

FESTIVAL FINALE

The South Bank Exhibition, Britain's proof to a doubting world that she still leads in science and discovery, draws to its close. In five months eight-and-a-half-million people have found pleasure and instruction here, but now the curtain is due to fall. Along the crowded Fairway come the massed bands of the Brigade of Guards.

Now as the expectant crowd stands waiting, the lights begin to dim. The exhibition's last moments are near. From their mast heads the flags are hauled down for the last time. This is the symbolic end. But the high-note is missing; the voice of the King who launched the Exhibition and was to speak its epitaph. With the close, Britain's great year of festival comes to an end, as the crowd joins in singing "Jerusalem."

Despite our troubles, this year of festival has been a great British accomplishment. Although perhaps we didn't set the world alight we did in the end set light to the Thames! And if anybody's still worrying about the cost of it all, cheer up! It won't happen again for another hundred years.