

Long-familiar names are changing

One result of the changes and developments in GAv's business over the years is that long established names of Divisions are sometimes altered to reflect a new emphasis in their activities.

Two changes effective from 1st April have been made. Automatic Test Equipment Division is now **Support Equipment Systems Division**, and Flight Automation Research Laboratory is now **Technology and Systems Research Laboratory**.

SESD has evolved during 30 years in the specialised business of Automatic Test Equipment for major avionics systems, and in recent years has been engaged in broadening and developing new products and services. One major area of new business is that of Mission Planning Systems; there is a growing demand for computer based assistance to aircrew pre-

paring to fly missions in today's arena of sophisticated defence systems. About 3 years ago the Mission Planning Department was established, to bring together the company's expertise in mission planning and data management techniques, and the experience gained on military ground support systems involving high technology computer applications.

In addition to its long standing commitment to automatic test equipment, new areas of business that have been investigated for future activity in Support Equipment Systems Division include security systems for airports, ground supply units for aircraft and monitoring devices to detect river pollution.

Arthur Colwell, Divisional Manager, remarks that the new name for the Division will better reflect its wide range of services and products as it positions itself to compete in the world market.

TSRL also has a long and distinguished history over 25 years, undertaking applied research and development in technology and systems which have become vital to highly successful products of our Divisions. Its change of name occurs almost at the

same time as a change of Manager and change of location. The new Divisional Manager is **Tom Hamill**, who for many years worked in FARL and has recently been Marketing Manager and then Chief Engineer of FCD. The 100-strong organisation is shortly moving to the same building as SESD, although they remain entirely separate but with a few shared services. 'New Road' will no longer be a GAv site.

Dick Collinson, Manager of FARL for 18 years, has now joined the Technical Directorate of Bob Wilkinson, in the capacity of Technical Executive to advise on Research Activities.

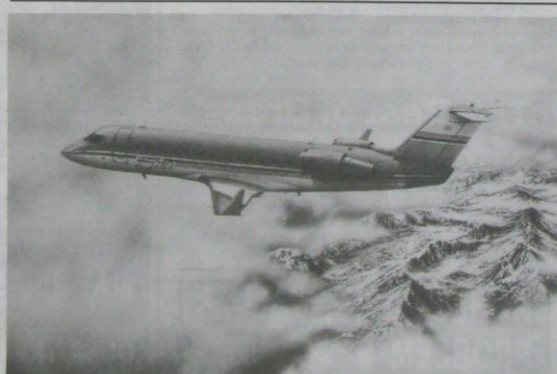
European Fighter Aircraft

News is still awaited on the complete picture of the contracts awarded to the company for the development of systems for the European Fighter Aircraft.

Many years of work in several Divisions were rewarded by the highly successful demonstration flights of the Experimental Aircraft Programme vehicle at Farnborough '88 and elsewhere, and the company has put in bids to supply a number of systems for the multinational EFA project.

We already know that GAv is being awarded several very important contracts. At the time of going to press it is not possible to announce all the details to the readers of GAv News and the public, so we will say no more than that business worth many tens of millions of pounds and many years of development and production work is in immediate prospect. Watch this space!

GAv WINS ANOTHER CONTRACT FOR FLY-BY-WIRE FLIGHT CONTROLS



Picture by courtesy of Canadair

GAv has been awarded a \$-multi-million contract to supply flight controls equipment for the Canadair Regional Jet (RJ). The contract, awarded by

the Canadair group of Bombardier Inc., covers the supply of Spoiler Electronic Control Units (SECU) by Flight Controls Division.

Each SECU is based on duplex dissimilar computing channels which command and monitor the aircraft's secondary flight control spoiler system.

A message from our Managing Director

In the October issue I wrote about some of the arrangements following the GEC-Siemens purchase of Plessey. This time I have to report the GEC purchase of Ferranti Defence Systems.

As happens in many spheres of human activity, our rivals have become our friends and colleagues and we look forward to working with the new GEC-Ferranti Defence Systems Ltd.

GEC-Marconi's position as Britain's leading supplier of advanced electronics has been strengthened still further, but we at GEC Avionics must maintain our drive for still greater efficiency to keep our products attractive in the highly competitive world market.

In this context, Total Quality is important. GEC Avionics will continue to attract world-wide custom only by maintaining its high reputation for imaginative and successful design, timely manufacture of reliable systems and efficient post-delivery support.

W.H. Alexander

Some Company Appointments

In addition to those mentioned above, the appointment has been announced of **Richard Watters** to the position of Technical Executive in CACD to advise the Divisional Manager on the technical aspects of the Division's current and future business activities.

To succeed him, **Ian Ladd** has been appointed Technical Manager, as Head of the Engineering Department.

In ADD, '**Cid**' Sowler is now Head of Business Development, with overall responsibility for all new product

development; **Ian Bull** and his Advanced Systems group report direct to Cid. **Ian Whitehouse** is appointed Technical Executive, and **John Smith** Technical Manager, Head of Engineering Dept. Cid, Ian and John report direct to Divisional Manager Keith Snelling.

David L. Dallob has been appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of Lear Astronics Corp., and Chairman of the Board of Developmental Sciences Corp., in Los Angeles.

The two SECU in each aircraft compute electrical signals for the fly-by-wire control of the aircraft's spoiler surfaces. These signals work in conjunction with mechanically operated ailerons to assist the aircraft in its roll axis. The SECUs also provide proportional lift dumping over a range of flight conditions, and automatic ground spoiler deployment on landing.

The Regional Jet is a fifty seat commuter aircraft with a range up to 1600 miles. Manufacture of the aircraft commenced in November 1989 with the maiden flight scheduled for April 1991. Following Canadian and United States certification, airline operation is expected to commence in mid 1992.

A total of 126 orders and options have already been placed for this aircraft, in what is a new and growing feeder jet market. A recently released independent report on anticipated air transport patterns and equipments for the 1990s predicts a market in the United States alone for 500-700 Regional Jet-type aircraft by the year 2000.

Recent press reports have noted that the number of civil jet aircraft in the world is set to double to over 12,000 over the next 20 years, of which about half will be replacement aircraft. In this newly thriving market GAv must play its part.

FCD are looking forward to a long and successful programme supporting the Regional Jet.

GEC Avionics News
 Editorial Office
 Tower 2,
 4th Floor,
 Airport Works,
 Rochester, Kent
 Extension 3852
 (Medway 844400)
 Editor: Francis Latter

Liaison Officers:
 Lynne Bates, Atlanta, USA
 Gerry Rich, Nailsea
 Mick Thomas, AS&RD
 Sid Golding, CACD/FCD
 Fergus Maloney, TSR, Clive Baker, GSD
 Rod Cole, MASD, Dave Lucas, ADD, Mrs. J. Underwood, MCD
 Barry Wallington, Training Centre,
 Ken Castle, SESD
 Maurice Sparham, COD (Flying School)
 Phyllis Ellis, CMS

Volunteers should offer their service through Divisional Administration Officers or direct to the Editor.



The Institution of Electrical Engineers

Kent Younger Members Section

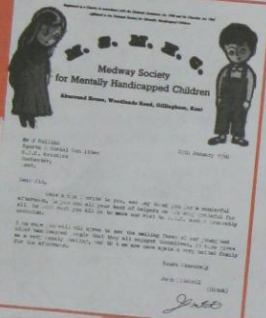
Short Papers Evening With £100 First Prize

7.30pm, Wednesday 18th April
 at Airport Works

Contributions are invited for Papers, 20-25 minutes long, on any subject but preferably referring to Electrical/Electronics engineering. The best four will be presented on the night, with runner-up prizes and £100 to the winner.

Entries need to be completed not later than Monday 16th April. If you are interested in entering, or would like to know more about the IEE activities, contact Stewart Webb in SESD Engineering, Ex 3653, as soon as possible.

Editor's Notice Board



Nigel's Wu-Shu Bronze

Nigel Gilham, now a Design Engineer in CACD, was a Mech Tech apprentice from 1976 and was then in ADD until a few months ago. And as well as being married with 3 children, he has found time over the last 12 years or so to become an expert in the Chinese Martial Art of Wu-Shu.

This art, somewhat less aggressive than some, is much practised in Asian countries and is now attracting more interest in the West. It consists broadly of a series of movements and routines, done in small groups or pairs with the aid of staves, swords or spears. In being active and free-moving Wu-Shu bears much similarity with acrobatics and takes up a similar floor area, more than judo for example.

Nigel is seen here with his Bronze Medal won recently at the International Invitational Wu-Shu Martial Arts Championship in Paris. He was selected at short notice to join the Great Britain team of 8; the contest was one of a continuing series held in turn in different



countries - England in November, lately in Italy and due in Holland in April. In Paris, the British team were highly successful, winning Golds in all six events, with other placings including Nigel's.

The Team Captain, Andrew Bellamy, won 3 Golds and a Silver. Andrew and Nigel are principal organisers of the Wu-Shu Club based at East Malling, and also have organised national courses at the Black Lion Centre.

Interested in joining? Drop Nigel a note, c/o CACD, CAD Engineering.

Children's Toy Appeal Christmas 1989

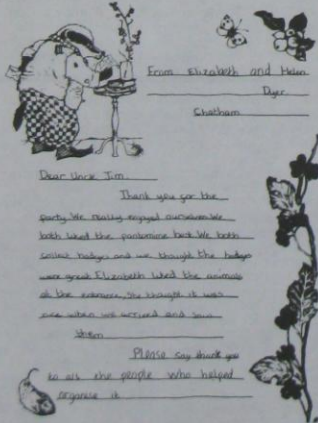
We would like to thank all those who contributed so generously to the above Appeal and did, in fact, deliver 18 large sacks of various toys, books, puzzles and video games.

