

TEK TIMES

Number Twenty Four

DECEMBER 1980

Christmas Edition

The Lights of Christmas

This striking photograph of the 1980 Christmas Lights in Regent Street, London, was taken by Chris Thomas.



Caligraphy by Ron Tradgett, Southgate.

AREA REPRESENTATIVE MEETING

The next Area Representative Meeting will take place on Thursday, January 22nd at 11.00 a.m. in Hoddesdon. The Management Representative will be John Dedman.



CYCLE RIDE PRESENTATION

Dr. Strickland, of the Mount Vernon Cancer Unit, visited Tektronix Hoddesdon recently. At a presentation ceremony, Guan Tan, Group Manufacturing Manager, handed to Dr. Strickland a cheque for the sum of £1242 raised by Tektronix employees and manage-

ment in the sponsored cycle ride reported in last month's issue of Tek Times.

Our photographs show Dr. Strickland being shown pictures of the riders, and also holding a copy of the commemorative certificate of the event.

Cover Girl

Elaine Cleaver-Smith

Elaine joined Tek in August 1979 as secretary in the Personnel department, and transferred to the Publicity department in May of this

year.

Elaine's hobbies include cookery, dressmaking, travelling (mainly from Dunstable to Harpenden) and Numismatics.





Rewarded for Excellence

Regular readers of Tek Times will know of John Seaman's interest in the postal history of the North Atlantic. He has contributed a number of fascinating articles on the subject in the past year or so and we are sure there are more to come. John is President of the Beds and Herts Philatelic Society, which he joined 10 years ago. The group was founded in 1933 and now has about 80 members.

At their annual competition held earlier this year John won the V. Stansfield Cup for the best display of stamps.

[Photo by courtesy of Home Counties Newspapers Ltd.]



Get Motivated

Sales Team Motivation takes on new methods

Motivating a sales force in times of recession and razor-tight budgets is a pretty thankless task for our District Managers. The Eastern District have adopted some strong-arm tactics for the rest of fy100, and the first step was introduced at Harpenden recently.

Each field sales engineer has been issued with a four-wheeled basket trolley to replace their estate cars, and with a short course in physical training are expected to be operational directly after Christmas. Eastern District D.C.A. specialist, Chris Thomas, recently tried out the new methods in Central London. On his first day, Chris managed to make thirty-two calls, seventeen demonstrations and closed five sales. All this was achieved at an overall average speed of 16.8 miles per

hour. Chris was truly amazed at how efficient the new trolley has made his operation. Dense London traffic no longer presents a problem – parking charges are 'nil' and all traffic regulations can be ignored. All in all, a vast increase in productivity.

For the benefit of those engineers who do not share Chris's enthusiasm, Area Sales Manager, Derek Smith, has issued District Manager, Ray Ganderton, with a bolt action, choke barrel four-ten shotgun, and eleven rounds of ammunition per week (one cartridge of fine shot per sales engineer). If the project is successful, Ray hopes to justify the addition of running shoes, raincoats, and pneumatic tyres for the trolleys, but this may have to wait until fy200.

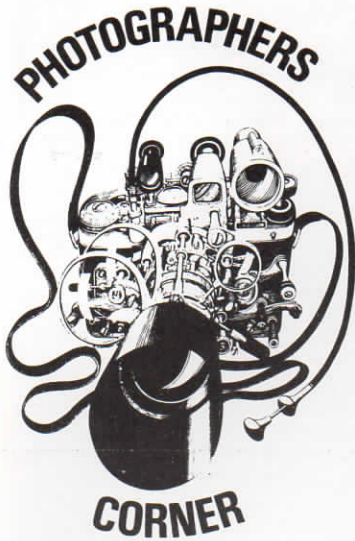
Around Hertfordshire

A prominent building near the southern end of St. Peter's Street, St. Albans, is the old clock tower, built around the year 1410. The bell in the tower still chimes the hours, and it is even older. It is, in fact, the original curfew bell used in the city and was cast in 1355.

