

stories * puzzles * Jokes * Articles.

MING & NEWS



A MERRY CHRISTMAS
TO YOU ALL

CINEMAS

GRANADA, WELLING

- | | | | | |
|-----------------|---|------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 1. Moonraker | A | Sun. 4.50 : 7.40 | :: | Week 2.35 : 5.25 : 8.10 |
| 2. Porridge | A | Sun. 4.10 : 8.05 | :: | Week 4.55 : 8.50 |
| Capricorn One | A | Sun. 5.45 | :: | Week 2.40 : 6.35 |
| 3. Super Vixens | X | Sun. 4.30 : 8.00 | :: | Week 1.50 : 5.20 : 8.45 |
| Slaves | X | Sun. 6.15 | :: | Week 3.35 : 7.05 |

BEXLEYHEATH ABC

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 1. The Getaway | X | Sun. 4.00 : 6.25 | :: | Week 2.00 : 6.20 |
| 2. Manuelle and
The Last Cannibles | X | Sun. 4.30 : 7.30 | :: | Week 1.35 : 4.35 : 7.35 |
| 3. Saint Jack | X | Sun. 5.00 : 7.45 | :: | Week 2.20 : 5.00 : 7.45 |
| 4. Scum | X | Sun. 5.00 : 7.35 | :: | Week 2.30 : 5.05 : 7.45 |

ABC CHATHAM

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| 1. The Warriors | X | Sun. 2.30 : 6.10 | :: | Week 1.25 : 5.05 : 6.45 |
| Death Wish | X | | | |
| 2. Red Light Girls | X | Sun. 2.30 : 5.35 : 6.55 | :: | Week 2.35 : 5.50 : 7.15 |
| Lover Boy | X | | | |
| Johnathon Livingston | | Seagull | Wednesday only | 1.30 : 4.45 : 7.30 |
| 3. Smoaky and the Bandit | | Sun. 2.30 : 6.15 | :: | Week 1.25 : 5.05 : 6.50 |

ABC GRAVESEND

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 1. The Big Boss | X | Sun. 5.05 : 8.50 | :: | Week 1.20 : 5.05 : 8.50 |
| 2. Archisex | X | Sun. 6.10 : 9.05 | :: | Week 3.15 : 6.10 : 9.05 |
| 3. The China Syndrome | A | Sun. 5.20 : 8.20 | :: | Week 2.20 : 5.20 : 8.20 |

ODEON ROCHESTER

- | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|---|------------------|----|-------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 1. Towering Inferno | A | Sun. 3.30 : 6.40 | :: | Week 4.10 : 7.20 | :: | Sat. 1.15 : 4.10 : 7.20 |
| 2. Quadrophenia | X | Sun. 4.00 : 6.50 | :: | Week 2.05 : 4.55 : 7.45 | | |
| 3. Erotic Young Lovers | X | Sun. 5.40 : 8.00 | :: | Week 4.15 : 6.40 : 9.00 | | |
| Taken an Easy Ride | X | Sun. 4.40 : 7.00 | :: | Week 3.15 : 5.35 : 7.55 | | |

Some "Goings on" in Gravesend

- Saturday 8th - CHRISTMAS DISCO 8 pm - 12 : Scout & Guide Association - Harvel Village Hall
- Sunday 9th - BRIAN RIX DISCO CLUB NIGHT 8 pm - 1 am - Woodville Halls
- Wednesday 12th - JAZZ with the Mainline Jazzband - Clarendon Royal Hotel, Gravesend 8.30 - 11
- Friday 7th - AN EVENING WITH HARRY STAMPER (poet & actor) - Victoria Centre for Adult Education, Darnley Road, Gravesend - 8 pm (50p at the door)
- CABARET DANCE - 8 pm - 1 am - Woodville Halls, (£3)
- Monday 10th - FILM NIGHT - "Gigi", "Invitation to the Dance" - 7.15 - Woodville Halls (£1)
- Tuesday 11th - OLD TIME & MODERN SEQUENCE DANCE - 7.30 pm - Woodville Halls (85p)
- Wednesday 12th - STEVE MAXTED DISCO - Woodville Halls - 7.30 - 11 (70p & 60p)
- NORTH DOWNS MOTOR CLUB - Slides - Old Prince of Orange, Windmill St.- 8.30
- TRANSPORT MISCELLANEOUS - Slides of trams & Southern trains - Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Soc. - Holy Trinity New School, Wellington St. 8.45
- Thursday 13th - PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING - Woodville Halls. 8 pm (£1.25, £1, 80p)
- WHIST DRIVE - St. James Hospital. 7.30
- Every Monday - MOTOR BIKE MAINTENANCE 7 - 10 pm. Mark Lane Centre, Lower Range Road, Denton
- Thursday & Sundays - DISCO - Gravesend Rugby Club - Springhead Road, Northfleet. (60p)

