

SEPTEMBER 1972

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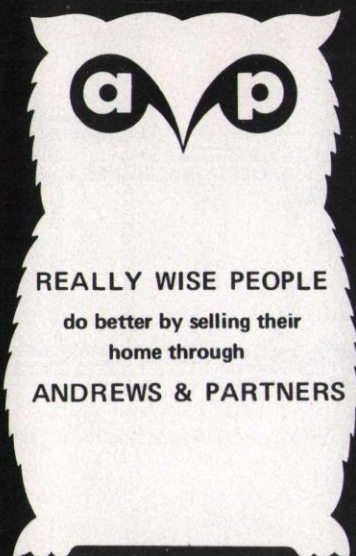
Harlequin

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



In this issue

OUT O'DOORS IN SEPTEMBER — R. S. PEASE: PROFILE
ROUND TOWERS OF THE LAMBOURN VALLEY
PHILATELY, JUDO, FOOTBALL, ETC.



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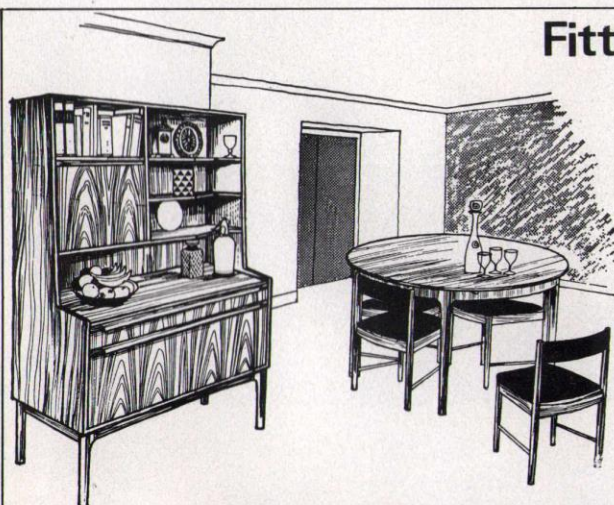
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Harlequin

Vol. XXVII No. 8 (81)

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COVER PICTURE

THE BELATED ARRIVAL OF SUMMER SHOWED ONCE MORE HOW DEPENDANT WE ARE ON DIRECT RADIATION FROM THE SUN – THE EARTH'S NEAREST EXAMPLE OF SUSTAINED FUSION REACTIONS. THIS SCENE CAPTURED RECENTLY AT CULHAM LABORATORY BY D.E. SKELTON OF D3 SHOWS THAT A FINE CROP OF CORN WAS GATHERED BY THE LOCAL FARMER WHO RENTS SO-FAR-UNUSED PARTS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT. INSIDE THE LABORATORY, WORK CONTINUES, OF COURSE, TOWARDS THE GOAL OF A COMMERCIAL EARTH-BASED FUSION REACTOR.

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Out o' Doors

this September

W. E. Norvell, Grounds Dept.



September is a good month for walking.
The air is clear, it's not too hot, and the
countryside is full of colour.

We are well-served here for lawful
access to the countryside, where the
Ridgeway must be the busiest unmetalled
road in the country. Marginally safe for
vehicles in dry weather, it is too narrow
for congested parking yet wide enough
for family picnics in reasonable solitude
and splendid scenery. It is more a country
park than a footpath; recently blessed by
the Department of the Environment, it
now spans the entire Chiltern/Berkshire
Downs system.

In such a horse-conscious area the
north Berkshire bridleway system will
always be available to the walker. Many
lesser-known footpaths, alas, are threat-
ened by farmers with a prairie mentality,
and gamekeepers who would deny us
more than the 90% of our country areas
already fenced off and preserved for the
ritual slaughter of "game" by a mis-
guided few.

All of our local naturalist societies,
and the Ramblers Association on a
national scale, are committed to preserv-
ing public rights of way. There is strength
in numbers, and support of this cause by
joining an organised walk would be a
rewarding way to spend a September
Sunday.

This is a season of fruition and
ripening; seeds are set and scattered
abroad – tiny, indestructible, dormant
germs of life which will survive the worst
winter and ensure continuance of the
species in the spring.

The scattering or dispersal of seeds is
in itself important in survival, and the
methods of achieving it make one of the
most fascinating studies in botany. Many
seeds are borne on the wind like the
parachutes of dandelion and thistle, and
the spinning propeller blades of ash and
sycamore. The dreadful "sticky" fruits of
burdock and goose-grass are armed with
tiny hooks which are caught up and
carried in the fur of animals and on
trouser-legs. The pods of the pea family
"explode" on drying to shoot out the
seeds – the tiny cracking explosions can
be heard in any gorse bush on a hot day.

Attractive, nourishing hedgerow fruits
are part of a natural confidence trick.
Eaten by birds and animals, the seeds
survive the digestive system; many fruit-
eating birds are migrating at this time of
year, and a more efficient method of
dispersal could hardly be devised by the
RAF.

