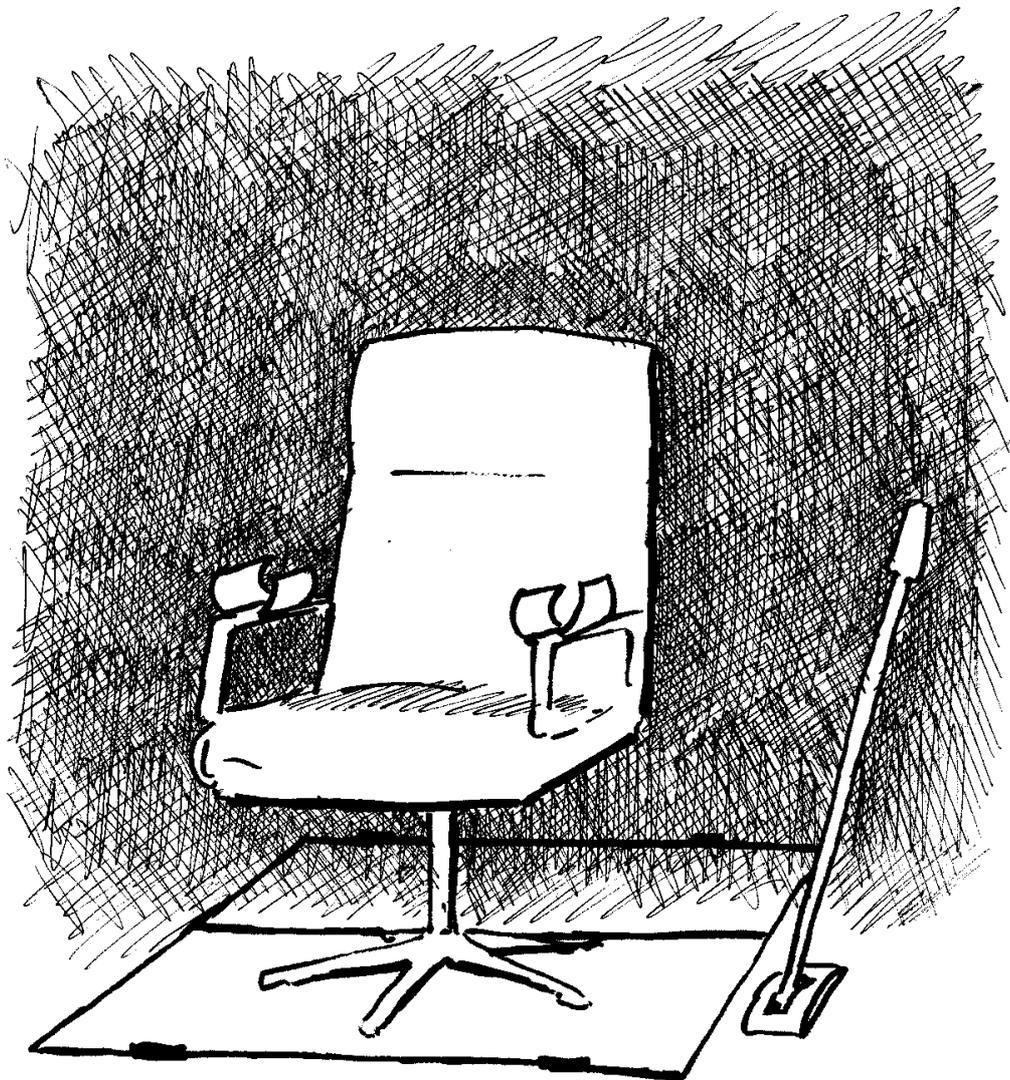


PASS

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF THE MASTERMIND CLUB



Winter 2001

Sad news

Master Quiz 2001 Round 2

Bristol sights

Moles

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Peter Chitty

MASTERMIND IS FINALLY OVER. BBC Radio 4 has decided not to do another series. Instead they have decided to produce a new quiz to replace it. Paul Bajoria, the producer, tells me that it will have some of the elements of Mastermind, and that Peter Snow will be the questionmaster. [*Paul's letter appears on the Letters page – Ed.*]

I regret that I have to report the death of another member John A. Ross (no. 675) from Smaiholm, Roxburghshire. John appeared in Belfast in January 1991. His subject was the "Life and Career of Field Marshal Lord Allenby".

