

PASS



The Quarterly Magazine Of The MASTERMIND CLUB

September 1994

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EDITORIAL*Patricia Cowley*

By the time you read this the Finals for 1994 will have been and gone — but those of us who were lucky enough to be at the recording in Coventry Cathedral will remember the splendid setting for a long time. The technicians waited until it was almost dark before starting the filming, and in the floodlighting the Cathedral looked awe-inspiring — for once, 'modern' art and architecture blended perfectly.

As I write, the *Mastermind* team is moving its office lock, stock and barrel to their new headquarters in Manchester — but minus, alas, one member of the team. Our dear Damaris has left them to go on to higher things. Damaris tells us it's a career move, but she will be very much missed. However, she will continue as a member of the Club, so we won't have heard the last of her. We wish her well in her new job.

On the credit side, however, the Club has acquired another, and distinguished, honorary member. Our 'friendly rival' Bamber Gascoigne, after presenting the trophy to the

1994 *Mastermind* champion, was happy to accept our invitation to join us. We hope to have the pleasure of his company at some of our meetings in future.

Speaking of which, don't forget that Tony Dart is still holding his monthly knees-ups at the Grape Street Wine Bar in Bloomsbury. The third Wednesday of every month from six o'clock onwards, and the company and the conversation are very good!

Also, the first two recordings of the 1995 series will be:

5 October: National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.

16 November: Salisbury Cathedral.

You may, alas, have noticed that the quarterly publication of PASS has been a little erratic lately, owing to a hiccup in the production line. The reason that PASS costs you nothing except printing and postage is that the people involved in its production are all volunteers, and from time to time have to put their full-time job well ahead of personal (unpaid) commitments. But we hope all will be back on an even keel from this issue onwards.

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Contributions are welcome but may be edited owing to space limitations

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FROM THE PRESIDENT*Tony Dart***Annual Function 1995**

I hope you all enjoyed Chester; the Dart family certainly made the most of it. Now on to 1995, which will be a London year.

Even at this early stage, I can tell you that the Function will again take place on the weekend before Easter; that is from Friday 7 to Sunday 9 April 1995, and that the venue will be the Southside Conference Centre at Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine in South Kensington, as in 1993. Accommodation will be available through the Imperial at recommended hotels or in the College itself at Linstead Hall of Residence. Linstead offers quite exceptional value for money and in 1993 virtually every resident delegate opted to stay there.

For anyone who is unfamiliar with the South Kensington area, Imperial is a very large college of London University (in fact, bigger than most Provincial Universities on its own) and is situated in the centre of 'Albertopolis', in walking distance of the Albert Hall, the Science, Natural History, Geology, and Victoria and Albert Museums, the National Sound Archive and (of course) Harrods. Despite the near-central London location,

Southside Conference Centre and Linstead Hall both overlook the pleasant and quiet Princes Gardens, with an intriguing and little-known network of mews streets and by-ways to the east. Access by public transport is very easy, particularly via South Kensington Underground station which has a pedestrian subway directly to Imperial. If you wish to drive, there is a real bonus — secure car parking inside the College precincts at a small extra charge.

While on the bonus topic I must remind you that part of the reason for a London year is that the BBC in its generosity invites Club members to Saturday lunch at White City. This will still take place even though the *Mastermind* office should by then have moved to Manchester — but numbers are restricted and the event is strictly limited to members (no guests) and is first-book first-served.

Our 1993 Function is remembered by everyone who attended for the quality of facilities, the convenience of Imperial as a London base, and, above all, for its first class value. I hope to do even better in 1995. Note the date in your diary now and be ready to book when the forms appear. See you in South Ken!

OBITUARY — GWENDA KEY*Margery Elliott*

Honorary Member Gwenda Key, widow of Mastermind Club founder Charles Key, died in hospital in Bovey Tracey, Devon, on 24 February 1994, in her eighty-first year.

Charles Key and I were fellow competitors in a 1973 *Mastermind* Semi-Final, and I remember making Gwenda's acquaintance after the recording, and thinking what a very friendly person she was, with such a lovely smile.

Many early committee meetings of the Mastermind Club were held in Charles and Gwenda's home in Streatham, London, where she was always a gracious hostess.

After the deaths of Bill Wright, the originator and first producer of *Mastermind*, and Charles Key, both Gwenda and Bill's wife Sheila were invited in 1985 to become honorary members of the Club, and both

accepted. Gwenda rarely missed an Annual Function, and many members will remember her.

She was born Gwenda Evans in Bovey Tracey, Devon, in 1913, one of five children. She studied Geography and English at Bristol University, and was a teacher up to the time of her marriage to Charles, whom she had met in London. She had no children.

