

Harlequin

NEWS SHEET

HARWELL • CULHAM • JET • RUTHERFORD APPLETON • NRPB • MRC

NORMAN'S SILICON SUCCESS ►

Christmas shopping presented no problems for Norman Crick (right), an HSO in HARWELL's Materials Physics and Metallurgy Division. On 12 December, Division Head Dr. Tony Hughes (left) presented him with a cheque for £600, a double award (2×£300) from the HARWELL/Culham Non-Industrial Suggestions Committee. Norman is a member of the team whose work on the neutron irradiation of silicon for the world's semi-conductor industry earns HARWELL more than £1 million annually.

The very pure silicon (shown in the foreground) needs to be 'doped' with another element to convert it into a semi-conductor. For some 10 years HARWELL has been irradiating these cylinders in DIDO and PLUTO. In the reactor some of the ^{30}Si atoms take up a neutron to ^{31}S which decays quickly to ^{31}P and provides a very uniform doping.

Norman's first suggestion concerned the improved design of the graphite sleeve surrounding the 3" diameter silicon rods in the 5" diameter reactor hole. This keeps the silicon cool and ensures the best possible quality of the product. The second suggestion was for an improved procedure for the irradiation so as to ensure best use of reactor time.

Slices of silicon doped in this way will be used as diodes in the conversion of Alternating Current to Direct Current and back to Alternating Current in the cable which will carry electricity from France to Britain (or reverse) at peak demand times.



THAMES VALLEY ORIENTEERING CLUB is holding a colour-coded event at Shotover Park, Oxford, on Sunday 19 January. Registration is from 10.00; start times 10.30 to 12.30. Car parking is on the Horspath Road Industrial Estate (map ref 557046), and will be signposted from the Oxford Eastern Bypass. Entry: seniors £1.20, juniors 50p. There will be about six courses of varying length and difficulty, plus a "string" course for children. Compass hire should be available, and it may well be muddy. Further details from the organiser, [redacted], on Ext. 2237 or Oxford [redacted]. Beginners are welcome.

FLEA MARKET at Lain's Barn, Ardington on 26 January from 11.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m. Admission free. Refreshments available. Enquiries: [redacted], Wantage [redacted].

COMPETITION PRIZEWINNERS

The Harlequin Christmas Competition was to find the largest number of different words, each containing four or more letters, which can be made up from the words **FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY** (which relates to the setting up of AERE Harwell on 1 January 1946). There were two entrants, each with >3,300 words, and it was decided these should be **joint first** prize winners. Trailing these were two entrants with >2,500 words, and they became **joint third** prize winners. The remainder of the entrants were well behind.

The prizewinners, all from HARWELL, who received their cheques before Christmas were: £15 - **J.W. Smith**, Engineering Projects Division; £15 - **V. Stroud**, Environmental & Medical Sciences Division; £10 - **B.J. Smith**, Instrumentation & Applied Physics Division and £10 - **M. Awcock**, also of Instrumentation and Applied Physics Division.

NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

Due to building works in Icknield Way House B.173 it has been necessary to cancel the Autumn visit of the Blood Transfusion Service to AERE Harwell. The Service will next visit the Laboratory between the 21 and 25 April 1986, and the clinic will be held in the Functions Room of the west wing of the AERE Restaurant, B. 532. (Enquiries to Mr. Andrew Knight, B6 extension 2514).

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News

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News and Views

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Allan Thomson, H.9, would like to thank all his colleagues who contributed to his retirement gift and bouquet for his wife and to say farewell to anyone he missed before leaving.

RETIREMENT

Many colleagues and friends recently attended a reception in the HARWELL Police Club to mark the retirement of **Arthur Blundell** of Standards Section (EDMD) who has worked for over 40 years in government service.

Arthur was presented with a portable circular saw and his wife was given a bouquet of flowers. Joe Constant from EDMD made the presentation.

CAN YOU HELP? The 14 Club for Mentally Handicapped People is **DESPERATELY** in need of drivers in the Wantage/Faringdon area. If you have a car and can spare approximately one hour each month, on a Monday evening, please contact [redacted], Ext. 2627 or [redacted] on Abingdon [redacted].

WANTAGE SUB-AQUA CLUB invite potential new members or anyone interested in trying an introductory dive course to contact Abingdon [redacted] or Wantage [redacted].

OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that we record the tragic death of **Marjorie Le Cren** on 11 December 1985, in Spain as the result of a car accident. As Marjorie Jordan, she was HARWELL's first Welfare Officer from 1947 until 1958, when she married Tom Le Cren, who was then Secretary of the UKAEA Research Group (HARWELL and Culham).

Marjorie will be remembered as one of the founder members of the AERE Welfare Fund and (with John Wilcox Baker) as the organiser of the series of Welfare Concerts in Cockcroft Hall which included recitals by Isobel Baillie, Otto Frisch and by Flanders & Swann in their 'Drop of the Hat' repertoire. She had a host of friends at HARWELL, many of whom attended her funeral service on 30 December.

NORMAN FRIZZELL advise that a representative of their Life Dept. attends every Monday and a representative from their Motor Dept. on the first Monday of each month. Appointments are kept at the Housing Branch, 166, and can be made on Ext. 3209.

SNELLS HALL, EAST HENDRED Large hall available for dances, parties and weddings etc. Car park, kitchen and bar facility. Booking enquiries on Abingdon [redacted].

STREATLEY DOMESDAY CELEBRATION

As many people will know, 1986 marks the 900th anniversary of the publication of the Domesday Book.

There will be celebrations in many places in honour of this nonacentenary, but they will be of a rather special nature in the nearby Berkshire village of Streatley, since it can claim the unique distinction of being the only parish whose priest is named in the great book.

The people of Streatley are accordingly planning a whole series of varied events throughout 1986.

The official programme, a limited edition, which is sure to become a collector's item, is now on sale. It contains a facsimile of the original Streatley Domesday Book entry together with a translation, old photographs and articles of interest about Streatley in days gone by.

To get your copy of the programme, priced at £2.50, and find out more about how you can join the inhabitants of Streatley in enjoying themselves in 1986, contact Colin Wookey in Building 150, on extension 3198.

ABINGDON AND DISTRICT CAMERA CLUB meets in the Old Gaol Leisure Centre, Bridge Street, Abingdon at 7.30 p.m., usually every other Thursday. Non-members always welcome.

Forthcoming meetings: **9 Jan**; Annual General Meeting. All members should attend (any not attending could find themselves elected to the Committee!). **23 Jan**; Slide and Print competition. Subject: "Glass". **6 Feb**; Audio-Visual demonstration by Laurie Ewins from Marlow Camera Club. **20 Feb**; Cibachrome printing demonstration - How to produce colour prints from slides in the comfort of your own home. **27 Feb**; "Slide of the Year" - New trophy to be awarded for the best slide taken since 1st January 1985. The winning slide to be automatically entered in the corresponding competition for the Chilterns Association of Camera Clubs. Contact Mick Tilley (JET K1/1/44, ext. 4948) for details.

WANTAGE LACEMAKERS

This group was originally started some 9 years ago, as a result of a fund raising effort for our local Vale and Museum Trust. We are an affiliated Society of the Wantage Community Education Centre, Icknield Hall School, Wantage.

The Group meets every Thursday evening during the school year, from 7-9 p.m. The next meeting is on 9 January. We meet to make lace, to swap ideas and prickings, to chat and visit other groups Lace Days. Every year we hold our own Lace Day. The group also does demonstrations for local organisations and local charities.

Lacemakers of all abilities are welcome to join. Beginners are particularly welcome to come and learn this gentle relaxing craft. Membership fee: £5 per year. For further details please contact: Ann Chandler, Ext. 4777 or Shirley Wood, 15-6619.

Financial Corner

SHARE PRICES, as measured by the FT index in Britain and the Dow Jones index in the USA, reached record levels in December. But a declaration by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to defend its share of the oil market caused a temporary fall in oil price from \$28 to \$20 per barrel. This caused the exchange rate to drop from \$1.49 to almost £1.40 to the £, and a dip in UK share prices. And why should this concern you? Each \$ fall in oil prices costs the British Government £500M per annum in lost revenue. But since oil is priced in dollars, each 1% fall in the exchange rate is a saving of £150M/year. The net effect is that interest rates (including those on mortgages) are unlikely to diminish in the near future and the possibility of a real income tax cut in the 1986 budget is diminishing.

Savers should take advantage of high interest rates. For non-taxpayers (e.g. children) this is still 11.5% on National Savings Investment Accounts; for standard rate tax payers it is 9.5% (or more) net, on a Building Society instant access account; for higher-rate tax payers it is 8.5% (net) common extension rate paid on National Savings Certificates.

