

CHN News

The Newsletter of the Culham and Harwell
Science and Engineering Centres

March 1996 Vol 7/Number 02



Setting her heart on the Heights

SOMEONE HOPING for considerably warmer weather in April is financial systems manager for UKAEA at Harwell, Elizabeth Mansfield.

Pictured in the recent snow, taking a short breather during training for no ordinary cycle challenge, Elizabeth will be joining some 120 cyclists from the UK to pedal 50 miles a day for five days — in Israel!

The 'Israel Experience', a fund-raising initiative by the British Heart Foundation in a bid to raise £750,000, — some of which will be spent in Oxfordshire — covers 250 miles, mostly off-road. Beginning in the mountainous Golan Heights and crossing the Sea of Galilee by boat, the cyclists will pedal on to Jerusalem by way of the Dead Sea and

Jericho, involving climbing 2000 feet in one 15 mile stretch!

Elizabeth, who keeps fit by weight training, walking, aerobics and yoga and has recently returned from a trekking holiday in Nepal, said, "I hope Israel will be warmer than the foothills of Annapurna where we were camping in temperatures of minus 10 degrees Centigrade."

Before being accepted for the cycle marathon Elizabeth had to guarantee a minimum sponsorship of £1850 and pay part of her travel costs. "I am about a third of the way towards my sponsorship target but as I have to donate £1200 up front, I need every bit of support I can get," she said.

If you would like to support Elizabeth's efforts in raising money for a very worthwhile cause, she can be contacted on Harwell extension 6427.

'ROYAL SEAL' ON RARE TREE

THE ROYAL Horticultural Society (RHS) have confirmed that we have a rare tree on the Harwell site.

Euodia Hupehensis (*Tetradium danielli*), situated off Rutherford Avenue, roughly opposite building 424, close to the former electricity sub-station 1, drew the attention of RMJM, London, advisors on landscape design, prior to the demolition of building 504.

He sent a specimen of the tree to The RHS for identification and their verdict of this small to medium-sized tree is that it is a member of the rue family, not common in cultivation but occasionally encountered in London parks.

The tree, which has large leaves and small, white pungently scented flowers in late summer, succeeded by lustrous black fruits, is native to the Far East, namely China and Korea, and was introduced into this country in 1905.



Inside:

2 Coming clean at Culham • 3 Safer cycling to work • 4/5 Location directors for AEA Technology
6 Classifieds and Lifts Special • 7 Winter 1947 – a terrible experience • 8 Out & About

IN BRIEF

Changes afoot on the Harwell site

Car parks are being created near to buildings 353, 418, and 521 • the Post room, the last occupants of the now demolished building 328 have moved to building 404 • UKAEA's Property Department are moved to building 404 • UKAEA's Property Department are moving to building 150 in April • work has also started on a new roundabout to help traffic flow at fermi gate ...further details next month.

Information Centre Open Day a success

Staff of the Harwell Information Centre report a very successful Open Day, in their refurbished premises in building 149.

Over 90 visitors were given afternoon guided tours of the new layout and demonstrations of the various CD-ROM databases now available on open access in the reference area. Manager of the Centre, Margaret Wetenhall, said "Visitors were impressed with the light and airy appearance and the arrangement of the stock. Many who had not been regular users of the old Library in building 465 were surprised at the breadth of material available in both hard copy and electronic form."

N.B. If you missed the Open Day, ask staff at the Centre for a guided tour and you will also be provided with coffee and biscuits!



KEYBOARD QUERY: Allan Tomkins, Senior Information Officer, Harwell Information Centre shows Alan Wedgwood of AEA Technology's National Non-destructive Testing Centre, one of the CD-ROM databases.

EUROLANG goes on

One of the partners of EUROLANG, the language training consultants operating from the Harwell Conference Centre, Hannelore Ely, is retiring after 25 years teaching German at Harwell and Culham, but Monique Freeman (contact Harwell extension 3313) is running Eurolang on her own, with the able help of a new German teacher, Gaby Lloyd, and Marina Bogdanova-Douglas teaching Russian and Angela Burrough teaching Spanish.

Clean sweep in broad daylight at Culham

Staff at Culham will be seeing some noticeable changes to the way in which their workplace is cleaned with effect from 1 April, 1996, not least of which is that cleaning will take place in the day time.

The cleaning staff of ISS Servisystems, whose contract has been renewed by Procord, have been fitted with new uniforms and a new style contract has been negotiated which aims to improve the quality and frequency of routine cleaning but pay greater attention to matters of security and customer care. They hope that staff at Culham will notice an improvement in the cleaning standards generally around the site.

A local notice giving more detail about the new cleaning arrangements will be circulated shortly. For further information contact the Procord Help Desk, extension 3000.

Exhibition of Instrumentation

SES Instrumentation will be exhibiting their range of fittings — valves, manifold valves, filters; instrument enclosures — tube/pipe clamps; cylinders, quick connectors in stainless, brass, PTFE, PFA and other exotic materials in the Harwell Restaurant on Tuesday 26 March, 1996, from 10 am to 4 pm.

Job wordsearch

READING FORWARDS, backwards, up, down and diagonally there are 25 words related to jobs in this month's wordsearch, can you find them as listed below?

ACTOR, ARCHITECT, BAILIFF, BAKER, BARMAN, BRICKLAYER, CARPENTER, CLERK, COOK, DETECTIVE, DOCTOR, DON, ELECTRICIAN, ENGINEER, GROCER, JOCKEY, JOINER, KING, MAID, MINER, PORTER, SCIENTIST, SPY, TYPIST, VET, WAITER

Send in your entry marked: C H News MARCH Wordsearch, 521, Harwell. The first correct answer, with all 25 words identified, drawn after mid-day on Friday 22 March will win a cheque for £10.

