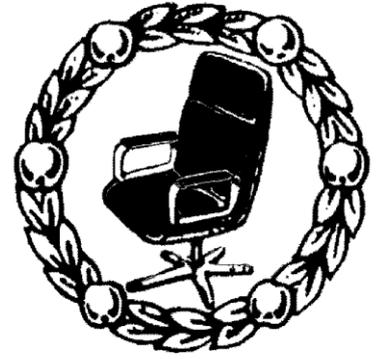


pass



The Quarterly Magazine of the Mastermind Club



The MM Club Go Mad On Dartmoor

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Editorial From a New Editor

Ann Kelly

Welcome to the latest edition of "Pass" and the first thing I must write is to thank Ken Emond on the fantastic job he has done for us over the last six years as Editor of "Pass". All his hard work has been much appreciated by the members and I know I have a very, very, hard act to follow. I would also like to personally thank Ken for instructing me in the mysteries of PDF files and turning a collection of articles into a magazine.

Ken has entrusted into my care a selection of the early copies of "Pass" and it is rather moving to see the very first edition, dated April 1979, next to the latest edition on my desk. That first edition was typed on a home typewriter and reproduced on a gestetner duplicator. I quote from the editor, Martin Leadbetter's first editorial: "I sincerely hope that the magazine will go from strength to strength, eventually taking on a more attractive, professional and interesting appearance, rightly becoming a fitting showpiece to represent our membership." Mr Leadbetter, you should be justly proud of yourself as that is exactly what "Pass" has become, is still doing thirty one years later and it is all down to the hard work done by you and the other six editors that have come after you.

A great time was had by all as usual at the annual function in Exeter. This is an event that I always look forward to every year and over the years I have developed close friendships with many club members. I would encourage any member that has not attended a function before to think about next year, you do not have to attend the whole weekend if you do not wish to and family and friends of members are very welcome to attend as well. Once again Gavin organised a fantastic event and once again organised fantastic weather! Gavin is taken a well deserved break next year, he is another very hard act to follow.

All that is left is for me is to request contributions for inclusion in "Pass". For the benefit of new members I would like to remind members that articles and photographs on **any** subject are most welcome and can be submitted by email, disk and hard copy. I do need to fill the pages and if I don't have enough contributions I may well have to fill them with memories from my scrapbooks. So unless you want to read about 1960's Irish buses or camping on the Isle of Wight, get writing!!

Membership matters

Peter Chitty, Membership Secretary

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

It is with great regret that I have to inform the membership of the death of Ernest Price, a member since 1993, he took part in 1991 his first round was recorded in Nottingham, his subject being the life and work of Charles Darwin. The Club extends its sincere condolences to his family for their sad loss.

Changes of address

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I should like to say how much I enjoyed the gathering in Exeter. The hotel was first class, the meals excellent and above all, the staff very friendly. Thank you Gavin for a great piece of organisation.

It was great pleasure to meet old friends, some of whom I had not seen for a long time, and a number of new members from the current series, which was very pleasing. I hope that they are encouraged to come again next year.

Letters, news and views

The Kitchen Table Charities Trust

Dear Mrs Leng,

Thank you for the kind donation of £200 to the Kitchen Table Charities Trust from members of the Mastermind Club. John Humphrys, the founder of the Kitchen table Charities Trust, has been amazed by the public interest in the charity and is very grateful for all the support given to the trust's work. More information about the work can be found on the Trust's website www.kitchentablecharities.org.

Yours sincerely,
Joy ward LCVS Charity Services Officer

Evolving English

From Patricia Owen

The use of verbs as nouns and nouns as verbs gathers pace. Of course, you could always "Love your love with an A" and Hope beyond hope but new is the facility "to access" a building and firmly established "A big ask." I caught two more of these verbal nouns today: Radio 3 informed me that a Mozart serenade "deserves a closer listen" and on display in the post office had a "big ignore." Do readers have more recent examples? Are all of the form article + adjective + noun? "Have a listen to this." Sounds familiar but what about "an ignore"?

Regional Gatherings

From Ann Kelly

Each month there are informal gatherings of members, in Manchester and London. The Manchester meet is held on the second Wednesday of the month at Wetherspoons Waterhouse, 67-71 Princess Street, M2 4EG. Members meet at about 6.30 as close to the back as possible, with a copy of "Pass" visible so you will know which group is them. Spouses, partners, friends and family are welcome (if you think they would enjoy the evening). If you are a local member who has not yet been to one of these meetings and would like to know more before venturing, please ring Glenys Hopkins on 01925 762192. If you are not keen on coming into the Waterhouse to meet people you may not have met before, ring Glenys on her mobile (0771 236 5777) from outside so that you can be met and introduced. Food is available at the Waterhouse.

