

CLIMAX TO FIRST YEAR SUCCESS AT LOCAL ITeC

On Tuesday 5th February the successful first year of operation of ITeC, Medway's Information Technology Centre, was marked by the visit of John Butcher MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Industry, when he presented GEC Avionics prizes to four top trainees.

The work of ITeC is becoming increasingly well known in the local community as an important contribution towards the needs of young people leaving school, offering a year's training in skills which will fit them for jobs in industry or commerce where knowledge of 'new technology' is becoming so important. Trainees are given an initial appreciation and intensive courses in the fields of Computers, Electronics, and the fast-growing concept of the Electronic Office.

The prizegiving was attended by members of the inaugural course who are now in employment and who returned to the Centre with representatives of the employers and with their parents. Also present were many distinguished guests from the Centre's sponsors, the Department of Trade and Industry and the Manpower Services Commission, and their co-sponsors GEC Avionics and the Councils of Rochester-upon-Medway and Gillingham, and Kent County Council. As well as Jim Couchman, MP for Gillingham, there were present Wing Commander Powling, Deputy Lieutenant for KCC; the Mayor of Gillingham, Cllr Smith and his wife, the Deputy Mayor of Rochester, Cllr Rossiter and his wife, and Cllr Lewis, Leader, Gillingham Borough Council.

Bob Wilkinson, Chairman of the ITeC Board, opened the proceedings by welcoming the guests and introducing those who were to speak to the assembly. Particularly he welcomed the guest of

honour Mr Butcher, recalling that the Centre had been opened in October 1983 by his colleague at the DTI, David Trippier MP. Vincent Hudson, Senior Vice-Chairman of Kent County Council Education Committee and Chairman of its Careers sub-committee, remarked how grateful he was to all the co-sponsors of the scheme. The quality of the training offered could be measured by the fact that of the 40 trainees who started on the inaugural course, 36 are known to have found jobs. The resources of ITeC are available to all parts of the local community, and Medway are reckoned to be in the top few of the country's 100 or so Centres.

Jack Pateman then explained why GAv supports ITeC so strongly; the Company sees it as a practical way of narrowing the gap between the skills needed in industry and commerce, and the attainments of the average young person at school. While there are increasing numbers of unemployed, acute shortages are being declared in particular skill categories.

These are greatest in all levels of computing and electronics, mainly because technology has moved faster than the country's ability to equip people with the skills required. For school leavers, their ability to get jobs is

directly proportional to the qualities they can offer. ITeC brings to them opportunities at the very first level of training and helps them to find jobs with companies large or small who now realize that Information Technology is a most powerful aid to business success.

The results of the course have so far proved attractive to employers; this has been possible with the encouragement of funding from the Manpower Services Commission and the Department of Trade and Industry, and through collaboration between private and public sectors. GEC Avionics has provided technical expertise essential to achievement of the relevant syllabus, and equipment. The KCC's Education Committee has provided space and purchasing facilities and acts as employer, thus providing a necessary administrative base. These two organisations have been joined by the Gillingham and Rochester Councils in part funding the Centre. It is gratifying to note that five trainees from the course, including one of today's prizewinners, have found employment within GAv. It is pleasing however that the number is not greater since the expertise is being shared around the local employers.

Mr Pateman concluded by congratulating all the trainees and particularly the prizewinners.

Bob Wilkinson then invited John Butcher to present the prizes. After that, Mr Butcher commented how impressed he was by the record of ITeC despite the difficulties in Medway. The centre is a bridge over the dilemma of skill shortages and high unemployment, leading to the matching of new skills to the needs of the community as part of the wealth-making process.

'ITeC mirrors the future of this area - well done all!'

Meeting local press representatives later, Mr Butcher pointed out that now that most schools have microcomputers, that fact plus the existence of ITeC puts Britain about 3 years ahead of other European countries - the computer literate generation already exists.

The Minister, guests and parents were shown around the training centre, which is situated in part of the former Naval Apprentices School in HMS Collingwood. Mr Butcher then had to leave for London but a large number of the visitors were entertained to buffet lunch in the Conference Suite at the factory.



Top left: Sadie Wakefield receives her prize from John Butcher M.P. (B)

Left: Vincent Hudson, Jack Pateman, Bob Wilkinson and John Butcher M.P. at the formal presentation. (B)

Above: The Mayor and Mayoress and the Guest of Honour with John Richards, Manager of the Centre, watching a trainee at work. (B)

NEW YEAR'S HONOUR

Congratulations to Staff Ellis, Design Consultant, on his award of MBE in the recent Honours List. Yet another achievement for 'Staff' following his Lord Nelson Gold Medal.

First Flight of



On 28th January at Caselle (Turin), AMX aircraft 'AO3' successfully completed a 1 hour 40 minute maiden flight.

This was a significant milestone for the flight control system since, for the first time, it contained the full flight control law software. This enables the aircraft to operate over the full flight envelope.

Many thanks are due to the CACD software team for completing the flight clearance software on time against a very tight timescale.

The Prizewinner in GAv

Sadie Wakefield has now been in MASD Engineering for about six months, and is thoroughly enjoying her work as Computer Operator, also involved with documentation and preparation of work for the VAX computer. Sadie joined ITeC from school - she was at the Hundred of Hoo school, and her interest in computing (she has an ATMAS at home) led her to apply for the scheme. Her award of the GEC Avionics Prize - a framed certificate and cheque - for Best Computing Trainee, is a fitting reward for her efforts.

Four others who have joined from ITeC are **Frances Jerwood** and **Jane Stebbings**, Clerk Typists in CACD Production; **Grant Obermaier**, Production Progress Clerk in CACD, and **Linda Atkins**, Computer Assistant in MASD.

Other GEC Avionics Prize winners are: **Christine Edwards** from Strood, Best Electronic Office Trainee, **Gary Saunders** from Rochester, Best Electronics Trainee, **Mark Ashman** from Wainscott, Most Improved Trainee overall for the year.

Paul Rayner is Managing Director of GEC Computers

Now that GEC Computers at Borehamwood reports to GAv, reconstruction of the management organisation is continuing and Paul Rayner has moved from his post of Assistant General Manager at Rochester to be Managing Director of that company. Paul's first action has been to structure the company into three Divisions on the Rochester pattern - his many years of experience since the days of Elliott Automation's Computing Division (which became GEC Computers), subsequently as Divisional Manager of Airborne Computing Division before its amalgamation into ADD, and particularly his involvement and leadership in the formation and subsequent success of Maritime Aircraft Systems Division, have made Paul a natural choice for this important post.

