

## AN ENDING AND A BEGINNING

It's been a great year for celebrating.

It's been the year of the Silver Jubilee and, nearer home, it's been the year when Liverpool Football Club became Champions of Europe and Evertonians could look Kippure in the face again.

But that's not all that Merseyside has had to celebrate. It's been a year when there has been some real evidence of a co-ordinated effort to shout about the area's attractions as a centre for work and play.

Liverpool Publicity Association have given a lead with the first of what may turn out to be a series of seminars to discuss the way in which Merseyside can attract outside investment and set about brightening its national image.

Those responsible for tourism have also taken the first real steps in trying to sell Merseyside to overseas markets.

It's been a great year for show-biz, too. It's been a year when one or two Merseyside stars have burst upon the national scene and when a host of others are twinkling in the entertainment firmament.

It's been the year of Red Rum and, despite the apparent uncertainty about the Grand National's long-term future, it seems unthinkable that the racing calendar can exist without it.

It's been a year of achievement, too, in the engineering field. We have seen the opening of the new underground system — not without its teething troubles — but with great promise for the future. We've seen the export of Merseyside know-how to far-flung corners of the world.

It's always nice to round off an end-of-the-year thought with a little quotation. What could be more apt than this one penned by Shelley, over 150 years ago, on the subject of the last hours of a fading year?

Orphan hours, the year is dead.  
Come and sigh, come and weep,  
Merry hours, smile instead  
For the year is but asleep.  
See it smiles as it is sleeping  
Mocking your untimely weeping.

Meet Simon Alexander . . . the man whose predictions of the famous 12 months ago came true in 1977—● Britt Ekland and Rod Stewart's romantic break-up ● Virginia Wade's Royal Jubilee Wimbledon triumph ● Carter's U.S. Presidential success and ● Prime Minister Harold Wilson's resignation.



Paul Wallace talks to the man whose predictions have a habit of being correct. So what about 1978?

# It looks like another tough year

One of the best summers of the decade, more stress and a political violence, upheavals in the world's currency markets, a major medical breakthrough, and a South American nation winning the World Cup . . .

"They're just some of the things we can expect to happen during 1978, according to one of the world's youngest and most successful clairvoyants. And if past form is anything to go by, they have a pretty good chance of coming true."

"For well over 70 per cent of 32-year-old Simon Alexander's predictions have proved correct in the past three years. They include the resignation of British premier Harold Wilson, last year's Derbyshire election, the death of Rod Stewart and Brit Ekland, President Carter's election and Virginia Wade's Wimbledon win."

From his rambling country home in Derbyshire, dark-haired Simon tours Britain and Europe and advises top businessmen on their future plans. He has regular radio and TV spots and is currently making a film on clairvoyance.

"The predictions usually come in the form of images," he told me. "They can be colourless moving pictures, newspaper headlines, or even letters of the alphabet."

"As I see it, 1978 will be a pretty tough year with an increase in civil strife," he forecasts. "Politically there will be some big upheavals, too."

These, he claims, will include a British general Election next October which will return a Conservative government with a large majority, largely at the expense of the Liberals.

Britain's economic problems will be helped by the discovery of new mineral wealth, probably in the south-west. Britain's oil boom will also spark off an embarrassing controversy involving another

Common Market nation.

In Britain, the major strike of the summer of '78 will involve postal workers, followed by a confrontation with miners and railwaymen. The effects of these disputes will be completely resolved until 1979.

During the first five months of the year, five currencies will be devalued and the World Bank will launch a scheme for underdeveloped countries.



bringing a spectacular new star from America.

Germany will win the Eurovision Song Contest and David Frost will pull off a world coup with a TV interview in August.

The world of medicine will hail a new cure for cancer and a revolutionary new treatment for diabetes. Dr. Christian Barnard will make world headlines in March on a non-medical subject.

The sports scene has plenty of surprises in store, says the man who forecast the resignation of England manager Don Revie and his replacement with Ron Greenwood.

Mohammed Ali will resign unheeded from the world championship and there will be a major surprise concerning his religion. James Hunt will retain his world motor racing crown and a new British golf star will win the British Open.

