

# Bb

First used in Venice in 1496, the **Bembo** typeface was originally cut by Francesco Griffo, designer of the first *italic type*. Griffo disappeared from public view in 1516 after being charged with the murder of his son-in-law. A less flamboyant designer, Stanley Morison – who later edited the *Times Literary Supplement* – revised the face in 1929, in a version still widely used for book work.



Much loved for his wry, avuncular poetry, **John Betjeman** (1906–1984) had a parallel career as a writer and broadcaster on architecture. Having fought against its demolition he is fittingly commemorated at the newly restored St Pancras station.



**B** is for **Bentley**. Founded in 1919 by Walter Owen Bentley – who had designed the engine which powered the Sopwith Camel aircraft – Bentley Motors' racing success during the 1920s failed to keep the company viable and it was forced to sell a majority share to raise cash. Playboy Woolf Barnato, heir to a diamond magnate and driver in Bentley's string of wins at Le Mans, became the majority shareholder before the business was bought by Rolls Royce. The marke – currently owned by Volkswagen – is again involved in sports car racing after a 60 year interval.



Initially trained as a goldsmith, **Filippo Brunelleschi** was one of the foremost architects and engineers of the Italian Renaissance. Using no scaffolding during its construction, his dome of Florence cathedral – 44 metres in diameter and 113 metres high, with a stairway between its interior and exterior walls giving access to the crowning lantern – used over four million bricks raised by a specially designed hoist during the 16 years of its construction and was finally completed in 1436.

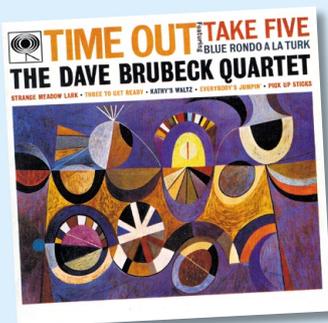


Launched on St Patrick's Day 1938, **HMS Belfast** struck a mine in November 1939. Repairs to the

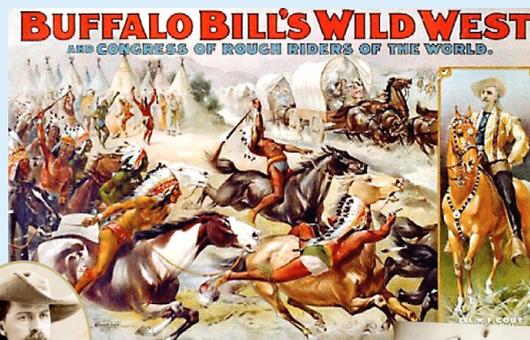
broken keel and damaged hull and machinery took three years – longer than the original building schedule. Returning to service in late 1942, she saw action escorting Arctic convoys to the Soviet Union, played a leading role in the destruction of the German battle cruiser *Scharnhorst* at the Battle of North Cape, and supported the D-Day landings. Now preserved as a museum, her wartime dazzle paint scheme – *Admiralty Disruptive Camouflage Type 25* – is still effective against her London surroundings.



Founded in Glasgow in 1883, the **Boys' Brigade** was the world's first uniformed youth organisation. There are now over half a million members in 60 countries still following the 'muscular Christianity' of its founders.



Vital equipment for every hipster of the early sixties, the album *Time Out* explored time signatures unusual in jazz. With its hypnotic 5/4 rhythm, *Take Five* – the one item not written by pianist **Dave Brubeck** – still earns the American Red Cross thousands of dollars in composer's royalties each year from the rights bequeathed by the quartet's alto sax player Paul Desmond.



A real life cowboy and cavalry scout, William Cody – better known as **Buffalo Bill** – later found greater fame via public displays. His live action Wild West show featured Sitting Bull – originally called Jumping Badger – victor of the battle against General Custer at Little Bighorn.



Born in London c1118, **Thomas Becket** rose to the office of Lord Chancellor under Henry II. As Archbishop of Canterbury, Becket clashed with the king over matters of royal authority. Henry's frustrated outburst 'Who will rid me of this turbulent priest?' prompted four knights to ride to Canterbury where, on 29 December 1170, Becket was hacked to death in the cathedral, which rapidly became a place of pilgrimage, celebrated in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. Almost 800 years after the event TS Eliot retold the story in his verse play *Murder in the Cathedral*.

