

DIDO open for visitors

John Baxter, UKAEA's director of nuclear operations, formally opened the new visitors' entrance to the DIDO reactor, at a ceremony last month watched by former reactor staff.

The keys to DIDO were returned by Mike Down, managing director of Nukem Nuclear Ltd, the main demolition contractors for DIDO's administration block, reactor handling bay, garages and services buildings. The work represented the closing phase of DIDO's decommissioning until eventual clearance to a "green field" after several decades.

In his remarks, John thanked John Butterfy, the project manager, for completing the project on time and to cost and Nukem Nuclear, AEA Technology and other contractors involved in the recent work. He said, "UKAEA leads the field in nuclear decommissioning and now we can show visitors what a decommissioned reactor looks like."

Built in 1956 DIDO achieved critically 7 on 7 November. Its sister reactor PLUTO achieved critically a few months later. John Baxter said, "There was always a healthy rivalry between the reactor teams that spurred each to benchmark against the other and continuously improve reactor operation."



John Butterfy, UKAEA DIDO project manager, presented John Baxter with a glass goblet in the shape of the reactor building. This had been fabricated by the glassblower at Dumfries and amended by Kenis Ltd in their radiation pond at Harwell, giving the glass a straw-coloured hue.

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Fond farewell



John and Margaret Baxter enjoy sitting some past moments recorded in a photographic tribute prepared by Eric Jenkins.

THANKS FROM JOHN BAXTER

During my last few weeks I have tried to see as many of my friends and colleagues at Harwell and Didcot as I could. Apologies to those of you I missed. Steve Hankin to everybody who contributed to the farewell present of a wonderful bottle. All roads were ahead. Margaret, thank you for a great few working with you. Good luck. JOHN

Daughters to work

Just a quick reminder that this year's nominated 'Daughters to Work Day' is Thursday 30 April. The age limit restrictions are waived for visitors on this date, providing that:

- Girls taking part should be at least 10 years of age
- A responsible site proprietor must accompany them throughout
- Please notify relevant building manager

No entry to radiological areas

- Visit notices in '28 April' or earlier, showing visitor's age and returning to daughters to work day

For visitor advice at other sites please contact your local head of administration.



Your contact is: Colleen/Harwell PR manager, Nick Hince, RM1 72J, 52 Harwell, Tel: (01235) 436099 Fax: (01235) 436899 Copy can be sent directly to the editor via email: typ@echo.bhcr.co.uk



ECHO

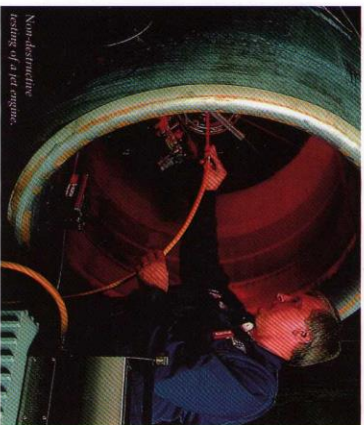
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CULHAM SCIENCE CENTRE & HARWELL BUSINESS CENTRE APRIL 1998

QSA business acquired

EA Technology has added a further specialist arm with the purchase of the industrial quality and safety assurance (QSA) business of Nymcorr Amersham plc for £16.5m.

Formerly known as Amersham International, the QSA business recorded sales of over £38m for the year ending 31 March 1997 with profits of nearly £4m. Its principal activities include products, services and radioactive sources for non-destructive testing in the oil, aircraft and engineering industries, also static control, calibration and environmental services for customers worldwide.

In June last year Nymcorr announced that it was seeking a partner to take its QSA business forward. AEA Technology recognised that the division would complement its own



Non-destructive testing of a pipe engine.

nuclear science operations where there is potential to grow. Manufacturing plant and operations in the UK will be transferred from Amersham Laboratories to AEAT's

Harwell premises over the next four years. QSA employs 300 people based at Amersham, Braunschweig in Germany, three North American locations and at Shenzhen in China.

Harwell energised!

Pharmaceutical company has taken occupation of building A147, marking this year's first significant letting at Harwell International Business Centre.

Energiser plc moved into the 2,500 sq ft premises near the Cockcroft Hall in early March. The company was previously located at Pangbourne and employs some six staff. It specialises in treatments for cancer and asthma using natural ingredients.

"Harwell offers us ideal facilities for our present needs and also gives us the opportunity to expand due to its extensive development plans and space," comments professor David

Young of Energiser plc. "Added to this we will be surrounded by an established network of companies working in the fields of science and technology."

Energiser plc organises seminars and conferences relating to cancer research and the facilities at Harwell will allow many of these to take place on site.

Looking ahead to further progress, UKAEA commercial manager, Ian Rodham, said, "We are presently bringing forward

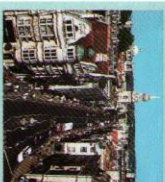


Prof David Young (left) accepts the keys from UKAEA's Simon Kamsell.

Energiser

plans with private developers for 300,000sq ft of new space with healthy consent and have a planning number of enquiries about the rest of the available space to let."

This Month
3 Testing Oxford's air



5 Rail safety



6 Destination Beirut



8 Linda quits



UK attracts US innovation



Dick Cooper (left), Ceravision MD, and director Tim Reynolds with one of the ceramic tiles.

