

# PASS

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF THE MASTERMIND CLUB

AUTUMN 1999

Nancy Wilkinson

Carlisle booking

Viva Las Vegas?

Like a stone

Heritage quest

Master Quiz 2000 Round 1

Poems

20th-century quiz report

Crossword



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## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

*Peter Chitty*

IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS that I have to tell the Club of the death of Maureen Hichens (872), who passed away on the 9<sup>th</sup> September after a fifteen-month battle against cancer. Maureen took part in the heats which were recorded at Blenheim Palace on 29<sup>th</sup> January 1997. Her first-round subject was “Star Wars (The Original Series)”. I am sure that all her fellow contestants will remember her, especially those who took part in her heat. The Club sends its condolences to her husband the Rev. Anthony Hichens, and her family.

Enclosed with this issue is the new revamped and updated membership list – with added email addresses! Some members may find their addresses missing, as I had a “crash” and information was lost. If you have sent it to me in the past and it is not shown, please send to me again. I have not included any changes of address or other details in this issue as they are included in the new list.

Lastly I should like to welcome into honorary membership Felicity Widdowson (923). She is the widow of John Widdowson, for a number of years the Club Secretary, and since his death she has taken a great deal of interest in the Club’s activities. I hope that she will have a long and happy association with us.

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# PASS

AUTUMN 1999

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## PASS NOTES

*Craig Scott, Editor*

WE WERE SADDENED TO HEAR, as we were preparing to go to press, of the death of Nancy Wilkinson, the first *Mastermind* champion in 1972. Thanks to Margery Elliott for volunteering at short notice to write the remembrance of her old friend which appears on page 5.

### *Sports desk*

NO SOONER HAD the last issue hit the streets with its item about Paul Champion's *Transworld Sport* appearance, when it happened again. This time Magnus himself was featured in a piece on the Mind Sport Olympiad.

Barbara-Anne Eddy reports, "A friend has asked me to work on research for a baseball-based children's software program, endorsed by no less a player than Sammy Sosa!" If you followed this year's home run race, you will know that Sosa (with 63) and Mark McGwire (66) came surprisingly close to equalling last year's totals of 66 and 70. Barbara-Anne's piece on Las Vegas appears on page 6.

### *Inadvertent*

THOSE OF YOU who wrote with your views about taking advertising from the likes of Mensa (page 2) may be relieved to hear that the Committee has decided against it.

### *A plea*

Yes, dear friends, the editorial cupboard is getting a little bare, except for a still-generous backlog of Lance's articles (which we will get through, I promise). So: do we change the title to *Haward's Magazine*? Or will the rest of you get busy with the articles (not to mention photos, cartoons, letters, diatribes and the like)? Remember – if you wrote it on a computer, you can send it to me in electronic form, either on disk or via email (addresses opposite).

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# LETTERS, NEWS AND VIEWS

## **Andrew Grealey on advertising**

THANKS FOR GIVING US the chance to comment on Glenys Hopkins's request for advertising space in *PASS* for Mensa.

It has provoked a number of reactions in me. On a purely mundane level, one of the things that I enjoy about *PASS* is that, with the exception of our own merchandise, it is an advertising-free zone. Are we really so strapped for funds that we need to change that custom and practice and seek external advertising? If we are, then I would rather that the Committee proposed an increase in the annual subscription, which I don't think has changed throughout the time I have been proud to have been eligible to belong to our club.

So far as Mensa itself is concerned, I think I ought to confine myself to saying that, having read various articles about the views of its leadership in the papers some years ago, I do not think it is the sort of group to which I would ever want to belong. Perhaps it has changed, but I have different (and I like to think, better) things to do with the little spare time that I have. I realise that other members of our club may want to join Mensa and I would have thought that, if Glenys's article is the spur, then it is open to them to contact Glenys through our membership list for details of the Mensa application procedure.

## **...and Graham Roe**

KEEP *PASS* FREE of adverts!

## **From Michael Grosvenor Myer**

I AM GREATLY EXERCISED by the quotation marks round the title Dame in Master Quiz Round 2 answers 22 & 26, in *PASS* Summer 1999. Could Gerald MacKenzie please explain their rationale/purpose?

*Gerald meant to convey that the ladies in question were not yet Dames at the relevant times – Ed.*

## **From Richard Sturch**

A CORRECTION to the Master Quiz Round 2 Answers! Number 85, to be exact. The justly famous prayer *Make me an instrument of your peace*, from which Mrs. Thatcher quoted, is not by St. Francis. According to the late John Moorman, an expert in things Franciscan, it is first met with in France shortly before the First World War. A version of it later appeared on a card with a picture of St.

## **From Leo Stevenson**



ACTION FROM THE OXFORD MOTH CATCHING CONTEST

*The contestants are seen here at a crucial point in the game; having shut their eyes, the moth is about to be released.*

Francis – it is indeed very much in his spirit – and this seems to have given rise to the link with his name. I defy any member of the Club to find a use of it before the beginning of this century (that is, of course, before 1 January 1901).