In 1703, the tower was scheduled for demolition, but then – as now – the citizens were always ready to protect historical buildings and the demolition order was cancelled.

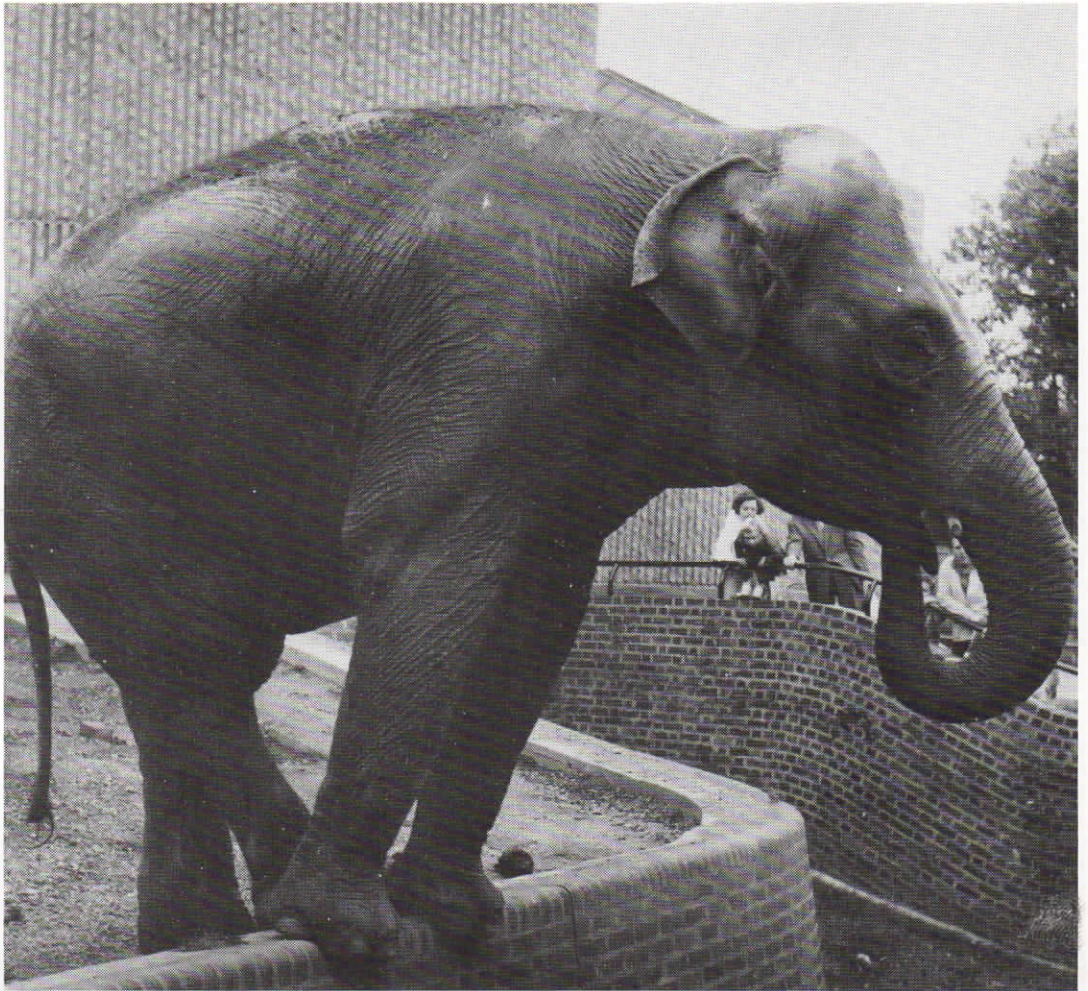
At the left of the picture of the tower can be seen a row of old houses known as French Row. The name is believed to have originated when French army prisoners were held there in 1216.