Finally I should like to welcome Joyce Ligertwood to the Club. Joyce took part in the second heat of the first series in 1972. I met Joyce at the recording of *Fifteen-to-One* last month.

PASS

WINTER 2001

PASS NOTES

Craig Scott, Editor

In haste

Owing to the pressures of work, which haven't let up since November, I'm having to exercise my editorial prerogative and make this a bare-bones issue. You'll find some hot news, AGM and annual function information, my Master Quiz Round 2 questions, and a few choice titbits. Special thanks to Leo Stevenson for this month's cover illustration (the first in a series).

I hope to catch up with a bumper Spring issue, with a round-up of the function and a lot of material I've held over from this issue. Of course, new material is, as always, welcome. I thank for your forbearance.

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LETTERS, NEWS AND VIEWS

From Paul Bajoria, BBC

I'M AFRAID I'M WRITING with what you will inevitably view as bad news: that changes at Radio 4 mean the planned 2001 series of *Mastermind* will not be going ahead. After twenty-five years on TV and three radio series, it's been decided that *Mastermind* will this year be giving way to a brand new quiz devised especially for Radio 4.

I and the rest of the team in Manchester have been asked to develop the new quiz, which will again rely on the involvement of members of the public and will be of a similarly high intellectual calibre to *Mastermind*. We are intending to carry over some of the elements which made *Mastermind* such a success for so many years; and we intend to retain the services of Peter Snow as questionmaster. Further details will be available soon.

I'd like to record how much we have enjoyed making the programme over recent years; how pleased we are that the format was able to enjoy an extended lease of life after the end of the TV era; and how indebted we are to you and other members of the Club for the support you have given us. I do hope we will be able to welcome some Club members as contestants in the new quiz, which will be on air later this year.

From Margery Elliott

Two comments on Michael Schwartz's otherwise excellent piece on the late Sir Steven Runciman on page 3 of the Autumn 2000 issue:

- (a) He spelt Sir Steven's name wrong. (It was also wrong on the cover, but right on page 1)
- (b) Sir Steven was, to the best of my knowledge, *not* an honorary member of the Club. He joined as a Question Setter. In the Club's early days, Qs were invited to join, and several did. Somewhere along the line, Qs were no longer automatically invited to become members.

Sorry for the sloppy copy editing – Ed.

From Ray Ward

I must comment on Gavin Fuller's piece in *Pass*, Autumn 2000! Several people drew my attention to the item he quotes from the *Express* (no longer "Daily", incidentally),

asking if it was me. It sounded like the sort of thing I would say, but not about the Teletubbies because I couldn't be certain of matching their colours and names myself. However, an article by Anne Robinson in *The Times* of 23 December leaves no doubt. She says of the pilots:

We must in particular pay homage to Ray. He was a bespectacled librarian who bounced in and announced that he was a fan of mine. He had read my column in whichever newspaper it had appeared in for the past 20-odd years. He was in his forties and wore an orange shirt and sandals. He took no prisoners. When the woman standing next to him failed to answer "Tinky Winky" he could not contain himself. "Nobody," he declared with undisguised disgust, "comes on a quiz show without knowing the names of the Teletubbies!" It clicked. Quiz contestants are arrogant, well-prepared, and, my, how competitive. They dislike being beaten. They loathe anyone who is beset by nerves or dithers. Thus the idea of easing the disappointment of *The Weakest Link* died in an instant.

Well, she got a few details wrong. I never wear sandals and, while flattered she thinks I was in my forties (I was 52), doesn't she remember us all announcing our ages at the beginning of each game? And I still recall no Teletubbies question. I did, however, cause a frisson when a woman was asked "Which US city is served by John F. Kennedy International Airport?" and said "Texas", whereupon I snapped: "That's not a city!" But it was a ludicrously easy question and a bloody silly answer. So, I am the father of *The Weakest Link*. I've written suggesting they owe me money, but don't have much hope.

From Eleanor Macnair

ANDREW TUREK'S LETTER in the Autumn issue of *PASS* quotes Trapp's epigram contrasting 18th century Oxford and Cambridge; this should perhaps be supplemented by the rather pithier contemporary reply of William Browne:

The King to Oxford sent a troop of horse;
(Tories allow no argument but force).
With equal skill to Cambridge books he sent,
For Whigs allow no force but argument.