There was a time – before canning and
freezing made housekeeping so easy,
expensive, and dull – when man had to
set by his store of food for the winter.
Large families were reared from small
gardens, with a six-months' supply of

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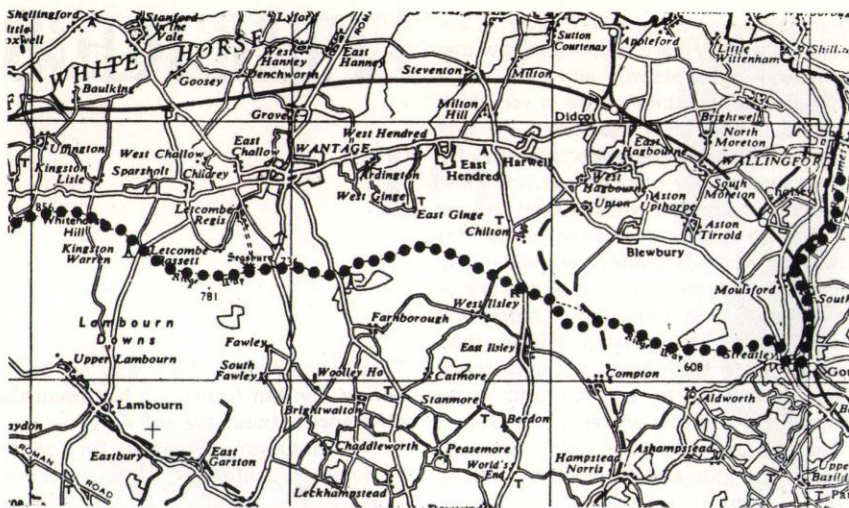
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The Ridgeway meanders through some of the most beautiful countryside in Britain

root-crops protected from frost in clamps, and the kitchen shelves groaning under jars of home-grown and home-made preserves. To the uninitiated, this must sound like hard work; to those more fortunate, gardening is not work at all but a revelation. Thankfully, home gardening maintains a huge following through an age of psychological stress, dehumanising television, and mobility for its own sake.

Harvest Festivals were instituted when men were truly thankful that "all was safely gathered in." Blind dependence on the superstores to provide may yet prove unwise, for nature twists her shaft in curious ways — usually to point out that she is still master, and tolerant only of those, like the gardener, who defer, accept her gifts, and give thanks.

Part of the autumn harvest is of course there for the taking. Mushrooms are found in different fields in different years for no obvious reason; they are at their best when fully open with the gills just darkening — a stage that cultivated mushrooms aren't allowed to reach.

Addicts of crabapple jelly would do better to grow one of the dual-purpose flowering crabs on their lawn than plunder the hedgerows, but there is no substitute for blackberry jam made from the wild fruit.

Jam and bread may be a music-hall joke, but there is jam and jam. There are the multi-coloured but monotypic shop confections on the one hand, and there is home-made blackberry on the other. With the former, the only variable is the label; members of the Blackberry Jam Society, however, talk about aroma, texture and bouquet, and the only reason for a weak lobbying position in the House of Commons is that membership tends to lapse as gums shrink and seeds lodge behind loose dentures. This is, of course, another mechanism of seed dispersal.

September is also a month for reflection, when we can see what went wrong in the garden and make plans to avoid the pitfalls next year. Most of this year's disappointments could be blamed on the weather, and there isn't a lot we can do about that.

Some seeds with a high germinating temperature requirement failed completely, notably sweet corn and runner beans. On a small scale, it is worth sowing beans towards the end of April in the hope that the weather will be kind, but always make another sowing about May 10th just in case. With sweet corn sown out-doors, we can expect to lose about one crop in three; a sure way to get a good early crop is to sow the seed in small peat pots about the middle of April and bring the plants on in a cool greenhouse or frame, planting them out in early June.

Since my recent glorification of the Leek, readers who have planted them where their front lawn used to be can now sit back and relax; nothing short of glaciation will stop them now, and we can dig out some recipes in anticipation. A favourite with the proletariat in the far north is leek pudding. The leeks are diced, wrapped in a $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick skin of suet pastry, tied up in a muslin bag, and boiled for about two hours. It is difficult to make a recipe like that sound exciting, but served as an appetiser before Sunday dinner with a low-viscosity gravy it should speak for itself.

BIRDS

Swallows will be gathering on the telephone wires now, probably trying to build up each other's confidence for the long journey to their winter quarters in Africa. The impulses and patterns of bird migration are not well understood but the most astonishing aspect is the simple physical fact that birds weighing grams rather than ounces can negotiate continents and oceans, many of them flying alone and for the first time.

