COURT AND SOCIAL

Court Circular

BALMORAL CASTLE
September 1st

Divine Service was held in Crathie Parish Church this morning.

The Reverend Dr Finlay Macdonald preached the Sermon.

Mr James Hodge was received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
September 1st

The Prince of Wales this afternoon departed from Royal Air Force Northolt for a two-day visit to Potsdam, Berlin and Ludwigsfelde Kulturhaus.

Mr Stephen Lamport and Mr Mark Bolland are in attendance.

Princess Alexandra will open the new conference facilities at Auckland Castle, Bishop Auckland, County Durham, on Sept 12.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES

Lt-Cdr M. Doolan, RN, and Miss J.A. Frowen
The engagement is announced between Martin, youngest son of Raymond J. Doolan and the late Mrs Rita Doolan, of Cardiff, South Glamorgan, and Julie, only daughter of Mrs Dorothy G. Frowen, of Malvern, Worcestershire.

Mr A.A. Shipley and Miss J.A. Penfold
The engagement is announced between Adam, elder son of Major and Mrs A.J. Shipley, of Farnborough, Hants, and Jenifer, youngest daughter of Mr A.G. Penfold, of Chichester, and Mrs J.E. Ford, of Ebernoe, West Sussex.

Mr D.R. McRae and Miss A.E. Sullivan
The engagement is announced between Duncan, son of the late Squadron Leader D.H.T. McRae, DFC, and of Mrs McRae, of Chaffcombe, Somerset, and Anastasia Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Sullivan, of Fleet, Hampshire.

Mr B.J. Clay and Miss C.J. Peachey
The engagement is announced between Brian, eldest son of Mrs Molly Clay and the late Mr John Hellmund and stepson of Mr Kenneth Clay, of Mudeford, Dorset, and Caroline, only daughter of Dr and Mrs G.R. Peachey, of Weybridge, Surrey.

Mr W.R. Gates and Miss F.C. McQuaid
The engagement is announced between William, younger son of Mr and Mrs Roger Gates, of Shennington, Oxfordshire, and Fiona, daughter of Dr and Mrs James McQuaid, of Sheffield and Carlingford, Eire.

Mr R.C. Holloway and Miss C. Le Quesne Herbert
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs Colin Holloway, of Caterham, Surrey, and Claire, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Le Quesne Herbert, of Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex.

Mr R.P.D. Szell and Miss S.K. Yule
The engagement is announced between Redmond, son of Mr and Mrs Patrick Szell, of Lurgashall, West Sussex, and Kate, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Yule, of Oxted, Surrey.

Mr I.S. Wilmshurst and Miss H.K. Turner
The engagement is announced between Ian, younger son of Mr and Mrs Peter Wilmshurst, of Edinburgh, and Helen, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Roy Turner, of Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria.

Mr G.D. Clark and Miss E.V. Mahony
The engagement is announced between Gavin, elder son of Mr and Mrs W.A. Clark, of Calver, Derbyshire, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.F. Mahony, of Dore, Sheffield.

WEDDING

Mr J.A.G. Fawcett and Miss L.S. Grylls
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Mary's, Winterborne Zelston, Dorset, of Mr James Fawcett, son of Mr and Mrs John Fawcett, of Aberford, Yorkshire, and Miss Lara Grylls, daughter of Sir Michael and Lady Grylls, of Winterborne Zelston. The Rev Hugh Maddox officiated, assisted by the Rev Jeremy Crossley.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by the Hon Rory Fairfax, Henry Holman, William Ogilvie-Grahame, Isabel Errington, Rebecca and Catherine Pratt and Miss Alexandra Denham. Mr Kenelm Storey was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

SERVICE DINNER

No 2 (City of Edinburgh) Maritime Headquarters Unit, RAuxAF
Officers of No 2 (City of Edinburgh) Maritime Headquarters Unit, RAuxAF, held a guest night on Saturday at their Town Headquarters, Edinburgh. The principal guest was Gp Capt D. Needham, RAF (Retd), Vice Chairman Air, Lowland TAVRA. The guests were welcomed by Wg Cdr R.G. Kemp, Officer Commanding, and Sqn Ldr S. Dawson presided.

