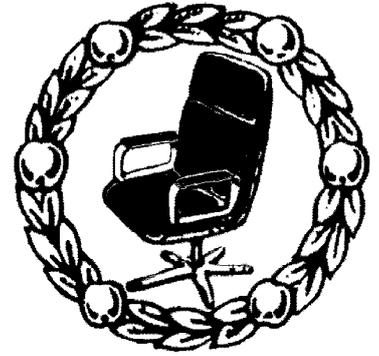


pass



The Quarterly Magazine of the Mastermind Club



The Millennium Bridge linking Newcastle and Gateshead will be a prominent landmark as the Club heads north for the Annual Reunion...

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The Emonds of Selkirkshire

Ken Emond, Editor

Following up a recent conversation with a friend who is very keen on genealogy has revealed a fascinating insight into the history of my family name, Emond. I always knew that it was quite rare (how many other Emonds do you know?), but Jesse has been able to confirm, using information from the 1881 Census, that all the British Emonds can be traced back to Selkirkshire in the Scottish Borders. I am, therefore, he concluded the proud possessor of a single-family origin surname. Apparently, about 80% of all current British surnames are of single-family origin, but because so many of them are so rare (versus all the Smiths, Taylors etc), probably only about 3-8% of the population bear them. I have some books at home which show Emonds resident in Selkirk in 1714, so the next stage will be to investigate the direct family tree of my particular branch of the Emonds – it would be nice to think that the Christian Emond who owned a plot of land in what is now Castle Street was a direct ancestor. One of the places to which the Emonds had migrated by 1881 was Wiltshire, a part of the country which I already had plans to get to know better this summer, so now I have an extra incentive to do so.

Hopefully it will not be a regular necessity, but my policy as Editor is to correct errors and omissions promptly when these are pointed out to me. Thanks are therefore due to several of you, not least Kathryn herself, for mentioning my embarrassing blunder when congratulating Kathryn Johnson on her success in *University Challenge: The Professionals* (Editorial, 2004:3) in referring to the winning team as representing the British Museum. This is, of course, a particularly heinous crime, as in fact Kathryn works for the British *Library* and I apologise most sincerely.

In this issue there is lots of anticipation of the annual reunion in Newcastle/Gateshead. I look forward to seeing a good turnout there in April.

Note: With this issue, we have finally caught up to the usual quarterly cycle, so the next deadline will be as normal at the end of April 2005, when hopefully we will have a lot to say about our time in the North-East. As you will all be used to by now, I particularly welcome submission by e-mail (to kene@britac.ac.uk), but I am, of course, happy to hear from everyone in hard copy instead for those who don't use e-mail.

Membership matters

Peter Chitty, Membership Secretary

A very Happy New Year to all Club Members and their families.

I recently forwarded an email sent to me by Gavin Fuller from the BBC Mastermind Office to all members with email addresses. Unfortunately about a dozen were returned as undeliverable. To help me to update the Club address book, would all members please send me an email with "Test Message" in the subject box, there is no need to fill in the message area. Thank you in advance for your help.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

432 Miss Wendy FORRESTER Flat 9, 73 Portland Place, LONDON W1B 1QU Tele: Number unchanged

503 Mr William (Bill) TAGGART 21 Belgrave Road, ABERGAVENNY NP7 7AH Tele: Number Unchanged

725 Mr David PENFOLD 26A King Street, NAIRN IV12 4PD, Tele: Number Unchanged

966 Mr Marc HUDSON 16 Cranswick Street, Moss Side, MANCHESTER M14 7JA

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in Gateshead.

Letters, news and views

From Lance Haward

The quintessential “Spanish” car

I WAS WAITING FOR GILLIAN WOON to include in her catalogue what is surely the quintessential “Spanish” car. How could she possibly have overlooked that ultimate expression of the “*wild, open range, the rugged, action-packed life-style*” of the United States? Who can forget its wonderful, “Rawhide”-style theme-song? Ladies and gentlemen —

“Can you name the truck with a four-wheel drive?

“Smells like a steak and seats thirty-five – Canyonero!”

“It’s twelve yards long and two lanes wide,

“Sixty-five tons of American pride – Canyonero!”

“Simpsons” addicts will need no further attribution; others (if there are any others) may be mystified to learn that “*the Federal Highways Commission has ruled the Canyonero unsafe for city or highway driving*”. **Yeee – ha!!**

From Michael Davison

These are a few of my un-favourite things...

IT OCCURS TO ME that since many quiz addicts are also crossword addicts, I might find a responsive audience among Masterminders when I sound off and grumble that its inimitable crossword is all that keeps me loyal to *The Times* in its hideous, unwieldy, tabloid format. In my curmudgeonly (unpublished) correspondence with the newspaper I prefer to call the new format “condensed”: despite claims during the transition period that the content of both formats was identical, a piece of mine that appeared under “Lives Remembered” in the broadsheet ‘went missing’ from the tabloid.

But I suppose at a certain age the list of one’s un-favourite things becomes longer and longer. How often is it worth complaining about columnists who use ‘bored of’ and ‘fed up of’ instead of ‘with’, and ‘injuncted’ instead of ‘made the subject of an injunction’ ... about computer-generated word-breaks (‘be-tween’ and ‘be-have’ in a single story only this morning!) which would make a linotype operator cringe... about ‘background music’ that drowns out commentaries on TV documentaries... about plastic corks in wine bottles... about editors who set impossible deadlines! [*Guilty as charged! Ed.*]

Thank goodness, at least, for *The Independent*’s Saturday column in which Guy Keleny is allowed to lambast the newspaper’s own wordsmiths for their linguistic solecisms. A long list he finds every week, too: within a few recent weeks he had corrected confusions between ‘envious’ and ‘jealous’, ‘may’ and ‘might’, ‘deprecate’ and ‘depreciate’, ‘born’ and ‘borne’.