Museum of London - London Wall, EC2. (01-600 3699 Ext. 265)

Wed. 19th Dec. 12.30 - 1.30 pm. CAROL SINGING - period carols in appropriate galleries.

2nd to 5th January 1980 - LONDON'S TRANSPORT

2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th January Films. - The Pool of London & There go The Boats : Night Mail, Omnibus 150, London on The Move, Great Insambard Kingdom Brunel : Genevieve, London to Brighton in 4 Minutes : A Hundred Years Underground, The Elephant Will Never Forget, Terminus.

TWO NOTICES FROM Mr. HARRIS

AN EYE S(T)ORE

Those students and staff who regularly use the Gym will have noticed recently that signs have been placed on the shelves in the store to indicate where the equipment is to be returned.

Your co-operation in keeping the store in a tidy state and less of an eye-sore would be appreciated. Equipment is sure to last longer this way.

Thank you, M.J.H.

Students will be interested to note that the Dartford Art Group are holding their winter exhibition in the museum at the Central Library. The exhibition closes on Saturday, December 8th, admission is free.

Over 120 exhibits are on show including woodcarvings, ceramics, collages and pictures in oils and watercolours.

College Nightwatchman Eric Longden is again exhibiting, choosing this year a superb painting in oils entitled, "Flat Calm".

"PENALTY KING" COMPETITION

Any students interested in a "Penalty King" Competition next term, entry fees to go to a deserving charity, should let me have their names this term please. If response is insufficient the competition will not take place.

LIBRARY

Staff and students are welcome to borrow books for the Christmas holidays.

Books already on loan and which are required for the holiday period should be renewed by Wednesday, December 12th.

POPPY DAY APPEAL

The Poppy Day Appeal box in the College this year yielded £12.17.

Thank you - JANET VANE

With apologies to W.S. and Dick Three

Now is the autumn of our Discontent
Made Glorious winter by our Three Weeks Break:
And all the work that Groaned Undone,
In the unread pages of our notebooks buried.

Now are our brains bemused by nightly revels,
Not now by Study's troubles worried.
Our Boring lectures changed to flippant boozing,
Our college Pits replaced by homely comforts.

Our scowling tutors now are turned Hail-Fellows,
And do, instead of threatening Failure - to
frighten us to Effort -
Make jokes and sport with us, in pleasure.

But I, that do not trust these season's changes
And do not like these "Christmas Wishes";
I don't forget the autumn's battles
And Won't respect the Season's Treaties.

I will Note Down that Xmas passes,
And Mark that January's work is Waiting
To burden once again my sinking spirits
Down-pressed, alas, by college Systems - its
Rules, its Regulations.

I will remember well the Work that stays Undone
the lectures, Fruitless Still, I have attended,
The Missing taps, the broken doors, the food
the Sneers, the Insults, justified (?) by
Failure (?)

And stay
a Student

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

Hidden in the square must be one of the Xmas TV blockbuster films. In fact, moving one letter at a time from top left to bottom right (never diagonally) you can reveal 12 titles starring 007 (in one person or another). And just to add spice and trip you up, hidden in appropriate places are 5 names of Commander Bond's adversaries. Good hunting.

(Par - 2 coffees?)

Saw an Irish mini the other day (must have been - it was green) that couldn't decide which way to turn - it had its right front wheel turned to the left, and its left front wheel turned to the right - TRUE!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir - A late comment upon the vehicle situation, and I do believe many if not all motorcyclists will agree that the movement of the bikes to the very vulnerable student car park did nothing to those guilty parties who parked by the Abbey, - one of whom continued flout and ignore warnings given by the College.

It seems pointless that the innocent majority should continue to suffer from the selfishness of a minority.

The College has the ability to identify those guilty and should therefore warn THAT PERSON, ensuring others are not affected.

The system of Penalising the motorcyclist should be seriously reconsidered by the College.

