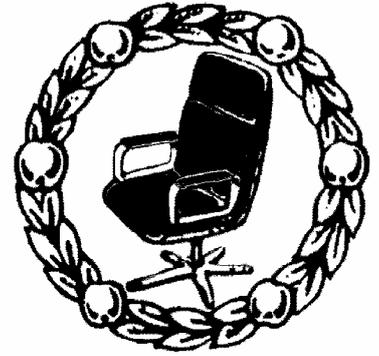


pass



The Quarterly Magazine of the Mastermind Club



"I'm sure there's a famous bridge around here somewhere..."

2009:3

1 Membership matters

2 Help Us to Help You: The Response

6 Letters, News and Views

6 Somewhere in an Alternate Universe: The National Pub Quiz Agency

7 Somewhere in an Alternate Universe: Modern Maths

8 More Letters, News and Views

9 Master Quiz 2009, Round 2 Answers

10 Mugnum 2009 Results

11 Mugnum 2009 Answers

12 Recalling Days Spent at Sea

13 A Taste of 'Unknown Europe' – or, Two Weeks in South Germany

15 Solution to Prize Crossword 2009:2

16 Prize Crossword 2009:3

IBC A Literary Quiz result

BC Quiz: Language and Literature Quiz

pass and its contents ©2009 by the Mastermind Club except where noted. Contributions are welcome but may be edited or held over owing to space limitations. Check with the Editor for advice on the format of contributions. All material is published at the sole discretion of the Editor and Committee. Copy deadlines are the last of January (Issue 1), April (2), July (3), and October (4). Publication is normally 4–6 weeks later. Please notify the Secretary of any problems in receiving pass (allow an extra week or two for printing and postal delays).

Officers and Committee

President Alan D. Blackburn

Hon. Vice-President

Tony Dart

Secretary Gavin Fuller

Treasurer Susan Leng

Membership Secretary Peter W. J. Chitty

Editor of pass Ken Emond

Committee Members

Patricia Owen

Ann Kelly

Phillida Grantham

Club Shopping

Please note that prices quoted below no longer include postage and packing. If ordering insignia to be delivered by post, **please add £3 per item**. Send a cheque with your order, payable to the Mastermind Club, to:

Phillida Grantham

New Insignia – great value, high quality!

Polo Shirts

Navy (M (limited quantity), L, XL) 15.00

Red (M (limited quantity), L, XL) 15.00

Bottle Green (M (limited quantity), L, XL) 15.00

Jackets

Reversible Mistral (S, M, L) 23.95

Weatherwise (M, L) 19.95

Polar Fleece (S, M, L) 18.50

Ties

Maroon (multi-logo) 7.00

T- shirts

White on dark navy (L, XL, XXL) 6.00, or 3 for £10.00 (special offer)

Sweatshirts

Oatmeal (L) 15.00

Red (L, XL) 15.00

Jewellery

Stick pins 6.00

Membership matters

Peter Chitty, Membership Secretary

In the three months since my last Membership Matters another 19 new members have joined the club, 17 of whom are from the new 2010 series, the 32nd, which started transmission on Friday 29th August.

They are:

NEW MEMBERS

1019 (2005) Mr Colin KIDD 132 Park Avenue, BUSHEY, Herts. WD23 2BB

1033 (2009) Mr Christopher BOOTE 7 Lambly Hill, VIRGINIA WATER, Surrey GU25 4BF

The following members are from the upcoming 2010 series

1020 Mr John GREER 3 Granary Mill, Preston on the Hill, WARRINGTON, Cheshire WA4 6GA

1021 Mr Les MORRELL 15 Armitage Close, Cringleford, NORWICH NR4 6XZ

1022 Mr Jim MURDOCK 22 Churchill Park, BANGOR, Co Down N.Ireland BT20 5RL

1023 Dr Valerie J. ROEBUCK 10 Lynwood Avenue, Whalley Range, MANCHESTER, M16 8JZ

1024 Mr Brian SOUTHGATE Holborn Farmhouse, Letcombe Bassett, WANTAGE, Oxon OX12 9LR

1025 Mrs Chloe STONE Upper Flat, The Dispensary, Ranmore Common, DORKING, Surrey, RH5 6SR

1026 Mr Jim CROMPTON 376 Pump Lane, RAINHAM, Kent ME8 7IJ

1027 Mrs Penny BILLYEALD Bethesda, UPPER BASILDON, Berkshire, RG8 8NU

1028 Mr Kevin QUINN 4 Carolsteen Park, HELEN'S BAY Co Down, N.Ireland BT19 1JO

1029 Mr Andy CRANE 7 Willow Lodge, Warwick Drive, Putney, LONDON SW15 6LG

1030 Mr Philip J. EVISON 3 John Clynes Court, Woodborough Road, LONDON SW15 6PU

1031 Mr John C. GRASHAM 2 Kidgate Court, LOUTH, Lincolnshire LN11 9BF

1032 Mr Paul ROBSON 12 Langley Avenue, SHIREMOOR, Tyne and Wear NE27 0UB

1036 Mr Brian ALLERDYCE 66 Littondale The Shires WALLSEND Tyne and Wear NE28 8TZ

1034 Mr Neil O'DONOVAN 39a St James Green THIRSK North Yorkshire YO7 1AQ

1035 Mr David TAYLOR 31 Southmayne Road SUNDERLAND SR4 8QU

1037 Mr Michael McPARTLAND 32 Malvern Drive Acklam MIDDLESBROUGH TS5 8JB

I think that the club owes a debt of gratitude to the Producer Jon Kelly for all his help in encouraging new contestants to join the Mastermind Club.

I hope that they will all have a long and happy association with us, and I hope to see a large number of you in Exeter next year.

I end with the sad news of the death of Kenneth Goodridge a member since 1990. who lived in Largs Scotland. His first round was in Sheffield. The club sends it's sincere condolences to Kenneth's wife and family.

Help Us to Help You: The Response

Ken Emond

On behalf of Leo, myself and the Committee, I would like to thank all of the Club members who took the time and trouble to respond to the questionnaire (published in **pass** 2009:2). In total we received 19 responses from members who fall roughly into three main groups. There were those from people, such as Michael Davison and Stewart Cross, who are very regular attenders at the weekend reunions; a second group including such as Jean Burke and Keith Bogle who were once regulars, but who, for various reasons have been unable to join us recently; and third, and perhaps most valuable to hear from, there were three members, Sally Branston, Janet French and Andrew Grealey, who have never attended a reunion, but who made the effort to submit their views.

