BEER SECTION

circulates. We also have a few books and some equipment you can borrow to save you buying all the fiddly bits straight away.

Anyone interested, experienced or beginner, contact Rob Corne. (x340).



BICC INNOVATION

Sir William Barlow was once chairman of the Design Council. Now, of course, he is chairman of some other organisation.

The Design Council is perhaps best known for its awards. The distinctive black and white tags adorn products that have been "*selected for the DESIGN CENTRE LONDON*". A (fake) specimen can be found on the cover of this month's Bush Telegraph - well we think it's worth it! Products that are selected should be "*well made, easy to use, suited to its purpose, simple to maintain, good looking and value for money*".

So what? Well, at the rear of the Design Council shop on the Haymarket, there is the Design Council Innovation Centre. Here, selected organisations are allowed to sponsor exhibitions with the theme of "*INNOVATION*". This month BICC is the main sponsor, and BICC's best innovative ideas are on show to the world.

Star of the show is undoubtedly the AFS3100 fusion splicer. Richard Grigsby has worked long and hard to reduce the controls of the fusion splicer down to one blue button. Go along yourself, you too can push that button and splice two fibres together.

In close second place comes, I think, an advanced wind turbine from Balfour Beatty (the work being



done at Kingston Polytechnic). This strange looking thing extracts energy from the wind. Some BICC folk know a lot about hot-air, the expertise seems to be spreading!

The Innovation Centre is at 28 Haymarket. The nearest tube is Piccadilly Circus, or buses 12 and 88 will take you to the door from Shepherd's Bush. It is open 10am-8pm Weds to Sat, 10-6 Mon & Tues and 1-6 on Sundays. The show runs until the 27th November.



What the Press say

Metals and Materials

September 1986

Volume 2 No 9

Computer integrated manufacture demonstrated at BICC

More than 400 people recently visited the BICC laboratory in Wood Lane, London during three open days held by the company. The company's meticulously organised event featured a wide range of demonstrations and exhibits including X-ray diffraction, optical fibre technology, lower cost alternatives to gold, railway electrification and computer integrated manufacture.

BICC Research and Engineering Limited is currently engaged in a number of development projects designed to bring the benefits of computer systems technology to the manufacturing environment. Some of this work is being carried out in conjunction with a group of international partners as part of the European Commission's ESPRIT programme (European Strategic Planning for Research in Information Technology). The aim is to identify real-life problems in the manufacturing situation which can be solved by the application of artificial intelligence.

Solutions to these problems characteristically involve knowledge-based or Expert systems implemented via a hierarchical network of computer-based systems which are integrated into the factory or manufacturing unit. This infra-structure of computer systems encompasses the whole range of batch manufacturing activities from commercial and strategic planning through to production and machine control on the shop floor. Within BICC, this concept of the 'Factory of the Future' is the motivating force behind much of the research and development into Computer Integrated Manufacturing (CIM).

Although the main thrust of the ESPRIT programme concerns the broader development of a real-time Expert system, BICC's contribution is concentrated on the production planning, maintenance and quality con-

trol aspects of factory operations.

The Action Planning Expert System provides support in making decisions about the allocation of jobs to machines and operators under conditions of uncertainty. To do this it analyses a vast amount of data and processes this to interpret its effect upon production output and schedules. In parallel, the Diagnosis and Prediction Expert System assists in maintenance and quality control activities, and interfaces directly with the plant to control product quality automatically and to provide failure diagnoses.

The basic CIM system around which the knowledge-based systems are being developed has already been implemented, and can be seen in operation at BICC's Central Research Laboratories. BICC sees these research programmes as vital to the strengthening of the Group's competitive position in its drive towards ever more efficient manufacturing operations.

BICC funds research fellowship

BICC, in conjunction with the Fellowship of Engineering, has announced plans to establish a senior research fellowship in technology at a UK polytechnic or university.

The fellowship will be for five years and will provide the salary (at 'reader' level) and running costs for a research worker of proven ability to undertake independent original research in a field of direct interest to BICC.

Three preferred areas have been listed by the company:

- optical technology for communications and electronics;
- materials for cable making or construction; and
- improved manufacturing techniques for batch and process production.

Enquiries about the fellowship should be made to Dr Moore at BICC. ☎ 01-743 1212

Engineering September 1986

Muted results from BICC

BICC has recorded £4.7 million in pretax profits for the first half of 1986, an increase of only 3.2% over the corresponding period last year.