This photo was passed to us by Dave Fynn, who took it at London Zoo on a Zeiss Ikon he bought for £10.

Dave's caption for the picture is – "You should have seen me before I had the nose job!"



PAGE 3 BOY



Just like that!

Our resident magician, Peter Green, has been dormant for some time and we thought that Christmas was a suitable time for another bit of high-class trickery from him.

This one is

"The Vanishing Coin"

Begin with the spectator standing towards your left.

Place a coin in your left hand and close fist. Take a ball-point pen or pencil from your pocket and tell the spectator that you will tap your closed left fist three times and the coin will vanish.

Raise the right hand holding the ball-point pen towards the shirt collar and back again, tapping the left fist counting "one", repeat counting "two". On the count of "three" as the right hand moves towards the collar, slide the ball-point between the collar and the

neck, leaving it there and bring the hand towards the fist empty.

The spectator should be surprised as he was expecting the coin to vanish.

Turn towards the left, showing the spectator where the ball-point is, and when the spectator is looking at the ball-point stuck inside the collar, quickly slip the coin into the left pocket.

Then say to the spectator, "I will do that again".

This is important, because you want the spectator to think you are going to make the ball-point vanish again.

Tap the left hand "one", "two", "three", exactly as before, but without sticking the ball-point into the collar.

Open the left fist and behold, the coin has vanished!

Sid Walker, Maidenhead.

Sid joined us in Maidenhead last July as a security cum maintenance handyman. Always helpful and

cheerful, he can turn his hand to most things. In times of crisis, Sid is a tower of strength and, as one manager has said, – "How did we manage before he came along?"

DARTS MATCH

Eastern Region Flyers meet the Southern Democrats



Unable to secure the Wembley Conference Centre, once again the Sports and Social Club met at The Bull public house, Wheathampstead, Herts, for another match of procelibacy darts.

This time the rival teams were the Eastern Region Flyers and the Southern Region Democrats, from the sales areas of Harpenden and Maidenhead. Uncle 'Jam Butty' Fynn began practising early at 5.40 p.m., admitting that practise makes one almost perfect. However, not wishing to break a lifetime's habit, Uncle ran out of Valium during the first game and was assisted to a narrow X16 victory by Peter 'Animation' Still – so 1-0 to the Southerners.

Meanwhile, the rest of the Eastern Region Flyers had been honing their steel shafts to deathly perfection, and Game 2 began with Father Krystman slicing the fume-filled air to split the '11', and plaster behind the board.

Archimedes Principles rushed to Father Joe's aid and began re-programming his bionic arm, but the rat should not have been trusted. Fathers firmware now in disarray, board and darts seldom met each other. Townsend Thoreson and Paul Plus Four were

sweating in case they were asked to donate to the beer kitty; their play also lacked the professionalism that the Eastern Region Flyers have grown to accept as part of daily life. On a roof rebound, the Goose closed the second game, making one-all.

At this point, millions of calories arrived on silver platters, in the form of meat pies and 'sarnies'. However, battle continued amidst champing and general clatter. As Goose consumed pies at a rate to put Desperate Dan in the shade, the Southern Demos strived to take the lead. Darrel Whatsit and Mountfield Rees mustered incredible strength, hurling feathered projectiles like Thompson machine gun bullets, but all to no avail, since the Eastern Region's Superbun and Kawasaki Beaudro proved just too good, pushing the Eastern Flyers into the lead. Next on the launch pad for the Southern Demos was Jenny Albatross and Archimedes Principles. For the East (now justifiably dynamic) were Debbie the Slope and Peter 'the train set' Darby. With only a short delay, due to nature and replenishment of the beer kitty, the fourth game commenced. It soon became apparent that Debbie could barely

see the board, at least not the real one. The Southerners rushed down the numbers so fast that chief scorer, John Lamp-post, needed water to cool the chalk. Clearly desperate action was called for. Father Joe, assisted by Steve Boniville and a Plot 50 statistics package, predicted sure failure for the Eastern Flyers short of a miracle.

