

MAY 1972

3p

Harlequin

Leisure Magazine of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Research Group and Associated Organisations



In this issue

OUT O'DOORS IN MAY – BUYING YOUR OWN HOME
PERSONAL QUESTIONS TO THE DIRECTOR
BLENHEIM PALACE – CARTOON COMPETITION
FOOTBALL, RUGBY, BADMINTON, SQUASH

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Vol. XXVII No. 5 (78)

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COVER PICTURE

The Atlas computer building centre near the entrance to the Rutherford Laboratory, while to the back left is seen the main building of the Medical Research Centre, another organisation associated with A.E.R.E., Harwell, part of which is seen at the right of picture.

HERE AND NOW

"Harlequin" depends on Divisional and club correspondents to reflect the aspirations and achievements of the Research Centres at work and at leisure. Contributions of all sorts are required to maintain a new image of local interest and topicality.

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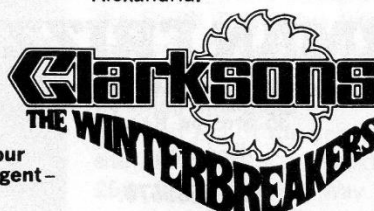
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Writing topical gardening copy a month before publication is as profitless as long-range weather forecasting. April came in March this year, and we have some rough weather ahead if Nature is to balance her books.

Late frosts can occur during May, and with higher day-temperatures encouraging soft growth and flowering, we must be ready with protection for those plants which need it. I don't know which physical factors decide whether a plant can recover from freezing, but many important crops can be "irreversibly denatured" by a few degrees.

Potato shoots should be allowed to develop in sunlight if possible, but be ready to draw soil over them if frost threatens. Strawberry flowers are very susceptible, and the crop can be lost to a frost at flowering time. A very light covering is usually sufficient to prevent radiation losses, and the straw used under the plants to keep the fruit clean will give adequate protection if it is shaken out over the tops of the plants the night before a frost.

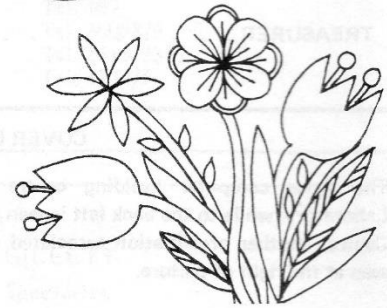
Apple blossom is just as vulnerable but more difficult to protect. Dwarf garden trees can be covered perhaps, using something opaque like sacking or nice clean sheets off a nearby washing line.

Out o' Doors in May

W. E. Norvell, Grounds Dept.

Remember that clear polythene does not prevent the sort of heat losses which lead to late frost damage.

Progressive fruit farmers who can't afford to take chances install orchard irrigation systems which produce a fine spray whenever the temperature drops to danger level. Apparently the light film of ice which forms on the flowers keeps the embryo fruitlet warm by a release of



latent heat from somewhere or other. The logic of this escapes me, but it works.

We have some well-managed commercial orchards in the Harwell area. Uniformity and neatness of orchard trees reflect very skilful husbandry, and the production of good quality fruit requires close attention to detail. Correct pruning, regular spraying, exact fertiliser treatments, and chemical weed control are essential operations nowadays in fruit-farming, and it is not surprising that the amateur is hard-pressed to produce a good crop of apples or pears year after year without the time or the resources of the professional.

If top fruit is attempted in the garden, then it may as well be with the best varieties. A "commercial" variety is not necessarily a good one. Some apples have very little to offer — the sole virtue of Worcester Pearmain, for example, is that it "travels well", i.e. it has a very tough skin. Cox's Orange Pippin is far and away the finest dessert apple known to man; closest rivals are probably Golden Delicious, James Grieve and Sunset. Cooking apple varieties are usually too gross and vigorous for a small garden; if there is room, grow Edward VII for quality or Bramley for quantity and a long season. For a single specimen tree with fruit which can be used for cooking or dessert, and which will support a tree-house for the children, try Blenheim Orange on a vigorous rootstock.

It is staggering to think that every single named fruit tree is part of one single original — a part in the real sense — as the big toe is part of one's body — and not as

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Commercial varieties of Harwell cherries are just as spectacular in spring as the garden types. Local orchards put Harwell on the map long before atomic energy.

Identical poplars in an orchard windbreak at Rowstock, all cuttings from a single original.



a close relation. Varieties do not survive the genetic re-shuffling which occurs when seed is produced, and the only way to perpetuate varietal characteristics is to propagate by means of off-shoots or "scions". A tree grown from a Bramley seed would not produce true Bramley fruit – much would depend on who the father was.