## **From Gena M Davies**

I WAS VERY SORRY to miss the Oxford meeting this year. Transport and one or two more personal problems kept me stuck in Brecon. However I did manage to get to London later in the year to compete on the radio quiz *Brain of Britain*. I enjoyed my appearance on the programme and also meeting a group of London Masterminders, including (inevitably) Kevin Ashman, who were in the audience. I'm afraid that, although my appearance on that particular quiz wasn't exactly a total disaster, I don't think Kevin will consider me a serious rival in the predictable future.

I enjoyed Paul Henderson's article 'Send in the Clones'. It reminded me of the time I had to report a damaged hire car to the police of a small town in upstate New York. I made a phone call to the local police station and found I was expected to call and fill in an accident report form. My arrival there was undoubtedly a great disappointment to the local policemen who had been expecting the film star Geena Davis!

### ***Eleanor Macnair's new book***

IN 1920 RUTH MACNAIR, aged twenty-one, followed her husband by sea to China. On the long voyage to Hong Kong and later from Wei Hai Wei, Ruth wrote a weekly letter to her mother in England. She describes in vivid detail the daily life of the colony and her explorations of the picturesque hinterland. *China Wife* collects these letters and some to her daughter, our Eleanor (M & N Publishing Co. Ltd., £7.99).

### ***From Ann Kelly***

UNLESS WE MISSED IT in 1995, according to Lance Haward (last issue) the dates we should concentrate upon are a choice of three in 2001. I disagree.

The conversion of the Roman Empire to Christianity was many centuries after the life of Christ, which had been obscured in the mists of memory. At that time the Empire still used its awkward numeration, and while people knew perfectly well what nought-nil-zero was, they had no symbol to express it. People had to wait for the introduction of Arabic numeration to be able to write 0. So, to express the beginning of the Christian Era, they were obliged to begin with 1. Unfortunately, if we assume that Christ was like any ordinary baby, He did not begin life at one. He spent a year growing from nought to one, with the result, not always appreciated, that the Christian Era is one year ahead of the life of Christ which it commemorates.

Nothing now can be done to remedy the mistake, which was not even understood at the time; but at least we can appreciate that the first century of the Christian Era had only 99 years – the first year 0-1, corresponding to the first year of Christ's life, being unavoidably missing. So the second century began at 100, and so on until the present time. Most people believe instinctively that centuries begin in the years ending in 00, without realising the reason, which I have outlined here. I shall be doing my best to avoid the celebrations in 2000, but I'm certain that it is the right year.

### ***From Stewart Cross***

FOLLOWING MY ARTICLE on Carlisle in the last issue, I received a gentle reproach from Jean Burke. She, quite rightly, pointed out that the first postbox in Britain was actually in St. Helier. What I should have said was that Carlisle had the first postbox in **mainland** Britain. It was a careless error on my part, as I recollect Jean and I having a discussion on this very subject some years ago.

*Those looking for pre-Carlisle reading might enjoy Steel Bonnets, George Macdonald Fraser's tale of the Border Reivers – Ed.*

## CLUB SHOPPING

PLENTY of new merchandise is now available:

- ❖ Rugby shirts have the club logo in black on burgundy or Kelly green.
- ❖ Multi-logo ties come in maroon or royal blue.
- ❖ Tie clips and stick pins are back, enamelled with the club logo in black.

All prices include postage and packing. Send a cheque with your order, payable to the Mastermind Club, to Patricia Owen.

TIES	£
NEW! MAROON (MULTI-LOGO)	7.00
NEW! ROYAL BLUE (MULTI-LOGO)	7.00
SILVER (SINGLE-LOGO)	6.00
<b>RUGBY SHIRTS</b>	
NEW! BURGUNDY, KELLY GREEN (M, L, XL)	18.00
NEW! BURGUNDY, KELLY GREEN (XXL)	20.00
<b>SWEATSHIRTS</b>	
OATMEAL (M, L, XL)	15.00
RED (M, L, XL)	15.00
<b>JEWELLERY</b>	
KEY RINGS	5.00
PENDANTS	5.00
NEW! TIE CLIPS	7.00
NEW! STICK PINS	6.00

# 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY FAMOUS PEOPLE – ANSWERS

## *Brian Bovington reports*

I RECEIVED 5 ENTRIES for the quiz, and the scores were:

Mike Formby	96
Isabelle Heward	96
Patricia Cowley	87
Sarah Batchelor	87
Timothy Robey	77

Mike Formby wins the £10 book token, as his was opened before Isabelle's. She receives a £5 book token in recompense of losing out purely "on the draw".