In the world of pop music, a new major trend will supplant punk rock.

bet captain but his first season will have some failures as well as spectacular success. There will be a major inquiry into American baseball in June and America will finally lose yachting's America's Cup.

Wimbledon '78 will be dominated by Americans and a British Virginia Wade will lose her title. In English soccer, West Bromwich Albion and Liverpool will take the main honours and a celebrated manager will resign in August.

"I think 1978 will be the year when anyone prepared to take chances financially could make a killing," he says. "Things will be tough but those with the guts to succeed will do so."

He's made his own bid towards a fortune by already putting money on the horse he predicts will win the Grand National.

But that's one of the coming year's secrets that he intends to keep to himself.

## HOW MUCH OF 1977 DO YOU REMEMBER?

It was the year of the Royal Silver Jubilee and of Grunwick . . . when the Clash experienced a 25th anniversary.

It was the year of skateboards and punk rock. Godley and Creme and Elvis and 'Hello' to Master Phillips.

How much of 1977 do you remember? One mark for each question—or part

of question—answered correctly.

When was Silver Jubilee Day? Why was it not strictly a 25th anniversary?

In February, following the death of Anthony Crossland, David Owen became Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. How old was Owen?

In March, a union leader threw a firecracker into the pay restraint controversy by calling for a

freeze on all prices. A standstill on all nationalised industry charges, and a 10 per cent increase to negotiate price-cuts by firms making big profits. His name?

4. Who wondered whether Elizabeth II might become the Queen of Sheba?

5. Who was booted out of Britain because his exclusion was officially ruled 'conducive to the public good'?

6. Headlines were hit in 1977 by (a) Red Adair; (b) Michael Whitney (c) Mr Stavits. Why?

7. (A) What made Red Rum a means of celebration in August? (B) Why did this Red Rum have a special distinction?

8. Who was glad to be a 'Gordie' in May?

9. Who was glad to be a Wimbledon '78 woman champion in June? Who was her opponent in the final?

11. Soccer sensation of the summer was the resignation of Don Revie from his £25,000-a-year job as England's manager and his acceptance of a £340,000 contract to become football boss-of-which country?

12. In August two football stadiums were besieged. Where?

13. The year saw a unique cricket "test" fought in cricket. (a) Who were the contestants? (b) What was the financial cost to the losers?

14. Who was chairman of the court of inquiry which recommended that the sacked Grunwick strikers should be given their jobs back?

15. Who said: (a) "You have caught me with plenty of birds this time—Where?" (b) "No more war, no more bloodshed, no more threats."

fool, but a fool can't act the wise man." (c) "I think I should have to say: 'Let the people speak.'" (d) "People deserve the opportunity to take more decisions for themselves." (e) "I only hope that his road to heaven will be as happy as the roads we did together." (f) "No more war, no more bloodshed, no more threats."

● Answers at foot of the page.

## Punk will continue to rule—but what comes next?

THE WORLD OF POP FROM THE INSIDE BY CHRIS SALEWICZ, THE MAN IN THE KNOW

Whilst holidaying in Jamaica and checking out the local reggae scene a couple of weeks back, Mick Jones and Joe Strummer of the Clash experienced a certain amount of hostility from the locals.

"Jamaica wasn't exactly sure how to react to punks," Jones told me in the band's dressing-room after their show at London's Rainbow Theatre.

"So when we weren't listening to the local music—fantastic reggae for at least fifty per cent every day—we just stayed in our rooms and wrote songs. This Caribbean sojourn was, it appears then, highly profitable for the band who have virtually enough material for the new album they'll start recording after Christmas.

"First, though, a new single, 'Clash City Rockers'—already featured in the band's stage set—will be released at the end of January. David Bowie on the uncommensality of his law and 'Heroes' albums: "What is commercial? I'm not sure if I know anyone what a commercial record is, or if one can really tell what will sell."

Rock music's favourite chameleon intends to begin a world tour in February. "I will be much the same as on 'Heroes' and I am going to use the same set as on the 'Station to Station' tour. The first time I have ever repeated a set."

However, the acting career that was launched on the cinema screen in his role in Nicholas Roeg's 'Man Who Fell To Earth' has not been abandoned: "I'll be starting another film shortly about a subject I've been trying to explore—German Expressionism. Art. I play a painter."