The group blames a combination of adverse currency movements, falling oil prices and restructuring costs as the main drag on its performance.

Nevertheless, Sir William Barlow, the company chairman, said earnings per share rose from 10.1% to 11.5% — 14% more than last year.

On the technology front, profits from the group's cable manufacturing operations were particularly hard hit, down

13.75% to £13.8m, mainly caused by reduced demand from the oil, mining and railway industries.

However, in anticipation of sharply increasing demand for optical fibre telecommunications cable during the next few years, the company is preparing to install plant at its new purpose built factory at Whiston near Liverpool.

Profits at BICC Technologies recovered strongly, up 630% to £6.3m compared to the first half of 1985. The recent acquisition of Imhof/Bedco by BICC Vero Electronics is expected to strengthen the group's position.

Electronics Times, 18 September, 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

THE ANGUISH LANGUAGE

A Bush Telegraph measure your intellect competition! A wonderful prize will be offered to the first person who (a) gives a reasonable translation of the two paragraphs written below, and (b) explains how it came to be written. Entries in a plain brown wrapper please, to The Editor Bush Telegraph.

*Wants pawn term, dare
worsted ladle gull hoe lift
wetter murder inner ladle
cordage, honour itch offer
lodge, dock, florist. Disk
ladle gull orphan worry
putty ladle rat cluck wetter
ladle rat hut, an fur disk
raisin pimple colder Ladle
Rat Rotten Hut. Wan
moaning, Ladle Rat Rotten
Hut's murder colder inset.
"Ladle Rot Rotten Hut,
heresy ladle basking
winsome burden barter an
shirker cockles. Tick disk
ladle basking tutor cordage
offer groin-murder hoe lifts
honor udder site offer
florist. Shaker lake! Dun
stopper laundry wrote! Dun
stopper peck floors! Dun
daily-doily inner florist, an
yonder nor sorghum-
stenches, dun stopper torque
wet strainers!"*

A NEW POINT OF VIEW

Another perspective. How do newcomers to Wood Lane see what is so familiar to others? Steve White has recently joined us coming from Kings College London with a degree in physics. You may notice from his accent that he originally came from real BICC territory in Preston.

"I work in the Electronics Department and have been here for about three weeks. There are a lot of new recruits at BICC and like them I felt disoriented in the beginning, wondering if I had made the right decision. Although now I seem to be getting into the swing of things.

The site is large and I have tried to find out where everything is, even visited the mysterious hut at the end of the works. The bar is a bit of an oddity, with its

strange opening times, only Tuesday and Thursday. I can only take this to mean that there has been a serious drink problem at BICC.

The main problem that the new recruits have, is with finding a suitable place to live. Without a relocation allowance this means that we have to find a large amount of money for a deposit and advance rent. With overdrafts this can be a big headache.

Turning to the activities - football, athletics clubs etc. There is a 5-a-side competition soon which should be enjoyable. However I have noticed, there is no gambling society. If anyone is interested in card-counting systems for casinos, horse racing trips etc., please contact me on ext.460."

WINE TASTING

FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 1986
AT 7.30 PM

THE TICKETS FOR THE ANNUAL WINE TASTING
WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE FROM..

DAVID GOFF DENIS GROOMBRIDGE
ROY FRASER IAN FORDHAM

THERE WILL BE A MAXIMUM OF 150 TICKETS
AND PRICES WILL BE..

CLUB MEMBERS £3.00 GUESTS £3.50

THE OCCASIONAL DIARY OF A SUBURBAN MAN (AGE INDETERMINATE)

As the nights draw in and the leaves fall down, a misty melancholy settles over suburbia. Only the determined optimist can invoke a giant mental leap over the barrier that is Christmas and begin to salivate at the prospect of another glorious socialising summer in 1987. The rest of us must squeeze the last gram of reflective pleasure from the climatic vicissitudes of Summer '86, before being rubbed down with goose grease and sewn into our thermal underwear in the face of another advancing onslaught from the BBC weatherman.

Summers can be like schooldays; we only remember the good times. The Lord's Test and Royal Ascot; Trooping the Colour, Andy and Fergie; Strawberries at Wimbledon and Pimms at Henley. The Frenchman in Paris shuts up shop in August and deserts his city; the Englishman in London spends a couple of months warming up and still goes away in August! But somewhere amongst the Steward's passes and Rover tickets an unclaimed weekend usually appears - a kind of social pit stop where toppers can be brushed, blazer buttons burnished and the champagne stains cleaned away. That is where Mr. Big holds his annual charity barbecue.