Sad it is to see the swallows go, but winter visitors from the north will take their place. Many of these will be with us now — some only for a short time as our island is merely a resting place on many a prodigious journey. But some will stay until the spring; the most conspicuous of these is probably the fieldfare, that large, handsome, berry-eating thrush whose clattering call will be heard all over Britain from now until April 1973.



Mrs. M. Wells receiving an award at the 29th AERE Horticultural Show from the president, Mrs. Walter Marshall.

Mr. Lunney admiring one of the exhibits.



JUDO CLUB

The last six months have undoubtedly been the most successful in the club's short history. In common with most of the organisations within the A.E.R.E. Recreational Association we suffer a steady drain on our membership, caused by the somewhat itinerant habits of the younger Harwell employees. But we have in the last few months been exceptionally lucky in the quality of the new starters at the club, to replace some of the well-known faces that have left us. Due to the intense enthusiasm for Judo shown at A.E.R.E. we have managed to maintain our membership at an unusually high level during the summer months, so much so that we are attracting a number of visiting players from other clubs and areas, including the very welcome and now regular Thursday visitor Dave Williams of Oxford City club. Dave, who is not only a very experienced contest player of note but also a black belt of some years' seniority, has brought about a really noticeable improvement in the standard of our members all the way up through the grades.

Children's Judo has received a tremendous boost recently with the introduction by the British Judo Association of a new grading system which gives juniors a real incentive to gain

something really worth having. Consequently, they have been injected with a renewed enthusiasm, and the club standard of children's judo is very high indeed. Some years ago, when we first started taking children to contests, we took some pretty bad beatings, and those children who were with us then and are still with us now deserve credit for sticking at it. Nowadays we win many more contests than we lose, and in one or two cases have individual juniors who have never been beaten within their weight class. Both boys' and girls' teams are committed to two contests every month through the winter in the Oxford area league, and this, plus gradings, demonstrations and "friendlies", should keep us all on our toes throughout the winter.

Finally, in answer to the people who keep asking me when we are going to start women's Judo at A.E.R.E., the answer is that we are still unable to give a firm date; but one of our juniors, still only 15 years old and not yet a senior by BJA rules, has already obtained her senior orange belt, and is working two nights a week to qualify as women's coach. We hope that in about a year from now we may be able to offer women's Judo classes at the club—sooner, of course, if any already qualified woman comes forward.

'THERE'S

That may be what those who are blood donors say, but to many it has meant the difference between life and death:—

- To Stephanie Symons for whom donors provided the blood needed to work the machine during her recent hole-in-the heart operation. Says her mother: "I can never express my thanks to those people who gave their blood to someone they don't know. Without them the operation would have been impossible."
- To a girl of four whose nightdress caught alight. For survival she was given transfusions of blood plasma on arrival at hospital.
- To a man badly injured in an explosion. He needed eleven transfusions in the first days of several months in hospital. While he remained on the danger list, his wife was comforted by the thought that they had both been regular donors for years.

Most of today's medical and surgical treatment calls for the support of blood transfusions. At least 3,888 donations are needed daily.

Says Dr. Jean Grant: "A dispassionate observer in an outpost of the universe, viewing our materialistic and chaotic state, might be forgiven for believing that altruism is dead. How wrong he would be!

At each donor clinic a test is made to ensure that the donor is not at all anaemic. The minutes. It is painless and harmless. That it is worthwhile speaks for itself.



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Harwell Physicist
Geoffrey Symons and
his three-year old
daughter Stephanie,
who is now doing well
at their Abingdon home



"Every day of the week, year in and year out, the thousands of people who gather together to give their blood for the benefit of their neighbours show in a quiet and undemonstrative way that they care for more than their own immediate interests. Coming as individuals or in groups, some give up their free time to attend, many are allowed or encouraged by their employers to break off from the day's work to make their contribution.

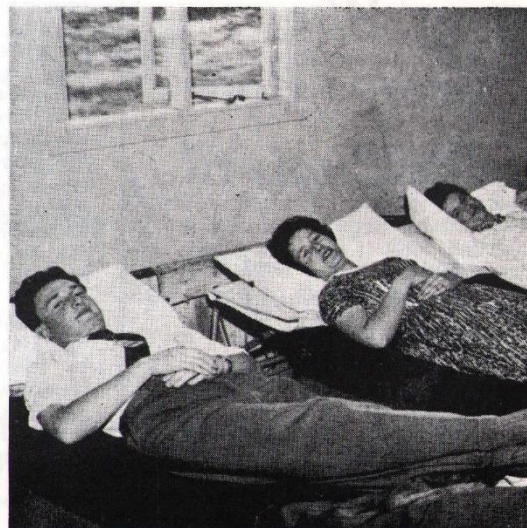
To all of them we would like to say "Thank you."

"The very numerous patients to whom this blood is given and their families to whom they have been restored cannot say "Thank you" for themselves, but I am sure they would wish, genuinely and sincerely, to be associated in an expression of heartfelt gratitude to those who have made their recovery possible. Thank you all."