The unused letters in last month's Wordsearch spelled the word AMBULANCE and the five words to find were: SURGEON, BEDS, VISITOR, PORTER and WARD. The winner of our £10 prize cheque was Trudie Evans of UKAEA, Harwell.

Only five more Wordsearches

Each time the Wordsearch puzzle has appeared in C H News, an amount matching the winner's prize, £10, has been allocated to Guide Dogs for the blind. This month our fund has reached the £200 landmark. The target is £250, to support the breeding of a Guide Dog puppy. Once this target has been achieved we intend to replace the Wordsearches with a Quick Crossword each month — with prizes!

WORK SEARCH

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E A F J O D T A C T O R
L R R O O T S K O O C E
E G E C W A I T E R E Y
C R T K H N P S U N N A
T O R E G I Y C G K E L
R C O Y T R T I R E B K
I E P R E T N E P R A C
C R N K M E L N C M R I
I L A I E C L T A T M R
A B N R O F F I L I A B
N E S P Y J D S D O N E
R R D E T E C T I V E T
    
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Name

Business/Service

Site Extension.....

The unused letters spell out the word:

Keep those names bubbling along

WITH THE champagne on ice ready for the winner we have so far received over 30 new independent name suggestions for CH News and have decided to make the closing date for entries, Friday 15 March, so that we can launch the new name and new design in our next issue, scheduled for 3 April, 1996.

Stephen White, Head of Site for Culham and Harwell and his panel of six judges are looking forward to having a wide range of names to choose from so if you haven't already sent in your idea, get scribbling please and send your entry to: The Editor, C H News, 521, Harwell, or Fax. Harwell 6899.

Obituary – Lord Marshall of Goring



IT IS with great sadness that we report the death of Lord Marshall of Goring, CBE, FRS, on 20 February 1996, aged 63, after a lengthy illness.

Former chairman of the UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) and the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB), he was born in Cardiff in 1932. Walter Marshall studied mathematics at Birmingham University before joining Harwell in 1954, he became a Group Leader in 1959 and in 1960 succeeded Brian Flowers, now Lord Flowers, as Head of Theoretical Physics Division. He became Deputy Director of Harwell in 1966 and Director from 1968 to 1975. Appointed Deputy Chairman of the UK Atomic Energy Authority in 1975, he became Chairman in 1981. He was subsequently appointed chairman of the CEGB from 1982 to 1989 and in 1984 earned the government's gratitude for keeping the lights on during the miners' strike thereby making a major contribution to the outcome. Marshall played a leading role in founding the World Association of Nuclear Operators following the Chernobyl accident, becoming its first executive chairman.

He was elected FRS in 1971, appointed CBE in 1973, knighted in 1982 and elevated to the House of Lords in 1985.

Campaigning for safer cycling – to work

EDMUND TURCU, a senior scientist at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory is used to cycling to work from Wantage but would dearly like his journey to be safer.

He is campaigning for a cycle path between Wantage and Didcot — via the Harwell Science and Engineering Centre — to avoid the busy A417, where he claims cyclists take their life in their hands.

"If more people travelled by bicycle, traffic on busy roads in the area would be reduced," he said. He has been looking at possible routes, one through Ardington and the Hendred's and one through West and East Ginge.

Edmund's efforts to establish the cycle path, have already received the backing of the pressure group Sustainable Transportation SUSTRANS — recently awarded £42M from National Lottery funds for the development of cycle paths across the country.



Edmund Turcu has the support of SUSTRANS for his cycle path.

Courtesy of Oxford & County Newspapers

UKAEA and AEA Technology celebrate separate networks



Some members of the teams involved in the Standardisation and Separation Project, who gathered on a cold Saturday afternoon to mark the disconnection of the last piece of fibre optic cable linking AEA Technology and UKAEA networks. Back row from left: AEA Technology's ISIS staff, Brian Day, Peter Dann, Andy Middlehurst, and Colin Hooker; Rob Inskip, IT Consultants 'Hoskyns' project manager for the whole project, James Bretherton, director of Property Management & Services, UKAEA, who performed the 'final fibre' separation; Richard Mason of Hoskyns; Peter Garratt, ISIS, and Lekan Esuruoso of Compel plc. Front row, from left: John Walker of ISaT, UKAEA; Chris Broad, Head of ISaT, Alan Sinclair, ISaT, and Ashley Dudman and Mark Woodward of Hoskyns.

THE LAST computer network link between UKAEA and AEA Technology has been disconnected. James Bretherton, UKAEA's director of Property Management & Services separated the final piece of fibre optic cable. Known as the Standardisation and Separation Project, it was a joint undertaking with AEA Technology and one of the longest and most complex projects of its type in the UK involving the creation of separate computer networks for UKAEA and AEA Technology.

Follow that! Building on AEA Harwell Cricket Club's finest year

FOLLOWING QUICKLY on the heels of the AEA Harwell Cricket Club's most successful season ever, a full and varied fixture list of league and friendly matches is in store.

To help build on the club's success — not only were they winners of the Telegraph Cup, they were also champions of Berkshire Downs League division 2 and winners of division 2 of the Morland Indoor League competition — a series of

net sessions are being held at the Wantage Recreation Centre. Net sessions will last from 11 am to 12 noon on 10, 17, 24 and 31 March and 7 and 21 April.