The London gathering is held on the third Wednesday of the month at the Grape Street Wine Bar, 222-224a Shaftsbury Avenue London WC2H 8EB. Members meet from from about 6.30 and we have a reserved table in the corner to the right of the stairs. Their extensive wine list frequently causes club members to slump over tables muttering unintelligence ramblings and food is also available. As with Glenys, if you would like further information, please ring me on 01525 712787, or if you would like me to meet you outside the wine bar ring my mobile (07860 957062).

The groups also organise a Christmas lunch/ dinner where everyone (and their guests) are welcome, not just attendees of the gatherings.



Gavin, Susan, Tony, Alan and Peter

MINUTES OF THE 32nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MASTERMIND CLUB

Seymour Suite, Southgate Hotel, Exeter: 10.45 Sunday 11th April 2010 Gavin Fuller Secretary

Apologies: Keith Bogle, Barrie Douce, Barbara-Anne Eddy, David Edwards, Paul Emerson, Hillary Forrest, Mary Gibson, Pat Gibson, Leslie Grout, Chris Hughes, Norman Izzett, Sue Jenkins, Marga Johnson, Morag Knox-Crawford, Rachel Leonard, Sarah Scott, Liz Shaw, Barry Simmons, R A Gordon Stuart, Philip Wharmby, Felicity Widdowson.

2008 AGM Minutes: The minutes of the 31st AGM at The Imperial Hotel, Blackpool, on 5th April 2009 were passed nem con and signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

Treasurer's Report: Susan Leng reported that as a result of the rise in subscriptions in 2009 the Club's finances had improved and the Club had made a profit of £760.31. She presented details of where money had come in and gone out in 2009, and also a comparison with 2008. Patricia Owen asked for clarification over the entry concerning "Overseas member's hotel" –Hazel Prowse asked for clarification of the reporting of excess of income over expenditure and vice versa. David Cowan proposed that the accounts be accepted, seconded by Chris Pelly, and they were passed nem con.

Membership Secretary's Report: Peter Chitty reported that the change in the subscription fee had led to something of a frustrating year, as a number of members still only paid the old amount of £7 and several requests from both Susan and himself to pay the remainder and maintain their membership had met with little response. This situation had continued into 2010 with 45 members who had still paid £7 and not responded to a further request, and their membership was now deemed to have lapsed. There had been 4 losses to the

Grim Reaper over the past year, whilst 5 members had resigned and 13 simply stopped paying the subscription. As a result membership now stood at 347.

Peter was thanked for his work as membership Secretary

PASS: Ken Emond paid tribute to the printing firm Spindrift who were very helpful in ensuring the magazine was printed and distributed in a timely manner, and thanked the membership for a generous contribution of articles which made his job easier. He had enjoyed his 6 years as Editor but due to increasing work pressures was glad to hand over the job, and he was delighted that Ann Kelly had volunteered to take over from.

Ann said that she would be delighted to accept anything and everything from members on whatever topic they wished and hoped that she would thereby be able to continue producing an interesting magazine.

Alan Blackburn paid tribute to Ken for his work as Editor, particularly for producing a high-calibre magazine four times a year. The general feeling of the hall could be summed up and “what can we say but thank you” and Ken received a gift as a token of the Club’s appreciation for his work as PASS Editor.

Club Charity: The committee had decided that as from this year the charity would be adopted for two years rather than the customary one; this would thereby enable a collection to be made at the dinner at the 2011 function, rather than the AGM, where there would be more people present and thus the possibility of a larger donation accrued.

The request for written submissions to the Secretary had brought none, but the committee had come up with two suggestions to be put to the vote. Ann proposed the Kitchen Table, which was supported by John Humphrys and therefore had a Mastermind connection – this charity gave donations to small charities, mainly working abroad and who tended to lack major sources of income. Susan proposed the Magnus Magnusson Fund at Glasgow Caledonian University, which provided assistance to students there; the Club had previously adopted it as its charity and since then the Fund had always sent updates as to its work to the Club. Victoria Mackenzie agreed that this was a very worthwhile fund.

Peter Richardson felt that while both the charities were worthwhile causes, there was an element of giving money to the privileged with the Magnus Magnusson Fund whereas the Kitchen Table was more a case of given to the needy, a sentiment concurred with by Rosemary James.

A vote was taken, and the Kitchen Table received 26 votes, the Magnus Magnusson fund 9 and there was one very vocal abstention.

A hat was passed round and donations given which came to a total of £200.

