

Dictionary of BRITAIN

ADRIAN ROOM

Dictionary of BRITAIN

ADRIAN ROOM

Oxford University Press
1986

Cover and alphabet illustrations
by Robert Kettell

Photographs by:

Nicky Dixon, Rob Judges, Julian
Prentis

The publishers would like to
thank the following for their
permission to use photographs:

Animal Photography Partnership
Associated Press
The Automobile Association
BBC Hulton Picture Library
Birmingham City Council
British Tourist Authority
E J Brooks & Son
Camera Press
J Allan Cash Photo Library
Colorsport
Eagle Alexander Communications
Mary Evans Picture Library
The Guide Dogs for the Blind
Association
Marc Henrie
Kobal Collection
Frank Lane Picture Agency Ltd
Liberty
Mansell Collection
Merit Games
Network
City of Nottingham
Oxford & County Newspapers
Pacemaker Press
The Photo Source
Press Association
Royal Doulton
Royal Mint
The Salvation Army
Scottish Tourist Board
Brian and Sal Shuel
Sotheby's

The publishers would like to
thank the following for their time
and assistance:

British Standards Institute
Paul Goodson
Ideal Bakers
London Transport
News of the World
Derek Roberts

© Maps copyright Oxford
University Press

Oxford University Press
Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6DP

Oxford New York Toronto Delhi
Bombay Calcutta Madras Karachi
Petaling Jaya Singapore
Hong Kong Tokyo Nairobi
Dar es Salaam Cape Town
Melbourne Auckland

and associated companies in
Beirut Berlin Ibadan Nicosia

OXFORD is a trade mark of
Oxford University Press

ISBN 0 19 4311260

© Oxford University Press 1986

All rights reserved. No part of this
publication may be reproduced,
stored in a retrieval system, or
transmitted, in any form or by any
means, electronic, mechanical,
photocopying, recording, or
otherwise, without the prior
permission of Oxford University
Press.

This book is sold subject to the
condition that it shall not, by way
of trade or otherwise, be lent,
re-sold, hired or otherwise
circulated without the publisher's
prior consent in any form of
binding or cover other than that in
which it is published and without
a similar condition including this
condition being imposed on the
subsequent purchaser

Filmset in Palatino

Printed in Great Britain
at the University Press, Cambridge

Introduction

The *Dictionary of Britain* gives up-to-date information on all aspects of British life and institutions. It explains everything that other nationalities find interesting, amusing, puzzling or even frustrating about Britain and the British. Important public events, major government posts and well-known organizations of all kinds are described. Also included are events, institutions and people that show a typically British set of values or an important facet of British life. Entries on regional foods shed light on the culinary variety within Britain, while descriptions of sports, crafts and societies show what the British do in their spare time.

Extensive cross-references and a thematically arranged index make the dictionary easy to use. Finally, information that can most usefully be summarized in list or map form is included towards the back of the book and cross-referred to from the main text.

Adrian Room
Petersfield, Hampshire

Key to phonetic symbols

Vowels and diphthongs

1	i:	as in	see /si:/	11	ɜ:	as in	fur /fɜ:(r)/
2	ɪ	as in	sit /sɪt/	12	ɔ	as in	ago /ə'gəʊ/
3	e	as in	ten /ten/	13	eɪ	as in	page /peɪdʒ/
4	æ	as in	hat /hæt/	14	əʊ	as in	home /həʊm/
5	ɑ:	as in	arm /ɑ:m/	15	aɪ	as in	five /faɪv/
6	ʊ	as in	got /gɒt/	16	əʊ	as in	now /naʊ/
7	ɔ:	as in	saw /sɔ:/	17	ɔɪ	as in	join /dʒɔɪn/
8	ʊ	as in	put /pʊt/	18	ɪə	as in	near /nɪə(r)/
9	u:	as in	too /tu:/	19	eə	as in	hair /heə(r)/
10	ʌ	as in	cup /kʌp/	20	ʊə	as in	pure /pjʊə(r)/