A dynamic hi-tech company formerly based in Silicon Valley, USA, has been persuaded to return to Britain due to a new collaboration with CLRC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory. Ceravision has signed a three-year contract to operate from the Chilton site and will have access to the central microstructure facility (CMF) clean rooms and state-of-the-art equipment to help develop its prototype products. In the run up to the millennium the company aims to develop and license affordable flat panel display screens by joining together four-inch ceramic tiles with a 'seamless' joint. As part of the agreement CLRC has taken a stakeholding in Ceravision. "We are happy to

Obituaries

Dr Joan Freeman 1918-98

Ex-Harwell scientist, Dr Joan Freeman, died at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, aged 80, after a short illness.

Following her childhood in Perth, Australia, her unique career began in the wartime radar establishment in Sydney after which she emigrated to Britain, obtaining a PhD in nuclear physics at the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge. There she met Dr John Jolley, married him and pursued an illustrious career at Harwell.

She joined the Van de Graaf Group in 1951 and became the leader of the Tandem Generator Group in 1960 winning an international reputation for her work in fundamental nuclear physics. She published over 100 scientific papers and was in much demand as a lecturer in America, Europe and the home country of Australia.

Joan was made a Fellow of the Institute of Physics and a Fellow of the American Physical Society, and in 1976 was awarded jointly with Prof Rj Blin-Stoyle, the Rutherford Medal of the Institute of Physics. She was the first woman to



Joan Freeman, pictured with her book, outside the Tandem Generator at Harwell in 1991.

receive this honour. She retired from Harwell in 1983.

In 1991 she published her autobiography, "A Passion for Physics" (pub. Adam Hilgan) in which she described the struggle she had as a young woman to obtain higher education in physics, paving the way for later generations of women scientists. In 1993 she was given an Honorary Doctorate at Sydney University.

She and John continued their love of physics, in retirement at their home in Abingdon until his death in 1997. Her other interests included sailing, walking, bird watching and painting.

George Carter



George Carter, 80, died earlier this year, having worked for the authority for 25 years, retiring in 1982. His early years were spent in Cheshire, but he joined UKAEA Capenhurst in 1957 as an electrician, transferring to Harwell in 1962 as a skilled craftsman. In the following year he joined the site services division in Culham. George was a well-known member of the local community, playing the organ in his local church of St Birinus in Dorchester. He had

Colin Ashmore

After a short illness, Colin Ashmore (46), died on 27 February. Colin had worked at Harwell for 27 years as a research chemist. His many friends and colleagues will miss him greatly. They will

remember his sense of humour and his contribution as a reliable and dedicated colleague whose quality of work was widely respected. Donations in Colin's memory should be made to the RNLI.

Study reveals Oxford pollution

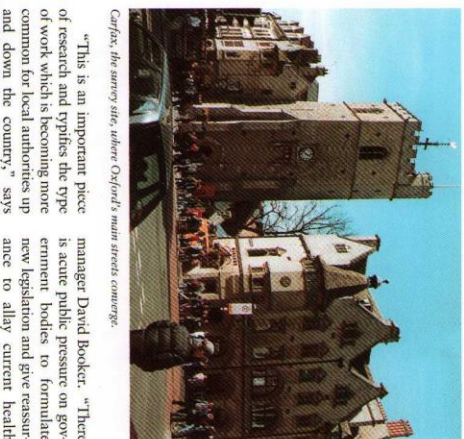
EA Technology's Aerosol Science Centre is working with Oxford City Council to measure traffic pollution in the heart of the city.

Following a study carried out in March and April last year, AEAT has conducted a further



Dr David Bookler, who recently presented the Oxford Transport Strategy to the Oxford City Council, is pictured at the annual Congress for his paper about vehicle emissions.

The studies combine information on weather, traffic types and volume with levels of pollutants in the atmosphere such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter. The equipment is able to detect ultra-fine particles which have not been routinely measured to date and are thought to contribute to pulmonary and respiratory problems.



Cartfax, the survey site, where Oxford's main streets converge.

The findings will be used as part of the city and county council's Oxford Transport Strategy, which is exploring options to pedestrianise Cornmarket and Broad Street and keeping cars out of High Street.

"This is an important piece of research and epitomises the type of work which is becoming more common for local authorities up and down the country," says

manager David Bookler. "There is acute public pressure on government bodies to formulate new legislation and give reassurance to ally current health concerns. Our air management monitoring package may in the future be coupled with the Groundhog equipment to identify pollution hotspots."

David Bookler and colleague Keith Earnshaw have written an article based on the Oxford study for 'Atmospheric Environment Journal', a specialist scientific journal.

The Aerosol Science Centre is working closely with the automotive industry and fuel suppliers to reduce overall emission levels in the future. AEAT also compiles the government's National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI) and is now offering the same techniques to help large organisations assess, and reduce, the emissions from company vehicle fleets.

Microsystems Technology for AEAT

MST2000 is a new consortium involving AEA Technology and other organisations that have expertise in Microsystems Technology - miniaturisation involving components with micron size detail.

Japan and the USA have adopted this technology but European industry has been slow to realise its benefits. In response, the EU is encouraging the formation of groups to help promote the uptake of MST in Europe.