*Best wishes (and thanks for all the quizzes) to Brian, who is leaving the Club – Ed.*

BORN IN:	1933 Baker	1966 Severini
1900 Armstrong	1934 Rosewall	1967 Masefield
1901 Lubethin	1935 Harvey	1968 Unwin
1902 Steinbeck	1936 Saint-Laurent	1969 Gropius
1903 Jacuzzi	1937 Redgrave	1970 Anders
1904 Opperman	1938 Nitsch	1971 Stravinsky
1905 Dior	1939 Murray	1972 Fisher
1906 Stebbins	1940 Nicklaus	1973 Cranko
1907 Bresson	1941 Moore	1974 Linklater
1908 Lean	1942 Barenboim	1975 Toynbee
1909 Rusk	1943 Johanson	1976 Malraux
1910 Tatum	1944 Leakey	1977 Bolan
1911 Ball	1945 Underwood	1978 Rockwell
1912 Ferrier	1946 Quick	1979 Leach
1913 Lancaster	1947 Smith	1980 Jacques
1914 Mercer	1948 Reitz	1981 Cole
1915 Miller	1949 Streep	1982 Olson
1916 Robbins	DIED IN:	1983 Baillie
1917 Cohen	1950 Lauder	1984 Robbins
1918 Modigliani	1951 Bevin	1985 Chagall
1919 Festinger	1952 Henderson	1986 Neagle
1920 Musial	1953 Prokofiev	1987 Moore
1921 Glenn	1954 Lumiere	1988 Sitwell
1922 Zatopek	1955 Leger	1989 Ogdon
1923 Bonner	1956 Raymond	1990 Wall
1924 Anderson	1957 Gigli	1991 Davis
1925 Thatcher	1958 Sayers	1992 Chilton
1926 Fitzgerald	1959 Newman	1993 Berberova
1927 Doshi	1960 Pasternak	1994 Borotra
1928 Lewitt	1961 Jung	1995 Hardy
1929 Frank	1962 Bohr	1996 Bentine.
1930 Aldrin	1963 Dobson	1997 Dolmetsch
1931 Tutu	1964 MacArthur	1998 Hughes
1932 Petit	1965 Proudhon	1999 Mitchison

# NANCY WILKINSON

## *Margery Elliott remembers an old friend*

NANCY WILKINSON, the first Mastermind in 1972, died in hospital on 21 November 1999, aged 80. A few days previously she had felt unwell while bell-ringing in a church, and had gone to sit down in a pew. There she had a coronary attack, and never regained consciousness.

Nancy Bird, as she then was, and I were fellow-Freshers at Girton College Cambridge, in 1938. A brilliant student, she had won scholarships to Kensington High School and to Girton, where she managed to complete *two* three-year degrees in four years: a BA in Modern Languages (French and German) and a MusB. We were both active in College and University music, so we saw good deal of one another in our student days.

After Cambridge she spent the rest of the war in the ATS (Auxiliary Territorial Service), and was for some time part of the Enigma team at Bletchley Park. She married John Wilkinson in 1945 and devoted the next few years to looking after him and their daughter Liz. She then became a part-time lecturer in a variety of different subjects, and was organist of her church.

SHE ENTERED THE FIRST SERIES of *Mastermind* really as a

joke, was accepted, and went on to win the title. I got into touch with her again after this, and entered myself in the next series. She then beat her three successors to win *Supermind* 1975, but did not do herself justice in the Champion of Champions event in 1982, because she did not feel well on the day. She must have offered more specialised subjects than anyone else, as she never repeated herself.

Nancy always looked forward rather than backward; for this reason she did not join the Mastermind Club when it was formed, though she did join later, attending both the Harrow and Orkney Reunions.

Her funeral, held in the village church of Kingston, near Cambridge, on 30 November, attracted a capacity congregation of over a hundred. The address was given by the Archdeacon of Ely, and a group of singers directed by Nancy's niece Clare sang *Justorum Animae* by Nancy's ancestor William Byrd. She was buried in the churchyard. The Mastermind Club had sent a wreath of deep pink chrysanthemums.

Nancy will be much missed.

## ANNUAL FUNCTION 2000 CARLISLE

### *Gavin Fuller has all the booking details*

THE 2000 FUNCTION WILL BE HELD IN CARLISLE over the weekend of 14-16 April. Base of operations for the weekend will be the Crown and Mitre Hotel in the centre of this historic city, facing out onto the pedestrianised main square, and close to all the major attractions. There is parking at the back of the hotel for 40-50 cars, all rooms are *en suite* and it even comes with its own swimming pool!

A special rate of £39.50 per person per night has been negotiated with the hotel; if you wish to book please send the Booking Form (enclosed with this issue) and a deposit of £10 per person **to the hotel** no later than 11 March.

If you don't wish to stay at the hotel, Carlisle offers plenty of other accommodation – the Tourist Information Centre

(The Old Town Hall, Greenmarket, Carlisle, Cumbria CA3 8JH) will be able to help you.