Applications are invited for entry to the HLRA sponsored Evening League Cricket competition. For further information on the above please contact Steve Oliver, Harwell extension 5354.

AEA Technology appoints Location directors

NEWLY APPOINTED Location directors, Kevin Murray and Chris Wright, will become the public faces of AEA Technology at Harwell and Culham.

AEA Technology, Oxfordshire's fifth biggest employer and South Oxfordshire's largest employer, with 1630 staff at Harwell and 390 staff at Culham, will be legally separated from the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority and established as a publicly

This month we profile Kevin Murray



Kevin Murray, newly appointed Location director for AEA Technology at Harwell.

Before joining UKAEA in 1992, as director of Corporate Communications, Kevin Murray, 41, was Group Public Relations Manager for Bayer companies in the UK. Prior to that he was a former managing director of a regional PR consultancy, publisher and PR consultant, marketing director, and a national newspaper journalist.

Why has it been thought necessary to create the roles of Location directors?

"The roles have been created for all our locations because we realise how important it is to engage in vigorous dialogue with all people who have an interest in how we perform. If we are in that kind of dialogue all the time we can be much more anticipative and much more flexible, in a world where there is so much competition and so many pressures on any business. We see this role as one more important channel of communication for the company—but it certainly isn't the only one."

How do you see your role as Location director for AEA Technology at Harwell?

"I am nominated as a spokesperson to communicate the Company's key messages, a channel of communication to and from employees and other audiences, but I don't want to get in the

way of our operating group general managers in running their business areas. This is in no way the kind of job that one of the old Harwell site directors might have been seen as running."

When do staff of AEA Technology have the opportunity to see and hear the chairman or chief executive?

"Regular staff talks are held on an almost quarterly basis where the chairman or chief executive visits each of our locations in turn."

Who, of yourself as Location director for Harwell and Chris Wright as Location director for Culham, is responsible for general AEA Technology matters about Culham and Harwell?

"Because AEA Technology's staff numbers at the Harwell site are larger than those at Culham and because I am also Corporate Affairs director, I will tend to take the lead in terms of local media relations. My job is to act as a Corporate Spokesperson. However, if there is a specific Culham issue, Chris would deal with it in the media; if it is Harwell specific, I will deal with it."

How can employees communicate with you?

"Any way they like; for instance, through e-mail. Other channels of communication will be through regular interviews with AEA Times and CH News, and I will be increasing my availability through informal visits to departments. I am happy to have informal meetings or lunches with Business Development Executives, Operating Group managers and their staff. In fact I have already enjoyed such meetings after invitations from some general managers to do just that. I know both they and I found this very valuable. They got some straight talking from the management committee about what was going on, where we are going and our current issues and I got some very good feedback on how they perceived life and what issues were concerning them. If any other group or department would like to invite me along, I would love to meet them and find out more about what is going on in their area."

I will also be hosting social events, open days for employees and families, and organising staff clinics which supplement and add value to other

owned company, AEA Technology plc, on 31 March, 1996. Additional new responsibilities, as Location directors, have been given to AEA Technology's Kevin Murray, director of Corporate Affairs, and Chris Wright, director of Operations Services. Both are already members of AEA Technology's management committee where they will also represent these important new

employee communication activities. I will be arranging for the production and launch of an information pack on site activities and, in addition to attending Local Liaison Committee meetings, I will chair and be responsible for running AEA Technology's Harwell site council, to be formed from staff representatives elected by our employees, the inaugural meeting of which will be chaired by the chief executive."

Where are the management committee meetings held?

"We are making sure that the management committee visits each of our locations in turn, even though Harwell is our Headquarters. Our meetings usually last for half a day coupled with a tour of our facilities and a look at what we do at that location."

What will you be doing to develop AEA Technology's profile via the local media?

"By making stories about our new products, new contacts and our people, available to the local media. Equally when there are new developments such as our impending privatisation, I will be the spokesperson. In the week before 31

March, Visting day, when we become a separate entity, we are planning to launch some national corporate advertising, plus media coverage announcing the form of Visting."

Do you have a message for people in the local community?

"As a Company of tomorrow we recognise that our success depends on people – our customers, investors, suppliers, staff and neighbours – and we are interested in making sure that we have a win-win relationship with them, one that is mutually beneficial."

What will AEA Technology be doing for the local community?

"As a science and engineering organisation, it is in our interest to promote science and engineering. We are already looking at some appropriate local sponsorship, for instance in our field of work and in education. During this year, in our own distinct way as the major tenant of the Harwell site, we hope to be taking part in Harwell open days, and events to celebrate Harwell's 50th year."

Kevin, married to a British wife and with

roles. They will become key spokespersons to communicate the Company's vision and values to local audiences, become accessible to the Company's employees to provide face-to-face communication on current concerns and issues, and act as channels of communication providing feedback between employees, the local community and the Company's management committee.

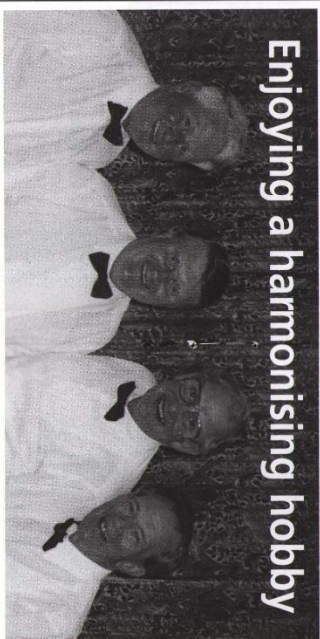


Chris Wright, newly appointed Location director for AEA Technology at Culham.

two teenage children, was educated in South Africa, coming to the UK at the age of 31. In his spare time his interests include golf, computers and cycling.