Charles, a man of varied interests, used to take part every year in the Monte Carlo Rally, and Gwenda would go alone by boat and train to Monte Carlo to await his arrival. They travelled widely together, visiting the United States and Canada. After his death, she moved back to Bovey Tracey.

She will be much missed at the Club's annual functions. We offer our sympathy to her sister Heather Evans.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Peter Chitty

Here is a mixed bag of announcements about past, present and future members.

Honorary Member

799 Bamber Gascoigne

New Members

797 Michael Chivers

798 Alan Keys

It is with regret that I have to tell members, especially those who recorded their heats on 22 January 1991 in Belfast, of the passing of Alan Friezer (no. 669). Although I had never met him, or at least do not think that I did, the loss of another member to the Grim Reaper is very sad, and our thoughts are with his family.

INSIGNIA

Patricia Owen

We now have in stock a delivery of 'hard insignia' — cuff links, tie clips and brooches — and more sweatshirts too. Unfortunately prices to the Club have gone up so we have had to raise our prices for new items. They're still real bargains, believe me!

The 'hard insignia', in gilt and black enamel, bear the char and wreath but no club name. Ties have the chair only (single-or multi-logo). Sweatshirts and T-shirts have chair, wreath, and name on left shoulder. Available from Patricia Owen (address p.2); enclose your name, address, membership number, and cheque payable to 'Mastermind Club'.

Ties	£
Desert Sand, multi-logo	5.00
Light Navy or Silver Grey, single-logo	6.00

Sweatshirts (XL= 48-50in)

<i>New</i>	
Burgundy (M, L, XL)	12.00
Navy (M, L, XL)	12.00
White (M, L, XL)	12.00
<i>To Clear</i>	
Yellow (XL only)	10.50
Red (L only)	10.50
Green (M only)	10.50
Emerald (S only)	8.00
Silver Grey (S only)	6.00

T-shirts (XL= 42in)

Royal (S, M)	6.50
Gold (S)	6.50
Red (XL)	6.50
Heather Grey (L, XL)	6.50

Hard insignia

<i>New</i>	
Brooches (improved pin)	5.00
Tie clips	7.50
Cuff links	10.00
<i>To Clear</i>	
Brooches and pendants (each)	5.00
Stick pins	5.00

MIXED BAG

CHESTER ZOO

Whether or not you were on the very enjoyable visit to Chester Zoo, you may be interested in their Adopt-an-Animal scheme. Prices, of course, vary according to the animal — a pygmy shrew comes cheaper than an elephant! For more details contact:
Richard Green

MAKE HASTE SLOWLY

In the Independent competition No.201, readers were invited to write a letter of complaint to the editor of any publication or the producer of a programme, objecting to drastic moves towards modernisation. This was one of the winners.

Dear Sir: The proposed changes in the format of Mastermind drive yet another nail into the coffin of culture as we know it. On whose decree must this admirable programme follow government educational policy by replacing Classical Civilisation, English Literature, Music and Art with 'topics of a practical and functional nature'? I abhor the relocation of the recordings to 'places less equated with intellectual elitism'. Surely the proposed bingo halls and job centres will be sadly lacking in the desired ambience?

Jackie Murphy

The Independent Magazine 25 July 1992

EDEN VALLEY

This letter was received by our Treasurer from the Eden Valley Hospice.

Dear Paul: I am writing on behalf of the Hospice Management Board to thank you and 'the Mastermind Club' for the generous donation of £158.79 for the benefit of the Hospice. We are most grateful.

We have just built on a new four-bedroomed extension to the Hospice, which is now ready for use. We are therefore very appreciative of all the help we receive from so many generous people to enable us to pay off the balance of this capital cost, and also meet our running expenses which come to about 36,000 each month.

It is a great source of encouragement and support to us to know that we have so many friends who are willing to help us in various practical ways.

Thank you, once again, for your generous donation, I can assure you that it is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely
Sister Bernadette Ghent
Administrator

HOLY LAND HOLIDAY

This 'Israel off the beaten track' holiday, advertised in our February edition, has had to be postponed and will now take place from 19-28 December — Christmas in the Holy Land, with Crusader castles and unchanged Old Testament landscapes thrown in for good measure! Ring Michael Schwartz.

GREAT BRITAIN QUIZ

Bill Maclagan has asked us to bring his monthly prize quiz to members' attention. A £10 entry fee gives you a crack at £700 worth of prizes, we're told. For information contact Great Little Events Ltd.

HE'S STARTED, SO HE'LL FINISH

This well-travelled news item from the Chester local paper was sent to Barbara-Anne Eddy from her hostess there, and Barbara-Anne forwarded it to us from Vancouver. Unfortunately, the photo showing the beaming faces of Magnus and Gerald didn't reproduce.

