

ECHO

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CULHAM SCIENCE CENTRE & HARWELL BUSINESS CENTRE NOVEMBER 1998

Dressing down is on the up

Suits and skirts were left in the wardrobe and replaced by Levi's and Wranglers as dressing down was the order of the day for many staff at both Culham and Harwell sites on Jeans for Genes day. Far from being a dress code protest, staff put on blue denim as a show of strength to raise money for research into genetic disorders affecting children.

Now in its third year this national appeal asked only for a £1 donation to wear jeans to work on Friday 9 October. Funds raised go towards research into genetic or congenital disorders that affect 20,000 babies born each year in England alone. Help will also be provided for valuable family support services.

Cathy Wright, AEAT corporate communications, felt that the level of support had surpassed previous years - she estimated around half of all staff participated - perhaps because the event had been better organised within the company rather than on an ad hoc basis. She also noted that more senior managers had joined in the scheme. At Culham Paul Lindbell of AEAT's National Chemical Emergency Centre was penalising those who were not in their jeans by making sure they paid more.



UKAEA's Trevor Hedges collects from Andy Mann in B511.



Patricia Phillips, Vicky Pina and Jenny Gibbard challenge staff to pack a banana parcel from the cans.

"The day will always be well supported because it's easy to do without too much effort and a bit of fun too," he said. UKAEA personnel staff at Culham used their creativity to raise extra funds. Dressed as cowboys they introduced a Wild West theme to their activities. In the 'prinkle your fancy' game staff paid to pull out the cocktail stick splines in a cactus to win various prizes. Another challenge called patch on your jeans was a version of spot the ball where staff paid to guess where the hidden 'x' spot was by sticking a patch onto a pair of jeans scuffed with newspaper. With the addition of a cake stall they raised around £140 in total.

Thanks must also go to other staff who helped raise money in their organisations including Allen Edwards dept, HSE/D, DCS/Sylvia Welham, Lorraine DMO 41; planning & performance, RDS and the safety department at Risley; JET health physics, finance and contracts, records management B465; pensions admin office; personnel at Culham; Lyne Sutherland D1300 at Donnuvey and Donna Wilson.

Anglers descend on Culham

Over 1,000 anglers from across the UK gathered at Culham Science Centre for the annual national championship of the National Federation of Anglers.

Julian Hunn of Johnson Controls is a local NFA representative and had offered Culham as a suitable headquarters for the match. Ninety teams of 12 arrived at Culham and enjoyed breakfast - available from 6.30am - to set them up for a serious day on the riverbank. Fifty coaches were arranged to take the anglers to their allotted pegs which started at Longworth and stretched down-stream to Goring.

A computer system collated the results and the winning team was pronounced as Southport &



Julian Hunn (left) welcomes Ken Ball, president of the National Federation of Anglers to Culham Science Centre for the recent National Angling Championships.

District. The top individual was an angler from Suffolk who recorded 24,710 kilos (approximately 50lbs) during the five-hour competition. "Everyone agreed that Culham made an excellent head-

quarters," said Julian, "although it was hard work for the organisers. I was on site most of Friday evening and back at 5am Saturday morning, until 9pm tidying up and making sure all competitors were safely on their way home."

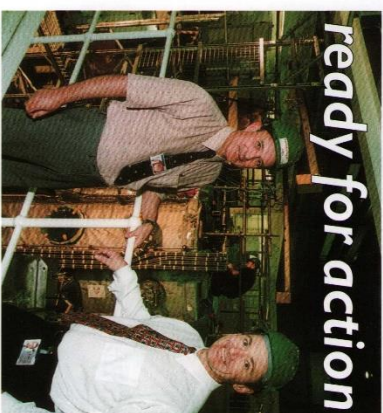
IOD hears about Harwell



Three members of the Institute of Directors, representing local companies small and large, met at the Four Pillars Hotel, Sandford on Thames, to learn about Harwell. UKAEA property manager, Steve Moss spoke about the diverse range of activities currently undertaken by tenants at the Harwell International Business Centre and plans for future development. He is pictured here (left) with Major Tim Hallechurch, chairman of the IOD Oxford Centre.