At present MST is mostly used for transducers, however, over the next few years, micro-engineered components like sensors, actuators and miniature structures will find applications in almost every sector of the manufacturing industry, especially in the medical, aerospace, automotive, consumer and process industries.

"MST2000 can help businesses exploit this technology and gain competitive advantages," says AEAT project co-ordinator, Ruth Harper. "We offer advice and support from the initial conception of a product through to manufacture and packaging. Each customer that comes to us may receive a free feasibility study and project proposal".

New heads of site



As many ECHO readers will be aware, two new heads of site have been appointed by UKAEA. John Williams (pictured left) at Harwell and Derek Robinson at Culham. ECHO will report on other strategic changes in forthcoming issues.

Government launches environment plan

Just a fortnight after visiting AEA Technology, John Battle, Minister for science, energy and industry, hosted a conference in London to launch the first ever business plan for the UK environment industries. AEAAT chairman, Sir Anthony Cleaver also spoke to the 250 delegates, presenting industry's response to this important new initiative.

The plan, produced by the government's Joint Environmental Markets Unit (JEMU), sets out a three-year action plan showing how JEMU will work with the nation's green industries to improve their performance and increase the UK's share of fast-growing global markets.

The aim is to form a part-

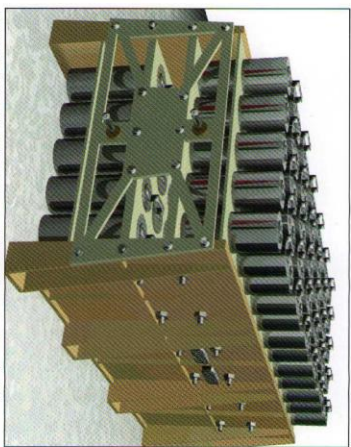
nership between government and industry with the common purpose of improving the environment and competing with success in the world marketplace. For example, AEAAT has been leading the fight against air pollution in China, Thailand and Hungary with air quality management projects.

Satellites run on Li-ion power

Satellites of the future could incorporate lithium-ion (li-ion). Solar power is used when a spacecraft is in view of the sun, but batteries are needed to travel into Earth's shadow. Lithium-ion batteries are more than twice as powerful per kilo as existing satellite technology.

AEA Technology and the British National Space Centre are jointly developing several lithium-ion battery module designs for use in space with advice from Maira Marconi Space, the leading European satellite manufacturer. As part of this programme, the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency has asked AEAAT to supply lithium-ion batteries for its Science and Technology.

Research Vehicle satellite to be launched next year. Having worked on lithium-ion technology since the early 1970s, AEAAT holds key patents and provides licences to Sony and Matsushita, which sells under the Panasonic name. AEAAT is confident that the batteries will be an important and reliable power source for tomorrow's satellites as they transmit mobile phone and television signals to Earth.



AEAAT is designing lithium-ion battery modules to power space-based vehicles.

Another VIP who learnt about the many facets of AEA Technology was local Oxford West and Abingdon MP, Dr. Evan Harris. He spent time at both Culham and Harwell sites with director of corporate affairs, Andrew McCreer. Dr. Harris, who is Liberal Democrat party spokesman, was particularly interested in the clinical trials centre where AEAAT is helping to develop new medicines.



John Battle (center) learns about AEAAT's lithium-ion batteries from Ken Neal (left) and Dr. Peter Watson during his visit last month.

Windows see through technology

The National Chemical Emergency Centre (NCEC) has launched Windows versions of two of its most successful products, Tremcards and Chemdata.

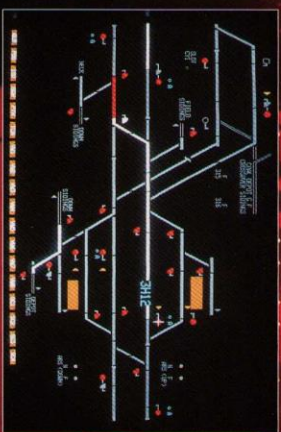
Based at Culham, the AEAAT subsidiary has updated the software packages, making them even easier to use. Chemdata is principally used by the brigades, ports, airports and industry for information at the site of a chemical accident. It now has over 90,000 chemical names and provides extensive details such as appropriate fire fighting measures, first aid, protective clothing and decontamination procedures.

Tremcards are used by those transporting chemicals across Europe and, to comply with legislation, give details of chemicals in transit and what action is required should an accident occur. The DOS version has already been approved by the European Chemical Industry Council (CEIC).



The new Tremcards packages can produce versions in up to 24 languages, as they must be in the language of every country through which the load is travelling.

Keeping railways safe



Signallers use displays to track train positions (in red) along set routes.

The current method of locating the position of trains is set to be replaced by a new system being developed by AEA Technology and GEC Alsthon Signalling Ltd.

To date, track circuits have been used. They measure the reduction in electrical resistance between the rails when a train passes, but are expensive to install and maintain and are subject to rust and flooding. A £795,000 contract has been signed between AEAAT and GEC Alsthon to develop software that will link axle counters to SSI (solid state interlocking), a computer-based safety system at the heart of modern railway signalling. Axle counters are fitted at the start and end of railway sections and simply count the number of wheels passing over at both points to judge whether the track is clear. The addition of SSI will be particularly useful where the railway is seldom used or where track sections are long.