Joe, disbelieving Steve's 4052 and portable Winchester disc, reached into his jacket for his recently acquired supercalc., a new programmable from Casio, with the computing power of an IBM 370, coupled to fourteen car batteries for memory back-up. Joe keyed in the complex match figures and in less than 24 microseconds the LCD came up with the solution to Eastern Flyers predicament – liquid-cooled Eproms were required, linked to laser guided nitride tips. Peter 'the train' rushed home to assemble the design and returned just in time to clinch a narrow victory for the East.

A short rest and meat pie enabled a few software modifications to be made to these superdarts, since Peter was unhappy with their launch characteristics.

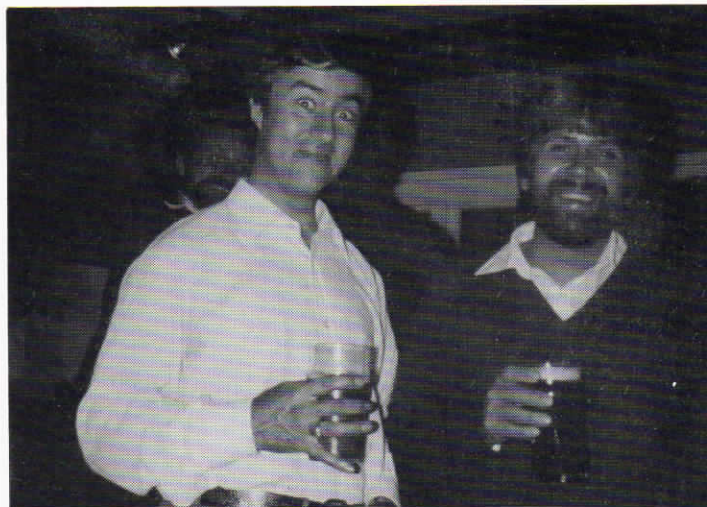
The remainder of the Eastern

lectured Archimedes, suggesting that his dart playing was not up to his sickening good looks. Meanwhile, the Goose was still eating. The evening ended happily, with Uncle being wheeled out on Darrel's Salesmaker, and Debbie trying to chat up a Space Invader machine.

Footnote

This particular "scoop" for Tek Times was made at a recent 'friendly' darts match between the sales forces of Maidenhead and Harpenden. I write in order to dispel any rumours which may be circulated as a result of this event. We in the East would not want other members of the company, not fully aware of the situation, to jump to conclusions about our two Eastern Region sales managers – they are both wonderful human beings, happily married and upright members of the community, efficient, trustworthy(?) and kind to animals.

However, working for Tektronix does seem to have a strange effect on some of us, naming no names, reflected in their changing moral standards and close friendships with colleagues of the same gender. We must pass no judgement – we are all vulnerable.



Flyers team took the advantage using Peter 'the train's' superdarts, with J.R. Roberts and Les 'Institute' Brunton tearing ahead. There was deep unrest in the Southern Demo's camp, and despite Townsend's attempts to sabotage the superdarts with the aid of a 30kW ultra-violet torch, the match ended a clear and undisputable 7-2 victory for the East.

Naturally, there were cries of 'cheat' and 'unfair' from the down-trodden Southerners. Midst Uncle's cries for a larger pipe on his intravenous beer drip, the Eastern Flyers celebrated in the traditional fashion. Peter continued to make fine adjustments to his darts, Joe began cooling down his supercalc. with ice cubes, Debbie looked for the way back to the bar, Mike tried to drink the kitty, Les and J.R. made faces at Uncle, and Superbun

QUOTES

There are two tragedies in life. One is not to get your heart's desire, the other is to get it.

(George Bernard Shaw)

Progress would be wonderful – if only it would stop.

(Musil.)

Work is much more fun than fun.

(Noel Coward)

The Lord prefers ordinary-looking people. That is the reason he makes so many of them.