I’d try *The Independent*’s crossword and consider switching my custom – if they hadn’t already committed the unforgivable sin and gone tabloid too.

From Constance Moore

In reply to Marga Scott

Yes, Marga, we do have a famous Blackberry in Cornwall!

Every hill in Cornwall has its legend of a giant, and St Michael's Mount is no exception. Long ago the giant Cormoran (which in Cornish means Giant Blackberry) lived there in a cave with his wife Cormellyon (Giant Clover).

Cormoran had a huge hammer for breaking up the granite rocks, which he shared with the giant Trecrobben who lived on Trencrom Hill near Hayle. Whenever one of them wanted it he would let out a yell, and the other would hurl it over the three or four miles between.

One morning Cormoran wanted to use the hammer, so he called out to Trecrobben, who obligingly flung it over. Unfortunately, Cormellyon had just emerged from the cave into the sunshine as it came flying towards her, and the hammer hit her on the head and was the end of poor Clover. She is said to lie beneath St Michael's Mount to this day.

Trencrom Hill is an Iron Age hillfort with a rampart of truly giant-sized stones, under which Trecrobben's treasure is still said to be buried. However, it is guarded by spriggans (Cornish goblins) so don't try to find it!

From William Smith

Although it is now almost a year since I sat in 'the chair' it was only afterwards that I was privileged to learn more about my specialist subject, (The life and career of Sir George Cayley). I had, unfortunately, been unable to discover the name of Sir George's 'flying' coachman, the man 'volunteered' to be the first adult to fly in a heavier than air machine. In correspondence with the BBC afterwards the researchers went to great lengths to try to solve the problem including getting me an invitation to go to BAE Systems at Brough, (near Hull). A group of retired employees has set up a heritage centre there where they make excellent full-scale models of bygone aeroplanes; these being displayed at air shows round the world. The centre is not open to the general public.

The whole morning that I was there I found fascinating and enjoyed immensely. The main reason for my visit was to see the full-scale replica of the glider they had made for the sesquicentenary celebrations of the first flight by an adult man in a heavier than air machine; an unknown 10 year old boy had made the same flight 5 years earlier (1848) in another Cayley glider. At the celebratory event the glider was piloted by Sir Richard Branson.

It was at Brough that the mystery was finally solved. I had failed to consult the publication in which the relevant information was to be found – the 1851 Census! – which confirmed that the coachman's name was John Appleby.

Incidentally, after a somewhat bumpy landing Mr Appleby promptly gave his notice and disappeared from public view. No doubt his descendants are still living in the Scarborough area.

From Ray Ward

A few comments on the 2004 Final

First, of course, many congratulations to Shaun Wallace, and commiserations to Don Young for losing so narrowly, having said in his at-home piece that he was always the runner-up. (I bet they left that in *because* he came second!)

The "History of Mastermind" sequence in the middle narrated by Fred Housego was interesting and a nice idea, though it started with the doubtful assertion that programmes were recorded in the academic institutions which provided most of its contestants. I don't think that was a consideration, and though academics did tend to predominate the first series had a greengrocer on French Literature (I remember him - a hippy type with long hair and a beard) and a pig farmer on Pigs (which

also shows that it isn't true that in the early days all subjects were highly academic and intellectual - I even recall one of his questions: Judaism and which other religion forbid the use of the pig as food? - Islam, of course), so the implication that it was only later that oiks like the taxi driver Fred and the train driver Christopher Hughes could take part is untrue - though, of course, they got far more publicity because they won.

It was interesting to see clips of *Casanova '73*, the Galton and Simpson series with Leslie Phillips as "20th century libertine" Henry Newhouse (I often wonder how many people got the joke - "new house" in Italian is *casa nova*) which was moved when it was thought too rude for an early evening slot, whereupon *Mastermind* moved in, the origin of what I call the Great Mastermind Myth. Someone confused *Casanova '73* with *Casanova*, the Dennis Potter drama series with Frank Finlay, and said it was that series which was moved, bringing *Mastermind* into peak viewing time. This was endlessly repeated in writings about *Mastermind*, an example of how journalists crib from the cuttings and perpetuate errors. It should, of course, have been obvious that the programme moved couldn't have been *Casanova*, if only for the fairly obvious reason that they weren't the same length, and, while I have only ever seen one clip from *Casanova* (he and another man watching a young woman, as the modern idiom would have it, getting her kit off), that was enough to convince me it would never have been shown in the early evening!

However, while helping to kill one myth, I fear the item may have fostered another – that in 1997, as Fred's voice-over put it, "Magnus's final tribute was to repeat the very first question he'd asked 25 years before." I've seen this said before too, and it's not true! The idea was that the last question would echo the first, but it wasn't the same question. The first contender was Alan Whitehead, a print-maker, on *The Visual Arts* (Magnus tried unsuccessfully to trace him for the 1997 series). His first question asked in which year the bombing of Guernica in the Spanish Civil War, the event which inspired Picasso's painting, happened, and he answered, correctly, 1937. The last question in 1997 asked for the name of the town in the Basque country bombed during the Spanish Civil War, an event commemorated in a Picasso painting. Of course, it wouldn't have been asked if it would have made a difference to the score, but the highest score up to then was 31 and Anne Ashurst already had 33, so Magnus got a cue in his earpiece with eight seconds to go, out came the question, Anne said "Guernica" and won with 34. I was there, and saw Magnus reach for the special card. (Rosemary James, who as a Champion was in the front row and therefore closer than me, told me at breakfast in our hotel the next morning that she thought Magnus had run out of questions and was reaching for a spare pack!)