Virgin invests in tilting trains



"They'll meet the highest international standards and there's nothing to match them in this country," says project manager, Allan Carter.

EA Technology has been providing technical support to Virgin as it invests £1.65bn in a fleet of new tilting trains which will be the most modern in Britain.

Destined for the West Coast main line and Cross Country routes, the tilting trains will offer the highest standards of passenger comfort, being able to travel faster around curves at a slight angle. AEAAT's science and engineering business has been assessing many factors including the degree of smoothness, noise levels, air conditioning and meeting the timetable.

Branson gives live broadcast

Hundreds of local business people visited Culham to watch a live screening of the 1998 UK Innovation Lecture and to hear a presentation by Virgin chairman, Richard Branson. AEA Technology and the Heart of England TEC sponsored the live link on 31 March. It was one of 40 such links to the lecture in London which endorsed an innovation in management, and was government endorsed. Afterwards a panel discussion, chaired by AEAAT chief executive, Peter Watson, and including TEC chief executive, Barrie Giles, discussed how innovation can help local businesses.

ECHO BRIEF

Updated doses

NRPB has published Revised Generalised Derived Limits (GDL) for radionuclides of strontium, ruthenium, sodium, caesium, plutonium, americium, and curium, together with advice on their application. The GDLs are based on an effective dose of one millisievert a year, the annual dose limit for the public as recommended by NRPB. The document should assist those who undertake monitoring programmes or who assess the results (i.e. regulatory bodies, government agencies and local authorities). Copies can be bought direct from NRPB information office or ordered through the stationery office.

New Regulations

At the end of February, the Health and Safety Commission (HSC) published proposals to revise the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1985 (IRR85). Revision is necessary to incorporate changes in an EU directive - to be implemented by May 2000 - concerning the protection of workers and the public against ionising radiation. Single copies of the proposals are available free from HSE Books on 01787 881165. The full text can be viewed at the HSE web site: www.gov.uk/hse/inform.

Artificial hip testing

Around 40,000 artificial hips are fitted annually but they can fail due to fatigue and wear. After June 1998 all orthopaedic implants will have to meet tough new European safety standards under the Medical Devices Directive (MDD). AEAAT offers an independent service for testing artificial hips, knee and shoulder implants, to ensure they are safe for patients. Enigma V adds three more Resener Scientific titles to its portfolio. Resener Plastic's aimed at everyone who uses or manufactures GRP and composites. This includes the aircraft industry, car manufacture and building. UL-157 covers the semiconductor industry worldwide including such uses as optoelectronics, fibre lasers and heterostructures. Enigma V is also now producing the company newsletter for Circular Distribution Ltd, the largest group distribution company in the UK, and 'Spectrum & Filination' magazine.

Tokyo visitor has local liaison

Members of Harwell's Local Liaison Committee (LLC) were called in to advise Makoto Furumishi on local community relations with a licensed nuclear site. He spent a day as the guest of UKAEA's corporate communications department and had a working lunch with local councillors, officials and interest groups.

Mr Furumishi is the deputy director of Japan's Science & Technology Agency and is on a secondment fellowship with the DTI from the Prime Minister's Office, Tokyo. His fellowship involves touring UK nuclear sites - he visits Donmurry in April - to learn how LLCs operate in the UK. His findings will be used to improve community liaison in Japan. Andy Mlton, UKAEA media



Harwell Local Liaison Committee members with UKAEA officials. In the foreground, Cllr Tony Hrysko, Cllr Steve Gormley, Cllr Nick Haine, Cllr Anne-Marie Wainwright, Cllr Pauline Hurren, Cllr Nick Haine, Cllr Anne-Marie Wainwright, Cllr Pauline Hurren, Cllr Nick Haine, Cllr Anne-Marie Wainwright, Cllr Pauline Hurren. Harwell Business Centre, March 1998.



Stuart Clark (second right) of UKAEA, with FRAs members who will put the vehicle to good use.

Fire engine enroute to Beirut

A redundant fire appliance will find new surroundings in mainland Europe, following its donation by UKAEA to the Fireman's Relief Aid (FRA).

The Bedford fire engine was added to the UKAEA fleet at Culham in 1988 after serving areas of need throughout Fire Brigade since August 1976. It will be re-equipped by the FRA for civilian fire fighting

duties and has already been exported to Beirut. The FRA is a charitable organisation, primarily made up of current and ex-fire personnel, which provides humanitarian aid and relief to areas of need throughout Europe and North Africa.

The donation follows a previous gift to the FRA of breathing apparatus, which was sent to Sarajevo (see ECHO July 1997), where the Bosnian war has put extreme pressure on the civil emergency services. The BA equipment was put to use within hours of delivery to the Sarajevo Fire Service, saving two lives including a fireman overcome by fumes from a burning building. For more information about the work of the FRA, please call 01268 6594068.

Fusion on display



Later the same week UKAEA hosted a day and evening event for industrialists. Local county councillor, David Buckle (right) is seen here with Dr Frank Birtson, opening the Fusion EXPO.

