

At the Elysée Palace, the Paris home of the French President, members of the Diplomatic Corps, including the representative of the Pope, assembled to give their customary New Year Greetings to President Coty.

This is traditionally one of the more sombre methods of bringing in the New Year, and among those taking part was Britain's Ambassador to France, Sir Gladwyn Jebb. ^

Equally traditional but somewhat less formal, was the crowd's ^{of the New Year} greeting in places like London's Piccadilly Circus and Trafalgar Square. ^

While some were dancing, the more serious-minded were ~~not~~ helping to make the New Year a prosperous one, by selling balloons. M

Balloons were a feature, of course, at the annual crush at the Albert Hall, which goes by the name of the Chelsea Arts Ball. ^

At the Chelsea Arts Ball you get all sorts of dancers --- with all sorts of different ideas in mind. There are dancers who take it slowly, as if longing for the stately days of the minuet; ~~some~~ some dance as if they were being attacked by wasps; ~~some~~ while others hardly notice they're dancing. /

One of the distinguished guests at this Year's Chelsea Arts Ball, was the Lord Mayor of London --- which was appropriate ~~enough~~ enough, because the theme for heralding the dawn of 1956 was "~~some~~" Bow Bells". ^ But, as always, the set pieces had hardly got set, when they were upset. /