You know you're going to be invited when he demands a philanthropic tenner for two tickets, and suggests that a willing volunteer is needed to help string up the fairy lights. It isn't done to refuse, and anyway it's a fair bet that the three delectable Miss Bigs, plus a healthy complement of their equally delectable friends from the Tit-for-Tatler Finishing School for Young Gals, will be adding a decorative touch to the preparations. Not that the illicit passion advances beyond the eyes and mind of the beholder, for the wife has also been volunteered for service and glares out from behind a seething mass of special recipe barbecue baked beans in Mrs. Big's kitchen. The merest hint of male manoeuvring, the slightest suggestion that the old leg is playing up (thereby restricting practical assistance to holding the ladder whilst those of a nubile disposition climb up), or any attempt to route the cable through the densest part of the shrubbery, cannot be

contemplated.

"Chez Big" is a solidly detached, 4-storey, Edwardian inflation-beater, its gaunt facade brightened only by today's compulsory suburban status symbol - a scarlet proboscis bearing the legend "Teeleef Security Alarms". A somewhat scruffy side passage leads to the expansive lawns and garden, where by 8 o'clock all is ready. At one end Big has arranged a cash bar - charity is after all so much more bountiful coming from the pockets of others - and with an uncanny eye for maximising the return has engaged our old friend the Colonel to run it. No more fervent giver of short measure nor diluter of orange juice is known to man. At the other end stands the barbecue. Not one of those £9.99 set-ups from Argos,

"BURN-UP AT MR.BIG'S"

where the wonky leg is always out of phase with the uneven bits of patio, and where just one of Tommy Wall's best breadcrumb and bone chipping bangers can be turned without falling off the edge. No - Big's barbecue is big.

Recipe. Take one oil drum and split lengthwise to provide two cradle-like pieces; drill holes; mount on sturdy iron framework; fill with old copies of the FT, assorted wood, firelighters and five bags of charcoal; pour on liberal quantities of paraffin and ignite.

Like an ancient church beacon the conflagration summons the whole of suburbia to attend, and whilst the wife and I don asbestos pinnies and assume our role as "volunteer" chefs the punters drift in.

For the fifth consecutive year Hilary and Humphrey Hartley-Smith are first. Clumping down the path, Humphrey drags his artificially-supported leg straight to the bar. A toper par excellence he is rumoured to owe his disability to an acute attack of uncoordinated perambulation under the

wheels of a motor cycle. Undeterred by the experience he has lately gone on to greater things, and now holds the Network South East All-Comers record for nights spent "sleeping it off" in the carriage sidings.

In the twinkling of a fairy light the lawn is awash with burgers, beans, bread rolls and booze. The wife and I are hosed down at intervals as an eager press of philanthropists demands charcoal-black chicken and burnt bangers - a relatively easy feat given the miniature Bessemer Converter at our disposal! At the other end of the lawn the crackle is of the folding stuff steadily disappearing into the Colonel's octopus-like grip as exorbitant sums are handed over for bottles of supermarket plonk. A Swiss character by the name of Jones, whose understanding of wine is known to be way below his pretensions, discretely calls for something better, and Big provides a handsome looking bottle at twice the price, secure in the knowledge that the original contents were consumed at a dinner party the night before. The substitute liquor, inferior to all else, enraptures the yodelling Taff, who declaims loudly on every nuance of the revolting bile which he thrusts in deferentially thimble-like doses on selected friends. Some of Big's herbaceous border never recovers.

As midsummer darkness envelops the throng the noise rises to a crescendo, and then gently subsides in sympathy with the dying glow from the oil drums. By midnight only the dedicated few remain around the bar. The wife consumes a final drumstick washed down with some warm Riesling, we remove our scorched garb, and slip away. Not however before Mrs. Big, like the 19th century squire's lady from the estate, thrusts a bag of left-over burgers and baked potatoes into our hand.

With suitable gratitude we walk home along the quiet streets, and reflect on what we should wear for Glorious Goodwood. Somehow the morning suit never tones in with the green of our living room carpet.