A's part of the national science engineering and technology weeks (SET98), UKAEA Fusion once again opened its doors to the general public and was delighted to welcome over 200 visitors. PR manager, Chris Carpenter, was pleased to note that the majority of visitors were non-scientists who were sent a fresh audience. Visitors saw the European Fusion Programme exhibition which will tour Britain as part of the UK's Presidency of the European Union. There were visits to the COMPASS and world famous STARF experiments and hands-on experiments including high speed video and liquid nitrogen displays. Their comments included:

- “thoroughly intriguing and very exciting. Good fun - very friendly presenters and very clever as well. Well done, when can I come again?” R Wiggzell, age 12.
- “very helpful staff, learnt a lot, we had an interesting tour of COMPASS, experiments used fun” R Hancock
- “a truly worthwhile visit. Staff gave a first-rate friendly explanation to all the experiments on the tour. Please have another Open Day” W Marks.
- “very impressive and informative, we would be most interested in any future opportunities to see other parts of the site” J K McMahon.

Computer helps CAB pilot take off

redundant computer has been donated by UKAEA to the Abingdon & District Citizens Advice Bureau and has helped the branch achieve selection for a national pilot scheme. Abingdon CAB is one of fifty - out of the total 750 UK branches - to test and evaluate the new Electronic Information System on computer prior to its nationwide launch later this year. To date, CAB advisers at Abingdon have used a 68,000-sheet paper-based reference system, supported by a mini library of reference books. The new technology will allow the centre information system to be



Paper files transfer to disk. Gerry Bowyer, Thomas, chairman of the management committee and 'Friends' group, with CAB managers, Diane Armstrong (left) and Doreen Knicker.

Promoting green journeys

Journeys by foot and on bicycle around the Harwell site will be made easier following the construction of 1,550m of footpaths and cycleways. After the decommissioning of the old steam ducts, work was carried out to improve footpaths. Further provision is now being made for cyclists with routes along Fernie Avenue, the new spine road and Dido Road. In addition, the old Library Avenue is being used as a temporary cycleway until the start of phase one development work.

The established horse chestnuts along the northern side of Fernie Avenue have now been complemented by new tree planting on the south side. In



Construction work is now nearly complete. The principal contractor was Gordon Hill & Son, with trees provided and planted by CL.

contained on a CD-ROM. The national association for Abingdon CAB would be a suitable 'pinning' but a computer was required. UKAEA has been an active supporter of the bureau since the formation of the 'Friends of Abingdon CAB' five years ago. Together with other sponsors like NRES and NRRB, a total of £10,000 has been raised by the 'Friends' in that time. UKAEA has also recently donated surplus computers to the East Harwell Trust, Youth Works (an Oxford charity working with deprived youngsters), Cadcott Primary School, Burtham Grammar School, Milton School and Canham Scouts.

Rodham, UKAEA's manager for the project, comments, "We have taken the opportunity to complete avenue planting of this important access road and we hope that staff who use Fernie Avenue will enjoy the improvements."

Last Harwell Charity Ball

The ninth and last Harwell Charity Ball was enjoyed by over 350 guests, raising over £3,500 for local charities and bringing the total tally to an amazing £23,000.

The star raffish prize was a trip to Costa Blanca, donated by brothers Michael and Tony Hrysko building contractors of Didcot. The winning ticket belonged to Tony Hrysko who generously offered the holiday for auction to raise still more funds. Tribute was paid to organisers, Janetice Bohan, Susan Bowman, Paula Manfredi and Graham Murphy, whose dedication and hard work ensured a highly successful event. Thanks were also extended to sponsors UKAEA, AEA Technology, RGIT and all the local companies and individuals who donated raffish prizes.

Funds will be shared by five charities: Didcot Hospital, the Walter Lampard Animal Trust, Warrage Trust for Adults, Abingdon Friends Cancer Care and Albert Honey Animal Rescue in Stevenage.



Genuine Murphy also attended this raffish night and was provided by the Walter Lampard Animal Trust, raising £55.



Maz a 'whizz' in NY

A's thousands of runners prepare for this month, Marion Jones, nursery assistant at Harwell's Kids Unlimited crèche, deserves to put her feet up.

She competed in the New York Marathon in November last year and has so far managed to raise £3,700 for Whizz Kids, a charity providing mobility aids for disabled children. Maz, who had not run a marathon before, spent 15 weeks in grueling preparation, training around the site and swimming before a busy day looking after her toddler group at the nursery. Clocking up a very respectable time of 5 hours, 33 minutes, 31 seconds, Maz endured a torrential thunderstorm during the 26-mile route. Not content with her endeavours, she also raised funds with a sponsored pann push, cake stalls, face-painting, race night, Halloween Disco and Chocolateos Raffle. In addition to support from nursery staff, parents and children, she would like to thank sponsors including UKAEA and the White Hart pub in Harwell village.

WANTED - Books and spares for VSO venture

In June of this year Alan Wood, who has worked in RAL's space science department for eight years, will be giving up home comforts to take up a VSO (voluntary service overseas) placement in Nigeria.

As a computer lecturer at the Federal Polytechnic in Danamtram he will be teaching a wide range of courses at our 'A' level first year undergraduate standard.

Alan has made a plea for staff at Cullham or Harwell to donate any relevant books which might be gathering dust on shelves. The polytechnic has several 386 pc's with 4MB RAM and 80MB hard disks with Epson 24 pin dot matrix printers. As he will have to maintain these machines he would appreciate any spare parts. Finally, he is looking for a reasonably priced laptop computer notebook.