Also, alas, the 2004 Final had a glaring blunder, though happily it made no difference to the result. When John Humphrys gave the answers to Don Young's passes I was baffled to hear him say "it was the George Cross that was celebrated in the 1920s", since I didn't recall any question about the George Cross (which in any case didn't exist in the 1920s; it was instituted in 1940). Watching the tape I realised he was referring to the question asking for the name of the German-born caricaturist and social satirist who became celebrated in the 1920s with "The Face of the Ruling Class" and "Ecce Homo", who was, of course, George GROSZ! Someone really should have spotted and corrected that.

From the Editor

In Sympathy

Members of the Club will be sorry to hear that Charles Ramsden, the husband of Sheila Ramsden, a former Editor of **pass**, died, aged 74, on 11th August 2004. Charles and Sheila had been married for over 35 years, and Charles had been a particular help and comfort to Sheila when she was Editor, working hard with her to help ensure the magazine was put together and distributed in a timely manner. Our sympathies are extended to Sheila at this sad time.

From John Burke

Good Reasons for not attending the 2005 Reunion

John and Jean Burke will not be attending the Gateshead shindig for the following reasons:

- 1 The whole thing is too expensive.
- 2 The food at such functions is always lousy.
- 3 We're bored stiff with seeing the same old faces every year.
- 4 We can't stand dismal old Tyneside.
- 5 I'm cheesed off with Jean getting on to the final quiz nearly every year and getting kissed by Magnus, or some shameless fellow contestant – not, I hasten to add, that I want to be kissed by Magnus...

Actually, all the foregoing is a pack of lies. We have hitherto found most of the venues excellent, and we look forward to seeing old friends and swapping reminiscences. Also, Tyneside has always been one of our favourite regions – we lived in Corbridge before coming to Kirkcudbright – and having missed last year's reunion because of Jean's illness, from which she has made a splendid recovery, we had every intention of showing up in fine fettle this year.

So what's gone wrong?

On the Saturday of that weekend we are summoned to the wedding of a granddaughter in Preston. We consider it extremely selfish of her to choose such a date, and I shall probably sulk throughout the entire proceedings. But I suppose the blame lies at my own door. After all, if I hadn't had a fair number of daughters, I wouldn't have had a granddaughter. To avoid further clashes of this kind, I intend to insist on being consulted by all future brides-to-be about dates and venues of such nuptials well in advance, with power of veto if there are any more such occurrences.

Go ahead and enjoy yourselves, you lucky lot!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2005

Notice is hereby given that the twenty-seventh Annual General Meeting of the Mastermind Club will be held at the Swallow Hotel, Gateshead, on Sunday 3rd April 2005 at 10.45hrs

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of 26th AGM, Southsea, 25th April 2004 (published in PASS, 2004:2)
3. Matters arising
4. Annual Accounts and Treasurer's Report
5. Appointment of Auditor
6. PASS
7. Election of Club Charity for 2005-2006
8. President's Report
9. Membership Secretary's Report
10. Insignia
11. Annual Functions 2005 and 2006
12. Magnum Competition
13. Mugnum Competition
14. Any other business

Craig Scott, President

Gavin Fuller, Secretary

3rd January 2005

MASTER QUIZ 2005

Gavin introduces Round 2 of this year's Master Quiz

Here is this year's part two, another 100 questions dragged from whatever recesses I could find that seemed appropriate to set questions. No theme or overarching scheme behind this – just things that caught my fancy. I hope they catch yours!

Instructions

Round 2, as per usual, two entries.

Unseen: Head your first paper 'U' for **UNSEEN**, and answer the questions unaided in your own time. When you have finished, please sign the entry as being your own unaided work, but of course should you come across other answers by chance, please feel free to add them.

Reference: Head another sheet 'R' for **REFERENCE** and check, alter or expand your 'U' answers should it be necessary, quoting your sources if you wish.

Please put your name and membership number on each sheet of paper, and on the first sheet add your full address.

80% of the possible marks are awarded for the 'U' entry and 20% on the 'R', with the latter, as ever, not obligatory.

N.B. Please note that all decisions made by the question-setters for the Master Quiz are final and that no correspondence shall be entered into by myself or by Phillida Grantham about the questions and answers.

Address for Round 2 entries:

Gavin Fuller

50 Dollis Park

Finchley

LONDON, N3 1BS

Tel: 020 8349 1087 (home)/07977 156366 (mobile)

E-mail: gavin_fuller@hotmail.com

Closing date: 23 March 2005 (and no late entries will be accepted)

I look forward to receiving your entries, and testing the top 9 qualifiers again in Gateshead. Now to see what I can conjure up for that...

1. In which building did the first London performance of Handel's *Messiah* take place in 1743?
2. Which Berkshire town was the location for two battles in the Civil War of 1642-6?
3. If you were spelunking, what would you be doing?
4. Which Newcastle band had a number one on both sides of the Atlantic in 1964 with *House of the Rising Sun*?
5. Which vitamin is also known as Riboflavin?
6. Who was responsible for the construction of the Suez Canal?
7. What does the W in George W Bush stand for?
8. Which family lived at Southfork Ranch?
9. At which Olympic games was Barry Davies moved to commentate "And where were the Germans? But frankly who cares?", and which sport was he commentating on?