Species, as distinct from varieties, can be perpetuated by seed. The progeny remain specifically distinct, but they will still show the sort of brother/sister differences known as "seedling variation." This is clearly seen in variations in the form of like trees, and in gradations of autumn colour from oak to oak and beech to beech.

A pair of very sensible wrens have built a nest under a hanging basket this year in one of our greenhouses. It was finished in March. I thought that they were perhaps trying to get in an early brood just as we try to bring plants on out of season, but less perspicacious birds nesting outside in the South Drive area were just as well forward. Obviously, day-length has a greater influence than temperature on the breeding timetable.

The first egg of the year reported on the site was laid by a Blackbird on March 25th in the Icknield Way hedge, but I'm sure there were earlier records.

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The rapid rise in the price of houses during the past couple of years has been the subject of national discussion. House buying is now locally topical as tenants on the Authority estates are being given the opportunity to purchase the houses

This is too big a subject to deal with adequately in a brief article, but here is an outline of steps along the path to owning one's home.

As Mrs. Beeton would say, first find your house. However, if either your ready cash or your income is limited it would be wiser first to ascertain the approximate size of mortgage that you could expect to obtain, as this would save wasting time looking at houses priced beyond your means.

Let us assume the house has been selected and a price agreed with the vendor. You then, through your mortgage broker, or direct with a building society, complete forms giving particulars of the house and personal particulars of yourself and income. The building society has the house surveyed and valued for *their* purposes, and although you pay their surveyor's fee the report is not available to you. (Note: I agree with your thoughts, and trust that one day this will be changed).

The vendor will require a deposit as proof of intent to proceed with the purchase, and this may be up to 10%. It is usually safer to arrange this payment through a solicitor, who will ensure it is repaid to you in the event of the purchase not being completed.

Assuming the surveyor's report is satisfactory, the building society formally makes an offer giving the terms under which it will grant you a loan. You then instruct your solicitor to proceed.

This is when you can be overcome with euphoria. After all, everything is agreed, the vendor wants to sell the house to you at a price at which you want to buy it, and the building society has said it is willing to lend you the money. So now you can plan your furnishing and occupation of your new house, and dream of the future. However, no matter how much agreement exists, there is as yet no *legal* agreement, and either party can withdraw from the transaction. This can be a protection for the purchaser, because

Home

they occupy. The writer is an Associate of the Chartered Insurance Institute and a Member of the Institute of Purchasing and Supply. "Harlequin" asked for general advice on house buying in 1972

your solicitor's investigations may reveal a fact which would make you want to stop the purchase, e.g. a new road is scheduled to pass through the property.

The purchase is now "subject to exchange of contracts". What exists is a gentleman's agreement and, as everybody knows, a gentleman's agreement is fine only so long as *both* parties to it are gentlemen. (In deference to Women's Lib. perhaps I should add "or ladies"!). This is usually a most irritating period of waiting, with alternate periods of optimism, that it is merely a matter of time, and of pessimism, that something's sure to go wrong!

Whilst either the buyer or the seller can take advantage in the "subject-to-contract" stage, the buyer is more vulnerable because he has incurred greater expense. The seller can "gazump", that is raise his selling price, before the contracts are signed, and in today's sellers' market he may get away with it. On the other hand, the buyer could reduce his offer, which could be highly embarrassing to the seller if he is depending on the sale to link with a house purchase elsewhere. In either case, the practice is deplorable.

Contracts are exchanged and there are no particular difficulties here. Both vendor and purchaser are now legally bound to proceed with the transaction, which is now bound by the contract which has fixed a completion date. This is the date the vendor has undertaken to hand over the keys (through his solicitors) in exchange for the balance of the purchase price. It is possible that there may be practical difficulties which slightly delay the exchange of keys and cash, so it is wise not to be too dependent on the precise date.

To end on a cheerful note — to own one's own house is most satisfying; and if one consults a reliable mortgage broker and solicitor one's worries will be minimised. It will also be clear that staff purchasing Authority estate houses which they already occupy are saved from many of the problems mentioned.

Personal



questions

Answering the "Personal Questions" to start this new series is the Director Dr. Walter Marshall.

Born 5th March, 1932; educated Birmingham University; came to Harwell 1954 as Scientific Officer; Research Physicist, University of California, 1957-58; Harvard University 1958-59; Group Leader Harwell's Solid State Theory, 1959-60; Head of Theoretical Physics Division, 1960-66; Deputy Director, 1966-68; Director, 1968; Director Research Group U.K.A.E.A., 1966-68; Member National Research Development Corporation, 1969; Elected Fellow of The Royal Society, 1971.

Married 1955, one son, one daughter.