No aspersions on the present politics of either place!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2001

Notice is hereby given that the twenty-third Annual General Meeting of the Mastermind Club will be held at Jurys Hotel, Carlisle, on Sunday 8th April 2001 at 10.45hrs. – Tony Dart, President; Gavin Fuller, Secretary

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of 22nd AGM, Carlisle, 16th April 2000 (published in *PASS*, Spring 2000)
3. Matters arising
4. Annual Accounts and Treasurer's Report
5. Appointment of Auditor
6. PASS
7. Election of Club Charity for 2001-2002
8. President's Report
9. Membership Secretary's Report
10. Insignia
11. Annual Functions 2001 and 2002
12. Magnum Competition
13. Mugnum Competition
14. Any other business



See Michael Davison's "Stepping out in Bristol", next page

HOLIDAY QUIZ ANSWERS

Ann Kelly

HERE ARE THE ANSWERS to my quiz. The powers of telepathy meant that Craig had to do some last minute editing of his article in the last edition of *Pass*, as it included several of the answers to my quiz!

1. Jesse James
2. Buddy (Charles Hardin) Holly
3. Crazy Horse
4. Eddie Cochran (NOT Okalahoma, as reported in several reference works.)
5. Minneapolis
6. Iceland, due a volcanic eruption.
7. United Airlines
8. Captain James T Kirk, USS Enterprise
9. Chicago
10. Grotto. The Grotto Of The Redemption is constructed of ornamental rocks, petrifications and precious and semi-precious stones. The Grotto was begun by Fr. Paul Dobberstein in 1912 and he worked on it for 42 years until his death.
11. Buffalo Bill
12. Otis Redding, when his plane crashed into it.
13. Crazy Horse. Work is still continuing after fifty years.
14. The Ingalls family. Laura Ingalls Wilder did not write about this period in the family fortunes and it is known as the "Missing Link" in her series of books.
15. Leif Eriksson

STEPPING OUT IN BRISTOL

Let Michael Davison be your guide

GAVIN HAS SERVED MASTERMINDERS WELL by choosing as the venue for this year's reunion Bristol's only waterfront hotel, ideally placed for guests to make the most of all that Bristol has to offer, new and old.

From the Old Quayside behind Jurys Hotel walk across the new, intriguingly designed Pero footbridge (guaranteed no wobbles!) and in a moment you will be at the heart of Millennium Square, the sparkling new piazza which has revitalised a formerly run-down area of central Bristol.

Or, instead, from the front of Jurys cross Prince Street and walk ahead into Queen Square, laid out in the reign of Queen Anne, its every façade an architectural gem. Beyond the square, across a bridge, rises the needle spire of St Mary Redcliffe, described by Elizabeth I as "the goodliest, fairest and most famous parish church in England".

Millennium Square is an exciting open space, set about with pools, fountains and watery cascades – Bristol, not surprisingly in view of its maritime history, has a long-running love affair with the water. There are plenty of seats, cafés and bars, indoors and out, and from all angles the eye is caught by the gleaming stainless-steel sphere of the new Planetarium.

Other features of this £100-million development are an interactive science museum called Explore, an Imax cinema screen, and finally Wildscreen. This last, commended by a reviewer in *The Times* as "the most stunningly beautiful and mesmerising show of its kind in Britain", uses dozens of screens to show continuous clips of dazzling wildlife photography, while real birds and butterflies whirl overhead in a steamy hothouse filled with tree ferns, orchids and palms.

Had enough of state-of-the art technology? Ready for some reminders that Bristol is also the city of Isambard Kingdom Brunel and John Cabot, of the Merchant Venturers and – keep your voice down, it's still a sensitive issue – burghers made prosperous by the slave trade?

Turn left in front of the Pero Bridge and you'll find John Cabot squatting, in huge bronze effigy, on the quayside. Continue across the swing bridge – everywhere you walk from Jurys Hotel you'll cross fingers of water which once took ships from the Avon into harbours deep in the heart

of the city – and turn right in front of the Industrial Museum to follow the signs to the SS *Great Britain*.

This 15-minute walk along the Harbourside presents a continuous spectacle of bobbing pleasure craft, brightly-painted houseboats and, set back from the waterside, a hilltop parade of candy-coloured Regency terraces. Most summer weekends, too, there's some Harbourside event or pageant taking place: Bristolians never turn their backs on the water for long.