CANFORD SCHOOL

The Christmas Term at Canford School begins on Tuesday, Sept 3. Nicholas Makin and Bethan Thomas are Heads of School. The autumn Open Day will be on Saturday, Oct 5, from 10 am to 4 pm. Sixth Form Scholarship Examinations will be held on Nov 18 and 19, the closing date for applications is Nov 8. The Canford Sports Centre is now complete, as are the second girls' boarding house and the new day house. Construction of the theatre is due to begin during this academic year. The Old Canfordian Society would be interested to hear from former pupils with whom it has had no recent contact.

QUEEN MARGARET'S SCHOOL, YORK

Autumn Term at Queen Margaret's School begins on Thursday, Sept 5, and ends after the Junior and Senior carol services on Dec 11. Alice Darbyshire is Head Girl and Captain of Hockey, Amelia Williams, Deputy Head Girl, and Elizabeth Hague is Captain of Lacrosse. Mr Roman Rudnytsky will give a piano masterclass and recitals on Nov 18. The Choral Society concert takes place on Nov 10 and the musical, *Kiss Me Kate*, will be performed on Nov 27, 28, 30 and Dec 1. The Old Margaretians' Association reunion will take place at the school on Sept 21.

Buyer sought for haunted house

One of Britain's most haunted houses is up for sale. Littledean Hall in the Forest of Dean, recorded as the oldest inhabited house in England, was built in 1692 but stands on a maze of vaulted cellars dating from the Saxon period.

Frequent apparitions are part of the fixtures of the Grade II listed building, whose asking price is £360,000.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

The Rev Dr Fred Pratt Green, writer of hymns, is 93; **Prof David Daiches**, writer, is 84; **Sir Edward Goschen**, 3rd Bt, 85; **Mr P.B. "Laddie" Lucas**, Chairman, GRA Property Trust, 1963-75, and former fighter pilot and international golfer, 81; **Sir Peter Boon**, Chairman, Hoover, 1975-78, 80; **Baroness Brigstocke**, High Mistress of St Paul's Girls' School, 1974-89, 67; **Sir Patrick Sheehy**, Chairman, BAT Industries, 1982-95, 66; **the Rt Rev D.N.de L. Young**, Bishop of Ripon, 65; **Gen Sir John Waters**, former Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, 61; and **Mr Jimmy Connors**, Wimbledon men's singles champion, 1974 and 1982, 44.

Today is the anniversary of the beginning of the Great Fire of London in 1666.

HAILEYBURY AND IMPERIAL SERVICE COLLEGE

Christmas Term at Haileybury begins today when Mr S.A. Westley takes up his post as Master following the retirement of Mr D.J. Jewell. The Head School is L.C.H. Sherriff (Lawrence), the Second Head of School is R.G.A. Pagliarulo (Russell Dare) and the Head Girl of School is Anna Clarkson (Allenby). The Captain of Rugby Football is L.C.H. Sherriff (L), Mr W.H. Flint Cahan has succeeded Dr D.A. Cruse as Director of Studies, Mr R. Griffin has succeeded Mr W.H. Flint Cahan as Head of Modern Languages and Mr R.A. King has succeeded Miss J.C. Limrick as Head of Chemistry. Dr F.A. Hughes has succeeded Miss S.A. Guest as Housemistress of Alban's. Mr H.R. Angus has succeeded Mr P.M. Ellis as Rackets Professional and Sports Shop Manager. Mrs N.A. Huggett, Mr A. Moores-Grimshaw, Mr H.H. Robinson and Mr C.R. Tyzack have also joined the staff. The Ninth Attlee Memorial Lecture will be given by Sir Robin Butler, Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service. Dr B. St John Nevill, Mr Bowen Wells, MP, Mr Kenneth Baker and Mr Francis Beckett will address the Political Society. Productions will include *Twelve Angry Men*, *The Bomb Party* and *Six Characters in Search of an Author*. The Choral and Orchestral concert on Nov 14 will include Bach's *Magnificat*. The carol services are on Dec 1 and 8. A memorial service for Mr G.S. Page will be held in the Chapel at 11.30 am on Saturday, Sept 21. Open Days for Sixth Form entry for boys and girls will be held on Saturday, Sept 28, for 15+ boys on Saturday, Sept 14, and on Saturday, Sept 21, and for 14+ boys on Saturday, Nov 9. Details of Sixth Form Scholarships are available from The Registrar, Haileybury, Hertford, SG13 7NU, tel: 01992 463553. Term ends on Dec 7.