MAST ready for action

The completion of a successful two-year assembly phase now makes way for the commissioning of UKAEA Fusion's £8m MAST experiment at Culham.



Ashley high standards of safety at MAST. UKAEA's Trevor Hayes and John Hill.

Components for MAST (Mega Amp Spherical Tokamak) have been brought from across Europe and the UK. Originating from AMOS in Belgium, the vacuum vessel was the single largest item and, due to its size, was manoeuvred in through the roof of the building alongside D3. A team of 50 staff and contractors has assembled the spherical tokamak which measures 4.2m in height with a diameter record of 4m. Together with its counterpart, the NSTX (National Spherical Toroidal Experiment) in Princeton, US, MAST is the biggest device of its kind in the world.

During the assembly phase there has been an exemplary record of safety, virtually without incident. UKAEA's Trevor Hayes is supervising officer safety (SOS) and John Hill, assembly manager has overseen the project.

New tenant chooses Harwell

National Power plc has taken out leases on an office building and adjacent laboratory and workshop space on the Harwell International Business



Centre totalling 26,000 sq ft. The office will provide additional space for the company which has recently recruited a number of staff. National Power chose Harwell because it offers convenient facilities and is near to the company's existing corporate offices at Swindon. UKAEA commercial manager, Ian Redham, welcomes National Power as a major new tenant at Harwell. He is pictured here (left) with Wayne Cranstone of National Power, looking at plans outside B418.15, one of the buildings now occupied.

This Month



Command performance



jeans day out



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Terry notches up

After 40 years at Harwell, Terry Cooper, is as enthusiastic about his work as the day he started and has no intention of giving up yet

Terry is a project manager with AEA Technology, Nuclear Engineering, specialising in control and instrumentation. He joined UKAEA straight from school in 1958 as a craft apprentice and as part of his five year training spent his first year at Winfrith with some 60 plus new recruits. On returning to Harwell to complete his apprenticeship he underwent training in virtually every building on site. From 1965 he joined the then Research Reactor Division working in the reactor maintenance teams for BEPO, DAPHNE, LIDO, GLEEP, DIDO and GLEEP.

By '73 Terry was involved in more design engineering work although in those days designs were carried out on the drawing board, before the advent of CAD. He also completed a BSc degree course at Oxford Poly (now Oxford Brookes University).

As a long-term committer from Swindon Terry took the bus for some years and was actually the bus driver for Smiths Coaches in Reading, who ran the service at the time. His principal hobby is coarse fishing in the rivers and lakes near home and he is a keen caravan enthusiast.

"The greatest change that I've witnessed over the years is the advance of technology,"

Mike awarded Chapman medal

RLockwood has been presented with the Royal Astronomical Society's Chapman medal for his investigation work into the magnetic interactions between the Sun and Earth.



The vast magnetic fields around the Sun and Earth are of great interest to scientists. Understanding how they interact is giving scientists an insight into predicting solar weather forecasts and the effect on terrestrial navigation, power and communication systems.

"It's very appropriate to be given a medal named after Sydney Chapman who was one of the first scientists to suggest the existence of the magnetosphere, the area in space which contains the Earth's magnetic field," comments Mike.

National design award

Richard Down, a cryogenic technician at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, is one of only ten students throughout the country who has won a design award from the Institute of Engineering Design.

His award recognised a project completed at Newbury College while studying for his HND. Richard specialises in engineering at very low temperatures and works on lss, the world's most powerful pulsed neutron source which attracts scientists from around the globe. In his project Richard designed a

cryogenic centrexack for use at lss which could reach temperatures as low as -271°C and be easily and cheaply maintained and repaired.



Richard (left) receives his award and crystal goblet from John Boyle of the Institute of Engineering Design.

40 not out!



Terry (centre) had been asked to attend a meeting with his boss to discuss pay increases. It was actually a treat to get him to pose for this surprise photo with all his colleagues.

notes Terry: "Electrical components like valves were superseded by transistors and now we have integrated circuit boards and microprocessors. Where will it go in the next 40 years?"