10. Orlando Gibbons, Thomas Campion and Thomas Morley were distinguished composers of what form of music?
11. The North Sea was so named by the Dutch to distinguish it from a South Sea. Where is this sea?
12. Rising in Burgundy near Dijon, and flowing North to the English Channel, at 485 miles long what is France's second-longest river?
13. What is unusual about the performers of the 2004 album *Elephonic Rhapsodies*?
14. In what did Fred Jones, Daphne Blake, Velma Dinkley and Norbert Rogers travel, and who or what accompanied them?
15. Which famous painter was the son of Giovanni Santi?
16. Which fruit comes from the tree *Prunus persica*?
17. Who was Commander-in-Chief of Fighter Command during the Battle of Britain?
18. In which column of the Periodic Table are the halogens to be found?
19. How is the tropical disease Schistosomiasis better known?
20. In the Browning poem who were the two riders who accompanied the narrator bringing the good news from Ghent to Aix?
21. What is the difference between a primary battery and a secondary battery?
22. Which playwright's first work, *Dragoneta*, is an epic attacking Sir Francis Drake?
23. Which novel inspired a 1978 concept album that spent over 200 weeks in the UK album charts?
24. Which Czech religious reformer was burned at the stake for heresy in 1415?
25. At the end of 2004, who held the record for the most wickets in Test Matches?
26. Holkham Hall in Norfolk is the home of the Coke family. Which Earldom do they hold?
27. Which company brews Newcastle Brown Ale?
28. Who fought 28 elections between 1832 and 1892, losing on three occasions?
29. *All in the Family* was an American version of which comedy series?
30. Which breed of dog can be long-haired and wire-haired?
31. In October 2004 in the UK Championship qualifiers Jamie Burnett set a new record for the highest break achieved in a professional snooker match. What break did he make?
32. What is the French equivalent of an April Fool?
33. Where is the oldest lighthouse in Britain to be found?
34. What is the law stating that equal volumes of gases at the same temperature and pressure contain equal numbers of molecules known as?
35. The song *There's No Business Like Show Business* comes from which musical?
36. A former Minister of Agriculture and Minister for Work, who is the MP for Newcastle Upon Tyne East & Wallsend?
37. In which war was the Battle of New Orleans fought?

38. High Willhays is the highest point of which UK National Park?
39. *The Starlight Barking* is the sequel to which much-loved children's book?
40. Which General said to the senior term at Sandhurst "Gentlemen, there have been three great commanders in history: Alexander the Great, Napoleon and myself"?
41. Who were the quartet who surprisingly won the 4x100m men's relay at the Athens Olympics?
42. On which date in 1947 did the Queen get married?
43. On the Mohs scale of hardness, Talc is at 1, what is at 2?
44. What is the alternative name of the Snow Leopard?
45. Which watercolourist's oil painting of a panorama of London, now lost, was exhibited shortly before his death in 1802?
46. Who was married to Catherine Hogarth?
47. Dating from 290 to 245 million years ago, what was the last period of the Palaeozoic Era?
48. Which country's flag contains a yellow lion holding a sword in its right paw, and a representation of a bo leaf in each corner?
49. In the James Bond films, which character's only line of dialogue is "Well, here's to us"?
50. Which painter's *Christ in the House of His Parents* (1850) was damned by Charles Dickens as "the lowest depths of what is mean, odious, repulsive and revolting"?
51. Which British sportsperson won a gold, silver and bronze medal at the Athens Olympics?
52. Which famous brewing company was established at Leixlip in 1756, moving to its current location three years later?
53. What connects Cliff Richard, The Shadows, Mary Hopkin, Lynsey de Paul, Matt Monro and Michael Ball, amongst others?
54. Of which Abbey was St Richard Whiting the last Abbot?
55. Which letter is represented in Morse Code by a single dash?
56. A Master of the Children at both the Chapel Royal and St Paul's, who composed the masque *Venus and Adonis*, first performed in 1687?
57. In which modern country is the ancient city of Harappa to be found?
58. Where did Captain Ridley's shooting party convene in 1939?
59. What is the deepest lake in Wales?
60. Which boxing weight comes between Light Heavyweight and Heavyweight?
61. Which Rimsky Korsakov opera, written in 1880, is based on a play by Alexander Ostrovsky?
62. To whom was Nefertiti married?
63. In which TV series did Harold Pinter play a Tibetan monk, in a story co-written by one of the co-authors of the controversial bestseller *Holy Blood, Holy Grail*?
64. What is the name of Gordon Brown's son?
65. Which company has made ice creams such as Phish Food, Chunky Monkey and Cherry Garcia?

66. For how long does a Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland serve in that post?
67. Who wrote the plays *Clouds*, *Birds* and *Frogs*?
68. The great love of Johannes Brahms' life was the wife of another composer. Which composer?
69. Of which city is St Genevieve the patroness?
70. The well-known Pontcysyllte Aqueduct rises for 121 feet above which river?
71. Which film, with box office admissions of 35 million, is the most watched in British cinemas?
72. Which American President is portrayed on the \$1 note?
73. How long was Hadrian's Wall when fully constructed?
74. Which 19th Century Navy hero is the model for Patrick O'Brien's Captain Aubrey?
75. Which rock instrumentalist staged a performance of his album about King Arthur as an ice-skating spectacle in 1975?
76. If something is lunate, what shape is it?
77. Which fictional character lived in 1872 at 7 Savile Row, London?
78. Tony Blair once claimed that he sat behind the goal at St James' Park seeing a teenage hero score for Newcastle United, despite the facts that there were no seats and this player left Newcastle when Blair was four. Who was the player?
79. What is the name of the floating prison established off Portland in 1997?
80. In a disastrous TV series, what was the name of the company that operated a ferry service between Felixstowe, Gothenburg and Rotterdam?
81. Who in a Delibes opera poisons herself with the juice of an exotic flower when she loses her lover, Gerald?
82. What is defined as 1,650,763.73 wavelengths in vacuum of the red-orange light given out by the krypton-86 isotope?
83. Parthenope was the older sister of which influential Victorian woman?
84. Who, in 1984, at the age of 17 was made official piper to the Lord Mayor of Newcastle?
85. To which ecclesiastical post was Accepted Frewen appointed after Charles II's restoration?
86. Which band, sharing its name with a historical figure, won the 2004 Mercury Music Prize?
87. Who wrote *The Adventures of Peregrine Pickle*?
88. James Irlam and Sons, Prestons of Potto and W H Malcolm of Brookfield are all fairly significant names in which field?
89. Which role at the court of Henry VIII was performed by Will Somers?
90. *Poetic Gems*, published in 1890, is probably a rather inaccurately titled first book of verse by which poet?
91. Which jockey rode the winning horses in both the Oaks and the Derby in 2004?
92. The Anglo-Saxon Kingdom of Northumbria was an amalgamation of two sub-Kingdoms. What were their names?
93. Who wrote the influential *Principles of Political Economy and Taxation* in 1817?
94. There are four main types of recorder: tenor, treble, bass and what?
95. Who discovered the Magnetic South Pole in 1909?
96. What does a Cartomancer do?
97. In which two Shakespeare plays does a character called Paris appear?
98. Who was the last non-Italian Pope before John Paul II?
99. Who revived the use of the word cobweb in a much-loved 1937 work of fiction?
100. Whose last words were "That was a great game of golf, fellers"?