President’s Report: Alan Blackburn said that it was a pleasure to be at the 2010 function, and paid tribute to Gavin Fuller for his work in putting the event together. He noted that it was now 13 years since there had been serious discussions as to the future of the Club with the seeming demise of the programme, but it was still part of the national life of the country, continuing to be alive and vibrant, as indeed was the Club. He noted that there was even a Champion of Champions competition planned for later in the year. Alan concluded that he felt it was a privilege to be the Club President at a time when the Club was in good health and could look forward to the future with great confidence.

Insignia: Phillida Grantham reported that it had been a quiet year and there was plenty of stock available for those interested, with different sizes at home should there not be one in the required size available on the day. Leo Stevenson was thanked for his assistance in bringing insignia to the function. It was noted that the Club was when it came to clothing tending to a larger size, which would have an influence on what stock should be subsequently ordered or made available. Glenys Hopkins spoke in favour of the general quality of the insignia, whilst Ann Kelly extolled the many uses that a Club fleece could be put to!

Election of Club Committee for 2010-12: The Secretary had received one nomination from the general membership to stand for Committee, from Glenys Hopkins, and the current incumbents were all happy to stay in their posts. As there was room for an extra body on the committee no election was necessary and Glenys was therefore invited to join the committee, an invitation she accepted.

Annual Functions 2010, 2011 and 2012: The Southgate Hotel was praised as a location for the 2010 function, with the friendly and helpful staff, particularly as Stewart Cross commented when it came to assisting the less mobile, and the quality of food being particularly noted. Rosemary James registered her displeasure

at having breakfast separately from the rest of the hotel guests – Gavin explained that it was due to the hotel being so busy that by doing this the Club's members would not have to worry about queuing to sit or get their food and the general sentiment was that this had worked in the Club's favour. Peter Richardson noted that the directions to the hotel were not as good as they could be, but the general opinion was that this was one of the better hotels the function had been resident in.

For 2011 the committee proposed Edinburgh as the location, with the 8th to 10th April as the preferred date and 1st - 3rd April the reserve. Obviously this would depend, as the last two years had shown, on finding a suitable location in the city. With Gavin taking a year off from the stresses of organising the event various committee members would work at this, and Ken, being most familiar with the city, would conduct the initial exploration.

2012 would be a South year, although Gavin, who confirmed he would definitely return to the organising role for that year, suggested a Midlands location which met with general favour – as Stewart noted a relatively central location might assist in maximising numbers. Various locations were floated, such as Coventry, Worcester, Warwick, Stratford-upon-Avon, Shrewsbury, Birmingham and Sheffield, although as the last was considered to be more of a North venue it would be better as a reserve location for 2011

Magnum Competition: Gavin congratulated Stewart on his victory after many attempts at the completion, likening him to Tony McCoy who had the same day won the Grand National at his 15th go. He also thanked the other eight who had taken part, as he felt that they had entered well into the spirit of the quiz and thus made it an enjoyable one.

Mugnum Competition: Gavin reported like last year were 38 questions, of varying standards of difficulty. Indeed it was not until the final scoresheet he marked that the easiest question could be determined, and with 21 submissions having been received (down on last year and comprising 17 individual and 4 team entries) most questions had at least 5 correct answers. Thus he had refined the penalties for too difficult questions this year, with a half-point docked per number less than 5 answered from entries where this had occurred with the setter's question. Scores ranged from 5.1 to 24.9, with only two individual and two team entries even getting to half marks, which showed that the general feeling that it had been a hard quiz was accurate. Susan Leng set the easiest question, it being the only one every one got correct, the team prize went to Flodden's Revenge (Ken Emond and Phillida Grantham) whilst Kevin Ashman was a convincing winner of the individual competition, some distance ahead of Sonia Anderson, Ann Leaney and Mel Kinsey, who presented the trophy to Kevin.

Any other business: It was asked whether a membership list could be issued to members. However the Data Protection Act would make this problematic

There being no further business, the President closed the meeting at 12.02.

A Note From Gavin

As I look forward to what is hopefully a year off from the stresses and strains of organising the annual functions, I can look back over 11 eventful years of putting these weekends together. Despite the many hassles, there have been many good memories from these years, and they have usually ended up being good experiences! The key to it all at the end of the day is the people who attend, and it has been an honour to get quite a number of you to come, if only the once, in that time, and it really is like meeting old and potentially new friends every year, even if the responsibilities of organisation don't mean I don't get to see everybody perhaps as much as I'd like to. This year's function I felt was particularly enjoyable, and I hope those who went found it such as well. Hopefully fully recharged next year, I look forward to, all being well, contributing to many more weekends as we journey round this country taking in a variety of locales. One thing I have noticed is that, certainly since Portsmouth in 2004, we do seem to be preternaturally lucky with the weather during our reunions, and I really don't know how I do it!



Magnum 2010

Gavin Fuller reflects on this year's competition.