Alan Wood heading for a VSO post in Nigeria.

Teachers help Open Day plans

Four Oxfordshire teachers spent a day at CLRC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory to help choose experiments for school pupils to carry out during the Open Days in late June.



"It's important that we liaise closely with teachers to select experiments that will not only be fun for the pupils to do, but will also link into the National Curriculum", commented Rachel Barnes, RAL school liaison officer. She was particularly pleased that two primary schools were represented. "We would like to target the young pupils more, but realise that we need help to present our world leading scientific research at a level that will interest and excite them", she said.

The teachers spent a fruitful day speaking to scientists and engineers in a number of areas including space science, where instruments are built and tested prior to space launch. In computing they discussed the creation of Web pages and in the science division the group saw where high power lasers and neutrons are used to investigate the atomic and molecular structure of materials.

CLRC RAL Open Days will run from Friday 26 June to Wednesday 1 July. See the May and June issues of ECHO for more details.

Giving blood

The next blood donor clinics will be held on Tuesday 21, Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 April. Please note that sessions will be held upstairs in the Harwell Social Club. They will run from 10.30am-12.45pm and 2.30pm-4.45pm. As always, everyone is welcome, whether or not you have attended before.

We're banking on Paul

Celebrating 25 years' service with Lloyds Bank is branch manager Paul Whatley who joined the Curie Avenue branch in 1997. Previously a manager at one of the Oxford branches, Paul comes from the Reading area and now lives in Abingdon with his wife, Karen, who also works for the bank.



Harwell branch manager, Paul Whatley.

Great support to give up

Linda Haynes of UKAEA Finance has triumphed where many others have failed. Since her birthday last year in July she has managed to give up smoking, having been on 20 a day for about 30 years. Her achievement has been sponsored by workmates and Linda has raised £150 for the special care baby unit at the John Radcliffe hospital as a result.

"My husband Fred gave up cigarettes and I didn't want to smoke if he wasn't," recalls Linda. She visited RCIT, the occupational health division, and received free nicotine patches and invaluable weekly counselling from expert, Vicky Rose.



Linda (left) has been supported in her efforts by colleague Vicky Rose.

Although she still faces temptation, particularly when socialising, Linda will not let down the colleagues who have been so supportive. "I do tend to nibble since giving up. If only there were patches to lose weight!" she says.

Israeli experience

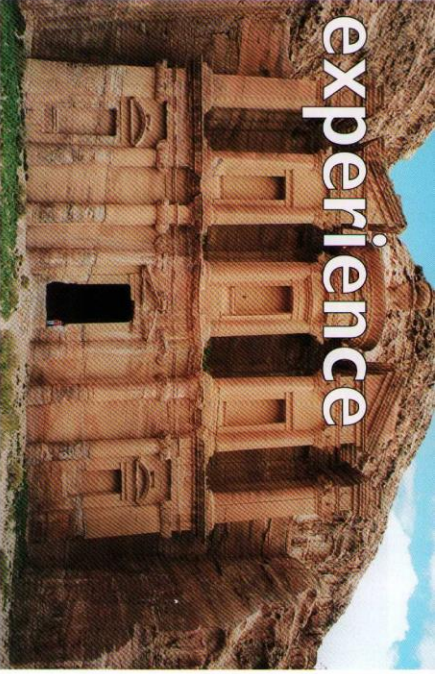
Two dozen residents of Harwell and Chilton, including some past and present members of Cullham, Harwell, and NRPB staff, visited the Holy Land in February.

Underpinned by threats of war and the highly visible signs of military activity, the pilgrims spent nine absorbing days in Israel and Jordan. Their itinerary included Jerusalem, Qumran, the Dead Sea, Jericho and Galilee. As well as seeing traditional holy places - such as Bethlehem, Nazareth and Capernaum - there were opportunities to explore some pre-Christian sites.

"Staying at the Lot Hotel, 1300 feet below sea level, near to Sodom, with the whiff of sulphur in the air was a unique experience, as was visiting Masada and the lost city of Petra", said Nick Hancock, Harwell's PR manager.

He went on, "Petra was an amazing place with its gigantic buildings carved out of pink sandstone. The some boards of Jordanian attractor jets all added to the somber mood of the 3000 year-old city."

The tensions of crossing the Allenby Bridge, with its six checkpoints, contrasted with the tranquility of the Sea of Galilee. Vivid red hills of the hill' gourd in position among the minefields on the Golan Heights. Spashing half a mile along Hesekiah's Tunnel, 200 feet under Jerusalem's limestone rocks,



The 150ft high Monastery Building at Petra can only be reached by climbing 850 steps out in a mile-long cliff path.

negotiating a half-metre wide water course by candlelight, was another experience as was Dr Tony Higgins, a former assistant director of Harwell, playing his trumpet on the walls of Jericho!



The 100ft high Treasury Building at Petra was featured in an 'Indiana Jones' film.

SAFETY FACTS

Lost time accidents

Cullham/Harwell	C	H
Recorded since last issue	0	3
Total this year	0	6
Total reported to HSE '98	0	20
Total days lost in '98	0	20

Minor accidents (no time lost)

Recorded since last issue	5	12
Total this year	6	35

There were two radiological incidents and no non-radiological incidents reportable since the last issue of ECHO.