Consonants

1	p	as in	pen /pen/	13	s	as in	so /səʊ/
2	b	as in	bad /bæd/	14	z	as in	zoo /zu:/
3	t	as in	tea /ti:/	15	ʃ	as in	she /ʃi:/
4	d	as in	did /dɪd/	16	ʒ	as in	vision /'vɪʒn/
5	k	as in	cat /kæt/	17	h	as in	how /haʊ/
6	g	as in	got /gɒt/	18	m	as in	man /mæn/
7	tʃ	as in	chin /tʃɪn/	19	n	as in	no /nəʊ/
8	dʒ	as in	June /dʒu:n/	20	ŋ	as in	sing /sɪŋ/
9	f	as in	fall /fɔ:l/	21	l	as in	leg /leg/
10	v	as in	voice /vɔɪs/	22	r	as in	red /red/
11	θ	as in	thin /θɪn/	23	j	as in	yes /jes/
12	ð	as in	then /ðen/	24	w	as in	wet /wet/

Pronunciation

For each entry a recommended pronunciation is given. The model followed is RP, a non-regional accent of British English. In this accent *r* is sounded only before vowels. Final *r* in the spelling is silent unless the word is followed by one beginning with a vowel. This 'linking *r*' is shown in brackets as in *welfare officer* /ɒfɪsə(r)/: the *r* is to be sounded only when the next word begins with a vowel. When a linking *r* is possible within a headphrase, it is shown as at the end of *welfare*. Thus /'welfeə(r) ɒfɪsə(r)/. The high mark /' / shows the main stress in the phrase, and the low mark / / shows the secondary stress. Sometimes the stress changes when a word is added to a headphrase. In such cases the pronunciation for the expanded phrase is shown in full in brackets. For example, *trilby (hat)* /'trɪlbɪ (,trɪlbɪ 'hæt)/. When the addition of a word does not affect the position of the main stress, the additional word alone is shown in brackets. For example, *bring-and-buy (sale)* /,brɪŋ ən 'baɪ (seɪl)/. The style of pronunciation shown is a careful one. For instance, *first class* is given as /,fɜːst 'klɑːs/, although in fluent colloquial speech the /t/ is very likely to be omitted. A /t/ is also shown in *hot cross bun* where native speakers of English are likely to say /,hɒk krɒs 'bʌn/. Users of the dictionary who want systematic information on such features are referred to *An English Pronunciation Companion* by A C Gimson and S M Ramsaran (OUP 1982).

Susan Ramsaran
University College, London

*The Lion and the Unicorn
were fighting for the Crown;
The Lion Beat the Unicorn
all round about the town.*

*Some gave them white bread,
and some gave them brown;
Some gave them plum-cake,
and sent them out of town.*

Contents

	page
Introduction	v
Key to phonetic symbols	vi
Pronunciation	vii
<i>The Lion and the Unicorn</i>	viii
 THE DICTIONARY	 1-343
Index	345-75
 Appendices	
Coins	376
Festivals	377
Relative ranks of the armed forces	378
Peers in order of rank	379
Order of succession to the throne	379
 Maps	
Islands of the British Isles	380
Counties of the British Isles	380
Motorways	381
Major International Airports	381
British Isles: other features	381
Administrative areas	382-3



'A' level /'eɪ ˌlevl/ (Advanced level) (education) A higher-level examination of the GCE, normally taken at the age of 17 or 18, two years after the 'O' level examination. It is the standard for entrance to university and other higher education, and to many forms of professional training.

A N Other /,eɪ ˌen ˈʌðə(r)/ (language) A way of giving the name of a member of a sports team when his or her name is not yet known or when the member has not yet been selected. Also used as a specimen name in other circumstances, such as on a form, to show how it should be completed. [from 'another']

A to Z /,eɪ tə ˈzed/ (daily life) A general title for a street directory of a town or city, especially one of London.

AA /,eɪ ˈeɪ/, **the (Automobile Association, the)** (transport) One of the two leading British clubs for motorists, which offers its members practical advice and assistance, legal aid and a range of specialized services. Compare RAC.

Abdication /ˌæbdɪˈkeɪʃn/, **the** (history) The formal giving up of the throne in 1936 by King Edward VIII, so that he could marry an American divorcee, Mrs Wallis Simpson.

Aberdeen Angus /ˌæbədiːn ˈæŋɡəs/ (animal world) A breed of black, hornless, beef cattle, originally reared in the Scottish counties of Aberdeen and Angus.