We wish him all the best. Also moved to Borehamwood site, **Bob**



Wilkinson, Paul's successor in 1981 as Divisional Manager of MASD, is settling into his recently announced appointment as General Manager. Also **Rupert Soames**, until recently Product Manager on the Orion project in ATED, is now Manager of Data Systems Division, one of the three mentioned above. **Laurie Hampson** has taken over the reins from Bob Wilkinson as MASD's Divisional Manager.

GEC Avionics News

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



Do you make New Year Resolutions?

I think that most people, at some time indulge in this annual pastime, with varying degrees of success. However, a close look at our "resolutions" is called for from time to time.

I was reading an item in a book the other day on this subject, where the writer pointed out that if we looked closely into our decisions, we would find that many of them consist of resolving NOT to do in the future something we have been guilty of doing in the past.

But he pointed out, how much better it might be if we resolved to do something we have NOT done in the past! To attempt something fresh and different. This would put a zip into one's living, and help to make resolutions stick.

So why not try this idea? Try reading a different newspaper, or another holiday resort, take up a new hobby, take a different route or another means of transport on some familiar journey.

They are 'little' things - but could put a 'newness' into the New Year.

Jess Griffiths



I see someone's son had a BMX bike for Christmas.

Charity begins at home

But a great many of our readers contribute to the appeals which from time to time go round in divisions. Here are some accounts of recent efforts - well done all.

Tiddlers for Toddlers Fund gives cheer to sick children

The fund run by the Security Guards which has attracted so many halfpennies over the last year reached a splendid total of almost £600, and in November the purchases made were taken by three of the guards to Guy's Hospital and handed over to the Sister in charge of the Children's ward. Here is an account of that visit by Peter Slight.

Our Visit to Robbie McKeith Ward Guy's Hospital

The three of us, Don Dunleavy, Martin Greensmith and myself after just three hours sleep, for we came off shift at 7 a.m., were on our way to Guy's Hospital at noon. We had a beautiful drive to London, into Guy's Hospital at 1.30. Wrong entrance, we went Weston Street, out the hospital under London Bridge Station and there was our entrance; the security had already saved us a parking space, so we parked up. Martin went off looking for a trolley, he returned with the trolley and Mr. Peter Joseph, whose brother Dr. Michael Joseph is chairman of the appeal. We unloaded the car and proceeded to Robbie McKeith ward, which is on the 10th floor. The first thing that struck me about the children's wing was that the walls were covered in paintings and drawings done by the children, and they covered the walls from the lifts, down the corridors to the wards. When we arrived at Robbie McKeith ward we were met and introduced to Sister Melvin. We described to her what we had bought, and then handed the trolley over to her, she was absolutely delighted with everything, especially the 2 Colour TV sets, as they had asked for 1 Colour and 1 Black and White. She explained she didn't know much about the Atari, but was sure the children would know how to use it. She then took us in the nurses' rest room for a coffee, and whilst we were in there we explained to her and some of the nurses how the money was raised and why Guy's Hospital was chosen. After coffee we went into the ward and saw some of the children, who by now had some of the toys out in the play area, Spell and Count was being played with, so was

Etch-a-Sketch, whilst Big Ted was eyeing up the situation and keeping guard. The parents moved away so we could take some photos of the children, and with this Big Ted (Teddy Bear we bought) was put amongst the children. Sister Melvin and Sister Parkinson had their photo taken with Big Ted, who had been christened "CUDDLES" by the children, after a couple more photos we showed the children how to operate 'Pinball'. We then went back to the nurses' rest room and presented the nurses with a 3 1/2lb jar of Quality Street sweets, we expected that the children would not go short of a sweet! We said our farewells to the sisters and the nurses and back to the car, we were back in Chatham at 4 o'clock.



Some of the children with Big Ted ("Cuddles") and the toys.

I phoned the hospital today (November 22nd) and the nurse told me that they have a full house in the ward, and the toys are really being used by the children, the TVs are not fixed up yet, as she said hospital maintenance is very slow, but they hope to have them working by Christmas.

We would like this opportunity to thank everybody who contributed to the fund and made so many children happy.

Peter Slight

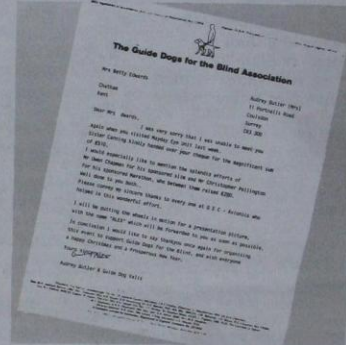
Jane Mayhew

The Cavitron Appeal referred to elsewhere in this feature was, you may remember, of particular interest because of the needs of Jane, daughter of Roger Mayhew of ATED. Roger tells us that Jane, who is now 8, has made slow but steady progress since her brain tumour operation 2 years ago, her faculties have been slowly returning, she attends a special school near Maidstone each day, and she has been with her elder sister to Brownies on special occasions. She can stand

and is beginning to walk unaided, enjoyed playing in the recent snow. She will eat by herself, sleep through the night, speech is improving so that she can ask for a drink or biscuits. Her sight is also improving. She will go straight to objects when playing on the floor and pick them up, but she does not yet seem to use her legs when standing and moving around. Hopefully her progress will continue with more development in her eyesight.

Guide Dogs Again!

Readers will recall the picture of Guide Dog "Marconi" published a few months ago. The follow-up to this has been further collections throughout the company organised by Betty Edwards and Eddie King, and a letter of appreciation has been received.



ATED Fund Raising

During the past twelve months the members of ATE Division have, through various efforts, raised approximately £1250.

This money is being used to purchase "pieces of equipment" such as a Buxton Chair for the Wisdom Hospice, Rochester, which was presented on January 3rd by myself and Erica Ayres of the Administration Dept.

A visit is also pending shortly to Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, London, to present various pieces of equipment which are on order. More equipment is on order for the Molly Wisdom Hospice.

This gathering of monies for the charities named arose out of the "CAVITRON APPEAL" which was launched in 1983.

I hope you will join in congratulating all concerned and urge them to keep up the good work. - All donations to ATED Administration Dept.

Rita Edwards



FATHER CHRISTMAS'S FAMILY FUN!

With great disappointment I am unable to award the £10 First Prize, but £5 has gone to the one entrant who most closely approached the ideal set of answers. And I do mean the one entrant. What happened – did I get the idea completely wrong? Too difficult? Maybe people knew one or two or more answers were wrong and did not think it worth entering since the specification said 'all-correct'? Does GAv News not get to the family – it is certainly intended to? Your views please – as on any other aspect of the paper I am trying to put together for you!