QUESTION TIME

Members of the nationwide Mastermind Club converged on Chester for a special event with famous quizmaster Magnus Magnusson. The Grosvenor Hotel was the setting as teams took part in a more informal version of the long-running programme, tackling a variety of topics. Magnus is pictured outside the hotel on Saturday with the man who sets the questions for the show, Dr. Gerald MacKenzie.

AN INVITATION

Roy Bailey

From the Hon. Secretary, the John Hampden Society

When I took 'The Life and Times of John Hampden, 1594-1643' as my first round specialised subject in 1988, the reaction of a lot of people was 'Who?' This did not surprise me, as Hampden, very much a hero in his native Buckinghamshire, is little known elsewhere, although everyone has heard of his first cousin, Oliver Cromwell. Yet in 1640 Hampden was the most famous man in England, and referred to as 'Patriae Pater - The Father of the People.'

He earned this sobriquet for his famous stand against Charles I's arbitrary and illegal Ship Money tax, which the King had imposed in the absence of Parliament and extended to the inland counties. As the owner of vast lands in Buckinghamshire and adjoining counties and one of the wealthiest commoners in the country, Hampden could have well afforded to pay the tax, but he resisted on principle. Although the decision went against him by 7-5, it proved to be a Pyrrhic victory for the King.

When Charles was finally forced to recall Parliament in 1640, Hampden became right-hand man to the Opposition leader, John Pym. He was involved in the successful impeachment on the King's Chief Minister, the Earl of Strafford, who was accused by Parliament of seeking to subdue opposition to the King by means of an Irish army. This made Hampden a marked man, for he was one of the Five Members that Charles tried to arrest personally in January 1642.

When civil war broke out later that year, Hampden raised a regiment of foot from his tenants, and later became both a member of the Committee of Safety (the War Cabinet) and Chief of Staff to the Parliamentary Lord General, the Earl of Essex. He soon made a name for himself as an energetic and able commander, always ready to seize any advantage and press it home, unlike the ineffectual Essex. Hampden was actually tipped to take over the supreme command, but was mortally wounded in a skirmish at Chalgrove in Oxfordshire in June 1643 when seeking to prevent the marauding Prince Rupert from regaining the safety of Oxford.

The English Civil War period is one of my abiding interests and, being also a native of Buckinghamshire, I had studied Hampden's life in some detail since I was a schoolboy. The various activities in 1992 to mark the 350th anniversary of the outbreak of the Civil War

reminded me that the following year was also the 350th anniversary of Hampden's death, and I felt that this should be marked in some way.

With the help of two of Hampden's biographers, Dr John Adair and Dr Frank Hansford-Miller, I formed the John Hampden Society in October 1992, with the inauguration actually taking place in the Great Hall of Hampden House, the Patriot's former home in the Chilterns. The Earl of Buckinghamshire, a direct descendant of John Hampden's, agreed to become Patron of the Society, and on 24th June 1993, he laid a wreath at the memorial on the wall of the former Greyhound Inn at Thame, where Hampden had died of his wounds exactly 350 years earlier.

Since then the Society has been involved in a number of commemorative activities designed to make John Hampden's name better known, and has forged close links with both the Cromwell Association and the English Civil War Society. 1994 is also a significant year, as it marks the 400th anniversary of his birth, although the exact date and place is not known. This year also marks the 200th anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Hampden, Maine, under that name, and the John Hampden Society has been invited to send a representative to attend the celebrations there in August.

To celebrate our hero's birth, we are planning a reception in the House of Commons, where Hampden made such a contribution to the history of this nation and where his statue stands at the entrance to the Central Lobby. Ideally, it will comprise a short service in the Chapel, a brief tour of the House, a buffet lunch with a brief address by the Speaker or a senior parliamentarian, and a short talk on Hampden's place in Parliamentary history.

As we are still a small society, there are a number of places free for this reception. We are therefore happy to invite any member of the Mastermind Club to attend, with one guest. The most likely date is sometime in October or early November and the estimated cost about £25 per head. If you are interested, please write your name, address, phone and membership numbers (and guest's name, if any) on a postcard and send it to me. Interested parties will be contacted once the programme and cost have been finalised and asked to confirm by sending their remittance (first come, first served).

MASTER QUIZ 95: ROUND 1 *Phillida Grantham*

Welcome to the Master Quiz 1995. In honour of the two 50th anniversaries — D-Day (1944) and VE-Day (1945) — this year's theme for Round 1 is WORLD WAR II. Those contestants who are more 'mature' may have a slight advantage here, but perhaps they deserve it — anyway, good luck to all. The person who does best on the WWII questions will receive a prize: a tin of spam, some powdered egg, clothing coupons and any other appropriate reward! I shall also give a prize for the best entry 'in absentia' (i.e., the highest scorer unable to attend the Finals, provided he/she comes in the top twelve).