Aberdonian /ˌæbəˈdɒniən/ (geography) Someone born or living in Aberdeen or the former county of Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

academic year /ˌækədɛmɪk ˈjɪə(r)/ (education) The year beginning in October in universities and establishments of further education or higher education, and September in schools (see *school year*), and ending in late June or early July. The year, which is usually divided into three *terms*¹, ends with important examinations, such as GCE and CSE in schools or a *first degree* in a university.

academy /əˈkædəmɪ/ (education) The name of certain schools and colleges³, in particular some private secondary schools and a number of *public schools*¹ in Scotland (eg, *Edinburgh Academy*).

Academy /ə'kædəmi/, **the** (arts) The short title of a famous *academy*, especially the *Royal Academy (of Arts)* or the *British Academy*.

Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields /ə,kædəmi əv snt ,mɑ:tin in ðə 'fi:ldz/, **the** (arts) A leading *London* chamber orchestra, whose first concerts in the 1960s were held in the church of *St Martin-in-the-Fields*.

ACAS /'eikæs/ (**Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, the**) (work) An organization set up by the government in 1975 to provide mediation and arbitration as a means of **avoiding** or ending strikes or other industrial disputes. **The Service** also advises on industrial relations and encourages *collective bargaining*.

Access (card) /'ækses (kɑ:d)/ (finance) A major type of credit card issued by a group of banks including *Lloyds*, *Midland*, *National Westminster*, the *Clydesdale Bank* and the *Royal Bank of Scotland*. Compare *Barclaycard*.

Accession Day /æk'seʃn dei/ (history) The day (6 February 1952) when *Queen Elizabeth II* acceded to the throne, marked annually by the flying of the *Union Jack* on government buildings. It is not a *bank holiday*.

accumulator /ə'kju:mjuleɪtə(r)/ (sport and leisure) A progressive bet in horse racing, especially on four or more races, in which the bet and winnings on the first race are placed on the second, those of the second on the third, and so on, so that the *punter* finally either wins everything or loses everything. Compare *double*³.

Act (of Parliament) /ækt (əv 'pɑ:ləmənt)/ (law) A law that has been passed by the *House of Commons* and *House of Lords* and given the *royal assent*.

act of God /'ækt əv 'gɒd/ (law) A legal term used for damage caused by a sudden natural force such as a flood, hail storm or landslide, and not by man.

Act of Supremacy /ækt əv su:'preməsi/, **the** (history) The *Act* of 1534 that declared the sovereign to be the secular head of the *Church of England*.

Act of Union /ækt əv 'ju:niən/, **the** (history) The *Act* of 1707 that declared the union of *England* and *Wales* and *Scotland* as a single kingdom under the name of *Great Britain*.

Adam (style) /'ædəm 'ædəm 'stail/ (style) An elegant, neo-classical style of architecture and furniture created by the two Scots brothers **Robert** and **James Adam** in the 18th century.

ADC call /,ei di: 'si: kɔ:l/ (daily life) A long distance telephone call whose cost is supplied to the caller by the operator after the call. [advice of duration and charge]

Admiral's Cup /ædmərəlz 'kʌp/, **the** (sport and leisure) The main prize for the biennial international yachting contest of four races (**the Fastnet**, the *Britannia Cup* and two others). It is presented by the admiral who is the head of the *Royal Ocean Racing Club*, which established the prize in 1957.

Admiralty /'ædmərəltɪ/, **the** (1 defence 2 government) 1 The former name (to 1964) of the *Royal Navy* department of the Ministry of Defence. 2 The government building in *Whitehall, London*, where the Admiralty was and where now the headquarters of the *Civil Service* is.

Admiralty Arch /'ædmərəltɪ 'ɑ:tʃ/ (London) A triumphal arch at the east end of *The Mall, London*, built as a memorial to *Queen Victoria* and named after the *Admiralty*², next to which it stands.