OAKHAM SCHOOL

Winter Term at Oakham School begins today. Mr A.R.M. Little becomes the 28th Headmaster since 1584, following the retirement of Mr G. Smallbone. Sally Whitehill is Head Girl and Adam Buckley is Head Boy. There will be performances of Durufle's *Requiem Mass* on Nov 2, the School Autumn concert on Nov 22 and Handel's *Messiah* on Dec 3. The principal drama productions will be *Our Country's Good* from Nov 19 to 23 and the Jerwoods musical, *The Wizard of Oz*, from Nov 27 to 30. The Old Oakhamian dinner will be held at the School on Saturday, Oct 19. Sixth Form Academic Scholarship Examinations will be held on Nov 4, 5, and 6. The carol service for parents will be held on the last day of term, Saturday, Dec 7.

REPTON SCHOOL

Michaelmas Term at Repton School begins today. Old Reptonian Day will be on Sept 14 and the OR dinner will be held at the School on Nov 19.

THE LEYS SCHOOL

Term begins today at The Leys School. The Senior Prefects are Katherine Robinson and Christopher Wingfield. The Buchanan Memorial Match and the Old Leysian Girls' Hockey Match are played on Saturday, Sept 28, followed by the OL dinner at The University Arms Hotel. Sixth Form Scholarship examinations take place on Nov 9. The School concert is on Nov 22. There is an Open Evening on Nov 28. *The Royal Hunt of the Sun* will be performed from Dec 4 to 7. Term ends with the carol services in the School Chapel on Dec 13.

Continued in Col 7

OBITUARIES

Colonel R E 'Ronnie' Holden

COLONEL R E 'RONNIE' HOLDEN, who has died aged 88, was awarded a DSO and an MC when serving with the 9th Battalion, the Royal Tank Regiment, in the North West Europe campaign of 1944 to 1945.

Ronnie Holden's indifference to enemy fire — even after he had been wounded — astonished all those who served with him. Before a battle, and even when it was in progress, he would often climb out of his tank and, sitting on a shooting stick in highly dangerous circumstances, form shrewd judgments and issue appropriate orders. Just before the battle for Le Havre in September 1944, Holden suffered a severe injury, but refused to receive medical attention before the position was secured.

His DSO citation recorded: "This officer has commanded C Squadron during every single action in this theatre of war. He has shown the very highest qualities of leadership and is cool and sound in all his decisions. Always in the forefront of the battle, he is continually to be found leading his squadron into fire positions."

At the village of Epaignes, on Aug 25 1944, Holden pressed home his attack with such determination and skill that, though the village was strongly held, the Germans surrendered. At Le Havre, on Sept 12, Holden and one troop of tanks again attacked with such vigour that they broke through the defences and caused so much confusion that the enemy again surrendered rapidly.

In the second week of October, Holden carried out five raids on the enemy positions with great dash, inflicting heavy casualties and capturing many prisoners without suffering any loss to his own troops.

On Oct 29, at Vinkenbroek, Holden's tank was knocked out, but he continued to control the action on foot until his second-in-command could take over. Despite his wounds, he refused to leave the position.

"By his courage, leadership and coolness in and out of action," his citation ran, "he has made C Squadron into a very fine fighting unit. Officers and men have every confidence in him and would follow him into any action. He has been given difficult and dangerous tasks to carry out and has never shown anything but eagerness and enthusiasm."

Ronald Edwin Holden, always known as Ronnie, was born on Oct 3 1907 and educated at Ealing College.

In 1925 he joined the Westminster Dragoons and was appointed to the 22nd London Armoured Car Company. He also served for four years in the mounted section of the City of London Police Reserve.

From 1928 to 1939, he was a member of A Battery in the Honourable Artillery Company, but in 1939 became reserve officer in the Westminster Dragoons.