I. RATE (Motorcyclist)

And in Holiday mood - courtesy of ONC I -

Sirs - I got attacked by an owl! Not a phoney howl or a stuffed owl, but a real one with pointy toes and a mouth. It bit a hole in my steaming bonnet! Fortunately I had a gun and killed it. But it could have been really serious.

Capt. E. Bains, Onedin Line,
2nd Mates Rev.

Sir - It's not hard to get a camel through the eye of a needle if you purée it first.

B. Smith, Daily Mail Food Desk

Sir - The other day little sprout was playing over at the corn processing plant and he apparently fell into a vat of Niblets brand corn. He was sealed in a boiling bag in our own butter sauce and shipped out. Could we ask all your readers to check out their freezers? If they should happen to find the poor little nipper they should call me on 361-77625.

Jolly Green Giant, Valley of the Jolly
Ho-Ho-Ho Green Giant

Sir - At last count how many people had your name on their ties?

Pierre Cardin, Paris, New York

Sir - The only thing I like about Carl Marx is that if he were alive now and living in Russia he wouldn't be able to get a visa to emigrate to Israel. Ena Sharples, Bury, Lancs.

Thoughts on Communism

Sirs - We're gone Communist and frankly, if somebody had to go Communist it might as well have been us. I mean, we're junk anyhow.

Afghans - Afghanistan

Sirs - Oh what will go Communist next? I hope it's not my husband Bill. My mother can't stand him anyway, and I don't know what I'd do if NATO got mad at him.

Beryll Smyth, East Dunford, THE

STAR LETTER

Sir - I hear that Communism doesn't work. My dad doesn't work either. Does this mean my Dad's a Communist? If so will I get a new bicycle if I turn him over to M.I5?

D. Estill, ONCi

Sirs - I know it's not a big deal to you people but to us it's life. We build those seemingly insignificant little hills and it's goddam hard work and we don't take coffee breaks or holidays. We bust our nails all day, everyday. Then you clods come along and kick our hills to pieces and wipe our friends and families all over the sidewalk. If I were big enough I'd boot you in the ear with all six feet.

An Ant, A Hill, Greenhithe

Dear Editor - Perhaps you have heard of me and my nationwide campaign in the cause of temperance. Each year for the past fourteen I have made a tour of Britain delivering a series of lectures on the evils of drinking. On these tours I have been accompanied by my young friend and assistant, Clyde Linson. Clyde, a young man of good family and background is a pathetic example of life ruined by excessive indulgence in whiskey and women.

Clyde would appear with me at the lectures and sit on the platform drunk, wheezing, staring at the audience through bleary and bloodshot eyes, sweating profusely, picking his nose, belching, breaking wind and making obscene gestures at the ladies, whilst I would point him out as an example of what over-indulgence can do to a person.

This Spring, unfortunately, Clyde died.

A mutual friend has given me your name, and I wonder if you would be available to take Clyde's place on my 1979 Winter tour.

Thanking you in anticipation. Yours sincerely, The Reverend John Stanton-Watt

There may be a curious story behind events involving a student on board HMS WORCESTER; at least, when the separate scattered elements are brought together, they intrigue me. Between the 2nd and 12th December 1863, a cadet (aged 15?) lay seriously ill in the ship's sick bay. The same student, I think it can be proved, was some months earlier involved in the College's worst act of indiscipline to that date and, I believe, had been expelled (the first expulsion) for his actions.

There is a record of the Captain Superintendent reporting to the Committee of Management that a cadet had violently menaced staff and students with a knife one Friday evening in August. For this serious offence he was confined overnight, and then awarded two dozen strokes with a birch rod on his "bare breech" before all hands assembled on the main deck on the Saturday morning. The Captain's report suggested to the Management that it would be the best thing if, on approving the action taken, they also ordered the removal of the cadet from the College. There are hints of other wild incidents.

The Committee, it appears, agreed readily to his expulsion; such violent indiscipline being regarded as entirely inappropriate for Marine Officers in Training. Interestingly, however, it seems they may have had reservations about the beating. They could not change it since they were met some days after the dramatic crime and punishment. But they certainly "talked over" the advisability of punishing the boys by flogging". Whatever the talking was about, and it is a reasonable assumption that a lengthy debate was involved, the end was a Resolution: that no corporal punishment would be administered without the Parent or Guardian being written to and offered the option of accepting the beating, or removing the boy.

