

THE CHELSEA ARTS BALL:

There are some things the Albert Hall is only just big enough for - and the Chelsea Arts Ball is one of them. Just a gentle warming-up till midnight and Auld Lang Syne (which at most events is the signal to pack up and go home) works the other way at this one; it's the overture to the real business of the evening.

Ladies and Gentlemen, allow us to present 1958 - a brand-new year. Yes, we've had brand-new years before - but of course, this one is going to be the best yet - as usual. But just to be on the safe side, we'll start it off with a bang, anyway; a send-off to remember - if we can remember. The craziest, noisiest, happiest, cheeriest, wackiest, wiggliest, jiviest, goofiest, send-off a year ever had.

Tradition demands a parade over which teams of artists have toiled for weeks. Tradition also demands that somebody should try to undo all their toil in a matter of minutes. Tradition must be served. Let battle commence!!!

The rugger experts whose job it is to protect the parade fight a losing fight, year after year. Long experience has taught them that the simplest methods of ejection are the best - and what's a few splinters among friends? Something to carry through 1958; to remind them it'll all happen again next time. Good show, chaps!