Most events will be in the Crown and Mitre Hotel, but for the Saturday dinner we shall be in the Tullie House Museum, as Stewart Cross mentioned in his excellent taster article last issue. The museum is only about three minutes' walk from the hotel, and we shall have use of its function room, bar (for the less sober of our members) and lecture theatre for the Magnum finals.

Members wishing to come should return the Catering Reservation Form (also enclosed) **to me** no later than 31 March. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

# VIVA LAS VEGAS?

*Barbara-Anne Eddy revisits the bright lights*

THOUGH I GREW UP during the heyday of Elvis Presley, I wasn't an Elvis fan. I thought that his songs were all right, but I was never impressed with his films, except for one – *Viva Las Vegas!* Two things about the movie especially impressed me: the talent and vivacity of Elvis's co-star, Ann-Margret, and the bright lights of Las Vegas itself. I vowed I'd visit the city one day to see for myself if it would "set my soul on fire".

When I moved to the West Coast of Canada, I was close enough to Las Vegas to realize my dream, but oddly enough, my parents, who moved west several years later, got there before I did. Gambling excursions by bus and plane to Reno and Las Vegas are popular with seniors here, and my parents eagerly visited both places (though they preferred Reno because it was smaller, so they could wander from one casino to another more easily). Trips to Vegas were often family affairs, and one or the other of my sisters and I would sometimes accompany the folks. One story we told for years happened during a family trip. My father, who suffered from chronic lung disease and couldn't walk well, was a little way behind us as we walked along The Strip (Las Vegas Boulevard). He found himself being grabbed by two 'ladies of the evening', one holding each arm, who tried to persuade him to accompany them. It was only when he yelled to us for help that we turned around and came to his rescue, though we kidded him for years about whether he actually wanted to be 'rescued'!

I visited Las Vegas several times during the 1970s and 1980s, alone and with my family. The husband of a friend taught at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, so I visited parts of the city that tourists seldom see, which were largely the subdivisions of a typical American city. Though there were certainly big casinos in Vegas then (I remember thinking, while wandering through Caesars Palace, that it seemed to go on forever), problems with water supply (Las Vegas is in the middle of a desert) had caused a moratorium on development.

A visit with my mother in 1986, a few months before she

died, put me off the place, and it was more than a decade before I felt like returning. In the meantime, friends were telling me about the huge new casinos which seemed to be opening almost weekly – the Luxor, Mandalay Bay, New York New York, and so many others. In addition, the TV commercials I saw suggested that Las Vegas was re-inventing itself as a 'family' town – an odd concept for a place which by law is largely off limits to children. My curiosity was aroused, and I felt that I had to see the "New" Las Vegas for myself, so last September I flew down on a weekend trip. Sure enough, the place was packed with families, who seemed to troop down The Strip at all hours, watching dancing fountains and sinking pirate ships, visiting exhibits sponsored by Coca-Cola, admiring Siegfried and Roy's white tigers, in fact going everywhere except the gambling areas of the casinos. And every new casino seemed determined to outshine the others. Even venerable Fremont Street, the "old" section of Las Vegas, had roofed itself over and presented a dazzling laser light show billed as the *Fremont Street Experience*. Of course, you can still find beautiful, scantily-dressed showgirls and Vegas perennials such as Wayne Newton, but the entertainment has also become family oriented – magician Lance Burton presents 'old-fashioned' magic shows which cater to families, and the Montreal-based Cirque du Soleil has two troupes working at different casinos, one in a water show called *O* presented in a specially built theatre costing nearly a million dollars.

Las Vegas has certainly transformed itself from my youthful memories, and I'm told that it's the fastest-growing city in the US. I went back over the Easter weekend this year, and if anything the place was more crowded than I remembered it. Another casino has opened since my visit, with a Parisian theme featuring a scaled-down replica of the Eiffel Tower, but I have no desire to return. The whole place has become too much. I think I'll rent *Viva Las Vegas!* and remember how things used to be.

# THE STONE AT CWRT-Y-GOLLEN

*Paul Slater has a run-in on the Brecon road*

ON A DAY-TRIP TO THE WELSH BORDER with my parents one Easter, I had found some steam locomotives and several prehistoric standing stones to photograph as well as plenty of attractive scenery, and now we were starting to make our way home. One of my booklets said that a notable standing stone, six feet high, was situated at Cwrt-y-Gollen, beside the Brecon main road and near the Regimental Museum.