Recreations listed in "Who's Who" are Croquet, Chess, Gardening, Origami.

The Pen Sketch for "Harlequin" by John Eggleton, Engineering Support Division.

1. If you could meet and talk to any person living today, whom would you choose?
Chou En Lai.
2. And if from the past, then whom?
Duke of Wellington.
3. What are your hobbies?
Physics.
4. What is your favourite saying?
Be reasonable! Do it my way!
5. What sort of holiday do you prefer?
A family holiday in a luxury hotel.
6. What type of person irritates you most?
People who don't listen and, therefore, cannot themselves communicate.
7. What kind of entertainment do you enjoy most?
Opera.
8. What "little things" irritate you most?
Background music simultaneous with conversation.
9. If you could do any job in the world, what would you choose?
Director of Harwell.
10. What in your wife's opinion are your worst vices and greatest virtues?
Worst vice: He always thinks he is right. Greatest virtue: He is always right.

RUGBY CLUB

Harwell celebrated the Easter holiday by participating in the Bournemouth Sports Club Festival. They arrived in Bournemouth on Good Friday morning for games in the afternoons of Good Friday, Saturday and Easter Monday, and found that the hotel in which they were booked had no beer! This top-priority problem was overcome by purchasing a 10-gallon barrel from the Festival organisers and taking it back to the hotel.

The overall record for the weekend reads quite well - played three, won two, lost one - but they prefer to forget the first match on Good Friday. It was even suggested that some lesser team stole

their kit and turned out in their place. Harwell had been advised by the organisers to field their strongest team on Easter Monday; Old Reedonians from Cobham, on the other hand, had been told that they should field their strongest side on Good Friday, when they played Harwell. Consequently, a mixture of Harwell 2nds, 3rds and 4ths met a young, fit and well-trained 1st XV, and the departure from the field of Colin Banks, injured in the first 10 minutes, didn't help. The result was an overwhelming 80-0 defeat.

On Saturday Harwell, strengthened by some 1st XV players, gained a well-deserved victory over Frome RFC by 21-7, with tries by Elliott, Trumbell and Woods. Tony Stevens was wearing his

shooting boots that day and converted all three tries, and a penalty as well.

After a day of rest, Harwell faced Nuneaton Old Edwardians with, as advised, their strongest team, including guest players from A.W.R.E. Ray Coulthard had a field day, scoring two superb solo tries and making two more for A.W.R.E. guest Ray Williams. The result was a runaway win by three goals, one penalty goal and three tries against one goal and one try (33-10). Unlucky Colin Banks again suffered, this time with a twisted knee, and Harwell played most of the game with fourteen men.

In recognition of the skill and enthusiasm of the Elders, it must be recorded that Brian Arnold played a true Captain's game in all three matches.

THE GRAND BRIDGE AT BLENHEIM



The bridge that stands on the approach to the main entrance of Blenheim Palace was designed by its architect, Sir John Vanbrugh, to be like a large house, but it was never finished

Written and illustrated
by Reg Wilkinson
M.R.C.

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In 1705 Queen Anne presented the royal manor at Woodstock to the first Duke of Marlborough in grateful recognition of his splendid victory over the French and Bavarians at Blenheim in the previous year. She also decreed that a suitable residence be built on the estate as a permanent monument to the great Englishman. Blenheim Palace, which cost £500,000 to build and some twenty years to complete, was the result of this decree. The building covers three out of a total of more than 2,000 acres of parkland on the estate.

Spanning a lake on the axial approach to the main entrance of the palace is the largest and strongest park bridge in Britain. Aptly named the Grand Bridge, it was designed on a magnificent scale by the baroque architect Sir John Vanbrugh, in keeping with his design of the palace itself. The bridge was intended to be like a large house containing many rooms and including a small theatre. It was to have three arches, the central span being about 100 feet, flanked by four towers, each eighty feet in height, and joined by arcading to resemble a Roman aqueduct. Built over a small stream called the Glyme, which "Capability" Brown - the famous landscape gardener - later turned into an ornamental lake, the bridge caused trouble from the start. Long causeways were necessary to reach the required height, an immense task in times when the only method of earth-moving was hard manual spadework. The construction of the causeways was supervised by Henry Wise, the royal gardener, who had laid out the gardens at Hampton Court. The digging and piling went on, with numerous breaks, for years and it eventually became known as "Mr. Wise's dig" to commemorate the sheer size and

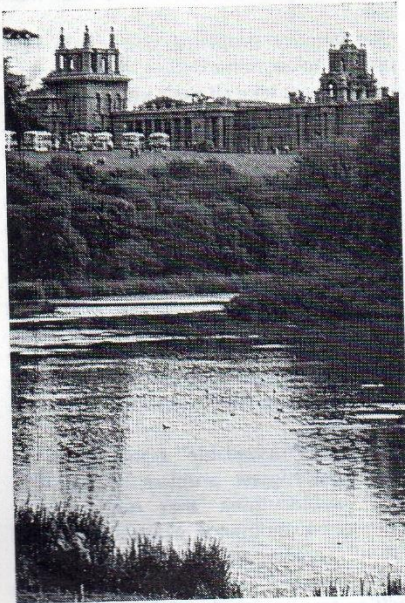
scope of the whole operation.