With such a relatively small sample size, it seems rather meaningless to provide a detailed analysis of the responses to each question. Some respondents, in any event, wrote with their overall impressions rather than specific answers to each question individually. So, if you will bear with me (and I welcome further responses either way), what follows is a flavour of the responses received, rather than a scientific breakdown.

Cost

On cost, the consensus was that we have been, on average, getting the balance right between the expensive and the down-market. All but one member who gave individual answers agreed with this. Stewart Cross gave a typical response, “Cost is clearly a factor for most people, as they are not especially cheap weekends...”, while Hazel Prowse noted that, “... you would have difficulty in getting two nights [anywhere] in Britain for anything like the price of a week in Spain.”

There was more diversity of opinion about the appropriate average amount to pay per person per night for hotel accommodation, with a roughly even split between the £55-70 range and the £70-85 range. A small number suggested that over £85 was not unreasonable in the current UK hotel market. Christine Moorcroft, for example, explained that she prefers “good hotels, and for that you have to pay”, a view echoed by Keith Bogle, who noted that if “the hotel is sufficiently good, the cost may be irksome, but at least one feels one has had value for money”. Sally Branston, as a non-regular attender asked, “if people can’t afford the suggested hotel, is there anything to stop them booking their own cheaper accommodation and just attending the social events, meetings etc?” To which, of course, the answer is no – there have always been some members each year who have done this, and it can often be a very positive experience. Peter Chitty, for example, highly recommended the bed and breakfast establishment where he stayed in Blackpool, located not far from the main venue for the weekend. Mary Gibson suggested including a selection of local B&Bs in the vicinity of the main location for future events with the booking information about the weekend.

Both Sally Branston and Hazel Prowse referred jestingly to tents, and while Sally did add, “I wouldn’t mind ‘going cheap’ if we were going to stay in an interesting or unusual location”, both she and Hazel did say that they doubted if any Masterminders would “enjoy the privations”.

Tony Dart (and others) mentioned our former practice of using university accommodation, without recommending a return to it, although Christine Moorcroft did add, “a university or college campus is better than some cheap hotels”. I can certainly attest to this from my knowledge of St Andrews University, where the New Hall seems light years distant from the accommodation I experienced as an undergraduate and postgraduate in the 1980s. Indeed it has been specifically designed and marketed to cater to tourists out of student term time.

Unsurprisingly, perhaps, there was complete unanimity against the proposition that, if future events fell outside anyone’s price range, they would be put off forever. Conversely, however, David Cowan did suggest that he “might be deterred if I thought that the accommodation quality was being sacrificed to get it ...cheap”

Location

One central problem with some of the questions that Leo asked about location, noted especially by Geoff Thomas, is that, naturally, most members have no clear idea about where the Club has gone before, at least prior to when they themselves joined. As I have the privilege of access to all of the past issues of **pass**, I have been able to piece together the details, though doubtless some of the longer-standing members of the Club may have points to add to what I have done – on page 4, you will find a full list of the venues for the 31 previous Annual General Meetings of the Club, from the first in the Café Royal, London in 1978 to the 31st in the Imperial Hotel, Blackpool.

A clear majority agreed that the policy of alternating north and south was desirable. Only two dissenting voices were raised on this one. Ray Ward found it “odd that we’ve never been to some of Britain’s biggest cities – Birmingham, Manchester, Sheffield” [but Birmingham was a long-ago venue], while Tony Dart pointed out that a strict rotation could “prevent the Club from taking advantage of good value offers from hotels.”

Leo’s next couple of questions were about how and where decisions should be taken on future venues. These provoked perhaps the most varied responses of all. Some suggested that the AGM was a good discussion forum, while others were emphatically opposed to the idea. Ray Ward summarised the majority view succinctly when writing, “suggestions should always be welcomed at the AGM but the final decision must lay with the organiser for all the practical reasons we know”.

The final question on location was about returning to previously visited locations. As noted above, it was hard for many members to answer this question with any degree of certainty (publishing the list of past venues should help on this), but, in principle, the majority were very much in favour of the policy of returning, after a suitable gap, to a particular location. Andrew Grealey spoke for many on this: “provided there is at least (say) 10 years between visits to a specific location, there’s no harm in doing so.”

Events and Activities

Leo asked if members preferred more organised tours of allocation or near attractions, for example by coach or bus, bearing in mind the extra cost. Here there was a diversity of opinion. As Hazel Prowse mentioned, the display of maps and guides at the venue helps enormously, and several people thought it would depend on the location. Ray Ward felt that ‘free time to do as one likes’ was welcome, while Sally Branston recommended the activities of a type such as many members enjoyed at Blackpool, ‘let’s meet in the foyer and go for a self-guided tour’ of such and such a place. But, Sally added, a full programme might be an attractive inducement to attend.

There was more unanimity against in-hotel events. Although Lance Haward reminded us that lectures/displays of members’ own specialities and expertise has not been entirely unknown, and I can recall with great pleasure the talk given by Tony Dart’s late father at Cardiff in 1992 (the first event I attended at my first AGM), the majority were unconvinced. As Christine Moorcroft explained (echoed by Andrew Grealey), “people with mobility problems are no more keen to spend an entire weekend within the confines of a hotel than anyone else...”

Leo explained that no activities were obligatory during the weekend, but the majority of respondents very much welcomed the organisation of communal meals. As Stewart Cross noted, the problem of a looser structure with regard to various meals is that it “poses the not inconsiderable danger of isolating some members and thus reinforcing the image of the Club as being cliquey” (a topic we will come on to shortly), and this view was echoed by Mary Gibson. There was no support for moving the AGM from a Sunday morning, and unanimous rejection of the idea of holding the AGM on a weekday or at a time to coincide with public holidays.

As to time of year, the majority were in favour of no change from the present April/Easter timing. Some voices raised other possibilities. Without advocating change as such, Sonia Anderson noted that July-September was a time to take advantage of university conference facilities; Sally Branston suggested she might be more likely to attend a summer gathering; and Geoff Thomas suggested September/October might be a less busy time than Easter. Interestingly the early AGMs of the Club were held in September, before the move to April in 1983.

Finally, Leo asked about motivation and incentives. Here, not surprisingly there was a clear divide between those who attend regularly and those who do not. Janet French, Andrew Grealey and Sally Branston all referred to a reason for not having attended being a perception that the Club might be cliquy. “What if everybody else knows each other from previous events and nobody speaks to me?” Andrew Grealey recognised the obvious riposte to this that “if every member who felt like that actually turned up, there would be less likelihood of a clique (or at least there’d be a larger one!)”

