



AUTUMN 1989

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EDITORIAL

Margery Elliott

I am writing this on 12 October, which is Magnus's 60th birthday. A suitable greetings card was sent to him by the Club, and I expect that he also received cards from individual members. Congratulations, Magnus, and best wishes from all of us.

My apologies to Phillida Grantham for leaving a line out of her excellent Survey in the Summer issue, thus causing her to have to staple in little lists of the newspapers which we read. Also apologies from Phillida, for giving an incomplete list of the universities which some of us attended. Apart from London, Oxford, Cambridge, Southampton, the Open University, Manchester and Cardiff, which had the largest number of graduates, the list should read: Bangor, Bristol, Trinity College Dublin, Dundee, Durham, Edinburgh, Essex, Exeter, Glasgow, Hull, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Reading, St Andrews, Stirling, UMIST, Malta, California, Johns Hopkins, Michigan, New York, British Columbia and Sydney. I hope we haven't left anyone out this time.

John Widdowson, in addition to his other duties, has kindly agreed to stand in as Editor of the Winter PASS, so any contributions, letters, complaints, etc., should be sent to him. This is because I am off round the world with my friend Mary Hughes! We fly to Delhi on 27 December, and I should be back in time for the Annual Function in Edinburgh. Mary has been to New Zealand before, and I have been to Australia, but neither of us has ever been all the way round. Between us we can muster quite a few relatives and friends to visit. It should be memorable.

This issue contains preliminary information about the Edinburgh Annual Function in April 1990 (and a separate application form), and the first set of Master Quiz questions. Please note that the answers to the quiz are to be sent to Phillida Grantham (who set them) and not to Gerald. We hope for a large entry.

This PASS is being professionally printed, as Craig and his Desk-Top Publishing facilities are not at present available to us, and it is important that the magazine gets out on time.

I hope to see many of you in Edinburgh next April.

Function planning time is here again, and I must first tell you that with Craig Scott now in temporary exile after organising so many excellent occasions, the lot has now fallen upon me. I shall attempt not to deviate very far from his precedents. As has been extensively announced in these columns, the 1990 Function will be held at Pollock Halls, the residential part of the University of Edinburgh, over the weekend of 7/8 April, and cautious enquiries of our northern membership about their reactions to this venue are very encouraging. They are clearly going to attend in fair numbers, and we hope that regular – and indeed new – faces from the south will make every effort to come and join them.

Now is the time to start doing something about it. Enclosed with this issue of PASS you will find a booking form which you can fill up and post to me, with your remittance, as soon as you like. To tidy up one or two points which have proved troublesome in the past, please note that your application will not be acknowledged immediately; if you see within 2-3 weeks that your cheque has been paid in, that will indicate that your application is in. If you want more definite acknowledgment, just enclose a stamped self-addressed postcard, which I will return to you. Meanwhile I will guarantee to post before 21 March final instructions etc. to all those who have booked. Accommodation in Pollock Halls is in single rooms (lifts beyond the third floor); for members insisting on double-room accommodation I can provide a list of reasonable small, inexpensive hotels not far away (in the Newington area) for them to make their own arrangements, though they are welcome to book meals at Pollock Halls. Car parking exists at the Halls, but is not unlimited. Amphibious types may rejoice in the fact that Pollock Halls adjoins the magnificent Commonwealth Pool (open 7 days).

I hope that the form is otherwise self-explanatory, but there are one or two fields in which I need to know your requirements so that preliminary arrangements can be made. Please indicate as directed on the form:-

1. Magnus, as a Trustee of the Royal Scottish Museum, has offered to lead a tour of that institution probably on Saturday afternoon. Numbers may have to be limited; if so, first to apply first served (Code A).
2. If you are unsuccessful, or even as a matter of preference, you might like to join a guided tour of the Castle (Code B), the Royal Mile (C) or the New Town (D), either on Saturday afternoon (E) or Sunday afternoon (F).
3. It will be possible to arrange group transport at reduced rates, either by rail or air, if sufficient numbers are interested. Clearly we must have a reasonably small number of options; I suggest:

Code P: 1400 train ex King's Cross on Friday, arrive Edinburgh 1833

Q: 1800 Friday King's Cross, arr. 2253

R: 0800 Saturday King's Cross, arr. 1250

S: 1430 Sunday Edinburgh, arr. King's Cross 2016

T: 1650 Sunday Edinburgh, arr. King's Cross 2220

U: 1457 Friday Birmingham, arr. Edinburgh 1954

V: 1512 Sunday Edinburgh, arr. Birmingham 2027

(It may be possible to arrange joining/leaving at intermediate stations)

W: 1800 Friday plane from Heathrow, arr. Edinburgh 1910) (timings approx.