Soil samples

Random soil samples on Authority property just outside the south side

OUT & ABOUT

BNES Lecture

Wednesday 15th April
Dr John Corke will present the latest of the BNES Central England Branch evening lectures entitled 'Reflections on Nuclear Licensing'. The talk will take place in the ETSU Lecture Room (Building 153 at Harwell), from 6.30 pm. Everyone is welcome. Contact Louise Gould (H2827) for further details.

East Hagbourne Fun Run and Walk

Monday May 4th 1998
The 9th Annual Fun Run and Walk Hagbourne starting at Lam (registration by 0.15pm). The 4 1/2-mile course takes in parts of East and West Hagbourne. Upton and Bewbury. The entry fee is £2 for adults and 50p for children and sponsorship money will this year be donated to the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation. Sponsorship/entry forms are available from Jenny (01235 815897), Joe (01235 827891) or John (01235 812726).

MRC Summer Seminar

A full and varied summer seminar programme has now been established by MRC, running from April to the end of June, involving many eminent speakers. Anyone wishing to talk to the speakers should arrange this with the speaker's host. For up-to-date details, visit the MRC website: <http://www.han.mrc.ac.uk/events/semi.html>

Compton Players' Spring production

23, 23 & 24 April
The Compton Players will be performing 'Trap for a Lonely Man' by Robert Thomas. When Daniel Corban reports his wife missing from their holiday chalet in the French Alps, he doesn't expect to be plunged into an unbelievable nightmare. The ingenious plot will keep the audience guessing right up to the final curtain. Tickets are £9 (senior citizens and children £2) from Judith Bailey on 01635 578443.

A Steamy Easter

Friday 10 April to Monday 13 April
During the Easter weekend the Great Western Society is celebrating 75 years of the Cattle class at Didcot Railway Centre with the return of No4073, Earl Balfour, together with first Class built at Swindon in 1923. When first introduced the Cattle class were the most powerful express passenger locomotives in Great Britain and were only replaced by diesel locomotives in the 1960s.



Earl Balfour, No. 4073, Earl Balfour, together with first Class built at Swindon in 1923.

Harwell

Laboratories

RECREATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Putting for pleasure

Would you like to spend your lunch-hour in a restful and relaxing way? The bowling green behind Loyd's Bank is being converted into a golf putting lawn. Members may pre-book the lawn by ringing H3296 and may draw putters and golf balls from the rec. assoc. for a small cover charge and deposit.

Welcome Jill!

Jill Parker, pictured here, joined the rec. assoc. as assistant secretary just before Christmas and can be found in the office between 9.30am and 2.30pm weekdays. She is well qualified for life in the recreational association, having been educated at the Licensed Victuallers' School in Slough, having variously run a wine and spirits shop in Portugal for 18 months, spent over three years working in London for Thomson tour operators, and more than 10 years providing administrative support to an accountancy business in Waiuku, New Zealand. Born in Swansea, Jill now lives in Didcot with husband Steve and two children, Kate and Robbie. We wish her a long and happy stay at Harwell.



Social Club catering

Did you know that the Harwell Social Club operates a hot and cold takeaway, from Monday to Friday, from 10.30am-1.45pm? There is a large selection of burgers, large and small pies, sandwiches, plus a good range of hot food. Some upending vegetarian dishes have recently been added (eg Indian vegetable korma, cheese pasta & broccoli bake, etc.). Half baguettes and single round sandwiches also available at half price for those who find the full-size too much of a 'big bite!' Very competitive prices. Everything prepared to order. Telephone orders taken on ext H3296.

Rec. Association cards

Membership cards for ordinary members (from 1 May 98 - 30 April 99), will be distributed at the end of April. Any member who subscribes by deduction from pay, and has not received a new card by Friday 8 May, please contact the rec. assoc. office. Other members wishing to renew should submit their card, renewal fee and a forwarding address to the rec. association. Contact H3296 with any queries.

A costly mis-field

Harwell International Cricket Club (HICC) has over the last few years been raising money for Leukaemia Research through the players' own misfortune! HICC have put in place a series of



fires leveled against offending players at will. These range from a miserly 5p for any wide or no ball bowled through to 20p for a mis-field that resulted in a run, up to 50p for a dropped catch which can be increased to £1 on appeal to the fires adjudicator if the drop was particularly bad!

As a result of these fines, the club has just forwarded a cheque in the sum of £228 to Leukaemia Research. It's hard to believe but with that sort of money being raised the club actually gained promotion last season and won a knockout competition for the third year in a row. Unbelievable, HICC would like to thank in particular Mark Cooper and Peter Kidd for their large contributions to this donation.

Fun Run climax

The famous Harwell Fun Run is coming to the climax of its winter season. The Fun Run has been going once a week for at least 16 winters and has included international athletes and the slowest joggers among its winners. Anyone can win the silver trophy because the Fun Run is cleverly handicapped to reflect individual ability. As ECHO goes to press Ian Vetter of AEA Technology is competing for best Fun Runner of the 1997/98 season. Harwell Running Club track season starts in May so, if longish distances in the cold and wet have no appeal, pull on the skin-tight Lycra and give track running a try. The Harwell track is marked on the field south of the Brian Gate car park and track races take place every Tuesday lunchtime, starting at 12.45. Runners usually complete over a couple of distance each week. The races are handicapped by distance to give runners of either sex and any age an equal chance. Don't worry about not being able to keep up, if you can't catch anyone else you can always chase your previous best and with runners of all abilities taking part, you won't be last.