Free-if-in-credit banking for all (but not for Lloyds Bank customers until March) may seem a £9 per annum bonus for many current account holders, but beware of the snags. When £100 was the minimum for free banking, an unexpected debit could result in some charges. But if you now drop below 1p, not only will your charges per item be greater, but you may have a 'failed transaction' charge of £5 (this also applies to Giro accounts) and you will be charged interest on your overdraft (up to 30% APR). So it pays handsomely to maintain your current account in credit by keeping careful records of transactions.

Married Couples who each bought 400 British Telecom Shares and have each received two £18 telephone vouchers may have difficulty in using them by 25 April 1986. Special arrangements have been made for such customers to have an interim bill in advance. Telephone LINKLINE 0345 010505 (local call charge) for details.

Term Assurance provides life cover at low cost for families with young children and large mortgage repayments but there is no lump sum on maturity. (Thanks to one of our readers for suggesting this). The National Mutual Life Association of Australasia (local office Compton 446) offers a wide variety of policies at competitive rates and, by arrangement with the Civil Service, premiums can be deducted from salaries.

Charities Aid Foundation enables you to make tax-free donations to charities of your choice. You open a discretionary covenant with CAF and pay your donations into this account. CAF recovers the tax (43p for each £ contributed) and gives you a charity 'cheque book' with which you make donations to the charities of your choice. You receive regular statements and comprehensive information. For further details contact CAF, 48 Pembury Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2JD. (Tel. 0732-356323).



CHILDRENS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our photograph shows some of the fun and games at the HARWELL Social Club's Childrens' Christmas Party. Father Christmas was there too - helped by five "clowns" who entertained the 130 or so children who attended. Many thanks to all those who helped make it so enjoyable.

HARWELL/CULHAM INDUSTRIAL SUGGESTIONS AWARDS

HARWELL		
A.T. Blackall	CED	£15
M.J. Joyce	EPD	£100
P.W. Day	RRD	£15
R. Keller	RRD	£15
G.E. Fry	RRD	£30
L. Wooloff	Cont./Stores	£15
W. Major and D. Evans	EPD and ETB	£15
A.G. Barnes	EDMD	£15
M.W. Prior	EDMD	£15
P. Lewer	EDMD	£15

Culham

C.J. Barlow	Experimental	£25
P.E.G. Hunt	Patrol Serv.	£15
D. Newell	Site Serv.	£15

HARWELL CAROL CONCERT

The concert on 17 December in the Cockcroft Hall raised £64.60 for Welfare Funds and grateful thanks are expressed to all who participated.

RNLI STAMP APPEAL

Many thanks to all those who continue to send us their used stamps. These raise quite a lot of money for the RNLI, please keep up the good work.

Send stamps to Rosemary Stevens, Bldg. 455 and Mike Walker, Bldg. 7.

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE '50' CLUB

Winning draw numbers.

Date	No.
27.11.85	29 (£2)
27.11.85	61 (£5)
4.11.85	35
11.12.85	48
18.12.85	25

HARWELL STAFF SUGGESTIONS AWARDS

S.F. Redford	Eng. Proj.	£15
R.L. Roberts	R.R.	£15 (enc.)
Miss L. Forbes	Mat. Dev.	£7.50
L.L. Wassel	Mat. Dev.	£7.50
S. Exelby	A.E.A.C.	£20
N.S. Clark	M.P.&M.	£85
R.G. Greenfield	R.R.	£25
Mrs. M.A. Aitken	I.&A.P.	£15
N.W. Crick	M.P. & M.	£300
N.W. Crick	M.P. & M.	£300

P.O. INSURANCE SOCIETY

For over 50 years, membership has been open to the Civil Service and later to the UKAEA etc. All profits are returned to members by way of bonuses. Current bonus rate is £60 per £1000 of sum assured, per year (NORMAL BONUS).

Another milestone was reached this year, with the declaration of a new TERMINAL BONUS, to be added to the normal bonus, on policies maturing after 1st July 1985.

This means that for a policy of £1000 taken out 10 years ago, there will be an EXTRA £258 on top of the £617 NORMAL bonus, I.E. TOTAL RETURN £1,875. Over 15 years, EXTRA £461, NORMAL £921, TOTAL £2,382. Over 25 years, EXTRA £908, NORMAL £1,272, TOTAL £3,180. Endowment policies at maturity are giving a GROSS COMPOUND YIELD up to 17.4 per cent on premium payments.