Next month we will profile the newly appointed Location director for AEA Technology at Culham, Chris Wright.

Enjoying a harmonising hobby



SOUNDS EAST: from left: John Barbridge who retired in 1991 after 35 years at Harwell; John Edwards, who came to Harwell in 1967 and currently works for Engineering Design Group, AEA Technology; Barrie Bridgeman who joined the Rubertford Applikon Laboratory in 1955 and retired from there in 1995, and Graham Cox who joined Harwell in 1956 and retired in 1993, returning as a consultant for the site Infrastructure Renewal project until May 1995.

A LOVE of barbershop singing has brought together three retired and one present Harwell employee in forming their own quartet. As well as steadily building their repertoire, all four of them also enjoy singing with White Horse Harmony, the Wantage barbershop singers.

John Barbridge, John Edwards and Graham Cox have all sung some 20 years previously, in the local Harwell village, and Scott Gang Shows and joined White Horse Harmony (WVHH) at the same time, two and a half years ago. Since they sing tenor, lead and baritone respectively, they advertised for a bass singer to make up a barbershop quartet. Barrie Bridgeman, a WVH senior member stepped forward and 'Sounds Easy' was born! "White Horse Harmony are looking for new members – anyone who can sing in tune can learn to produce the great barbershop sound – meanwhile 'Sounds Easy' would consider requests to entertain, we await others!"

Safety facts

Accidents in January 1996

Lost time accidents	C	H
Culham/Harwell	1	5
During January	1	5
Total this year	1	4
Total reported to HSE	1	4
Total days lost in '96	5	53
Minor accidents (no time lost)		
During January	4	17
Total for 1996	4	17

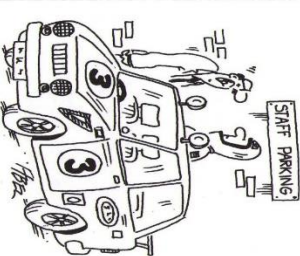
Radiological Incident

There was one radiological incident designated at Category 2 during the January reporting period. This occurred when a member of staff was preparing active specimens within a fume cupboard and subsequent examination of finger dosimetry indicated a received dose of approximately one tenth of the annual limit. A management investigation is underway to ascertain the cause and to recommend any changes to procedures.

Klaxon Testing

The Harwell Site Emergency Klaxons will be sounded for a reliability test at 1400 hours on Tuesday 2 April 1996. Any faulty Klaxons should be reported on the appropriate form (H/1456 -rev 4/87), which can be obtained from Business Administration Offices or from the Emergency Planning Officer, building 151.

Justin fun
by Abel



"I don't care if you did win the final stage, Parker – it's still misuse of a company car!"

Free classifieds

Classified advertisements on this page for employees and retired staff of Culham & Harwell Science & Engineering Centres, JET, RAL, NRPB, MRC and NIREX, and for Holiday Accommodation, are free.

• FOR SALE •

- BARBOUR**, Northumbria, heavyweight thornproof, unused, size 38, £90 ono. H4598.
- BEDROOM FURNITURE**, Stompa Pine, complete high-level bunk/study desk system with 4 drawer chest, shelves and sprung mattress. Cost £750, offers around £250. H6457 or 01865
- BEDS**, Habitat, pine, one 3' single, one 4' 6" double, complete and in excellent condition, price £50 and £75. Large solid wood TV wardrobe with doors and drawer, £120. R5551 or 01235
- BIKE**, Mountain, Girls, Emmelle, pink/white, suit 8 - 11 years approx., lovely condition, £65. 01235
- CAR ALARM SYSTEM**, Moss MS 706, remote controls, ultrasonic sensor, fitting instructions, £40. Volvo 740 floor trays, dark blue, cost £80 new, £35. Terry M360.
- CD PLAYER**, Technics, portable, rechargeable - with adaptor, Mash, XBas, less than 1 month old, guaranteed and boxed, cost £120 new, £70. Keith H3987.
- DINING ROOM SUITE**, Teak, round flip top table (48" extending to 66"), four chairs, 6ft sideboard, £80. R6231.
- DINING TABLE**, Teak, and six matching chairs, 5' x 3' expanding to 6' 6" x 3', £75. 01235
- GAS FIRE**, good condition, £20. Harrison Caravan Nova Awning to suit 16 foot van, used one year only, excellent condition, £50. H3960 or 01235
- HEATER**, Super Ser, £35; two oil filled Dimplex radiators, 1 large, 1 small, £20 and £15 respectively; Washing machine, Bendix automatic, very reliable and v. good condition, £170 ono. H2663.
- HI-FI CABINET**, G Plan, teak, depth 18", width 51.5", height 21", £20. Also two Tannoy Berkeley Hi-Fi speakers with teak surround, depth 12", width 21", height 33", £80. H2898 day or 01235
- HI-FI**, Sanyo Midi, radio/cassette and CD, with remote control, very good condition, £100 or nearest offer. H5608 or 01491
- HOVER MOWER**, BLACK & DECKER 12", 1 year old, good condition, £30. H5284.
- KNITTING MACHINE**, Jones-Brother, £50. Weights and Bar, £15. R5613.
- LASER PRINTER**, Ricoh LP4081, plus Phillips P3120 Personal Computer, 32 Mb hard drive with 3.5" floppy disc drive, MS DOS 4.0 + other software, such as Wordstar and Wordperfect 5.1. Ideal small business or home use. All can be seen working. Bargain price for whole system £365. Mike C3883 or 01235
- LOUDSPEAKERS**, matched pair of LEAK 3030 hi-fi, 6-8Ohms, 35 watts, £20. H3857.
- NATURAL PINE CORNER UNIT**, 2 shelves with cupboard, excellent condition, £50. H6946.
- PIANO**, Kemble upright, 7 years old, custom built, Regency case in dark mahogany, offers around £1200. 01491
- PINE BED**, single, with mattress, £50; Babygym, as good as new, £7; Wooden Playpen, pine effect, with soft mat attached, £25; Pram/carrycot, blue cord, pretty interior, sprung chassis, not buggy wheels, waterproofed, £30. Andy N456 mornings only.
- PINE DRESSER**, Craftsman built with drinks cabinet, width 50 ins, £200 ono. 01235
- PRAM**, Silver Cross, blue corduroy, carrycot to pushchair conversion. Ideal for walking Mum, shopping tray, mattress and other extras. V.g.c., £75 ono. H4568 or 01235
- RADIAL ARM SAW**, Ryobi 10 inch, with stand, 110 volt, needs 1 KVA transformer, £100, J4771 or 01491
- ROOF BARS** with two cycle racks, fit any car/van with gutters, good condition, £30. H6946.
- RUCKSACK**, Berghaus Dart 35, unwanted gift, excellent day/weekend sac, cost £54, accept £36. H2716 or 01235
- SAW**, Black & Decker 9" circular saw with spare blade mounted in a Wolfcraft sawbench with fence, £100. C3913.
- SUITE**, three seater settee with 2 armchairs, Oak frame, velour cushions, £50; Chest of drawers for bedroom, £10 each. 01865
- SUPER NINTENDO** entertainment system with 2 Autofire control pads/multiplayer adaptor plus scart leads etc., includes 9 top games, offers around £150. H6457 or 01865
- SUPER NINTENDO**, two controllers and Pro-Pad, Super