Obituary

Sir Arthur Vick OBE
1911-1998

Sir (Francis) Arthur Vick, former director of Harwell (1966-69), died on 2 September, aged 87.

Born in Southill and from Waverley Grammar School Arthur Vick won a scholarship to read physics at Birmingham University and became a lecturer at University College London in 1936.

During the war he was seconded to the Ministry of Supply working to prevent aircraft sheds falling into the hands of the Germans. There he became a friend of Dr John Cockcroft and, after nine years at Keele University, accepted the post of deputy director of AERE Harwell in 1959.

He became Harwell's third director in 1960 combining the post with that of director of research for UKAEA. His responsibilities involved extensive travel to other nuclear establishments including Los Alamos in the States. He was a member of the governing body of the National Institute for Research in Nuclear Science (NIRNS),



Dr Vick, director of Harwell, 1960-64

that managed high-energy laboratories. He left Harwell in 1964 but remained as the AEA's member for research until 1966, when he moved to Queens University, Belfast eventually becoming its vice-chancellor.

From 1976 he lived in his native Warwickshire taking on a number of academic posts and being showered with honorary doctorates. He was always happy playing the piano or fashioning spare parts in his elderly Jaguar car in his workshop. He received the OBE in 1945 and was knighted in 1973. His wife Elizabeth, whom he married in 1943, died in 1989 and Arthur Vick is survived by their daughter.

Award for 'switched on' company

An increase in profits from £4.3m to £30.7m in just four years has gained AEA Technology a prestigious award for management excellence.

"AEA (Technology) had the best vision and the best process of all the entrants. It is a very switched on company" commented judges in the 1998 Manufacturing Industry Achievement Awards. Now in its fifth year the awards are recognised as one of the

premier events in the engineering calendar and are supported by the Department of Trade and Industry.

The judges were also impressed by the way AEA Technology had managed its transition from public to private sector company following privatisation in 1996. Turnover rose from £259.2m to £308.4m with sales to UK government and public sectors being reduced from 74% to 37% of total turnover, while sales overseas

Electrical network switch



October 1 saw the signing of the agreement for the sale of the Culham site to the UKAEA. The site is due to begin shortly for completion by April 1999. The programme will create clear separation in supplies to the different areas on site enabling independent meter operator services agreements to be set up to meet Culham's longer term needs as a commercial centre. Planned seated are VERA Lull (SE plc strategic planning manager) and Frank Biscoe (UKAEA Fusion deputy director) and standing (from left) Keith Harris (SE plc electrical engineer), Adrian Wells (UKAEA contracts), Brian Trezise (UKAEA legal advisor), Frederick Shaw (UKAEA project sponsor) and Jamie Sankey (AEAAT project manager).

Royal Academy Culham visit



Over forty fellows from the Royal Academy of Engineers made their first visit to Culham recently and learnt about both STARK and MAST tokamaks at Fusion followed by a tour of JET. The event united UKAEA chairman, past and present - current chairman, Sir Kenneth Eaton and Sir John Hill who was chairman 1967-81. Past president of the academy, Sir William Barlow expressed thanks to the hosts on behalf of the visitors who found the visit a fascinating one. The party came away confident that the European programme's aim of creating safe, environmentally sound and economically viable fusion power plants was indeed achievable, albeit some decades away.

Admiral

Admiral Sir Kenneth Eaton, together with Dr Richard Pedgley, UKAEA's director of safety, toured Harwell recently and spoke with a number of staff at their places of work.

His two visits to Harwell were part of a UKAEA-wide inspection of sites being carried out by himself and UKAEA chief executive Dr McKewen who visited Culham earlier this year. During his first visit, Sir Kenneth toured the reactor site, the waste storage area, the archives, the police lodge at the main gate and property management staff in B150.

inspection



In B1602 Duncan Nelson (right) explains to Sir Kenneth and Dr Pedgley (centre) how the retrieval machine extracts cans of intermediate level waste from the underground storage block for assaying and repackaging in the new 'dark store'. The shielded machine is an essential component in the new £50 million store which is currently being commissioned.