A £1000 policy over 10 years costs about £2.04 to £2.44 per week, depending on age.

Premiums are deducted WEEKLY or MONTHLY from pay. Further details from the local secretary, HARWELL Ext. 2718.

RECREATIONAL ASSOCIATION

VOLLEYBALL CLUB

HARWELL's undefeated run has come to an end with two successive defeats. The first was by RAF Brize Norton who gained revenge for their league defeat two weeks earlier by beating us 3-1 in the K.O. cup. Our second defeat was by Nova A, the league leaders, who also play in the E.V.A. national league. We were beaten 3-1 but all the games were close and we became the only team this season to win a game against Nova A.

There were two encouraging aspects to our performance; the improvement in the standard of our blocking and our ability to continue to play good team volleyball under pressure.

We still welcome new players to our practice sessions on Thursday evenings in the Air Hall from 5.15 to 7.00 p.m. If you are interested contact Betty Green, Ext. 2550 or Harry Morley, Ext. 4373.

BADMINTON CLUB

Well done the following pairs for winning 3 rubbers in recent matches: OMA - D. Richards/A. McKinlay, N. Coules/T. Atkins and A. Brown/R. Piller against C.R.M. OXA - T. Mather/C. Shepherd and V. Stones/D. Richard against the Leys 8-1. NXA - J. McCann/A. McKinlay against Pedogogues 4 1/2-4 1/2; J. McCann/A. McKinlay and A. Prior/R. Dawson against Flight B - 7-2. WXA - J. McCann/T. Atkins against Elms Court 5-4. WXD - D. Parson/J. Lawson against Evenlode 6-3.

Please note that all lost clothing not claimed by 31 January will be donated to charity.

Other results include: NXA - lost 2-7 to Flight B. OLA - lost 3-6 to Cowley Road Methodists. WXC - lost 3-6 to St. Edmunds. WXE - lost 4-5 to St. James.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The AGM of the society will be held on 13 January 1986 at 12.30 in the Function Room of the Social Club. All welcome.

ANGLING CLUB

A date to remember - 31 Jan, 7.30 p.m. in the upstairs function room of the Social Club. Internationally acclaimed angling author Peter Mohan will be giving a Tape/Slide presentation and answering questions on the legendary Dick Walker who died earlier this year. This will be a one-off chance for you to gain a remarkable insight into the Master of Angling who broke no less than five different British Records. Peter is currently featuring a series about Dick Walker in the Course Fisherman which started in November. There will also be a tackle display by Barry Turner. Admission will be by ticket only available at no cost from The Secretary, Marsh Pratley, Ext. 4724 or any of the committee members.

FILM SOCIETY

The next film will be THE KILLING FIELDS, the much acclaimed, award winning account of human relationships in the context of the horror of Cambodia.

To be shown on Tuesday 21 January at 7.45 p.m. in the Cockcroft Hall. Guest tickets (£1.50) from Keith Mansell, Bldg. 329, Ext. 2410.

Classified Advertisements

FOR SALE

2 ACTIONMEN, v.g.c., outfits, accessories, etc., £10. Chieveley

GAS FIRE, teak surround, £38; white double candlewick BEDSPREAD, £5; green Wilton CARPET, 11'6" x 7'6"; £8; BLANKET, 90" x 80", £3.50. Ext. 2329 or Didcot

CARAVAN, Bailey, 4 berth, full awning, ground sheet, toilet tent, fridge, cooker, v.g.c., £450 ono.

SIDEBOARD, £15; DINING CHAIRS, £5 each; DOUBLE WARDROBE, £20; large BEDSIDE CABINET, £10; all light oak. 2 SINGLE WARDROBES with top cupboards, £10 each; 3 PIECE SUITE, £35. Abingdon

PUPPIES, Bouvier des Flandres (Belgian cattle dog), very good natured, makes loving pet, excellent watchdog. Champion sire by Norwegian ch. Benny Amber v Rovika, sound pedigree, available now.

EXERCISE CYCLE ROWING MACHINE, cost £95, accept £60 ono; almost new VOLVO 240 WORKSHOP MANUAL new £3; BONE CHINA TEASETS, new, £10 each. Ext. 3209 or Wantage evenings.

BICYCLE, Raleigh RSW III, dynamo, 3 speed, spare tyre, £25 ono. Abingdon

TRAILER, lightweight, 3'6" x 6', good condition, £70 ono. Didcot

LEAK HI-FI SYSTEM, stereo-70 tuner, sandwich speakers, £120. Ext. 4091.