A very prompt and thankful response was received from the Kent County Council Social Services Family Support Centre for our donation which would be used by both their resident children and those families who visit their Centre.

We hope to continue this good cause and to this end will circulate a request for your continued support in good time for next Christmas.

Thanking you all once again.

J.A. Hyams (Mrs.)
 Aviation Service & Repair Division



The Best of Brass

The GEC Avionics Brass Band achieved new heights on Sunday 4th March at Watford Town Hall by winning third place in the Fourth Section of the London and Southern Counties Regional Qualifying Contest

against 27 other competing bands.

This wins them a place to compete in the Finals of the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain to be held in London in October 1990.

CHESS PROBLEM

White to play and mate in two moves



OBITUARY

Phil Bucksey, Section Leader in ISD Estimating Department, passed away on 22nd November 1989. He joined the Company in 1967.

Phil had worked for the Division for many years and was a respected member of the department. His knowledge and experience in Estimating helped ISD in major contracts in Air Data Computers. This knowledge and his friendship will be sadly missed by all his friends and colleagues at work.

From ISD

We recently heard of the sad death of "Chris" Morris who retired from Reprographic Services in 1978. He is still fondly remembered in the department, and throughout the factory, after working for some 8 years as a storeman, whose duties included covering our collection and delivery service to divisions.

From Central Repro

There are still many people who remember **Colin Pond**, who was at Rochester for about 20 years, mainly in FCD where he became Technical Manager. In 1983 Colin left the company and moved to America, late last year we heard of his death in Issaquah, Washington. This message has been received from the family:

"To all of Colin's friends at GEC Avionics in Rochester. Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers you sent for Colin. Alyson and I drew great comfort from all the flowers and messages of sympathy we received. We were very touched by your thoughtfulness. Very best wishes, Midge and Alyson Pond"

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Tickets £3.00 - £4.00 (Wed - Thurs)
 and £3.50 - £4.50 (Fri - Sat)
 may be booked through Linda, Medway 404250.

Dick Collinson receives his RAeS Silver Medal



In October we reported the award of the Royal Aeronautical Society's Silver Medal to Dick Collinson, Manager of FARL, "in recognition of his most significant contribution to research and development for advanced avionics equipment and systems and to their service in the UK and abroad".

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Air Canada INDUSTRY SAILING CHALLENGE

1990

The company is again sponsoring a team in the Air Canada Industry Sailing Challenge. This series of 24-hour races around the Isle of Wight is open only to team entries from industrial and business concerns. As in last year's event – in which Gav sailed for the first time but were 'pipped at the post' – the winner and second of each round will go forward to the grand final. This year matched Beneteau 355 boats chartered from Sunsal

at Port Solent, Portsmouth, will be used.

After last year's magnificent effort by the GAV crew, the team manager Eric Fosbeary (CSD) is hoping to do even better this year. If you would like to be considered for the team, ring Paul Barratt (MASD, Ex 4443) or the Skipper, Kate Twymman (FCD, Ex 4267).

GAV News plans to keep up with progress of this year's event.

ATED Gales from Strength to Strength

ATED is still here, but only just. (At least it was when this was written! See front page, Ed.) The gale force winds nearly altered the appearance of the OLD Thorn A building on 25th January and did their best to test every nerve of its staff.

For those who aren't sure, ATED is the factory behind the blue boarded fencing on the west side of the site, kept well away from visitors who might also have to experience the joys of its hardened occupants living in a wind tunnel and enjoying its collections of precipitations.

Certainly there has never been any shortage of water below its beautifully sealed roof. Nothing very much had changed on the morning of the 25th. It was raining on the Shop Floor, in the Drawing Office and up and down the corridors. Buckets and containers were already in place and the rattles of the roof vents were only a little louder than normal. Everyone was enjoying their work as is normal in ATED, when the musical instruments in the roof started practising an allegro performance, causing those packed in the tea bar to lift their heads from the tables. A few who wanted a shower looked up to see UFOs flying along above the roof. At about 11.15 one smashed the roof above the Mechanical Assembly area showering glass over equipment, filters and the QA Manager, who was making his annual visit to the Department. He only had time to check the quality of the glass which made him the Division's first casualty of the day.

Someone identified the UFOs as blue wood panels which was confirmed by the absence of the fence. Of course they had decided it was better to be on the roof than act as a common old fence.

Divisional experts who arrange to collect every drop of water to help the hard pressed Southern Water Company, had to admit defeat when further holes appeared

National Finalist

Jane Daragon, Senior Software Engineer in FARL, narrowly missed the prime award in this year's Young Woman Engineer of the Year award. She was one of six finalists chosen from throughout Britain in the competition which is organised by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Incorporated Engineers (IEEIE) as encouragement for women to

view electrical and electronic engineering as a worthwhile career.

Jane joined the company as Trainee Computer Programmer in 1981 and has been in FARL full-time since completing her HND in 1984. At present she is on secondment to the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment.



in the roof and the showers turned to glass. Members of the Drawing Office are now not so convinced that smoking can seriously damage your health, since one of their number had just left for a smoke when the roof fell in just where he had been sitting.

Although all staff were keen to carry on working it was decided to abandon ship at 11.30 and to take to the life boats and row home. Some who were extra keen spent most of the day in the Canteen just hoping to be called back to work. Alas, it was not to be and they all reluctantly went home.

Some hardy souls who worked away from the exposed areas stayed in the Division and were there to witness the near demise of the

Divisional roof and the end wall of the Machine Shop. It must have been a sight to see the Divisional Cost Controller counting the loss of each brick from the parapet as the real estate crumbled before his eyes. The roof was progressively being dismantled when the storm finally ran out of puff, just in time for Works Engineering to hold down the main roof strut by lying it to a Production Department mill – we knew the equipment would be put to good use one day. Down at the old building the pioneering instincts remain and the Division was back at work on the 26th January with a big help from its friends in Works Engineering, although we still needed wellies in the Machine Shop.

Alex Castle

Well, what's the point in unpacking? We'll probably change offices again in a couple of weeks!



GAV SCHOOLS LINKS AT NAILSEA

Mr Rees Davis, Headmaster of Flax Bourton Primary School, near Bristol, was delighted with the oscilloscope he received from Ian Robinson as a contribution to the school's new science course. Mr Robinson, Chief Engineer of PCSD (Nailsea), had already donated a number of items to help with the course and the spare scope kindly supplied by AS&RD (Rochester), will be an extremely useful aid to the budding scientists of Flax Bourton.



Pickfords Travel

PARIS

2 SPECIAL WEEKENDS
Friday 22 June
Friday 19 October

Price includes room and breakfast (all rooms with facilities) plus City Sightseeing Tour
Coach Pick up points from Chatham and Maidstone.
Ring Medway 830090 for bookings & further details

3 DAYS
£89
Per Person

Spitfire marks 50 Years of RAF's Supply Organisation

This picture of the Spitfire, together with three others from the GAV Calendar for 1988, was presented to the Directorate of Supply Management 2 (RAF) in Harrogate last year. It is admired here by Air Cdre Gordon Ferguson, Director of the department, and two of his staff. The Spitfire is appropriately hung next to an adoption scroll from Harrogate town, particularly significant because at the Directorate's 50th Anniversary celebration in the town centre a low flying Spitfire stole the show and captured the imagination of all present.

Our presentation was to mark the long association of GAV with the Directorate, and now forms part of the decoration of the foyer of their newly refurbished offices.



WHERE THERE'S A WILL...

The making of a Will is one of the most important steps in protecting the futures of our families, yet is one that generally, we are very reluctant to face.

It's a popular myth that Wills are not necessary for married couples, as it is assumed that each partner would inherit everything from the other. This is not true, and under complex inheritance laws a long line of relatives could become beneficiaries, as well as the estate suffering an unnecessary tax charge. Nor can we assume that because we are not wealthy now there is no point in making a Will.

The laws on intestacy are strict, and will not take account of any hardship caused by their imposition. Not only could your estate be disposed of in a way you would not wish, but children may be placed in care or brought up in a manner that you would not agree with. These consequences can so easily be avoided by making a Will.

A Will does not have to be drawn up professionally to be legal, although it is strongly recommended as this will ensure the correct wording of your wishes. A full

Will Drafting service is now available at reduced rates for employees of GEC Avionics which is based on a fixed fee of £50 for a husband and wife "mirror" Will, and £30 for a single Will. Instructions can be taken in the privacy of your own home at a time convenient to you. In an appointment lasting less than an hour, any matters relevant to your Will can be discussed, the answers provided to any questions you may have and your instructions taken. Within a few days you will have a full and legally binding Will.

From time to time it is also sensible to review your Will so that it can be amended to take account of improved tax planning opportunities and changes to your own circumstances, and it is suggested that this is done at least every 5 years.

Full details are available from your Employee Benefits Officer Mrs D Bower, who has arranged for employees of GEC Avionics to receive a 10% discount on the above fees. Appointments can also be made direct, in strictest confidence, by contacting Simon A Tanner on Maidstone 672331 or Medway 682487.