2010 sadly saw a marked decrease in the number of entries to the Masterquiz with only 33 people attempting at least one set, with 31 people doing both. attempting at least one set, Phillida receiving 37 entries and me 38. Whether this is a reflection of a perceived increase in difficulty it is not for me to say, but scores were markedly lower this year, with Geoff Thomas top scoring with a mark that would only have been good enough for 10th last year! With two qualifiers declining to take part it ended up going down to 18th place for the lucky 9 to take part this time round, and a somewhat unfamiliar line-up ensued. Regulars Stewart Cross, who won Phillida's theme prize, and former winner David Cowan qualified again, Paul Emerson and Ray Ward made reappearances and Hilary Forrest made it for the second year running, whilst there were three debutants in Bob Foulkes, Mel Kinsey and David Porch, who had all attempted it for the first time and did well enough to get through. Always nice to see a few new faces, and particularly in David Porch one who only joined the Club last year. David Edwards won the *In absentia* prize for the second year running.

Tony was happy to act as questionmaster again and Ken returned as second scorer. Heat 1 saw Geoff take on David Porch and Ray, Heat 2 paired Stewart with Mel and David Cowan whilst Heat 3 saw Bob, Paul and Hilary competing. Opening proceedings this year was a round themes round Hills, inspired by the fact it is hilly round Exeter way, followed by a maritime one, Exeter, horses (as Exeter has a racecourse!), a music one based on folk music with proved less horrifying than I feared and one on drink to round things off. The questions proved quite testing, with scores lower than last year, but Stewart and Geoff had two solid rounds to lead the way with 15 apiece, a good second half saw Paul come third with 11 whilst Mel, David Cowan and Bob also qualified with 9. As they had identical records a tie-break was required to sort out in which seat they would be for the semi-finals – Mel led the way followed by David and Bob.

So Stewart, Paul and David made up semi one and Geoff, Mel and Bob semi two. Questions on sport of 2010 proved how quickly some things are forgotten, whilst the picture round put the lie to the idea that we're all highbrow academics, as everybody got their Carry On film question correct! A round on "Old" nicknames saw all semi one get their questions correct whilst Geoff hovered up all the points in his to lead at half way, with

things interestingly poised in semi one for second. Devon, the Crusades (to complete asking on my specialist subjects from 1993!) and literary characters completed the semi themes and saw Geoff romp away in semi 2 to score 22 and qualify comfortably for the final. Semi 1 was nip and tuck to the end, so much so that Stewart and David tied on 15, thus necessitating a second tie-break! Despite Stewart's assertion that he hated dates he managed to outscore David, and having finished third for the last two years finally qualified for the final

The final continued with the pattern of two sets of paired questions bracketing the pot luck pictureboard. The first set of pairs saw Stewart get off to a good start, Geoff overhaul him in the middle but Stewart pull away at the end to lead 11-7. The pot luck round proved fiendish, with only 12 of the 20 answered correctly, but Stewart comfortably outscored Geoff 14-6 to take a serious lead into the last round. This was tied 12-12, meaning that after many times trying, Stewart, to his evident delight, triumphed 37-25 and took his first Magnum title, and the fourth different winner in four years. Congratulations to him, and commiserations to Geoff who was runner up for the third time in five years.

As I said at the AGM, one thing I appreciated this year was the good spirit in which the quiz was played by all nine competitors; some people said afterwards that they thought it had been an entertaining quiz to watch which was pleasing, and I would like to thank the competitors for helping make this the case. Also, I would like to thank all those who entered the Masterquiz – as ever it is great fun seeing what you answer to the questions and makes the mental sweat putting them together all the more worthwhile. I may be having a year off from putting the function together but I will still be overseeing Magnum 2011; who knows what my deranged mind will come up with next year?!

MASTER QUIZ ROUND 1 2010

Results

NB. Scores are for unseen and researched unless specified

1.	David Edwards	358
2.	Geoff Thomas	344
3=.	Stewart Cross	338
	Raymond Kahn	
5.	Martin Wyatt	336
6.	Philip Wharmby	334
7.	Mike Formby	330
8.	Paul Emerson	312
9.	David Porch	310
10.	Les Morrell	307
11.	Bob Foulkes	306
12=.	Norman Izzett	302
	Rosemary James	
	Pat Gibson	

15.	Mel Kinsey	299	
16.	David Cowan	292	
17.	Ray Ward	291	
18=.	Janet French	288	
	Hilary Forrest		
20.	Keith Bogle	280	U only
21.	Michael Davison	278	
22.	Ann Kelly	270	U only
23.	Margery Elliott	266	
24.	Leslie Grout	256	
25.	Joseph Hand	245	
26.	Patricia Cowley	222	
27.	Andrea Weston	220	
28.	Glenys Hopkins	206	U only
29.	Wendy Forrester	202	
30.	Barbara Anne Eddy	201	U only
31.	Gordon Stuart	196	U only
32.	Ann Leaney	171	U only