Nuclear Finns tour



Eighteen members of the Finnish Nuclear Society visited the Culham and Harwell sites on 15 October. At Culham they toured JET and the recently completed MAST device. At Harwell's conference centre, Kevin Langley gave a presentation on UKAEA's nuclear decommissioning strategy and answered questions. Afterwards Nick Hance, PR manager, gave them a guided tour of the site and John Balfour explained the processes involved in decommissioning the DIDO materials testing reactor, pictured above, which shut down in 1990. The Finns' tour was part of a week long visit to the UK in which they also visited Sellafield, Springfields and Calder Hall. Heysham and Sizewell 'B' nuclear power stations.

Operation Christmas Child



There's still just time to put together a shoebox of small gifts for a young child in need. Operation Christmas Child delivers your presents to children in refugee camps, hospitals, orphanages and schools across Eastern Europe. Staff at UKAEA's personnel department at Culham are co-ordinating a collection of boxes for the appeal, and would welcome your contribution. Contact Jackie Allmond on 023250 or one of her colleagues today to meet the 9 November deadline.

New shop steward

Paul Fitzpatrick is the new TEGC Union shop steward on site for Harwell and Culham. He can be reached on 166227 or H5539 at B462.27. Paul is appealing for any union members who do not pay their subscriptions through the pay office to contact him so that he can keep all members up to date with information on pay deals, etc.

Thanks and cheerio

Thank you to all who signed the card and contributed to my Harwell and Culham, site sponsored for my retirement and birthday. An extra I didn't get the chance to or was quick to arrange to keep in touch and hope to see you again some time.

Beryl Harley

Au revoir and thank you

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the lovely gifts of stationery materials and garden centre vouchers on the occasion of my retirement. Many thanks too for the card with everyone's good wishes which will be treasured. Sorry I have unable to contact everyone personally before leaving but I would like you to know your gifts and card are very much appreciated.

Margaret Rowlands

Getting fit ... three times over

Graeme Cox's first ever triathlon was a dare posed by his father-in-law. Little did he think that a year and a half later he would be a dedicated triathlete whose life has been transformed by the sport.

Graeme, who works for Johnson Controls on the cleaning and waste contract, had just three months to train for that first event and didn't even possess running shoes, a wet suit or a bike. Held in Scarborough the Grand Prix event attracted the cream of competitors being over the Olympic distance (1500m swim, 40km bike and 10km run). Graeme nearly gave up at the start. Being used to swimming in a warm, calm pool, he was nearly swamped in the icy, choppy North Sea, as all the competitors set off. A freezing washing machine is how Graeme remembers it! Amazingly he completed the ordeal, coming 78th in a field of 150.

His form has improved dramatically during the months that followed and was 13th out of 200 at the Didcot event in September 1997. He then sustained a knee injury that meant a period of rest during the winter. To add to his challenges, Graeme's wife Paula gave birth to their first baby, Thomas, in April.

When he started the only advice available was the two triathlete magazines. Now Graeme is involved in setting up a local club at Wantage that combines the experience of seasoned experts. One is an Iron man, having completed the most arduous distance - a 2.4mile swim, 112 mile bike and a full 26 mile marathon - on three occasions. Age is no barrier, with many triathletes reaching their peak in their thirties and beyond.

Graeme's best event is the running and he has taken great strength from membership of the Harwell club, joining fellow runners like Will Atkinson to train at lunchtimes. In June 1999 he will be organising a triathlon at Wantage involving an 800m swim, 35km on the bike followed by a 10km run. Graeme believes staff on site at Harwell and Culham might want to consider taking part as a sponsorship opportunity. He is also keen to hear from anyone who is interested in becoming a triathlete and would like to join the Wantage club. For more information please contact Graeme Cox on H3640 or e-mail graeme.cox@pccworld.com

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Smith's Cope established

A few sterling work to transplant around 500 young scots pine and silver birch trees and saplings from Snelstone Common to the Harwell site. The new copse is taking well. The majority have established themselves and will form a handsome wooded area along Rutherford Avenue between B528 and 418.