'SID' SYMPOSIUM

In February, around 75 delegates from government organisations and private industry, including some from overseas, came to Rochester for a Symposium on Avionics Displays. The AGM of the Chapter was followed by technical presentations, including Avionics Displays and Helmet Displays by Chris Bartlett (ADD) and Keith Mitchell (FARL).

The Society for Information Display (SID) is an inter-

national organisation dedicated to the advancement of the science and technology of display devices and dependent subject areas. It is concerned to bring together, via regular conferences, exhibitions, seminars and special lectures, all those with a mutual interest in this highly interdisciplinary field. The UK and Ireland Chapter was established in 1985 to form a more local focus, but with the same overall aims and procedures.

'REDUCTION' IN MASH PRODUCTION

There are now three lightweight ladies in MASH. Karen Wright, Melanie Powell, and Michele Blackall raised the heavyweight sum of £147.50 on a Sponsored Slim in aid of the Cancer Research Campaign. All

those who supported them are thanked, and will be pleased to know that the Campaign's good housekeeping allows as much as 90p in the £ to go direct into the research fund - an unusually high figure.

Sixth Annual Prizegiving marks the continued success of Medway ITeC

At the annual prizegiving hosted by founder sponsor GAV, the Medway ITeC celebrated its second successful year of independence.

Youth training is currently going through a period of uncertainty with the Governmental reorganisation of the Youth Training Scheme and the establishment of the TECs. However, the Medway ITeC, with the continuing support of local industry, is looking to the future with confidence.

During 1988 ITeC became an independent non-profit making organisation, and that first year found over 20% of its funding from commercial training activities. 1989 has seen the ITeC move on to new success and become over 45% self funding.

During 1989 the ITeC has applied its experience in training school leavers to devising a series of adult retraining courses which will offer new work opportunities to the over eighteens.

Four new retraining courses have been run in the last twelve months; in Sales and Management, Office Technology, Programming, and Electronics. Over eighty individuals, with ages ranging from nineteen to fifty, have successfully completed these courses in this first year. All have gone on either to permanent employment using their new skills, or to three months placement in industry.

New initiatives for 1990 include extending the ITeC's training activities even



further - into employment training in schools. Schemes are currently being devised in conjunction with the Medway Education and Business Partnership to provide 14 to 16 year olds with valuable training in Information Technology, leading to an RSA Qualification.

The Medway ITeC has itself grown and now em-

plloys fifteen people, double its workforce in 1983.

In the 1990s the Medway ITeC, with local business, intends to continue increasing the range of training and retraining opportunities it can offer the local population.

GAV awards a cash prize and a certificate to students

in each of four classes, and the Medway and Gillingham Chamber of Commerce awards a Project Prize.

Our MD, Bill Alexander, is seen here with the four GAV prize winners - Karanza Brisley and Simon Stretton, and (behind) David Salter and Jonathan Coveney. On the left are the Chamber of Commerce prize winner

Mark Grech with Mr D.C. Gardiner, President of the Chamber.

Behind on the left are Dr Peter Carrington (MASHD), Chairman of the ITeC Board, and Mr H. Morris, Managing Director of Sheerness Steel, who is Deputy Director of the Kent Training and Enterprise Council (TEC) and who gave the main address.

Field Service Engineers come "home"

Most departments will, from time to time, have internal gatherings but in mid-January one of the more unusual get-togethers occurred. Unusual because the engineers involved work for the same manager but in the main have little direct contact with each other. These men are the company's representatives working for AS&RD's Field Service Department, all under the watchful eye of Manager Mike Andrews. For this seminar they were called in from far flung locations in various parts of the world.

One of the aspects of the get-together was the opportunity to hold informal discussions. Many, although colleagues for several years, had not previously met except by telex and telephone. This important function, the first to be held for some twenty years, gave the chance for views to be exchanged, and to acquaint the engineers with the current and future company business, and their role in helping to increase business.

The assembly was welcomed by Divisional Manager Mike Barton who spoke of

how the occasion reminded him of being present whilst the Headmaster gave his end of term report, and said that whilst giving the appearance of a cheerful social function the gathering together of the whole department obviously had its serious aspects.

Mike said that the division's role and especially that of the Field Service Engineers was the continuing support to the customer and that the department provided GAV's front line service. Mr Barton went on to say that despite the various

changes within the company over the years it was important to emphasize that many of the tasks of AS&RD now spanned a timescale of over 40 years. On the military front they ranged from Jindivik to EFA but also included tasks carried out on ships and even tanks. And the civil duties spanned the service and repairs of Boeing 707, 747, BAC 1-11, Airbus and also industrial radar for applications in mining coal.

Finally, Mike stressed that customers' satisfaction is paramount, whether they be from another hemisphere or another division.



Here are our AS&RD Field Service representatives from the various out-stations, and their Rochester colleagues. Seated (l-r) Dick Hewat (Airbus, Toulouse); Andy Brice (BAe Warton); Mike Andrews and his secretary Zana Hussain; Pete Hopkins (Tornado, Saudi Arabia); Derek Lyons (Tornado, on-call); Doug Weaver, (Falconet, Hebrides). Behind them are Martin Bennett (MiG-21, Egypt); Mervyn Cole (Gatwick and Heathrow); Jim Cuff (RAF, Germany); John White (Yeovil);

John Day (BAe Warton); Paul Martin (RB199 from Rochester); Tim Richmond (Civil Support from Rochester); Gavin Spiers (AMX, Turin); Leo Griffin and Glyn Davis (Tornado from Rochester); John Chambers (Tornado, 30 MU Chester); Kevin Moore (Airship Industries from Rochester); Andrew Jenkinson (BAe, Warton), and Peter Osborne (RB199).

P.S. Martin Bennett is about to go to Singapore as Regional Marketing Manager.

High Quality, High Reliability Soldering Technology

A group of Production Technicians from ADD have now joined the people who are qualified to perform soldering in the manufacture of equipment to the stringent Naval Weapons specifications for US Navy contracts. Seen here after

receiving their certificates of proficiency, with Keith Snelling, and Hugh McArthur who instructed on the 1-week course at Hopewell Drive, are (l-r) Joe Stokes, Gary Dawson, Michelle Anderson, Mick Needham, Lorraine Berwick, and Pat Emery.



Do You Know Pupils Leaving School This Year?

If you either have children leaving school this year, or know of other pupils who are, then you could help them find the most suitable training career path and at the same time help the company meet its recruitment needs.

Approximately ten per cent of the Rochester workforce comprises trainees either on full-time education courses with structured training or following on-job programmes and studying on a part-time basis. We are experienced in guiding young people towards worthwhile careers so that they can quickly provide a valuable contribution to the business. We run three training schemes for 18 years+ school leavers and two for 16 years+ school leavers.

Please show potential applicants the information below and encourage them to apply to Richard Hale in the Training Department (0634 844400 extension 3835) or contact him direct yourself in order to obtain further details and an application form.

16+ School Leavers

Our training schemes start with a three-day residential course, which everyone finds great fun. You learn about the company, develop your team work and leadership skills and get to know the other trainees by working together and joining in all the social events.

That's followed by further training, which is equally interesting and varied. Choose our technical or clerical programme, both of which can lead to a wide choice of careers, with relevant day release, one day a week, enabling you to gain valuable qualifications.

As you are the people who will take our company forward, we will support and encourage you to make the most of your potential and give you the incentive of good financial rewards.

For the **Technical Training Programme** you will need GCSEs in Maths and a science subject, plus two other subjects.

For the **Clerical Training Programme** you should be studying for GCSEs including English.

become one of them. We're offering a three-year thick sandwich course leading to an HND in Software Engineering, with your first and third years at college and the middle year spent at GEC Avionics learning advanced real-time software engineering technology.

If you have at least three 'O' levels or GCSEs, including Maths, and are expecting to gain one or more 'A' levels, this is a very exciting option.

Commercial Training

If you want a business career, we can give you the best possible grounding: a broad range of experience in our contracts, commercial, production and accounts departments, plus day release to study for an HNC in Business Studies. With this invaluable mix of theory and practice you can look forward to a very successful career.

What will you need? At least four 'O' levels or GCSEs, including English and Maths, plus at least one 'A' level or a good BTEC OND.

18+ School Leavers

We've designed a combined on and off-the-job training programme that builds on your education. Within each course, everyone follows the same broad outline, but we pay attention to individual needs and try to give you the freedom to steer your own career.

You might find it hard to imagine yourself as a future leader of one of Britain's premier electronics companies, but that's just how great the opportunities are.

Computing

Few people are as much in demand as skilled computer professionals, and you could

Professional Engineering

At GEC Avionics, we can offer you an alternative to the usual engineering degree: a sponsored thick or thin sandwich course leading to degrees in Electronics Engineering, Avionics or Production Engineering with excellent career prospects at the end. During the part of the course spent with us, you'll contribute to real engineering projects and gain valuable experience in a comprehensive range of departments, that will set you in good stead for the future.

So, if you're expecting to gain sufficient qualifications to enter a degree course, explore this career alternative.

www.rochesteravionicsarchives.co.uk



STATESIDE NEWS

GEC Avionics running team wins against field of 8000

On Nov 11, nine GAV Inc. runners took part in the Scottish Rite Strong Legs BK race in downtown Atlanta. This prestigious event is run every year to raise funds for the Scottish Rite Childrens Hospital.

The first mile was downhill but the rest were mostly uphill with a much needed downhill sprint to the finish. There is a definite art to running these large entry races (almost every race worth competing in has over 5000 entrants) and the



company's teams did extremely well. The Mixed A team, comprising Dorothy Cedars, Venie Tadeo, Steve Damron and Paul Ingle, took first place. The men's team of Ray Todd, Steve Brown and Richard Moscattello took fourth place.