Stewart Cross wins the theme prize

MASTER QUIZ 2010 FINAL TABLE

		Round 1	Round 2	Total
1	Geoff Thomas	344	393	737
2	David Edwards	358	359	717
3	Stewart Cross	338	367	705
4	Martin Wyatt	336	368	704
5	Raymond Kahn	338	353	691
6	Les Morrell	307	365	672
7	Pat Gibson	302	345	647
8	Philip Wharmby	334	311	645
9	Bob Foulkes	306	329	635
10	Mike Formby	330	297	627
11	Paul Emerson	312	309	621
12	Norman Izzett	302	318	620
13	David Porch	310	307	617
14	Mel Kinsey	299	308	607
15	Rosemary James	302	293	595
16	David Cowan	292	302	594

17	<i>Hilary Forrest</i>	288	300	588
18	<i>Ray Ward</i>	291	271	562
19=	Janet French	288	261	549
19=	Keith Bogle	280	269	549
21	Michael Davison	278	249	527
22	Ann Kelly	270	254	524
23	Leslie Grout	256	257	513
24	Margery Elliott	266	216	482
25	Patricia Cowley	222	235	457
26	Glenys Hopkins	206	240	446
27	Wendy Forrester	202	218	420
28	Andrea Weston	220	198	418
29	Joseph Hand	245	152	397
30	Barbara-Anne Eddy	201	138	339
31	Ann Leaney	171	112	283
32	Roger Smith	196		196
33	Gordon Stuart		66	66

Those in bold italicised print qualify for the Magnum Final.

David Edwards wins the *in absentia* prize

Geoff and Stewart go head to head



Mugnum 2010

The Mugnam is an informal quiz that all the members attending the annual function can enter and each member submits a question. In the beginning, each member brought their question to the function and it was pinned on a board (the answer was in a sealed envelope) As the questions were pinned to the board depending on when each member arrived, there had to be many trips back and forth to the board! The questions are now submitted with the booking form, typed up and handed to the members as they arrive at the hotel. As befits the name, the prize would be a souvenir mug from the town/city where the function was being held but now there is a lovely trophy very kindly donated by Peter Chitty that is awarded to the winner each year. They still get the mug as well!!

Those of you who didn't attend can now have a go, the answers will be in the next edition, along with the Masterquiz answers.

20 (Patricia Owen): Who shares Tuckers Hall in Exeter with the Fullers and Shearers?

22 (Peter Richardson): At the beginning of which well-known play does the speaker ask "Can this cockpit hold the vasty fields of France"?

60 (Gena Davies): Which musician's career started in the brass band of his home city's 'Coloured Waifs Home for Boys'?

61 (Pauline Wells): What is a carrick bend?

81 (Hazel Prowse): Who won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 2009?

123 (Rosemary James): Which British tribe lived around Exeter and is thought by some to have given its name to the county of Devon?

145 (Ray Ward): Of which pop group was Michael Steele a member?

253 (Chris Pelly): What do T E Lawrence, Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Cole Porter have in common?

258 (Josephine Lawrey): Who is York Minster dedicated to?

275 (Tony Dart): Walter F Morrison, who died this year, invented the "Pluto Platter" in 1948. What is the name of the current version of this very successful device?

287 (Phillida Grantham): What do Joanne Harris, Cardinal Basil Hume, Charles II and David Niven have in common?

394 (Bob Foulkes): Can you name four of the seven emirates making up the U.A.E.?

443 (Ann Kelly): In January 2010, which language did the BBC World Service begin broadcasting in for the first time?

455 (Kevin Ashman): What was the academic-sounding codename for the airborne component of the Allied crossings of the Rhine in 1945, the largest airborne operation in history?

475: (Stewart Cross): Which palace in St Petersburg, with culinary associations, is traditionally painted pink?

526 (Wendy Forrester): In *Mansfield Park*, Susan and Betsey price were quarrelling about what article?

577 (Raymond Kahn): Who in 2002 was the first person to score a double century in first-class limited-overs cricket?

579 (Anne Miller): Madame Arcati appears in which play?

610 (Graham Ivor Sleep): How many original county names in England have vanished since the 1970s boundary alterations?

672 (Patricia Cowley): Who wrote *Glenarvon*?

687 (Glenys Hopkins): What name links the despotic ruler of a fictional city, the author of late C19-early C20 books on a particular aspect of psychology and the C19 hero of Cawnpore?

696 (Ken Emond): What is the name of Agatha Christie's home on the River Dart, now owned by the National Trust?

731 (Gavin Fuller): What word connects a member of a rugby scrum and a theologian whose statue is in Exeter?