In 1941 he was posted as an instructor to 103 Officer Cadet Training Unit, Royal Armoured Corps, from which he moved to Sandhurst the next year as an instructor in tactical training.

He joined the Royal Tank Regiment in 1943, and was posted to the 9th Battalion, one of the first units to be equipped with Churchill tanks. After extensive training, the battalion landed in France on June 20 1944 and immediately took part in the battle to draw German armour on to the British sector of the front, in order to give the Americans a better chance to break out to the west.

From then on, 9 RTR was almost continuously in action until the end of the war in Germany. The regiment was disbanded in December 1945, but Holden served on with the TA, commanding the Westminster Dragoons from 1948 to 1956.

After the war, Holden became the London director of Rowan and Boden of Glasgow, manufacturers of ships' fittings and furnishings.

He was appointed OBE in 1957.

A man of distinguished appearance, Ronnie Holden excelled at golf, squash, tennis, sailing and amateur dramatics. He was a good horseman.

He is survived by his wife.

Ronnie Holden (centre) between fellow C Squadron officers Capts Sidney Link and Alan Morgan, 1945

Buland al-Haidari

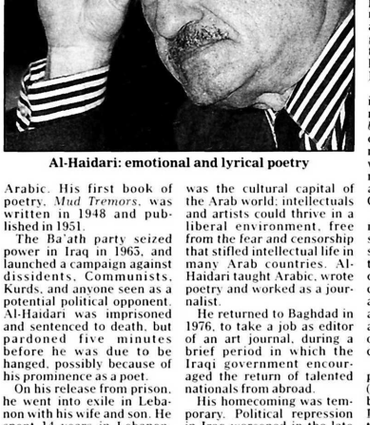
BULAND AL-HAIDARI, who has died in London aged 69, was an Iraqi poet, art critic and journalist; his nostalgic verse about Iraq found a wide audience in the Arab world.

Al-Haidari was one of a handful of Iraqi poets who revolutionised modern Arabic poetry. Inspired by the work of European modernists, such as Pound, Eliot, Yeats and Auden, they broke from the traditional forms of Arabic poetry with its strict rules of rhyme and metre and conventional subject matter, to write a free verse that was lyrical and emotional.

His poetry was intimate rather than grandiose in tone, and inclined towards introspection and pessimism. It often returned to what one critic called "the individual's feeling of powerlessness against an enemy springing from the very heart of the nation".

Buland al-Haidari was born on Sept 26 1926, at Arbil, northern Iraq, into a prominent Kurdish family. Under the Hashemite monarchy then in power in Iraq, two seats in the cabinet were reserved for Kurds, and Haidari's uncle served as Minister of Justice until the monarchy was overthrown in 1958.

The family moved to Baghdad when Buland was 10. As a young man in Baghdad, al-Haidari chose not to go to university in favour of the life of a café intellectual, studying art and literature and taking part in political activities. He began writing in Kurdish, later turning to Arabic. His first book of poetry, *Mud Tremors*, was written in 1948 and published in 1951.



Al-Haidari: emotional and lyrical poetry

The Ba'ath party seized power in Iraq in 1963, and launched a campaign against dissidents, Communists, Kurds, and anyone seen as a potential political opponent. Al-Haidari was imprisoned and sentenced to death, but pardoned five minutes before he was due to be hanged, possibly because of his prominence as a poet.

On his release from prison, he went into exile in Lebanon with his wife and son. He spent 14 years in Lebanon, which he came to regard as his second homeland.

Until the country was torn apart by civil war, Lebanon was the cultural capital of the Arab world: intellectuals and artists could thrive in a liberal environment, free from the fear and censorship that stifled intellectual life in many Arab countries. Al-Haidari taught Arabic, wrote poetry and worked as a journalist.

He returned to Baghdad in 1976, to take a job as editor of an art journal, during a brief period in which the Iraqi government encouraged the return of talented nationals from abroad.

His homecoming was temporary. Political repression in Iraq worsened in the late 1970s, with hundreds of thousands of Iraqis being deported, arrested or executed. Saddam Hussein assumed total power in 1979, and commenced war against Iran the following year. Thousands of Iraqis fled into exile, including, in 1980, al-Haidari and his family, who joined the large community of Iraqi exiles in London.