The picture shows the Mixed A Team with the winners trophy. (l to r, Paul Ingle, Dorothy Cedars, Steve Damron, Venie Tadeo).

Mr and Mrs Mark McGlade are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter **Sophie Jayne** on December the eighteenth. Nineteen hundred and eighty-nine. Six pounds, seven ounces.

(Mark used to be in CACD Marketing, and is now with GAV Inc., Dayton Office.)



Atlanta Santa

For a number of years the employees at GEC Avionics Inc. in Atlanta have made a special effort to help the needy at Christmas. This year, with the rise in child and spousal abuse, it was agreed to support a local shelter for victims of abuse.

Following a meeting to identify any special needs that the shelter might have, the company set about the task of raising the money and items needed. As Christmas drew near it became clear that the employees in Atlanta had been generous in their giving.

The tree in the GAV Inc. foyer soon had a fine collection of toys under it, all destined for the shelter. In total the company raised \$675 in addition to two bikes, a tricycle, a wagon, two 'big wheel' tricycles and enough presents to fill 12 stockings.

Tax freedom for wives hits a snag

PUT OUT the flags this April, when women finally get their freedom to manage their own finances and tax affairs – but there is one snag.

Ask any woman where she puts her savings, and the odds are she will say, 'the local building society'. In fact, more than half – some 23 million – of all building society investors are women.

You could indeed say that building societies and women go together like the proverbial peaches and cream – but no longer.

Come the tax revolution in April, when husbands and wives get separate tax allowances, a non-working wife will not enjoy the full benefit if all her investment money is in a building society. For building societies deduct basic rate tax before crediting customers with the interest. And it is impossible to claim that tax back.

This means a wife will lose the benefit of her £2,785 allowance – at current levels – unless she has untaxed income to set against it. So non-working wives will be exhorted to take their money offshore to obtain interest without deduction of tax. But they will not find one building society door open.

Fighting

Instead they will have to make do with the banks. Now there is nothing wrong with an offshore bank account, but there is certainly a lot wrong with the system which allows only one of Britain's two favourite savings institutions to take advantage of the new tax arrangements.

Once again building societies find themselves fighting for our savings with their hands tied behind their backs. The millions of married women who do not pay tax will do better to take their savings to a bank rather than a building society from April.

The High Street banks can pay interest gross, without deduction of tax, to UK investors who open an account in any of their offshore branches in safe havens such as Jersey, Guernsey or the Isle of Man. Our 106 High Street building societies cannot.

You might have seen information about building society operations offshore

and the fact that they pay interest gross there. But do not be misled. Those accounts are strictly for the expatriate investor who is resident in this country. Banks on the other hand, will make life easy for you if you want to open an account offshore, even though they will not be shouting about them.

They have no wish to upset either the Inland Revenue or their offshore island hosts by advertising these accounts through the mainland branch network.

But once you have asked to open an account, you will get help. Midland will open any account, anywhere from your local branch, as will NatWest. Both Barclays and Lloyds will send you details through the post.

However, one point to remember: branches of banks operating offshore are not covered by the bank deposit protection scheme, under which compensation of 75 per cent of the first £20,000 of deposits is paid out if a bank goes bust.

Privilege

The poor old building societies can only pay interest without deducting tax to UK savers on 'Time Deposits', available through their UK branch networks, but you need a minimum £50,000 invested to enjoy this privilege. Inland Revenue rules, not building society snobbishness.

But building societies are working hard behind the scenes to redress the system – for example lobbying for the power to establish a subsidiary registered offshore in the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, which will let them pay interest gross to UK savers.

But until this happens, you'll be better off elsewhere.

Reproduced by courtesy of the "Daily Mail". And subject to any budget changes.

Rochester Airport (Fourth of Six)

by Arthur Prosser

SOME OF THE AIRPORT BUILDINGS WERE CAMOUFLAGED AS FARM BUILDINGS AND THE AIRFIELD WAS EVEN PAINTED TO RESEMBLE FIELDS. BUT DESPITE THESE EFFORTS, THE AIRPORT WAS BRUTALLY BOMBED ON AUGUST 15, 1940, IN A MATTER OF MINUTES THE AREA WAS SATURATED WITH HIGH EXPLOSIVE AND INCENDIARY BOMBS. SIX AIRFIELDS WERE DESTROYED, THE WORKSHOPS DESTROYED, AND THE FINEST STORES SET ALIGHT.



MANY BOMBS FELL ON ROOFTOPS AND ESTIMATED DAMAGE TO THE AIRFIELD WAS HEAVY.



ROCHESTER AIRPORT WAS BOMBED AGAIN ON SEPTEMBER 4, 1940. A STORM OF AMMUNITION FITTINGS IN THE MAIN FACTORY BUILDING HITTED AND CAUSED A MASSIVE FIRE.



DURING THE LAST AND HEAVY OF THE BOMBING, MANY OF THE PERSONNEL FLED INTO NEARBY WOODS RATHER THAN RISK THE AIR AND SHELTERS. THEY HAD A HARROWING ESCAPE WHEN OFF-TARGET INCENDIARY BOMBS SET THE TREES ON FIRE.



What did the altimeter read?

RAF veteran Jim Telford, 77, suffered multiple injuries when his microlight aircraft was in collision with a JCB digger near Long Marston airfield, Warwick.

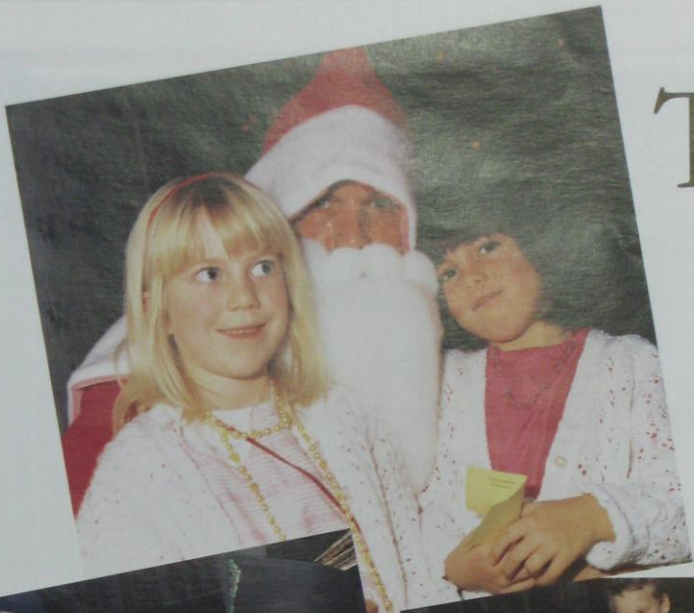
(Financial Times)



LEEDS CASTLE

© GEORGINA HALL 1989

www.rochesteravionicsarchives.co.uk



TIME FOR PARTY AND PAN

The traditional start to the
the Children's Parties an
Here are some of the
events so much – the clima
weeks of preparatio
by Social Club
committee member
and friends, and
a great number of
helpers behind the sc
and on the day.



We had our tea, we sang
songs, and we got presents
from Father Christmas.

ALAD



Aladdin and his Princess, with (l-r)
Widow Twankey, The Emperor, The
and Soldier 3, and The Genie.



Photography – Alan Keats and Ian Douglas

www.rochesteravionicsarchives.co.uk

R THE

NTO

Christmas festivities –
and Pantomime.
children who enjoyed the
lux of
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Emperor (and Emperor's mum) helping with the tea.



At the Grotto



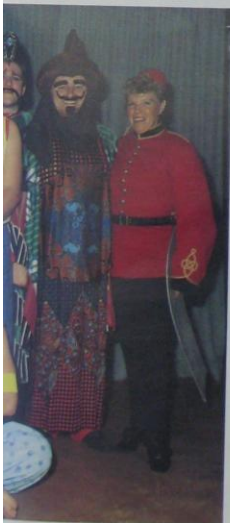
DDIN

Written and produced by
JIM COLLINS

Emperor _____ Chris Bower
Aladdin _____ Tim Edwards
Widow Twankey _____ Nigel Turner
Grand Vizier _____ Ray Newman
Princess _____ Louise Stanley
Genie _____ Dave Hudson
Soldiers 1 _____ Steve Dann
 2 _____ Sue Rouse
 3 _____ Benita Andrews



Emperor and Princess, but why are the Grand Vizier, Widow Twankey and Aladdin all so shy?



Soldier 2, Soldier 1, and Vizier,

At the Piano
Bert Robbins
Front Men
Peter Bird, Rod Cole,
Jim Collins
Special Effects and Lighting
Paul Barratt
Mark Snowden
and
Father Christmas
KEITH JONES

Here's Aladdin, but the Widow still doesn't want to know!



Royal Decree from the "Throne"? Soldier 2 doesn't quite believe it.

www.rochesteravionicsarchives.co.uk

For this year's Wall Poster the choice fell upon a well known local attraction – Leeds Castle, which has been called 'the most beautiful castle in the world.' Both that painting and the one on the right, Rochester Cathedral, were commissioned by GAV and the originals now hang in the Visitor's Dining Room. They deserve a wider audience so here they are.

The artist, Geoffrey Hall, worked in commercial art for many years at the studios of the Decca Record Co. in London, involved with artistes such as The Rolling Stones, Tom Jones, Alan Price, Thin Lizzy, Placido Domingo, and Sir Georg Solti, among others.