I can only speak of my own personal experience – I went to the Club reunion in Cardiff in 1992 feeling exactly such trepidations. The Club had already been going for many years and I had only ever met one member prior to the weekend (the late Jack Clark who had encouraged me to join). I can only say that the welcome I received from people like Phillida Grantham (then Secretary of the Club), Tony Dart, Kevin Ashman, Sue Jenkins and many others could not have been warmer – with the result that I have made many very deep and lasting friendships. It would be great to have the opportunity to pass on that warmth of welcome to many new members or first-time attenders in future.

As for the regular attenders – the motivation is clear: the opportunity to visit interesting places, to see or make friends and to enjoy the convivial atmosphere. Most, also, unsurprisingly, enjoy the weekend quiz, even if they do not themselves take part in the preliminaries of the Magnum or go in for the Mugnum.

So, I hope this survey of views has helped you – it will certainly help the committee in planning future events. Please feel free to continue the debate with further comments if thoughts strike you – I would be delighted to hear from you.

Finally, a few words from some of the most fervent admirers of the Club’s reunion weekends:

Phillida Grantham: “I have been to every weekend since 1983 and have enjoyed virtually all of them. The present format is very satisfactory, it is great to meet old friends and there are always things of interest to see in every location”

Geoff Thomas: “Above all, keep the AGM/weekend gatherings going. I look forward to it for months...”

Michael Davison: “I have been enjoying the Mastermind Club Reunion for 26 years... with only a very few unavoidable absences. It is an event I look forward to, for the pleasure of meeting old friends and for the attractions offered by so many cities and towns which I would probably never otherwise have visited. It is the unchanging character of the reunion that, for me, gives it much of its appeal. I know what to expect. I know the weekend will be fun. I will be among companionable fellow members with the bond of our shared experience in the black chair. Over the years, the event has become hallowed by the patina of tradition... Keep your cool: you have a superb formula there, established by your predecessors, and you tamper with it at your peril...”

Past Club AGMs have been held as follows:	14 th , 1992, Cardiff, Crest Hotel
31 st , 2009, Blackpool, Imperial Hotel	13 th , 1991, Roehampton, Froebel Institute
30 th , 2008, Cardiff, Holiday Inn	12 th , 1990, Edinburgh, Pollock Halls, Edinburgh Univ
29 th , 2007, Liverpool, Liner Hotel	11 th , 1989, Roehampton, Froebel Institute
28 th , 2006, Norwich, Maid’s Head Hotel	10 th , 1988, Cambridge, Jesus College
27 th , 2005, Gateshead, Swallow Hotel	9 th , 1987, Roehampton, Froebel Institute
26 th , 2004, Portsmouth, Queen’s Hotel	8 th , 1986, Bath, Lansdowne Grove Hotel
25 th , 2003, Leeds, Le Meridien Metropole Hotel	7 th , 1985, London, Ladbroke Hotel, Hampstead
24 th , 2002, Glasgow, Jury’s Hotel	6 th , 1984, York, University of York
23 rd , 2001, Bristol, Jury’s Hotel	5 th , 1983, London, International Students House and BBC
22 nd , 2000, Carlisle, Crown & Mitre Hotel	4 th , 1982, Birmingham, Grand Hotel
21 st , 1999, Oxford, Mansfield College	3 rd , 1981, London, BBC Television Centre
20 th , 1998, Dublin, Mount Herbert Hotel	[1980 in Bath was cancelled due to lack of support]
19 th , 1997, Harrow, University of Westminster	2 nd , 1979, London, BBC Television Centre
18 th , 1996, Teesside Airport, St George’s Airport Hotel	1 st , 1978, London, Café Royal
17 th , 1995, London, Imperial College	[NB Early AGMs were held in London every other year because the BBC hosted a reception for the Club]
16 th , 1994, Chester, Grosvenor Hotel	
15 th , 1993, London Imperial College	

Letters, news and views

From Stewart Cross

Traveller's Tales – Ticking the Boxes

WELL KEN, IN RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUEST to contribute to the travel discussion, here are a few thoughts.

I am lucky enough to have travelled a fair amount and I also still have my wish list (Are lists a male pre-occupation by the way? Many believe so). My problem has always been a somewhat odd mixture of interests. My passion is the visual arts, but as a child I was fascinated by natural history and remain so to a large degree. History has also been a great love and my degree is in geography, a subject I was drawn to because of its connection with how people live in different, often hostile environments. Not surprisingly this has led to a wish list that is long and seemingly confused!

I have spent much time in the great artistic centres of the world (Venice, Florence, Rome, Paris, Madrid – indeed a whole trip to the eastern seaboard of the U.S.A. was focused on the great galleries of New York, Washington, Philadelphia and Boston). My long suffering wife finally rebelled in Boston, choosing to go shopping instead! Equally I love the splendour and majesty of the great outdoors and wild things, hence trips to the Himalayas, the Andes, the Sahara, Niagara, the jungles of Costa Rica and the wonderful Samaria Gorge in Crete. When I can combine this with my interest in early civilisations then so much the better and trips to the Middle East, Peru, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Egypt and Greece worked on so many levels. My trouble is that there are so many places and experiences that I want to sample. I love people watching, so sitting in a Damascus café watching the world go by, enjoying a leisurely seafood lunch in a fishing harbour overlooking the Aegean or sipping an espresso in a quiet Venetian square are all attractive prospects.

Serendipity plays a huge part in the travel experience: the unexpected fiesta, the arrival of the fishing boats, the sudden appearance of a wild and beautiful creature, the spontaneous street music of Havana. I learn, as any regular traveller surely must, that people are in the main hospitable and friendly, that their aspirations for a comfortable life and the expectations of a better one for their children are universal. What unites us is far more important than what divides us.

So where do I still yearn to visit? As I write this my wife and I are 4 weeks away from a tour of the Baltic area, of which the highlight will be St. Petersburg. This is a box that has been crying out for a tick for many a long year. China remains a gap that longs to be filled as does Uzbekistan with the draw of Samarkand. Perhaps above all is the pull of Antarctica, which I shall probably never visit on the grounds of cost alone!. My mother's family are of the clan Ross, and among them my great, great (not sure how many!) uncles John and James, the polar explorers. It would be something to savour, to follow in their giant footsteps and see for myself the Ross Sea and the Ross Ice Shelf. But I don't regret this gap too much, for dreams are essential to our well being. How dreadful it would be to have visited everywhere and quite possibly to have seen very little.

There are of course places I have no wish to visit. Although I love many cities, the conspicuous consumption of Dubai and Las Vegas, the urban sprawl of Tokyo and Los Angeles and the grim broodiness of Moscow are all places I can live without. Similarly the endless and unrelenting flatness of the Prairies or the Australian outback offer little except the prospect of an occasional bison or kangaroo!