(Abraham Lincoln)

An on-going overview of up-coming shutdowns.

(Tektronix)





The President in Hoddesdon

More photos have reached us of President Earl Wantland's visit to the UK — these cover his tour of the Hoddesdon plant.



In this section of the Test Department, technicians are working on Tek oscilloscopes



A part of the Production Area, mainly engaged on building the Telequipment D1000 series of oscilloscopes

The Hoddesdon Scene

To those of us who work in Hoddesdon or who need to visit it on business from time to time, these scenes will be familiar, but there must be many more in Tek UK who

have never been there and wonder what it looks like.

Ray Eaton, Test Manager at Hoddesdon, sent us these photos



Hoddesdon from the outside



General view of the Test Department

Christmas



Goodies

GUERNSEY BISCUITS

This is a traditional recipe from Guernsey, the "biscuits" are really breakfast bread rolls and can be made with plain white flour if preferred -

- 1 lb wholemeal flour.
- ¼ lb butter.
- 1 oz yeast
- ½ oz sugar
- ½ oz salt
- 8 fluid ounces of milk. (Less if using white flour)

Mix flour and salt together. Cream the butter, yeast and sugar, then add the milk (warmed). Leave aside for 10 minutes then add the liquid mixture to the flour and salt a little at a time, kneading the mixture well until it is of uniform texture. Place in a warm dish, cover with a cloth and stand in a warm place for 1½ to 2 hours.

Knead once again on a lightly floured pastry board, and then divide into small rolls, pressed to flatten. Place rolls on to a flat greased baking sheet and allow to rise for a further 20 minutes or so until risen again. Bake for 20-30 minutes (until brown) at 350°F. (about 160°C)



SPECIAL FRIED BREAD

Don't knock this until you've tried it with bacon, beans and egg!

For this you need an un-sliced loaf, preferably one that is a day or two old.

Cut thick slices, not less than half an inch thick and remove the crusts. Mix milk and water (half of each) in a teacup, and pour in enough to cover the bottom of a large dinner plate about 1/8" deep.

Dip the bread quickly into the liquid, turn over and moisten the other side, adding more milk and water if required.

Fry in very hot bacon fat.



YULE LOG

- 2 eggs
- 2 oz margarine
- 4 oz castor sugar
- 1 oz cocoa
- 3 oz plain flour
- 1 level teaspoon baking powder
- milk
- jam

Filling

- 7 oz icing sugar
- 3 oz butter
- 1½ oz grated choc. or cocoa
- 1½ tablespoons milk
- icing sugar and decorations

Cream margarine and sugar until white. Add eggs and mix. Sift flour, salt, baking powder and cocoa together and then cut into mixture. Add milk. Put into lined tin, spread well into corners. Cook for 10 mins. (No. 6/400). Spread out sheet of greaseproof and coat with castor sugar. Put jam over it. Use paper to roll up. Make icing. Cut ends of cake. Put one piece on top. Cover and fork up. Sprinkle with icing sugar. (contributed by Lesley Williams and Elaine Cleaver-Smith.)

TEK GOES INTO THE FUTURE

My little girl asked me the other day, "We are making a Robot at school, have you any cardboard boxes?"