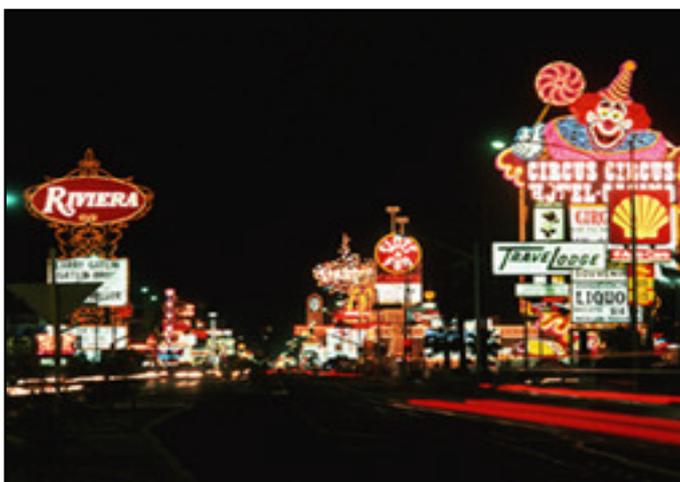
When we arrived at Cwrt-y-Gollen, the stone was clearly visible, standing under a large tree quite close to the road. We parked in a lay-by near the museum, and I took my camera and walked across the grass to the stone. There were no gates or fences, except for a small one round the stone itself. A drive led past the museum to another building which I assumed was also something to do with the army.

I took a photo of the stone, which made quite a nice picture with the bare branches of the tree above it and high hills in the distance. As I walked back across the grass, some young army cadets came out of the museum; they were heading for the building down the drive, and we did no more than glance at each other.

From the other building, a voice started shouting. I heard the words “taking photographs”, and stopped. I was not far from the road, but the cadets were only a few yards from me, and although they did not seem to have guns, they were carrying large batons; I decided that to make a run for it would not be prudent. I told them that I had been photographing the stone, and the details were relayed to the man down the drive, while I wondered if I was going to be arrested. The man seemed satisfied, and the cadets said that I could go. My father was surprised by my slightly scary experience, and said that the site was in no way closed off and did not look like a place where security would be important.

SEVERAL YEARS LATER, my wife and I followed the Brecon main road on our way to a weekend in West Wales. The stone under the tree at Cwrt-y-Collen looked just the same as we drove past, but now a big new notice stood by the road, giving details of the military site, and concluding “No Trespassing. No Photography.” “That’s because of you!” said my wife.

I wonder if it was.



“The Circus Circus is what the whole hip world would be doing on a Saturday night if the Nazis had won the war.”

Hunter S. Thompson, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*

# THE QUEST

## *Philip Wharmby reaches the end*

IN JUNE 1999, I FINISHED what proved to be a marathon quest, my last English Heritage property. I don't know whether I am the first person to visit all the properties, but as I do not drive it made the task, albeit an extremely enjoyable one, a lot more difficult.

I was taken to my first property, the Westbury White Horse, by my parents in 1956. As I was keen on visiting monuments, I was bought a Ministry of Works pass in 1966 and later purchased the Department of Environment passes. I have been a member of English Heritage since its inception. I have visited properties by bus, train, boat, hiking/hitching and when navigating friends in their cars. They are used to 'this interesting slight diversion'.

I contacted English Heritage to see if they wanted the publicity. They did, and in the company of the manager of Beeston Castle I was driven from my work to Piccadilly Station, Manchester, in a 1956 Daimler that had belonged to Princess Marina. This was followed by Press photos.

Next day I and a couple of friends who had visited many properties with me arrived at the final property, Fiddleford Manor in Dorset, to be met and congratulated by the Area Manager. We were given a guided tour of this excellent mediæval manor and I cut the celebratory cake that a sister

had made. A bottle of Slovakian champagne was opened, another discovery purchased for £2 on a recent holiday (no expense spared). I was presented with a volume on the Plantagenets and the afternoon continued with a pleasant walk over the hillforts on Hod Hill and Hambleton Hill.

IT HAS BEEN AN EXCELLENT QUEST. I have seen many beautiful abbeys, castles and other ancient sites. My favourite site is Avebury – people were living there 8000 years ago. The next one is Deal Castle. My worst site is... (I'll leave that one out.)

As to my next 'quest', I have recently revisited Eltham Palace now that the 1930s areas have been restored. English Heritage will be acquiring more properties and there is always CADW, Historic Scotland, National Trust...

It has not been just an expedition to visit English Heritage properties. I never cease to be pleased by the variety of churches, castles, stately homes, museums and gorgeous countryside that I have found throughout the United Kingdom. Watch out CADW, I should finish visiting those properties in 2000.

*An abridged version of this piece won Phillip a nifty prize for Best Letter in the current issue of Heritage, the EH magazine – Ed.*



# MASTER QUIZ 2000 ROUND 1

*Phillida Grantham introduces the Round 1 questions*

“I think that I shall never see  
A billboard lovely as a tree.  
Perhaps, unless the billboards fall,  
I’ll never see a tree at all”.

AGREEING, AS I’M SURE WE ALL DO, with Ogden Nash’s sentiments, I have chosen the ecological theme of TREES for the 1st round of the Millennium Master Quiz. There will be a prize for the person scoring highest on the TREE questions and the customary prize for the best ‘in absentia’ entry (the highest scorer in the top 12 who is unable to attend the Final).

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, with Magnus as Question Master, to be held after dinner on Saturday 15 April 2000 in the Tullie House Museum, Carlisle. The winner will hold the Magnum, a Toby jug in the likeness of Magnus, for the following year.