In the Master Quiz there are two preliminary written rounds, from which the best nine contestants on aggregate score will proceed to the Final rounds to be held on Saturday 8 April 1995 at the Annual Function in London (Imperial College). The winner will hold for one year the Club trophy, 'The Magnum', a Toby jug in the likeness of Magnus.

Round II, set by Gerald MacKenzie, will appear with his instructions in the next issue of PASS.

Please read the following instructions before turning the page and tackling the questions.

In each preliminary round there are two entries:

1. 'U' — Head your paper 'U', and please answer the questions UNSEEN, in your own time. When you have finished, sign the entry as being your own unaided work. This need not be the final version — if you subsequently come on any answers by chance, please include them.

2. 'R' — On another sheet of paper, headed 'R' for REFERENCE, and using any reference books you care to consult, please check, alter or expand your 'U' answers if desired, quoting your source, or stating 'second thoughts'. Please use reference books rather than your friends, who are notoriously inaccurate anyway! Put your name and Club membership number on each sheet of paper, and your address on the first sheet. 80% of the possible marks are awarded on the 'U' entry and 20% on the 'R' entry. It should be stressed that the 'R' entry is not obligatory and some of the most successful entrants prefer to submit only the UNSEEN.

Please send your Round I entries to:

Mrs Phillida Grantham

Closing Date: Friday 2 December 1994

Any new members joining after this date may apply to me for extra time, if necessary.

Now turn the page for the questions.

GAS LAMP*Paul Slater*

Many of the older streets in my home town were still lit by gas when I was a boy, and there was also a gas lamp in the junior school I attended. It was the only gas lamp I ever saw in use indoors, except in museums and places where the atmosphere of the past has deliberately been re-created. Most of the school was lit by electricity, as one would expect, but in one classroom was this survivor of an earlier form of lighting, and I was fascinated by it. Around Christmas it was necessary to put on the lights before school ended for the day, and in the room with the gas lamp one of the children would be told to light the antique appliance. I loved it when I was

chosen. The gas lamp was so much more interesting than the electric bulbs. I had to stand on the nearest desk to reach the wire loop, then when that was pulled down the gas lamp burst into flames with a loud "plop"; once it was lit, the lamp gave out a companionable noise, a quiet hissing and singing, as well as a radiance different from that of electricity, wan and greenish-yellow and, to a young boy, a little spooky. Perhaps my delight at the gas lamp was a pointer to my adult interest in things historical; working at my lessons in the pallid gaslight, under the murmuring old lamp, is certainly one of my favourite winter memories from childhood.