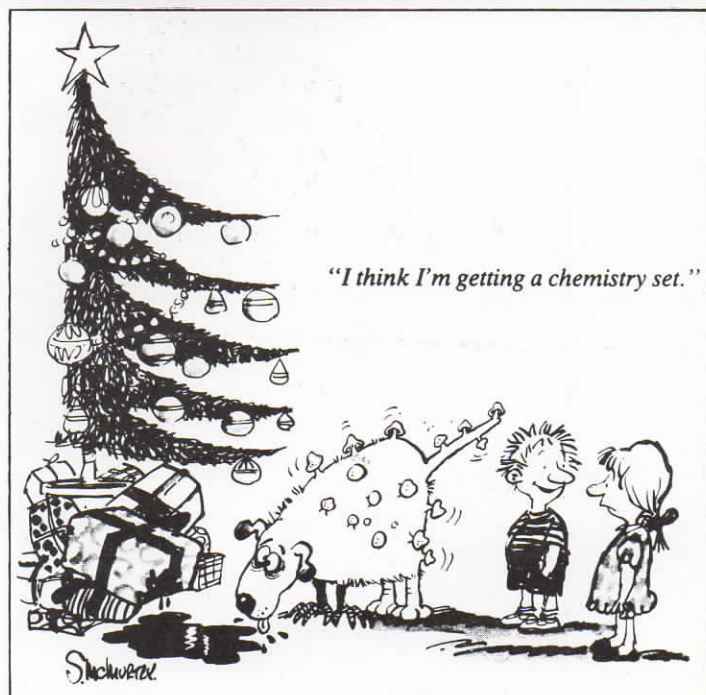
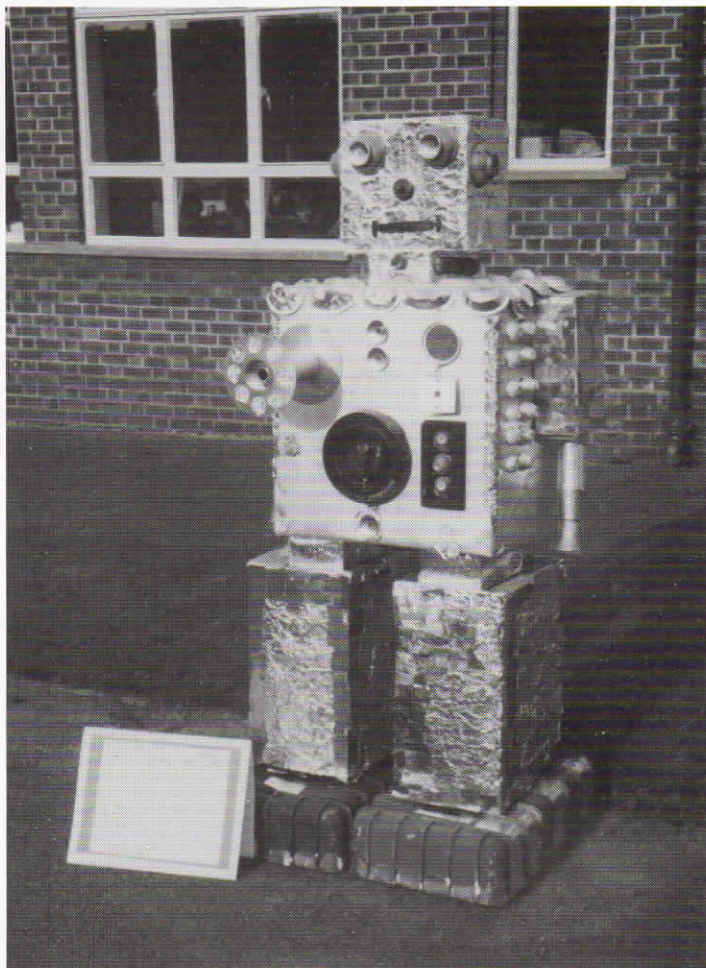
A sortie was mounted on the waste bins and an assortment of boxes collected and delivered to the school.

The completed Robot was so successful, that it is to be displayed in Stockport Town Hall.

No prizes are offered, but can you identify the products that were in the boxes?

Ian Jones,

Service Manager, Manchester.



Acknowledgements to Punch



Silk Postcards



In the late 19th century, the silk trade was declining and co-incidentally post-card manufacturers were looking for methods of boosting their sales. Thus, in 1898, some cards were produced by sticking silk pictures on to card. They were produced usually in black and

white, mainly in France and Switzerland.

