

D-Day remembered

Local residents, staff and units of the RAF Associations and British Legion, totalling over 150 people, paid their respects at the annual D-Day Service of Remembrance on 6 June. Providing a backdrop of WWII memorabilia were a dozen restored military vehicles parked in a double column facing the Memorial Stone.

During the open-air service, conducted by Rev. Chris Scott, the Rector of Harwell, wreaths were laid by the British Legion, RAF associations and 38 Group HQ at High Wycombe. UKAEA chief executive Dr John Mckewon, and RAL's chief executive Dr Albert Westwood laid wreaths on behalf of staff. Veterans of the Gunter Pig Club, who were injured WWII aircraft crewing plastic surgery, also attended.

The D-Day Stone, at the end of Frome Road, marks the runway from which six bomber aircraft towing gliders full of troops, took off the evening before the main D-Day invasion for the liberation of Europe. The first British troops to land in Normandy left RAF Harwell on 5 June 1944 and were vital in securing bridges and laying flares for subsequent waves of paratroops that flew in that night. After the service, Dr Mckewon presented RAF 38 Group with a framed extract of The Book of the Dead listing the 72 men who took off from Harwell during D-Day and gave their lives in the invasion offensive. Group Captain John Morder MBE presented John with a replica of RAF 38 Group's crest.

The veterans enjoyed the sunny weather as they later inspected the convoy of military vehicles, organised by Keith Orpin of AEA Technology, who is a member of the Military Vehicle Trust.



RAF Harwell staff and veterans gathered around a restored military vehicle, with a wreath being laid.



UKAEA chief executive, John Mckewon, lays a wreath.



RAF Harwell staff and veterans gathered around a restored military vehicle, with a wreath being laid.

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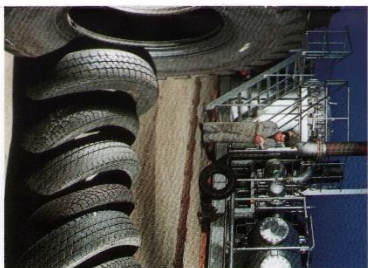
ECHO

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CULHAM SCIENCE CENTRE & HARWELL BUSINESS CENTRE JULY/AUGUST 1998

Beven founder member of new federation

Harwell enterprise, Beven Recycling, has joined forces with five other companies to form the Tyre Recyclers Federation. At its launch and inaugural meeting in London a few weeks ago, the principles of the new body were laid down. In short it aims to raise the status of tyre recycling, to promote responsible recycling methods and provide a united voice for lobbying government and the tyre industry for future reforms.

"Everyone agrees that there is a real problem with tyre disposal, yet every scrap tyre could be put to beneficial use, environmentally and economically," says Ann Lewis of Beven Recycling, who is director and company secretary of the new federation. "We'd like to see a proper infrastructure to handle waste tyres as a step towards achieving that goal."



Woman of the Year

Patricia Leatham, director of the charity, Action against Breast Cancer (ABC) based at Culham Science Centre, has won Oxfordshire's Woman of the Year award. The panel of judges from the Working Women's Forum (WWF) and women's group, Zonta, chose Pat from the five finalists for the 'sheer grit and determination' she had shown in raising over £2.5 million to fund research into breast cancer.

Having set up ABC in 1993 Pat worked initially at home, moving to Culham last May when extra staff and equipment outgrew her house in Long Wittenham. Working tirelessly, the results of her fundraising have expanded the ABC team to 15 members in just five years. Identifying the key to her success, Pat said, "From the beginning, the unique and exciting nature of the research kept me motivated and inspired. Many of our support-



Patricia gave up her job at Oxford's Churchill Hospital to fundraise for the pioneering work of her surgeon husband.

ers live locally and their support and commitment has been absolutely invaluable." Action against Breast Cancer is unusual in funding research into secondary spread, the major cause of death. The innovative research at Middlesex Hospital, which won the 1994 Queens Anniversary Award for excellence in medical research, is led by her husband, Dr Anthony Leatham. The work focuses on three factors - the biochemistry

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The government hopes to increase the percentage of tyres recycled in advance of the expected EU Landfill Directive which will call for virtually all tyres to be recovered. A Scrap Tyre Working Group has been set up including representatives from the tyre industry. One of the initial priorities for the new Tyre Recyclers Federation is to secure at least one seat on this working group.