MQ95 ROUND 1 QUESTIONS

1. What was the date of D-Day?
2. What was the date of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour?
3. Name the mascot of 'Le Shuttle'.
4. What are Cripple Dick, Bombardier and Old Growler?
5. What is the constituency of Dennis Skinner?
6. What is the difference between a farrier and a blacksmith?
7. Which is the smallest of the nine named planets?
8. Who wrote the book *The Past is Myself*?
9. What was the feat of Oliver Philpot, Tony Codner and Eric Williams?
10. With which group was Maddy Prior the lead singer?
11. What is the colour of the flower of the celandine?
12. What have the following in common: Ian Macshane, Gavin Peacock, Suzanne Charlton and Geoff Hurst?
13. At which film festival does the best film win the 'Palme d'Or'?
14. Who are known by the acronym NIMBYs?
15. Who said of whom, 'In defeat unbeatable, in victory unbearable'?
16. What could you do with a 'cataplasm'?
17. With which battle do you associate the defence of 'Pavlov's House'?
18. What is 'The Knowledge'?
19. How did Alan Rothenberg figure in the news in June-July 1994?
20. Whose eternal enemy was the tiny green-headed extra-terrestrial Mekon?
21. What in Canada is billed as 'The Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth'?
22. In which opera is the aria 'La Mamma è morta'?
23. Whose code name in WW II was 'General Lyon'?
24. Name the county town of Middlesex before the county 'disappeared'?
25. Name a breed(s) of spaniel apart from cocker.
26. What are the three Houses of the Synod of the Church of England?
27. What is the name of the TV art critic nun?
28. Name a make of car made in Malaysia.
29. Which car company understandably changes its name — SS sidecars — at the start of WW II?
30. What is the 'National Anthem' of Cornwall?
31. Name the partition separating the nasal cavities.
32. What was Jacqueline Onassis's maiden name?
33. Which is the most recent racecourse to be built in England, Scotland or Wales?
34. Before antibiotics, there was M & B. What did the letters stand for?
35. In the City, what is an M.B.O.?
36. Who played Godfrey in *Dad's Army* and, apart from acting, what is his other claim to fame?
37. The Old Boys of which public school are known as Old Gregorians?
38. What are GATSOs and why are they so named?
39. What is the meaning of the name 'Christ'?
40. What is the name for a triangle whose 3 sides are all of different lengths?
41. What is the constellation on the Australian flag?
42. Name the stick-and-ball game of the Scottish Highlands?
43. 'Like Webster's Dictionary, I'm Morocco bound' but what was Webster's first name?
44. Who is the only British Scientist to have won two Nobel Prizes?
45. What was the date of Hitler's birthday?
46. What was the date of Churchill's birthday?
47. Of what type of wine is Château d'Yquem the finest (and most expensive!)?
48. Name one - or two - British winners of the Tchaikovsky Piano Competition.
49. For what is the George Davidson Medal awarded?
50. For what is the annual Kate Greenaway Prize awarded?
51. How does a 'colporteur' earn his living?
52. Give the singer and title of the song starting 'Life is just like a merry-go-round'
53. What was Operation Bodyguard?
54. What is the function of an excentric (or eccentric) gear?
55. Of whom was it said 'If he loved many a woman, he only loved one widow'?
56. What is the difference between a timepiece and a clock?
57. The garden of which stately home was 'Garden of the Year 1993'?
58. What is the State Bird of Rhode Island?
59. What is the State Bird of New Mexico?
60. Name the three countries who were represented by troops in every theatre of WW II.
61. Which 19th century Prime Minister had a son who was Home Secretary in the 20th?
62. While working in an advertising agency, who devised the slogan "Go to work on an egg"?
63. And who devised "Naughty but nice"?
64. In which London borough is the Royal Albert Hall?
65. What did Johann Farina first make in 1709?
66. According to the Talmud, who was Adam's first wife before God created Eve?
67. What is the commonest pub name in Britain?
68. Complete 'Football is not a matter of life and death - it's' and who said it?
69. Name the process in which a solid changes to a vapour without passing through the liquid stage.
70. Name the last ship present at Pearl Harbor to be sunk in hostile action? (It had changed its name by then and either name is acceptable).
71. Give the origin of the expression 'Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey'.
72. What instrument represents Till Eulenspiegel in Strauss's symphonic poem?
73. What is 'shelta'?
74. Why does the church in Chesterfield have a crooked spire? If possible, give both the scientific and legendary cause.
75. In the medical field, what are I.D.D.S. and N.I.D.D.S.?
76. Where is the official residence of the Bishop of London?
77. Who built the steering gear of the Titanic?
78. Name Nigel Lawson's great aunt who gave lunch-time piano recitals in the National Gallery during WW II?
79. Name the man who ran onto the course at Ascot during the running of the Ribblesdale Stakes?
80. Who was the oldest woman M.P. to sit in the House of Commons?
81. Who played the part of Barnes Wallis in the film *The Dambusters*?
82. Cheer me up with one — or more - of dear old Brian Johnston's cricket commentary *faux pas*.
83. Which famous person was born at Marton, near Middlesbrough?
84. What was the single-word answer that Brigadier General McAuliffe gave the Germans at Bastogne when called upon to surrender?
85. What was the best known invention of Leon Theremin who died in Moscow in November 1993 aged 97?

86. What did Adi Dassler found in 1954?
 87. Name the chemical, produced naturally in brain cells, the lack of which causes Parkinson's Disease.
 88. In WW II, what did Berliners call 'Meyer's Hunting Horn'? Please explain.
 89. In which city is 'The Holy Ground'?
 90. What is a 'lahar'?
 91. Who painted the Tate Gallery picture of Ophelia floating to her death in a stream?
 92. In a WW II connection, what had the following in common: Ronald Reagan, Noel Coward, Donald Sinden and Montgomery Clift?
 93. What is the name of David Blunkett's new guide dog, the successor to Offa?
 94. The designer of Birmingham Town Hall and Arundel Cathedral is better known for what eponymous invention?
 95. Why is Subbuteo, the game of table football, so named?
 96. What were the two works written by Dennis Potter in the last weeks of his life?
 97. One of the most famous images of WW II is the photograph of the Kamikaze pilot diving towards USS *White Plains*. Who was the photographer and what is his connection with the Mastermind Club?
 98. In the 19th century, which English town was the world centre of needle making?
 99. Where and when was the greatest tank battle in history?
 100. Whose last words were allegedly 'I should never have switched from scotch to dry martinis'?