I like to be surprised by places; the great harbour at Valetta, surprising for its scale, the Arena chapel in Padua, surprising for its almost overwhelming beauty, the Roman city of Apamea in Syria, surprising for its solitude, and watching the sunrise in Wadi Rum, surprising for the 'Boy's Own' feeling it induced that I was Lawrence of Arabia. It's this capacity to be surprised that provides the vital spark, that clearly inspires both Lance and Bernard as well; the unexpected angle as it were.

Despite my luck in having visited so many wonderful places, some of my most memorable and enjoyable holidays have been the simplest: canal cruising in Burgundy, cycling in Provence and Tuscany and 2 weeks walking and boating in Paxos, an island merely 7 miles by 2. Sometimes the thought that round that corner isn't a gallery, a palace, an archeological treasure or a heart-stopping view is a blessed relief. Because that is when you raise your leisurely glass and say 'Cheers'.

Somewhere in an alternate Universe

From Tony Dart

The National Pub Quiz Agency

[This was adapted from a case study for use in teaching civil servants the principles of Priority Based Budgeting (PBB)].

Background

In 2005 a Government Minister noted that the practice of holding Quiz Nights in pubs and wine bars was leading to many undesirable social effects, which she summarised as:

- A general lack of proper seriousness in answering questions, especially in the later rounds of any quiz
- An apparently inappropriate consumption of alcoholic drinks
- A clear lack of gender equality, in that over 80% of successful teams contained no more than one female or member of an ethnic minority group
- An obvious bias against female and ethnic minority issues in the setting of questions (for example, in a survey of “Sports” rounds, of 100 questions set on Association Football only one concerned women’s soccer, when of course there should have been at least 50).

For these pressing reasons, it was resolved that the entire pub quiz industry needed to be placed under state regulation, and in 2006 legislation was passed in Parliament to set up the National Pub Quiz Agency (NPQA) as an NDPB under DIUS, with a general remit to:

“Regulate the operation of public-house and other social quiz contests, ensuring race and gender balance in the setting of questions, conduct of contests, formation of quiz leagues, and award of prizes, throughout the UK”.

Present Situation: 2009-2010

The NPQA has now been in operation for three years. It has grown to a staff of 35 with a total running costs budget, excluding accommodation fixed costs, of over £2million. This is funded by an unpopular levy on licensed premises.

Budgetary pressure in general, and an upcoming Comprehensive Spending Review in particular, have made it necessary to review the costs and benefits of the work of the NPQA before the year 2010-2011. It has been resolved that the right way to proceed is via a PBB exercise.

The task is to define service levels (current, minimum, two intermediate and one enhanced), evaluate their costs, identify their outcomes, and prepare (as a flip-chart exercise) a Panel submission. The submission should clearly identify the consequences of not funding each option.

Service Levels 2010-2011

Current and intermediate levels of service:

Under its original statutory Framework Document of 2005, the NPQA is required to “achieve a review rate of 10% of all public-house and wine bar quiz contests in every year”.

At that time there were estimated to be **200,000** such quiz contests per year, and the number was growing. Pub Quiz Inspectors (PQIs) at EO grade were recruited. Each PQI can complete 1000 reviews or visits per year (ie 4-5 per working day), so 20 were employed and are now fully trained. These are supervised by 4 HEO staff (one for every five PQIs) and the management team is completed by a fixed complement of 2 staff at G6 grade and an SCS-level Director.

For the purposes of this exercise, and given the nationwide travel involved, a T&S cost of £1000/year should be included for each permanent employee in every service level

In addition, the NPQA developed and now provides two other levels of service:

- Gender Equality Service (GES) – 4 staff at SEO supported by two at AO. Their purpose is to ensure that every pub quiz contest with more than four teams includes at least one drawn from an all-women shortlist. Strangely, this useful service has not proved popular with the licensed trade, and the women contestants recruited are inexplicably reluctant to leave their existing mixed-gender teams
- Welsh Language Quiz Group (WLOG) – Although the Welsh Language Act does not apply to social contests, the NPQA decided to promote the use of Welsh in quizzing. This service has struggled to establish itself, mainly because (i) it could not find an appropriate title, given that the Welsh language alphabet does not contain the letters Q or Z; and (ii) the only take-up of Welsh-language quiz contests so far has been in Anglesey on Sundays, when the pubs are shut. The WLOG is staffed by two persons at G7 and costs £100k per year in translation consultancy fees.

Minimum level of service

Curiously, despite the valuable and valiant efforts of the Agency, participation in pub quizzes appears to be declining. No doubt this is due to the credit crunch. It is estimated that in the year 2010-11, the total number of such quizzes to be reviewed will be **150,000**.

Enhanced level of service

Always aiming to extend its range of useful regulatory outputs, the NPQA is proposing to launch in 2010-11 a chargeable Quiz Question Production and League Management Service. This will involve an additional 2 SEO staff, assisted by four at AA grade, supervised by one additional G6. The main expense, however, will be printing and postage at £400k per year.

Surveys of licensees and contestants suggest that this concept will, by tidying up existing unsatisfactory arrangements, prove both useful and popular. Its likely incremental income from charges, when established, will be £750k per year.

From Michael Schwartz

Modern Maths

SCOTTISH MODERN MATHEMATICS PAPER 2009 DRAFT HIGHER GRADE MODERN MATHEMATICS HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL

GLASGOW REGION

Name.....

Nickname.....

Gang Name.....

1. Shuggie has bought half a kilo of cocaine for large. He wants to make 300% on the deal and still pay Mad Malky his 10% protection money.. How much must he charge for a gram?

2. Wee Davie reckons he'll get £42.50 extra Marriage Allowance a week if he ties the knot with Fat Alice. Even if he steals the ring, the wedding will cost him £587. And he'll have to start buying two fish suppers at £3.95 each every night instead of one. How long will it be before Davie wishes he'd stayed single?

EDINBURGH / BORDERS REGION

Name.....
Rugby Club.....
Daddy's Company.....

1. Gavin has a spare ticket for Julian Clary at The Festival Fringe. But Benji and Adrian BOTH want to go with him. How long does he cry before giving them the tickets?
2. Half of Peter's friends say that they went to school with Ewan McGregor. Another third say they were Gordon Brown's flat mate at University. A sixth say that their dad played rugby with Tony Blair's dad and the rest say Sean Connery was their milkman. Only one is telling the truth, so how many friends does Peter have?

HIGHLANDS REGION

Name.....
Glen.....
Clan

1. After Hector's death, Archie has to pay Death Duty on Glenbogle. With 25,000 acres, Archie must pay £1.76 for the first 15,000 acres and 90p per acre for the remainder, including VAT. How many people actually give a toss?
2. If you caught a Loch Ness Monster 115 feet long and each foot weighed 27lbs, how much money would you make by selling your exclusive story and pictures?