766: (Geoff Thomas): Which award has been won by Melvyn Bragg (1993), Sebastian Faulks (1998) and Tom Wolfe (2004)?

769 (David Cowan): What is the cinematic connection between Edward Purdom and Marni Nixon?

779 (Mary Andrews): Which important everyday object was patented in America in April 1849?

819 (Mel Kinsey): After the original 13 colonies became the United States, which became the 14th State of the Union?

824 (Sonia Anderson): What have 1431, 2553 and 5770 in common?

849 (Constance Moore): Which two-man band beat Sir Francis Drake to win a local poll for Greatest Devonians in 2006?

866 (Leo Stevenson): Including prototypes, how many Concorde aircraft were built in total?

869 (Susan Leng): Which cheese-loving duo live at 62 West Wallaby Street, Wigan?

875 (Clare Ockwell): What is the disorder 'Dementia Praecox' known as today?

955 (Paul Emerson): Which South American country's national football team played its first ever match against Exeter City on 21 July 1914?

971 (Ann Leaney): What was the name of Odysseus' dog?

985 (Edward Towne): Which bird is sometimes nicknamed "Goatsucker"?

1027 (Penny Billyeald): The wife of which King of England was known as the Duchess of Ahlden in later life?

1038 (David Porch): Following the demise of Maggie Jones, what single word utterance proved to be the valediction of Blanche Hunt in *Coronation Street*?



Mel presents Kevin with the Mugnam trophy

SHOESTRINGS, CATFLAPS AND CATACOMBS: MEMORIES OF AN EXETER WEEKEND

Michael Davidson

Within five minutes of stepping outside the Southgate Hotel in Exeter, venue for our 2010 reunion, I had learnt my first fascinating new fact of the weekend. ‘Prisoners in Exeter Gaol dangled a shoe by its lace from the windows of their cells to beg for money and food from passers-by’, explained an information panel on the ruins of the South Gate, ‘hence the expression “living on a shoestring”’.

Serendipity, the making of chance discoveries, is one of the features that make these Mastermind weekends so enjoyable. This year, to start with, there was the weather: after a gloomy early spring, who suspected that Gavin would manage to time our reunion for the first sunny weekend? Through the windows of my Exeter-bound train, the countryside breathed spring in every gambolling lamb, freshly-green hillside, flash of sunlight on canal and river. And the first sight from my hotel window was of white magnolia blossom along the red sandstone Roman wall that flanked the grounds.

No time to dally admiring the view, however, for a coach was waiting to take early arrivers on a lightning tour round the main sights of the city. The route was so serpentine that when an hour later I tried to walk back to the Quay we had just passed in the coach I headed in totally the wrong direction, before discovering that it lay in fact only a 10-minute walk across the road from the hotel. With a three-course meal on Friday night the Southgate was clearly out to impress both us ‘regulars’ and several newcomers whom it was a special pleasure to welcome this year.

Free time on Saturday morning gave an opportunity to explore the city in the sunshine. The great cathedral was for many of us the inevitable first stop, and contributed a further tall story to add to the ‘living on a shoestring’ yarn: below the astronomical clock, a label explained that the hole at the bottom of the door was for the Bishop’s cat, kept to repel mice attracted by the grease on the clock’s pendulum (‘Hickory, dickory, dock . . .’)

After the Cathedral we each chose our own route round the compact medieval heart of Exeter, embracing the Guildhall (where I encouraged Stewart Cross to pose with a Roman centurion), and Rougemont Castle. Then I made once more for

the Quay to join a canal cruise which I had picked from among the suggestions in Gavin's briefing notes. The boat's smooth progress beside the Riverside Park was halted twice as the skipper's assistant nimbly leapt off to swing open two successive footbridges for the boat to pass through, then nipped smartly back aboard after closing the bridge behind us.

After 25 minutes we reached the Double Locks, a gem of an old-world pub, with barrels of real ale on racks behind the bar, and a satisfying snack quickly served on a waterside terrace. The return boat got back to the Quay in time for me to reach the Cathedral for the next event on our programme, a guided tour of 'Churches, Cemeteries and Catacombs'. As we assembled outside the Cathedral, serendipity struck again as the main doors were flung open and, as if cued by Gavin for our benefit, bride and groom with their huge retinue emerged onto the Cathedral Green to meet a flurry of photographers.

We split into two groups for our tours. For my group, guide Barbara Spencer led off with a racy scamper through Exeter's history, taking in burials and a Roman bathhouse beneath our feet, tales of Edward the Martyr, and the Broadgate that wasn't broad enough to admit a horse-drawn carriage so had to be torn down and replaced by a chain. The climax of our tour was a visit to the Catacombs: huge vaulted chambers built to accommodate the coffins of a growing city population but in the event little used. Torches lit our steps through eerie cavernous spaces, and it was with some relief that we emerged at last into warm sunshine above a daffodil-dotted moat.