10 Things to See at the Laing Gallery, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

When in the Newcastle/Gateshead area for the Annual Reunion, a visit to the Laing Gallery would be an excellent choice of Saturday activity. Here, our usual guide, Stewart Cross, highlights some of the many treasures on display

The permanent collection on show at the Laing Gallery is smaller than in the other galleries I have featured and principally it is a British collection. However, the gallery has recently unveiled its new image, with extra exhibition space and a wonderful room devoted to watercolours, of which it holds an outstanding collection. Indeed I've even selected a couple from a stupendous array of watercolours, despite the fact that these are notoriously rotated by museums, with no guarantees as to what will be on display. Its exhibitions are frequent and varied, one excellent offering when I was there recently, containing several of my favourites from the National Gallery, was somewhat of a bonus.

Ramsay – Portrait of James Adam

This striking portrait was painted in about 1754 to commemorate the founding of the 'Select Society', a noted Edinburgh debating club. Adam is an elegantly dressed, stylish young man, bright-eyed and keen to make an impression. Much attention is lavished on the slightly foppish hands, with lace cuffs falling decorously over them, the right hand is holding a document. That he is a rising man with the whole world before him is self-evident. A great influence on his style was Maurice Quentin de la Tour, the French pastel painter, and Ramsay has tried to replicate the softer effects of that medium.

Gainsborough – Peasant Ploughing with Two Horses

This delightful landscape is very much influenced by the Dutch school, from its threatening sky to the windmill on the hill, and the genre-like treatment of the ploughman going about his business. The horses, one white and one brown, appear to be weary and look past the first flush of youth. I feel quite sure it was painted for pleasure, its beauty unassuming and personal.

Turner – Dunstanburgh Castle

One of 2 watercolours selected, this is a local Northumberland scene, painted on a wild, windy day. Turner has gone for drama, the castle in the background being dominated by a craggy, jagged foreground. Between the two, sailing boats struggle into harbour, as we the viewer hold our breath, so unlikely does a safe mooring seem. There is a lightness of touch and confident handling of the elements that epitomise Turner at his best.

John Martin – The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

Martin was born in Northumberland and the gallery has a fine selection of his work. I was torn between this apocalyptic vision of destruction and *The Bard*, another huge painting where man plays second fiddle to nature. He was famous for images of fire and brimstone, and the sheer glorious abandon with which he slaps on the paint in great swathes of scarlet, orange and yellow, to convey the lethal storm descending on the towns is hugely effective. I bet he thoroughly enjoyed himself. The towns themselves are rendered with some care, as are the figures of Lot and his daughters, scurrying away to the right, insignificant as most of Martin's figures are.

John Frederick Lewis – Harem Life, Constantinople

Lewis was famous for his images of Middle Eastern life and this is the second of the 2 watercolours I have selected. The sumptuous scene reeks of ennui. The seated figure on the left teases a tabby with a peacock fan, although her heart isn't really in it. To the right, a standing figure is reflected in a curiously angled mirror, curious in that beside her reflection are the reflected feet of the artist, dressed in Arab dress as was his custom. It conveys perfectly life in a gilded cage and is one of Lewis' finest images. Paintings with Middle Eastern themes were hugely popular in Victorian times and besides Lewis, David Roberts and Edward Lear, who are both represented here at the Laing, were fond of such subjects. It is displayed flat to protect its somewhat unstable pigments.

Holman Hunt – Isabella and the Pot of Basil

Normally not my favourite Pre-Raphaelite, he wins me over with this moody interpretation of the famous story. To reinforce the macabre contents of the pot, a skull is carved on the bottom of it, while Isabella's hair drapes across it sensuously. She is a dark-haired beauty, verging on the Amazonian, barefoot and clad in a diaphanous dress, which adds an exotic touch normally not found in Holman Hunt. She could almost have strayed from Lewis' harem! The texture of the quilted cloth on the table is marvellous by any standard and compares say with the silks of an Ingres portrait, high praise in my book.

Burne-Jones – Laus Veneris

An indolent picture of great beauty. Venus reclines on her sofa, one arm about her red hair, as her attendants play courtly music to her. Through an open window, knights, who have no doubt lingered long in the company of Venus, appear to be setting off on their way, but not without a backward glance. Medieval tapestries cover the walls to enhance the Arthurian feel of the whole image. Daring use of crimsons, oranges, purples and vivid blues add to this slightly decadent homage to love. It simmers with suppressed eroticism, although it is extremely subtle and is a Burne-Jones of the highest quality.

Gauguin – The Breton Shepherdess

There are very few foreign paintings here, so it is a great pleasure to see this lovely early Gauguin. The shepherdess reclines, with her distinctive Breton costume and her clogs, keeping her watchful eyes upon her flock grazing beneath her. It is a sunny scene, with fields full of corn: pastoral and untroubled. Gauguin was much attracted to the Celtic traditions of Brittany and the closeness to the land involved in these primitive pre-Christian beliefs, an attraction that re-appears so clearly in his later Tahitian works. This is the beginning of that thread that reaches such an exotic climax in his later life.

