

ongoing final read project which we could work on when nothing else more urgent was needed; this we could work on at our own speed, and I was working on one of mine, an encyclopaedia of fossils, for four months on and off!

Additionally whilst working at Pergamon Press I represented the Banbury area on the executive committee of the Oxon & Berks Branch of the National Graphical Association, chiefly because no one from Banbury wanted to travel down to the branch office at Pangbourne for the meetings once a month! As I was working in Oxford it was easier to get there for me; I was already half way there! I also represented the NGA on the Banbury Trades Council.

But all good things come to an end, or at least they always seemed to throughout my life. Mr Maxwell decided to purchase the Nuffield Press in Oxford when it came up for sale, and further, to transfer the proof readers there en bloc. This would have meant a longer and more difficult journey to work through heavier traffic at rush hour, and so I decided, rather than having to undertake the more hazardous journey, that I would change my job.

As luck would have it a job came up at the Courier Press in Leamington Spa on the night shift as a proofreader. I successfully applied for this; it involved reading from computer printouts off a dot matrix printer, which were then passed back to the typesetters for correction. I found myself working with some of my old colleagues from my Web Offset days and one of the publications we dealt with was the *Banbury Guardian*, thus proving that it is indeed a small world. We also proofread patent specifications in English, French and German in between other publications such as the *Leamington Spa Courier*.

After a couple of years I left in order to become full time sales and distribution manager for Newhall Publications working for their Candis charity magazine. This position was in fact untenable so I eventually drifted into twelve years of taxi driving.

Whilst doing this I was once again headhunted by an ex-colleague who owned and ran Vogue Typesetting in Calthorpe Street, Banbury, to do two days a week proof-reading advertisements for some free newspapers for which he had the origination contract. This eventually fell through when the firm went into liquidation, and I briefly worked for another typesetters in Banbury sizing photographs for *Banbury Guardian* property advertisements.