CARRYCOT/TRANSPORTER, Mothercare, £35, EASY RIDER, £5; BABY BATH, £4; BOUNCER CHAIR with people, £5; MOSES BASKET, stand, drapes, £25. All v.g.c. Wantage

ELECTRONIC ORGAN, Siel, complete with rhythm boxes, accompaniments, pre-sets, excellent condition, £170. Ext. 341 NRPB.

ELECTRIC FIRE, 3 kW, coal effect, wood surround, good condition, £15. Ext. 2031 or Abingdon

GOLF CLUBS, Lynx, driver and 4 wood, good condition, £25 pair. Abingdon

COLOUR TELEVISION, 22", £40. Ext. 4363.

HOOVER 1100 automatic washing machine, programmer needs attention, remaining components in good working order, offers? KL Jeenay CHILD CAR SEAT, £10; Radiomobile CAR RADIO, £15; Audioline CAR SPEAKERS, £10. Ext. 4301 or Wantage

STAMPS, 23 first day covers, 20 presentation packs 1974-81, £35 ono; DARTS, tungsten 22 grm, £6. Ext. 4740.

GARRARD AP76 turntable + Shure M75 cartridge, £35. NRPB 514.

CASIOTONE ELECTRONIC ORGAN + stand, 20 voices and full size keys, ideal keyboard for beginner, has autochord feature and rhythm box, £250. SERC 5162 or 5556.

GENT'S RACING BIKE, 23½", 10 speed. Carlton Gibbs, SERC 5105.

COMMODORE 1541 disc drive suitable for use with C 64 or VIC 20 computers, £125. SERC 6691.

G PLAN WARDROBE, 4'6", £50. 15/6185.

2 GAS WALL HEATERS, balanced flue, 1 year old, hardly used, £60 each; DINING TABLE, 4 chairs, almost new, £150; glass fronted WALL UNIT, £85. Didcot

BINOCULARS, 7x50 (coated) + case, £20; HEATER/FAN, Belling 1-3 kW, £12; SNOW CHAINS, £5; CROSS-CUT SAW, £2; SLIDE PROJECTOR (remote-control) + case, £30; PROJECTOR SCREEN + stand, £15; IRONING BOARD, £5. SERC 6410.

LIGHT HEATER, works separately or together, £12 ono; also OIL ELECTRIC RADIATOR, £10. Abingdon

PRAM, converts to carry cot. Baby Relax 1984, careful use by one baby, £30 ono. Wantage evenings only.

CARS, MOTORCYCLES ETC.

1973 FORD A.V.O. Mexico with Bilstiens, Janspeed, Cibies etc., very quick, extremely clean, kept in excellent running order, MOT Oct. 86, taxed, £1,250, no offers. Abingdon evenings.

KAWASAKI Z200, 1981, MOT, taxed, £200. Hurdus, Ext. 3139/8 or Abingdon

KAWASAKI Z250A3, 1981, 1 year MOT, taxed, full fairing, top box, new back tyre, £200 recently spent, very reliable, £395 ono. Ext. 3038 or Tadley

FIAT POLSKI, 1979, 11 months MOT, 5 months tax, reliable, £500. Ext. 4772.

CAPRI, S reg., v.g.c., many new parts, radio, r.r.ag. wheels, MOT June, px possible, £950 ono. Ext. 2605 or Harwell

FORD FIESTA 1.1L, 1977, 62,000 miles, good condition, MOT, tax end August, £995. Ext. 2666.

MAXI, 1750 cc, M reg., taxed, MOT, good tyres, runs well, £450. Abingdon

ESCORT 1300 Estate, 1977, 11 months MOT, taxed April 1986, recent service, £525 ono. Cul. Lab. 4185 or Abingdon evenings and weekends.

SUZUKI FZ50, Y reg., 4,300 miles only, top box and new battery, £180 ono. Abingdon

AUDI 100LS, K reg., 70,000 miles, good condition, 6 months tax and MOT, £300 ono. SERC 6649.

SUZUKI P.E. 400, 10 months MOT, taxed until April, new tyres, very powerful, £395. Abingdon

ACCOMMODATION

THIRD PERSON wanted to share modern town house in central Abingdon. Available early January, non-smokers only, £92 p.c.m. Ext. 4171 or Abingdon evenings.