Laura Knight – The Beach

This is possibly the best Laura Knight I have seen. It was painted whilst she was at Newlyn and captures one of those idyllic summer days when the sun shines and all is right with the world. It shows a group of girls on the beach, examining a rock pool. Most of them are in neutral shades with white bonnets or straw boaters, but the masterstroke is the central girl, dressed in olive green and sporting a brilliant scarlet scarf. She inspects the pool intently, all the while grasping the hand of an older girl, probably her sister. She is the key unifying factor to a busy scene and the whole effect is to remind us of the summers of our childhood. Given its subject, it avoids over-sentimentality admirably.

Richard Hamilton – My Marilyn

A key member of the 60s art scene in Britain, Hamilton, like Warhol, used screen print to immortalise Marilyn Monroe, the ultimate 60s icon. Here, some 12 snapshots of Marilyn are arranged on the image, many rejected with bold crosses on them. The chosen image bears a tick and is enlarged in the bottom right-hand corner of the composition. Once again colour is the key to a successful work, the dominant ones being coral, fuchsia and pale blue.

Twenty One Years Later

An extract from the speech our former President made (and including what else he would have said if he'd thought of it) when standing down at the Club's 2004 Annual Function in Portsmouth.



I have had the honour of acting as your President since 1990, which means for the pedants among you (not, of course, that there could be many of those) that I have served in three decades and two centuries – *and* I was Treasurer for six years before that. No wonder I'm feeling my age.

Recently I found this picture, taken at the first meeting of the Club Committee at what was then our new house at 25 Queen Street in the summer of 1983. It shows Sue Jenkins, Hazel Prowse, Rodney Smith, Patricia Owen, Margery Elliott, the late June Maggs, Lance Haward and Craig Scott – who will be your incoming President.

But in the centre of the picture, under the apple tree, darker of hair and slimmer of waist than now, is someone who must be me. In front of me is a little girl of some five years, who has decided that, given the weather and the company it is unnecessary to be too dressy. In my arms I am holding a fair-haired baby.

Behind me is John Withrington, then the Club's Treasurer, who then was posted to France and left me holding an even bigger baby – the Treasurership of a fledgling Club which had fewer than 150 paid-up

members (even though it thought it had over 190) and almost no funds.

Things have changed a little since then. We are still at 25 Queen Street, but the apple tree has gone, replaced by a much-needed house extension. The Mastermind Club is healthy and solvent, with over 400 members, and new recruits once more beginning to appear.

The little girl, now perhaps a touch more conservative in her dress, has two degrees and is the producer of science-based documentary programmes for television. And the blonde baby . . . is here tonight, and this year starts her PhD.

So those twenty-one years of "Informative Parent Syndrome" and the "Teddy Bears' Nitpick" may not have been completely wasted.

Thank you, Mastermind Club. I hope your new President will be as fortunate as I have been.

The Class-Conscious Ghost

Wendy Forrester recalls a remarkable encounter

“I suppose you know you have a ghost” remarked our daily help. “Well, I’ve never seen it” said my mother. “Oh, it wouldn’t reveal itself to you” said Mrs H. firmly, “It’s of the servant class”.

The large eighteenth-century house in which we were living at the time might reasonably have been supposed to contain a ghost or two, and we were tickled by the idea of a phantom – apparently looking like a butler in a baize apron – which knew its place so well. My mother never did see it, or at least never reported having done so, and nor did my father. I don’t know whether I did or not.

One Saturday afternoon my father was out and my mother was doing something in the basement. I walked into the drawing-room and stopped short at the sight of a man standing in the space between the end of the room and the adjoining pine-panelled dining-room. In that space was a cupboard holding one or two treasured articles.

To this day, I am ashamed of what I did. My behaviour would have been excusable had I been ten years old, but I must have been nearing thirty. Obviously it would have been stupid of me to challenge the burglar, but he had not seen me, and nothing would have been easier for me than to slip into the kitchen and quietly ring 999. Instead of doing that I walked down into the basement – “I mustn’t run”, I thought – and said to my mother, in a carefully quiet voice, “There’s someone in the drawing-room”. The shock of my announcement must have been even more alarming for her than the sight of the burglar had been for me, and perhaps the careful quietness of its delivery made it worse. What could I have expected her to do about the situation? I suppose I just wanted moral support, but it was criminally stupid of me to risk my mother meeting the burglar.

Together we walked up from the basement to the ground floor and into the drawing-room. The burglar was no longer there. We went cautiously into the dining-room. He was not there either. The cupboard was shut, and there was no indication that anyone had meddled with it. Not only was there no outsider in the house, but there was no sign that there ever had been one.

I don’t remember whether we sat down with a reviving cup of tea, or poured ourselves a stiff drink. Who or what had I seen? Was it a trick of the light? Perhaps, but it was a bright afternoon and not twilight. I suppose I am as fanciful as the next woman, and if I had been alone in the house on a winter’s evening it might have been quite easy to imagine I saw an intruder. If my mind had been running on either ghosts or burglars I might have fancied I saw something even in broad daylight, but it hadn’t been. Certainly when I saw the figure standing by the cupboard what I thought was “Burglar”. “Ghost” didn’t enter my head.

I don’t know whether I really saw anything. However, I think the cupboard in question had formerly been used as a kind of butler’s store. Perhaps the figure really was the class-conscious phantom Mrs H. claimed to have met. If so, I think it was a friendly one.

Brian

Timothy Robey

Oh what a rolling-deck adventures,
Patrick's readers have in store:
Maturin and Captain Aubrey,
With a British man-of-war.

Botany was fond of blipping
Honest peasants on the head,
Till they chucked him in the duckpond.
There, I think, enough's been said.