Sorry, other questions have been delayed by heavy snowfall and will be here as soon as the Cockbridge-Tomintoul road re-opens in the spring!

More Letters, news and views

From Lance Haward

Friendly of my old friend Chris Pelly to attribute grammatical nicety to me to the extent of apologizing for “*verbalizing a noun*”. If I may do a Ray Ward on him and point out that he’s got it back to front! Cf any Shakespeare play you choose – “Exit”: present 3rd-person singular, 4th conjugation verb “*exeo*”. It is, on the contrary, the glowing green sign over the Emergency door that nominalizes the verb.

A touch of pedantry never comes amiss in such a multi-knowledgeable journal. Oh yes, the jump thing. Well done. How Chris can regard that suicidal madness as safer than skiing, as an inveterate but now veteran skier I can’t imagine.

[And in a further letter, Lance continues]

My problem with verbalized nouns has been publicized in **pass** before, not without sympathetic support from other Members.

In the course of the Berlin World Athletics Championships, however, I (and every one else) was treated to what I think is an entirely new aberration – the verbalized adjective. Commentator Steve Cram (such was the shock to my intellectual system, the identity of the race in question has been entirely erased from the mental slate) delivered himself of the enthusiastic remark that runner X “*managed to brutal his way through the pack...*”.

Anyone come across any other example of this unfortunately emergent genre?

Master Quiz 2009

Gavin Fuller provides the answers to Round 2 of this year's Master Quiz.

- 1) *Under Milk Wood* by Dylan Thomas
- 2) Ice Hockey
- 3) Ecuador
- 4) A small mountain lake
- 5) Dublin
- 6) Giles Gilbert Scott
- 7) Blue
- 8) Octophobia
- 9) The Piano
- 10) The Hitler Diaries
- 11) Carl von Linnaeus
- 12) Cabbage White
- 13) Alan Bradley
- 14) Laura Robson
- 15) The Earl of Wessex
- 16) Roll-on, roll-off
- 17) Fountain by Marcel Duchamp
- 18) The Royal navy (after Andrew Miller, a particularly effective press-ganger)
- 19) Old Trafford
- 20) Al Murray
- 21) 200
- 22) Jerusalem
- 23) Median
- 24) Jan van Eyck
- 25) The Archangel Gabriel
- 26) Narwhal
- 27) Mulligatawny
- 28) Carbon-14
- 29) Richard (Dick) Whittington
- 30) In mountains
- 31) (Brown) Hare
- 32) The Piano
- 33) Fisherman's Friend
- 34) Frederick Delius
- 35) *Hamlet and Love's Labours Lost*
- 36) The Krankie
- 37) Data Storage (in digital cameras, mobile phones, computers etc)
- 38) Nicolas Sarkozy
- 39) John Lewis
- 40) Sagrada Familia
- 41) The four houses at Hogwarts School in the *Harry Potter* series of books
- 42) Ersatz
- 43) Punch
- 44) The best-laid plans of Mice and Men
- 45) Marlon Brando
- 46) Thunder
- 47) Cardiopulmonary resuscitation
- 48) The Lute
- 49) Cook with it (its a type of pastry)
- 50) John Betjeman
- 51) The Dome of Florence Cathedral
- 52) Portugal
- 53) Kew
- 54) M50
- 55) Culzean
- 56) Seigneur of Sark
- 57) Grouse (*Lagopus*)
- 58) Portsmouth, when they won the FA Cup (their last major trophy being the League Championship in 1950)
- 59) Portugal
- 60) Lake Ontario
- 61) Sharp
- 62) Cricket (he's actually Ed J Morse)
- 63) Justinian
- 64) Abdul Abulbul Amir
- 65) White
- 66) The Dordogne and Garonne
- 67) Mamma Mia!
- 68) The Lion and Albert
- 69) Planxty
- 70) Parma
- 71) Transpiration
- 72) They were the world record times run by Usain Bolt when he won the Men's 100m and 200m titles
- 73) Longinus
- 74) Public Information films
- 75) Solitaire in *Live and Let Die*
- 76) Christina
- 77) Mithraism

- | | |
|--|---|
| 78) Tin | 90) Southport |
| 79) Associated Press | 91) Coffee Bean |
| 80) 2 | 92) Excessive secretion of breast milk |
| 81) Ottorino Respighi | 93) The International Society for Krishna Consciousness
more popularly called Hare Krishna) |
| 82) Deborah | 94) What people could buy (particularly dress) based on
their income and/or social status |
| 83) Belize | 95) Survivors |
| 84) November | 96) Martin Clues |
| 85) Peterborough United (their nickname being The Posh
which Beckham claimed was hers by right despite
Peterborough having used it long before she
unfortunately became famous) | 97) They are the sculptures that have appeared on the
fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square rather than putting
some proper statuary on there |
| 86) Darts | 98) King's Lynn |
| 87) F-Number (or Focal ratio) | 99) Ψ (Psi) |
| 88) Wick | 100) W.C. Fields |
| 89) Oceania | |

MUGNUM 2009

Scores

Individual

Mel Kinsey	25.5
Stewart Cross	21.6
Kevin Ashman	21.4
Pat Gibson	21
Ann Kelly	20.7
Geoff Thomas	20
Sonia Anderson	19.8
David Cowan	17.1
Ray Ward	16.1
Paul Emerson	15.7
Patricia Cowley	13.3
Leslie Grout	12.8
Peter Chitty	12.7
Pauline Wells	12.7
Michael Davison	11
Glenys Hopkins	11
Rosemary James	10.7
Patricia Owen	10.1
Hazel Prowse	8.4
Wendy Forrester	7.5

Team

Pro-Tem	21.8
(Phillida Grantham, Susan Leng, Anne Miller & Ken Emond)	

Answers to the 2009 Mugnum Questions (printed in 2009:2)