X: 0900 Saturday plane from Gatwick, arr. 1010) pending new

Y: 1500 Sunday plane from Edinburgh, arr. Heathrow 1610) timetable)

Z: 1700 Sunday plane from Edinburgh, arr. 1810)

October 89 fares (allow for inflation): air £79 return (Apex), rail £44 (in each case this represents a reduction for a party of at least 10). Air Europe run a concessionary £84 return from Gatwick; if interested, contact Morag Knox-Crawford direct. DO NOT SEND TRAVEL MONEY YET.

4. Please write ONE REASONABLY BRIEF question for the Mugnum Competition on the booking form and enclose the answer IN A SEALED ENVELOPE bearing your membership number.

Finally but most importantly, for the benefit of the uninitiated, the three principal events of the weekend are the Club Dinner (at Pollock Halls on Saturday evening), the Finals of the Club Master Quiz under the genial direction of Magnus in person (immediately after dinner) and the Annual General Meeting of the Club on Sunday morning. AGM veterans may like to know that the Committee has already decided that for its part it will not be planning any discussion of the Club Constitution at the 1990 AGM.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Manchester, August 1989.

Dear Margery,

Can anyone throw any light on some apparently curious behaviour by the Beeb? I recently sold a Mastermind article to a magazine who asked if there were any photos of myself in the black chair. I remembered a photographer taking snaps of us all in the chair (well, not all at once, you understand, one after the other) just before the recording: I didn't know if he represented the BBC or the local paper, but thought I'd check with the Mastermind office.

The woman I spoke to told me that such photographs are taken, but the BBC destroys all those not relating to the current series. Is this true? I carefully specified photos taken in the chair at the recording, so she can hardly have thought I meant the little audition mugshots. If this is true, is there any reason on earth why the strapped-for-cash BBC deliberately destroys photos which club members might be interested in buying?

Oh, one other thing while I think of it. Is there any possibility of doing the Magnum final the other way round in future? At the moment, the closest and most exciting contest is generally the first heat, when the teams are most evenly matched: the next two are increasingly one-sided and the tension dissipates. Couldn't it be more like the Wimbledon seeding system, where the fortnight starts by being one-sided and gets more thrilling as the matches become more equal? I'd prefer to see the best eight finalists matched top four against bottom four: it might seem unfair to start with, but it would make it more of a real tussle at the end, and we might get more variety in the winners.

Yours sincerely,

ANNE HEGERTY

STORY-IN-A-SENTENCE

Ian Barton

As I step out of the March sunlight and the noisy bustle of the crowd in the piazza into the shady coolness of the hall, a momentary hush comes over the assembly, and then they are all around me, clamouring for attention, until among the faces I notice one I love, but in the same instant comes the flash of a dagger, and falling I gasp "Et tu, Brute".

(This was submitted to a competition run by Chambers Dictionary, for a single-sentence story of not more than 75 words).

OBITUARY: Alan Foss (486), 24.9.89.

Mary Hunt (501) has written to say that her brother Alan Foss died recently after a long period of failing health; we send our condolences to her and to Alan's whole family.

Alan had the unusual distinction of appearing on two different versions of 'Mastermind'. On April 1st 1987 he took part as a 'Retired Politician' in the memorable 'spoof' Mastermind on 'Wogan'. This experience evidently stood him in good stead, because in the 'real thing' the following year he reached the semi-final! He came over on both versions as an endearing personality, and his passing is a loss to the Mastermind Club.

DJB

THE LEWIS CARROLL SOCIETY IN THE BLACK CHAIR

Paul Henderson

The Lewis Carroll Society is intending to hold a special meeting to feature the occasions on which Lewis Carroll has been a specialist subject on Mastermind. It is hoped to feature recordings of the rounds in question, and even an 'extra-special' -ist round concocted by one of the Society's own experts. The experience of appearing on Mastermind is also on the agenda, and the Society would be pleased to welcome any members of the Mastermind Club to this meeting.