He left the commercial art world in 1977 to become a professional fine artist, concentrating on Kent and Sussex landscapes. Towards the end of last year Geoffrey completed a watercolour of the first "HMS Chatham" built in the 18th century. The painting is to be presented to the new HMS Chatham, a Type 22 frigate, when she is commissioned in Chatham Dockyard in May this year.



ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL

© GEOFFREY HALL 1989

1989 COMPANY DANCE

The Christmas Dance was held in the Canteen, with a 'full house' of around 500. The music was by the Johnny Howard Band and Singers, with the group "Misty"; Frank Carson just missed needing an Irish interpreter in his star spot.



Comedian Frank Carson and some of his fan club
"It's the way I tell 'em"



This annual event always seems to be fully booked weeks ahead of the date – so make a note for your diary of
**SATURDAY 15th
DECEMBER 1990.**

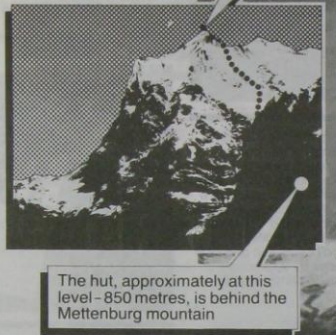
www.rochesteravionicsarchives.co.uk

A Training Climb on the Wetterhorn

For several years I have had an ambition to climb the Eiger. The books say that the route up the west ridge is *Peu Difficile* which is the same grade as the Hornli ridge on the Matterhorn which, with a guide, I scrambled up in 1986. This year I had the chance to go again to Switzerland and see whether ambition could be turned into reality.

After a lovely English summer my wife and I chose to avoid the crowds and went to Switzerland in late August/early September. This was a mistake, the weather broke as we drove through the Jura Alps and into the Bernese Oberland and we ran into heavy rain storms which above 2000m became snow. Thus the mountains were "out of condition" for climbing when we arrived at Grindelwald, the village at the foot of the Eiger.

For a couple of days we walked in the hills around Grindelwald to get acclimatised. Then a visit to the Guide's Office to arrange a "tour" of the Eiger. The manager was cautious, he was not impressed by my climb up the Matterhorn and the Guide's Office do not offer the West Ridge of the Eiger as a normal tour; he said it was too dull and staying in a hotel at Kleine Scheidegg is not as attractive as staying in a mountain hut. The normal guided route up the Eiger is to take the Jungfrauoch railway to the Eismeer station and then climb to the Mittellegi hut, stay there overnight, and next day climb along the Mittellegi ridge to the summit and return down the West Ridge. Based on descriptions I had read I was not keen on the Mittellegi ridge; it is described as "knife edged and difficult."



However the manager suggested a training climb up the Wetterhorn to find out whether I was good enough for the Eiger. I accepted his suggestion and went away to get fitter and wait for the mountain to come into condition (time for snow to consolidate or melt and allow climbing on the rock).

When we called back two days later, the manager stepped out of the office into the street, scanned the summit of the Wetterhorn through binoculars and said that the mountain would be in condition the next day. However there was no time to lose as the weather forecast predicted that the weather would break the next afternoon.

So despite my reservation about lack of acclimatisation, a guide was booked and I got ready to start the climb that afternoon. The walk to the hut (The Glectstein) was hard work; the path goes up 850m across the foot of the mountain. It was a sweltering hot day and I tried to go up quickly to test my condition.

On the way up I passed a family group of four Italians who were going up to spend a night at the hut. It was their first such excursion; they were roped together for safety and were carrying a lot of gear which reduced their progress to a crawl. The Glectstein hut is great; it has superb views overlooking the Ober Grindelwald glacier, across to the Mettenberg, Schreckhorn, Lauteraarhorn and Eiger and westward along the Grindelwald valley. It is well run, clean and serves appetising food, one of the best huts.

As well as the Italians there was a large group from a German climbing club and two young English doctors from Bristol. The doctors also planned to climb the Wetterhorn after camping out. When they had cooked and eaten their evening meal they walked up another 1000ft. to camp at the edge of the Krinnen glacier.

The guide who had been booked, Franz Berger, lives in the nearby village of Lauterbrunnen. He arrived at the hut around seven pm, having walked up in two thirds of the time I took. He is young, 25, and completed his four-year training as a guide some two years ago. He is a very pleasant young man and, like me, is married to a Yorkshire girl. His English is very good. Guides and their clients get VIP treatment at the huts so we had a room to ourselves which enabled us to get a good night's sleep.

We were awakened at 4am and had a good breakfast before starting out in the dark by the light of head torches. Franz and I were first to start.

For an hour we walked up a steep stony track with no

snow. Then, as it became light, we reached the Krinnen glacier. Here we roped up, put on crampons and started using ice axes. This was the first time I had crossed a glacier and it was easy because of the reduced gradient. Franz was well ahead with a tight rope between us. He went carefully along a well marked path and we quickly crossed the glacier to reach the rock on the right hand side. Then followed two hours of rock climbing, sometimes with crampons fitted sometimes without. I find it difficult to climb on rock in crampons; it is like climbing on short stilts and I was slow.

After a brief rest we started on the first really serious section. This was a steep slope covered in ice; normally it is covered in snow and the guide kicks steps in the snow which both climb. However that day it was very icy and the technique required was to climb on the front points of the crampons. Franz went up first and then belayed using an ice screw. I followed him, struggling hard to make height, clearly I did not have the technique for this kind of climbing.

After the second ice pitch I was getting tired; we were above 12,000ft and climbing was hard. Just as I was beginning to think the ice on the Wetterhorn might beat me we turned onto a snow slope and I followed closely behind Franz as he kicked steps up the final slope and then cut his way through a small cornice and onto the summit.

It had taken almost five hours and required less effort but more alpine skills than the Matterhorn. The Wetterhorn at 3701m is considerably lower than the Matterhorn and this

helps retain strength. Also I had learnt how to conserve energy whilst climbing the Matterhorn and Mount Whitney.

The view was tremendous, nearby were the other peaks of the Wetterhorn group, then the glacier. Further west the Mittellegi ridge of the Eiger was clear and looked sharp and fierce. Cloud was already forming ominously on the top of the Eiger. Franz pointed out the many famous peaks in the near and far distance. We took photographs and then, after only a few minutes, started down to avoid the threatening weather.

After an awkward step over the cornice, the descent of the snow and ice was much easier than the ascent. I abseiled down the ice slopes belayed by Franz using an ice screw. On the worst slope I put in an ice screw to protect him but for the rest of the descent he had no protection and could not afford to slip.

As we came back down onto the rock we met the Germans climbing up; they were one and a half hours behind us, perhaps because they were moving in parties of three. Since the weather was deteriorating it is doubtful if they made it to the summit that day.

We also met one of the English doctors. He was climbing alone, his mate had had an attack of nausea due to the dubious stew they had cooked the previous night. It was going to be difficult for him to climb the ice slopes alone but he was a good climber.

Progress over the rocks was slow due to my clumsiness in crampons but finally we made it to the glacier. Here we met the cloud rising

from the valley, clearly the weather was deteriorating fast.

There were some icy patches on the glacier; I slipped on one and started to slide down the glacier. It happened so slowly that I was able to roll onto my stomach, dig the pick of the ice axe in and stop before any damage was done.

After the glacier we moved into snow softened by the warmth of the morning and the crampons started to "ball up". By constantly tapping the crampons with the ice axe it was possible to keep them free and working effectively. Once off the snow we unroped, took off the crampons, had a snack and walked back down to the hut.

The descent took 4 hours and was much easier than the ascent of the Matterhorn. The manager had chosen well, the Wetterhorn introduced me to a range of alpine skills, it also introduced me to a very pleasant, competent and safe guide and it gave me a chance to climb a high mountain on perhaps the only day it was possible during our stay in Switzerland.

Once the immediate euphoria of climbing the Wetterhorn had subsided, I asked Franz whether he thought I could climb the Eiger. He said "yes", so the ambition and the hope remains that next year I will finally reach the summit of the Eiger.

If you are thinking of trying Alpine climbing I recommend the Wetterhorn and Franz Berger. You will enjoy the hut, the climbing, the views and the company and competence of the guide.

Gordon Belcher

In Asia, one says, they all Look the Same!



Lindsay Bennett, our Regional Marketing Manager in Australia, was offered this lapel badge at the Asian Aerospace '90 Exhibition in Singapore last month. At least they're both Australian!

25 years' service

John Doran joined Elliott Brothers in December 1961 as an Assistant Chief Inspector of Airborne Computing Division, Borehamwood. Subsequently he held similar posts with Mobile Computing Division and with GEC Computers. In July 1978 he became the Quality Control Manager of GEC Computers at Dunstable and remained

there for 10 years. In 1988 he joined APD at Borehamwood, initially to look after the Calibration Department but latterly as Project Quality Manager for the Neutron Tube development and production contracts. John, accompanied by his wife Mary, was presented with his award by the Divisional Manager, Dave Harris.



Ray Holton of ATED is seen here at his 25 year service presentation in January, but the picture could equally appear under Retirements as Ray has now left us. For almost all of his time at Rochester, Ray has been in ATE, firstly in Sales then since 1967 in Contracts; he

became Contracts Manager in 1968, Controller in 1969, and Commercial Manager last year. Among Ray's many interests is ballroom dancing, in which he has passed quite a few 'exams'. Ray received his presentation camera from Arthur Colwell.