SERENDIPITY

Gill Woon

This article is about an intriguing encounter I had when I was at College. I'd be very interested to read about any other similar experiences from PASS readers.

In 1979, I spent a month in Ponferrada, north-western Spain, to help Juan Manuel with his English, and to add a little much needed bulk to my student grant. Thanks to the family habit of intermarrying (he had himself married his first cousin), Juan was related to most of the district's population. This meant that, when cousins Tyrone (yes, his parents were forties film fans) and Mari-Luz were planning their wedding, the obvious setting was the monastery of San Julian, in the mountains some twenty miles from Ponferrada, where another member of the Castro clan belonged to the community.

On the eve of the wedding, the whole family, myself included, drove up to the monastery in convoy to prepare the chapel for the great event. San Julian, its great blank façade catching the last of the sun, topped by the obligatory stork's nest, would have made a suitable setting for one of the more thoughtful Westerns, or a drama of conscience like *The Mission* — doubly appropriate with hindsight. They won't forget their wedding in a hurry, I thought.

The monks gave us a more than cordial welcome, although to my secret disappointment they no longer wore the traditional habit, favouring instead dark suits, or even casual sweaters and trousers. One or two wore sunglasses, giving them a slightly Mafioso appearance. We were given a quick tour of the chapel, chiefly memorable for the reredos of polished ebony reaching from floor to ceiling, shafts of sunlight picking out the odd tantalising detail — here a wing, there a shoulder, a fold of wooden drapery. I had been

given a pink rose from the family garden and, prompted by some deep instinct (certainly not my nonconformist heritage), I laid it at the feet of the statue of the Virgin. This gesture met with general, though surprised, approval.

At last, the priests led us into their real holy of holies - the wine vaults. Here they prepared wines and liqueurs for every occasion and in suspiciously large quantities for such a small community. No wonder their welcome had been so cheerful! We sat down on rough benches around a long table, and were plied with small glasses of wine. The first of these slipped down all too easily; more were brought, then more. I began to lose count of the numbers; I also began to lose the use of my wits and my legs, as I found when I tried to stand later. Just as I had been helped upstairs by two monks (whose manner, to my mind, was becoming distinctly unmonastic) another came up to me and said, 'There's an Englishman upstairs. You might like to meet him. His name is Graham Greene.'

My hearing must be defective, I thought. Or else his pronunciation of these particular words, so hard for a Spaniard to get his tongue round, was at fault. Still, I had to be sure. Uncomfortably aware of my drunken state, I walked with exaggerated care up the remaining stairs and felt my way along a dark passage, led by my informant. We were in the cloister now. A group of three men stood at the far end. A monk, a small dark man (who, it turned out, was the interpreter) and, towering over both of them, a slim figure in anonymous holidaymaker's clothes, whose hair, it became apparent as we approached the group, was greying and not fair, as I had at first thought. My companion greeted the group, and I found myself looking into the face I had seen on a hundred dust-jackets.

10>>

SERENDIPITY (Cont.)

My first reaction, which I am sure I had in common with everyone who ever met a 'celebrity' was surprise - probably not very well disguised. Absurd surprise that he should look so much like his photographs. The likeness was almost too good!

Mr Greene, however, grasped my hand (I did wash it later unfortunately) and murmured some polite words. For my part, I would like to be able to say I came out with some wonderfully witty remark, or at least was struck impressively dumb. I did neither, being more concerned with concealing my drunkenness, which I was sure must be obvious to all, and making some inane remark about the beauty of the place. I was not too far gone to note that Mr Greene's eyes were a peculiarly English shade of blue, but I am happy to say that I restrained myself from gazing hero-worshippingly into them.

I later found out that he had just completed *The Human Factor* and was resting at the monastery for a few days. I registered surprise at the author of *The Power and the Glory* and

Our Man in Havana, etc. needing an interpreter - and disgust with myself for being such a tongue-tied idiot. Later, however, I comforted myself with the thought of how much worse it would have been if I'd gushed about how much I admired his work, or tried to say something penetrating and clever. Having seen him, I knew that the former would have bored and repelled him; the latter, he would have seen through.

Oh, and the wedding went off very well. According to custom, the bride gave me, along with the other unattached females, a pearl-headed pin from her bouquet, with the warning that, if I lost it, I was condemned to be an old maid. (I lost it shortly afterwards). On my return to college, I told my tutor about my encounter — I wanted to see what her reaction would be.

'Such serendipity!' she cried. I think she meant that a meeting like that was wasted on a dolt like me; she herself would have handled it much better. I'm not sure that Mr Greene would have agreed.

PISCATORIAL QUIZ

Chris Pelly promises positively no catches!