Date: Friday 16 February 1990

Time: 6.00 for 6.30 pm.

Venue: Meeting Room C, basement of main building,
Birkbeck College, Malet Street, London WC1

(Paul is willing to act as a contact point for those wanting confirmation or more details. His address is on page 2 - Ed.)

INSIGNIA

Patricia Owen has the following in stock (the prices quoted include postage and packing):-

Sweatshirts @ £9.50 All sizes (S 36", M 38"-40", L 40"-42", XL 44"-46") in navy, emerald, red or white

Ties (single logo) @ £4.50 Navy or bronze

Metal lapel badges, brooches and pendants @ £5.00

Cufflinks @ £10.00 the pair

COME BACK, PETER!

David Mitchell has moved from being Producer of Mastermind into Education. He is replaced by our old friend Peter Massey, who says he is much happier actually producing programmes than sitting behind a desk, which is what he has been doing recently. We welcome Peter back, and give David our best wishes for his new work.

MASTERMIND RECORDING SCHEDULE, 1989-90 SERIES

Recordings begin on 1 November, which will be before this magazine appears. There is a recording on 15 November in The Victoria Rooms, Bristol. John will probably contact Bristol members about this. The other dates and places are:-

Wednesday 22 November	St Andrews University
Wednesday 6 December	Police Cadet School, Hendon
Wednesday 17 January 1990	The Great Hall, Winchester
Wednesday 24 January	The University of Aston in Birmingham
Wednesday 14 February	The Institute of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place
Wednesday 21 February	Sheffield University
Semis 1, 2 and 3	
Wed. and Thur 28 and 29 March	Whitworth Hall, University of Manchester
Semis 4 and 5	
Wednesday 18 April	University of Essex, Colchester
Final	
Thursday 24 May	The Banqueting Room, The City Chambers, Glasgow

John Widdowson receives a few tickets for each recording. Members may apply for one or two tickets for any one recording (give alternative dates if possible). Send a stamped addressed envelope 4" x 6" to John. If necessary, he will hold a ballot. Please note that the tickets arrive in batches from the BBC, not very long before the recordings, so that you may have to wait for some time to hear whether you have been lucky.

REGIONAL MEETINGS

The Editor has received interesting reports from Keith Scott, who ran a meeting in Durham on 13 May, and from Sheila Ramsden, who got a group together in Sheffield on 9 September. Space does not allow these to be printed in full. It is worthy of note that Phillida Grantham, who lives in London, attended both – she motored up to Durham and back in a day!

Any Northern members who have not yet attended a meeting, but would like details of the next one, should contact Keith Scott

CROSSWORD ANSWERS AND NOTES (See Summer issue)

Paul Henderson

The two theme words were BLACK CHAIR. BLACK (1a) was linked to BURN, HEATH and POOL (forming a place-name when prefixed to each). CHAIR (29a) was linked to THRONE, SETTEE and SEDAN (all types of chair).

Across

- 1 BLACK
- 4 BLESSINGS; B + anag. + s
- 9 LEARNER; L + earner
- 10 RETUNED; retu(r)ned
- 11 FARING; far(m)ing
- 12 THREATEN; anag. + anag.
- 14 NUMISMATIC; anag. + i/c
- 15 EPIC; hidden
- 18 HAND; 2 meanings
- 20 ALCHEMICAL; Al + C + anag.
- 23 HAWK-EYED; Hawkeye + d (J F Cooper)
- 24 THRONE; thr(ee) + one
- 26 ADMIRAL
- 27 OUTJEST; anag. - k
- 28 HANDTOWEL; anag.
- 29 CHAIR

Down

- 1 BULLFINCH
- 2 ANAGRAM; a nag ram
- 3 KINDNESS; n + end (rev.) in kiss
- 4 BURN; Burn(s)
- 5 EARTHLIGHT; anag.
- 6 SETTEE; set tee
- 7 NON-STOP; no n St. op.
- 8 SEDAN; anag.
- 13 HAIL FELLOW; hail fell ow!
- 16 COLLECTOR; 2 meanings (Fowles)
- 17 EMPHATIC; anag.
- 19 NEWSMAN; new + MS (rev.) + an
- 21 CHOLERA; Ch + anag.
- 22 FERRET; er in fret
- 23 HEATH; heat h
- 25 POOL; loop (rev.)