The federation does not intend to support any one particular method for recycling scrap tyres but prospective members must meet strict standards of professionalism and there is careful vetting to exclude cowboy firms. Even in its independent capacity it has developed a successful pyrolysis system which uses heat to degrade tyres to produce useful by-products including oil, gas, carbon, steel and heat. The company has designed and is to build a plant to recycle up to 500,000 tyres a year. As a topical issue, Bevan's ecologically sound system of tyre recycling has generated much press interest of late with radio interviews on Radio 4's programme 'Coasting the Earth', Radio 5 Live and BBC Thames Valley FM.

Chinese project no.28

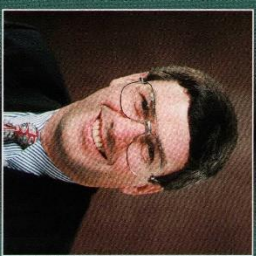
AEA Technology has been awarded a £600,000 contract by the Asian Development Bank to implement an environmental plan for Shanxi, an interior province earmarked by the Chinese government for economic growth.

The project will promote investment in clean technology for industry and public utilities while phasing out polluting and inefficient processes. New legislation will also put in place appropriate enforcement measures.



The Shanxi assignment is AEA/T's 28th environmental project in China since 1986.

New chief constable



Bill Pyke (pictured here) has been appointed as the new Chief constable of the UKAEA Constabulary, succeeding Anthony Pointer.

Bill began his police career in 1972 with the Wiltshire Constabulary where he progressed to deputy divisional commander. In 1992 he joined HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Bristol and became assistant chief officer in the States of Jersey two years later. Bill joined the UKAEA in 1996 as assistant chief constable.

Obituaries

Ged Adams

Professor Ged Adams, former MRC director at Harwell from 1982 to 1995, has died aged 68. A world-renowned figure in cancer research and radiation science, one of his best-known contributions was the development of radio-sensitising cancer drugs - which enhance the effects of radiotherapy - with the first major clinical trial in 1974.

Prof Adams was passionately dedicated to improving patient treatment. He also raised substantial sums of money for cancer research. Following his official retirement from MRC he became the first chairman of the Gray Laboratory Cancer Research Trust at Mount Vernon Hospital, Middlesex. In recognition of his pivotal role, not only in fundraising but in stimulating scientific achievement, the Trust's new building is to be named in his honour. He was also especially proud of his work for the British Journal of Cancer and his role in its expansion.

Numerous honours were awarded to him to recognise his pushing work schedule which continued into so-called retirement. Prof Adams still found time to encourage other people, particularly young scientists, many of whom benefited from his genuine interest and enthusiasm. He was a very warm, human and generous individual and a devoted family man. He leaves a widow and three sons. A memorial service will be held in July. Please contact Julie Cox at MRC on 01235 834393 for details.



Margaret Scott

We regret to announce the death after a long illness, of Margaret Scott, aged 52. Many will remember her as the former superintendent of Harwell's typing pool and latterly as a member of public relations before her ill health retirement in 1993.

Malta tackles pollution



The beautiful Mediterranean island of Malta, where around 450,000 British holidaymakers will spend their holiday this year, is under threat from pollution. NETGEN, part of AEA Technology, has been awarded a contract by the Maltese authorities to help monitor and control air and marine pollution.

Threats to the marine environment include the many passing oil tankers, expanding agriculture and leaching from landfills. Logshedded turtles, a threatened species, can be found in the waters around Malta and there are important sea-fir-

Royal reception

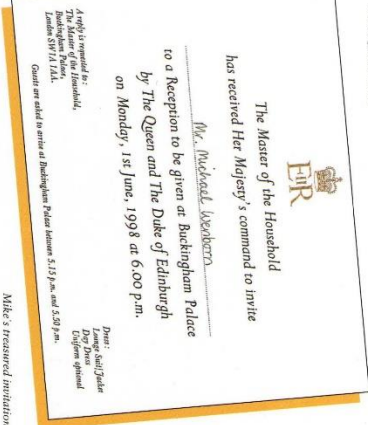
Two AEA Technology staff enjoyed the company of royalty, celebrities and fellow young achievers at an exclusive reception hosted by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace last month.

Joining AEA/T in 1995, engineer Aleks Tomczyk, 27, created, and now manages the company's 'Innovation Plus' scheme at Harwell. It aims to help people develop innovative concepts and bring them to fruition. Since its launch last June over 200 ideas for new products and services have been generated.