Woven silk postcards were expensive to produce so experiments in embroidered cards were made in Germany in 1903 and in Switzerland in 1907. World War I gave a great impetus to the production of

the latter cards with messages of patriotism or sentiment. They were produced by country folk more often than not in their own homes. It is estimated that 10 million of these cards were produced during the war years.

They were sold in small shops or in army camps for 12 to 25p, a princely sum compared with the wages the soldiers received. It explains why the majority were purchased by British and American troops, as the poorly paid French and Belgium soldiers were unable to afford them.



The cards illustrated here are more beautiful in their original colours with green and red holly and silver mistletoe berries. The Christmas card is of the wallet type containing a small card for a message to the folks at home.

John Seaman



How's this for speed?

The following two consecutive advertisements were spotted recently in a local newspaper by Les Brunton -

Apples, Bramley, £5 for 40lb. Cox's ready soon. Phone 27511.

Apples, Bramley, £5 for 40lb. Cox's ready now. Phone 27511.

"Ring out, Wild Bells"

These famous words are from Tennyson's great poem "In Memoriam" which, amongst other things, deals with the need to put the past behind us and make a new start. It is particularly appropriate as New Year comes round -

Ring out the false, ring in the true;
Ring out the old, ring in the new....

Alfred Lord Tennyson was staying at Beech Hill Park, an estate on the western edge of Epping Forest, during the composition of the poem, and the story goes that he was inspired by the sound of Waltham Abbey bells ringing for New Year - the peals coming to him across the frosty night.

Anyone who has heard the full peal of twelve bells ringing at Waltham Abbey will appreciate the epithet "wild", for the bells are at their most thrilling when rung on a rapid time-cycle. According to all the experts on campanology, a full peal of twelve taken through every possible change could take over thirty-seven years. I don't think this has even been put to practical proof!

As a matter of interest to bell "buffs", Waltham Abbey recently added a thirteenth bell to its peal. This has the advantage that when only eight ringers are available, a true octave can be rung at the top end of the peal instead of at the bottom end - the bottom octave is very heavy, the tenor bell weighing over thirty-nine hundredweight.

In terms of the musical scale, let us say that, if the peal of twelve runs from low C (tenor bell) to high G (No. 1 bell), the thirteenth bell provides the "accidental" F sharp, so that the top octave is a true G major scale.

We have already had contributions on bell-ringing from Les Brunton (Tek Times), June & November 1980 issues. It is good to know that this ancient and peculiarly English art is alive and well.

If you are awake at 7.45 on a Sunday morning, tune in to BBC Radio 4, for a five minute programme entitled "Church Bells on Sunday". Listeners write about their local bells, and recordings of peals large and small are regularly included. A good start to the day, while you are waiting for the kettle to boil for that first cup of tea.

*Ron Tradgett,
Southgate.*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

On Saturday 29th November the Hoddesdon Social Club held a "Christmas Shopping Trip" to Milton Keynes. To those who had not been there before, it turned out to be quite a revelation. I absolutely hate shopping but I thoroughly enjoyed myself. I think most of us spent a little too much money, but we enjoyed our little spree!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Hoddesdon members for their support of late. The response to the Christmas Disco to be held on Friday 19th December, has been very good. Also the "Paris Weekend" in April 1981 has been received with some enthusiasm. We are arranging

a trip to the "Ideal Home Exhibition" on March 28th 1981 at Earls Court too, and hopefully a sponsored walk and another disco in February. Some of us, including myself will be in fancy dress for the walk.

If anyone is interested in any of the afore-mentioned activities, or has any suggestions of their own for the coming year, please contact Jean Dewbrey (Ext. 47) or myself, Sharon Barnes (Ext. 67) at Hoddesdon.