An appointment can be arranged by your Admin. Office for the visits of the National Blood Transfusion Service which are made twice a year:- *SRC, Chilton* — two-day clinic in the Conference Room, April and October. *Culham Laboratory* — clinic at E2, May and November. *AERE* — five-day clinic at Grimsdyke House, April and October.

It is painless and harmless, but can save a life.

collection itself takes about five minutes. To this may be added the time for waiting, resting and refreshments to make a total of about thirty-five



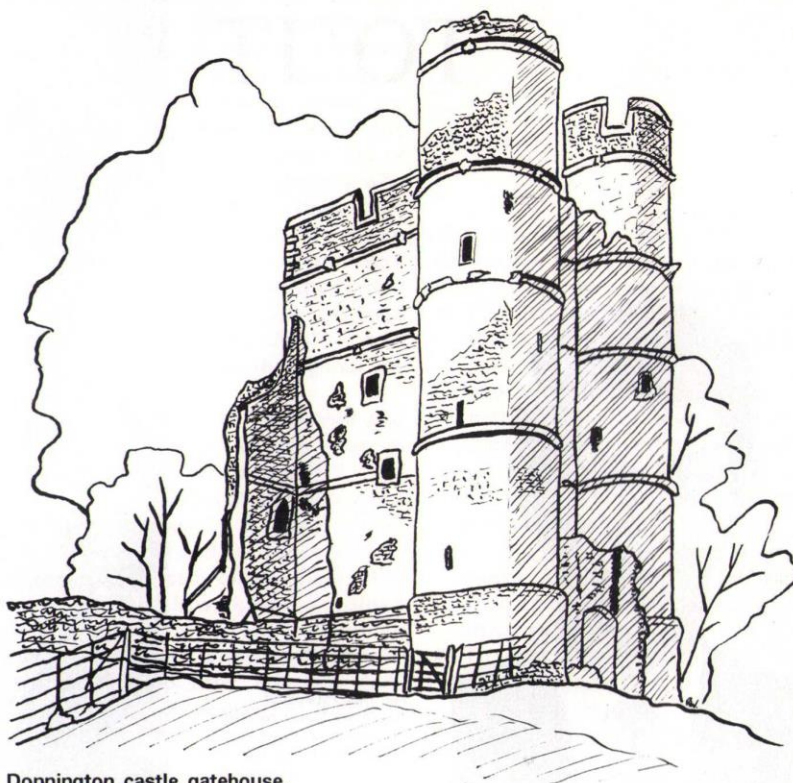
THE towers of Windsor Castle are well known, but there are other round towers in Berkshire that are worthy of note. Not least of their interesting features is the fact that they are all situated in the Lambourn valley. Two of them are part of a castle gatehouse and two are church towers.

The remains of Donnington castle are located at the lower end of the valley, just north of Newbury, and are easily reached from the A34. Apart from the castle at Windsor, Donnington is the only one in Berkshire that has more than earthworks to show. It was built in 1386 by Sir Richard Abberbury on land that at one time belonged to Thomas Chaucer, son of the famous poet.

* * *

During the civil war two battles were fought near Newbury. In the second, which took place on October 27, 1644, the Royalists, under the leadership of Charles I, were concentrated around Donnington and the village of Speen.

ROUND TOWERS



Donnington castle gatehouse.

The Roundheads managed to take Speen, but they were unable to capture Donnington castle, even though the king's men were heavily outnumbered. As a result of this Charles and many of the Royalists were able to slip away under cover of darkness, leaving John Boys in command of the castle.

A siege of the castle then began and was kept up for eighteen months, except for short periods when Royalist columns from Oxford managed to relieve the hard-pressed garrison. The Roundhead forces were under the command of the Earl of Manchester, and although he brought up heavy siege guns with the intention of pounding the castle to pieces his attempts to overcome the garrison were regarded by his officers as being somewhat half-hearted.

During one lull in the fighting the king was able to visit the castle, and he took the opportunity to dub John Boys a knight as a reward for his services to the Royalist cause. Charles had many narrow escapes during the campaign, including an occasion when he was pursued as far as Hagbourne by a large party of Roundhead horsemen under the command of Oliver Cromwell. On reaching Hagbourne Cromwell was recalled by Manchester and left three broken crosses as mute witnesses to his visit.

In the months during which Donnington castle was under siege many changes took place in the Roundhead forces. The Earl of Manchester and others were deprived of their commands and Cromwell became the real head of the Army.

General Dalbier was dispatched to make an end of the Royalists at Donnington, but Sir John held out until the building was falling about his ears and his men had no shelter from the hail of cannon and musket balls.

He refused to surrender until eventually he received direct orders from King Charles in April 1646. The handing over of the battered ruin took place in a meadow just south of the castle which was afterwards known as Dalbier's Mead. Sir John was treated honourably by the Roundheads and survived to see the Restoration. He died in 1664 at his birthplace in Kent.