The *Great Britain*, back in the dock where Brunel himself supervised its construction, is open daily until 5:30pm and well worth the visit to see its carefully restored cabins, ladies' boudoir and sumptuous first-class dining saloon. The entrance ticket also takes you aboard the replica of John Cabot's *Matthen*, moored alongside, where one marvels at the intrepidity of 15th-century seamen setting sail across the Atlantic in such a tiny craft.

Starting again from Jurys Hotel, a short walk along the waterside in the opposite direction from the Cabot bronze brings you to more fountains and pools in another square called simply The Centre. To the right, Corn Street leads to the 18th-century Corn Exchange and St Nicholas Markets, while uphill to the left, across College Green, stands Bristol Cathedral, a building dating from 1140 with a superb Early English Lady Chapel.

If you need a longer Sunday-morning walk to shake off the effects of our reunion dinner, go on past College Green and walk up Park Street, then turn left at Great George Street, an area of impressive merchants' town houses of the late 18th century. From here a short but steep ascent climbs Brandon Hill, topped by Cabot Tower. From the tower – a landmark from most places in the city – there are fine views over the Harbourside.

Before you leave Bristol, try to take a drive up through Clifton Village to the Clifton Suspension Bridge – the most daring of no fewer than 150 bridges designed by Brunel – spanning the spectacular cleft of Avon Gorge.

With a daughter living a short walk away from the *Great Britain*, my wife and I are frequent visitors to Bristol. Every time we find something new to enjoy. If this is your first visit to the city, enjoy it – I forecast it won't be the last!

MASTER QUIZ 2001

Craig introduces the Round 2 questions

I CAN OFFER NO GRAND THEME for my questions other than the lush, if faded, furnishings of one 52-year-old American brain. Yes, there are sports questions, and American questions too, but I hope you'll find them a challenge along with the rest.

Just to remind you – this is the second of two preliminary written rounds. 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 7 April 2001 in Bristol. The winner will hold the Magnum, a Toby jug in the likeness of Magnus, for the following year.

Instructions

Round 2 has two entries:

1. Head the first paper 'U' for **UNSEEN**, and answer the questions unaided in your own time. When you have finished, sign the entry as being your own unaided work.
2. Head another sheet of paper 'R' for **REFERENCE** and check, alter or expand your 'U' answers if desired, using any references you care to consult and quoting your sources. Use your friends if you wish, but be warned – they are not so accurate as reference books and (?) the Internet!

Of the possible marks, 80% 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.

Note: The question-setters have mutually agreed that their decisions are final and they can enter into no correspondence about the questions and answers.

Please put your name, full address and contact details, and Club membership number on the first page of each entry. Repeat your name and membership number on each remaining page.

Address for Round 2 entries

CLOSING DATE: 21 MARCH 2001

*Do let me know **as early as possible** if your plans to attend the function depend on your placing in the quiz.*