Following his apprenticeship with the Company, **Alan Clarke** joined IND as a Development Engineer. During the 1970s he worked on the Jaguar Nav Attack System and the design and development of the Nimrod ASW Central Tactical System. Following steady promotion during this period, as Project Manager he formed a team to develop algorithms and prototype equipment for the evaluation of Terrain Referenced Navigation in conjunction with RAE Farnborough. Now as an Engineering Manager, with

programmes such as the US Navy Project 'Real Night' behind him (which provided Terrain Referenced Navigation, Terrain Following, Digital Colour Map combined with a comprehensive display suite), he is responsible for the GSD portion of the Tornado TRN/TF programme and the TFA trials on the F-16 AFTI. He remains a keen sportsman retaining an active interest in both football and cricket. Alan's wife "Dee" came along for the presentation.



(A)

Jean Goulden, currently Personal Assistant to Mr Alexander and Sir Michael Beetham, has been on the "Fourth Floor" for approaching 20 years working for a succession of people at Director level and above. Prior to that Jean was in MACD, and before joining the company full-time had been in several part-time posts or in the Temporary Pool.

Jean was presented with a camera by Jack Pateman. (B)



Mick Austin, GAV Management Information Officer, was congratulated by Finance Director Tim Venables on reaching his 25 years milestone. Tim said he is not quite sure what the title means, but as far as he is concerned he is in no doubt that Mick is the 'Budget King' and a mine of information. Mick, during his steady progress through the

Management Accounts function, has seen many changes – for example there were no computers at all in the early days. He is also a keen sportsman, notably on the soccer field. Tim also suggested that Mick's choice of a crystal decanter was entirely appropriate to go next to his highly polished crystal ball.

(A)



Ian Hamilton, now Chief Estimator in ADD, was previously in that division for 13 years but spent seven years in Central Estimating until last year. When he 'started' in 1965 in MACD, Ian was in fact rejoining the company since he had served an apprenticeship before spending 3 years as a professional musician. His

trumpet playing still continues, and Ian has performed in a tremendous range of venues from circuses and holiday camps to theatres and ballrooms; he has played alongside some of the county's finest jazz musicians.

Keith Snelling handed over Ian's presentation clock.

(A)



Frank Baldwin is yet another of those members of staff who has spent the whole of his service in AS&RD. Having served his five year apprenticeship in HM Dockyard Chatham, he joined in 1964 as a Spares Compiler in the Technical Publications Department. Finding that he had a way with numbers, Frank transferred after five years to the Engineering Logistics Section, getting involved with the ATA Systems 100-200 and some elements of

reliability modelling.

Finally, seven years ago, he joined the Quality Assurance Department, still in the numbers game, as a Quality Engineer (Components), the position he now holds. Frank chose the canteen of cutlery which was presented on behalf of the company by Bill Letley, the Quality Assurance Manager. In company with his wife Carrol, Bill and Mike Barton joined him for the traditional lunch.



Dave Summers served his apprenticeship in Chatham Dockyard. He was called up for National Service but joined the RAF for five years.

In 1965 he joined AS&RD, and initially worked on Blue Steel equipment, also on VC-10 Air Data and Elliott/Treforest fuel metering equipment. He was made Leading Hand in 1970, then Leading Hand Quality Technician in 1973

and Quality Controller in 1979. He moved into Project Department as Senior Production Engineer in 1988, and was promoted to Project Leader last year.

Dave was presented with a clock by Ken Rhodes and welcomed to the Long Service Association by Ted Farbrace, who presented him with the LSA tie and certificate. His wife Jean was also there. (A)



In 1964, after many years in the RAF, **Tony Sanderson** joined Elliott Electronic Tubes Limited, the forerunner of APD, as an Equipment Maintenance Engineer. Throughout the years he has gained considerable expertise in fault finding and repairing the very specialised high voltage test equipment used on the Neutron Tube

programmes. Indeed, his expertise is now in demand at the various Defence Establishments around the country, especially as most of this equipment is now 20 to 30 years old.

Tony, accompanied by his wife Pam, was presented with his award by the Divisional Manager, Dave Harris.



Tom Munchin started in 1964 as a Trainee Wireman, after completion of his training in 1965 he joined TAC as a Wireman and in 1968 was given Leading Hand status. In 1970 Tom transferred to FCD and then in 1980 to CACD. For much of the time he was working nights, and as a Leading Hand ensuring a smooth and efficient working relationship between day and night shifts. Tom received his presentation clock from Chris Humphris.



Terry Crayford, Engineering Development Manager in GSD, joined the Company in 1964 as a Development Engineer working on the design of analogue and digital circuits for IND. Promotion and responsibility for a specialist Circuit Design team followed and included the development of VLSI gate arrays and hybrid circuits for a number of projects.

He led the team responsible for development of the Division's successful Digital Map Unit, requiring large amounts of non volatile

memory with tight packaging restraints. His current responsibilities cover Circuit Design and Mechanical Design giving an integrated structure from which future technology in silicon and packaging can be introduced into the Division.

Terry has a life-long interest in football, and has recently become more involved in local affairs in his home town of Sittingbourne. Here he is seen with his wife Pat after receiving his presentation canteen of cutlery.



Retirements

When **Alan Essex** received his 25-year service award in 1984, astonishment was expressed that at that time he had already completed 39 years with companies which over the years have come into GEC. The then 25 years at Rochester were in Gyro Division, of which he was

Divisional Manager for many years. On the amalgamation with IND and the formation of GSD, Alan became Offset Programmes Manager for the company. At his retirement presentation both Bill Alexander and Jack Pateman wished him a happy retirement.



Eileen Papworth has been in the Social Club office since 1969, as secretary, before that she was in Personnel Dept. Eileen became known and respected throughout the company for all the work she did for the Club's events, particularly for the parties,

pantomimes, and dances. Having achieved 25 years service in 1989, Eileen has now retired - here she receives a presentation from John Bradley, at a farewell party with many friends and colleagues.



Tom Jordan has retired from AS&RD where he has been for over 25 years. Originally he was in Stock Control, but since 1978 he has been in QA, lately as Senior Embodiment Loan Officer. Tom has also been much involved in the divisional social club since its foundation.



Irene Smith of FCD was with the company for over 21 years, originally in TACD as Assembler, she worked for a short time in Fishers and returned to MACD/FCD. She has been with FCD (old and new) since, in various sections of Production, most lately as Admin Clerk in Inspection.



Fred Edwards has been Foreman in ADD for over ten years; he first came to the company 29 years ago after service in the Royal Navy and a short time in telecommunications. He joined IND as Inspector, going later to TACD, ATED,

and Fuze, then back to IND where he became Supervisor before moving to ADD as Foreman. Production Manager "Curly" Childs gave Fred the best wishes of his many friends and colleagues.



Ron Hawkins has retired after 27 years, spent firstly in Environmental Test Lab (then part of FARL) concerned with component testing and evaluation, and lately in the field of Electromagnetic Compatibility where his expertise in component technology continued to be most valuable. Ken Boardman, Manager of QGD, presented Ron with an electric drill as a token of thanks for his many contributions to the company, on behalf of his colleagues. His wife Mary came in for the occasion.



Brenda Aird came to Rochester again 13 years ago, having previously worked in Wiring Shop before going out to Australia.

Brenda has been in Stock Control, in GSD, where she reached the status of Section Leader.



Ted Doust of CMS, Inspector in the Paint Shop, has retired after over ten years service with the company. He

received a presentation clock from Assistant Production Manager Harry Cruttenden.



Arthur Carr, Model Shop Technician in ADD, has retired after 7 years with the company.



The unexpected joys of untidiness

January was a grey month. Most of us had already promised ourselves a personal shake-up following the obligatory resolutions – won't take the lift, won't use the snooze button, will frown less – that sort of thing. But the state of the house does not help. As you pluck the last shrivelled balloon from the loo ceiling and chuck the drawing pins (which over Christmas have left craters in doors, beams and the soles of your feet) into ornaments already bulging with old stamps, fountain-pen carcasses and shoe laces, you may be gripped by an urge to purge.

The real headache starts when you cannot stuff the Santa candles back into a

drawer – any drawer – due to an avalanche of keyless bicycle locks, dog-eared newspaper cuttings about holidays you cannot afford, miniature sewing sets and folding scissors.

The interminable flood of dross slops around all the cupboards, leaving a sediment of drachmas, buttons and washers in every receptacle. You are forced to eat boiled eggs out of cups and niblets out of mugs. Why, you ask yourself, tipping out mouldy walnuts and toenail clippings from a vase that has never housed a flower, do we keep it all? When will you play pocket solitaire? Or wear those turquoise Lurex stockings? Or finish gluing together 97 pieces of Airtex Spitfire?

Kitchen gadgetry is a serious culprit. If you store a vegetable chopper, still with its wedding-gift tag around its neck, on top of a cupboard for years and years it metamorphoses. What was once an ugly piece of plastic becomes a lovingly restored spiderette, with thick net curtains draped round the plunger and arachnid nurseries between the blades. For the sensitive-minded, disposal is out of the question. Getting rid of anything is not easy. Just before it is transported to the bin, thoughts of 100 things you could do with it flash before you. The length of curtain wire would do wonders for a blocked drain and the dolls' bottles would get an un-

wanted kitten through the night...