Mike Weaborn, 28, was busy sporting famous faces including Zoe Ball at the 900-strong reception, when he bumped into Aleks, whom he had met while on a management diploma course. Mike is a member of the strategic consulting team within AEA Technology Environment. Last year he spent over four



Aleks Tomczyk was AEA/T's youngest employee to be selected for the company's high potential employee development scheme.



Mike's treasured invitation.

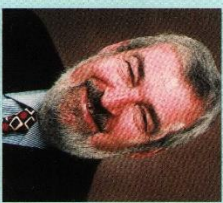
Birthday honours

In this year's Queen's Birthday Honours List an OBE has been awarded to a scientist who helped in the Sea Express clean-up operation and a former top naval officer, who recently became technology director for AEA/T Nuclear Engineering, was made a CB (Companion of the Order of the Bath).



Dr McDonagh has been involved in bioremediation and oil spill computer modelling.

Dr Madeline McDonagh works for NEAT Environment at Culham and has helped develop techniques to protect Britain's coastline and rivers



Rear Admiral Paul Thomas joined the Royal Navy in 1963 and held a range of engineering and design posts associated with nuclear and conventionally powered submarines, before taking on a number of senior operational management posts including responsibilities for nuclear safety. Among the posts he held with distinction were captain of the Royal Naval Engineering

from pollution. She said, "I view the award very much as a recognition of the achievements of the AEA Technology team as a whole. Success has only resulted because of their efforts and dedication and my sincere thanks go to all involved."

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SAFETY FACTS

Lost time accidents

	C	H
Culham/Harwell	0	2
Recorded since last issue	0	2
Total this fiscal year (98/99)	0	3*
Total reported to HSE (98/99)	0	1*
Total days lost in 98/99	0	25
Minor accidents (no time lost)	3	8
Recorded since last issue	3	8
Total this fiscal year (98/99)	10	21

*One HSE reportable IFA incident included in last month's statistics had been removed from the table as the investigation identified it as a non-work related event.

There was one non-radiological incident, designated category 2, reportable since the last issue of ECHO.

Electrical incident
Four pumps in the B8.6 Pumphouse were found to be incorrectly wired (phases reversed) rendering them useless.

Eco-warriors wanted

Are you interested in matters ecological? If so, you may want to get involved in an ecological initiative on the Harwell site.

UKAEA wants to assemble a list of people interesting in helping with an ecological management initiative to preserve and encourage different habitats and species on the site. Simple improvements are already being made to encourage wildlife such as pollinating poplars, stacking logs as pieces of shelter and using wood chips as ground mulch. Help is needed for a wider range of work as the plan develops, for example, counting species numbers.

If you are a budding naturalist, an orchid expert or just someone who would like to get involved please contact Dawn Russell on H3669 or e-mail: dawn.russell@ukaea.org.uk

ECHO BRIEF

Top safety award



UKAEA at Harwell has won a prestigious award from the British Safety Council for its below average accident rates. Sir Neville Parry (left) BSC director general is seen here presenting Allen Edwards with the award for a special ceremony attended by 1900 guests. Prime Minister Tony Blair gave a message to award winners praising their vital contribution to the UK's corporate safety culture.

Destroying chemical weapons

The US Army has awarded a \$150,000 contract to AEA Technology and US-based CH2MHill to assess an environmentally friendly process for destroying scrap metal chemical weapons.

Under the Assisted Chemical Weapons Assessment (ACWA) programme, the US Army must use new technologies which are alternatives to incineration. The Silver II decontamination oxidation process has been successfully tested on live nerve agents and mustard gas. Recent tests show how agents and explosives are completely broken down into inert gases, liquid and solid wastes for standard disposal.

NRPB advice

A booklet on protection of the fetus during medical diagnostic procedures has been jointly published by the NRPB, the Royal College of Radiologists, the Royal College of Nuclear Physicians, the Royal College of Radiographers. For copies contact the NRPB information office, Chilton, Didcot, Oxon OX11 0FQ.

Vectra acquisition

Vetra Technologies, which operates from the Harwell International Business Centre, has acquired an asbestos management company. To be known as Vectra N Jones Ltd, the new subsidiary will complement the company's existing services which include the decontamination and decommissioning of dental and nuclear facilities.

Coral Adventure

Spending three months on a Cay - a coral island - may sound like paradise, but the neighbours aren't very appealing - vampire bats, mosquitoes and tarantulas!