Some considered trifles of stream and ocean ... "Unseen", preferably. Where you feel you have to look up, please give reference. £10 book token to highest scorer. Ties will be resolved by taking into account completeness and elegance of relevant submissions. Closing date: October 15. Entries marked "Quiz" to:

Chris Pelly

3. "Can'st thou draw out . . . with a hook?" Complete this Biblical quotation."
4. What piscatorial contribution was made by Greenwell, and what was his occupation?
5. Who or what was "Pelorus Jack"?
6. In Ireland, what is the popular name for a sudden rise in river level with consequent discoloration of the water?
7. In mediaeval times, what fish (in its live state) was reputed to be infested with fleas?
8. Apart from replaceable sets of teeth, complete absence of subcutaneous fat, and the fact that they must keep moving to stay alive, what is MEDICALLY unique about sharks?
9. Which item of diet is said to give lake trout their characteristic pink flesh?
10. "Scarborough" and "Nottingham" are types of what?
11. What is an Arlesey Bomb?
12. Give the general name for seafish which feed in mid-depths.
13. Ballen and Cuckoo are types of what?
14. What was the monster fish served at a banquet to the Roman emperor Domitian, while the poet describing the occasion had, along with fellow guests, to put up with a "serpentine eel reeking of lamp oil in which it had

doubtless been cooked"? 15. What name in common have a type of fish and a Dickensian character?

16. Should you be unfortunate enough to be stung by one of the tiny, web like Mediterranean jellyfish, what is the local (and most effective!) form of painkiller/curative to be applied?

17. Which American writer wrote *Tales of the Angler's Eldorado*, and to what country was he referring?

18. What is the alternative name for a fully-grown pike?

19. Which islands mark the most northerly point of coral formations?

20. In prolonged drought conditions with low water levels why would it be most unwise to eat trout reared in outdoor trout farms?

21. What is known among fly-fishers as "the Angler's Curse"?

22. Although they are now common throughout the world, where did rainbow trout originate?

23. Name the venomous (though tasty) fish often encountered by unwary feet off beaches in British waters? Its etymology, please.

24. Peter Benchley of *Jaws* fame has recently written *Beast*. What kind of creature is his "Beast"?

25. What creature (now the bane of oyster fishermen) accidentally arrived in Southampton Water from ballast shingle about the beginning of this century?

26. What, piscatorially, is a "birdsnest"?

27. The grayling is sometimes called "Umber" or the "The Grey Shadow of the Stream." But how did it get its official name "Thymallus"?

28. What is the straight-grained wood from South America used to make fly-rods before split cane became popular?

29. What is the South Scots and Border name for sea trout on their first return from sea to river?

30. What is "cuttyhunk"?

PIRANES! IN TECHNICOLOR *Glenys Hopkins*

... or CAMELOT-ON-ROCH

You may have watched the Mastermind transmission in April which had been recorded last November in Rochdale Town Hall. Phillida Grantham had kindly arranged tickets for my husband and me, since Rochdale is only about twenty miles from our home. I already knew that Rochdale Town Hall looks like a Gothic cathedral, so as well as being delighted to watch a recording of Mastermind with no personal stress, I was eager to see the inside of the building.

I am not architecturally sensitive; as long as a building is warm, weatherproof, well lit and has somewhere to sit down, its appearance does not usually affect me, but some years ago I had fallen in love with Rochdale Town Hall at first sight. It really is superb — Victorian Gothic at its most exuberant with gargoyles, flying buttresses, the lot, standing by the river Roch, which you can't see because it has been paved over. But the impressive exterior did not prepare me for the splendour of the interior. As soon as we entered the foyer, officially The Exchange, my jaw dropped and stayed that way. If there was anyone there whom I should have recognised, my apologies for ignoring you; my gaze was fixed on the roof, the columns of polished granite, the arches, the Minton tiled floor, the massive staircase up which one could catch glimpses of an apparently endless vista of more arches and columns.

At the appointed time we all went up the massive staircase, keeping an eye open for Hamlet's father's ghost, and entered the Great Hall. Oh my! A splendid hammer-beam roof, adorned with two-ton carved and gilded wooden angels, linenfold panelling beneath brightly decorated walls, a Pre-Raphaelite mural depicting the signing of the Magna Carta, and stained glass windows on all four sides. The Hall had been specially lit for the

occasion and looked ready for a coronation ceremony.

I have not forgotten that we were there to watch a recording of Mastermind. The programme proceeded with the usual mixture of tension, interest and enjoyment, but I was still too overwhelmed by the setting to remember much about it.

Then we went to the former Council Chamber, now the Reception Room, for the supper. Banqueting Hall would have been a more suitable title for this room, smaller than the Great Hall, but equally decorative. We had a very good buffet supper, but would have enjoyed sitting on a bench at a trestle table, with dogs wandering round to catch bones thrown over shoulders.