Round 2, set by Gerald MacKenzie, will appear in the next issue of *PASS*.

## ***Instructions***

PLEASE READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY before tackling the questions. Each preliminary round has two entries:

1. Head your paper ‘**U**’, and please answer the questions **UNSEEN** in your 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 or send them on to Phillida later.
2. On another sheet of paper headed ‘**R**’ for **REFERENCE** and using any reference you care to consult, please check, alter or expand your ‘U’ answers if desired, quoting your source or stating ‘Second Thoughts’. Use your friends if you wish but be warned – they are not so accurate as reference books and (?) the Internet! 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.

The question-setters have mutually agreed that their decision is final and, regretfully, they can enter into no correspondence about the questions and answers.

## ***Address for Round 1 entries***

**Phillida Grantham**

**Closing date: 31 January 2000.**

*The questions begin overleaf>>>*

# MASTER QUIZ 2000 ROUND 1 QUESTIONS

1. Who is the Government's Millennium Dome Minister?
2. Who is the Minister for Sport?
3. Who wrote *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*?
4. The Forestry Commission was founded in (a) 1919 (b) 1924 or (c) 1929?
5. In the song *Widcombe Fair*, who owned the grey mare?
6. Which Premiership club features the Devil on the club badge?
7. "I did a picture in England one winter and it was so cold, I almost got married" was said by (a) Shelley Winters (b) Katharine Hepburn or (c) Shirley MacLaine?
8. On which motorway would you travel from Birmingham to Carlisle?
9. Harriet the Weimaraner appears at the beginning, end and briefly throughout which TV programme?
10. Frank Zappa's backing group went by what name?
11. Who wrote *The Age of Innocence*?
12. What does HB on a pencil stand for?
13. Name a Sea without a coastline.
14. What was the Roman name for Scotland?
15. Which year was Nelson Mandela released from prison?
16. Name a national flag featuring a tree.
17. In Scotland, what are known as 'policies'?
18. What is the literal translation of '*La Manche*', the French name for the Channel?
19. Before 11 August 1999, when was the last total eclipse of the sun visible in Britain?
20. Which 'beautiful' song was written by Catherine Lee Bates?
21. Which American president considered this the best advice for children: "Find out what they want to do, and advise them to do it!"?
22. Which bird's song is often described as "a little bit of bread and no cheese"?
23. In mathematics, what is the name given to the numerical or constant factor in an algebraic term?
24. Ginger and Algy are the mates of (a) Dick Barton (b) Biggles or (c) Rupert Bear?
25. What 'time' is CET?
26. May 29<sup>th</sup>, the birthday of Charles II, is known as what?
27. What is a tree called which will grow in the shade of others?
28. "Everything London" was the telegraphic address of (a) Harrods (b) Selfridges or (c) Harvey Nichols?
29. What is the collective name for a group of hogs?
30. In WWII, what was Operation Uranus?
31. Who was born Baroness Marie-Christine von Reibnitz?
32. What is a 'basenji'?
33. Who was Margaret Hookham's most famous (ballet) partner?
34. A jet, needle valve and float can be found in what?
35. In 'Pride and Prejudice' what is Mr. Darcy's first name?
36. Which trio teamed up to sing *All for Love*?
37. Give an example of an Arabic numeral.
38. What product is promoted by the TV advert ("Too much concrete, not enough trees") where the lads plant a tree in the pavement?
39. Which is the oldest international rugby ground in the world?
40. What was the date of the Prince Charles's birth?
41. Who comes from the Melbourne suburb of Mooney Ponds?
42. What is the 'European plan' of payment in hotel-keeping?
43. In industry, what does MBO stand for?
44. Which Shakespearean character is "constant as the northern star"?
45. What connects an aristocratic family name in the North of England, a knife and the North American Ice Hockey Championship?
46. What is the home ground of West Bromwich Albion?
47. Which of the Seven Wonders of Wales features trees?
48. Who created the original 'little black dress'?
49. Who opened a shop called SEX in King's Road, Chelsea which became the forerunner of punk fashion?
50. Who won the 1999 Nobel Peace Prize?
51. "Dasher and Dancer, Prancer and Vixen .....". Name 2 more.
52. The sending of Christmas cards really took off in 1870 – what was the impetus?
53. The most popular Christmas song is Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* – but which film did it come from?