Turn the page for the questions>>

MASTER QUIZ 2001 ROUND 2 QUESTIONS

1. What is an *Abnetafele*?
2. What is the natural log of 1?
3. What does HTML stand for?
4. Which people did Alexander Nevsky defeat at the Battle of Néva in 1240?
5. Whose paintings included *Self-Portrait as 'The Art of Painting'* and *Judith beheading Holofernes*?
6. In which of the *Canterbury Tales* does January wed May?
7. In which Buñuel film does the heroine lose a leg?
8. What is the difference between backing and veering?
9. Who succeeded John Baliol to the throne of Scotland?
10. In *London's Burning*, Ben Onwukwe plays 'Recall'. What is the character's real name?
11. According to the official Government guidelines, what should be the maximum daily intake for men of Calories and fat?
12. What are Xerophytes?
13. Who was the US First Lady in 1800?
14. What is the literal meaning of Feng Shui?
15. Whose motto is *Tria juncta in uno*?
16. What were the Christian names of the *Swallows'* parents?
17. Who will live in the Thames Valley in 802701 AD?
18. What is a futhark?
19. Name the large underwater lake in Antarctica.
20. What is the quotation on Yeats' grave?
21. Who is the Conservative Shadow Education Secretary?
22. How should one address a Bishop?
23. What is the nationality of Elisabeth Kübler-Ross?
24. After North and South Islands, what are the next three largest islands of New Zealand?
25. What is the residence of the US ambassador to the Court of St James?
26. Name the teacher of mathematics and philosophy, born 370AD and put to death by flaying in Alexandria in 415AD.
27. What is formed by the *Bahr-el-Abiad* and the *Bahr-el-Azrek*?
28. Where do Kirk Van Houten, Seymour Skinner, Patty Bouvier and Troy McClure live?
29. Under what circumstances did Joseph Coleman, Matthew Quintal, Edward Young and Peter Heywood remain together although not all on the same side?
30. Of which Egyptian Dynasty was Tutankhamun the last king?
31. Who played *Billy Elliot*?
32. Where is the Archbishop of York's palace?
33. What are the following: *vina*, *sarangi* and *sarinda*?
34. What is this phone number: 0845 988 1188?
35. Where is the country house of the Chancellor of the Exchequer?
36. What is the Imperial equivalent of 7.457×10^2 W of power?
37. What lies at $35^{\circ}40'N$ $139^{\circ}45'E$?
38. What colour code is used on a 3amp fuse?
39. Who won the Booker Prize in 1999?
40. What activity led to the disgrace of Charles Van Doren?
41. Whose coat of arms is: "Azure a Terrestrial Globe proper encircled by an Amulet Or, and seven Estoiles in Orle Argent, and for the Crest, on a Wreath of the Colours, a Lion passant Or, grasping in the dexter fore-paw a Thunderbolt proper. Supporters on either side, an Eagle, addorsed proper collared Azure pendent therefrom a Bugle horn stringed Or." ?
42. Who was known as the 'Sleeping Prophet'?
43. How many drams in a stone?
44. In which town did Charles I see his children for the last time?
45. On what subject did Patanjali write?
46. In *The Fountainhead*, what is Howard Roark's profession?
47. Who created Garfield?
48. How long was the reign of Henry II?
49. What is the Major Arcana card 0?
50. Which actress lived at Honeypot Cottage, Maybury?
51. In which year did Sir Henry Wood conduct his last Promenade Concert?
52. What measures 297mm x 420mm?
53. What were the first names of Roget (of *Thesaurus* fame)?
54. Who challenged whom to a beheading match at Christmas?
55. What was *Billy Liar*'s surname?
56. What was the fate of Njal Thorgeirsson?
57. What is the meaning of the name Sarah?
58. What are Benguiat, Frutiger and Verdana?
59. Whose mother wrote *Domestic Manners of the Americans*?
60. In what medium is Lucien Clergue's work?
61. What alphabet is used for writing Sanskrit, Hindi, etc.?
62. What is foliomancy?
63. Which dynasty ruled China from 1368–1644AD?
64. What food was first developed in 1937 by George A. Hormel & Company in Austin, Minnesota?
65. Who wrote *Autogeddon*?
66. In which city would you find Circular Quay?
67. What would you avoid if you suffered from lachanaphobia?
68. " 'Pray, my dear,' quoth my mother, 'have you forgot to wind up the clock?' " Whose mother?
69. What was the purpose of Robinson Crusoe's voyage during which he was shipwrecked?
70. Who was called *le grand asperge*?
71. Why was there celebration this year in Marinello, Italy?
72. Who was Madame Cholet?
73. Which ice-hockey superstar came out of retirement this year?
74. What distinction did Courtney Walsh attain this year?
75. What African-American scientist was particularly associated with popularising the peanut?
76. What nationality was the original Granny Smith of apple fame?
77. Which U.S. President was associated with Galena, Illinois?
78. Who was Samuel Tilden?