The mason, Bartholomew Peisley, and his son set the keystone of the main arch in 1710 and a year later they were ready to begin work on the towers and arcading. Unfortunately for Vanbrugh, Sarah, the Duchess of Marlborough, decided to take a hand at this stage and she stopped all further construction until her husband returned from his campaigns. The architect pleaded with her to allow the work to continue, but the duchess, who had quarrelled several times with Vanbrugh in the past, had grown weary of his extravagant schemes. She was worried by the expense entailed in building the palace and did not allow its completion until after her husband's death in 1722.

Today the bridge stands solid and imposing, waiting for the towers and



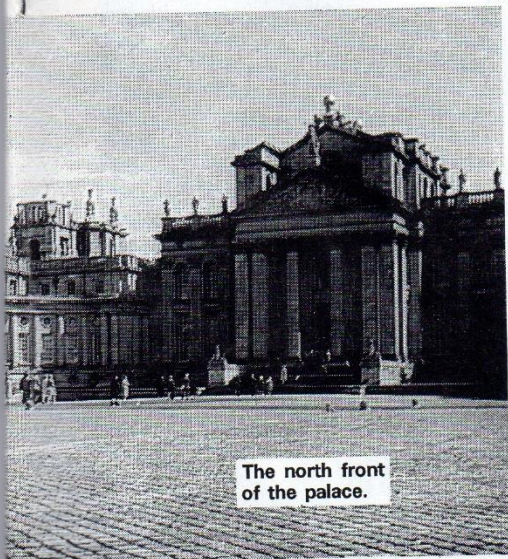
PALACE



arcading it was built to support. The birds fly unhindered through the unglazed windows and build their nests in the many recesses. The bridge is nothing like the one planned for the site by Sir Christopher Wren, who designed Marlborough House among his other great works. His would have been a rather unimposing structure about twelve feet high, intended purely as a means of crossing the Glyme to gain access to the palace.

□ □ □

Vanbrugh, the architect of Blenheim, was born in 1664 and was commissioned at the age of twenty-one in the 13th Foot



The north front of the palace.

... and the palace gardens



A scene in the water gardens, showing two of the fountains.

Regiment. During his military career he was imprisoned for a period at the Bastille in Paris. To pass the time he started to write a play, and on his return to England he resigned his commission and became a professional playwright. His plays were an immediate success and he was soon established as a prominent figure in the aristocratic circles of the time. His plays are performed to this day, the two best known being probably "The Relapse" and "The Provok'd Wife". After a time he became interested in architecture, and a great friend of his, Charles Howard, third Earl of Carlisle, persuaded him to design a residence to replace one that had recently been burned down. The result was Castle Howard in Yorkshire. More like a palace than a castle, it was one of the most magnificent private houses in England. His work on Castle Howard earned him the position of Comptroller of the Office of Works and a high post at the College of Heralds, that of Clarenceux King of Arms. Before beginning work on

Blenheim Palace he designed Witton Hall in 1703 for the painter Sir Godfrey Kneller, who, incidentally, was responsible for the portrait of Vanbrugh which now hangs in the National Portrait Gallery.

Although his design of Blenheim did not please everyone, and aroused the ridicule of the so-called intellectuals of the time, Vanbrugh was not deterred and he went on to design many more beautiful buildings, including country houses such as Seaton Delaval Hall in Northumberland, Grimsthorpe in Lincolnshire, Kimbolton in Huntingdonshire and Eastbury in Dorset. He also designed his own home at Maze Hill, near Greenwich, in association with his great colleague Wren. Towards the end of his life he took up writing once more and when he died in 1726 he left an unfinished play, "The Provok'd Husband", which was completed by another playwright and produced two years later.