16 all-correct solutions were received. The first one opened came from Elizabeth Compton of Forfar, who wins a £10 Book Token. Elizabeth says she is an inveterate doer of crosswords, but she has never won a prize before.

Introduction and Instructions (please read before turning to the questions)

Welcome to all new and old hands to my tenth dose. This year for the first time I have a collaborator, Mrs Phillida Grantham, who is setting and marking the first preliminary round. Let us make her truly welcome by overwhelming her with entries.

The prescription consists of the same old proven format of the two preliminary written rounds, from which the best eight contestants will proceed to the quarter-final, semi-final and final rounds which will be held as the centrepiece of our Annual Function in Edinburgh on Saturday 7 April 1990. Magnus has again very kindly consented to be Question Master, and the winner will hold for one year 'The Magnum', a Toby jug in Magnus's image.

Do have a go; don't worry if you get stopped by any of the questions. I know from experience that most of them won't stop everyone; last year no question in either of the preliminary rounds or the finals stopped everybody.

In each round there are two entries:

U This is the essential entry, and I would be pleased if competitors would treat this round as unseen, and prepare for it with an answer paper headed U and numbered 1 - 105. There is no time limit, but it is a great help to us to know how long you spent over it, as this enables us to gauge the difficulty of the questions accurately. When you have finished, please sign the entry as being your own unaided work.

R The R entry is not essential, but most competitors like doing it because it enables them to expand their answers, having checked them. Take a second sheet of paper, and head it R for reference. Check your results in the usual way against reference books, and do your best to complete the answers as fully as possible, quoting the actual reference or authority used, or 'second thought', but please do not use your friends. Then sign this one as being your own unaided work.

DEADLINES Phillida must receive your entries to the first round by 1 February 1990. If you can get them in by mid-January, so much the better.

Her address is: Mrs Phillida Grantham

The second round questions and final instructions will be in the next PASS.

MASTER QUIZ 1990

Set by Phillida Grantham

PRELIMINARY ROUND 1

(A tribute to past Masterminds and an aid to those entering this quiz: the answers to 8 of the questions are the surnames of past winners of Mastermind).

1. What is the capital of Georgia, USSR?
2. What is the capital of Georgia, USA?
3. Asked to explain unusual conduct, who replied "It seemed like a good idea at the time"?
4. What do the letters MW after a person's name signify?
5. Give the value of π ?
6. Give the origin of the expression "His name is mud".
7. Who lived – and died – at Longwood House?
8. Who wrote "A High Wind in Jamaica"?
9. What does TNT stand for?
10. Where is McBurney's Point?
11. What has been described as "the finest outdoor drawing room in Europe"?
12. Describe the Queen's racing colours.
13. What is the function of the Advocatus Diaboli?
14. Who was the defeated commander at the first battle of Châlons sur Marne?
15. Who invented the safety pin?
16. Who said "I'm very fond of pigs but I don't find it difficult to eat them"?
17. Who won the 1989 Super Bowl?
18. If your name is Pargeter, what was your ancestor's likely occupation?
19. Who apologised on the scaffold for treading on their executioner's toe?
20. Where is Gyles Brandreth's Teddy Bear Museum?
21. Where is the oldest complete street in Europe?
22. Which houseplant is nicknamed the "Cast-iron Plant"?
23. What does DNA stand for?
24. For which county did the legendary Frank Woolley play?
25. What have Sir Isaac Newton and Margaret Thatcher in common?
26. What was Franklin D. Roosevelt's campaign song in 1932?
27. What is Fairford Church, Glos., famous for?
28. Who is BBC TV's Science Correspondent?
29. What was the Bedchamber Crisis?
30. All thoroughbred racehorses in the world are descended from 3 Arabs – name one of the 3.
31. In which year was compulsory seat-belt wearing introduced in this country?
32. When is the Feast of the Assumption?
33. Which religious order runs the public school Stoneyhurst?
34. Which club won the 1988-9 Second Division Championship of the Football League?
35. What do we call the city known in German as Genf?
36. Which breed was Supreme Champion at Crufts in 1989?
37. What is the name of Denis Thatcher's son by his first marriage?
38. Where is the North of England Open Air Museum (European Museum of the Year 1987)?
39. The inhabitants of which state in the USA are called "Hoosiers"?
40. Which Oxford college has been Alma Mater to 13 British Prime Ministers?
41. Give the "official" and "unofficial" last words of George V.
42. What is the special field of study of the scientist Miriam Rothschild?
43. From the urine of which animal might one contract Weil's disease?
44. What is Nasi Goreng?
45. What is broken in a Colles fracture?
46. In which branch of the arts was William de Morgan famous?
47. What – to a glass-maker – are friggers?
48. What is the regimental quick march of the Irish Guards?
49. What is scrimshaw?
50. What was added to most English and Scottish silver marks between December 1784 and April 1890 to show payment of duty?
51. What is the last line of the film "Some Like It Hot"?
52. Which is the most abundant of the inert or rare gases?
53. What was Elvis Presley's first hit?
54. What is the chemical symbol for mercury?
55. What is COBOL?
56. Name the film in which Jacques Tati played a postman.
57. Which is the brightest star in the sky?
58. Who is President of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds?
59. Who was elected in 1989 the first woman President of the Royal College of Physicians?
60. What do the Battle of Cannae (BC 216) and the Battle of Stalingrad (1942/3) have in common?
61. "Inter Arma Caritas" – whose motto?
62. What is a hirsel?
63. Which craftsman uses a leggat, a spar hook and a yealm?
64. Where is jet chiefly found in England?
65. What was the previous name and office of Lord Crickhowell?
66. Opera for the masses – which opera was performed at Earls Court in June 1989?