HOMO SURBANUS

Social Club Round-Up

GENEALOGY SECTION

ADDITIONS TO LIBRARY

Two new booklets in the McLaughlin Guide series are now in the Section's Library :

"Parish Registers"
and
"Simple Latin for Family Historians"

CEMETRIES

Increasing attention is being given to the historical significance of cemeteries (as opposed to churchyards), and a new group has been formed to coordinate supportive work in this area. Around London grounds already exist at Nunhead, Highgate and, a little further out, Brookwood. Anyone interested in this aspect of family history should contact

The National Federation of Cemetery Friends
2 North Park Road
Leeds LS8 1JD

MICROFICHE

The 1984 IGI microfiches are now fully operational. Details or a demonstration from Mike Hagger (X 268)

FOOTBALL SECTION

The 1986 Hammersmith Lunchtime League season finally having ended, it is time to reveal the truth about our teams' performances :-

| | <u>P</u> | <u>W</u> | <u>D</u> | <u>L</u> | <u>F</u> | <u>A</u> | <u>PTS</u> |
|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|
| BICC | 20 | 4 | 2 | 14 | 20 | 45 | 10 |
| BREL | 24 | 4 | 5 | 15 | 18 | 56 | 13 |

The BICC team played in Division I finishing in 8th position, BREL played in Division III, finishing 12th. Both teams were unsuccessful, this year, in the Hammersmith Knockout Cup and Plate competitions. Our relative lack of success this year (last year BICC came top of Division II and reached the Cup semi-finals) must be considered in the light of considerable team changes and the expansion of the Section's activities. This year we have had more players than ever before and in addition to the two lunchtime teams, we have run two teams in an Evening League competition (thanks to Chris Willson).

In the close season (until March for the Lunchtime League) "friendlies" will be arranged, possibly including some 11-a-side games. The principal close season activity, however, will be the inter-department 5-a-side competition.... entries for this should be given to Peter Walters by Friday, 7th November.

An Ordinary Man's Triathlon

Made it back to the bike area (15 mins) 500 yds from the end of the lake swim (1/2 mile) . Not allowed to take any togs to the lakeside only a pair of shoes (and socks if sufficiently well hidden) so most of us look like a pretty soggy mass by now. "Where do you change?"... "WHAT HERE !?"...(the ladies of course have a changing room-so much for equality) but real men do it in the open (those with a hint of organisation wear TRI-SUITS - but not me nor the other two team members). Ah well off with the trunks, screaming whilst doing this alleviates the embarrassment of what feels like every spectators look of ridicule. All fingers and thumbs takes me nine minutes to change into the bike gear, am overtaken by Gordon on his '1 speed -wonder' in the process. Ten miles out on the twenty three mile bike section I spy what appears to be a shaved Gorilla atop a twenty pound God knows how much worth of carbon fibre and whatever the latest alloy is wheels etc. coming back on the return leg. There is nothing in the rules preventing any animate biped from participating of course but... By this time I'm beginning to pay for the enthusiastic early pace and the old legs are cramping up. I pass a Sauna & Massage parlour with barely a grimace and take another hit of my mineral salt replenishment liquid tasting somewhat like the liquid from deep in the armpit . Nearly to the third section only a six mile run to go - a quick glance at the handy dandy ever rite triathlon watch and teasmaid on my wrist assures me that this seeming eternity has so far only taken one and a half hours. I must have got past Gordon on the bike leg (though of course my concentration was such that I completely ignored him) only to be caught again on the leg leg more like jog leg really . I up the pace for all of five yards but decide on discretion and let him pull away. On this basis Murray the third team member is by far the most discrete ! Soon the finishing post comes in sight and the clock finally stops at about 2hrs 17mins with Gordon five minutes in front and Murray ten minutes back. Somehow we manage to stagger to the bar for three pints of something far better than mineral salt brew.

The Gorilla finished in around an hour and three quarters and is now somewhere near Lands end (no one thought about how to stop him).

TRIATHLON FACTS:

DATE AND PLACE: 27/7/86 BANCROFT RUGBY CLUB AND BITS OF ESSEX.

BICC TEAM: GORDON IRWINE, MURRAY IRVINE & MARTIN MCDONOUGH

DISTANCES: 1/2 MILE SWIM, 23 MILE BIKE & 6 MILE RUN

CHARITY SUPPORTED: ARTHRITIS RESEARCH (OVER £100 RAISED
-thanks for the donations)

Murray Irvine



Gordon Irvine



Martin McDonough