At the end of the evening it was something of an anticlimax to go home in a car - one half expected carriages and footmen to be in attendance.

I am not making it up. The history of this wonderful building is very briefly as follows:

Rochdale was incorporated as a municipal borough in 1856, and by 1860 the council were committed to building a Town Hall. The building was designed by William Henry Crossland in 1864. All of Crossland's buildings belonged to the architectural movement known as the Gothic Revival, which was possibly at its height in the 1860s.

The foundation stone was laid in March 1866 and the finished building was officially opened in September 1871.

The factual information is contained in the excellent illustrated guide to Rochdale Town Hall, obtainable for £2.95 from the Tourist Information Centre, P.O. Box 15, Town Hall Rochdale, OL16 1AB (oh yes, it is still functioning as the Town Hall). If any other members live within reach, guided tours of the whole building take place every Wednesday and Friday at 2.15 p.m., price £1.00 (phone 0706 356592).

DEMOB HAPPY

Craig Scott

We're getting very near the end! Just ten working days, and counting! I'm dashing this off before I get down to packing a great lot of stuff to carry home this weekend, leaving another (I hope) manageable lot for a fortnight's time when it's all over.

Last time, my theme was Surprising Belgium. Having now experienced the splendours of most of the main towns of Flanders, at least (for some reason, Wallonia isn't as much of a draw), I see no reason to go back on that. My affection for Belgium and Belgians is secure.

Nonetheless, I am bound to redress the balance. So here goes — Things That Nark Me Off About Belgium.

Escalators on demand

This was a worthy idea they didn't stick with long enough to make it work. Most escalators in the Metro shut themselves off when not in use, doubtless saving admirable amounts of energy. Step on the plate, it starts up again and away you go. That's the theory, anyway.

The trouble is that a lot of the time the escalators just plain shut themselves off. No amount of jumping up and down on the plate makes a difference. At our local station, the Up escalators work fine in the morning when we're all leaving for work, but we're lucky if the damned things are running past five in the evening — just about the time we start arriving home tired and heavily laden. Why, then, do I hear them chuntering away well into the wee small hours even though the trains stop running around midnight?

Sometimes, though, they work too well. One night I went to catch an inbound train that was loading on the outbound platform and started down a dormant escalator without thinking. Boy, was I surprised! Turns out that stepping on the top plate of an Up escalator starts it going, too.

Belgian drivers

Belgians are not to the motor born. It's something they've got to do, so they do it, but they're not *into* it. They don't project a sense of being *at one with their machines*. You don't see a lot of the serious craziness that enlivens Latin driving — just carelessness, irritability, inattentiveness, horn-honking, clumsiness and the like, in abundance.

Belgians drive on a very short fuse. Dally a moment at a green light and a cacophony erupts — any time, day or night. Many times I've wondered what the reaction would be if I, as a pedestrian, appeared at the window of one of these jerks, reached in, yanked out his keys, and threw them into the nearest storm drain. But then, after six months in a hotel, I don't want to round off my Belgian experience with a stretch in one of their jails.

I'm sure these people have an Institute of Atavistic Motoring. It's the only place I've ever been where someone advertising a car feels compelled to affirm that it's never been in a wreck. And Sarah says that one of her most characteristic memories of Belgium will be the sound of poorly tuned motorcars.

Red Devil mania

The Red Devils (*Diabes Rouges* or *Rode Duivels*) are the national football team. The height of their competition was the victory over Holland, but greater glory was not to be. But at least the Belgians made it into the World Cup, unlike some countries I could name.

Surprisingly, even the USA lasted a couple of days longer than the Devils. Makes a fellow proud to be a soldier.

It's the sort of event they can appreciate here — it gives them a surfeit of horn-honking opportunities. The Quai Aux Briques opposite the hotel seems to be on the obligatory cruising route for celebrating football fans at all hours. Despite Belgium's departure, there are still enough nationals of surviving countries in this cosmopolitan city to keep the horns honking. We even got a fax today from the Milan office today saying that they would be proud to carry the hopes of all Europe into the final.

Anyway, you can now get great deals on Red Devils T-shirts, actual-size chocolate footballs, bedspreads, lion mascots in all shapes and sizes. My colleague Dirk still pursues his hopeless quest for a full set of special Red Devils Coca-Cola tins. After four months of 3 or 4 tins a day, he's stalled at 8 of 14 and suspects chicanery.

Still, soon I'll be back in England to touch base, then off again to the old country for three weeks, with plenty of folks who speak my language and don't give a damn about football — I mean soccer!