79. Which leader in the South American struggle for independence from Spain was of Irish extraction?
80. Why might the appearance of the Soviet-born players Sergei Fedorov and Pavel Buré in this year's National Hockey League All-Star Game be of interest to followers of women's tennis?
81. What links the late Jimmy Hoffa, 1960s boss of the Teamsters' Union, with the Meadowlands Stadium in New Jersey?
82. Which eminent biographer recently published a memoir of his childhood in Maidenhead?
83. In these three sentences, which Americanism is the odd one out?
 - (a) "The estimate was in the right ballpark"
 - (b) "They went into a huddle."
 - (c) "I had to touch base with him."
84. This songwriter's "power ballads" have won three Grammy awards; been sung by the likes of Aretha Franklin, Celine Dion, Barbra Streisand, Gloria Estefan and Whitney Houston; featured in movies like *Mannequin*, *Ghostbusters*, *Up Close and Personal* and *Prince of Egypt*. I bet you don't know her name.
85. This sequence of notes – D, E1, C, B – was frequently used as a signature by which composer?
86. Melville's inspiration for *Moby Dick* was thought to have come from the real-life story of which vessel?
87. When was the last outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in these islands?
88. What was Professor Sir Richard Doll's epidemiological achievement?
89. What were the names of English astronomer and surveyor who "left their mark" on colonial America, one which acquired a more general resonance a century or more later?
90. Which Bohemian engraver has left us with some fine views of 17th-century London?
91. What religious manifestation followed American departure from the Pacific Islands after World War II?
92. Which musical prodigy made a sensation during a fifteen-month stay in the 1760s London.
93. Immortalised by Frank Zappa in the 1980s, what was the Southern California counterpart of the Essex Girl?
94. The saxophone was invented by Dr. Sax – what was his nationality?
95. Which odd couple lived first at Tidmarsh, Berkshire, then at Ham, Wiltshire?
96. What was Gondwana?
97. Famous for his reports from London during the Blitz and his exposé of Senator McCarthy, who is widely revered as the father of American TV journalism?
98. Christy Mahan, Pegeen and Widow Quin are characters in which play?
99. *Genji Monogatari* (*The Tale of Genji*) was written about a thousand years ago by whom?
100. What was biographer Peter Ackroyd's latest subject?

CLUB SHOPPING

STILL AVAILABLE! T-shirts with "I've started so I'll finish" on the front and "It's only a bloody game" on the back, in white on dark navy – only £6.00 all sizes.

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
T- SHIRTS	
WHITE ON DARK NAVY (M, L, XL, XXL)	6.00
RUGBY SHIRTS	
NEW! BURGUNDY, KELLY GREEN (M, L, XL)	18.00
NEW! BURGUNDY, KELLY GREEN (XXL)	20.00
SWEATSHIRTS	
OATMEAL (M, L, XL)	15.00
RED (M, L, XL)	15.00
JEWELLERY	
KEY RINGS	5.00
PENDANTS	5.00
NEW! TIE CLIPS	7.00
NEW! STICK PINS	6.00
PENS	
WHITE WITH LOGO	6.00

GRUBBING IN THE MUD

Katharine Dart takes us through some scientific byways

WITHOUT A DOUBT, the most revelatory moment of my short scientific career was discovering that earthworms go up rather than down. I know, I sound like the really interesting kind of person you would never want to get stuck in a lift with, but this was an important discovery, particularly since I wasn't even studying worms at the time. In fact, I wasn't doing anything constructive at all. I was having a cup of tea and watching *Quincy*.

Not so long ago, I spent an entire year studying moles. The logistics of studying an animal that rarely sticks its head above ground, in a capital city, with a research budget of about five pounds, are not to be laughed at. As every golf course manager knows, moles dig long systems of tunnels under the ground and molehills are the irritating result. Being fairly useless above ground and almost completely blind, moles rarely leave the safety of their tunnel networks, feeding mostly on stray earthworms that have fallen into the tunnels and become trapped.

Earthworms are not stupid, however. Admittedly they will never be quantum physicists, but if there is one thing they are good at, it is wriggling about in soil. So why, on finding themselves falling into an unfamiliar hole in the ground, would they just lie about for hours waiting to get snapped up by a hungry hole?

This puzzled me for several months, and I devised numerous experiments to try to find an answer.

Eventually, I found some moles living around a reservoir several miles outside Cardiff, and for months I cycled up there nearly every day with huge gardening tools strapped to my back, getting soaked to the skin and being regularly tormented by the local school kids.

I would shovel mud in force 10 gales while old men regaled me with strange tales of catching moles in the old days with bits of twine and a few twigs; they also asked me every single day why was I "spray-painting the molehills". The ranger would give me black coffee while I wrote down results with a muddy pen in a damp notebook that had nearly dissolved, and then he would indulge whatever stupid research idea I had that week, even helping me to build imitation worm tunnels. I built myself a wormery in my shed from a glass fishtank, drainpipe, stolen mud and

Pot Noodle containers full of confused worms, and I would sit out all night trying to catch them in action while my patient housemates brought me cups of tea.

