

**TEST:** Science star "horrified" by questions

# Radio quiz show beats our boffin

by **NEIL SHAW**

NEWS REPORTER

**HE is the brainiest man in Peterborough with a string of incredible scientific discoveries to his name.**

But Brian J Ford admits he has finally met his match on good old-fashioned radio.

For while subjects such as microscope samples from three centuries ago maybe a breeze, crosswords are another matter for the boffin.

Mr Ford is science editor for the Guinness Book of Records and has made a name for himself worldwide as a problem solver, TV personality, author and all-round character.

Mr Ford, from Eastrea, near Peterborough, is also author of numerous books making scientific principles easy to understand.

But he admits he struggled as a guest panellist on the super-brainy Round Britain Quiz and was "horrified" by the questions he was asked.

## TV stardom for Brian



**STAR:** Brian J Ford.

BRIAN J Ford, a former pupil of King's School in Peterborough, is also currently appearing on both Japanese and American television.

In the US he is appearing in a documentary on The History Channel exploring secret weapons of war. He has also just completed an interview for Japanese TV talking about the link between microbes and humans.

The long-running Radio 4 programme features regional teams of boffins and this year Mr Ford will represent the Midlands with writer Lady Antonia Fraser.

He said: "When I was first approached to take part in the quiz I just said 'I think you've got the wrong person'.

"The questions they ask are devilishly hard, almost crossword like and I just don't do crosswords.

"They relate to all sorts of things, such as art and literature. I said to the producer I was one of the few people who can't tell the Brontes apart, I

don't even like their music, and he laughed politely."

Mr Ford, who made his first appearance on Monday, added: "I can't tell you the results, but I can say I was horrified by how difficult some of the questions were.

"One was: 'What is the link between a German doughnut, a gramophone record and JFK?' In fact, a German doughnut is a Berliner, JFK once said 'Ich bin ein Berliner' and the gramophone record was invented by a man called Berliner.

"But I thoroughly enjoyed taking part."