54. 'Frames' in snooker – what is the equivalent in pool?
55. What is a pyroclastic flow?
56. What is the name of Tony Blair's daughter?
57. Name as many actors/actresses as possible from the film *The Lady Vanishes*. (1938 version)
58. In offering filled sandwiches for sale, what is BLT short for: (a) Bread lightly toasted (b) Bacon, lettuce, tomato or (c) Butter laid thin?
59. What was the African name for South Africa, not adopted in 1994?
60. What is the shortest sentence in the Bible?
61. Dick Dewy and Fancy Day are characters in which Victorian novel?
62. To a Glaswegian, what is the 'Old Firm'?
63. To an Australian, what is 'cocky's joy'?
64. To English country people, what is a 'winter hedge'?
65. The 'plumcot' is a cross between which 2 fruits?
66. What is the 'Skyline', a new development in cricket televiewing?
67. Which make of car is being advertised on TV when the dog goes along the pavement raising its leg against all the other makes?
68. After whom was Tuesday named?
69. What are Bailey's Beads?
70. P.F. Chisholm's detective Sir Robert Carey operates in (a) The Marches (b) Stratford-on-Avon or (c) 16<sup>th</sup>-century London?
71. A Deodar cedar has branches (a) descending (b) level or (c) ascending?
72. What is the flavouring in the aperitif Pernod?
73. From which sport does the expression "to win hands down" come?
74. Why is mistletoe never used in church decoration?
75. Daniel Turner (b.1667) was the founder of which medical speciality?
76. The small rounds of paper issuing from a puncher are known as what?
77. Who said of the (accidental) loss of a colleague, "I have lost my right arm"?
78. What is 'pishing'?
79. The musicians Mick Fleetwood and John McVie used their names to form which group?
80. What did William Strickland introduce into England in the 16<sup>th</sup> century? He was later granted the right to use it as his family crest.
81. 'La Befana' is the Italian equivalent of what?
82. What is the last name of Frederick Matthias ..... (born Stanley, Tasmania 1869, died 1955)? "One of the 200 who made Australia great".
83. If, heaven forbid, you were challenged to a duel *armes blanches*, what would be excluded as a weapon?
84. Mary Westmacott was a pen name of which famous author?
85. What in painting or sculpture is a 'Pietà'?
86. When is Burns Night?
87. Link the founder of a well-known public school, a fictional detective and a successful county cricket captain.
88. What is a Jesse Tree?
89. As what did alchemists know an amalgam of crystallised silver, obtained from mercury in a solution of silver?
90. 'Splash and a dash' is a term from which sport?
91. What does ZIP (numerical post codes) stand for?
92. To airline pilots, what is the Magenta Line?
93. The quality of what material is measured in 'mommies'?
94. Name the offices of the two hereditary peers who were exempt from the ballot to stay in the House of Lords.
95. Name the Charity whose function is to create new woods.
96. How did the dum-dum bullet get its name?
97. What is the significance in a theatre of the announcement "Mr. Sands is in the scene dock"?
98. Whence this quotation? "All Hell broke loose".
99. Only one of the following was deemed worthy of inclusion by International Who's Who in their list of the 100 most influential people of the 20th century – who was it? Frank Whittle, Orville Wright, Coco Chanel, Alan Turing, Elizabeth Taylor and Ernest Rutherford.
100. Gustav Mahler's last utterance was, allegedly, the name of another composer. Was it (a) Beethoven (b) Mozart or (c) Wagner?

# FOUR POEMS FROM TIMOTHY ROBEY

## AMNESIA

*blanch* when I forget the name  
Of John of Gaunt's first wife –  
Which Territories in Canada  
Are ruled from Yellowknife?  
Which group in 1936  
Was led by Léon Blum?  
And where in vast Africa  
Did who say what to whom?  
Oh which unwanted Bonaparte  
Retired to Camden Place?  
And how did Heinrich Schliemann gaze  
On Agamemnon's face?  
And what did writhing serpents show  
The sleeping Kekulé?  
What symmetry do molecules  
Of ferrocene display?  
And why is  $i^2$  minus one?  
And what is Simpson's Line?  
And how does the hyperbola  
Give rise to  $\tanh$  or  $\sinh$ ?  
Are countesses the wives of earls?  
Are lady knights called dames?  
And why do Lloyds rely upon  
The services of Names?  
What trick of speech is used to say  
His word is *falsely true*  
And is the *wisdom of the fool*  
An oxymoron too?  
Who took his vorpal sword in hand  
To slay the Jabberwock?  
Which Timothy enthused about  
Consolidated stock?  
Oh why did Archimedes shout  
"My bath has overflowed"?  
And was Bucephalus the horse  
Which Alexander rode?

## HOME JAMES

In his shaded Cotswold cottage,  
Oolite limestone, honeyed-gold,  
Dwells the Thinker, James the mystic,  
Where the Stoic wind blows cold.  
In a Jacobean fiction,  
In the mind of P.D.J.,  
Live the differing potentials  
Of the sleuths Dalglish and Gray.  
Rising early every morning  
With his bakery aglow  
Jimmy proves he's not a loafer  
As he makes much-kneaded dough.  
Où les tournesols sont radieux,  
Sur son étendue de terre  
Habite Monsieur Jacques, le paysan,  
Heureux dans sa chaumière.  
In a Warner Brothers wigwam,  
With its doeskin covered floor,  
Bucking Jake, the Indian Chieftain,  
Squats with Jacqueline, his squaw.  
After happy Workers' Playtime,  
At his home in Parkwood Hill,  
Jim, whose wife was often worried,  
Cures the suburb's every ill.  
With his sheep and shaggy cattle,  
High on bracken-gilded moor,  
Jamie lives in misty splendour  
Where the golden eagles soar.