Editor.

The winner was **Mike Curtis** of Import/Export Dept., who's entry was done by his family.

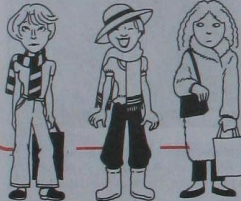
Answers below.



WHO ARE WEARING THE SCARVES?

FREDA and EMMA

The only definite identification that can be given is for ladies 2, 4 and 5. Freda, Emma and Deirdre.



'GOING FOR A SECOND JIMI'

The highest accolade in the local amateur theatrical world namely the "Jimi" award, has been presented to **Ken Trafford** for the second time. As a friend of this well known, liked and (maybe) loved thespian, it is particularly pleasing to know that the award has been made to Ken. It has been made to Ken. It has been made to Ken for his outstanding performance in the "Maurice Chevalier" role of Chatham Amateur Operatic Society's presentation of "GIGI" in April 1984.

Each year at least twelve amateur shows from various

societies are reviewed and awards made for quality and style of performance.

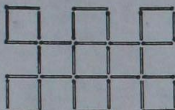
This public acknowledgement of Ken's ability is also a just reward for the additional pleasure his singing has given to countless charities and old peoples' organisations over the years. Ken is joined on these occasions by another "JIMI" award winner, local singer Rita Cook, and between them have given hundreds of hours to charity work.

Brian Pearce ADD

ANTHEAPS

1. Elephant
2. Brilliant, flamboyant
3. Scant
4. Merchant
5. Applicant
6. Transplant
7. Anthracite
8. Jubilant or frantic
9. Adamant
10. Antique
11. Granting
12. Lieutenant, Sergeant

MATCH YOUR WITS



THERE WERE THREE COMPLETE STARS



HANGOVER CURES

1. 600 in the Charge of the Light Brigade.
2. 22 yards in a Chain.
3. 15 Men on a Dead Mans Chest.
4. 12 Days of Christmas.
5. Nothing is the Amount of Moss that a Rolling Stone Gathers.
6. 273 Degrees Absolute (Degrees Kelvin) is Zero Centigrade.
7. 7 Stars in the Plough.
8. 24 Blackbirds in a Pie.
9. 10 Green Bottles (hanging) on a wall.
10. 168 Dots in a Set of Dominoes.
11. 80 is the Boiling Point of Water on the Reaumur Scale.
12. 39 Steps, by John Buchan.
13. 3 Coins in the Fountain.
14. 6080 Feet in a Nautical Mile.
15. 32 Degrees Fahrenheit, Water Freezes.

20 ANSWERS

1. Pillar-boxes.
2. An aquatic bird.
3. Table Tennis.
4. The Pilgrims' Way.
5. You would start both timers together: when the first one runs out, invert it. When the second (5-minute) timer runs out, place the egg in the pan until the first (4-minute) timer runs out for the second time. (3 minutes = 2 x 4 minutes minus 1 x 5 minutes.)
6. 1 ton.
7. The Houses of Parliament.

8. (b) The Old Deer Park, which is the only Rugby football ground; the rest are all League soccer grounds.
9. Brains. The characters are from *The Wizard of Oz*: the Scarecrow was looking for a brain, the Tin Man for a heart, the Lion for courage, and Dorothy was looking for the way back to Kansas.
10. No distance at all, as they are one and the same place. The town is in West Germany, where it is called Aachen; but it also goes under the French name of Aix-La-Chapelle.
11. Noah's Ark.
12. The 'Emperor' Concerto.
13. The fish. The early Christians found that the Greek word for 'fish' formed the initials of Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour.
14. The Crystal Palace: it was built for The Great Exhibition of 1851, and later moved to Sydenham Hill, London, where it was destroyed by fire in 1936.
15. 31 days: August. There are never two consecutive months of 30 days.
16. They are saints' flags combining to make the *Union Jack*.
17. The four countries whose names begin with the letter J are: Jamaica, Japan, Jordan and Yugoslavia. (Yugoslavia is also sometimes spell with a Y.)
18. Daughter and Mother: HM The Queen is Lord High Admiral; and HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother is Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports.
19. 30 knots
20. In *The Grand National*, at the Liverpool Aintree Course: jump number fifteen is 'The Chair', which features only once in thirty jumps. The course consists of two circuits of sixteen jumps, but the last two are omitted on the second circuit.

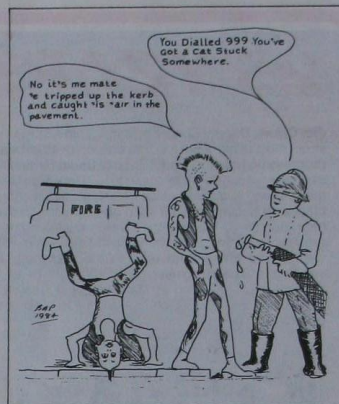
THESE WORDS SOUND ALIKE

1. Mantel/Mantle
2. Stile/Style
3. Bale/Bail
4. Team/Team
5. Colonel/Kernel
6. Idol/Idle
7. Liar/Lyre
8. Seams/Seems
9. Made/Maid
10. (Welsh) Rabbit/Rarebit

PICTURE PAIRS

A SCREWDRIVER

The other pairs are:
2. pears, a bat and ball, hammer and nail, club and spade, shuttlecock and battledore (badminton), cup and saucer, toothbrush and toothpaste tube, pair of socks, pepper and salt, brace and bit, plug and socket and an envelope and stamp.



TED FOLLOWS THE GILLS



Ted Paine of Airborne Display Division must be one of Gillingham FC's most ardent supporters – he has followed 'his' team since 1958 as a home supporter, and travelling since 1967. He has received from the Gills Travel Club a medal to mark over 200 trips to away fixtures – these have included one to Real Minorca in Majorca to celebrate the team's promotion in 1973/4, and covered over 75 league club grounds around Britain. Ted tries to go to all the first team games, and has in fact missed fewer than 20 games over the past ten seasons. Typical travel is around 9000 miles each season!

He recalls among the 'best games' the last one of the last season, with Orient already promoted as champions and Gills needing a win to stay in 3rd Division. After trailing 1-0, the second half brought a 2-1 win. Also another away match, in the FA Cup, the biggest and best result for the Club was a draw: 'Big Boys' Everton then had to come down to the Priestfields home ground for a replay and in the end they had to make a third attempt before finally knocking Gills out of the Cup. In contrast, best forgotten are the loss to Swindon after a punch-up, resulting in loss of promotion to 2nd Division, and the relegation to Div. 3 in 1969/70.