- 13: Maine or Montana
- 20: The Electric Tramway
- 22: Chief Veterinary Officer
- 61: Pembrokeshire (Just off the A40 halfway between St Clears and Haverfordwest)
- 81: Hurricanes
- 123: Ellis Peters (Edith Pargeter)
- 145: Russia
- 275: Cast Iron
- 280: Stars on their flags
- 287: Nigella Lawson
- 307: I Didn't Know You Cared
- 342: Sir Hiram Maxim
- 349: Sir Stanley Matthews
- 394: It has the longest-known half-life of an isotope (2.2×10^{24} years)
- 443: George Formby
- 455: 20
- 457: Stars & Stripes Forever
- 475: Koblenz
- 496: Matilda
- 526: Miss Maud Silver (referred to in the works of Patricia Wentworth)
- 549: Air Shows (First major one in Britain was in Blackpool in April 1909)
- 579: They are both nicknames of Blackpool Football Club
- 596: William Henry Harrison – 1 month in 1841
- 642: They were both born Pratts (William Henry and Dennis respectively)
- 672: They are the four heads depicted on Mount Rushmore
- 687: They are numbers of BBC channels on Freeview
- 692: The great Ian Anderson of Jethro Tull
- 696: North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)
- 731: Sooty
- 766: Noam Chomsky
- 769: She was in prison (Countess Marciewicz having been interned due to the Emergency situation in Ireland)
- 819: Sheffield Wednesday
- 824: The Antarctic Circumpolar Current
- 866: Giorgio Barbarelli aka Giorgio da Castelfranco or Giorgione (1476/8-1510)
- 869: Yates Wine Lodge
- 955: *Hard Times*
- 986: Eminem
- 988: Arjuna

Recalling Days Spent at Sea

Ann Leaney reports on the splendours of travelling by cruise ship

The splendid ship, Queen Elizabeth II, is now undergoing drastic changes in Dubai as she is converted into a dockside hotel. However, those that have sailed in her, indeed those who have not done so, are left with affectionate memories. They, unlike the ship, cannot be altered.

It was fortunate for my husband John and I that for many years my brother Roland Hasell was captain of the Queen Elizabeth 2. We have enduring memories of eventful days on board QE2 and other Cunard ships.

In 1991 we were in the Caribbean at the time that it seemed that war was about to break out in Iraq. As our son was already in Iraq, in the services, we were anxious. My brother and I visited the White Church on Martinique (a copy of the Parisian St Cloud) and fell to our knees, praying that war would not start. Back on board that evening a lady at our table told my brother that war had in fact started. My brother quietly told her that as it was late and there were many elderly passengers on board, he had taken the decision to make the announcement the next morning (I did not hear this conversation, as someone else was talking to me at the time). How strange that it was my own brother's voice over the tannoy loudspeaker at breakfast time giving us the sombre news.

A year or so later, on our 45th wedding anniversary, we were escorted by dolphins leaping ahead of the ship. This early morning encounter was all the more miraculous taking place as it did in the mountainous strait between Cephalonia and Ithaca. This was our first sight of Ithaca, the island steeped in Greek legend, and it was exciting enough to tempt us to return for a holiday later on. Quite as memorable was our visit to Odessa Opera House, a magnificent edifice, the interior gleaming with gold leaf. Halfway through Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* – performed for an entirely Cunard audience – the conductor collapsed, falling with a very loud thud. The ballerinas tiptoed off gracefully, and my husband (a retired doctor) went to see if he could be of use. He found his way, past disrobing ballerinas, through basement corridors to the orchestra pit. Hard to ask for an ambulance in Russian! “Neenaw, neenaw” is the only option! Meanwhile my brother appeared in front of the stage curtain. He said that our hopes and prayers would go onwards with the conductor, and that he had asked for the coaches to be brought around to the front of the opera house. A few days later, at sea, he told us over the tannoy that the conductor was recovering well and was appreciative of the Cunard bouquet. The eighty year old had had to promise his wife that he would conduct no more...

We and other passengers would enjoy informal question and answer astronomy talks on deck at nighttime. Captain Nick Bates, now on QM2, told a gathered Cunard assembly, including us, of one of his outstanding memories. Many years ago, on QE2, Roland had been talking about the moon. A voice behind him said ‘Been there!’ – it was Buzz Aldrin!

Another special memory is of our visit to the Summer Palace of the Tsars, somewhere I had always wanted to visit, perhaps because of my fascination with the doomed Romanov family for whom Livadia Palace had been rebuilt. On arrival we walked through luxuriant green parkland, with many musicians playing beside the path, hoping for money. A little girl was playing the violin beautifully, a big white bow on top of her head. As I stopped by her she handed me a note saying, ‘Please take me with you to England’. I had to explain that, unfortunately, I just could not do so. The ballroom at the Livadia Palace is known for being the venue of the Yalta Conference in 1945. We were shown a photograph of Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin, but for me the thrill was to be told by our guide just where Tsar Nicholas II presented his daughter, the Grand Duchess Olga, with a diamond necklace, the occasion being her 16th birthday ball. This white marble palace, idyllically set by the Black Sea, was to be enjoyed for one summer only by the family before they were all imprisoned and eventually shot.

Quite apart from shore excursions there was so much to do on board. Days at sea were days looked forward to. Talks by guest lecturers to attend, quizzes, films, wine tastings, with visits to the swimming pool and library to somehow fit in. There was the chance to make interesting new friends amongst both staff and passengers, and the not inconsiderable Cunard menu to tackle!

In conclusion, a few highlights: going through the Panama Canal, visiting the Cairo Archaeological Museum, watching the cliff divers at Acapulco, experiencing the Costa Rican cloud forest, squeezing through Geiranger fjord, wandering through Venice and Florence... Happy days!

A Taste of ‘Unknown Europe’ – Or, Two Weeks in South Germany

Giles Falconer

As is well known most Britons go to Spain or France on their holidays – and we have been no different having holidayed in various parts of France for virtually all of the last 25 years or so. But when plans were being discussed for 2009, a certain reluctance was expressed by the junior contingent of the family; indeed the words used were intransigent and stark – no holiday in France was acceptable. Keen to have a holiday as we had been unable to have one in 2008 for other reasons I threw down a challenge – where in the world (well, Europe, really) would you like to go then? Our 19 year old son, keen on heavy metal music and liking a German band (‘Rammstein’ in particular, for those interested) suggested Germany. OK, we said, and the deal was done.

Now I haven’t visited Germany for over 30 years since Inter-railing around Europe in the mid-1970s, and my wife had only been once, briefly, on business more than 20 years before. So where to go? Vague memories of travelling by train round Lake Constance in 1976 and being impressed by the incredibly picturesque countryside suggested one area, and some research online into other areas not too distant, but far enough to give a different experience led to the Bavarian Forest being chosen for the second week. Finding suitable accommodation in February (for July/August) proved quite easy in the Bavarian Forest, but less so in the Lake Constance area – probably we should have started looking sooner, but eventually we found somewhere about 20 km north of the Lake outside the small town of Heiligenberg. The ground floor of the large family home owned by the Roth family¹ this turned out to be one of the best rentals we have ever stayed in, and the family (despite their limited English and our non-existent German) incredibly friendly and helpful.