Despairing of events in Iraq, he stopped writing poems for several years, and only resumed later to write more explicitly political poetry, grieving for his native country. He wrote about such episodes as the gas attack on Halabjah and the invasion of Kuwait, lamenting the destruction of Iraq.

In London, he was editor-in-chief of the Arabic arts magazine *Funun al-Arabiya*, and wrote weekly column on the arts for the magazine *al-Majalla*, in which he displayed his wide range of interests, from ancient art to the work of Giacometti and Picasso.

Al-Haidari was not naturally political, but circumstances pushed him to it. He served as vice-president of the Union of Iraqi Democrats, campaigning for a democratic and united Iraq, and was active in promoting a charter for Arab intellectuals, condemning restrictions on artistic freedom and defending human rights.

His final collection of poems, *Passages to Exile* (1996) ends, "O how sweet to be reincarnated as dreams,/ Dreams that help us forget,/ the resentment awaiting between the bow and arrow."

He married, in 1955, Dalal al-Mufti; they had a son.

Lloyd Robinson

LLOYD ROBINSON, who has died aged 85, was a fine all-round sportsman in his youth and later a successful businessman.

Thomas Lloyd Robinson was born in Swansea on Dec 21 1912 and educated at Wycliffe College, Gloucester.

A keen club cricketer during the summer months, Robinson was a highly competitive rugby union player in winter. A second row forward, he joined Moseley in the mid-1930s and was soon a regular in the 1st XV. In the two seasons prior to the Second World War he played for the North Midlands in the county championship.

A member of the Territorial Army at the outbreak of war, Robinson joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in 1939 and was promoted major. After attending Staff College, Camberley, in 1943 he was posted to the Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Force.

On demobilisation, he concentrated on cricket and made his debut for Warwickshire in 1946 against Derbyshire, aged 33. A right-handed batsman and a fast-medium bowler, Robinson represented his county four times. He made his top score against the 1946 Indian tourists.

He began his business life as a salesman with Robinson Waxed Paper (with which he had no family connection) before joining its parent company, E S & A Robinson, a packaging manufacturer. He was a director from 1952 to 1966, when a merger took place to form Dickinson Robinson.

Robinson: all-rounder

Lloyd Robinson became deputy chairman in 1968, and was chairman from 1974 to 1977. Scrupulously honest in his business practices, Robinson was also invited to serve on the boards of Legal & General, the Van Leer Group and Bristol Waterworks.

Robinson was High Sheriff of Avon from 1979 to 1980.

A regular attender at Mosley players reunions, he was president of Gloucestershire County Cricket Club as well as the Warwicks Old County Cricketers Association. He played a decent game of golf.

Lloyd Robinson married, in 1939, Pamela Foster, the niece of F R Foster, an England cricketer and former captain of Warwickshire; they had a son and a daughter.

Fr Michael Watts

THE REVEREND MICHAEL WATTS, who has died aged 64, was Precentor of Christ Church cathedral, Oxford, from 1964 to 1981, and afterwards a parish priest.

Michael Watts was born on Jan 18 1932. From St Catherine's Society (now St Catherine's College), Oxford, he went on St Stephen's House theological college. He was ordained deacon in 1958, priest the next year, and he served his title at St Michael's, Summertown.

Watts possessed a singing voice of rare strength and pitch, and in 1960 was appointed a Singing Chaplain (subsequently Precentor) of Christ Church cathedral. From 1960 to 1972, he was also Chaplain of New College.

Cuthbert Simpson, recently widowed, had just become Dean of Christ Church. He appointed Watts his secretary, and gave him rooms to live in at the deanery.

The arrival of Henry Chadwick as Dean, together with a family, meant that Watts had to live elsewhere in Christ Church, but his devoted care for the cathedral was unaffected.

Under Deans Simpson and Chadwick and thanks to the musical staff of the cathedral — in particular the organist Simon Preston — the music and worship at Christ Church reached a degree of beauty and excellence that has rarely been equalled anywhere in the Church of England.

Watts was firmly rooted in the traditions of the Oxford Movement, and from 1963 to 1973, as well as discharging his duties at the cathedral, he served as an additional curate at St Mary Magdalen, Oxford.