* * *

Today two round towers and an old gateway are the only remains of the castle. The rest of it was demolished after the civil war and the stones were used for other buildings in the neighbourhood. The gatehouse has been restored and is now under the care of the Department of the Environment. It provides an excellent viewpoint for the surrounding countryside and also houses relics of the war, including a large collection of missiles fired by the Roundhead artillery.

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IN THE LAMBOURN VALLEY

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

Berkshire has many interesting round towers, some situated in the Lambourn valley. Two of them are part of a castle gatehouse and two are church towers.



The tower of Great Shefford church.

THE village of Welford is situated about five miles up the Lambourn valley from Donnington. It is to the north-west of the gatehouse and just off the B4000 on the edge of Welford Park. A magnificent early-thirteenth-century octagonal spire rises above the village from the round tower of the local church. The tower is Norman and the outside walls are dressed with sharp flints.

The body of the church, consisting of the nave, aisles and chancel, was rebuilt in the original Norman style from designs by Talbot Bury between 1852 and 1855. Bury, who was fond of the Early English and Norman styles of architecture, also designed churches at Lambourn Woodlands, Kintbury Crossways and Braywood.

Much of the original Norman masonry was used in the reconstruction of the chancel and the church contains a late Norman font with seventeen arches. Eighteenth-century monuments to the Archer family, past owners of Welford Park, are also present. In addition there is a relatively modern brass of William Nicholson, who died in 1878. He is shown holding models of the churches at Welford and Wickham, both of which he helped to build.



Welford church.

TWO miles farther up the valley from Welford stands the village of Great Shefford, at the point where the A338 crosses the B4000 and about halfway between Newbury and Lambourn. A road bordered on both sides with lime trees leads to the village church.

The church tower starts with two circular storeys dating from the twelfth century. They are studded with flints and were built in this fashion because shaped stone was not available for corners. In the fifteenth century, when the stonemason's art had become more commonplace, the upper storey was added. It has eight sides and gives the tower an unusual but pleasant appearance.

The south door of the church has a pointed arch with cat-like faces on each side. There is no aisle and the dark walls are pierced with windows of the twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. The font is highly decorative and is of Norman origin.

* * *

ALL the buildings mentioned so far are within easy reach of Newbury and can be visited in an afternoon. Until about ten years ago another building, which sported a small tower at each corner, stood on the Bath road at Halfway—so called because of its position between Newbury and Hungerford. The building was constructed as a tollhouse in the eighteenth century, but was demolished when the road was widened to accommodate cars.

Reproduced by permission of
"Thames Valley Countryside"

VIEWPOINT

Fred
Roberts

(Process Technology)

I walked into the tea room at Harwell the other morning in time to hear one of our foremen say he was glad to get back to work after being at home two weeks. Why? Because it gave him something to fill in the time. On holiday at home you got up late and mooched about after glancing at the headlines in the paper. Then you went off to the local and sat over a couple of bottles of beer; you came home to eat your lunch and then? Nothing to do but go for a nap on the bed until tea-time, and then there was telly, or perhaps you went off for another drink or two. Finally you retired to bed for the night—then found you couldn't bloomin' well sleep anyway: The way he related it made everyone laugh, but it was tinged with real feeling, and, on reflection, I felt a little sad.

One can divide our material life into three: working periods, leisure activity and tending to the body's needs such as eating and going to bed. This cannot be a rigid division, because dinner parties are a form of leisure activity for some (the guests!) and bed also has leisure connotations. Nevertheless, I shall discuss leisure in the generally accepted sense of the term. For many people this means watching television, going for a stroll, chatting with a friend, cultivating a garden or running a village activity. For fewer people it means collecting stamps, painting pictures, sitting on a local council and its various committees, or perhaps working for Oxfam. But some people maintain they don't have any leisure time, especially those with very young children to look after twenty-four hours in the day. And what is fun and relaxation for some is a chore for others; take gardening for instance—I wonder how many readers rate working in the garden as a leisure pastime and how many

regard it in the "work" category? If you merely cut the grass, clip the hedges and weed the flower beds for the sake of looking tidy, clearly this is hardly a hobby. But if someone specialises in growing geraniums or designing and building a fine rose bed, then this must be satisfying to that person; it is a real hobby, a creative activity, and is obviously "leisure" in the fullest sense.