Cuts and drives in all directions
Were *his* balalaika theme
When he scored a cool five hundred
'Gainst the County Durham team.

Brian, the Irish academic,
Lived the captive's empty fears
As he knew *An Evil Cradling*
Through four chained and darkened years.

Who imbues interrogation
With such alphabetic fizz?
Two times six-and-twenty questions
Make a Bovington type quiz.

Brian Boru, once King of Ireland,
Daugherty and Appleyard,
Aldiss, Statham, Close and Redhead —
Finding more is too hard.

Henry Williamson on Exmoor

Ann Leaney

And so it is I see him, pen laid down,
'A Chronicle of Ancient Sunlight' not
Yet finished. Brought to his knees by golden
Blasts of Wagner, or else feet driven, hurled
By nightmare memories of war onto
The farthest pathways of the moor... Absorbed
And part of him, the moor, and part of him
(O Willie Madison) the estuary
And otter haunted river. On calmer
Days the moor can be, in Henry's words, a
'Faerie world' when, fern assuaged, old dreams may
Reappear. Of Barleybright the faithless,
Of Gilbert White in his church of beeches
Or Jefferies, watchful on the Wiltshire downs.

Icefall

Fred Dyson

I have had enough of living the poem
I have had enough of being the poem
I have had enough of poets writing poetry about poetry
I have had enough...

So

He had heard enough of self-quotation
The romantic chaos of the cloud
The formal ordered ice of Cocytus
The delicacy of tactile fire et cetera
Of all this he had known enough

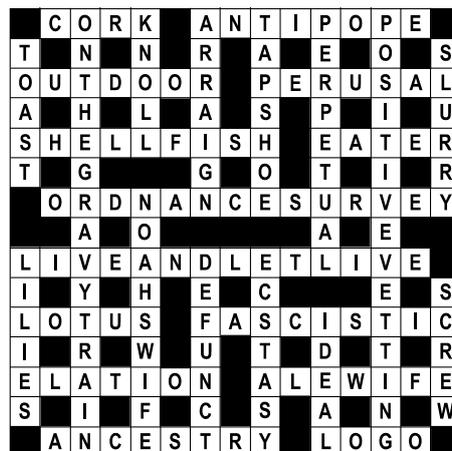
Then he looked again fascinated
The Sun still burned through the architecture of the glacier
Its spectrum shattered and displayed below the surface of the icefall
Translucent flame was dancing
The ice was living still moving
The dark green treeline was a spectral grid
It split the light cascading it through falling snow drifting

Again he looked fascinated
Always returning
Knowing order in the spiralling cloud
Knowing life in the crystallized rock

Then he looked again and realized
Realized that he had missed something
Realized that the poem had not had enough of him.

Crossword (2004:4) Solution

by *Gadfan*



A–Z Palindrome Quiz Solution and Result

The solution to the above is:-

AKAKA: Daniel Kahikina ____, American politician
ABBA: Ulvaeus, Faltskog, Lyngstad and Andersson
SUCCUS: expressed juice
RADAR: Disability and rehabilitation association
SEMEMES: the smallest linguistically analysable units
DEIFIED: made a god of
AGA: a Turkish title
OHO (or:AHA): an expression of surprise
VIV: alias Deena Payne
EJE (or OJO): a Spanish sierra
EKE: also, in addition
KELEK: a raft used on Turkey in Asia rivers
EME: from Dutch, uncle
GLENELG: South Australia was proclaimed a British colony here, 1836
ANONA: a tropical genus, including custard-apple and sweet-sop
OPPO: a companion or even one's wife
MARRAM: a seaside grass, binder of sand-dunes
NISIN: a polypeptide mixture produced by *Streptococcus lacti*
OTTO: German inventor of the 4-stroke internal combustion engine
ALULA: the bastard wing
LEVEL: the degree of progress
EWE: a woolly female
SEXES: two classes into which animals and plants are divided
KAYAK: an Inuit canoe
KAZAK a member of a Turko-Tatar people of Central Asia

Result:

Jim Prendergast: 24 out of 25 (WINNER)
Ann Leaney: 22
Timothy Robey: 18

Brian writes: "A disappointing number of entries, but this quiz was clearly a bit more difficult than usual and the onset of Christmas was probably a diversion."

A–Z Operatic Characters Quiz Solution and Result

Initial Letters

A Angelotti, *Tosca*, Puccini
B Barbara, *Natoma*, Victor Herbert
C Childerico, *Faramondo*, Handel
D Despina, *Così Fan Tutti*, Mozart
E Elviro, *Serse*, Handel
F Fiordiligi, *Così Fan Tutti*, Mozart
G Giarno, *Mignon*, Ambroise Thomas
H Haly, *L'Italiano in Algeri*, Rossini
I Isolde, *Tristan und Isolde*, Wagner

J Jacquino, *Fidelio*, Beethoven
K Koupava, *The Snow Maiden*, Rimsky-Korsakov
L Luiz, *The Gondoliers*, Sullivan
M Marguerite, *Mefistofele*, Boito
N Norma, *Norma*, Bellini
O Octavian, *Der Rosenkavalier*, Richard Strauss
P Pinkerton, *Madame Butterfly*, Puccini
Q Quickly, *Falstaff*, Verdi
R Ruiz, *Il Trovatore*, Verdi
S Sarastro, *Die Zauberflöte*, Mozart
T Tonio, *Pagliacci*, Leoncavallo
U Ulrica, *Un Ballo in Maschera*, Verdi
V Vanderdecken, *Der Fliegende Holländer*, Wagner
W Wotan, *Das Rheingold*, Wagner
X Xenia, *Boris Godunov*, Mussorgsky
Y Yvette, *La Rondine*, Puccini
Z Zerlina, *Don Giovanni*, Mozart