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A.E.R.E FOOTBALL CLUB MANAGEMENT

For an amateur club, A.E.R.E. does a great deal of travelling. The Hellenic League in which we play is spread over four counties with clubs as far apart as Luton, Amersham and Chippenham. This, of course, incurs a lot of expense for the club, and rarely does a week go by when we don't have either a mini-bus or a coach. Fortunately, we have an ever-willing supplier of coaches in W. & G. Chandler of Wantage. Even as late as a Friday morning it is possible to book a coach, and for this we are very grateful. On several occasions this season we have hired a self-drive 12 seater mini-bus for first team travel, and this has worked very well. Not only is it cheaper than a full coach with driver but it is more conducive to the players' thirsty requirements on the way home (and to the match if they had their way). I remember with pleasure the trip to Luton this season. Unfortunately, we lost the match 5-4 but upon our return to the Social Club at 9.30 p.m. one would have thought we had won 10-0. The only fault we can find with the Bedford Mini-bus is that it is somewhat cramped inside with 12 hairy footballers and all their kit.

If anyone knows of a Ford Transit Type Mini-bus for self-drive hire locally, our Secretary would be pleased to hear from him.

Our laundry problems this season have proved to be non-existent. Most amateur club players take all their kit home after a game and wash it themselves, but at A.E.R.E. we have two large black boxes which hold a complete kit each for each team, i.e. 12 shirts, 12 pairs of shorts and 24 socks. Both kits are collected by me after each game and they are then washed and dried in the local launderette. My wife then irons each item before packing them neatly into their respective boxes. This was proved to be a boon because it eliminates the worry of collecting the kits of players who have been dropped or are unavailable.

The word "unavailable" brings me to the next and biggest problem at A.E.R.E. One would think that with a staff numbering thousands availability would be no problem, but it is quite the reverse. Very few local people who work here are willing to play for the club, preferring to stay with their local clubs etc. etc. Maybe the amount of travelling we have to do or the lack of success is what puts them off. We don't really know, but we like to think it is the former. The bulk of our club membership then is made up of young lads from the various A.E.R.E. Hostels, and most of them are single and come from all over the country. Consequently, never a week goes by without at least three or four players being unavailable due to their going home for the week-end. What happens is that the word goes around that F. Bloggs is going home to Manchester, or, A.N. Other is off home to Newcastle. Yes you've guessed it. Four lads paying the petrol money is far better than one. This is a real thorn in my side, as regards the club players, but who can blame them? Three days of Mum's cooking and two nights with the girls down the street is too much temptation for the somewhat homesick youngster. If only we had more local lads in the club this problem would be alleviated, and I am sure that the teams' performances would greatly improve if the same players were available all the time. But don't get me wrong, I'm not saying we don't want the Hostel lads, far from it, without them we would really be in trouble, in fact, some of our best players live in the Hostels and we are very pleased and honoured to have them.

In the next issue I shall try to explain the different types of personalities one comes across in players and pitfalls to be wary of.