These days there are a few weeks' break from the playing season but Ted keeps up the good work, taking a week's holiday to help with stand maintenance and painting or helping the groundsman with reseeding and pitch repairs.

An all-year-round commitment for Ted, who rejoices in the comradeship that this link with our popular local team brings to him.

Letters to the editor

I wish on behalf of my colleagues and myself to extend our thanks to Mr Gosting and his staff for such a splendid Christmas dinner. Both the food and the service were first class and the availability of wine for those who wished it was a really good idea.

The task of preparing for such a meal must have been extremely hard work, but I hope that the satisfaction of knowing that it was a job well done made it worthwhile for you.

Thanks again

Moyra McCulloch (Nurse)

To GAv News

From R Farrer (CACD)

I wish to say Thanks to all people who were concerned during my recent illness, also to the Personnel Dept. who could not have been more helpful, and to the staff in Wages Dept. who were the greatest help to my wife in such times of stress. Once again – words cannot say how much one feels.

Signed

25 YEARS' SERVICE

Jim Cross, Deputy Contracts Manager in AS&RD, has spent most of his service in that division or its forbears, progressing from the Model Shop of Radio/Radar Division (after which he left for a year to be a representative) then through Aviation Division workshops and technical offices, to becoming a TA, then an Instructor on overhaul courses. By that time the Division was taking up its present form, and after the difficult time at the TSR2 cancellation and a spell back in the workshop, Jim became a Sales Engineer. After 10 years or so he became more involved in Marketing and Contracts, particularly the latter which has led him to his present position.



Jim received a pair of binoculars from his Divisional Manager Jim Casey, in the presence of friends and colleagues including Don Brown Commercial Manager, and Bill Bland Marketing Manager.

On site at Rosyth Dockyard, **Keith Featherstone** received his 25 years service award from Charles Wood, Engineering Services Manager. Keith has been a bit of a globe trotter for the company, having been to Australia, USA and various sites – only about 18 months have been at home base!

He started with GW Division, then spent 4 years at Woomera on Blue Steel analysis, then a short time in ACD with the TSR2 cancellation. Some months at Borehamwood were followed by 4 years at Cammell Laird, Birkenhead setting the navigation system to work on the Polaris submarines, and since 1970 he has been at Rosyth on maintenance of the Polaris IN system as part of an integrated team with Sperry, BAe and the Dockyard staff.

Don Gallagher, Inspector in ISD, served his apprenticeship with Vickers Armstrong on Tyneside, and moved to Medway during his Army service when he was attached to the RE School of Engineering. With the Company, he started in Sheet Metal Division, became a Tester on instrumentation then Charge Hand, and has been in inspection for around 15 years. Interests include Art, particularly chalk portraits. Divisional Manager, John Colston made the presentation of a clock.



Albert Regan, Fitter in the Clean Room in GSD (IND) Production received his 25 year service presentation from Divisional Manager Bob Ruggles accompanied by Brian Shoveller (Foreman) and Bob Pells (Superintendent).

Albert started work as a Chatham Dockyard apprentice, spent a couple of years with BR, then after a time back in the dockyard as Armament Fitter he joined the company; he has worked on many projects such as Blue Steel, Nimrod, Jaguar, and NCS1. Among his interests are sailing, classic motorcycles, DIY and music, as well as his 3 granddaughters.



GEC Avionics Prize at Sheffield

The first two students to receive the 1984 GEC Avionics student prize are shown here, front left **David Elston** and front right **Graham Starkie**. Both students also spent several weeks on vacation attachment to the Avionic Research Laboratory at Great Baddow. Professor Frank Benson and Professor Peter Robson of the Electronics and Electrical Engineering Department at Sheffield are shown here with Dennis Byatt, GEC Avionics, Manager of the Avionics Research Laboratory, Marconi Research Centre, by whom the prize has been founded.



OBITUARIES



With great regret we record that **Stan Bailey**, formerly Quality Assurance Manager of Aviation Service & Repair Division, died on Sunday morning, January 26th.

Stan suffered ill health for many years, and as a result, took early retirement in February of last year, one month before attaining the age of 64 years. His last remaining weeks were spent in the Mollie Wisdom Hospice.

He was a well known and much loved figure throughout the Rochester Establishment and will be remembered by many in sadness.

Stan's service with the company began in 1956 after RAF service and a spell as radio servicing technician. He was in Instrument Assembly in Aviation Division, became an Inspector and had risen to Chief Inspector when the old MACD split. In 1965 he moved to AS&RD, and in 1968 became QA Manager, holding that post till his retirement.

Our condolences go to Edna and the rest of his family.

Ex-apprentices around the Company will be sorry to hear that **Benny Holmes**, formerly Instructor in the Training Centre, died at the end of last month.

PASTURES NEW



Graham Clark, Assistant Materials Controller ATED, leaves to join a small firm at Crayford as Materials Manager, although leaving the company he intends to continue to support the Elliott Athletic Club.



Dave Walters, Materials Controller ATED leaves to join Oerlting at St Mary Cray which is part of W & T Avery Ltd., a GEC Company.

Dave joined the company in 1983 having spent the previous year in ATED as part of his EITB fellowship. His colleagues wish him every success for the future.



YO HO HO!



Mr Hand, Pirates, Long John Silver (with his Parrot heading for a crash landing) and Innkeeper



The Prince and Princess, Mathilda and Long John Silver



Mathilda was chased by a Pirate

Panto Time

'THE GOLDEN GOOSE' CAST

PRINCESS CAROLINE
JACQUELINE COLE

LONG JOHN SILVER
Rod COLE

King OVERLAND & BEN GUNN
Jim COLLINS

OLD LADY, CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD & PRINCE

PIRATE 1
TIM EDWARDS

RITA EDWARDS

FLUNKEY
Nicola THOMPSON (BP)

JIM HAWKINS & MATHILDA the Goose
RON GOODCHILD (BP)

INNKEEPER & PIRATE 2
DAVE JARVIS

GUARD/ SOLDIER
JOHN GRAHAM

KING BERTRO & Mr HAND
JIM TROY

SOLDIER 1
Malcolm TROY

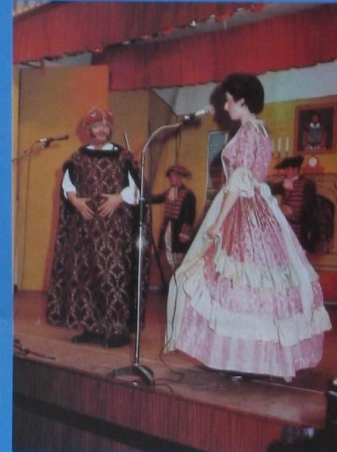
SOLDIER 2
Stuart TROY

Dr. HARRY
NIGEL TURNER

Written and Produced by JIM COLLINS
Scenery by KEN LARK and JOHN LUSTED
Lights and Stage Management by THE COMMITTEE
Music by BERT ROBBINS at the Piano who also accompanied the Party Singing