Advent /'ædvənt/ (religion) For Christians, the time of preparation for the celebration of Christ's birth at *Christmas*, lasting from the *Sunday* nearest 30 November (called *Advent Sunday*) to *Christmas*. [from the *advent* or coming of Christ]

Advertising Standards Authority /'ædvətaɪzɪŋ 'stændədɪz ɔ:θərətɪ/, **the (ASA, the)** (daily life) The independent (non-governmental) body that monitors professional standards of advertising in the interests of the public and of industry, in particular by means of the *British Code of Advertising Practice*. This Code aims to ensure that all advertisements are truthful, within the law, and morally decent (their slogan is 'legal, decent, honest and truthful'). Members of the public have the right to complain to the ASA about any specific advertisement, and the Authority may subsequently ask for the offending advertisement to be reworded or withdrawn altogether.

age of consent /'eɪdʒ əv kən'sent/, **the** (law) The minimum age, at present 16, at which a young person may legally have sexual intercourse.

age of discretion /'eɪdʒ əv dɪ'skreʃn/, **the** (law) The minimum age, at present 14, at which a young person is judged legally competent to manage his or her own affairs.

Aintree /'eɪntri:/ (sport and leisure) A horse-racing course near *Liverpool*, where the *Grand National* is run annually.

Airedale (terrier) /'eədeɪl (,eədeɪl 'terɪə(r))/ (animal world) A large, rough-haired, tan-coloured breed of dog with black back and sides. [originally bred in the valley of the river Aire, Yorkshire]

Al-Anon /'æl ə'nɒn/ (charities) A fellowship (founded in 1960) for the families of alcoholics, who meet to share experiences and discuss problems caused by living with an alcoholic. Many such alcoholics are themselves already being aided by *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

Albert Hall /'ælbət 'hɔ:l/, **the** (London) A large hall in *London*, with seating for 8,000, where the annual *Promenade Concerts* are held, as well as a number of other concerts, parades, meetings, and ceremonial and sporting events. [in full, the *Royal Albert Hall*, built in 1867-71 and named in honour of Prince Albert, the husband of *Queen Victoria*]

Albert Memorial /'ælbət mə'mɔ:riəl/, **the** (London) A large monument opposite the *Albert Hall, London*, and containing a

seated bronze figure of Prince Albert, to whom it was built as a national memorial in 1863–76.

Alcoholics Anonymous /ælkəˈhɒlɪks əˈnɒnəməs/ (AA)

(charities) A voluntary organization for people who need help in fighting alcoholism. Compare *Al-Anon*.

Aldeburgh Festival /ˌɔːldbrəˈfestɪvl/, **the** (arts) An annual music festival at Aldeburgh, Suffolk, where it was started in 1948 by the composer Benjamin Britten (1913–76), who lived in Aldeburgh.

alderman /ˈɔːldəmən/ (government) The title of a senior governor of the *City of London* and, before 1974, that of a senior member of a local council, elected by other *councillors*. Aldermen have not been members of the GLC since the 1977 elections and they have not been members of London *borough* councils since the 1978 elections.

Aldermaston /ˈɔːldəməːstən/ (defence) A village in Berkshire where the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment is, and one of the main places selected by *CND* for anti-nuclear demonstrations, especially the marches to and from *London* in 1958–63.

Alderney (cow) /ˈɔːldəni (ˌɔːldəniˈkaʊ)/ (animal world) A breed of light brown dairy cow, originally from Alderney, *Channel Islands*.

Alexandra Palace /ˌæliɡzəːndrəˈpælis/ (London) A large building on a hill in *Alexandra Park*, north *London*, used mainly for exhibitions and concerts. It formerly housed the main television studios of the *BBC*. The Palace was badly damaged by fire in July 1980 and is now being rebuilt. The outside will be restored to its original Victorian style (see *Victoriana*), while the inside will be used for conferences and concerts.

Alexandra Park /ˌæliɡzəːndrəˈpɑːk/ (sport and leisure) A park in north *London* containing *Alexandra Palace* and a well-known race-course. The park is currently being improved and part of it will be used for rare plants and for wild birds and animals.

Alf Garnett /ˌælfˈɡɑːnɪt/ see *Garnett* (media)

All England Club /ˌɔːlˈɪŋɡləndˈklʌb/, **the** (sport and leisure) A tennis club in *Wimbledon*, *London*, on whose courts the annual open lawn tennis championships are held. [full title: All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club]

Alliance /əˈlaɪəns/, **the** (politics) A short name for the *Liberal-SDP Alliance*.