At the beginning of the 1980s Watts's conservative approach to matters of liturgy and doctrine found him increasingly isolated. It seemed to him that the Church establishment of Oxford was too eager to abandon the beliefs and traditions of the movement to which the University had given its name in the 19th century.

He left Oxford in 1981 to become rector of the Berkshire parishes of Sulhamstead Abbots and Ufton Nervet, and his years as a parish priest brought him much peace and happiness. From 1982 to 1988 Watts was also attached to Westminster Abbey as a preacher (priest vicar), and his sermons were invariably crisp and succinct.

He served as secretary of the Society for the Maintenance of the Faith, an Anglo-Catholic organisation, and secretary of the Advisory Council on the Relations of Bishops and Religious Communities. He was visitor to the nuns of Burnham Abbey.

In later years Watts became increasingly despondent about the future of the Church of England, opposing, for instance, the ordination of women.

Michael Watts kept up with a wide circle of friends, including many former Oxford undergraduates.

He was unmarried.

WAY OF THE WORLD

AUBERON WAUGH

Late summer diversions

AUGUST was a wicked month, full of bogus debates about the monarchy, calculated to turn that normally amiable institution into a focus for the nation's boredom and irritability. Even more inappropriately, many of us found ourselves overcome with scepticism, even derision, by the great paedophilia debate.

Polite concern would have been more appropriate, but it could scarcely survive Roger Moore's contribution. Moore, who is now 68 and chiefly remembered for having acted James Bond 20 years ago, told the World Congress of paedophilia experts in Stockholm about his narrow escape from an alleged pervert on Wimbledon Common when he was eight. The man wore a dirty mackintosh and made a lewd suggestion, so Moore and his friend walked away. When they returned, he had stolen their sandwiches.

One might have thought James Bond had had narrower squeaks than that. It is only in August that we have to listen to such people. Let us hope that next year we can think of a different subject, and a jollier place than Stockholm to discuss it.

After that we were all supposed to be living in terror of a "dangerous" sex offender of 52 who had been in institutions since he was six, talked in a broad Lancashire accent, leant to the right when walking, had a pronounced nervous twitch and covered his ears with his hands when approached by anyone. He was once convicted of two charges of indecency against boys, so they took him from the secure psychiatric unit where he is held to the Chessington World of Adventures, in Surrey, after he had expressed an interest in animals. There, to everyone's indignation, he gave his accompanying nurse the slip and was found a few days later on the beach in Worthing, reading newspaper headlines about himself.

It seems to me that in our present obsession with paedophilia, we may have missed the point. Of course boys need protection, but so do animals. Is it proper treatment for someone suspected of an unhealthy interest in boys to be encouraged to take an interest in animals instead? Have the animal rights groups anything to say about this? Next August's subject for debate could be the growing scourge of bestiality. A World Congress in Tonga on the Sexual Exploitation of Animals might help to clear the air.

A lonely occasion

IN MY taxi to Paddington station last week I refused to discuss whether the Prince of Wales should marry his agreeable and attractive friend, Mrs Parker Bowles, so the driver turned up his radio in revenge. Almost on cue, it announced that the Queen had ordered the royal souvenir shops at Buckingham Palace, Windsor, Balmoral and wherever — to remove all souvenirs associated with the Princess of Wales.

If this is true, it can mean only that they will make less money, do much less business. If, after the catastrophically stupid decision to recommend a royal divorce, Palace advisers now propose a war of attrition to cut the Princess down to size, they must realise she will nearly always win. The other side has nothing to match her panache, her fearlessness, her sheer energy, or the personal affection in which she is held wherever she goes.

At the end of next month the Queen visits Thailand to celebrate the golden jubilee of that beautiful country's deeply loved monarch, King Bhumibol. Unfortunately, since the Palace withdrew official status from Diana, there was no means of preventing a clash with the Princess's appearance at a gala dinner in Sydney on the same evening that the Queen sits down with King Bhumibol in Bangkok. We all know which event will steal the thunder.

It will be most mortifying. I would happily go and join them at the Grand Palace in Bangkok, but Buckingham Place is far too stupid to accept suggestions from this column, and it rather looks as if the Queen of England and King Bhumibol of Thailand will sit down alone.