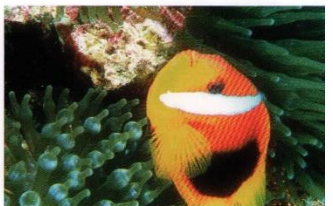
Saïe Byfield, who works for AEA Technology at Chilton, left the UK at the end of June to become a 'venturer' on a Raleigh International project in Belize. The charity (previously called Operation Raleigh) arranges for 17-25 year olds to work on a variety of community, conservation and scientific assignments in challenging environments.

As a marine scientist Saïe will run a coral surveying project to gauge reef damage due to agricultural practices. Land cultivation leads to soil erosion and greater sediment spilling from

rivers out onto the reef, causing ecological suffocation.

Her first task is to establish a self-made camp and train all the venturers to dive. They will then take measurements of tides, currents, turbulence, weather and reef transects. Saïe will manage the project and write reports on its findings, conclusions and how the team performed.

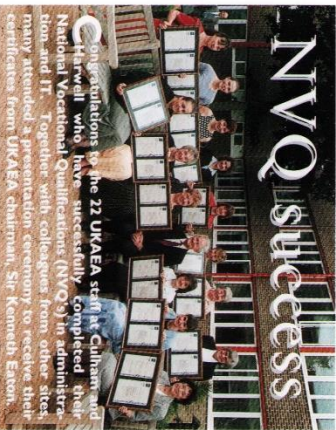
"It will prove a valuable experience and I hope to fulfil some of my own objectives such as team building, management and presentation skills and confidence building," said Saïe before



she left. "I've been granted three months unpaid leave and a donation towards equipment costs by AEA Technology. There'll be no excuses for me not taking some good action shots as the Imaging Centre has lent me a waterproof camera".

Coach changes

If you use the coach service that runs between Didcot Parkway station and the Harwell campus on weekday mornings please note the following time changes. Trains previously met were those arriving at Didcot at 09:08 and 10:52. However, following timetable changes coaches will now meet the 09:13 and 10:23 trains. Should you have any queries, contact the service please contact Johnson Contracts, Transport office on H45389 or e-mail: bimw@hqbpoord.com.



Congratulations to the 22 UKAEA staff at Chilton and Harwell who have successfully completed their National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) in administration and IT. Together with colleagues from other sites they attended a presentation ceremony to receive their certificates from UKAEA chairman, Sir Kenneth Eaton.

Exotic visitors

A pair of peacocks took up residence on the Reactor Site behind UKAEA's HQ, B521, Harwell during June.

Property manager, Peter Greenhalgh rapidly became the in-house authority on these exotic birds as he contacted a



The peacocks made themselves at home in the HQ gardens.

variety of agencies and possible local owners seeking advice on how best to handle the avian invasion. Apparently, the best way to trap them was to put out a trail of strawberries... Their diet took in almost anything - apple cores, insects and leaves -

especially the leaves of tender shrubs and plants recently planted in the new gardens around the Marshall Building! Staff consulted bird books to verify that, yes, they could fly and needed to roost in high trees, of which there are quite a few at the southern extremity of the Harwell campus.

Exhaustive enquiries led to Ridgeway Farm, Chilton whose owner confessed to having bought a pair just a couple of weeks before. "I feed them at breakfast time and don't see them until the next morning," she said. "That's because they prefer to lunch and dine on our shrubs!" said Peer. Meanwhile staff are being advised not to feed them whilst devours plans are being hatched to catch them and have their wings clipped so they remain on the right side of the fence.

YE Paradox wins at

Before an audience of nearly 300 people, "Paradox", a team from Headington School, won the Oxfordshire Young Enterprise (YE) Finals at the John Adams Lecture Theatre, Chilton.

UKAEA and JET co-sponsored the county event that tested the entrepreneurial skills of Oxfordshire sixth formers managing their own trading companies. Six teams presented their products, exhibited their wares and won a variety of shields and cups.

Frank Briscoe, UKAEA Chilton, welcomed the guests and presented the awards. One of those, the UKAEA Cup for the best financial report went to 'Empura', one of two teams from the School of St Helen & St Katherine, Abingdon, who made it to the final six. Larry Byrne, JET director for administration, was also present.

Fusion takes on the French!

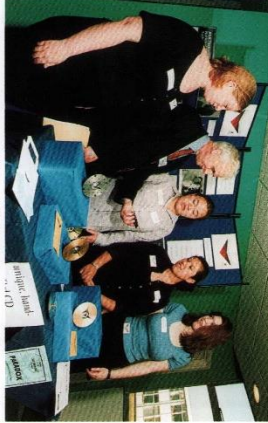


Alan Stokes (far left) explains about the STARK experiment.

The Centre for Continuing Education at the University of Bath ran an intensive six-week English language programme in June for 17 French engineering students from the Institut Supérieur de Génie Technologique Aalainech, France.

As part of their programme, the students were given the opportunity to visit the UK Fusion facilities at Chilton. After an introduction to the programme by Tom Todd, industry department manager, they toured the experiments, COMPASS, STARK and, of course, the newest, MAST. Being launched earlier this year,

Culham



Frank Briscoe examines one of the novel CD disks. As winners, Headington School go on to represent Oxfordshire at the regional competition in Bristol.

Overall they made a profit of £1200 resulting in a huge 205% pay-out to their shareholders! Frank Briscoe spent an hour touring the exhibition stands and chatting to the young

All change at Culham shop

There's a new face to welcome customers at the Culham store. After 36 years Peter Beethes has retired. Kim Hurst is the new proprietor and she has already introduced some exciting changes.

This time last year Kim was a buy sales manager for a national organisation but as she approached the big '40' decided to rethink her goals in life. She was keen to do something for herself which she could develop and take pride in. Taking over the Culham shop was the ideal opportunity to start a new challenge and she's thoroughly enjoying it.

"The freshly baked goods - bread, pastries, pizzas and pies - are really popular," says Kim, who is considering an afternoon bake so that staff can have warm bread to take home. "I've also



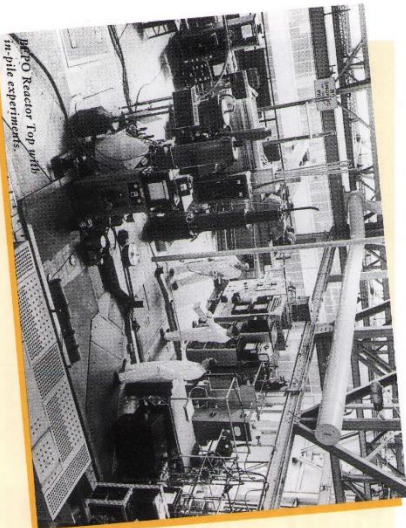
A treat starts for Kim who has great enthusiasm for the new enterprise.

started a video club and will soon be redecorating throughout. "I want this to be a convenience store in every sense - a shop which meets the needs of its customers and I'd welcome suggestions and new ideas. Everyone has been very friendly and the feedback is very positive."

Retirement wishes

Doug Cummings of AEAT, says 'Cheerio and thanks' to all those who wished him well on his retirement after 42 years at Harwell and Culham and is sorry that he wasn't able to contact everyone he knew before he left. He is pictured here (centre) with Chris Scribby, head of the NDT Centre (left) and Mike Hutchins.



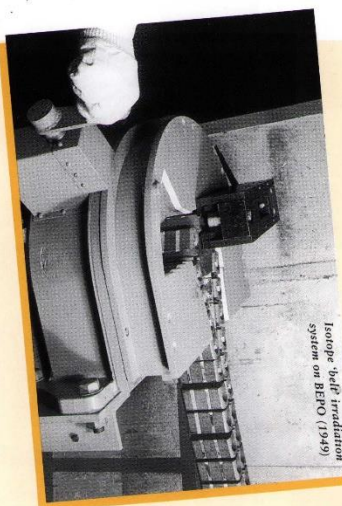


BEPO Reactor Top with graphite experiments.

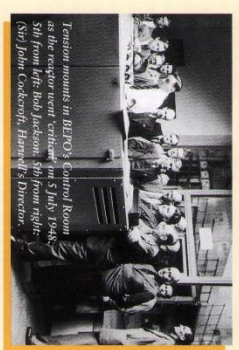
BEPO, Harwell's second reactor and Europe's first research reactor to operate at significant power (6 MW), is 50 years old. 'ECHO' is indebted to Bob Jackson, now aged 76, for details of the early days of BEPO.

BEPO was conceived by UK staff in Canada - Montreal and Chalk River - during the war and was designed and built by the Industrial Group at Kalsey under (Sir) Christopher Hinton. Construction started in the former RAF Hangar 10 in June 1946 and critically achieved on 3 July 1948. To accommodate the emergency shutdown rods the roof of the former RAF hangar was raised 20 feet.

The reactor comprised a 26 ft cube of graphite encased in a heavy concrete shield 6 ft thick, penetrated by many vertical and horizontal experimental holes. The 20 ft diam. core contained 40 tons of uranium bars, each one-foot long and 0.9 in diameter, canned in aluminium and



Isotope 'self irradiation' system on BEPO (1949)



Isotope mounts in BEPO's Control Room as the reactor went critical on 3 July 1948. Sit from left: Bob Jackson, Sir from right: (Sir) John Cockcroft, Harwell's Director.

BEPO is 50

disposed in 888 channels. The 25,000 graphite blocks were machined at Harwell to such accuracy that the 25 ft stack was within 0.030 inches of the design figure! The air was cooled by exhaust fans discharging 5 tons of hot air per minute up a 200 ft high chimney.

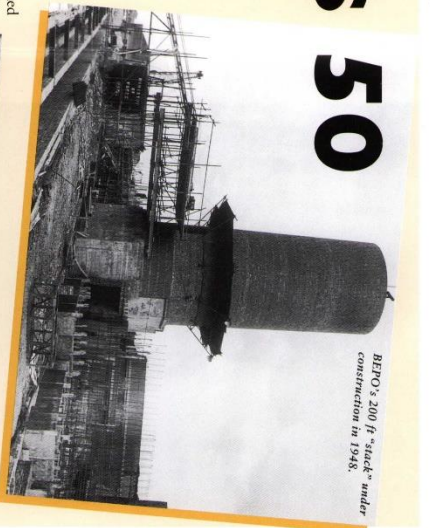
The many experimental holes enabled BEPO to be used to explore gas-graphite chemistry and irradiation damage in materials critical to the power reactor programme. A pneumatic system 'shot' samples into the core and recovered them in the radiochemistry building (R220). Isotopes were made on a continuous basis and enabled Bob West, of Isotope Division (later to become Amerisham International) to establish an international delivery service of radioactive isotopes for medical and industrial uses.

BEPO also provided, under Mony Finniston's guidance, the first UK experience of the problems of reliable fuel element design. In parallel it led to the development of the very successful 'burst cartridge' detection system used on all subsequent UK reactors. Among other firms on BEPO were the installation of a heat-exchanger to provide district-heating to nearby buildings and special filters in the air outlet duct. A bank of Volkes filters, using oil sprays to improve particle size efficiency, was used and the technology later incorporated in the Windscale Ple chimneys.

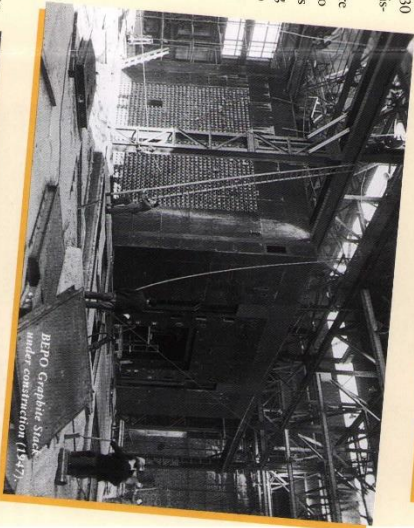
Naval engineers, Dick Moore and Bob Jackson, were appointed to head the maintenance and operations teams under Jimmy Groat. Early BEPO shift engineers included Ken Henry, who went on to manage the Dounreay Fast Reactor, and Cliff Blumfield who became director of Dounreay.

George "Jock" Campbell had already made a considerable contribution to the start-up of the GLEEP reactor and he took charge of all the industrial staff for both reactors. He was a fund of practical advice and assistance and achieved seemingly impossible targets. Another 'character' was Betty Flew, in charge of radiation safety, who could reassure new staff about radiation concerns and gently but firmly keep the older hands in line.

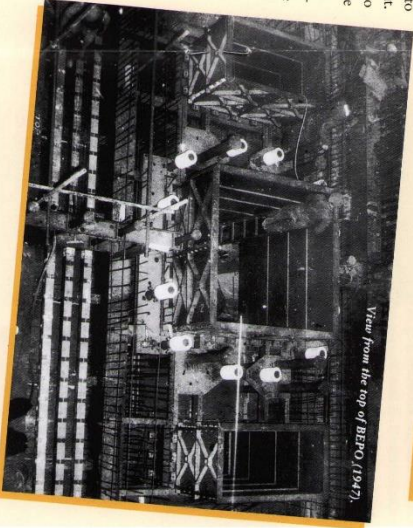
BEPO was the overall responsibility of John Danworth and Fred Penning, later to become a deputy director of Harwell, was the physicist in charge. Among the neutron experimenters were Peter Eaglesuff and George Bacon, while Tom Fry and John Simmonds researched radiation damage in materials. Lewis Roberts, later to become director of Harwell, researched gas-graphite chemistry. BEPO operated successfully until it was shut down in 1968.



BEPO's 200 ft 'stack' under construction in 1948.

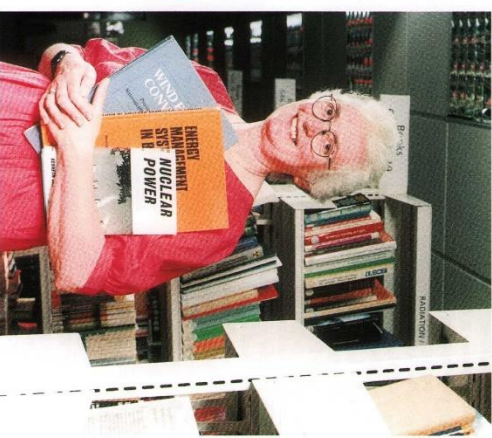


BEPO Graphite Stack under construction (1947)



View from the top of BEPO (1947)

Eve bids Harwell 'adios'!



Eve has witnessed the IT revolution at first hand.

The prospect of working with a computer was one of the perks which persuaded AEA Technology's Librarian, Eve Thornton, to join the organisation originally. Nearly 30 years later, as Eve retires, she reflects that there are now more terminals than staff!

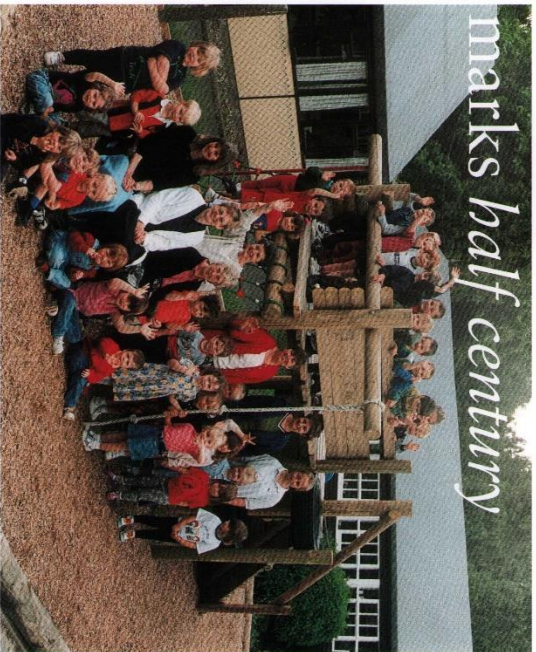
Before coming to Harwell Eve had moved around the UK, taking library positions in York, Somerset, Strling and Cornwall, including 18 months as a farm worker. In 1968 the Harwell library, then located in B465 near the restaurant, was a much larger enterprise, and was leading the way to automation with its punch cards and paper tape records system.

"It was an exciting time. Harwell was exchanging research information with other organisations worldwide and the library had an important role to play," recalls Eve. "The reports collection was, and still is, the nearest complete assembly of Harwell reports."

Probably the most demanding project for Eve was to organise the move to B149 in 1995. The logistics of sorting, moving and reorganising all the books, journals and reports into a smaller regular destination" she says.

becoming a 'jubilant' - the Spanish term for a retired person - and I plan to spend more time cycling with the Wantage cycle club, and travelling too. My sister and one of my nieces live in Sweden so that will be a

Nursery marks half century



Harwell Nursery School celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year.

The original wooden building was purchased from the Salvation Army in August 1946 to provide nursery school facilities, opening for children in September 1948.

RAF Hurst No.155 was purchased by the Ministry of Supply for £3000 and modified for use as a nursery school by WE Chivers, the on-site building contractors. They found time from their nuclear construction works to repair and improve the hut for the sum of £450. This involved installing low-level wash basins and replacing the coke stoves with a central-heating boiler.

The inventory listed "40 coat hooks; 2 fire grates; 1 enamelled bath; 10 wooden shelves ...". Considerable discussions took place between the Ministry and Berkshire County Council to decide the terms of the lease, finally resolved after two years of correspondence!

The proposal, to lease the hut for a nominal rent of one shilling (5p) per annum, became a rental of £90 with most of the maintenance costs borne by the county.

It was argued that in spite of there being no statutory obligation to provide educational facilities for the under-5s, the remoteness of the Harwell site (very few had cars in those days!) meant "

Pictured with the nursery's afternoon group are (left to right) Jo Woodall, Ann Harry, Andrea Sanders, Janet Gaines (lead teacher), Di Baker, Gill Sumton and Rachel Hantiss (a work experience student).

...it was a desirable amenity on a housing estate and the local education authority should be given every encouragement ...". Berks CC was encouraged enough to open the nursery before negotiations were completed and it was one of the first six opened in the county.

A new building was constructed in 1955 and, following the change in county boundary, the nursery was transferred to Oxfordshire CC in 1974. Janet Sanders and Jo Woodhall and nursery nurse Gill Stanton, Di

teacher in its 50 years' history, house, estate and the local education authority should be given every encouragement ...". Baker and Janet King. The secretary, Ann Harry, is the longest serving staff member having started in 1983.

A 50th Birthday Celebration is planned for 9 October.

Children come from a wide catchment area and feed into 15 different primary schools, mainly in the Didcot, Abingdon and Wantage areas. The nursery is staffed by Janet, teachers Andrea Sanders and Jo Woodhall and nursery nurse Gill Stanton, Di

RAL showcase

At least 3000 visitors were attracted to CLRC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory on the last weekend in June to see inside a world-leading scientific research laboratory. They experienced the excitement of leading-edge technology, discovered for themselves the wonderment of scientific research and were able to try out many of the hands-on displays on show.



Staff were happy to help any young budding scientists.

"The incredibly positive reaction of a young family who arrived at 10am and were still here at 5pm was typical of the views I heard and have seen on the questionnaire responses," commented Andy Kurzfeld, chairman of the group which organised the open days.

Helicopter landings at Harwell



The need to use helicopters for business travel is increasing.

Although once a very rare event, over the last 18 months UKAEA's Property Management team has witnessed a steadily increasing number of requests for helicopters to land at the Harwell International Business Centre. Businesses are turning to this form of travel as flying costs come down and because it offers greater speed and flexibility over other forms of transportation.

The Air Navigation (Nuclear Installations) Regulations exclude commercial air traffic from approaching within a restricted fly zone of two nautical miles from the centre of the Harwell site and to a height of 2,500ft. A similar restriction applies to military aircraft. Any aircraft wishing to enter the restricted zone must first obtain a Certificate of Exemption from the Civil Aviation Authority.

The CAA takes advice from Harwell and a decision and exemption can be provided in about two days, in the most favourable circumstances. Detailed analysis of accidents



On Saturday Sir Isaac Newton paid a special visit.

One five-year old, having spent the day at RAL, announced that he wants to be a scientist when he leaves school and come and work at RAL with Mum and Dad!

Contact lost with SOHO

SOHO, the spacecraft which has revolutionised our understanding of the Sun, is lost in space. Scientists worldwide are trying to re-establish contact with the multi-million pound probe. Launched in 1995, SOHO had completed its two-year programme of work but it was hoped that the craft would continue to observe the build-up of solar activity in 2001.

Richard Harrison, SOHO project manager at Rutherford Appleton Laboratories, comments, "We're absolutely devastated by the news that we've lost contact with SOHO. The mission has been such a huge success and we were all looking forward to five more years of data from SOHO. It has revolutionised our view of the Sun.

All about BUG

The Harwell Bicycle Users Group - BUG for short - was formed two years ago with the broad aim of encouraging greater and safer cycling for all employees at the Harwell International Business Centre.

BUG recognises that most staff choose to cycle during summer months but it would like to extend the cycle season and increase numbers by making cycle routes into work more pleasant and less hazardous. To this end BUG has been campaigning for a cycleway from Wantage to Didcot via the Northern perimeter of the site, with a safer crossing over the A4185.

In addition, the proposed route has a 'branch' heading north towards the Packhorse Inn pub to help cyclists from Abingdon avoid the busy, Rowstock roundabout, with a small extension to the Witneyway.

Although progress has been slow, there are regular meetings where all Harwell cyclists are welcome.

STOP PRESS... AEA Technology recently hosted an evening meeting involving local town, district and county councils, Sustrans and cycle representatives from organisations on site. BUG presented its ideas for the cycle route and it is now hoped that construction will begin later this year.