"What I really want to do in films is direct. Actually, and I think of the acting as my preparation for that."

"I almost hate to say it but I feel I have a lot to express and I like to express it in different

ways."

It would be fatuous to pretend that as far as rock music is concerned 1977 had been anything but The Year of Punk.

Obviously it is not going to go away.

ALienation

In fact, it seems certain that right this very moment all over the country thousands of musicians, inspired by the greatest year for rock music in at least a decade are tucked away in garages and basements rehearsing their new and stage acts that upon some Spring.

That Pistols-style nihilism—alienation is only one facet of punk becoming increasingly evident by the manner in which melody, hook-lines and major chords have over the past few months forcefully asserted their presence in the new Wave.

Whether one considers the Beatles-influenced Rich Kids, the Who-inspired Jam or the utterly electric Ramones—due to our Britain shortly presumably to promote 'Rocket To Russia' their new album—the truth is inescapable. By next summer the milk-maid's going to be waiting you up as he does his rounds whistling songs by the great ones of Spring, also, this ruling tsunami should have been boosted to a quartet if the reports of the stage act of Cheap Trick—due to tour in February or March—are accurate. Whatever, their second album, "In the City on CBS, is one of the genuine delightful finds of 1977.

STUNNING

Equally stunning is Talking Heads '77. This New York New Wave band operate once again within a combination of stark minimalism and romantic melodies. Indeed, the closest reference point is their cultural stabiliser, Television, whose "Marque Moon" at the beginning of 1977 was certainly one of the first signs that something was, indeed, going on.

Also from across the Atlantic, though now based full-time in London and working with Mick Ronson

as his band's guitarist, Philip Rambow looks set to fulfil his promise of being the seventies version of the great singer-songwriters like Neil Young and Joni Mitchell who came out of his native Canada.

Whatever happens to rock music in '78 though, may very well be obsolete in just a few years time.

ENDEAVOUR

At least two major recording companies are currently racing each other to the launching pad in an endeavour to be first off the ground with pre-recorded video cassette programmes. It is the imminent arrival of this entirely new concept in leisure entertainment that is no doubt behind the price of home video machines is shortly to fall.

After all, once they've managed to persuade us to get the things into our homes then they can happily get on with the real business of the entertainment world: Selling things.

both areas there were attempts to storm the police station after clashes involving the police, the National Front and anti-Front demonstrators.

13. (a) Kerry Packer and the Test and County Cricket Board. (b) around £250,000.

14. Lord Justice Scarman.

15. (a) Prince Charles, in March, to photographers at Knebworth as a visit to a pink film in a zoomed across the water. (b) Mohammed Ali on a visit to Britain in August. (c)



Talking music are (left to right) Philip Rambow, Mick Jones and Mick Ronson.

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## Check your quiz answers . . .

**ANSWERS:** 1. (a) June 7. (b) Because the date of the Queen's accession to the throne was February 6, 1952.

2. 38.

3. Jack Jones.

4. Former Australian Prime Minister Gough Whitlam who, in the Queen's presence during her Down Under jubilee tour in the spring, said of her: "What will she be next—the Queen of Sheba?" The remark was criticised in some quarters as "an insult," but later the Queen's Press secretary said the Queen had "thoroughly enjoyed" the whole of Whitlam's speech.

5. Danish film producer Jens Thorsen who was refused entry at Heathrow in February when he arrived with a script for his controversial movie about the sex life of Christ.

6. (a) Texan oil-troubleshooter Red Adair helped to plug the leak after the April blow-out at the North Sea oil rig Ekofisk Bravo. (b) Michael Whitney married Twiggy in June. (c) Mary Stravin—Miss Sweden—became Miss World in November.

7. August 15. (a) Red Rum, the victor in the Grand National and (b) the man whose predictions have a habit of being correct. So what about 1978?

8. The £8-million tanker which, at Le Havre in March, was snatched back from its striking Filipino crew by a posse of strike-breakers armed with hatchets and coshes.

9. President Carter who told Tynesiders: "I'm glad to be in Georgetown when he visited Newcastle.

10. Betty Stove.

11. The United Arab Emirates.

12. Lewisham, London, on August 15; Ladywood, Birmingham, on August 15. In

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