- Mario, Mansell, SFII, Storving, SCART, all boxed, £75. H5284.
- TABLE TENNIS TABLE**, full size table tennis table on frame with wheels, stores upright folded in half, can be used half open for practice, good condition, £40. H5590 or 01491
- TYPEWRITER**, Canon Electronic, Typetar 220, unused, 3.5 K memory, multiple font styles, quality correction on paper, 55,000 word spelling checker/correction, cost £200, will accept £100. Contact J K
- VIDEO/TV CABINET**, £10. R5627 or 01235
- DOORS**, eight internal, four panel, offers? Aquarium, 3ft, with accessories, £60 ono. Futon base 4ft 6", only £25 ono. H4779 or 01235

• CARS •

- MAESTRO**, Diesel Clubman, 2.0 K reg. (1992), only 22,500 miles approx., used as 2nd car, full service history, red with grey interior, MOT August '96, Tax, July '96, excellent condition. £3995, no offers. 01235
- VOLVO 240 DL**, B reg., 69K miles, MOT and Tax to Nov. '96, pristine condition, family ownership from new, any inspection welcome. £950 ono. H2803 or 01235
- PEUGEOT 309 SR**, 1986, 1600 body sound, engine excellent, 12 months MOT, Tax, £500 ono. 01235
- RENAULT 11 TXE**, B Reg. 5 door, 1723cc, c/locking, e/windows, Recaro seats, totally rust free, low mileage, MOT Dec., Tax May, £1195 ono. Jackie or Gordon 01235
- FORD FIESTA**, 1300 GL, W Reg. (1981), gold with brown cloth interior, sunroof, stereo, rear seat belts, rear wash wipe, full years MOT, £375 ono. S.D.
- MAESTRO**, C reg., good condition, 12 months MOT, £500

• ACCOMMODATION •

- BLEWBURY**, professional person required to share new house, large room and all modern facilities, bus to Harwell and Rutherford at the end of the road, available end of February. £280 pcm inc bills. 01235
- WALLINGFORD**, loft conversion/self-contained room to let, share kitchen/diner/bathroom - friendly home, £60 per week + telephone. C3834 or 01491
- ABINGDON**, fully furnished, spacious three bedroom detached home with garden in quiet sought after location, secluded south-facing garage, clean, warm and comfortable, available mid-May onwards. 01235
- STEVENTON**, 2 bedroom first floor flat overlooking Steventon Green, lounge, dining area, kitchen, bathroom includes power shower, small bedroom and main bedroom with balcony. Excellent condition, vacant possession. £58,000 ono. H3960 or 01235
- ARDINGTON**, 1.5 miles outside Wantage, large modern luxurious country house, requires lodgers, full run of house and use of all amenities, parking available, would suit non-smoking professional person, £300 pcm, inclusive of bills. 01865
- DIDCOT**, accommodation available for professional person, £70 pw inclusive of all bills. David 01235
- ABINGDON**, two-bedroomed house on Peachcroft Estate, available for 6 months from beginning June, furnished, C/H, garage, £450 pcm. 01235
- SUTTON COURTENAY**, room available in large attractive house with garden and garage, £200 pm including bills. C3096/3073 or 01235
- WANTAGE**, room in shared house, all mod cons, garden and parking, £205 pcm plus bills, available immediately, non-smoker. Sarah C3871 or Sarah/Rachael 01235
- WANTAGE**, one double furnished room in modern house, £50 per week, to include bills, except telephone, one month in advance, would suit professional, non-smoker. 01235
- SOUTHMOOR**, room available in quiet house for non-smoking professional. Approx 9 miles Culham/Harwell, £50 per week excl. bills. 01865

• HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION •

- CYPRUS**, luxury apartment overlooking sea at Paphos, well furnished, air conditioned, sleeps up to six. C3309 or 01789
- LES SABLETTES**, Mediterranean, Toulon region, holiday flatlet, comfortable, sleeps 4, TV, fridge, phone, etc., 300 metres from beach, shops, scenic walks, 3,000 FF/15 days; 4,500 FF/month, until 14 June and from September on. C3677.
- CORNWALL**, Sennen, delightful heated one bedroom flat, magnificent sea views towards the Isles of Scilly, ideal for walking, nearby path to beach, sleeps 2-4. £85-£185 per week. 01235

- GOWER**, South Wales, holiday cottage, panoramic seclusion, sea views, sleeps 8/9 in airy, split-level comfort, safe sea bathing nearby, sandy beaches, birds, walks, castles, peninsular charm. £315-360 per week. 01403
- CORNWALL**, Newquay, modernised cottage, three bedrooms, sleeps 6, family parties only, no pets, private parking, beach, 10 mins, secluded garden. 01734
- SCOTTISH BORDERS**, holiday cottage, sleeps 2-4, all mod cons + phone, incoming calls only, £120 per week. 01235
- FRENCH ALPS**, Bourg St. Maurice, very well equipped apartment, sleeps 8+, ski in Les Arcs, access by funicular, close to Val d'Isere, Tignes, La Plagne etc. H4159 or 01235
- NORTH WALES**, Colwyn Bay, popular sea front holiday flats, competitive prices, dogs welcome. 01492
- DERBYSHIRE**, Eyam, old stone cottage in the Peak District National Park, fully equipped, gas C/H, microwave, dishwasher, colour TV, linen provided etc., sleeps four plus cot. Details from Risley 2466 or 01925

• WANTED •

- PATIO DOOR**, UPVC, 5ft - 6ft. 01235
- LEAD GUITARIST**, urgently required for country/rock 'n' roll band, gigs booked. 01235
- COOKER**, gas or electric, width 56 cm. R R

• PERSONAL •

- R5259** or 01235
- R5259** or 01235
- MISSING** - has anyone seen a small, friendly short-haired black cat, missing since 22 January 1996, in the Grove area, Mallard Way, he was wearing a yellow fluorescent collar. If so, please phone Krista, H4933. Thank you.
- CATHIE R**, Harwell reception, would like to thank all her friends and colleagues for their kindness and support after the death of her husband Ray, on 11 January 1996. Also for the donations for the Heart Unit at the John Radcliffe Hospital, totalling £780.

LIFT SEARCH SPECIAL

Following the announcement last month of the cessation of the Harwell home to work transport service south of the site, with effect from the end of this month, CH News is pleased to be able to offer this special feature for those seeking or offering lifts.

NEWBURY/THATCHAM and Harwell (standard hours). Male, 33 year old, non-smoker, good sense of humour, seeks anyone (male/female/mixed) willing to enter into meaningful long-term journey-sharing relationship, having been jilted by ex-partner Procord. Has no car to contribute but will donate generously to petrol costs to satisfy insatiable desire to travel 30 miles a day! Reply to Dr Ian S55, ("happily married with 3 kids, honest...!") H2474 Fax H3945.

SOUTHMOOR/KINGSTON BAGPUIZE and Harwell. Paying passenger seeks occasional lift/car pool. Jacque, H3615.

HENLEY ON THAMES and Harwell. If anyone wants a lift then phone Tristan on H3414.

READING and Harwell/RAL, two fare-paying passengers required. Beth, R6446.

HARWELL VILLAGE and Culham. Paying passenger seeks lift from April onwards. Barbara, H5060.

SOUTH/CENTRAL NEWBURY and Harwell/NRPB. Interested in joining or setting up a car pool? Contact Mark, NRPB 2806 or 01635

NEWBURY, Wash Common, and Harwell. Fourth member required now or after 1 April, for car pool travelling to Harwell main site. H4637 or H2766.

SHILLINGFORD and Harwell. Paying passenger would like to join car pool for temporary period, from 1 April, until relocation to Culham. Roger H5238.

WANTAGE and Culham, due to relocation paying passenger seeks lift from 1 April, 1996 onwards. Linda H5246.

Note: Telephone extensions for classifieds are prefixed as follows: H. Harwell; C. Culham; R. Rutherford Appleton laboratory; N. NRPB; Ni. Nirex; J. JET. M. MRC

NOTE: All copy and classified advertisements should be sent to The Editor, CH News Free Ads., c/o Nick Hance, 521, Harwell. Telephone ext. 6909, Fax: 6899.

Next issue: Copy deadline Monday 19 March for publication Wednesday 3 April

Stores did a brisk trade in torches

A FEATURE of working at Harwell in the early years arose from being alongside the necessary work of digging into its chalk strata to put in service ducts generating a maze of deep trenches, white mud and lots of dust. Harwell staff living as far away as Oxford, Reading, Newbury and Swindon were immediately identified as working at the 'secret atom station' by the state of their clothes!"