H. J. Samuel
Manager, A.E.R.E. F.C.



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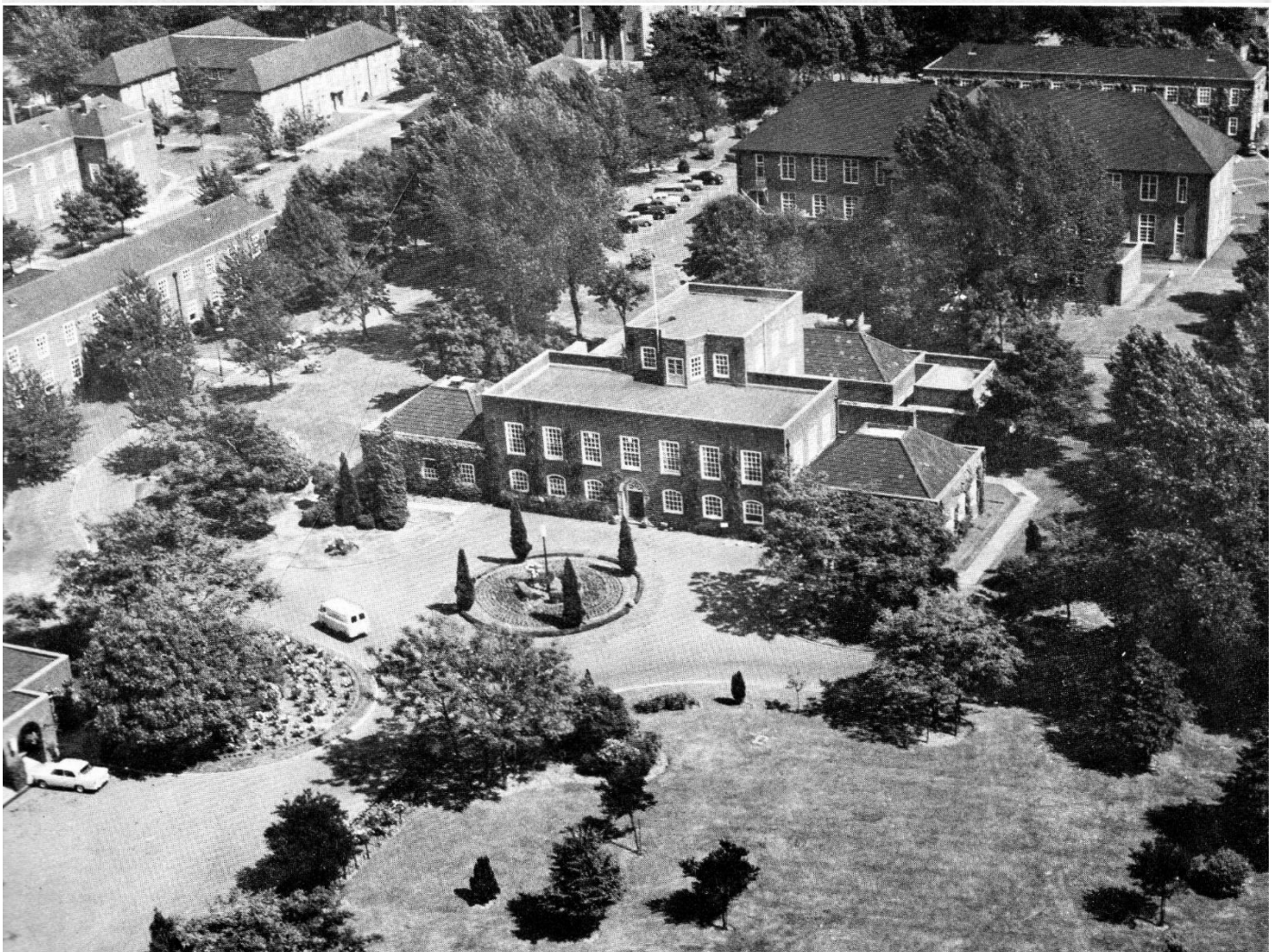
These genuine photographs, taken last month, might both appear to be of Harwell's general services building — but differ in several details. How?

When the above question was posed in the last issue, we did not expect the assertion that *neither* photograph was that of Harwell's Building 77.

On reflection, the trees in the centre of the left-hand photograph do appear to be growing where Building 329 butts on to the back. A walk down Thomson Avenue, however, will reveal that they do grow there.

The right-hand photograph was taken for "Harlequin" at the entrance of Cranfield Institute of Technology in Bedfordshire. Twenty-five years ago the Institute took over the wartime R.A.F. airfields for the study of aeronautics. The same R.A.F. architecture of the pre-war period is therefore to be found.

The aerial photographs of Cranfield, below, shows an earlier lay-out of the approaches, which has much to commend it. At Harwell there is often confusion whether the round flower bed is to be treated as a traffic roundabout. In the lay-out, below, there is no doubt that it is not, and the sharp corners at the north and south ends of the building have been avoided. With greater restrictions on the parking of cars at Harwell, occupants of Building 77 sometimes receive telephone calls: "I set out to call on you, but after circling the building and not finding a place I had to return!" It is pleasing, however, to see the roadway of Harwell uncluttered by cars as in our Cranfield photograph, right.



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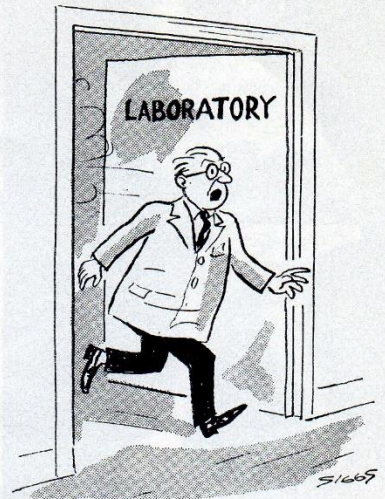
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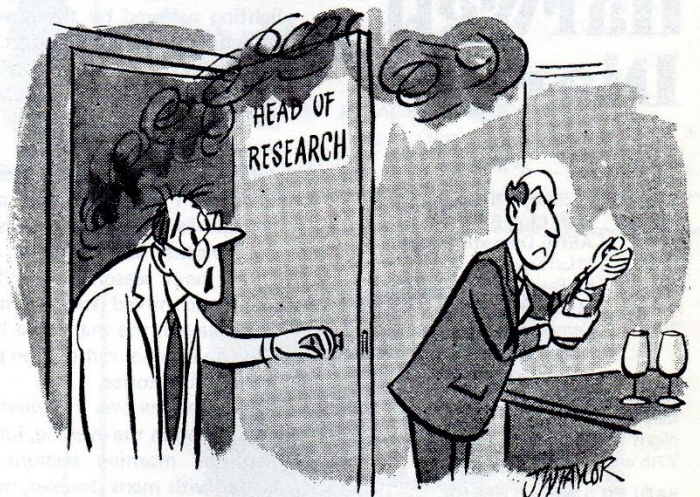


"That's the trouble nowadays—no knowledge of the classics!"