Public beatings - though not perhaps bare bottomed ones! - were still popular school sports long after 1863. Was it that this group of shipowners, captains, etc. were surprisingly modern in their outlook on Corporal Punishment? Or was the "talking over" of quite a different character?

The story seems over, but a month after this Resolution and the expulsion it is recorded that the Captain Superintendent and the headmaster supported an Appeal to the Managers from the cadet's Guardian, that "on consideration of his youth, and other circumstances" the penitent should be allowed back on board to resume his training for the Merchant Officers' profession. The pleas were successful: he was readmitted. "Order, counter-order, disorder?", and then, over two months later, when the story is fading from the mind - briefly but regretfully reported in a very busy management meeting in December, is the information that after 10 days illness this cadet died on board on December 12th. It is mentioned that the cause of death was "disease of the brain".

DG

It is reported that a circular letter was recently delivered to Balquhider Manse. It advertised a well-known business directory with the slogan, "Out of date information is costly," and the addressee was "R. McGregor, Churchyard, Balquidder (sic.) Perthshire."

Rob Roy died in 1734

A tough regime

SIR—The more I hear or read about the detention centre at Send, Surrey, the more amazed I become when reporters say "It seems hard to imagine a tougher regime" (your report, Nov. 30).

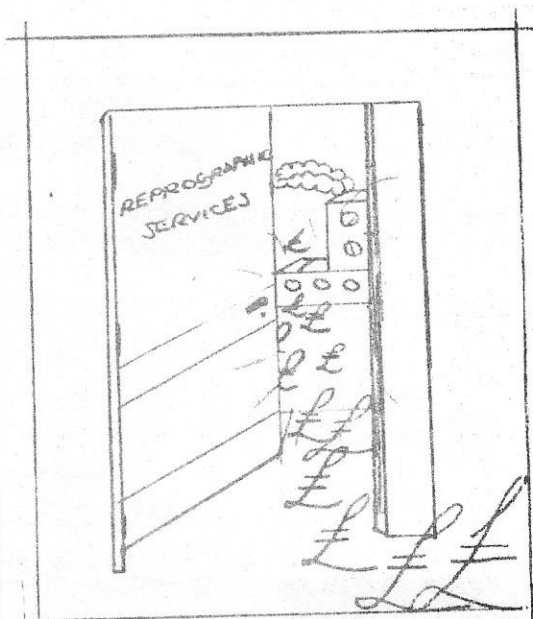
When I was an officer cadet at the Thames Nautical Training College HMS Worcester (1866-69) the regime was almost identical to that at Send except that we weren't counted six times a day and not locked in.

Mind you as we were on a ship moored 200 yards off the shore there wasn't much point in locking us in. We did have a punishment routine and that made Send look like a hell day camp!

One must bear in mind that I was not sent to the Worcester as punishment; my father paid for me to go there as the basis of my training to join the Merchant Navy. Finally I should add that this wasn't for boys of 17 and for a couple of months. I was 13 when I joined and was there for three years.

K. B. LEECH
Dovercourt, Essex

Letter from an Old Worcester printed in the Daily Telegraph, December 5th.



More comment on the "Reprographic Services" department

Various things to make your leg fall off!

The Four Most Difficult Pets to House Break

1. An oyster
2. A wolf-boy
3. A bald eagle
4. A chocolate bunny rabbit

Nine Occupations Not Covered by National Insurance

1. Curse remover
2. Concert accordionist
3. Record company executive
4. Illegal alien
5. Carnival geek
6. Smuggler
7. Poet
8. Double crosser
9. Whirling dervish

Ten People Named After Weapons

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Titus Howitzer | 6. Peter Neutron Bomb |
| 2. Harold Grenade | 7. Harvey Knife |
| 3. Shirley '45 | 8. Cormela Slingshot |
| 4. Floyd Gun | 9. Salvatore Bazooka |
| 5. Mickey Torpedo | 10. Kenneth Williams |

Five Extraordinary Physical Accomplishments

1. On a hot day Warren Minnow did 3,698 push ups while lying on his back.
2. Sid Lemming, an absent-minded auctioneer, smoked an entire cigar without removing it from his breast pocket.
3. To celebrate a bountiful harvest, Zocky Opwise of Poland jumped on a bicycle and rode over his face.
4. To settle a bet, Karl Finstadt, a male nurse, hopped from Peterhead to Falmouth, only stopping once, for a Pepsi in Swindon.
5. Despondent over the loss of his keys, Boris Rumsky, a Russian, blew his brains out with an electric fan, a process that took nearly three months.