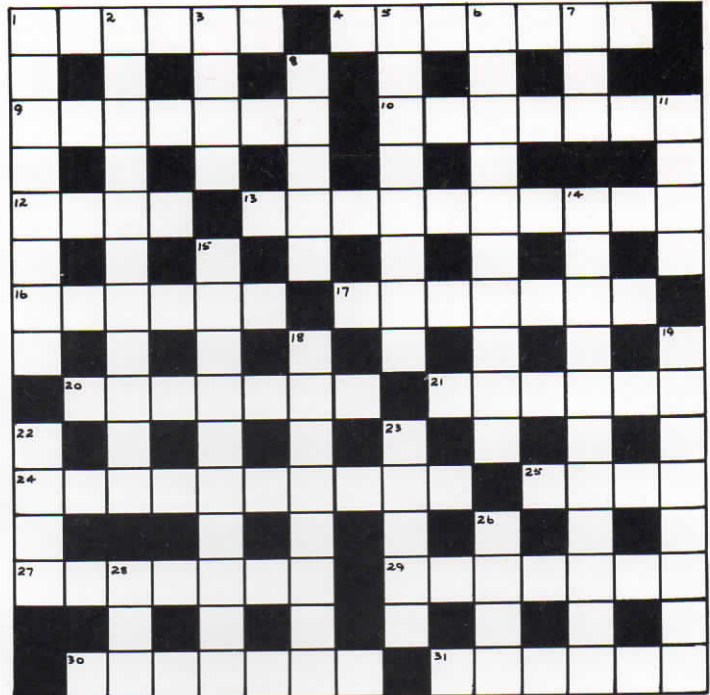
It just remains for me to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and let's hope we all have a 'Prosperous New Year'.

Sharon Barnes and Jean Dewbrey

The French Way

Spurred on by last months pictures of strange road signs, Bob Garrett sends us this one taken at the entrance to a car ferry across the river Seine in France. There are no

words on the sign but Bob suggests that a suitable interpretation would be - "The exploding of cars on the ferry is prohibited".



ACROSS

1. Branch of stag's horn (6); 4. Produced by freezing of successive drops (7); 9. In short (7); 10. Plant stalks used in cooking (7); 12. London District (4); 13. Circle of columns supporting a dome (10); 16. Fairy King (6); 17. Can covers (3-4); 20. Supporting beams (7); 21. See 2 down (6); 24. X-word addict (3-7); 25. Action in court of law (4); 27. Oppressed by extortion (7); 29. Italian composer of 2 down and 23 across (7); 30. Arrive uninvited (7); 31. Of royal parentage (6).

DOWN

1. Incombustible material (8); 2. and 21. across. Operatic overture (3-8-6); 3. Issue (4); 5. Disinfectant produced from coal tar (8); 6. Much favoured in preference to the sliced variety (6-4); 7. Series of years (3); 8. Ecclesiastical council (5); 11. Substance forming the skeleton (4-7); 15. When taken, the effect is exhilarating (4-6); 18. Island in the West Indies (8); 19. Implying Comparison (8); 22. Wading bird

once worshipped by Egyptians (4); 23. Toothed wheels transmitting motion (5); 26. Russian emperor (4); 28. Scored at cricket (3).

Bob Orrock, Product Control, Hoddesdon.

Solution to Crossword in November issue.

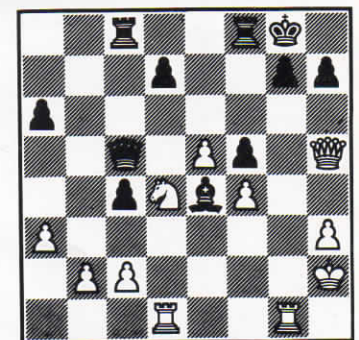
We are indebted to Bob Garrett for the solution to last month's crossword.



Chess

Chess, by Eric Blanqueart, Hoddesdon.

White to move and be in an invincible position after three moves.



Quote

We are living in an era when a change is overtaking technology more bizarre than anything our forefathers could have dreamed of, a change which, had it been des-

cribed to them, they would have ridiculed as impossible, even absurd. This is the unforeseen moment in history when the machines began to think.

President of the Institution of Electronic and Radio Engineers.