The Lake Constance area (known in Germany as the ‘Bodensee’) is quite simply one of the most attractive in Europe – from Heiligenberg one had a distant view over the Lake, and a short drive brought one to one of the many attractive Lakeside towns, such as Meersburg, Friedrichshafen or Lindau, and a ferry crossing (or longer drive) could take one to unspoilt Konstanz (a German city so close to Switzerland the Allies didn’t bomb it during WW2 in case the neutral country was hit). Visits to Switzerland or Austria – both of which actually share the Lake’s shores – are also easy. Nor are all the fascinating areas just on the Lake – Heiligenberg has a beautiful Schloss (really more of a palace) with a stunning view and incredible interiors and Salem, a nearby town, has a palace so large, and with so many different buildings that one could hardly see them all in a single day (a small part of it was given to Kurt Hahn in 1920 to found a school which is still there – Hahn, of course, later went on to found Gordonstoun). Then there are the museums – we scarcely had time to do more than taste them, but the Zeppelin Museum in Friedrichshafen, celebrating the history of that short-lived, but romantic method of travel, proved to be one of the best museums we’d seen anywhere; and it was made more poignant as one of the last zeppelins flew around the Lake every day on (very expensive) tourist trips.

The Lake Constance area is a gorgeous destination for tourists – and there were many there (though it was never overcrowded) but so few from the UK. In a week we saw one other GB registered car and – unlike parts of France or Spain – hardly ever heard English spoken by other tourists. Few from this side of the English Channel seem to go there (and few from France – practically all were from Germany, Austria or Switzerland), and – for us at least – this added to the attraction of the area. Surprisingly relatively few people (in shops, restaurants etc) spoke English, and very little tourist information was in English (the Zeppelin Museum being a notable exception). We had wondered about the weather – but it was glorious every day and one frequently saw people eating outside well into the evening.

A four hour drive north-eastwards took us to the Bavarian Forest (called this – or the ‘Bayerischer Wald’ in Germany, but in reality part of the Bohemian Forest). One of Germany’s Nature Parks, this is part of the biggest single area of forest between the Atlantic and the Urals and straddles the border with the Czech Republic. In fact the town we stayed in, Bayerisch Eisenstein, was right on the frontier and – for 40 years during the Cold War, was split in two (most notably the railway station – half of which is in each country). Now one could walk from one country to the other – and of course this was one of the first things we did. Our accommodation here was in a large building, very recently renovated, with 13 apartments² - whose very helpful Belgian owner speaks fluent French, German and English.

Again the vast majority of tourists here are not from the Anglophone countries – though we did see five other British cars in the week – and there seemed a fair number of Dutch cars - but the vast majority of tourists were clearly German again. However wherever we went we found someone able to understand us, or prepared to translate (in one excellent restaurant in Bayerisch

¹ See <http://www.haus-roth.de/> - or for an English booking site: <http://www.holiday-rentals.co.uk/p42751>

² <http://www.ferienwohnungen-falkenhof.de/index.html> - or for an English booking site: <http://www.holiday-rentals.co.uk/p44279>

Eisenstein the waiter asked us to wait a moment, and returned with another diner who spoke some English to translate the menu for us). In the Bayerischer Wald there are lots of outdoor activities – visiting the various nature parks, walking, cycling etc. as well as going a little further afield to visit wonderful historic cities such as Regensburg or Passau – both on the Danube River, and also took advantage of a very reasonably priced guided coach tour to Prague (about 3 hours drive away) – in English. Not that we needed to drive far – two of the most enjoyable things we did were local, for example taking the telecabin to the top of the Grosser Arber – a mountain we could see from our apartment - which at 4,777 feet is higher than any in the UK, or going on a guided tour in English at a local brewery (organised by our helpful host at the Falkenhof).

After the second week our German holiday was at an end, and as we drove back to the UK we had time to reflect – Germany was a real surprise. The countryside was memorable; the towns were clean and smart in a way one seldom sees in either France or the UK – for example most houses were loaded with flowers on every balcony, as was our apartment at the Falkenhof. Yet despite the obvious prosperity prices in both shops and restaurants were reasonable – certainly cheaper than France – and everyone was friendly, despite our linguistic shortcomings. Even driving in Germany proved pretty easy, with clear signs and free motorways (unlike some other countries). Yet Germany is generally ignored by many Britons when planning their holidays – looking for a suitable guidebook at the largest bookshop in London I found there were 2 ½ bookcases of guidebooks on France – and just about two shelves on Germany! Our limited experience of our two weeks in south and eastern Germany shows that there is much that we Britons are missing out on – whatever type of holiday one prefers.



The Castle at Heiligenberg



An interior at Salem Castle



View in Meersburg



A stunning view



Former Mastermind contestant and wife on top of the Grosser Arber – the radar in the background is a NATO facility still manned today, even though this is no longer the Cold War frontier!

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD 2009:2

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

Gadfan

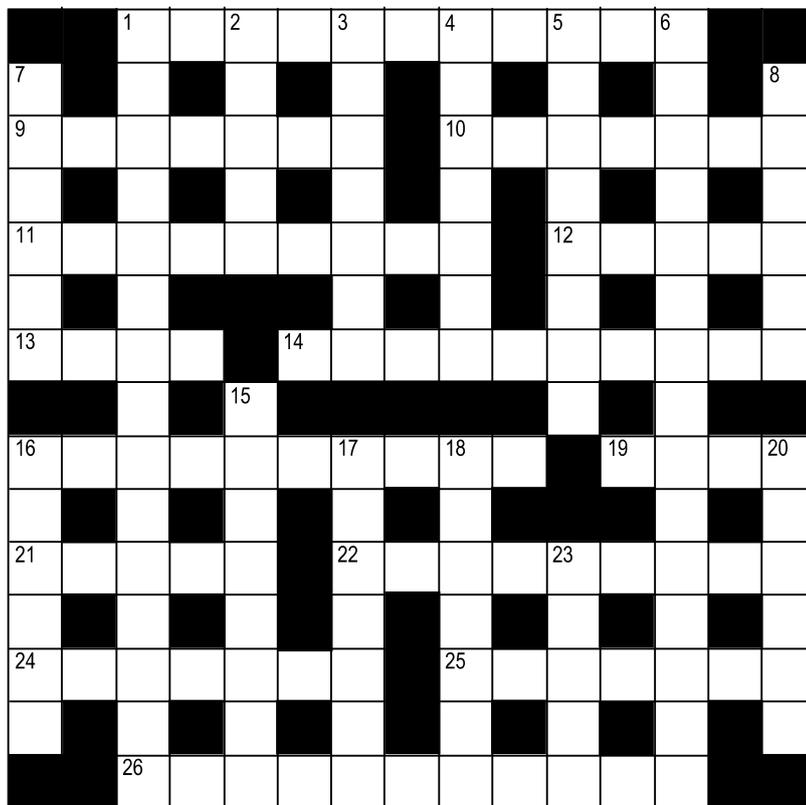
There were fewer entries this time which suggested a crossword that was perhaps a little harder. Nevertheless, there was a decent crop with some good tie-break clue suggestions. As a rule, I find myself agonising between two or three of the clues suggested. This time, **for me**, one just stood out. As a clue for DISORDERLY HOUSE, Raymond Kahn proposed *Cynthia Payne charged hourly so resided here*. I am, of course, slightly disturbed by the extent of Raymond's knowledge of Mrs Payne. I don't believe she was his *Mastermind* special subject.