Alliance Party (of Northern Ireland) /əˈlaɪənsˌpɑːtɪ (əˈlaɪənsˌpɑːtɪ əvˌnɔːðənˈaɪələnd)/, **the** (politics) The Party was formed in 1970 as a reaction to the *Troubles*. It aims to break down divisions between Protestants and Catholics in *Northern Ireland* and to unite both sections of the community by working for moderate policies.

allotment /ə'lotmənt/ (daily life) A small piece of land, often on the outskirts of a town, that is rented by a private individual (usually from a *local authority*) who grows vegetables there. Usually several allotments are grouped together. They were started during the First World War.



allotment

Ally Pally /,æli 'pæli/ (London) A nickname for *Alexandra Palace*.

almshouse /'u:mzhaus/ (charities) A house provided by the church or a charity organization for poor or elderly people. [from 'alms', donations made to the poor or elderly]

Alsatian /æl'seɪʃn/ (animal world) A large, wolf-like dog kept as a pet or for use as a guide dog or guard dog. [originally from Alsatia, in Germany, now Alsace, France]

Amateur Athletics Association /æmə'tɔr æθ 'letɪks əsəʊsɪ'eɪʃn/ the (AAA, the/three As, the) (sport and leisure) The national governing body of men's amateur athletics in *England*, founded in 1880. The corresponding organization for women is the Women's AAA, founded in 1922. ['amateur' as opposed to 'professional']

Amnesty International /æmnə'stɪ ɪntə'næʃnəl/ (charities) A human rights movement funded by members' fees and gifts of money. It was founded in *Britain* in 1961. It works to release people who have been imprisoned, in any country, for their beliefs, colour, language, ethnic origin or religion, provided that they have not used or advocated violence. Such prisoners are called 'prisoners of conscience'. The movement, which also campaigns against torture and *capital punishment*, has over 100,000 members today in more than 70 countries.

ancient monument /eɪnfənt 'mɒnjumənt/ (history) A monument or other building officially listed as being of

historic, architectural or archaeological interest and so protected by Act (*of Parliament*) from being damaged or destroyed.

Andy Capp /ˌændi 'kæp/ (media) A character in a strip cartoon by the artist Reg Smythe in the *Daily Mirror*. He represents, in humorously exaggerated form, a typical *working class* man and has what are supposed to be the two main characteristics of the working man, that is, idleness and flippancy. These are usually shown in his treatment of his wife, Florrie, and his reaction to daily life. [from a pun on 'handicap', and with a reference to the flat *cap* which many working men wear, and which Andy Capp himself wears]

Anglesey /ˌæŋɡlsi/ (geography) A Welsh island in the Irish Sea, close to mainland *Britain* and joined to it by a rail bridge and a road bridge. It is a popular tourist centre and the town of Holyhead on Anglesey is one of the main departure points for sea crossings to *Ireland*.

Anglia TV /ˌæŋɡliə ti: 'vi:/ (media) One of the 15 television companies of the *IBA*, transmitting programmes to *East Anglia*.

Anglican /ˌæŋɡlɪkən/ (religion) A member of the *Church of England*.

Anglo-Catholic /ˌæŋɡləʊ 'kæθəlik/ (religion) An *Anglican* who accepts much of the teaching of the *Roman Catholic church*, without wishing to join it. He usually regards church ritual as important, and believes in the authority of the clergy. See *High Church*.

Anglo-Saxon /ˌæŋɡləʊ 'sæksn/ (language) 1 The language of the Anglo-Saxons, the Germanic people who were dominant in *Britain* from the 5th century to the *Norman Conquest* in 1066. The language is also known as Old English. 2 Another term for 'plain' English, especially containing *four-letter words* and other normally taboo words and phrases.

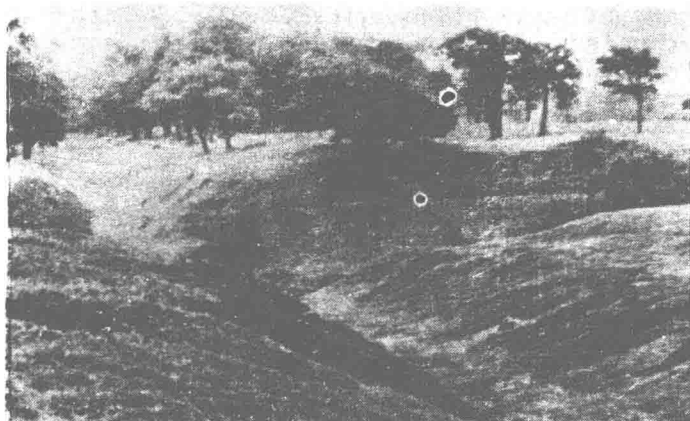
Anne Hathaway's Cottage /ˌæn ˌhæθəweɪz 'kɒtɪdʒ/ (history). The old house near *Stratford-upon-Avon* in which *Shakespeare's* wife, Anne Hathaway (1557-1623), was born. Today the house is a museum and a popular tourist attraction.