Last Letters

a schwandA, *Schwanda The Bagpiper*, Jaromir Weinberger
b loB (or goB or hoB), *The Poisoned Kiss*, Vaughan Williams
c tiborC, *Bánk Bán*, Ferenc Erkel
d Gerald, *Lakmé*, Delibes
e pollionE, *Norma*, Bellini
f mârouF, *The Cobbler of Cairo*, Henri Rabaud
g ponG, *Turandot*, Puccini
h macheatH, *The Beggar's Opera*, Pepusch
i Rienzi, *Rienzi*, Wagner
j budivoJ, *Dalibor*, Smetana
k wozzecK, *Wozzeck*, Berg
l arkeL, *Pelléas et Mélisande*, Debussy
m peaseblossomM, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Britten
n tristaN, *Tristan und Isolde*, Wagner
o leporelloO, *Don Giovanni*, Mozart
p archbishoP, *The Maid of Orléans*, Tchaikovsky
q coQ, *Le Coq d'Or*, Rimsky-Korsakov
r assuR, *Semiramide*, Rossini
s radameS, *Aida*, Verdi
t plunketT, *Marta*, Flotow
u turiddU, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, Mascagni
v kutuzoV, *War and Peace*, Prokofiev
w bucklaW, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Donizetti
x maX, *Der Freischütz*, Weber
y porgY, *Porgy and Bess*, Gershwin
z ramerreZ, *La Fanciulla del West*, Puccini

Result:

Sonia Anderson	52 (WINNER)
Gery Bramall	52
Richard Humphry	52
Ann Leaney	51
Rachel Leonard	51
Mike Formby	50
Patricia Cowley	49
Terry McDonald	48
Jim Prendergast	47
Mike O'Sullivan	36

On this one, Brian writes: "Quite a reasonable response to a rather specialised field, I feel! My thanks to all who attempted it."

Brian Bovington's latest challenge is an A–Z Statespersons Quiz

As usual, of course, for A–Z quizzes of 52 questions, there are two lists. In the first list, each clue is preceded by the initial letter of a statesperson's surname. In the second list, each clue is preceded by the last letter of the surname. In each clue I have included the person's best-known 'first' name, plus the year of birth and an additional clue. Only the missing surname is required when submitting answers.

Initial Letters

- A Konrad, 1876, educated at the Universities of Freiburg, Munich and Bonn
- B Sirimavo, 1916, née Ratwatte
- C Joseph, 1836, famous for sporting monocle and orchid
- D Willem, 1886, Netherlands PM 1948–1958
- E Herbert, 1894, born at East Maitland
- F Garrett, 1926, autobiography: *All In A Life*, 1991
- G John, 1921, became a senator for Ohio in 1975
- H Michael, 1941, education: Llanelli Grammar School and Peterhouse
- I Ismet, 1884, elected President of Turkey in 1938
- J Glenda, 1936, played Elizabeth in TV's *Elizabeth R* in 1971
- K Henry, 1923, awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 1973
- L George, 1709, became MP for Okehampton in 1735
- M Golda, 1898, née Mabovich
- N Joshua, 1917, former welfare officer on Rhodesia Railways
- O James, 1725, killed by lightning in 1783
- P John, 1915, married Valerie Hobson in 1954
- Q Nicole, 1930, daughter of Pierre Valayer and Elisabeth Mills
- R Ronald, 1911, acted in *Bedtime for Bonzo* in 1951
- S Achmed, 1901, ousted by Suharto
- T Pierre, 1919, awarded Albert Einstein International Peace Prize in 1984
- U Walter, 1893, instrumental in building the Berlin Wall in 1961
- V Henry, 1613, Governor of Massachusetts, 1635–1637
- W Bulstrode, 1605, sent as ambassador to Sweden in 1653
- X Francisco, 1436, became Confessor to Queen Isabella in 1492
- Y Boris, 1931, autobiography: *Against The Grain*, 1990
- Z Haim, 1913, son of Abraham and Malka Just-Wilkenfeld

As usual, Brian will award a £10 book token to the sender of the best entry and if two or more entries tie for first place, then the earliest checked after the closing date of **31 March 2005** will be the winner.

Send entries to Brian Bovington, 63 Lake Road, Stalybridge, Cheshire, SK15 1JE.

Last Letters

- a Nelson, 1918, *No Easy Walk to Freedom* 1965 publication
- b Charles, 1939, married Lynda Bird Johnson in 1967
- c Milan, 1929, Yugoslavia PM in 1992
- d John, 1939, MP for Bennelong
- e Robert, 1676, 1st Earl of Orford
- f Dominic, 1916, born at Cospicua
- g William, 1874, middle names: Lyon Mackenzie
- h Kun, 1938, Lee Soo-Sung's successor as PM
- i Benito, 1883, known as *Il Duce*
- j Kukrit, 1911, PM in real life and in a Brando film
- k Helen, 1950, educated at Epsom Girls' Grammar School before going on to university
- l Helmut, 1930, married Hannelore Renner in 1960
- m Henry, 1778, a founder of the Edinburgh Review in 1802
- n Abraham, 1809, married Mary Todd in 1842
- o Benazir, 1953, autobiography: *Daughter of the East*, 1988
- p Joachim, 1893, became German ambassador to Britain in 1936
- q Willy, 1927, married Fernande Fazzi in 1953
- r Adolf, 1889, born at Braunau
- s Louis, 1797, born at Marseilles
- t Carl, 1949, publication: *Framtid I Frihet*, 1976
- u Georges, 1841, nicknamed *The Tiger*
- v Nikolai, 1929, First Deputy Chair of Gosplan 1979–1982
- w Bernhard, 1849, became a prince of the German Empire in 1905
- x Adolphe, 1869, burgomaster of Brussels at start of WW1
- y Charles, 1925, born at Castlebar
- z Francisco, 1827, cost Paraguay dearly!