So what to do? Odds-and-sods management courses perhaps. Or pseudo-Tupperware parties where everyone swaps their muck. Somewhere out there is a hot-water bottle waiting for that stopper, someone has a knob to replace the string in the wardrobe door and who knows, the tiny tool for the television control panel might turn up in a tight-seal salad bowl. A friend of mine sporadically parcels up entire drawer contents in all those polythene carrier bags you cannot bring yourself to throw away and puts it in the loft. Which works every well if you have a loft and a loft ladder, or until you move and the bags split.

But the answer for 1990 must surely be recycling. Junk sorting is the best resolution yet. We should start saving it now in labelled tins.

Of course, the obsessively houseproud do not have a problem – those who carefully store their tools on garage walls, iron dusters and have the lawnmower service check list filed neatly under L in the fireproof safe-keeping box. But think what they are missing – the joy of discovering a lost gold cuff-link nesting in a scentless

pot-pouri or a contact lens in a dusty potty.

Or the sigh of relief when you finally shift the heap of bottles destined for the bottle bank and spot the vital nut to reactivate the remote-control car, which for the past week has been parked forlornly next to the dog bowl after one lap round the kitchen on Boxing Day.

CHESS PROBLEM SOLUTION

WHERE ANGELS FEAR TO TREAD

Key 1 Sc71 Waiting
1 ... Kxc7 2 Bh2 mate
1 ... Kxe7 2 Bc5 mate
1 ... Bxc7 2 Sc8 mate
1 ... Bxe7 2 Se8 mate

Composers are still discovering this quartet of mates. Guest's 1897 setting of the Black Bishop's blocks on the two light-squares granted to the Black King by the key is still the best!

This leads to the question of how is a beginner to know what has been done before? Other than by a great deal of reading to get the 'feel' of what might or might not be new, and knowing sources of reference, it is largely guess work. By rushing in, beginners are frequently lucky!



SWIMMING SECTION CHRISTMAS GALA

held at the Club Pool on Saturday 6th January 1990

The annual Gala is sponsored by the Management Committee of the Club, on behalf of the Swimming Section. I would like to thank them for their financial assistance. As always Maurice Finch was a great help in the organisation. My personal thanks to everyone who helped make the Gala the best we have had in my memory.

We started our afternoon

with the Splash Gala which is for the younger children who are still learning to swim. The Splash Gala was followed by the Gala. Some 90 children took part in the events.

By this time all the children were hungry so to save ourselves being eaten we gave them all tea – thank you to everyone who brought food.

Our special guests were Bert and Vera Westover who

have been involved with swimming for many years and are a really charming couple who presented all the awards and medals.

Father Christmas called in and gave all the children who took part a Christmas selection and a swim hat.

We rounded off the afternoon and evening with a disco.

Cyril Moffett

Annual Awards, Teaching

These are awards achieved over the year within the teaching groups

Tuesday	Width 1	P. Rains
Thursday	Width 2	C. Moore
Tuesday	Width 2	V. Harwood
Thursday	Width 2	G. Williams
Tuesday	Length	K. Thorndick
Thursday	Length	A. Newlove
Lifesaver	Female	C. Durrant
Lifesaver	Male	S. Durrant
Mother & Baby	Boy	I. Wilson
Mother & Baby	Girl	M. Williamson

Jack Maude Bowl

(Life saving)

P. Eastwood

Chairman's Award

(Awarded to the person who has made an outstanding contribution to the Section)

Mrs V. Carpenter

Squad Training Annual Trophies

Girls	Under 11	K. Samuels
Boys	Under 11	S. Jamieson
Girls	Under 13	J. Purcell
Boys	Under 13	R. Gotting
Girls	Under 17	K. Samuels & S. Moffett
Boys	Under 17	J. Marshall
Ladies		K. Samuels
Men		J. Marshall

Based on points for all 4 strokes through year

H40	Men	S. Michie
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18 Lengths Freestyle

H40	Ladies	K. Samuels
Medway Shield		S. Moffett

Most points achieved in Medway Age Group Championships

Ladies	Open	S. Moffett
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4 Lengths Freestyle

Men	Open	J. Marshall
Endeavour		D. Gilroy
Victor Ludorum		S. Jamieson
Chairman's Cup		S. Jamieson

Most points achieved over all Age Groups except Men & Ladies

Best Improved Style – Boys	C. Judges
Best Improved Style – Girls	C. Davies
Best Improver	I. Snelling

Most outstanding new swimmer

Rose Trophy	L. Davies & F. Newman
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Contact

For further information about the swimming section contact:

Cyril Moffett Ex. 3250
(now in FCD Production Office)
Home: Medway 848707

Splash Gala Results*	Boys		Girls	
		secs		secs
Beginners 1	David Coppard		Laura Comfort	
Beginners 2	Christopher Moore		Laura Williams	
Lengths	Alan Beaumont	19.52	Amanda Walker	20.58

Main Gala Results*				
2 Lengths Freestyle (Under 15)	P. Pearce	26.82	S. Moffett	30.80
2 Lengths Freestyle (Under 17)	S. Michie	26.59	K. Samuels	31.57
1 Length Back Crawl (Under 11)	I. Snelling	19.80	K. Samuels	19.77
2 Lengths Back Crawl (Under 13)	R. Gotting	40.01	L. Holmes	40.78
2 Lengths Back Crawl (Under 15)	P. Pearce	36.52	E. Snelling	38.84
2 Lengths Back Crawl (Under 17)	S. Michie	33.88	K. Samuels	38.09
1 Length Breaststroke (U. 11)	S. Jamieson	21.47	K. Samuels	21.29
2 Lengths Breaststroke (U. 13)	J. Perkins	41.25	S. Michie	40.25
2 Lengths Breaststroke (U. 15)	P. Pearce	40.69	S. Moffett	39.41
2 Lengths Freestyle (Under 13)	R. Gotting	32.74	J. Purcell	33.90

* Due to space limitations only the winner in each category has been listed.



Annual General Meeting

The Eighth AGM was held on 22nd February, with 118 members present. The customary business was transacted. Detailed information on the Club's financial position has been published for members.

One important resolution was passed without dissent – the Subscription has been authorised to increase to 20p per week. The Management Committee, in proposing this change, consider this to be a modest increase considering the large amount of improvement work completed and in hand; it is remarkable value taking into account the policy of providing facilities and free entertainments for members and all their families.

With the great expense of the improvements and despite the large amount of subsidy provided by the company, it would be unwise to continue at the present level. The new rate will be taken through the payroll from April.

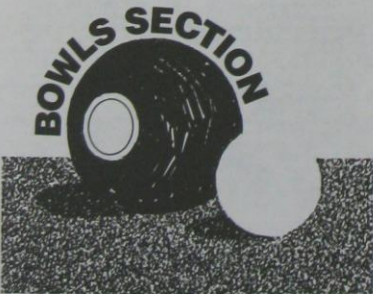
Four Honorary Life Memberships were proposed and accepted with acclamation. They are: Ron Howard, GAV Chairman, John Bulford, who has been involved with the Bowls Section for around 27 years; George Wilkins, Cricket Secretary for 25 years; and Rod Cole, Social Committee and Management Committee member for many years, who has also been concerned with so many holiday arrangements for employees.

Following an election, the Management Committee is in office for this year:

Chairman	John Bradley	Director of Personnel, GAV
Vice-Chairman	Peter Bird	MASD Production
Members:	Rod Cole	MASD Quality Assurance
	Jim Collins	Social Secretary, office in Snack Bar. Tel. Ex 3217
	Keith Jones	c/o WES
	Hugh McArthur	Training Dept. (Hopewell Drive)
	Cyril Moffett	FCD Production
	Ray Newman	AS&RD Production
	Terence Oxenham	BP
	Tony Oxenham	GSD Test
	Jim Troy	CACD Admin
	Roy Wade	Fisher

Appointed Members:

Treasurer	Mark Perry	GAV Accounts
Assistant Treasurer	Valerie Squires	GAV Accounts
Secretary	Maurice Finch	Clubhouse. Tel. Medway 251492 Short code: 6009



Over the years because of television coverage, etc., Bowls has become a very popular sport and has generally lost its image of being "Old man's marbles", indeed a lot of the best players are now under thirty years of age. We are very fortunate here at GAV because we have a fine sports club at Hoo with an excellent ground staff who among many other things upkeep and maintain a first

class bowls green. The game of Bowls is a very enjoyable one and is a fine way to while away a summer afternoon or evening, rounded off nicely in the bar with old and new friends. One of the main reasons people are reluctant to start playing is the fear (unfounded though it may be) of showing oneself up on the green by making mistakes; for this reason the bowls

committee has decided to run some courses on an evening during the week starting in June 1990. The course will consist of:

- 1) Explaining the rules and etiquette of the game. This part to be held inside the pavilion with the aid of a blackboard to describe head building, etc.
- 2) Moving out onto the green to learn correct bowls delivery and other techniques.

The course will last for three two-hour lessons run over a three-week period (weather permitting). The final week will consist of a game amongst the people on the course and other members of the section if available.

Hopefully by the end of the three weeks most of the participants will feel confident enough to put their names down for club matches, if they wish. Some of the matches involve coach trips to London and the coast which all makes for a grand day out.

The only stipulation to joining the course is that you must be a social club member and we ask you to join the bowls section which is currently two pounds fifty pence for the year.

Bowls and slip-on overshoes are provided for the course; if you decide to take the game up new bowls which last a lifetime can be purchased from about sixty pounds, shoes from about twenty pounds.