History's Worst Hangover

After drinking 118 toasts to his shoes with the house sherry at Brian's Wine Bar, Wapping, Ryan Norris spent three months vomiting into an abandoned box spring mattress, pausing only once to change his tie and to check in to his answer phone service.

Quotes for Printing

Is it better to be a faceless nonentity in a classroom and get a good report, or ask questions and get a bad one? (ONCI)

It is harder for a man to pass his 2nd Mates than for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle. (IMCO Regs. 26)

How can one pass judgement on one, when they don't even know your name? (ONCI)

There is no getting away from it. All merchant seamen are foul-mouth, beer-swilling - .

Riddle of the Week - Where is P. Clark at ten to nine?

REBEL
without a
NOSE



The wonder was that the ancient Ford had scraped through its MOT, and it looked most unhappy chugging along the motorway. The young man driving gripped the wheel and stared ahead, as though giving every ounce of his own will to help the weary old engine keep going, but the young girl, his passenger, in the back, half sitting and half lying sideways in a huddle of car rugs, seemed quite distracted, almost unaware of her journey.

Presently, however, she roused a little to ask,

"How much longer?"

The young man tore his eyes from the end of his bonnet for long enough to glance back for a moment.

"We're not much over half way. And we'll have to stop soon; it's overheating."

"I can't wait!"

The driver's hands gripped the wheel even more tightly. The creaking old car was already straining with its accelerator down to the floor, but somehow it seemed to find an extra fraction of a knot - more it could not do.

"Perhaps the police will be able to help," he said helplessly.

The markings for a Service Station appeared by the road ahead; teacup, knife and fork, telephone. He began to edge over to the left.

"We should have stayed where we were!"

"I promised we'd be home for Christmas."

"And now look where it's got us! Miles from anywhere - the car all but finished-off - and you! If anything happens, what shall I do!"

For a moment the girl did not answer, as her World Within claimed her attention.

Then, "It is!" she said.

"Is, what? Oh, God!" And it was a prayer.

The car lurched off the road and into the Service Area car park. He braked, and had leapt out almost before the engine had stopped.

"Where are you going?"

"Telephone - Get someone!"

A police car had followed them in. Finding its passage blocked by the old Ford, it pulled up, and the driver put his head out.

"Would you mind moving your car to a proper parking space, Sir!"

The young man almost threw himself onto the policeman's neck. "My wife - please help me - she's having a baby!"

The policeman was out of his car. "Here?"

"Yes. In the back. Not due yet, she wanted to get home first, but she's started!"

It was the policeman's turn to offer a prayer. He called back to his mate,

"George - get an ambulance - we've got a baby on the way!"

He pointed to the restaurant building - "If you drive over there perhaps we can get her inside. She'll be warmer, and more comfortable."

But the old Ford had already given its all. In the end they had to push it, and it took them a few minutes. The young husband had just wrenched open the rear door when his wife cried out and went rigid for a moment, at which the policeman pulled him aside and dived in.

"It's all right, love; we're all told what to do - regular delivery service!"

Behind them, a cattle truck had just pulled up, a radio in its driver's cab blaring forth seasonably and at full volume -

"Hark, the Herald Angels sing"

Solutions to Trellis and Crossword Puzzles

Ever since ADAM, as his culture Advanced, man has USED EACH new IDEA to wrench Open yet another closed secret, and has DARED seek answers even AMID the stars of Heaven, until he dares cry, "Surely nothing can stop US now!"