While most of our group headed back to the Southgate Hotel to watch the Grand National, I felt the yen for a little more of the underground life, so I followed signs to the 'Underground Passages'. Here I joined Robert Lang in donning a hard hat for a walk along covered trenches dug in the 14th century to bring fresh water into the city from wells on the outskirts. The hard hats were not just a gimmick but a necessity, and mine took several knocks during our half-hour tour.

Then on to the main business of the weekend, another fine dinner, tonight with different table companions, and a quiz conducted by Tony whose light but authoritative touch ensured a good-humoured contest. The quiz, like all our meals and activities, took place in the hotel's Seymour Suite: I found it a particular virtue of the Southgate that we had this room to ourselves throughout the weekend, making us feel the hotel was being run for Mastermind alone. After all the hospitable hostelries he has found us over the past six years, nobody will begrudge Gavin his twelve-month sabbatical.

After the AGM and lunch came a final serendipitous adventure, as three members with cars in Exeter kindly took a party of us onto Dartmoor, at its brightest in spring colours. We posed for each other's photographs at Hay Tor Rocks, where Gavin showed us all up by his agile scramble to the summit, and again at the Clapper Bridge. At this last stop we spurned the 'Take-away Cream Teas' in favour of Devon ice cream, a fitting conclusion to our West Country spring weekend and yet another memorable club reunion.



Leo & Constance at the Saturday Evening drinks reception – More Photos from Exeter in the next issue of Pass.

Solution to Prize Crossword (2010:1)

by *Gadfan*

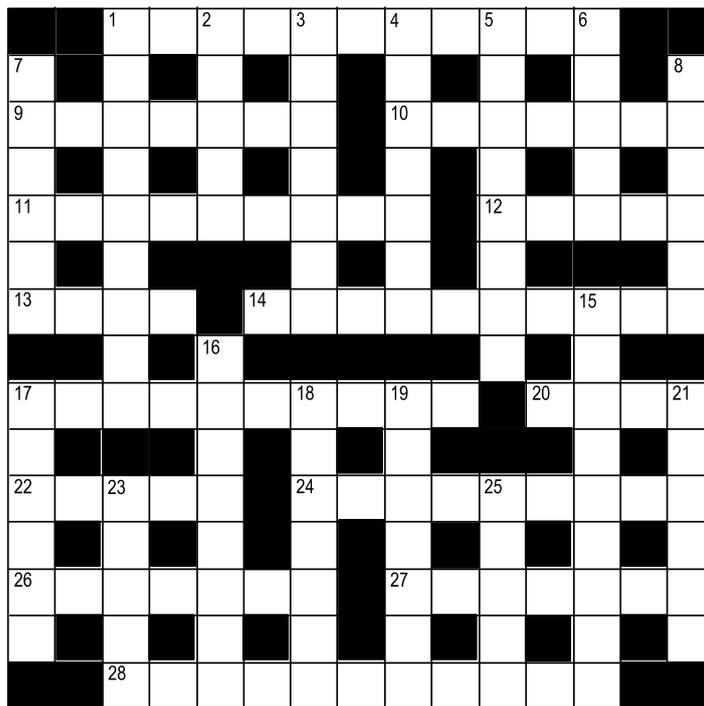
B	R	A	C	K	I	S	H		P	R	E	F	A	B
I		M		A		P		B		I		I		E
P	H	O	S	P	H	O	R	E	S	C	E	N	C	E
E		N		P		R		L		O		N		C
D	O	G	C	A	R	T		O	S	T	R	I	C	H
	N				U			N		T		S		T
C	E	N	T		G	E	O	G	R	A	P	H	E	R
A			W		B				A		E			E
M	I	S	O	G	Y	N	I	S	T		N	A	M	E
P		W		Y		E			I				E	
E	R	I	T	R	E	A		S	O	P	R	A	N	O
R		G		A		R		M		L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

Though there was no shortage of entries for Crossword 2010:1, it should have been easy to decide a winner as only two of the entries received were totally correct. If, heaven forbid, I had been so perverse as to set a cunning trap, I might have felt truly proud of its success. There was no trap, but only two entrants, Sonia Anderson and David Cowan, worked out the solution MEN-OF-WAR (rather than MAN-OF-WAR) in response to the 25,30 down clue, *Rebuilt from a new craft*. “Craft” could certainly be used to describe either, but only “men-of-war” is an anagram of “from a new”. After much deliberation over the tie-breaker, I decided in favour of Sonia’s offering, *Missing toy, mixed-up boy hates girls*, to yield the solution, MYSOGYNIST. Sonia will be receiving the usual £10 book token. Very bad luck, David. It was not an easy decision.