*(Older members may remember the radio soap opera on which verse 6 is based — Mrs Dale's Diary.)*

## EASTINGFORD

Spam, the frisky cocker spaniel,  
Cooking apples attic-stored,  
Conkering and playing cricket—  
Happy days at Eastingford.

In the orchard, Arthur Ransome —  
Susan, Roger, Titty, John;  
Swallowdale and Wildcat Island —  
After homework had been done.

Mensa, bellum, gradus, genu;  
Nitrogen's four fifths of air;  
Equal corresponding angles;  
Donner, venir, savoir, faire.

Floating in a ragwort meadow,  
Where the dreams of youth are spun,  
Swallowtail and Painted Lady  
In the idle tea-time sun.

Shining George or horrid dragon —  
Days are only wet or fine:  
Muddled truth and double standards  
Yet to find this mind of mine.

Billy Bunter, Pushmepullyou,  
Bedivere and Arthur's sword,  
Supercalifragilistic —  
Give me back my Eastingford.

## BILLIONS

There is no need for pessimistic fears —  
Let economic pressures put things right.  
A billion babies in the next six years!  
Yes, some will die — (and some will live to fight).

A billion atoms in a graphite pile —  
Atomic power seems clean and isn't dear —  
Fat energy spreads luxury and style,  
And nimby waste for someone else to clear.

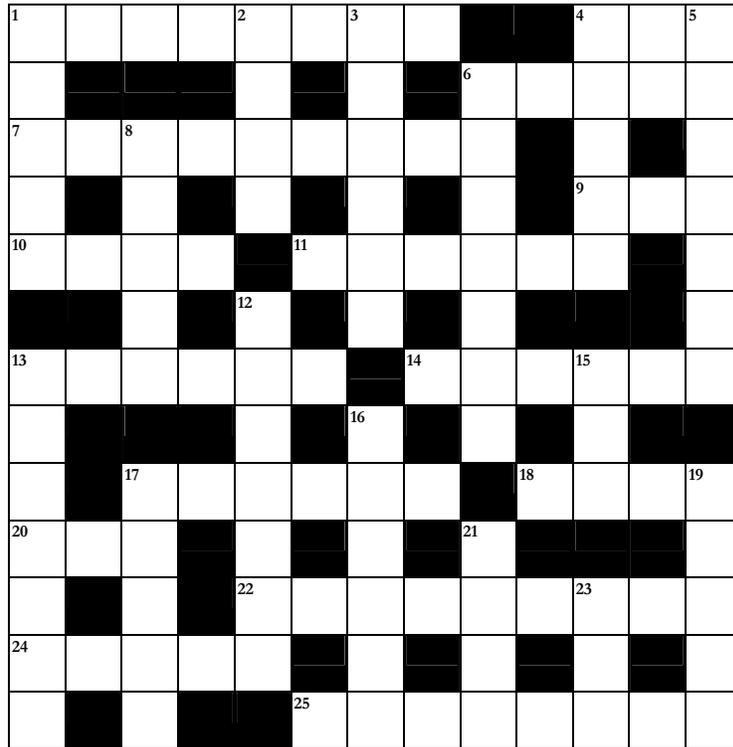
A billion shellfish did not live in vain:  
They lived so we could easily afford  
The jetfare for a holiday abroad —  
(In eighty million years we'll fly again).

The pot's half full, let's pour another cup—  
Let's gobble cake, and leave the washing up.

# CROSSWORD

*Set by Richard Sturch*

THIS SHOULDN'T PROVE too difficult a crossword, not for members of this Club. So no prizes – only the challenge to see how long it takes solvers to work out the significance of the numerals in the “Across” clues.



## ACROSS

1. 1852
6. 1770
8. 1763/1806
9. 1922
10. 1955
11. 1916
13. 1743
14. 54
17. 1945
18. 1834
20. 17
22. 1812
24. 1856
25. 1894

## DOWN

1. Dispute, right in the middle of an illness!
2. No walking beside these springs?
3. Too much wriggling here for a decent sleep.
4. Pick this horse after the starting price – that would be brilliant.
5. Indian playwright originally...
6. ...sounded as if she wouldn't get lost on unfamiliar route.
8. From sunrise to sunset is a varying distance (in Surrey).
12. In a rush, almost a crossing-place amid the dry grass.
13. Drinks salesman puts up his feet and drowns.
15. Beginnings of the Orient Express – on foot!
16. Charles's motto in Latin.
17. Conscious of a thing to be sold;...
19. ...it may not cost much of this, but your teeth will suffer.
21. Actor in the forest.
23. If King came first, honour would clothe like a garment.