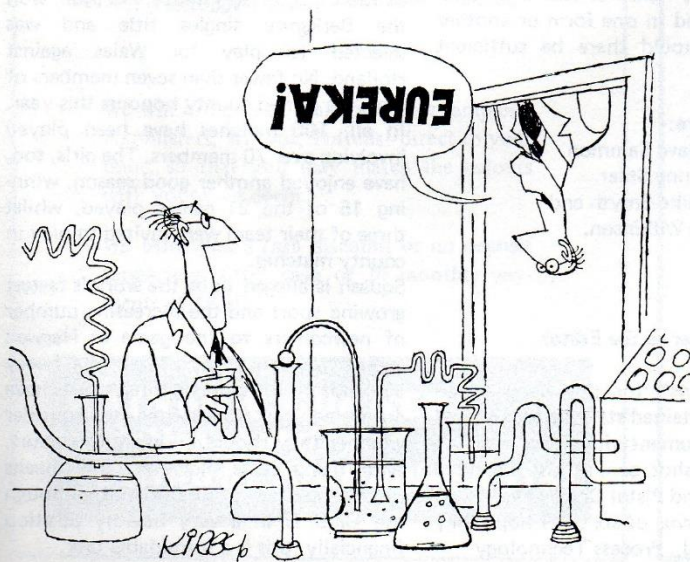


"My God! I mean Eureka!"

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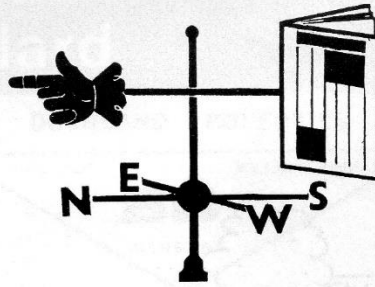
"Sorry—uneureka!"



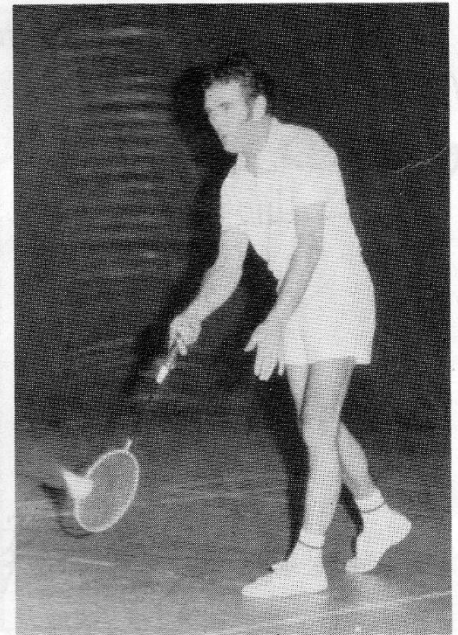
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Photos: David Gully



The air hall is among the best halls in the district for badminton, with a good floor surface and reasonable headroom.



Harwell Diary

May

- 12 "Scruppy & Weston",
Staff Club B
- 17 AERE Dramatic Society
"Halfway up a Tree"
- 18 by Peter Ustinov
- 19 at the Social Club
- 20 Camping Club Spring Meet
- 26

New Theatre, Oxford
May 22nd for Two Weeks.
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DEVON — Caravans overlooking sea, Westward Ho! — cottages near sea, Northam, Appledore, Bideford. Stamped envelope: Sealy "Uplands", Orchard Hill, Bideford, 'phone 2661.

**"HARLEQUIN", 1,05B, Bld. 77,
 A.E.R.E., HARWELL, BERKS.**

BADMINTON CLUB

In spite of the lost time and damaged lighting suffered by the power cuts, the club has had a good season. The mixed doubles team, playing in Division 2 of the Wallingford and District League, won 8 out of 10 matches and have finished the season in second place. Abbey, the winner of Division 2, will be promoted to Division 1 and we shall continue the struggle for promotion. It is quite likely that another team will be entered in a league next season. A good number of mens and mixed friendly matches have been played, the main idea being to have enjoyable games rather than providing the club with victories.

There are now over 120 members playing badminton in the evening, lunch hour and Saturday morning sessions. There is a ladder with mens doubles, mixed doubles and singles sections. A session of coaching was successfully held last year and could well be repeated in one form or another next season should there be sufficient demand.