All this work seemed to be getting me nowhere, and in the end I decided to search out a worm expert. He told me that earthworms, specifically the big fat common ones, live in the bottom of long burrows in the soil, coming up to the surface to feed at night. Much later on, I realised that this was the key to the puzzle. Worms are not falling into the tunnels; instead, moles are digging their shallow tunnels straight through the worm burrows. At night, the worms travel up to feed on the surface, but find themselves in the moles' tunnel, which they assume to be the ground surface, so they start to feed or crawl around inside the tunnel. The moles are sneakily tricking the worms into a false sense of security by exploiting their natural behaviour patterns.

Another puzzling aspect of mole behaviour remained unsolved. The common myth that moles eat nothing but earthworms was unsubstantiated by the evidence, which revealed that they were actually eating any soil animal they came across. Moles create "stores" of food that are always found to contain a single species of earthworm, the fat common ones, which have the unique feature of regrowable heads. The mole bites off their heads, leaving them paralysed but alive so they can be stored for months until they are either eaten or they grow a new head and wiggle away. Moles are so well adapted to life in a confined space that rather than grow bigger or faster, they have evolved their behaviour to neatly exploit the behaviour of their prey.

This is the nature of science. It is 99 per cent hard work that seems to get you absolutely nowhere, and one per cent inspiration courtesy of Dr Quincy and a cuppa. Just think what quantum physicists could come up with if you gave them the *EastEnders* Omnibus and a can of Red Bull.

Katharine Dart (Tony's eldest) of Imperial College came second in the senior category of the BASF/Daily Telegraph young science writer awards. This piece first appeared in the Daily Telegraph, ©2000.

>>

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Richard Sturch advises that one clue – What company markets the Pentium?
– was missing from the copy he submitted (as if it weren't hard enough).

W	H	I	T	M	O	N	D	A	Y		I	M	A	M	
A		D		O		E		L		S		O		A	
B	L	A	I	R		E	L	E	C	T	R	O	N	S	
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C		I				E		I		I				R	
O	S	P	R	E	Y	S			C	H	A	N	D	O	S
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N	I	V	E	N			I	N	N	O	C	E	N	T	
I		I		G			N		G		A		E		S
S	C	A	R	L	A	T	T	I			B	L	I	G	H
T		L		E		E		N			A		R		O
S	U	S	A			F	L	A	G	E	L	L	A	N	T

POEMS

Timothy Robey

ANTHONY

Communist and art historian,
Friend of Philby and Maclean,
Tony lacked the very sharpness
Which he didn't have to feign.

Though his Wedgwood blood seemed bluer
Than the blood of Labouring men
Anthony renounced Lord Stansgate
And became plain Tony Benn.

When Antonius and Cleo
Tried to settle Roman land
On the kids they had together
Love spawned what Octavian planned.

Writer, pillar-box inventor,
Chronicler of Basset life –
But when Anthony was married
What a come-down for his wife!

Who are these illustrious worthies
Highlighted in glossy tones?
Gormley, Eden, Blair and Hopkins –
Photographed by Armstrong-Jones.

In the field of Masterminding
Paul and Gerald play their part
As do Gavin, Craig and Peter,
Phillida and Tony Dart. *

Tony Banks An' Tonybandy,
Curtis, Trabert, Quayle and Quinn –
Let us *Hope* that *Absolutely*
No more Tonys can *Lump'in*.

* *et al*

ROBERT

Squire Trelawney, Dr. Livesey,
Donkey travels in Cevennes,
Alan Breck and Long John Silver
Flow from Robert Louis's pen.

Having read each other's verses
Robert thought the two should meet
So he called to see Miss Barrett
At the house in Wimpole Street.

In some misty Scottish hideout
With ambitions to be king
Robert learnt what perseverance
With the www would bring.

Satirist of Marlborough's victory,
Author of 'The Holly Tree',
Guinea pig for Humphry Davy
Robert breathed his levity.

Robinsons may cause confusion –
Let the twain be classified: –
a). The witty questionmaster;
b). The man who synthesized.

Making routine observations
Robert saw what others missed,
But the pollen's jerky motion
Mystified the botanist.

Poet, poet, poet, actor,
Actor, Primate, physicist –
Let us leave each masterminder
To elaborate this list.

*Timothy Robey offers a £10 book token for the best rewriting of
the final verse by 31 March 2001*