EVERY M/E/I A E B
A R PATH NS R O
COOKED HIS GOOSE R
END N I N
HEM T EGG FLIP R
APSE I M Y R
CHESTNUTS F I
L R T R O B O L N
THE HOLLY AND IVY C
H E A V E L E S S I E
E M E T E R A C A N T O
S E A S O F T U F
U T W E L F T H N I G H T
N E I F U S S E S

'ORRIBLE CROSSWORD

Christmas edition this week - Clues 2A, 9D, 1D, 37A, in that order, are omitted because they make up an Angelic proclamation from a well-known Carol - "Hark the Herald Angels"

Clues Across

8. (3) Lady going before -
10. (4) - and possible way she walked.
12. (1,1) Poles apart!
14. (6,3,5) Put paid to his chances, no doubt, but prepared for dinner.
15. (3) The conclusion -
16. (3) - turned to prevent fraying.
18. (3,4) Drink - perhaps you should hard-boil it first!
19. (4) Lapses can conceal rounded end of church.
22. (9) Traditionally pulled out of the fire about now.
25. (4) Pocket money to an old Greek.
27. (3,5,3,3) With 17D, Christmas greens.
30. (4) Not more, opposite in fact.
31. (5) Measuring instrument commonly fed by the motorist.
33. (5) Poetic part, of "Hiawatha", perhaps?
34. (4) Seven of them contain the world's oceans.
35. (7,5) Shakespearian comedy ends a season.

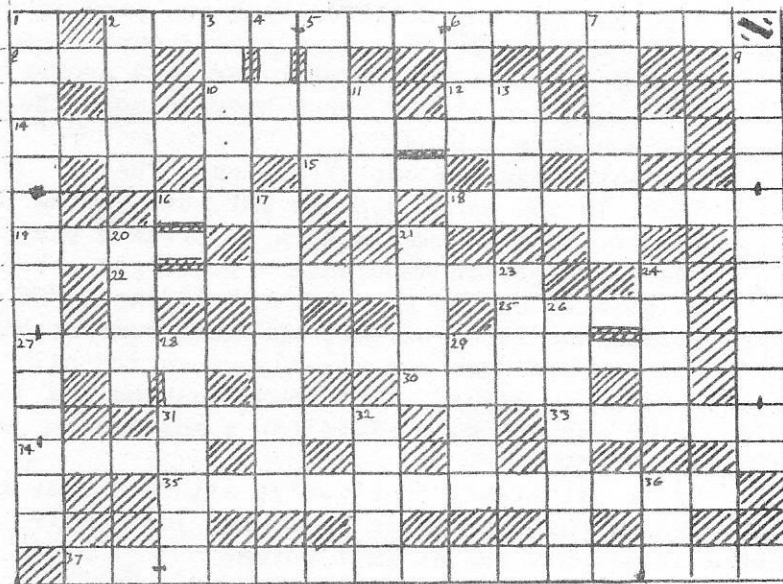
Clues Down

2. (5) Bird; grey fisher by the brook.
3. (6) Me, pied? Obstruct.
4. (4) Heavy metal is a guide.
5. (5) The tenth part due to the Church.
6. (4) Suspend, perhaps fatally.
7. (7) I'd about left off providing variety to put it in rhyme.
11. (4) Just a suggestion - a nod or a wink, maybe.
13. (4) Musical speech?
17. (9) Druids' gift to make the party go?
20. (5) Loose stones on the hill-side.
21. (5) Concerning the wall - probably painted on.
23. (4) Alternative to seed for lawn.
24. (3,2) Presumably way for an angel to get here.
26. (8) Alternatives to cakes, perhaps.
28. (7) Little pet with bacony beginning.
29. (5) Under, poetically speaking.
32. (5) Put back in place, and re-furbish.
36. (3) Colourful noise?

Solution elsewhere in this issue - don't cheat!

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

STABS PASTMASTER
 A A L E D O A
 BALDEAGLE LORDS
 L A N L I R P
 TELLTHE TIME BY IT
 R A ATONE EDEN
 AIRING EGRETS N
 C K ASPEN WOO
 ENTAIL L DEMON
 O A C I A O G
 COPPERBOTTOMED R
 H P K MEW E C A
 A ENTRAP AIRSHIP
 SODA I L N M U H
 E PASSINGFANCY
 DUPE E N N K



TRELLIS PUZZLE

Four-letter words hidden in the sentence below fit into the grid, as shown:-

"a dAB LEad the LEADing CRAB



CRAB, ABLE, LEAD

Ever since Adam, as his culture advanced, man has used each new IDEA to wrench open yet another closed secret, and has dared seek answers even amid the stars of Heaven, until he dares cry, "Surely nothing can stop us now!"



To help, one word is given - find its place in the grid, and find 8 more.

Last week's words - To BREED a FLEA able to play a LYRE with the kitchen table A STAGE would be to find a vaST OPening totALLY neglected ENSuring one would TOP ALL bills,