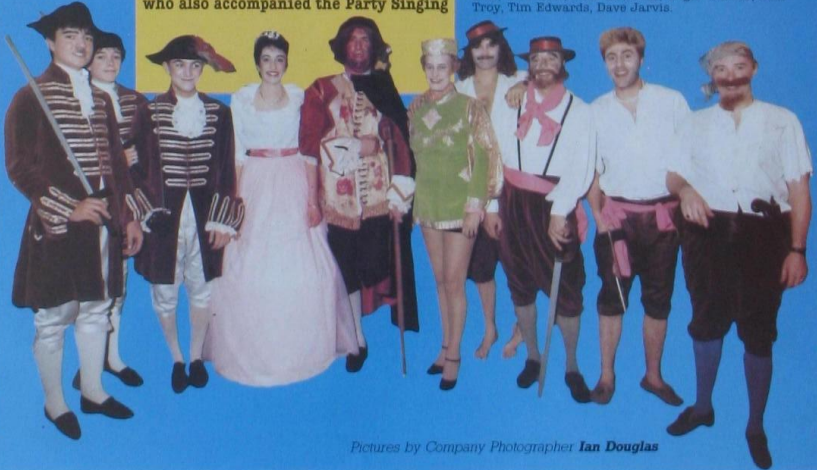
Long John Silver



King Bertro and the Princess

Members of the Cast

Left to right
Malcolm Troy, Stuart Troy, John Graham, Jackie Cole, Rod Cole, Rita Edwards, Nigel Turner, Jim Troy, Tim Edwards, Dave Jarvis



Pictures by Company Photographer Ian Douglas

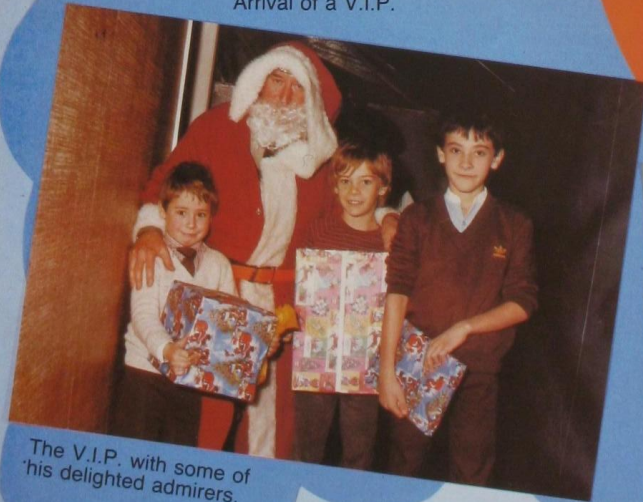
www.rochesteravionicarchives.co.uk



Arrival of a V.I.P.

Party Time

THE KIDS HAD A GREAT
 Tim Crooks and Peter Bird led the singsong and the
 Bill Gosting's Canteen Staff
 The Committee, and others too numerous
 gave their help at each of the two parties,
 and distribution of Father Christmas
THANKS EVERYONE



The V.I.P. with some of his delighted admirers.



Underneath the bushy beard, **JIM GOUDIE.**

www.rochesteravionicarchives.co.uk



... tea was provided by
... generous to mention,
... and with the preparation
... her Christmas's gifts.
**S
EVERYONE!**



*Pictures by
Company Photographer
Ian Douglas*

Quality Apprentice of the Year

The Charles Berry Trophy has been presented to **Simon Mutter**, who is now a QA Engineer in ISD. At the end of November the ceremony was held in the Conference Suite. Bill Alexander introduced Charles Berry who until his retirement a couple of years ago was the on-site representative of the US Department of Defense. He noted that the Company was proud of the relationship built up on trust with this important customer, one result of which was the inauguration by Charles of the award, which will be a permanent reminder of his service. In introducing Simon Mutter, Mr Alexander said it was a pleasure to see that so many apprentices are the sons or daughters of employees - Simon had joined the company in 1980 as Technician Apprentice. Charles Berry said he was delighted to come

back to the company to present his award for the second time; the Trophy would remain as the Marconi Avionics Award for Quality Apprentice of the Year. "Quality is a watchword that will not change", he said. He also congratulated the other finalists, **Philip Drew** and **Paul Williams**, and on presenting the shield to Simon Mutter he said that while that was only temporary, the Certificate accompanying it was for Simon to keep. Simon said he was deeply honoured to receive the Trophy, also on behalf of colleagues in ISD. He was grateful for the encouragement of all in Quality Assurance, and to colleagues and friends who had passed on their knowledge to him. To conclude, Norman Evans presented a bouquet to Mrs Berry, who had previously been welcomed by Mr Alexander.



Simon Mutter receiving his Trophy from Charles Berry (A)



Simon with the other two finalists, Paul Williams (left) and Philip Drew (A)

Farewell at the Hoo Clubhouse

Malcolm (Mick) and Ann Smith have been associated with the Clubhouse for many years - Mick has been a stalwart member of the BP Club Management Committee. The couple have now emigrated to South Africa, a farewell gathering was held at the clubhouse when Director of Personnel John Bradley made a presentation to Mick and Ann, in the presence of Councillor Mason, Mayor of Rochester-upon-Medway and the Mayoress, family members and the young twins Claire and Alison Bradley.



Mick and Ann Smith with Management Committee members (A) (A) right: Peter Bird, Rod Cole, Rita Edwards, Jim Troy, Jim Collins, and Graham Bird.

How hideous can you get??

The ties - not the wearers - were under scrutiny by the judges when a Tasteless Tie competition was held in MASD Production offices. Over 60 entrants paraded their awful concoctions of spots, blotches, stripes, flower power, scraps of metal and material, lengths of curtain, pictures and so on. All in the cause of charity, more than £20 was raised, bringing to over £275 the total raised under the guidance of Des Winter, Head of Progress. This splendid sum has come from events such as Raffles and Cake Bakes, Cuckoo Toy sales, and collections, and is for the benefit of Molly Wisdom Hospice.