Come the millennium

ANOTHER warning which constantly sounds from this column, equally unheeded, concerns the terrible unreliability of computers. In less than three-and-a-half years from now — at midnight of the new millennium — 95 per cent of computer systems in this country will either stop working altogether or start malfunctioning so grievously as to be useless.

It is not just that no cruise missile will be able to find its target, no aircraft its airport, no supertanker its harbour. These will be the least of our problems. We will lose all our bank accounts, our insurance and life assurance policies.

Now the Department of Trade and Industry has set up a task force, backed by the CBI, and its preliminary findings confirm everything I say. But there are too many departmental task forces and study groups, all producing alarmist reports and demanding more resources. We have given up paying any attention to them.

When the great computer crash comes, the tax authorities, as well as the banks, will lose all their records. Loans will be wiped out, but so will debts; criminals' records will be lost. It will be as if the whole developed world is given the opportunity to turn over a new leaf.

Financial institutions are refusing to discuss the matter, as being market sensitive. There isn't much we can do to prepare ourselves for the moment, but at least some people must know what is happening. There has been a terrible increase in the price of wine for laying down.

Continued from Col 2

KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL, WITLEY, AND BRIDEWELL ROYAL HOSPITAL

The Treasurer and Governors of Bridewell Royal Hospital will admit 72 new boarders to King Edward's School, Witley, at the Admissions Court to be held at Guildhall on Tuesday, Sept 3. Michaelmas Term will begin on Wednesday, Sept 4. Robyn Johnson is Head Girl and Kofi Boafo, Head Boy. Mrs G.A. Pedlar has taken up her appointment as Housemistress of Elizabeth and Mr S.L. Todd his, as Housemaster of Ridley. The Old Witleian Association will hold a reunion for former pupils who were at the School during the 1970s on Saturday, Sept 28, full details of which are available on request. The football XI will tour Malta during half-term, Oct 19 to 26. Term will end with the carol services on Saturday, Dec 7.

THE ORATORY SCHOOL

Michaelmas Term at The Oratory School begins today. The School Captain is P.W. Figg. Captain of Rugby is S.C.B. Tomlinson. Half-term will be from Oct 17 to 27. The annual requiem Mass for Old Oratorians will be at 6.30 pm on Thursday, Nov 14, at Brompton Oratory. The School play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, will be performed on Nov 13, 14, and 15. The Christmas concert takes place on Monday, Dec 9. The Heads of School are William Butler, Sarah Bowen and Lucy Horton. Term ends with the carol services on Friday, Dec 13.

BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

School convenes today at Bromsgrove for the Michaelmas Term. The major production, *Romeo and Juliet*, will be performed on Nov 13, 14, and 15. The Christmas concert takes place on Monday, Dec 9. The Heads of School are William Butler, Sarah Bowen and Lucy Horton. Term ends with the carol services on Friday, Dec 13.

S.T. Dupont PARIS

Prize Winners of Crossword No. 21,960

THE first three prize winners are: Mr T Kitchener, Hoole, Chester; Mrs J Cooper, Muswell Hill, London N10; Mr Michael Dixon, Blyth, Notts. Consolation winners are: Mr J D Wraight, Chatham, Kent; Mr H W Griggs, Bishops Stortford, Herts; Mr Cyril Wheatcroft, Kings Sutton, Oxon; Mr Neil Drapkin, Chalfont St Peter, Bucks; Mr J Malcolm, Watford, Herts; Mrs G E Lunt, Lichfield, Staffs; Mrs B N Hawkins, Blunsdon, Wilts; Mrs P H Kaplan, Calcheth, Cheshire; Mr G Eminus, Watton, Norfolk; Mr A Plummer, Cheam, Surrey; Mrs N Nightingale, Ferndown, Dorset; Mr F Eastwood, Morden, Surrey.

"Buland al-Haidari." Daily Telegraph, 2 Sept. 1996, p. 19. The Telegraph Historical Archive, link.gale.com/apps/doc/IO0700901555/TGRH?u=tou&sid=bookmark-TGRH. Accessed 9 July 2024.