The conditions on Harwell site in 1946, were not easy. D R Wilson wrote, "Building work was in full swing converting the RAF blocks into laboratories and the infernal trenches that were to dominate the site during the coming winter, were already creeping out. The site roads were blocked, re-opened and re-blocked until it was impossible to travel except in the spirit of an explorer. Street lighting was practically non-existent and Stores did a brisk trade in torches."

Pillow frozen

One consequence of building Harwell on a 750 acre disused airfield is that the flat terrain is exposed to all weathers.

After a difficult first year Harwell was to experience the winter snows of early winter 1947.

Dr J B Adams, subsequently to become Culham's first site director, recalled, "That winter was a terrible experience, snow, frozen mud and

Continuing our look back at the early years of Harwell

by Nick Hance

a severe lack of domestic fuel made living and working a real hardship. This was the only time in my life when I woke up in bed in the morning to find my pillow frozen to the wall."

Staff living in the prefabs had their electricity cut off from 9 am to noon and between 2 and 4pm and were asked not to be extravagant with their immersion heaters.

The 'Austerity Years' meant rationing and coupons; the editor of "AERE News" in October 1947 wrote, "Owing to an acute shortage of paper, it is regretted that this circulation will have to be considerably reduced. For the time being it will be restricted to all the houses on site, the staff clubs and one to about every half dozen people on the site, so I ask all readers to pass round their copies quickly."

Fatality

Dr Heinz London FRS started his career in Risley in 1946 but was soon to come down to Harwell where he started work on the enrichment of the stable isotope Carbon-13. He wrote, "This led to the erection in the staircase of the Water Tower, building 60, of a 32 foot low-temperature distillation column." Similar work by scientists inside one of the three RAF navigational towers — one tower still remains at the back of building 353 — led to the first fatality on the



One of the three navigational training towers, known as 'The Harwell Box' used by the RAF for aircraft training to simulate engine failures, enemy aircraft attack and celestial navigation. The gunner had to follow the movement of a spot of light with another light which was fixed to the gun mounting in his turret. It was in a fall from the top of one of these towers that the first Harwell fatality occurred.



Work starts on the BEPO Chimney stack in the severe winter of 1947. The architect wanted an eight-sided stack but a circular one was built for expediency. Surrounding it is the maze of ducts and trenches.

Harwell site occurring through a fall from the top. The tower was demolished in 1962.

Dr London subsequently went on to work on the properties of helium-3 that led to the successful design of the Harwell Refrigerator which could cool to within a few hundredths of a degree above Absolute Zero, -273 degrees Centigrade. In an early transfer of technology from Harwell to industry, the local firm of Oxford Instruments were selling these by the time Harwell was just 20 years old.



Hangar 10 in the snows of Winter 1947. The recently raised roof to accommodate the BEPO reactor can be seen.

Out & about

Help ADMS celebrate their Golden Jubilee

Saturday 9 March
Abingdon and District Musical Society (ADMS) present: Faure: Requiem and Pergolesi: Magnificat, both with professional soloists. Conductor Mary Moore, Leader Michael Heathcoat, with Chorus and Orchestra of the Society, 8 pm, Arney Hall, Abingdon School. Tickets £6 (£4 OAPs, students, children, unemployed) from Modern Music, High Street, Abingdon and at the door.

Enjoy some Sacred Motets and Spirituals from Oxford's City Choir

Saturday 23 March
The City of Oxford Choir present: Sacred Motets by Stanford Poulenc; Avo Part, Beatitudes; Adrian Self, Missa Brevis, Victimae Paschali Laudes; Spirituals, Tippett. St Barnabus Church, Jericho, Oxford. Tickets £7, £5.50 concessions from Blackwells Music Shop, Holywell Street. Oxford 792792 and at the door.

"Red alert on green lanes"

Sunday 24 March
The Friends of the Ridgeway, Annual General Meeting, The Village Hall, Liddington, 2pm. Guest speaker: Elizabeth Still, Honorary Secretary GLEAM. Books and maps for sale. Stan Green will demonstrate his Ultimate rambling staff between 1 and 2pm. Admission Free. Refreshments. Travel directions: Landranger map 174 ref:SU 206813.

Feast on some beautiful music

Sunday 24 March
All Saints Singers present a concert including: Haydn's 'Maria Theresa' Mass, Antonio Vivaldi's 'Beatus Vir', Allegri: Miserere and Concertino for clarinet and strings by Tartini. at 7.30 pm, All Saints Church, Sutton Courtenay. Tickets £4.50, £4 concessions, £10 family (of 4).

Hear Handel and help Church funds

Sunday 31 March
Steventon Choral Society, accompanied by an orchestra, will present: Coronation Anthems, 'My heart in inditing', 'Let thy hand be strengthened', 'Zadok the Priest' and 'The King shall rejoice', plus parts of 'The Messiah', so it promises to be a special evening — proceeds towards Church funds. 6 pm St Michael & All Angels Church, Steventon. Refreshments available afterwards in St Michael's Hall. Tickets £2.50, concessions £2, available shortly from The Co-op, Steventon, or Pat Napper, H6985.

Singer Songwriters Showcase

Thursday 23 May
Featuring Kloe, a taste of modern Ireland; Ray Man, unique and original local songwriter; Dave James; Sculptures on stage by Jason Sargeant, at The Wyvern Theatre, Swindon, at 7.30 pm. Tickets £5



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Events for SET96 – a national celebration of Science, Engineering and Technology 15-24 March,

set96*

RUTHERFORD APPLETON LABORATORY, Chilton, Pickavance Lecture Theatre.