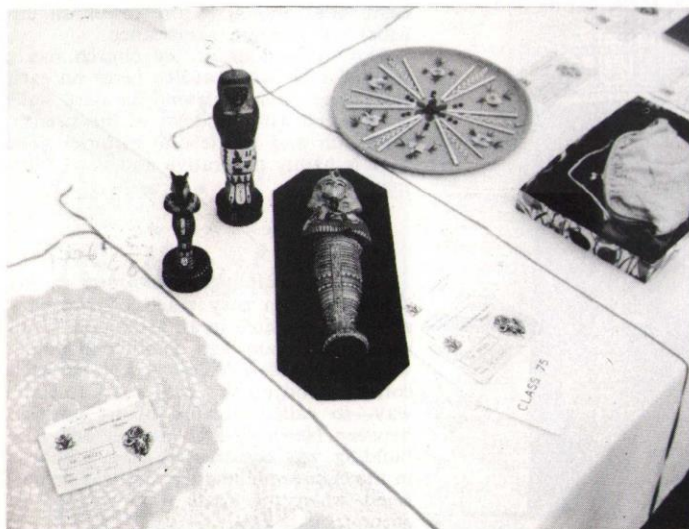
I find many people are envious of those who have absorbing hobbies. Some hobbies show the exercise of a good deal of special talent on the part of the individual. But the onlooker may say, "I haven't any special talents for creative work in my leisure time". How does he know this? Finding out what you would enjoy doing, what you have some aptitude for, may well take quite a lot of probing, of trying things on for size. If you should find something which holds your interest, then pursuing it may reveal to you that you have a capacity for achieving something in that direction. Even if the result is not very polished, this doesn't matter very much. I personally am a great believer in using night classes to find out and extend one's range of interests and activities in leisure time. To quote one example from my own experience may show how this can work out. I did well in art at school, and over many years I kept trying to do watercolour sketching, but this always failed. I got the colours so muddy, the washes always ran all over the page and I couldn't pick suitable subjects. When we came to live in Abingdon I decided to go to the "Oil Painting for Beginners" class



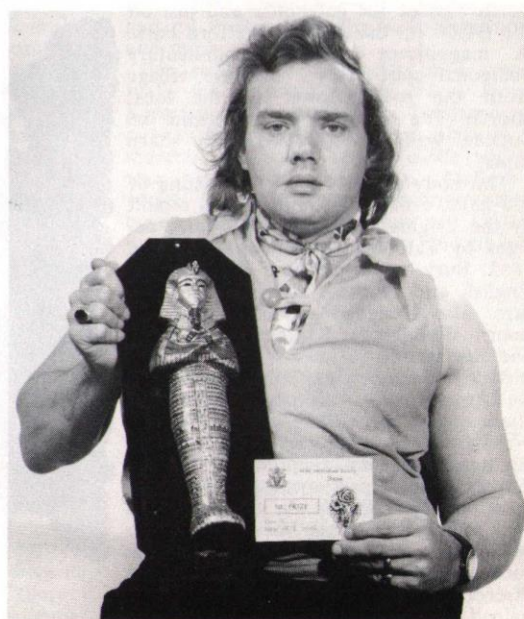
in the winter evenings. This was a medium I had never dared to touch, but after a couple of sessions I found I was coping reasonably well. Landscape painting in oils has been a satisfying spare-time activity for me ever since; the only discouraging aspect of it is that I can never find enough time, etc. etc. . . . I am always saying that when I retire I will really indulge this hobby of painting, but will I?

As the summer draws to an end and the dark nights loom ahead, this is just the time to start with evening classes. In the North Berks area we have a bewildering choice of subjects, ranging from those where we use our hands like dressmaking, pottery and sculpture, to more academic studies like "Introduction to Philosophy" and "Introduction to Sociology". The titles might frighten off some people, but the tutor is likely to be easily understood and will take the subject very slowly at first. Language studies are growing in popularity, because that way a person is likely to get more out of his next trip abroad.

Even if studying something as a leisure occupation does not lead to a creative hobby or the discovery of hidden talents, it will at the least begin to extend one's horizons and thus lead to a fuller life.



Some entries in the Handicraft Section of the 29th Horticultural Show. The superb Egyptian figurines were moulded and painted in finest detail by Christopher Davies of Electrical Services Division.





Personally speaking... Dr R.S. Pease

May 19th October

My Daddy

My Daddy is the head of Culham Laboratory and his Secretary is Mary. Daddy was one of the most attractive men in the world. Every evening daddy swings me very high on the swing. Once Daddy did a project on a thing called zeta. Daddy works to about 2 o'clock in the night.



Rowan
aged eight —
her composition
done at Chilton
County Primary
School.

Extract from 'Who's Who'

PEASE, Sir (Alfred) Vincent, 4th Bt. cr. 1920; 1st Lt. 1926; s of Sir Alfred (Edward) Pease, 2nd Bt. (d. 1939); and of his 3rd wife, Emily Elizabeth (Barbara) Lady Pease, 1st Bt. s. half. Educ. 1903; unmarried. Educ. Roehampton of York. Mar. 6 Joseph Gurney Pease (d. 16 Nov. 1927; m. 1951, Shelagh Munro, d. of C. G. Bulman, one s. one d.). Address: Baysdale Cottage, Fincham, Gainsborough, Yorkshire. T. Gainsborough 2578.