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|-----|--|------|--|
| 67. | Who founded Harrods? | 86. | Which British athlete was sent to prison for smuggling steroids from Mexico into California? |
| 68. | Which endangered British bird of prey, once a scavenger in medieval London, has now become re-established in the hills of Central Wales? | 87. | What are esters? |
| 69. | What is the popular name for the tree <i>Aracaria araucana</i> ? | 88. | What is Darwin's tubercle? |
| 70. | Who lived at The Wakes, Selborne? | 89. | Who was shot by Mark David Chapman? |
| 71. | What is the surface temperature of the planet Venus? | 90. | What was the 12th Labour of Hercules? |
| 72. | Where is the Doppler effect used by the police to their advantage and (?) our disadvantage? | 91. | What are Hymenoptera? |
| 73. | What does BMW stand for? | 92. | The Einstein relation says energy (measured in ergs) = matter (measured in grammes) $\times c^2$ ($E = m \times c^2$). What is c ? |
| 74. | Which composer said "Handel is only 4th rate. He is not even interesting"? | 93. | Whose albums include "Blood and Chocolate" and "King of America"? |
| 75. | Name 2 – or as many as you like – of the Seven Wonders of Wales. | 94. | What is Peter's Principle? |
| 76. | What is an axolotl? | 95. | In the City, what is meant by dual capacity? |
| 77. | What is coryza and was a cure discovered for it in 1989? | 96. | Who is the Patron Saint of Television? |
| 78. | What is a supernova? | 97. | What characterises noctilucent clouds and why? |
| 79. | Approximately when was Britain's first canal built and by whom? | 98. | What is used to fill in rock joints in mining? |
| 80. | Who wrote "What Maisie Knew"? | 99. | Who painted the Burghclere Murals? |
| 81. | What is the English title of of the aria: "Là ci darem la mano" and from which opera does it come? | 100. | If a Vestal Virgin was found guilty of unchastity, what happened to her? |
| 82. | What is the chief ingredient of 'Potage Crécy'? | 101. | In which country is the Order of the Elephant the oldest order of chivalry? |
| 83. | What is a Bergschrund? | 102. | Which animal has a breed called Kerry Hill? |
| 84. | What is the most populous capital city in the world? | 103. | "How different, how very different from the home life of our own dear Queen!" Whose home life is compared here to Queen Victoria's? |
| 85. | Whose morganatic wife was Sophie, Countess Chotek? | 104. | Which Scottish clan possesses the Bratach Sithean or Fairy Flag? Name 2 of its 3 magical properties. |
| | | 105. | And finally . . . Whose dying words are given either as "Ring down the curtain. The play is done" or "I go to look for a great perhaps"? |

3.50 Con Brio to Penzance

Lance Haward.