Friday 15 March • Sights and Sounds (P)
Speaker: Michael Williams of Oxford Illumination
10.15am for 10.30 am and 12 noon for 12.15 pm
S £1.50, A £2.50

Musical Squares - Adventures in sound and music
Speaker: Dr Mike Gluyas
4.15 pm for 4.30 pm. S £2.00, A £3.00

The Cosmic Egg
Speaker: Professor Frank Close of RAL and of the RLI
Christmas Lectures
7.45 pm for 8 pm. S Free, A £2.50

Saturday 16 March • Making Ice cream - Science gets it licked!
Speaker: Kathy Sykes of Bristol University
7.45pm for 8 pm. S £1.50, A £2.50

Monday 18 March • Colour is Fun!
Speaker: Dr Arthur Tarrant of Surrey University
1.45 pm for 2 pm and 7.45 pm for 8 pm
S £1.50, A £2.50

Tuesday 19 March • A Scientist Talks about Music (P)
Speaker: Professor Charles Taylor, previously of the RLI and University College Cardiff
10.45 am for 11 am and 12.45 pm for 1 pm
S £1.50, A £2.50

Materials in the Fast Lane
Speaker: Professor David Clark, RUSTI, Daresbury Laboratory, Cheshire
7.45 pm for 8 pm.. S £1.50, A £2.50

Wednesday 20 March • Sparks, Arcs and Microscopes (P)
Speaker: Dr Bryson Gore of the Royal Institution, London
9.45 am for 10 am and 1.15 pm for 1.30 pm
S £1.50, A £2.50

Microbes and Mathematics
Speaker: Professor Sir Rober May FRS of the Office of Science and Technology
7.45 pm for 8 pm. S £1.50, A £3.00

Thursday 21 March • Virtual Reality - it's a kind of magic
Speaker: Professor Bob Stone of VR Solutions Ltd, Salford
1.45 pm for 2 pm and 7.45 pm for 8 pm.
S £2.00, A £3.00

Tea, biscuits and technology foresight for science teachers and schools
Speaker: Dr John Brophy of the Royal Society of Chemistry and of BP Chemicals plc
4.15 pm for 4.30 pm
NB: Venue: Conference rooms 12 and 13.
£2.50 each

Friday 22 March
Comets, Dinosaurs and the future of life on earth
Speaker: Professor Sir Arnold Wolfendale FRS of Durham University
7.45 pm for 8 pm.. S £2.00, A £3.00

CHILTON VILLAGE HALL
(S £1.50, A £2.50 for all)
Sunday 17 March • Galileo Galilei,
1.45 pm for 2 pm and 4.15 pm for 4.30 pm

Wednesday 20 March • The sweet Honeybee
Speaker: Professor Ian Munro, SRS, Daresbury Laboratory, Cheshire. 5.15 pm for 5.30 pm

Saturday 23 March • Fun with Liquid Air,
Speaker: Dr David Nicholls of Liverpool University
7.30 pm for 8 pm

Sunday 24 March • Dr Edward Jenner and the speckled monster
By The Famous People Company
1.45 pm for 2 pm and 4.15 pm for 4.30 pm.

ORIEL COLLEGE, OXFORD UNIVERSITY
The Harris Lecture Theatre:
(16 March, S £2.00, A £3.00; rest S £1.50, A £2.50)

Saturday 16 March • Frontiers of Complexity from virtual fish to bees in cyberspace,
Speaker: Dr Roger Highfield of the Daily Telegraph and Peter Coveney of Schlumberger Cambridge Research Laboratory. 4.45 pm for 5 pm

Monday 18 March • Why toast lands butter-side down - the science of Murphy's law
Speaker: Robert Matthews of Oxford and of Aston University. 6pm for 6.15 pm

Tuesday 19 March • Underwater Volcanoes, Deep sea Hot Vents and Black Smokers
Speaker: Dr Rachel Mills of Southampton University
6 pm for 6.15 pm

Wednesday 20 March • 200 Futures for 2020
Speaker: Ian Pearson, a Futurologist from British Telecommunications plc. 6pm for 6.15 pm

Thursday 21 March • Sex, Drugs and the single-horned Rhinoceros
Speaker: Dr Peter Taberner of Bristol University
6pm for 6.15 pm

Friday 22 March • Science and the Ice-man
Speaker: Dr Don Brothwell of York University
6 pm for 6.15 pm

UKAEA, (FUSION) Culham John Adams Lecture Theatre:-

Wednesday 20 March • Science Fact, Science Fiction
Speaker: Alan Bond of Reaction Engines Ltd
7.30 pm for 8 pm. Free

WHEATLEY PARK SCHOOL, Holton, Oxfordshire

Explosives in parlour, pantry and pantomime; principles and practice
Speaker: Malcolm Armstrong of Theatrical Pyrotechnics, Kent
4.15 pm for 4.30 pm and 7.15 pm for 7.30 pm
S £2.00, A £3.00

READING UNIVERSITY

Sunday 24 March • Explosions and Explosives
Speaker: Dr Bob Allgrove MBE of Chichester College of Technology, Palmer Lecture Theatre, University of Reading 7.30 pm for 8 pm.
S £2.00, A £3.00

Key:
P = Primary Level Event
A = Adult and all others
S = Child, Pupil and Student up to and including first degree level.

To book your place/s please send cheques payable to SET 1524 Account, with S.A.E., to: Dr E J Wharton, Place Cottage, 1 The Green, Chilton, Didcot, Oxon. OX11 0SD. Tel: 01235 832335 or Fax: 01235 820686.