Club Officers are:-

- Chairman, Dave Sammon.
- Secretary, Anne Steer.
- Treasurer, Mike Smyth and
- Captain, Les Wilkinson.

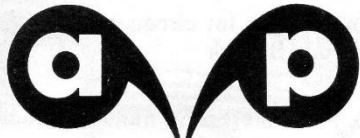
Letter to the Editor

"A.E.R.E. News" for the week ended 15th April contained staff advertisements for one engagement ring, two wedding dresses and a shot gun. It also included under "Rifle and Pistol Club"! *Our target is two good teams of six . . .* I hope they missed! K.D.B.J., Process Technology

SQUASH RACKETS CLUB

The club was formally set up by a few enthusiasts in 1954, with one court inherited from the R.A.F. and a total membership of 14. During the past ten years, membership has grown to well over 300, and two additional courts with very good changing facilities have been built at a cost of nearly £10,000. Apart from £2,000 generously provided by the Recreational Association, the whole of the balance of £8,000 has been raised by the Squash Club from its own sources. The standard of squash has improved appreciably over the years and the Club has built up a formidable reputation for high quality squash and good fellowship. Many successes have been achieved and this season has seen the Club retain its title of Berkshire champions by winning the League for the sixth successive season since its inception in 1965-6. A member of the Club, Brian Phillips, has again won the Berkshire singles title and was selected to play for Wales against Holland. No fewer than seven members of the Club gained county honours this year. In all, 100 matches have been played involving over 70 members. The girls, too, have enjoyed another good season, winning 15 of the 21 games played, whilst three of their team were invited to play in county matches.

Squash is alleged to be the world's fastest growing sport and the increasing number of newcomers to the game at Harwell augurs well for the future. The heavy demands on the existing three courts have prompted the Committee to consider whether they should build another court. With rising costs, however, this means finding upwards of £5,000 and, although the Club is in a very healthy position financially, this is a formidable task.



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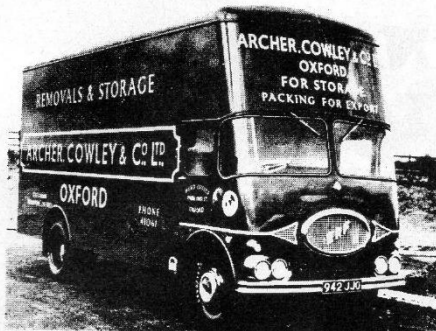


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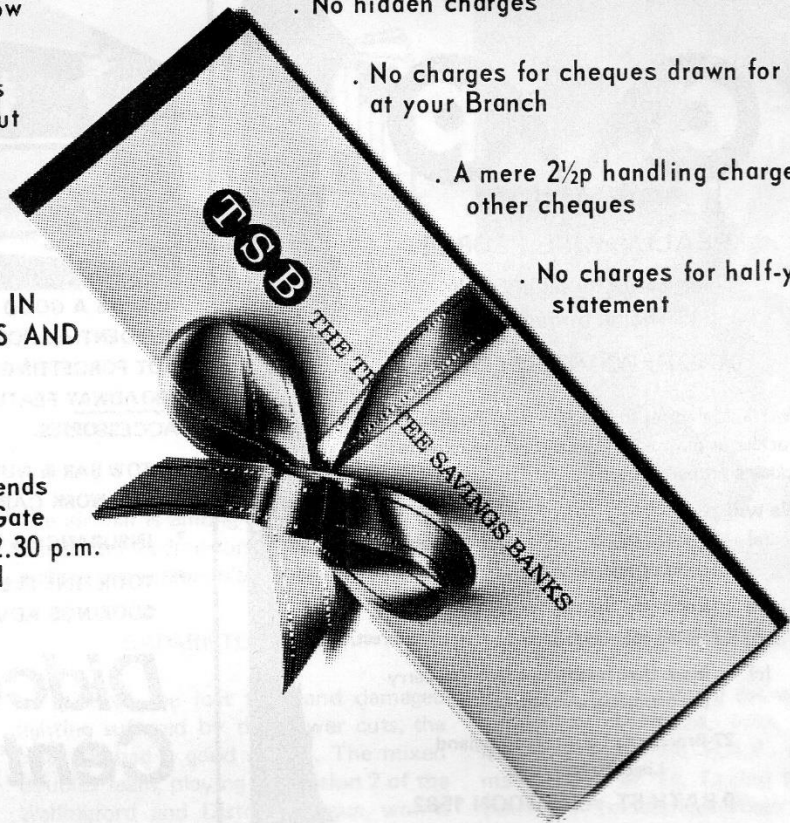
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