Pictured are the five worst ties, faulted by (left to right) **John Tonkin** (Stock Control), **John Hollands** (Cost and Budget), the **Betty Giddings** (Stores), the Winner, **Ron Gunningham** (Filling Shop), **Sh**, and **Ian Cannell** (Engineering), and The Judges, not all

of whom were hiding behind dark glasses, were **Derek Beard** (Foreman - Test), **Geoff Cook** (Engineering), **John Williams** (D.O.), and **Mick Paterson** (Contracts). The Trophy in the hands of Betty Giddings was made by **Mark Slater** of Filling Shop.

SUGGESTION SCHEME

Some time later, **Ron Gunningham** topped his list placing with an award of £25 from the Suggestion Scheme. This was presented to him by Divisional Manager Laure Hamilton - the Suggestion was for a secure jig to assist the wave soldering process on printed circuit boards.



RETIREMENTS

Len Pavitt joined the army in 1939 after being in the TA, and served in Germany and the Middle East, followed by a few months in hospital in South Africa after being injured, then he was invalided out.

He then went back to hairdressing where he stayed till he joined the company in 1964, firstly with MASD and then CMS.



Len Pavitt receiving his retirement gift. (B)

Len married in 1948 and has one daughter who presented him with twin grandchildren last year. He is a member of the Gillingham Church and likes singing, and was a member of the Gillingham Opera until last year. His hobbies include classical music and he spends a lot of his time helping charities concerned with the church. He is also a member of the Kent County Cricket Club. All his friends and hairdressing clientele wish Len every happiness in his retirement, which started on 10th December.



Cyril Fryers of GSD receiving his retirement gift. (B)

Bob Rolf joined the company in September 1956, working in the stores for the Fishers. Then onto Servo Division which then moved to Dartford. Bob of course moved with the Division. After a while he moved back to Rochester joining Fuse Division. From Fuse Division Bob moved to CMS process paint shop area to become a Sprayer on PCBs conformal coating. We pass on best wishes and a happy retirement from all friends and colleagues within CMS process paint department.



Bob Rolf with just two of his many well-wishers from CMS. (B)

To mark her retirement from the Company on 4th January, **Dave Harries**, Production Manager GSD, presented **Betty Bassett** with an inscribed carriage clock and a pair of gold earrings from her friends and colleagues in GSD Production.

Betty joined the Company in November 1969 transferring to IND in 1971 as a Viewer working in the Inwards Goods area until she transferred to the shop floor in March 1979.

Betty's husband Eric works in FCD and she has a daughter working in Accounts; she has three other children and 2 grandchildren who she hopes to see a lot more of in her retirement.



Betty Bassett and Dave Harries at her retirement presentation in GSD Production. (A)



Bob Charnock, who looks like having a busy time in his retirement being congratulated by Keith Snelling CAC. (B)

Bill Mercer who retired on 21st December spent over 30 years as a butcher in Sittingbourne before joining the company in 1968 as a Progress Chaser in ATED. In 1973 he became Chief Storekeeper, only relinquishing the position in 1981 as Bill put it to make way for a younger person. He remained in the stores until his retirement. This will be spent in a bungalow in Sittingbourne with his wife and son to pursue DIY and gardening interests. Production Manager Alex Castle presented him with a stereo radio cassette player on behalf of his friends and colleagues.



Bill Mercer receiving his gift from Alex Castle. (A)



P. Barfoot receiving a watch to mark his retirement from ISD. (B)

John Garstin, Sales Manager of the former IND, has retired to his smallholding after over ten years with GAV. John first joined us after a very successful career as an operational pilot in the RAF, with the V-bomber force and later taking a major part in proving air-to-air refuelling systems. He retired in the rank of Wing Commander.



John Garstin receives his retirement gift from Divisional Manager (GSD) Bob Ruggles. (B)

John's whole time in IND was spent in the Sales Dept.; he started as Sales Engineer and was particularly associated with the Naval Compass Stabiliser (NCS1) and Land Navigation (MAVLANS) Systems, travelling extensively for the company and attending most of the air shows. His colleagues recall his great ability at talking them and himself into and out of delicate situations, and his ample source of seasonal fruit and Irish jokes. We wish John well in his retirement task of taming the small holding, with ample time to indulge in his weaknesses for chocolate biscuits and the Telegraph crossword.

A farewell handshake for **Les Blackman** on the event of his retirement from Airborne Display Division. Mr Blackman came from RAF West Malling six years ago and became a popular and well known figure around ADD.



Les Blackman and George Solly on the occasion of Les's retirement presentation. (B)

Les made a lot of friends during his stay, and was well known for his willing help in such activities as moving furniture, collecting stores, keeping the place neat and tidy, and generally assisting wherever required.

The presentation was made by George Solly, and consisted of a calor gas room-heater with a number of gas bottles delivered separately to his house. The parcel was an additional present to Les's wife.

Les says that after a busy working life, he can now relax, potter in his garden, and take his poodle for walks.

We wish Les happiness and peace of mind in these pursuits.

DENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION

A representative from 'MENTADENT' will be visiting the Company in March to supply information and literature to Company employees regarding dental health.

Mrs Haydon will be in the Main Surgery waiting area from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. on Thursday 14th March, and on Friday 15th March, employees in the Flying School will be able to consult the representative in the Flying School Surgery from 9.00 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.

It is hoped that as many employees as possible will take advantage of the visit to gain information which will help them to achieve good dental health.

Mrs Haydon will be available throughout the lunch periods.

Do you take care of your pearly whites?
remembering to brush them last thing at night
and after meals, or after a snack?
and do you know all about a thing called plaque?
and are you brushing your teeth the right way?
Is your toothbrush the right one to use?
or the toothpaste you buy the right one to choose?
Do you contact your Dentist on time,
or when an appointment arrives – ring and decline?
So to help you decide what's the best thing to do
to look after your teeth and promote good health too,
We've arranged for a visit from Mentadent
so come along to the Surgeries, it'll be good time well spent
She'll answer your questions and advise you for free
oh please come along and wiser you'll be!
The dates and the venues are listed below
so make a note in your diary and make sure you go!

Thursday 14th March

Main Surgery

Friday 15th March

Flying School Surgery

Blood Transfusion Unit

At their last visit in October, the Blood Transfusion mobile unit collected 856 units of blood. They offer their grateful thanks to all who contributed to this grand figure.

Next visits:

18th – 22nd March
30th September – 4th October

HOLIDAY TIME

What About Yugoslavia This Year? And At Special Discount Prices Too!