The first three hours out of Paddington were reasonably uneventful, with no hint of the transformation that would overtake us on the other side of the Tamar. The brief miles to Bristol were enlivened only by the creative linguistics of the Bangladeshi guard. It came as something of a shock, on embarking from London, to learn that we were headed overland not for "Penzance via Liskeard" but "Punjarn, please God!"

But half-way between Exeter and Bodmin Parkway, the miracle happened.

A handful of musicians headed for a workshop at Prussia Cove had got on at Plymouth where most got off, offering them a half-empty carriage for the disposal of their instrument-cases.

It was the short space of a glissando from the first sight of these evocative containers, shapes that like space-suits reveal the general nature without disclosing the identity, to the tip-toe along the aisle of the first acoustic-experimental flourish on the E string. A matter of seconds from there before British Rail's staid conveyance had been transformed into a life-celebration on wheels. Melodies from the Scandinavian fjords, limping plaints from the Hungarian steppe, something

indistinguishable between wedding and wake from the peat-fields of western Ireland, had the duettists certainly, and almost their audience, jiggling between the seats.

By force of this alchemy, a couple of dozen disparate, somnolent travellers, segregated by mutual silence into a couple of dozen invisible compartments, had been suddenly converted into all that is richest in the meaning of the word "party". Housewife and college-girl, Japanese businessman and Swedish academic, precipitately united in a common response to the delight that trains were built to run for. There is surely no purpose behind any journey but to seek out and respond to instantly appreciable expertise like this. A moment of unexpected community before they scattered to their several callings. It was exhilarating, dangerous stuff, certainly. Unsafe to let loose on moving trains. For such communication chords, communication cords were designed.

And British Rail, inevitably, had laid on a safety device.

At Plymouth, the Bangladeshi and his dialectic entertainment had been replaced by a more orthodox speaker of English prose, rule-conscious and flamboyance-free.

In the middle of a subtle, sobbing cadenza, an embroidery of delicate quarter-tones somewhere midway between Kodály and Ravi Shankar, this new embodiment of British Rail's conscience came through the train in uniformed solemnity and in pursuit of the deviant.

The terrible thing we were up to was apparently an Offence. Something that imperilled the well-being of our fellow-passengers, if not the stability of the entire train. The Inter-city 125 was, it transpired, a desperately insecure creature, more vulnerable to frissons and draughts than any operatic soprano. We were probably more than half-way already toward rolling it on its roof in the red Devon earth by our wilful, wild, disruptive orgy.

In vain to canvass every other person in the carriage in order to establish whether what we were about constituted a nuisance. The regulations declared that music is Disturbance, and Disturbance it would remain until the deadly instruments were safely battened down in their boxes like dancing vipers.

By this time we were static beside St Austell platform. In the good old days, the thoroughbred would have been trembling with steam and nervous expectation, but this sleek electer-city whose survival was the cause of all the angst waited emotionless and conscious of its assured victory. It knew its worth, and the powerful, hideous forces of obstinacy harnessed to secure it.

"If you want this train to start," announced authority, "that had better go back into its box."

Perhaps it begged the question. Marooned in perpetuity on St Austell station, we might have enjoyed a fuller measure of this improvisation than in the remaining few miles to Truro? But rudimentary psychology advised that the guard was unlikely just to leave it at that, or a renewed performance uninterrupted.

"Let the train get started," I advised our new friends, meaning: "Once they get a 125 into its stride they'll never stop it again for anything less explosive than the nuclear. Not in any case this side of Truro."

Besides, I was professionally curious to know how far they'd prosecute such an Offence, and what would be a court's reaction to a summons presented against the background of the travelling public's unanimous approval, for whose comfort the regulations are supposedly framed.

As it happened, my selfishly clinical curiosity was never to be satisfied, nor as to whether the rule so cursorily quoted to us actually did prohibit string quartets, or simply radios.

With the 3.50 in motion again, and the guard out of earshot back in his van, a couple of solo encores was offered, but the heart had gone out of it. Notwithstanding the experience of Treblinka, great music can't really be conjured from a state of anxiety. The last miles to Truro were passed in conversation.

But a conversation dramatically different from any that had preceded those first clarion apoggiature outside Plymouth. That score of surviving travellers had been brought into fellowship by their shared pleasure and the freedom from all those artificial silences that society imposes. Almost our earliest discovery as social animals, on first going to school, is the prohibition on the natural faculty of speech. From that point on, we make our communal environment hostile.