If you wish to enrol please fill in the form on this page and return it to either:

Colin Tullett,
ISD Estimating,
Ex 3582 or

Rex Austin,
ISD Engineering,
Ex. 4254.

Please fill in all relevant parts of the form and return it as soon as possible, as entries will be accepted on a first come first served basis.

We (the bowls committee) look forward to your company in the summer.

Colin Tullett
Competition Secretary

Alexander's

Alexander's Restaurant has now re-opened at the Clubhouse

Tuesday – Saturday inclusive 7 pm – 11 pm
Sunday Lunch 12 noon – 2 pm
Bookings Monday to Friday 9 am – 5 pm
Tel: Medway 251492 (short code 6009)

Main Course

Starters — Fish

Deep Fried Mushrooms . . . £1.25	Fillet of Plaice Duglere (Poached with Creamy Onion & Tomato Sauce) . . . £4.40
Melon Boats (with either Parma Ham or Orange Slice) . . . £1.25	Fillet of Plaice Meuniere . . . £3.00
Melon & Raspberry Sorbet . . . £1.25	Panpiettes of Sole, Marlene (Filets of Sole stuffed with crabmeat, poached in white wine & cream sauce) . . . £4.40
Egg Mayonnaise . . . £1.25	Grilled Salmon in Champagne Sauce . . . £5.00
Pate en Croute . . . £1.25	Grilled Trout with Almonds . . . £5.00
Prawn Melody (Prawns in Filo Pastry in Seafood Sauce) . . . £1.50	Fried Scampi with Tartar Sauce . . . £1.25
Prawn Cocktail . . . £1.70	Whole King Prawns served in Lemon & Parsley Butter . . . £5.65
Scafood Cocktail . . . £1.70	Whole King Prawns in Garlic . . . £5.65
Soup . . . 65p	
Fruit Juice . . . 30p	

"T" Bone Steak 12 oz . . . £8.25	Chicken Kiev (Chicken Breast stuffed with Garlic Butter) . . . £5.00
16 oz . . . £9.25	Chicken Cordon Bleu . . . £5.75
Sirloin Steak 6 oz . . . £6.75	Zigeuner Schnitzel (Veal Escalope covered in a Tomato, Pepper & Onion Sauce) . . . £7.50
8 oz . . . £7.25	Loin of Pork (Cooked in Cider, covered in Breadcrumbs & served with a Mushroom Sauce) . . . £5.75
Fillet Steak au Poivre (Pepper Steak) . . . £8.00	Garmon Steak & Pineapple & Tomato . . . £4.50
Fillet of Steak Chasseur (Fillet marked in Creamy Wine, Mushroom & Onion Sauce) . . . £9.00	Omelettes – your choice cooked to order . . . £3.00
Mixed Grill (Sirloin, Lamb Chop, Sausage & Gammon) . . . £5.00	
Chicken Mon Penseur (Breadcrumbed with Asparagus Tips) . . . £5.00	

All of the above Main Courses served with a Choice of either Salad or Vegetables in Season and Jacket Potatoes or French Fries

Vegetarian Dishes

Vegetable Lasagne . . . £3.00	Vegetable Curry with Savoury Rice . . . £3.00
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Children's Menu

(For Children under 10 years)

Double Beefburger in Toasted Bun with Chips . . . £1.50	Mini Grill (Sausage, egg, 4 oz steak, chips) . . . £2.00	Chicken Bites (Small pieces of chicken in batter in choice of sauce) . . . £2.00	Jumbo Fishfinger with Beans & Chips . . . £1.50
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Sweets

All sweets . . . £1.20	Coffee . . . 40p	
Pie & Chips (Steak & Kidney or Chicken or Minced Beef) . . . £1.50	Lasagne & Salad . . . £1.75	Buttered Roll or French Bread . . . 20p
Cottage Pie with Salad or Chips . . . £1.50	Scampi & Chips in the Basket . . . £2.10	Jacket Potato – Plain . . . 35p
Chicken & Chips . . . £1.50	Burgers . . . 60p	Choice of Filling . . . 50p
Half Roast Chicken & Chips . . . £2.80	Quarter Pounder . . . £1.00	Salad – Ham, Beef, Chicken or Cheese . . . £1.75
Chicken Nuggets & Chips in the Basket . . . £1.40	Cheeseburger . . . Add 15p to each of the above	Ploughman's – Cheese or Ham . . . £1.30
Curry or Chilli & Rice . . . £1.75	Jumbo Sausage in Roll . . . £1.00	Coffee – Instant . . . 30p
	Chips . . . 40p	– Filter . . . 50p
		Tea . . . 25p

FAST FOOD SERVICE
Downstairs Lounge Bar
Daily 6 pm – 10 pm
Wednesdays & Fridays
12 noon – 2 pm

BOWLS COURSE

Name _____

Division _____

Location (e.g. Towers) _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone No. _____

Internal Phone No. _____

For official use only:

Application No. _____

Application Date _____

Course Date _____

**Come Along
Bring your Family
and Support Your
Team***

*If you wish to
compete contact
your divisional/
departmental
representative



Family SPORTS DAY

July 15th 1990
GEC Avionics/BP
Sports Club, Hoo

ATHLETICS
TUG OF WAR
FIVE-A-SIDE FOOTBALL
NETBALL
BOWLS
SWIMMING
SAILING
CHILDRENS RACES
NOVELTY EVENTS
SIDESHOWS
BAR
REFRESHMENTS

GEC AVIONICS



LOUNGE BAR

The Lounge Bar in the Main Canteen is now
open for all employees on a trial basis.

5.30 - 7.30 pm
**Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday & Thursday**

every week except on Bank Holidays, and
on individual days which will be posted
on Notice Boards.

Club-House attractions

APRIL

Saturday 7th
BARN DANCE
with
"JEZREELS"
Saturday 14th
EASTER DANCE
with
"HAPPY DAZE"
7.45 - 11.45

MAY

**BANK HOLIDAY
WEEKENDS**
Saturdays 5th
and 26th May
**Dances with
"TARGET"**
7.45 - 11.45

REAPER CLUB

The January meeting of the Reaper Club was also the AGM for 1989/90. Harry Staff took the chair and the committee was re-elected en bloc with no resignations.

After supper we were entertained by a very popular local comedian, Frankie Baker, who gave us a "Lorra" laughs with singing and members joining in.

The raffle and bingo completed yet another successful evening.

The February meeting was very well attended with yet more new members; virtually the whole of the canteen was taken up.

The Club's procedure and the Chairman's announcement of birthdays and anniversaries for the month

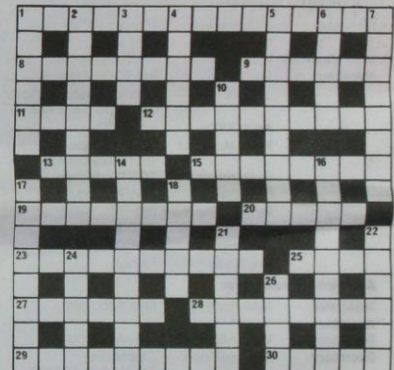
were given out as were also the year's outings, with members agreeing to the venues selected by the committee.

After supper we were entertained by the "Stage School" with "Xmas in February". 30 boys and girls gave us an excellent programme of singing and dancing. The highlight was the singing of a very talented boy of 14 with a rendering of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Love Changes Everything", a lad who is going places.

It was unfortunate that the stage was damaged in the gales but it didn't spoil a very enjoyable show.

The evening ended with the usual raffle and bingo.
C. Rhodes

CROSSWORD No. 99 For amusement only



ACROSS

- Inflation maybe blamed, but traders smile (8, 7)
- Where the kitchen staff look to (8)
- Moses showed the way to make it two (3, 3)
- The highland cattle is monarch of (4)
- I'm an individual, indifferent (10)
- American state (5)
- Arly type, in Chelsea maybe (8)
- A summer job, Constable made it famous (6)
- Eyes which probe the unknown, by impulse (5)
- Female horses follows after dark (10)
- List of lineage, or an oak (4)
- Formed of reeds, some comb it (6)
- Success, sometimes completed a hole (4, 4)
- He acts like a magpie (9)
- Just a single unit, before checkmate (5)

DOWN

- The household skivvy of yesteryear (6)
- The day that was is past (9)
- The terrible (4)
- Houses of ladies, so called (6)
- Biblical city, a queen gets a pint (9)
- In the Ruhr, there is sense (anag) (5)
- One year old, for sale (8)
- Boarding a buggy for progress (3, 2)
- A pain to hurt the mind as well (9)
- A sticking needle is, without ambition (2, 1, 6)
- To say it, as it sounds, without a ring (8)
- Rotting, or neglect causes it (5)
- A thin covering, to fool first sight (6)
- Veneration without going back (6)
- The holy one, at Glastonbury? (5)
- Modern way of asking to cut out, coupon? (4)

Solution to Crossword No. 98

ACROSS

- At a loss for words, 8. Sequence; 9. Crayon; 11. Erin; 12. Hand collect; 13. Stage; 15. Alisation; 19. Criticker; 20. Stack; 23. No love lost; 25. Obey; 27. Finale; 28. Minister; 29. On speaking(g) terms. NB: No clue for 30 - was part of 29.

DOWN

- Answer; 2. Acquittal; 3. Ogee; 4. Social; 5. Work of art; 6. Royal; 7. Sand dune; 10. Adèle; 14. Good value; 16. Incubator; 17. To and fro; 18. Weild; 21. Assign; 22. Cyprus; 24. Lungs; 26. Fiat.