The area has been informally named Smith's Copse after ICI's estates services manager, Vince Smith (right) who, together with Mick Childs (left) and his wife Sylvia, uprooted and replanted the trees last autumn. Beckwith's countryside officer had invited local organisations to help themselves as part of an effort to thin out the common and return it to a heathland environment. The relatively wet summer has helped root systems develop.



Command performance

Two Harwell employees will be giving their support to an important charity event in April next year and are appealing to individuals and companies to join in the fun. Andrew Kead who works for AEAT Environment in B156 is community officer for the Thames Valley district of



Producer of the command performance, Andrew Kead (left) accepts the Club of the Year 97/8 award as Secretary president from last year's Rotaract district chairman, David Pike.

Aboriginal theme marks campaign start



Picking out the number of the raffle (from left) Charles Miller Smith, ICI chief executive, John Tsou and Sheila Hancock, long term supporters of ABeC, and auctioneer, Charlie Ross.

Rotaract, an affiliation to The Rotary Club for 18-30 year olds. He and Wellingford branch president, Gareth Jones of AEAT Energy, are helping to organise 'The Rotaract Command Performance'. Taking place on 11 April 1999, it will revive the tradition of a good old-fashioned variety show with comedy, sketches, singing, music, speciality acts and much more. The venue is Fair Mile Hospital at Chobsey and all partners and staff will be invited together with local residents.

The 18 Rotaract clubs in the Thames Valley district have each been asked to contribute and perform their own material but offers of help from outside the organisation will be welcomed with open arms. Assistance, financial or in-kind, is also being sought from companies who can advertise in the programme or even become main sponsors of the performance.



In the cardboard canoe race the vessel had to compete on the Thames. Gareth Jones (right) with former president, Mark Squire.

Skydiving for MS



Gail Steer who works in GUAVERA's contracts group at Harwell bravely completed a tandem parachute jump to raise funds for the Beckwith Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre. Her husband was diagnosed with MS last year and she is raising funds for the centre at Caversham which offers a range of therapies to help MS sufferers live more positive and independent lives. The parachute team was led by Lisa Lorton's husband, Wayne, an RAF squadron leader. Gail's jump has already generated over £400. To add your support contact Gail on H5033.

Rotaract is a social club for 18-30 year olds which undertakes community and charitable activities and is affiliated to The Rotary Club. The Rotaract District 1090 (Thames Valley Region) includes 18 clubs around Berks, Berks, Oxon and Middlesex including Newbury, Caversham, Wellingford, Henley and High Wycombe. A key aim of Rotaract is self-development. Last August the clubs ran a Professional Development Day where members ran workshops on skills such as negotiating, CV writing, problem solving, etc. The team working and leadership involved in event organising for Rotaract can be applied to career development.

Out & About

MRC Autumn Seminars
10 November - Prof David Wynford-Thomson, CIG Thyroid Tumour Biology Research Group, University of Wales College of Medicine, Cardiff. Does p53 regulate proliferative senescence?
17 November - Dr Paul Lyons, Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics, University of Oxford. Localisation quantitates rate loci in the NOD mouse model of type 1 diabetes.
24 November - Dr David Nelson, Institute of Cell Molecular Biology, Edinburgh. The link between mammalian nucleotide excision repair gene deficiency and cell cycle arrest.

More details can be found on: <http://www.hmr.mrc.ac.uk/events/semr.htm>

'A Man for All Seasons'
Thursday 19, Friday 20 and Saturday 21 November
Compton Players embark on another ambitious project, the famous play by Robert Bolt, 'A Man for All Seasons'. This story of high moral courage is set in the reign of Henry VIII and will be performed in the recently refurbished Corporation Village Hall, Compton. Seats are £4 adults, £2 children. Bookings to Judith Bailey on 01635 578443.