Crossword (2009:3) has emerged from the gloom of setter's block in the nick of time. My impression is that this one again is at the more challenging end of the spectrum, but time will tell. As a tie-break, I **had** considered one of the two clues which caused me the most head scratching: 26 across and 18 down, but decided instead to seek clues for **2 down**. The solution strikes me as defying most of the standard types of clue. I wait with excitement.

Entries, with tie-break clue, should be sent, as usual, to David Edwards, 26 Lady Meadow Close, Denstone, Uttoxeter, ST14 5EY, or to gadfan@btinternet.com to arrive before the copy deadline for this edition of **pass**, 15 November 2009.

Prize Crossword (2009:3)

by *Gadfan*



ACROSS

- 1 Practically sent for trial when caught bagging big game (11)
- 9 Furs worn only in winter, naturally (7)
- 10 Ultimately just cause for betrayal (7)
- 11 Antidote taken from invalid before I put out fire (9)
- 12 Fish odour has bearing from outset (5)
- 13 Straight as spruce (4)
- 14 Hose down that woman following ring leader (10)
- 16 In theory, '57 treaty may have been violated (10)
- 19,7 Artist credited with 25 found in airport ... (4,6)
- 21 ... holding post at beginning of flight and on landing (5)
- 22 Draw plan of taximeter design (5,4)
- 24 Gains weight to fit between 19 and 7 (7)
- 25 Picture enigma I solved (7)
- 26 Start to enjoy mending and interior decoration that's holding one back (11)

DOWN

- 1 Benefit from stock and share (6,9)
- 2 Jonathan Ross's chat discussing striker's boredom (5)
- 3 Undeterred by sand bank in river (7)
- 4 Is French or Italian the course formerly followed by Portuguese GPs? (7)
- 5 Settlement of unsettled settlers (8)
- 6 Disturbing period of French decline said to be carrying on during Revolution (15)
- 7 See 19
- 8 Insect that girl found in flower (6)
- 15 East of Wigan or Oldham as one may see fit (8)
- 16 Celebrity could become convertible owner on 1st November (6)
- 17 About time to contend with worker uprising in the country (7)
- 18 Vermin comes after choice food morsels when bits left out for birds (7)
- 20 Characters from Scene I of *Three Sisters* possibly (6)
- 23 Maths applied mainly in first-rate fiddle factor (5)

A Literary Quiz

Mel Kinsey

Results:

I had a good response to the quiz, but sadly due to a catastrophic laptop failure in which all saved emails were lost, I am unable to provide a full report of the result. Sorry about this, but it is out of my control. The winner was Ruth Newbury who received an Amazon Voucher.

Name the book.

1. *Of Mice and Men*, John Steinbeck
2. *1984*, George Orwell
3. *The Old Curiosity Shop*, Charles Dickens
4. *Exodus*, Leon Uris
5. *Moby Dick*, Herman Melville
6. *War and Peace*, Leo Tolstoy
7. *Little Women*, Louisa M Alcott.
8. *Sense and Sensibility*, Jane Austen
9. *In Cold Blood*, Truman Capote
10. *2001: A Space Odyssey*, Arthur C Clarke
11. *Rebecca*, Daphne Du Maurier
12. *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee
13. *Catcher in the Rye*, J D Salinger
14. *Wuthering Heights*, Emily Brontë
15. *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, Roald Dahl
16. *On the Beach*, Nevile Shute
17. *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, C S Lewis
18. *Middlemarch*, George Eliot
19. *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, D H Lawrence
20. *The Da Vinci Code*, Dan Brown

Language and Literature Quiz

Ray Ward

I contribute a language and literature quiz to the Newsletter of the Queen's English Society, and I thought that some of the questions might make a nice quiz for **pass**, so here it is. Answers preferably by e-mail to raymond_ward7@hotmail.com, but also accepted by post at Flat 97, 17 Sheppard Drive, LONDON, SE16 3EJ to arrive by 15 November. The prize is a £15 book token.

ONLY CONNECT: what connects ...

1. ... Ernest Dowson and Margaret Mitchell?
2. ... Lord Lytton and Snoopy?
3. ... Anthony Powell and Poussin?

WORDS MEAN WHAT I SAY: which common English word ...

4. ... means "twice cooked"?
5. ... is derived from a Scottish clan battle cry?
6. ... according to *The Oxford English Dictionary*, first appeared in print in *The Daily Telegraph* in 1947 with the meaning "a large explosion"? - a meaning very different from its present meaning!

PSEUDS CORNER:

7. Which writer, well-known by her real name, also wrote as Brent of Bin Bin?
8. Which writer wrote under a pseudonym meaning "I suffered much" (real name and/or pseudonym both acceptable)?
9. How is Theodor S. Geisel better known?

WATCH YOUR FIGURE: what is the name of the figure of speech ...

10. ... in which an absent person is addressed as if he or she were present?
11. ... in which a part is used for the whole, as in "face" for a person, or "wheels" for a car?
12. ... in which a word is inserted in another word, like "absobloodylutely" (two terms, either acceptable)?

WHAT IS ...

13. ... a kangaroo word?
14. ... a portmanteau word?
15. ... the French phrase for words which are similar to words in another language but don't have the same meaning, like the French *librairie* meaning bookshop, not library?

ENDINGS:

16. Why did Samuel Pepys stop writing his diary?
17. Which writer was suffocated by a faulty stove in Paris in 1902?
18. Which Russian writer was killed in a duel at the age of 26 in 1841?

NAME THE UNIT FOR ...

19. ... the warmth of a duvet.
20. ... the strength of chilli peppers.
21. ... the extent of cloud cover.

WHICH AUTHOR ...

22. ... much better known for a very different kind of book, wrote *A Journey Into God*, published in 1988?
23. ... of a famous book first published in 1861, and often thought of as middle-aged or even elderly, in fact died in 1865 aged 28?
24. ... of a famous book, first published in 1858 and still available, having gone through many revised editions, died in 1861 aged only 34?