annual /'ænjʊəl/ (media) A book or magazine published once a year, usually just before *Christmas* (for the following year). The term often applies to a children's book that has the title of a *comic*, for example 'The *Dandy Annual* 1984'. Such a book contains longer versions of many of the comic's regular features.

another place /əˌnʌðə 'pleɪs/ (government) A parliamentary phrase used in the *House of Commons* to refer to the *House of Lords* and in the *House of Lords* to refer to the *House of Commons*.

Antonine Wall /ˌæntənəm 'wɔ:l/, **the** (history) A Roman wall in southern *Scotland* running from the river *Forth* in the east

to the river *Clyde* in the west. It was built in the reign of the Roman emperor Antoninus Pius (86-161 AD). Compare *Hadrian's Wall*.



Antonine Wall

A-1 /et 'wʌn/ (1 transport 2 daily life) 1 The classification of a ship in *Lloyd's Register* when it is in first class condition. 2 The expression is also used colloquially to mean 'excellent, first class'.

APEX /'eɪpeks/ (**Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff, the**) (work) A trade union to which belong a number of *civil servants* and government office workers, with a membership (in 1984) of over 100,000.

Apprentice Boys' Parade /æˌprentɪs ˈbɔɪz pə'reɪd/, **the** (tradition) An annual parade of *Orangemen* in Derry (Londonderry) and other towns in *Northern Ireland*, on 12 August. The parade marks the defeat of the Catholics by the Protestants in the siege of Derry in 1688, in which Protestant apprentice boys took part. In recent years the parade has led to scenes of violence between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland.

approved school /ə'pruːvd sku:l/ (education) A former name for a *community home*.

April Fools' Day /eɪprəl 'fuːlz deɪ/ (tradition) 1 April, when, traditionally, practical jokes are played. The day is also known as All Fools' Day.

APT /eɪ piː 'tiː/, **the (Advanced Passenger Train, the)** (transport) A special high-speed electric train designed to take curves faster than conventional trains, and used experimentally as forerunner to the next design, which might be called the 225 or the Electra.

Archbishop of Canterbury /ɑːtʃbɪʃəp əv 'kæntəbrɪ/, **the** (religion) The title of the religious head of the *Church of England*, who is also bishop of *Canterbury*. His official title is *Primate of All England*. Compare *Archbishop of York*.

Archbishop of York /ˌɑ:tʃbɪʃəp əv 'jɔ:k/, **the** (religion) The title of the deputy religious head of the *Church of England*, who is also bishop of York. His official title is *Primate of England*. Compare *Archbishop of Canterbury*.

Archers /'ɑ:tʃəz/, **the** (media) A popular daily radio programme on *Radio 4* telling of the day-to-day life of an imaginary farming family, which has been broadcast since 1950, thus being the longest-running radio serial. Each episode continues the story from the previous programme.

area of outstanding natural beauty /ˌeəriə əv aʊtˌstændɪŋ ˌnætʃrəl 'bju:ti/ (geography) An area of countryside similar to a *national park* but not usually having car-parks, camping areas, information centres and other facilities for the public. Areas of outstanding natural beauty are specially protected, and development in them is strictly controlled. In 1984 there were 35 such areas.

Armada /ɑ:'mɑ:də/, **the** (history) The name of the Spanish fleet sent by Philip II, King of Spain, in 1588 against England but defeated by the English navy. [in full, 'Spanish Armada']

Armistice Day /'ɑ:mɪstɪs ˌdeɪ/ (history) 11 November 1918, the final day of the First World War. See also *Remembrance Sunday*.