Not only is the Pound Sterling's rate in Yugoslavia among the better deals at the moment, but with special arrangements for discount available through the GA/BP Social Club you can make this Summer's holiday in that country one of the best investments you can make! Jim Collins' office by the Snack Bar can give you all the information you need about the wide range of holidays in Yugoslavia for all tastes, arranged through Phoenix Holidays Ltd. who specialise in this part of the holiday market. Phoenix forecast that more Britons than ever will visit the country

this year — with a no-surcharge guarantee and the fact that most holidays in Phoenix brochures cost very little more than last year, the variety of places and activities will put this offer at the top of the list for many.

There are new resorts, hotel and self-catering holidays, 2-centre and special interest holidays, (30 mainland seaside resorts, 6 on different islands, 4 lakes and mountain centres). Also sailing and horse-riding holidays, and some 3-week holidays at 2-week prices, free children's holidays and

special reductions for Senior Citizens. Not to forget the Holiday Club centres, which offer an amazing range of extras within the stated holiday price.

Resorts on the mainland of Yugoslavia stretch from the far north west of the country to the deep south of the Montenegrin coast. Each one in the brochure has been hand picked for its attractions to British people. Some centres are particularly good for young families; some specially



View across Dubrovnik.

Piran; picturesque town on a peninsula, once enclosed by walls, some of which have been



Beach near Budva in the South.

interesting to historians, archaeologists or botanists. There are those with the best opportunities for skin-divers, sailing enthusiasts or those on their own who want to meet new friends, and some for those who just want to get away from it all.

preserved; old town gate and towers.

There are special holidays arranged for yachtsmen – both for experienced bare-boaters, and for those who wish to learn about sailing and handling a boat.

A fly-coach tour can be one of the best ways of getting to know a strange country, Phoenix Holidays offer a 2-week "Grand Tour" or a one-week tour of the highlights of Dalmatia followed by a week by the sea.

For any of these, the prices appear to be first-class value and as is to be expected, all the experience and backing of a specialist operator, member of ABTA and the advantage of being able to make arrangements through your Social Club.

Sports and Social Club round up

'REAPER CLUB' (FOUNDED 1965).

(the new name for the '65 Club')

The highlight of the year's activities is the **Annual Christmas Party**, which was held in the Canteen on December 11th.



Over 170 members sat down to a 'Grand Feast', prepared and served by the canteen staff, which was fully appreciated by all present. Each member received a diary, christmas cracker and glass of wine, besides the meal; and the members welcomed as guests Bill Gostling, Peter Bowyer and Harry Staff with their wives. John Bradley was present at the start of proceedings, and gave a short address of welcome and expressed good wishes for the evening and 1985.



After the dinner, all retired to the main canteen, for dancing and music, and the free game of bingo, together with the free raffle (for which there were over 30 prizes).

The evening closed all too soon, at the regular 10pm, and everyone returned home happy, satisfied and full of joyous anticipation for the festive season and a new year ahead.

www.rochesteravionicarchives.co.uk



Sports and Social Club round up



Christmas Carols at All Saints

St. Paul with All Saints in Magpie Hall Road was the setting for around a hundred company people and their families to enjoy the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at the MAV/BP Club service, presided over by the Vicar, Rev. Roger Billings. This was a 'traditional' service and well received as such; the Choir was accompanied by the organist and also by the Brass Band, who provided the music for the carols and hymns for the congregation. Lessons were read by Pam Collins (husband Jim, and Cyril Corley who also read, were much involved with organising the service); Eileen Papworth, Mrs Corley, Martin Polley, Eric Skinner, Les Fell, and Alf Harrison, with the vicar. This was a splendid introduction to the Christmas festivities and plans are afoot to repeat the service this year.



MAV/BP Sub Aqua Club

Following the AGM held on 25 November the committee is as follows:-

Chairman:	Brian Endersby	ISD INT. 2416
Secretary:	Ray Newman	AS&R INT. 2244
Treasurer:	Tony Oxenham	GSD INT. 2508
Diving Officer:	Barry Dibble	AS&R INT. 2244
Comm. Mbrs.:	Doug Wylie	FCD INT. 2656
	Vic Haywood	FCD INT. 2575
	Donna Newton	

Messrs. B. Endersby and D. Wylie are also the Assistant Diving Officers.

Bowls Section

"Did you see the bowls on TV last night?" "Yes I did, it looks a great game doesn't it, I've always wanted to try my hand at that!" How many times does that conversation or one like it take place?

At Hoo we have one of the finest bowls greens in the Medway area, if not the best, thanks to the skills of our groundsmen. So why not give bowls a try this coming season and join in the games played all season long; club competitions, friendlies played in the week mid-summer, and weekends throughout the season (April to September), usually finishing with a pint in the bar with old and new friends from the other team.

If you would like to take up the game join the bowls section - it is only £2.50 a year (provided you are a member of the social club). Contact Rex Austin (Treasurer) on Int. 2904 around 1 p.m. any day for further details. The bowls section make new members very welcome.

P.S. To present members, 1985 subs are now due and can be paid to the treasurer at any time. Good bowling!

ELECTION RESULTS

At the Management Committee Meeting held on 12th December **Peter Bird** was again elected Vice-Chairman of the Club. Also at the Meeting, **Jim Troy** was elected Chairman of the Club's Sports Committee.

G3PBY and G6VSN now operational

At last the great day had arrived!! The day in question was the opening of the Amateur Radio Station at the Hoo Social Club by W.H. Alexander OBE on December 5th.

About 20 members had assembled in the Radio Station, when Bill Alexander accompanied by Glyn Thomas, Patron of the Radio Section, and Maurice Finch, secretary of the social club arrived to be given a practical demonstration of amateur radio.

Two transceivers were on display, one for the 2 metre VHF bands the other capable of operating on five sections of the HF band giving world-wide capability. Contact was made using VHF equipment with the Basildon R.C. by Alan Ralph (GB XLH); Brian Ray (G80SN) operating the HF equipment was unable to make contact with the American station we heard.

After Bill Alexander and Glyn Thomas had been shown the various test equipment available for use by members, all the company adjourned to the area adjacent to the dance floor. Here Maurice Finch introduced Bill Alexander and asked him to present the keys of the Radio Station to Glyn Thomas.

Before Bill Alexander made the presentation he recalled his introduction to radio firstly as an A.T.C. cadet, then while a student studying "Physics with Radio" at university.

Glyn Thomas replied thanking Bill Alexander on behalf of the Radio Section for his interest and help in getting the Radio Room allocated plus the extensive modifications carried out.

John Barton the treasurer of the Radio Section also responded, making special reference to the enthusiasm and assistance given by GEC Avionics, Maurice Finch and the social club Management Committee, Don Freeman and Rex Austin from WES and Ron Cooke of the transport department.

Maurice and his staff had laid on a cold buffet for the occasion, which was greatly appreciated by all present.