It had taken eight pieces of twisted wire illicitly vibrated to restore us all in that carriage to instant Adam-hood. I shared the last of the journey with the Swedish academic, a professor of history, and was thereby intoxicated by the magnificence of one who having acquired a rover ticket was now headed for Penzance with the express purpose of crossing over to the opposite platform and coming straight back to London before morning, en route to lectures and fraternity in Cambridge and solitude in the Western Highlands. And while you may say that his excursion into Cornwall appears totally pointless, I can't help reflecting that England would have offered him no such hour of extemporisation in a comfortable hotel room in Sussex Gardens.

For such encounters, trains and music were surely and jointly made. The guard, of course, was only doing his job: that has to be said. As a lawyer, I recognize that he had no alternative.

Nevertheless, his "job" was an unquestionable piece of vandalism by authority.

A Desert Island Survey

Stewart Cross

Having participated in, and read with interest the results of Phillida Grantham's recent survey of what makes us all tick, my mind raced on to what else might be done to encourage members to be participative again. So might I suggest a bit more audience involvement, purely for fun. Over the years most of us have no doubt fantasised about the eight records we would take to a desert island if given the chance. Many will have concluded that their choice is a better, more well-balanced selection than 90% of the choices picked by the celebrities. Certainly no-one will be in the position to emulate Elisabeth Schwarzkopf and select eight discs by themselves (I think!).

I would enjoy compiling a Mastermind top 8 for our collective desert island if you would enjoy participating. Who knows, we might find secret admirers of Kylie Minogue, Schoenberg or Rolf Harris! Possibly there are fans of African tribal music, cajun or punk! Who would be the most popular composer (any bets on Beethoven), and which piece/song would be most popular?

If anyone is interested, please drop me a line with your eight, with possibly a note or two of explanation if something fairly obscure is included. It may well be that our collective taste is so catholic that composers rather than individual pieces form the basis of the final list. It may well be that everyone thinks it's a really stupid idea, which I'll only know by your response (or lack of it!). Either way I'd report back and highlight some of the more interesting and unusual choices.

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By the way of introduction, and to ensure that I won't be influenced subliminally by other people's selection, here's mine.

1. Joan Armatrading – Love and Affection. One of the very best of contemporary singer-songwriters. This is her finest song. It's a moody, atmospheric classic and definitely late night listening.
2. Bach – Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring. This has always struck me as being as close to perfection as you can get. If absolutely no-one is around I'll sing along!
3. Beethoven – Symphony No.6 (The Pastoral). Well yes, I know it's frightfully predictable, but then again it's so very good. Constantly melodic and uplifting, it lightens the darkest day. It will remind me of the countryside as well.
4. Fairport Convention – A Sailor's Life. As a fervent fan of folk-rock, I love this seminal and hugely influential track which is now 20 years old. It's a rambling English ballad which builds to a dazzling instrumental climax. The late, sadly missed, Sandy Denny is in magical form and it featured the great traditional fiddler, Dave Swarbrick (he later joined them full-time). It shook the traditional folk scene to its roots. Incidentally, my first date with my wife was to a Fairport concert. She didn't like it then and still doesn't.
5. Mahler – Symphony No. 2 (The Resurrection). To my mind an undoubted masterpiece. The last movement has the highest 'tingle factor' of any piece I know, and has an emotional impact on me that at one time I would have thought impossible. The way the soprano's voice soars above the choir during 'O Glaube' is breath-taking.
6. Monteverdi – The Vespers of the Blessed Virgin. I love early choral music. The balance between the orchestra and the choir always seems so satisfying. This has me hooked from its opening chorus and is a constant delight.
7. Rolling Stones – Gimme Shelter. I think you have had to be a teenager in the 60s to know just what the Stones mean. They were simply the best rock band around, and this, aided by electrifying backing vocals from Merry Clayton, is my favourite of the lot.
8. Vaughan Williams – Job: A Masque for Dancing. It was a toss-up between this and "Fantasia on a Theme" by Thomas Tallis. This marginally won because of its sheer variety, its clever interpretation of both old and new influences and its masterful evocation of good and evil. I heard this for the first time only a couple of years ago. Where had it been all my life!

P.S. I almost forgot that the time honoured traditions of Desert Island Discs demand that one record above all others be selected. In my case it was the Mahler!