PANGBOURNE, Victorian 4-bedroom semi-detached, situated in quiet cul-de-sac near village centre and River Thames. Footpath to station. Trains to London, Didcot, Culham and Oxford. 28' lounge/dining room with open fireplace. Fitted kitchen/breakfast room. Gas CH. Double glazing. Residents' parking. Good private garden. Very good order throughout. Offers over £67,000. Pangbourne evenings/weekends.

2ND PERSON to share self contained flat. On Harwell bus route. £25 week plus share of bills. Abingdon

ROOM available in Abingdon, all mod. cons., reasonable rent, Abingdon

WALLINGFORD, semi, 3 bedrooms, full gas c/h, secondary glazing, conservatory, gardens, garage etc. £54,000. Ext. 2654 or Wallingford

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

EX-MRC SCIENTIST offers holidays in old farmhouse near Pembrokeshire coast, B&B £8.50, evening meal optional extra. M4 1 hour, beach 2 miles. Hellon, Upper Ewston Farmhouse, Roch, Haverford West, Dyfed, SA62 6JY.

DORDOGNE, beautiful secluded licensed farmhouse hotel. Good food, wine, private bathrooms. Weekly tariff BB&ED inc. wines, taxes, F.F. 1120. Rose des Vents, St. Paul Lizonne, 24320 Verteillac, France. Telephone I.G. Anderson,

LIFTS

LIFT offered/wanted from Headington/Marston to AERE. Severn, Ext. 2730.

TWO PEOPLE required for Thatcham car pool. Ext. 5259.

WANTED

SKELETON, (full or half), or skull. Ext. 2329.

SOPRANOS for Wantage Choral Society, preferably with some music-reading ability. Rehearse Tuesdays. Ext. 4897.

¾-SIZE VIOLIN. Ext. 4897.

WANTAGE CHORAL SOCIETY will be joining forces with the chorus of the Abingdon and District Musical Society on Saturday 22 March, in a programme which will include Bruckner's Mass in E minor and Britten's Hymn to St. Cecilia.

The Wantage choir rehearse on Tuesdays at 7.30 p.m. in the hall of St. Mary's School, Newbury Street (entrance opposite the Methodist Church). New members, especially those with some music-reading ability, are welcome in all parts, but we are particularly looking for reinforcements in the soprano (and tenor) sections of the choir.

If you are as interested in us as we are in you, do come along to an open rehearsal on 14 January, or on any other Tuesday evening. We look forward to seeing you. Any queries to Terence Carter, Ext. 4897.



TALE OF A COMET

Halley's Comet is becoming more active as it approaches the sun. It has now sprouted a tail some six million miles long – as shown in the photograph (courtesy of Royal Observatory, Edinburgh), taken using the UK Schmidt Telescope in Australia on 9 December. For the experts, the tail is over four degrees long – eight times the apparent diameter of the Moon. Because the telescope was tracking the moving comet during the 25 minute exposure, the star images are somewhat elongated.

For those living in Britain, the 1985/86 visit of Halley's Comet has been something of a disappointment, although some enthusiastic amateur astronomers have obtained photographs using their telescopes and others, using binoculars, have claimed a sighting during December. But this month the Comet is very low on the South West horizon and only visible just after sunset, when atmospheric conditions are good.

For your last 'chance in a lifetime' to see Halley's Comet from Britain, you should look to the South West, where the sun has set. There you will see Jupiter, the brightest object in that part of the sky. Look a few Moon-diameters above Jupiter, and you may see the faint fuzzy patch that is the Comet. But you have to be in the country and away from the glare produced by street lamps.

To see the comet at its best, you will have to travel to the Southern Hemisphere in April, after it has emerged from behind the Sun. A special flight on Concorde is being arranged leaving London Heathrow on Saturday, 5 April. A flight to New Zealand has been timed to afford a clear and unobstructed view of Halley's Comet for around 4 hours during the journey at 59,000 ft. between Singapore and Melbourne. And there's more! On arrival at Auckland there is an exciting programme including a Memorial Ball and further viewing of the Comet from South Island. At the end of two glorious weeks, Concorde will return you superpersonally to London. And the cost? – a mere £7,000 for this 'trip of a lifetime'.

Edmond Halley made astronomical observations from his private observatory in London in 1682. Previous to that he was a student in The Queen's College, Oxford and subsequently returned as Savilian Professor of Geometry from 1703 to 1720. His private observatory is still visible above the house he occupied – 7 New College Lane, Oxford. He subsequently became Astronomer Royal.