Entries for Crossword 2010:2 should be sent, with a suggested tie-breaker clue for 16 down, either by post to David Edwards, 26 Lady Meadow Close, Denstone, Uttoxeter, ST14 5EY by the end of June, or by e-mail to gadfan@btinternet.com by the end of July.

Prize Crossword (2010:2)

by Gadfan



ACROSS

- 1 Purveyed for salesman, one responsible for paper (11)
- 9 Precipitate made water supply useless to consume (5,2)
- 10 Hungry for a little kiss? I say nothing (7)
- 11 See 21
- 12 In emergencies avoid cold surfaces (5)
- 13 Rash to come back from Maiden Castle (4)
- 14 See official bow before company kept by his superior (10)
- 17,24 PM's departure from 21,11's works (5,2,3,9)
- 20 Dead on time? Yes and no (4)
- 22 Old Man Time's desire (5)
- 24 See 17
- 26 Problem putting top back on Miss Woodhouse (7)
- 27 Atrocious in-house production (7)
- 28 The scanners activated siren (11)

DOWN

- 1 Otherwise ganging up on me in a complaint (9)
- 2 Look up study of the past (5)
- 3 Authorise retreating sappers to take prisoner of war (7)
- 4 Ph.D. (City) - qualification for double image work (7)
- 5 Judge a sound cause (8)
- 6 Wet blankets provided by doctor I put on as an afterthought (5)
- 7 Breathtaking solution to a maths problem? (6)
- 8 Gold disc with red top (3,3)
- 15 Tumultuous response to sexy leader's makeover (9)
- 16 A gymnastics class measured (8)
- 17 Accountant implicated in dirty deed gets ten years (6)
- 18 Falls of rain again not featuring in broadcast (7)
- 19 Sort of job that could ruin a reputation (7)
- 21,11 Between 8 and 12, also makes work for him, Papa (6,9)
- 23 Worth respect (5)
- 25 Rear reported to be level (5)

Poems By Timothy Robey

UNIVERSAL CLOCK

A clock was fixed up on a train-
Two mirrors parallel and light
Reflected to and fro, so time
Is meted out and always right.

Observer A is by the track,
Observer B is on the train,
To one of them the clock goes slow,
To one it does not lose or gain.

Yes, Nature is constrained to be,
By the velocity of light.
The slave of relativity:
That clock, both ways, is always right.

As Cambridge travels to the train
A tousled genius waiting there
Is thinking how he could explain
His journey if he went by air.

OTHER FOLK

Ten to the power of twenty-one-
The stars that many possess
A planet something like our own
Where life-forms may progress.

But staying near our modest star
Is set to be our fate,
We may get messages from space
Ten million years too late.

Since we're so very limited,
The universe so large,
One wonders where, or if, or how
There's Someone there in charge.

And if there is a Master plan
Then how will others score
A breed that mixes human rights
With hunger, strife and war?

WALK IN WHARFDALE

Expansion and simplicity
Just after the Big Bang
Were all the future seemed to hold
If that's how it began.

The atoms clumped by gravity
Into collapsing stars;
To yield the stored complexities
To break chaotic bars.

The Cosmos filled with galaxies
Dark energy and mass-
As time and space were being made,
Time was allowed to pass.

It needed fourteen billion years,
If all this runs full true,
To make those galaxies and stars:
And something further too.

Galactic turmoil chose a star
And planet to survive;
And here was everything one needs
For living things to thrive.

A million screaming ice-locked years
Carved out these smiling hills
Where men and Nature have combined
To use their hand-clasped skills.

Some chance vibration long ago
Just tipped the cosmic scales-
Oh surely not, it all was planned.
To make the Yorkshire Dales.

A.K.A

All these people are better known by other names. What are they? Answers to Patricia Cowley, 17 Mount Pleasant Sunnyside, Diss, Norfolk IP22 4DT. A £20.00 book token goes to the first most correct entry opened on 25th July 2010.

1. Laszlo Lowenstein
2. Rodolpho d'Antongvolla
3. Marie Louise de la Ramee
4. Marvin Lee Aday
5. Emmanuel Goldenberg
6. Gerald Wiley
7. Archie Belaney
8. William Michael Albert Broad
9. Tweedledum and Tweedledee
10. Herbert Charles Angelo Kuchacevich ze Schluderpacheru
11. Virginia McMath
12. Rodrigo Diaz de Vivar
13. Manuel Benitez Perez
14. Marnie Mercedes Crittle
15. James Osterberg jr
16. Grietje Zelle
17. Tula Ellice Finklea
18. Edris Stannus
19. Emile Hertzog
20. Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu