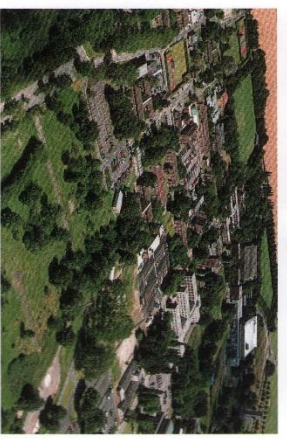


Major upgrade for car parks

A million pound contract - one of the biggest at Harwell - to upgrade site car parking and street lighting is nearing completion. Three new car parking areas have been built creating a total of 325 spaces, including 14 disabled parking bays.

On-street parking along the concrete area in front of the Thomson Avenue in front of Marshall Building (B521). To B150 was removed for safety reasons and a large new 140-bay car park was built at the junction with Tend Street. The informal parking behind B404 has been replaced with a proper car park for 110 cars and a lorry delivery area has been created to improve safety. A brand new park is now available in front of the Western Remediation area between B328,10 and B462.

A number of bicycle sheds have been built providing 48 spaces in all, together with discreet bin stores and lockable skip stores. Additional work is now being planned to overhaul



Harwell viewed from the West with new car parks visible

UKAEA helps fly the flag

A 70-year old guide company is the smallest in its district and also the one with the longest name. The 1st Stamford-in-the-Vale guide needed a new flag but could not afford the £170 cost which reflects the number of letters to be stitched on!

Luckily UKAEA came to the rescue after assistant guide leader, Mrs Claire Folly, wrote asking for help. The dedication ceremony was held on the village's Millennium Green with guests including Stamford-in-the-Vale vicar, Reverend Michael Weston who dedicated the flag, UKAEA PR manager for Harwell, Nick Hance and Mrs Moira Black, district commissioner for Warrington/Sharnham, who said, "Stamford-in-the-Vale guides has only nine members and is the smallest company in my division, but it also has the longest name, the oldest flag, and the newest flag!"



Guide leader, Claire Folly (third from right) displays the new flag. Photo: Farmington Films

A driving ambition

UKAEA receptionist, Tereza Fulker, has certainly broadened her driving experience by taking part in the women's driving challenge in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care. Despite storms and thunder on the day Tereza got behind the wheel of various modes of transport including a snowcat, a digger, various 4-wheel drive vehicles and a fully loaded car transporter.

She performed a number of deft manoeuvres under the critical gaze of family and friends and has raised £215 for the charity as her contribution towards the record-breaking total for the day of £35,500.



Suitable send-off

ECHO designer, Darren Moores, had a happy pre-wedding send-off from colleagues at the Harwell-based Imaging Centre (which also arranges the magazine's print and distribution) who displayed their artistic talents by decorating his car. Darren met his intended, Claire O'Meara, when she worked as receptionist for the AEAT business and they were married on 16 August at the Springs Hotel in North Stoke, near Wallingford.



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ECHO

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CULHAM SCIENCE CENTRE & HARWELL BUSINESS CENTRE

SEPT 1998

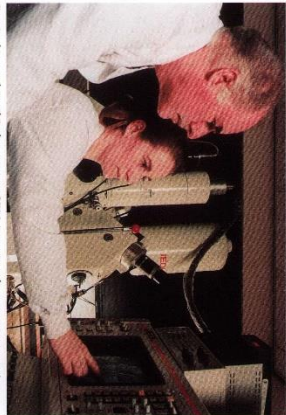
New forensic service helps crack crime

AEA Technology has launched the Forensic Alliance to help police find and analyse vital criminal evidence.

Based at the Culham Science Centre the Alliance has expertise in the main forensic disciplines including DNA, chemistry, drugs, biology and toxicology, allowing investigation of crimes from murder and rape to counterfeiting, criminal damage and fraud.

AEA Technology has joined forces with Cellmark Diagnostics, Europe's largest DNA paternity tester, and Forensic Access, acknowledged as the country's leading independent forensic science consultancy, to offer the new service.

Operations director, Dr Angela Callops, said, "Our laboratory is a formidable resource for investigators putting forensic science back at the top of the list. The police have a tough job to do



Ray Jenkins and April Robinson use an SEM (scanning electron microscope) to analyse glass fragments.

and we can provide them with all the scientific support they need."

In 1996 AEA Technology provided analytical support in the hunt for the killer of French tourist, Céline Figard who was abducted at Chirevelly in Berkshire.

The fully integrated service also offers a comprehensive fire investigation service allowing detection of minute traces of accelerant on clothing. The chemistry team can provide on-site advice to confirm suspicion of explosives manufacture.

Longest serving UKAEA member retires

Brian Metcalfe retired at the end of July, after a 48-year career at UKAEA's Harwell Business Centre.

The Yorkshireman arrived at Harwell in 1950, aged 17, and first worked as a scientific assistant under Roy Huddle in B354, on corrosion studies. His National Service was postponed until 1953 when he spent two years on Air Weapons duties at RAF Vauxhall in Wiltshire and RAF Topcliffe in Yorkshire with No.36 Squadron.

He returned to Harwell in 1955, this time to Dr Henry Seligman's Isotope Division in H10. As a youngster he lived in a number of hostels on site - Portway (B168), P-3-Mess (B173) and Gramsdyke Annex (B156) until he married in 1958.

During the 50's and 60's, Brian was involved in a variety of technology transfer programmes - irradiating diamonds for De Beers, measuring car engine wear from inductium isotopes in sump oil and site migration studies in sea navigation channels. "I remember the removal of the Russian pennant by some young staff from the car used by Belgmann and Krueger during their historic visit to Harwell - under the eyes of their KGB manders. The flag hung in 'g' Mess until it had to be given back!" Brian recalls.

He later worked under Ron Webster in the Analytical Research & Development Department.

Continued on page 2



Brian was also involved in the measurements of strands of Napoleon's hair to determine whether he was poisoned by arsenic, but the results were inconclusive.

This Month
Award for
Laura



Welcome to
Culham



Fun Day
antics



Charity drive



New name, new location

Following a relocation from Pangbourne to the Harwell International Business Centre in March of this year, Engebor has changed its name to XiMed. The fast expanding pharmaceutical company specialises in treatments for cancer, obesity, haemorrhoids and other chronic conditions (which can trigger asthma), using natural ingredients. Since moving to the company has opened the ex-RAF building (147), a complete facility whilst retaining its essential 1930's character. Building improvements include a new laboratory suite for the methodology, formulation, development and post-therapy research.

Government grant

Energy minister, John Birt, has announced that AEA Technology is one of six companies chosen by the government to help tackle nuclear safeguards in Europe. Funding of £2.7m will allow British skills and experience to improve nuclear safety in those countries still operating Soviet-designed reactors, and help improve nuclear safety, material control and accounting of key nuclear fuel-cycle facilities. AEA-T will work alongside NNC Limited in Lithuania where two Chernobyl-type reactors are located at Ignalina.

Community newsletter

The first issue of a community newsletter entitled 'Redevelopment of Chilton Field' was delivered to 900 local residents in early July. It sets out UKAEA's plans for the clean-up of the former RAF 'bomb dump'. Spare copies are available by calling H 6909.

Blood donors

The next blood donor session at Harwell will be held in the U.P. at 11.30 on Tuesday 8th to 13.30 on Tuesday 10th September. New donors are always needed and will be made most 'friendly' welcome. Although not absolutely essential, it will help the smooth running of the session if new donors could complete a special address form which is available from Christer Clarke, PDTU, B150 Harwell, before attending the session.



Disaster recovery award

business magazine has presented Harwell Drying Restoration Services (HDRS) with a disaster recovery award for its restoration of books and documents damaged by water, fire or smoke.

The award from the Leeds & West Yorkshire edition of Business Times recognises HDRS as a major contributor in its highly specialist field and commends the painstaking process which have been developed during ten years of research and practical experience.

HDRS uses freeze-vacuum-drying chambers and mobile cold stores for rapid restoration of wet documents and to control post-irradiation. A de-gasification or document cleaning service is offered for materials damaged by smoke and fire. The restoration package may also include other related services such as confidential disposal or treatment of special materials. For organisations with responsibility for valuable or irreplaceable materials, a priority use option gives a worry-free integrated service including a 24-hour emergency hotline. The company offers post-disaster restoration of legal and accountancy records, library books and many other archive documents, even magnetic media.



Mr Ken McKenzie, says the award has confirmed HDRS as a leading force in the UK in this specialist area.

Spare time study success



Miriam Mason must be congratulated for giving up her valuable spare time to study for a hard-earned qualification. She has just been awarded the certificate in management by Oxford Brookes University and licentiate membership of the IPD. Miriam, who is department secretary, UKAEA Fusion Operations, at Culham, felt the work was especially useful as it related to current projects and, far from taking a rest, she plans to do a second year to gain a diploma and possibly and MA in the longer term. She is pictured here with Madeline who took part in this year's Daughters to Work scheme.

Continued from front page

Longest serving UKAEA member retires

Development Unit and was to do valuable work on an X-ray system, to be used in BNFL's THORP reprocessing plant, to analyse radioactive liquid streams. In 1988 he transferred to the Nuclear Materials Control Office in B110.23 and saw out his career in B521 under Dr John Myatt.

"I believe I'm the last 'established' civil servant in UKAEA and its longest serving member. I have spent my career at Harwell and I shall miss its characters." Brian retires to Shropshire where he intends to get involved in community affairs. He also wants to investigate the claim that one of his great-aunts was the mother of Stan Laurel.

New post fleet



The new Suzuki Supercarry vans each powered by an eco-friendly and environmentally friendly 1 litre petrol engine took over as the new Johnson Controls post service fleet at Harwell in July. Pictured here, the smart white vans were chosen for their superb loading access and potential fuel savings.

Lorna Arnold wins Physics Fellowship

Lorna Arnold, at 82, has been made a Fellow of the Institute of Physics. She is not a physicist, her degree being in English and Latin, but the award recognised her work as a nuclear historian.

Mrs Arnold, who lives in Comber Close, Oxford, was born in London in 1915 and during the Second World War worked in the War Office and then in the Foreign Office. She was posted to occupied Berlin after the war and then to Washington - the only female diplomat at the time - and also worked in the Remington.

She returned to the UK, married and had two sons before joining the UKAEA's London HQ in 1959 in the Health and Safety Branch. In 1967 she transferred to the Historian's Office and moved to Harwell in 1976. She was awarded the OBE in 1977.

A hard-working writer Lorna collaborated in a major two-volume book and then published books on Britain's A-bomb programme and has lectured at home and abroad. She has written numerous articles and reviews and has lectured at home and abroad. Frequently consulted by the media, she has taken part in several radio and TV programmes.

Although officially retired, Lorna is still a regular visitor to Harwell, is still writing



Lorna Arnold, still working!

and is sought after for her wide-ranging knowledge of nuclear history by academics and the press as well as by old colleagues at Harwell and Aldermaston. She said, "I was very surprised to be made a Fellow; it is an exceptional honour for someone who has never done any physics"

Feeling hungry? Watch this space...

There's not long to wait now for the opening of the all new kitchen and cafe at Harwell. By the end of this month the new area, located in the conference centre (B4155) will be open for business, serving cooked breakfasts and a wide selection of lunchtime fare.

In the meantime the office lounge in the conference centre is open daily with hot and cold snacks to eat in or take away. The travelling bun wagon will be calling at its regular stops from 8am to 1.30pm, manned by Rob Sofly.



Eclipse web site
<http://www.eclipse.org.uk>

Scientists, sightseers and dedicated solar eclipse followers should make a note of the new national web site launched on 11 August 1998, exactly a year before the first total solar eclipse visible from the UK since 1971, and the last until 2090. The site was set up by CLRC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory on behalf of the UK Eclipse Group. Site manager, Jeremy Curtis, says "The web site has plenty of images and video footage, but we are aware that many of those visiting it will have small PCs with modems, so we've organised it to get to the key information as quickly as possible."

Business 'parks' kids at Legoland

Harwell Business Centre and Milton Park Ltd were pleased to sponsor an outing for 150 children from Sutton Courtenay to visit Legoland in Windsor. Organised by the Parochial Church Council of All Saints Church, the group of excited youngsters was led by Sutton Courtenay vicar, Rev



Catering manager, Hilary Franklin, is running the new cafe conference room here and buffet lunch service. She comes to Harwell from the nearby Foss Research Centre but will be familiar to some staff, having worked at Culham about six years ago.

Out & About

Cake Stall

Thursday 10 September at 12.30pm
Aldfeds Nursery, Parent Staff Association are running a Cake Stall selling a selection of delicious home-made cakes. The sale starts at 12.30pm outside Lloyds Bank on Curle Avenue, Harwell.

Garden fête

Saturday 12 September 2.5pm
To be held at Herford House, East Herford. Grand ballroom race, many stalls and attractions with proceeds to East Herford Community Centre.

MRC seminars

The Medical Research Council has published its autumn seminar programme which features nine lectures by leading experts from around the country. For dates and topics see the MRC website: <http://www.har.mrc.ac.uk/events/seminar.html>

Hot work permits

To meet UKAEA's safety requirement a hot work permit is needed for:

- welding, cutting, brazing and soldering
- hot re-roofing or repairs
- grinding and disc cutting (depending on locations)

For what equipment?

- open flame cutting and welding equipment
- spark producing cutting and grinding equipment
- all portable open heating equipment
- tar boilers

Where is a permit needed?

- at every location outside an authorised hot work bay
- with every permit to work involving hot work

To obtain a permit contact the Johnson Controls fire station at Harwell on H2179/113450 or Culham on C3224/C3289.

Welcome Reception at Culham

Visitors arriving at the Culham Science Centre are assured a warm welcome in the newly refurbished reception area. It was felt that the original 1960's building did not present an appropriate image for a modern business park, so a complete overhaul was needed.

Smart new cladding outside, replacement windows to let in more light, automatic doors, air conditioning and a disabled toilet have been added. The bright interior reflects the colours in the restaurant, giving Culham its own identity. The car park has doubled in size with the addition of a dedicated lorry bay. A new security box has been built and extra planting completes the picture.



A pleasant new working environment for Sue Bony (centre left) and Jackie Harrington (centre right) pictured with Liz Curtis, JCL (left) and UKAEA's Vicky Pitts.

Culham social scene

First event organised by the Culham Social Group was a barbecue for around 70 staff, family and friends.

Plans for leisurely outdoor games and drinks around the 'barbie' were swiftly washed away as the heavens opened and the hoped for balmy evening turned into a monsoon. However, spirits were not dampened and the fun continued indoors thanks to John (son of Richard) Smith's life-saving disco and some highly entertaining dance routines from energetic revelers.

Particular thanks go to the two heroes that night - Ray Willis and Nell Taylor, who stoically manned the barbie in the rain, and also to Wyn and the rest of the social club staff for such a social club staff for such a warm and friendly evening. Thanks also to Julie Bishop, Julian Hawes, Denise Willis, Dave Codling, Chris White and

Louise Ball who earned herself the dubious title of 'children's entertainer' and is awaiting holiday camp offers for next season! The social group, chaired by Cleve Ferry (whose innovative dance technique did not go unnoticed), very much hopes that support will continue to grow and



The reception committee

welcomes suggestions for future events. Current plans include children's Halloween and Christmas parties and a Christmas event yet to be decided, so watch this space ...

Over Jill

Thank you so much for all your good wishes for a speedy recovery. Your kind thoughts and prayers really do mean so much and give me encouragement. I'm on the road to recovery but it will be a long uphill struggle and I look forward to seeing and speaking with you all soon!

Jenny Valins
JCL/NT property & services,
4th/fifth fl

Ecology Spotlight - Orchids

Of all the wild flowers on the British list, orchids are some of the most beautiful and the most mysterious. They arrive out of the blue, literally, in that their seeds are so small that they are taken up on thistles and brought down again by rain. Harwell has a superb colony of several hundred pyramidal and bee orchids - so named because they mimic the appearance of a bee to trick real bees into mating and thus transfer the pollen.