Army /'ɑ:mi/, **the** (defence) The British Army was originally formed from the regiments that were under the command of the sovereign. At the end of the seventeenth century the British Government took over its control. In both the First and Second World Wars the numbers of men and women serving in the Army rose considerably as a result of conscription, with a maximum of nearly four million in the First World War and nearly three million in the Second. Conscription in the form of *national service* ended in 1957, however. By early 1984 the total number of men and women in the Army was down to almost 161,000, although this figure is twice as large as that of personnel in the *Royal Navy*. As in the two other armed services, men and women can serve in the Army for terms ranging from three to 22 years.

A-road /'eɪ rəʊd/ (transport) The official name of a main road, often running between major towns and cities. All A-roads are numbered, and among the most important are the A1 from *London* to *Edinburgh* (mostly following the route of the old *Great North Road*) and the A40 *London* to *South Wales*. See also *B-road* and compare *motorway*.

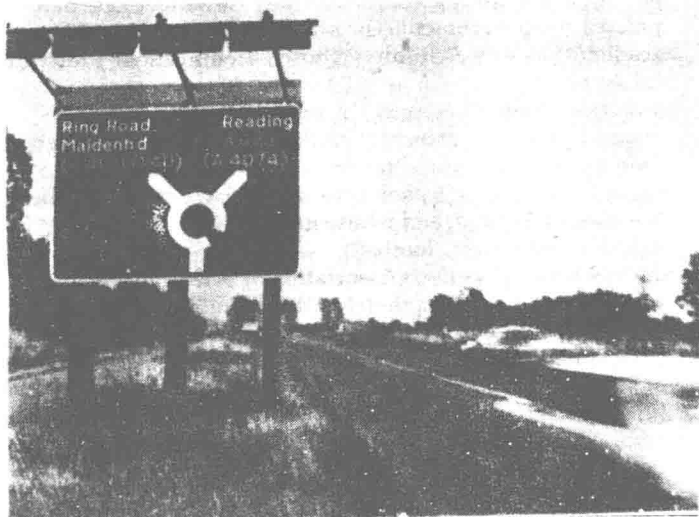
Arsenal /'ɑ:sən/ (sport and leisure) A popular football club with a stadium at *Highbury*, and nicknamed the *Gunners*. [formerly based near *Woolwich Arsenal*, south *London*, a government arsenal closed in 1966]

Arthur /'ɑ:θə(r)/ see *King Arthur* (people)

Arthur Scargill /ˌɑ:θə 'ska:ɡɪl/ see *Scargill* (people)

Arts Council (of Great Britain) /'ɑ:ts ˌkaʊnsl (ˌɑ:ts ˌkaʊnsl əv ˌɡreɪt 'brɪtn)/, **the** (media) A government organization

established in 1946 to promote the arts generally in *Britain*, and in particular drama, music and the visual arts.



A-road

Ascension Day /ə'senʃn det/ (religion) A festival day for Christians, celebrating the ascension of Christ to heaven, and held on the 40th day after *Easter* (always a Thursday). Unlike other major church festivals, it is not a *bank holiday*.

Ascot /'æskət/ (sport and leisure) A racecourse near Windsor. Each year the *Royal Ascot* four-day meeting is held here. [named after village here]

ASH /æʃ/ (**Action on Smoking and Health**) (charities) A voluntary organization founded in 1971 to discourage smoking and to find ways for decreasing the damage done to health by smoking. The organization has over 350 members. [name partly chosen to indicate cigarette ash]

Ash Wednesday /æʃ 'wenzdi/ (religion) The first day of *Lent* in the Christian church. [from the practice of sprinkling ashes on the heads of penitents]

Ashmolean (Museum) /æʃ'məʊliən (æʃ,məʊliən mju:'ziəm)/, **the (arts)** A museum and library of ancient history, fine arts and archaeology at *Oxford University*, founded in 1683 by Elias Ashmole (1617-92).

Aslef /'æzlef/ (**Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, the**) (work) An influential trade union for train drivers and other railway staff which is more left-wing than the *NUR*, its traditional rival. In 1984 it had 23,500 members.

assisted area /ə,sɪstɪd 'eəriə/ (work) A region of high unemployment where the government encourages industrial development by means of special grants and loans of money. There are two types of assisted area: *development areas* and