All members and guests then returned to the Radio Room, where Bill Alexander became the first signatory in the visitors' book.

Alan Keats took several photographs as a reminder of a very rewarding and enjoyable evening.

The Amateur Radio section will be very happy to learn of anyone interested in participating in the section's activities and information is available from:-

Alan Ralph AS&RD Internal 2972
or John Burton MASD Internal 2792
who will be glad to introduce any prospective new members to the section.



Bill Alexander and Glyn Thomas with the plaque commemorating the opening (A)



Guests and Members of the Amateur Radio Section in their well appointed new Radio Station. Henceforth known as 'The Shack'. (A)



Sports and Social Club round up



Social Climbing in '85?

1984 was a very good year for the climbing club. Membership steadily increased and throughout the year there were organised trips to Yorkshire, the Lake District and both North and South Wales. Nearer to home, evening training sessions were held at Thong Lane sports centre near Gravesend, and Sunday meets at Harrison's Rocks near Tunbridge Wells continued in all weathers.

On the social side, outings to various lectures took place and some members were even seen down the

pub! The new traditional Barbecue/cocktail party and the Christmas dinner were outstanding successes.

The 1985 season is now well under way with a snow and ice climbing trip in early February and tickets for the forthcoming Julie Tullis and Don Whillans lectures booked.

So those of you who fancy a few weekends away, aboazing and generally being sociable, with the possibility of a bit of climbing thrown in, contact Rob James on New Road ext 68 for further details.

If we had more members we could do longer climbs!



YOS leading Cenotaph Corner Llanberis Pass



The fun-hogs at a watering hole



**MAV/BP
COMPUTER
USERS
CLUB**

Items available from stock include:

Acorn Data Cassette Recorder Club Price £30.13
Ferguson Data Cassette Recorder Club Price £23.97
ATARI 800XL Computer Club Price £113.09

Place your order for these or other items through your MABCUB Divisional Representative.

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16k Memory 5 Introduction Tapes
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All manuals

Hardly used and in original packing.
£350 or nearest offer will secure.

Phone Paul Tourret on
Maidstone 842323 (evenings)

Unclaimed Prizes

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S EVE RAFFLE

Would Holders of Ticket Numbers:

05096 08066 05714

please arrange to collect prizes from Hoo Clubhouse
(tel: Medway 251492/250402)



CLUB-HOUSE ATTRACTIONS

**CACD
JAGUAR PROJECT
DANCE**
Saturday 2nd March
7.30 - 11.45pm
Contact: Mike Diamond

**Over 50's
COCKTAIL PARTY**
Saturday 23rd February
7.45 - 11.45pm

with
"PEBBLE MILL"
£1.00 - Tickets Only
Free Coach Travel
Phone Jim Collins - 2217

Children's DISCO
with
"X-OJET"
Friday 1st March
7-10 pm
Admission: 25p

**An Evening
at the Races**
Saturday 16th March
8.00 pm
Eight Filmed Races
Betting Units 20p

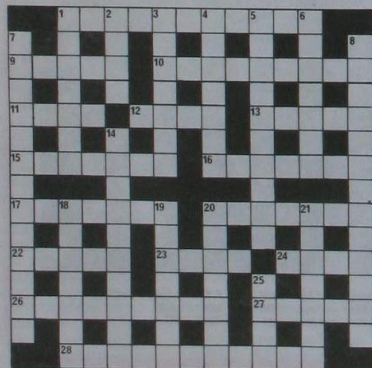
**Country & Western
DISCOTHEQUE**
Friday 22nd March
8-11 pm
DJ: Colin Starbuck
Admission Free

SPRING DANCE
with
"SPIRAL"
Saturday 9th March
7.45 - 11.45pm
Admission Free

**'KING'S RANSOM'
DANCE**
Saturday 23rd March
7.45 - 11.45pm
Admission Free

CROSSWORD

No. 68



ACROSS

- To ensure that everyone keeps on the right path. (3-2-3-3)
- Toriate (5)
- Without the means of thought. (9)
- One before ten. (4)
- Sometimes called cans, noisily (4)
- Girl's name (5)
- Could be one to hundred. (7)
- Oddly a lady, up to a point. (7)
- Badge of Scotland. (7)
- Infectious and endemic disease. (7)
- Walk obliquely. (5)
- Task of medical profession (4)
- Castro's Country Isle (4)
- He who holds the purse strings (9)
- Name, description maybe. (5)
- The ultimate reliance. (5-6)

DOWN

- Word of contrary meaning. (7)
- What one desires to make in life. (4)
- Silks, satins, tweeds and damask. (7)
- Gossip or rumour, maybe. (7)
- Poet of renown. tall chap. (10)
- Inside the place. (7)
- Result of allowing plant to bolt. (7-2-4)
- In Scotland maybe, a bailiff. (6-7)
- Once possessed by countrymen, now by satellite. (7-3)
- Bishop's task for incumbent. (7)
- Completely finished, gases unwanted. (7)
- Acute disappointment. (7)
- It goes right round the World. (7)
- Needs a scratch. (4)

For amusement only

Motormania Crossword Solution

ACROSS

1. Cherry, 4. Stag, 6. Morgan, 7. Volvo, 8 (& 12 down) Aston Martin, 10. Metro, 11. Lada, 14. Regata, 15. Opel, 16. Interceptor, 19. Golf, 21. Nova, 22. Cortina, 24. Alfa, 26. Rolls Royce, 27. Capri.

DOWN

2. Rover, 3. Mazda, 4. Starion, 5. Astra, 9. (LAMB) or (GHIN), 10. Mercedes, 12. See 8 across, 13. Pontiac, 17. Celica, 18. Panther, 20. Ferrari, 23. T.V.R., 25. A.C.

Solution to Crossword No. 67

ACROSS

1. Castles in the air, 8. Junk shop, 9. Ending, 11. Lips, 12. Old friends; 13. A past, 15. Divorcee, 19. Marigold, 20. Skate, 23. Repertoire, 25. Stag, 27. Voodoo, 28. Road line, 29. Forefathers.

DOWN

1. Capote, 2. Sand paper, 3. List, 4. Spools, 5. Handwork, 6. Align, 7. Register, 10. Affix, 14. Sugar loaf, 16. Cut it fine, 17. Improver, 18. Bloom, 21. Dry off, 22. Egress, 24. Proud, 26. A dot.

Photographs taken by the Staff Photographers will be acknowledged in the following way: (A) Alan Keats; (B) Ian Douglas

The views and opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editor or Company. Any such opinions or comments are those of the contributor alone and are printed solely as a matter of interest.

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