PEASE, Dr Rendel Sebastian; Director, Culham Laboratory, UKAEA, since 1968; b 1922; s of Michael Stewart Pease and Helen Bowen (née Wedgwood); m 1952, Susan Spickernell; two s three d. Educ: Bedales Sch.; Trinity Coll., Cambridge (MA, ScD). Scientific Officer, Min. of Aircraft Prodn at ORS Unit, HQ, RAF Bomber Comd, 1942-46; research at AERE, Harwell, 1947-61; Div. Head, Culham Lab. for Plasma Physics and Nuclear Fusion, UKAEA, 1961-67; Vis. Scientist, Princeton Univ., 1964-65; Asst Dir, UKAEA Research Gp, 1967. Member: Fabian Soc.; Inst. of Physics and Physical Soc.; Amer. Inst. of Physics. Publications: articles in physics jls. Recreation: music. Address: The Poplars, West Ilsley, Newbury, Berks.

PEASE, Sir Richard (Thorn), 1st Bt. cr. 1920; Vice-Chairman, Barclays Bank Ltd. since 1970; b 20 May 1922; s of Sir Richard Arthur Pease, 2nd Bt. and Jeanette Thorn (d. 1973); d of late Edward Pease, 1st Bt. cr. 1920; m 1947, Jeanette Thorn (d. 1973); one s. one d.



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FROM THE SURFACE LINES OF YOUR VISAGE I HAD A CONCEPT YOU WERE CONCERNED

One of the unheralded developments of this age of atoms and orbits has been the appearance of a scientific language, a jargon of words and phrases that occasionally is unintelligible to the layman.

Facility with this ultra-language is not learned, like German or Latin are learned, but is acquired more through osmosis from time spent in lecture hall, laboratory and in writing reports. The words and phrases no doubt are well-founded, perhaps on the demand for exquisite accuracy when discussing scientific subjects. But, quite often, they creep into everyday conversation.

For a man of science there are better words than such mundane and vague terms as maybe, about, idea, half as much, reasons for, twice as much, able, or a million.

Consider this conversation overheard while waiting in line at a Laboratory cafeteria:

"Hello, Joe.

Hi, Jack. How are things?

Size-wise, my problems are minimal.

That's encouraging. From the characteristics of the surface lines of your visage, I had a concept you were concerned.

Your interpretation is essentially within the parameters of my area of interest, but I suspect your assessment and extrapolation of my external appearance was in error by several orders of magnitude.

Then the prime factorization for your frown isn't of serious consequence?

This is true, Joe. However, if indeed you possess the capability to assist in the determination and finalizing of my investigation, it would be an improvement by a factor of two.

Tell me more, Jack.

Well, at some point in time I will phase to the service counter. Of the order of five varieties of pie are available there. My lucubration concerns the criteria for consideration. Hopefully, I will select a quote

unquote tasty one.

Jack, I would be happy to collaborate with you in making the choice.

Thank you, Joe, you are a rare friend—one in ten to the sixth."*

* * *

* Translation:

"Hello, Joe.

Hi Jack. How are things?

Fine.

Good. From the look on your face I had an idea you were upset.

I've got a problem, but it's nothing much.

Not serious?

That's right, Joe. But maybe you can help; after all, two heads are better than one.

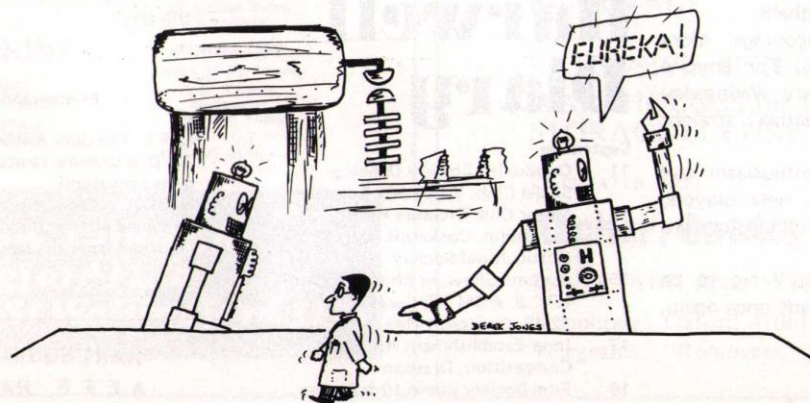
Yeah?

Well, I'm just about to the head of the line, and they've got about five different kinds of pie up there. I want to be sure and get a goodie.

Jack, I'll be happy to help you pick a piece.

Thanks, Joe, you're a pal—one in a million."

WINNER OF THE "HARLEQUIN" THREE-GUINEA CARTOON COMPETITION WAS DEREK JONES OF R12
RUNNER-UP WAS MICHAEL TOWNDROW OF APPLEFORD DRIVE. ONE ANONYMOUS ENTRY WAS UNPRINTABLE.