The location of the orchids has an interesting explanation. Many staff will have heard about the US jet which in April 1957 mistook Harwell for RAF Abingdon, landing on Fern Hill Avenue. During take-off the next day one of the temporary rocket pods fastened to its wings malfunctioned. The jet slewed to the left and ploughed through the perimeter fence heading for Hangar 8 and the GLEEH reactor. As a salutary consequence Harwell's former runways were covered with top soil which has since developed into a bountiful piece of grassland complete with diverse flora, insects and a wealth of butterflies, as well as hundreds of orchids.



Ecology rules!

Various measures have been taken to improve the rich biodiversity of the Harwell campus, as part of an overall ecology strategy. In forthcoming editions of ECHO we will be reporting on different aspects of the Harwell ecological environment.

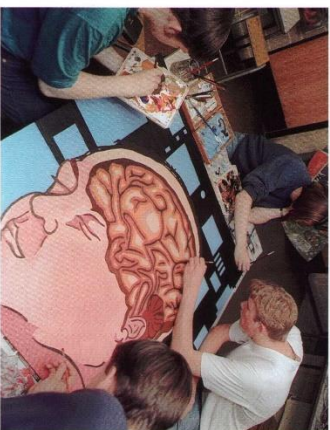
Even small changes can enhance the environment for wildlife. When groundstaff polarded a clump of 25 year old poplars near B344, rather than tidy away the off-cuts, they left the 12 ft long logs in a stack and scattered wood chippings around. An ideal habitat was created for insects, which will in turn feed birds.

Designs on MRC common room

Sixth formers at King Alfred's School, Wantage, have created a stimulating and colourful backdrop for the MRC common room.

Before putting paintbrush to wall, the students had a lively exchange of ideas with scientists at Harwell to decide how they would depict the chosen theme, 'genes'. The young art students chose four aspects: time and evolution; technology; medicine and health and complexity.

As well as tackling a challenging project to count towards their course work the students will also receive book tokens for themselves and a gift for their department. MRC staff involved in the project were impressed by the huge enthusiasm of the youngsters. The completed panels certainly demonstrate their tremendous artistic and technical skills.



Art comes face to face with science as students design mural panels.

Culham gets the cycling bug

Staff at the Culham site are promoting cycling as healthy, fast and environmentally-friendly transport to work. They have launched Culham Bicycle User Group (C-BUG) to focus on improving the site's cycling facilities and also cycling routes to work.

Culham cyclists will join others from Harwell and Milton Park at a fun day on 10 September. It is hoped that future events will include lunchtime bring-your-bike repair and maintenance workshops and confidence-boosting cycle skills sessions to help get more people on their bikes. For further information contact: Paul Davison on C3910 Email: paul.davison@ceat.co.uk



ABC to

fundraising

Culham-based Breast Cancer (ABC), has launched a joint fundraising and recruitment campaign for October to coincide with Breast Cancer Awareness month.

Called the ABC Indulgence Days Campaign, the initiative will encourage individuals to organise 'indulgence' events such as an auction of treats and favours, a sponsored bar-ban or a party of edible treats and delights. Businesses will be asked to involve their staff in a similar event or, more simply, have an ABC collecting tin during October or donate a percentage of monthly profit. The charity also hopes each existing supporter can introduce at least one other person to the charity.

ABC's Liz Kyte said, "This sense the perfect antidote to our hectic and stressful lives. We hope it will inspire some innovative fundraising ideas whether it be through sport, beauty treatments, good food or something more unusual".

To participate in the campaign please contact ABC on 01865 407384.

Charity cycle ride

UKAEA's Ian Rodham and his wife Karen have just completed a 180-mile cycle ride to raise over £1,000 for a charity set up in memory of a friend. The Cary's Wishshurst Memorial Fund was set up by husband Chris Wishshurst who is a business colleague and personal friend of the Rodhams. Before she died Karen asked her husband to set up a fund to support other cancer sufferers. Ian and Karen followed the Oxfordshire Cycleway

travelling around 45 miles a day. The most arduous leg came at the end of the trip cycling through the Chilterns and the 'end of ride' party which also marked Ian's 30th birthday. Both Ian and Karen would like to thank the many staff at Culham and Harwell who have pledged sponsorship.