Mystery Photographs: Identification below

FOOTBALL CLUB

A Brighter Tomorrow?

Once again the football season is with us, and at A.E.R.E. we are as optimistic as ever.

Following our poor season last session, the 1st XI find themselves relegated to Div. 2 of the Hellenic League, and the second XI are now in the North Berks League. For the 2nd XI I firmly believe this is a good move. No longer will our younger "stars" have to face a long round trip every other week. Now they will be playing "local" football continuously and of a standard more in line with their own.

At the club's A.G.M. this summer, Brian Winzor was presented with the "A.E.R.E. Player of the Year" award. Right up until the end of the season three players were tying for this award. Two, however, have since left the club, leaving Brian, deservedly, at the top of the tree.

This new award was donated to the club by the manager, and its presentation to any one player is determined by an assessment of the player's ability, his endeavour on the field and his gamesmanship and effort off the field. We all hope that Brian will be able to live up to his new position and be an even bigger driving force among his colleagues.

Last season some criticism was levelled at the manager for lack of ball practice during training sessions. This season I hope the problem will be solved, as we now have eight footballs suitable for training, leaving four matchballs.

I hope this will encourage more players to join the club. For anyone interested, training is every Wednesday evening (whatever the weather) straight after work.

With our new-found enthusiasm and optimism and, we hope, new players, everyone at A.E.R.E. is looking forward to the coming season.

May I say how pleased I am to be helping a great bunch of lads once again.
H. J. Samuel,
Manager,
A.E.R.E. F.C.



CONGRATULATIONS TO JOHN SYKES

Winner of the Cutty Sark/Times crossword championship held in London last month was Dr. J. B. Sykes, for 13 years chief translator at Harwell. Described as "a Bobby Fischer of the crossword grid in speed, though not in temperament", he solved, without error and in the shortest time, four puzzles hideously constructed from various instruments of literary torture.

He was for some years a member of the Editorial Board of "Harlequin" to which he was an occasional contributor. As editor now of now of the Concise Oxford Dictionary, he finds lexicography a prop of no particular value to the serious business of solving crosswords, but recommends practice and technique.

Among the awards received as winner of the competition, was included a holiday for two in Monte Carlo, but John will not be going there to break the bank: a one-time member of Harwell's Theoretical Physics, he never gambles as he believes the mathematical odds are too great.

In the next issue of "Harlequin" will be a new type of crossword which has only one clue, but which should be capable of solution within 30 minutes. John will be timed on this crossword so that "Harlequin" readers can compare their times with that of this fastest word fowler and pun pundit.

Harwell Diary

September

- 11 Caledonian Society Dancing
Social Club, 7.45 every Tuesday
- 13 Motor Club Treasure Hunt
- 14 Lunchfilm, Cockcroft Hall, 12.30
Horticultural Society
- 15 Autumn Show, nr Shopping Centre
I.P.C.S. AGM HQ Speaker
12.45, Cockcroft Hall
- 17 Inter-Establishment Autotest
Competition, Drayton
- 19 Film Society opens 18th Season

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Horticultural Hoax or Error

I feel I must write to you to congratulate Mr. Norvell of our Grounds Department on the excellence of his "Out-O' Doors" series in your grand little magazine. I had thought that, after nearly 50 years of gardening I had grown weary of reading gardening articles but now look forward eagerly to each new issue of Harlequin, to read Mr. Norvell's latest instalment on the wonderful world "Out-O' Doors".

However, just as your worthy contributor keeps telling us to stick a horticultural boot or thumb in now and again — (as and when required) — may I ask you to cast a botanical and editorial eye over the illustrations to his last article in your July/Aug. no. Unless there has been some genetic malpraxis, I humbly submit that the top left hand photograph is of pots of *STREPTOCARPUS* and the top (R) hand one, of *PRIMULA OBCONICA* (not "OBONICA" as printed).

With every good wish for the continuing success of your new-look Harlequin.

Yours etc.

Nigel G. Douglas.

We thank Dr. Douglas for pointing out the above errors, which were ours and not those of the author — and for expressing in words the esteem which many have for this feature, the success of which is justly due to the author.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Our Society is holding a "STAMP FAIR" at Didcot, Berks, in the Methodist Church Hall, on Saturday 7 October, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be an exhibition of stamps and covers presented by our members, and about nine dealers will attend with a wide range of material for sale. An Auction of 150 lots will be held during the afternoon, and there will be a Private Treaty Table and a notice board for other Philatelic Societies. Light refreshments will be available throughout the day.

Photograph Identification

LEFT: The door marked "Ladies" in building 33. Due to some structural changes, it no longer gives admission!

RIGHT: A happier story here: the nest that remained after a brood of robins were successfully launched from the same building this summer.

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