Ian Vetter (left) takes the baton in Harwell Running Club's attempt on the world 1500m record!

Running is a great way to health, fitness and it doesn't have to be a chore if you run with friends. Give Will Adkinson a ring on H4370 if you are interested in running club events.

Tennis coaching

If you are interested in learning how to hit a tennis ball properly or would like to improve your range of strokes, then tennis lessons may be of interest to you. Subject to demand, tennis lessons will be provided by an accredited coach on the Harwell site courts on Tuesday or Thursday evenings. For more information contact Derek Bingham on NRPB 2839, email derek.bingham@nrbp.org.uk

ECHO FREE CLASSIFIEDS

MOTORS

Staff classified advertisements on this page for Cullinan/Harwell, JET, RAL, FRP, MRC and NIREX are free - subject to a maximum of 25 words, on a first come, first served basis. Ads can be sent directly to the editor at vjpr@globelink.co.uk follows:

H. Harwell, C. Cullinan, R. Rutherford Appiston, Labrooy, N. NRPB, M. Norton, J. JET and H. MRC. Advertisements are run for one month only with the exception of Holiday Accommodation. Please resubmit any advertisements that are to be repeated.

FOR SALE

CANOE: T. Sinton plastic, whitewater canoe with spraydeck, paddle, assorted canoe clothing and buoyancy aids. £100. Tel: R3367

DIRT DEVIL (Hardy 150) vacuum cleaner with dishing and cord. No nos. Never used, still in box. (Cost £35) £20. H458 or 01235

FISH TANK: 5ft x 3ft x 15in with Black Ash Unit. Includes lights, filter, pumps, decor, UV Filter and skimmer. Will suit tropical or marine fish. £400 ono. Tel: 01889

GAS FIRE: Valour Homelane super cooling effect radiator. Excellent condition (cost £705, new) £380. Tel: 01235

GM'S BICYCLE: Raleigh Co-Co, size 10 to 15 year old Shimano gears, 10 speed, Shimano wheels and pedals £45 ono. Road bike and blue track. Hilliards accessories, mile fit cars with grippers. Used twice only. Both for £15. Tel: hary.edwards@east.co.uk, H4457 or 01865

GOLF CLUBS: Wilson Super Power, Irons 3 to PW, woods 1, 3, 5, £90. Cricket bat, Stuart Surridge 12/98, youth size, unused £25. N 2728 or Abingdon

HICHAIR: Astorgo, folds flat, VG condition. £25. Pram, twin convertible with full range of accessories (carry-cots, rain hood, car seat, carnaps, etc.). Bed, coat, cot, nappies, etc. £185

GUINIA PIG BABIES: smooth and red (new) guinea, various sizes. All ready to go (5 weeks old). You can happily keep 2 males together (unlike many other species) and guinea pigs live on average 5 to 7 years. Females £11 each (£20 a pair). Helen White C3049 or e-mail or Blemurby 01235

FRAMCARRICOAT: Silver Cross Super Bolero with raincover/coat/pairal etc. £150. Silver mirror/water steamer £150. Various items of

baby equipment/drying/roys. Tel: 01235

WALKING BOOTS: Brasher Hilmarer Classic, size 8, brand new, very nice boots but too big for me. Cost £85; will sell for £30. R4686

WARDROBE: with drawers and 3 drawer chest of drawers. White and pine effect. Suitable for child £10 each or £15 the pair. Handwood front door, portable style £10. Call DI Wright 66267 or 01235

ACCOMMODATION

ABINGDON: small room in shared house near town centre, £450 per year, includes bills, Tel: Shirley 01235

ABINGDON: room to let, shared kitchen and bathroom. £200 a month inclusive (excluding bills). Tel: 01235

ABINGDON: rooms for rent (£60, £50 inclusive) for non-smoker in house in town centre, close to river and shops. 46 months. Call now 01235

COMPTON: 2 bedroom modern cottage to let 1 1/2 miles from village. Responsible rent, suit professional couple. Tel: 01235

DIDCOT: furnished double room to let in modern 3 bedroom house, full use of all facilities. Prefer non-smoking female. £300 inc. bills. Tel: 01235

JULE R2521

DIDCOT: large Victorian 4 bed detached house, loc. Unfurnished, large garden, garage, bit of road (£800, £900 per year) Tel: 01235

DIDCOT: small room to let in new 100% new, £48 per week includes bills. Tel: Maria on 01235

EAST HARBOURNE (weel)

converted garage in picturesque village offering self-contained studio accommodation. Sleeps two, own bathroom, kitchenette, TV, own entrance, plenty of parking. Tel: 01235

GROVE: room and own bathroom available in detached house, 7 miles from Harwell. Monday to Friday, non-smoker. £60 per week. Tel: 01235

NORTH ABINGDON: Large double room to let in large four bedroom detached house in North Abingdon 1/2 mile from town. £100 per month. Includes parking and garden. Share with 3 professionals. Bus stop 50 metres away - on Harwell bus route. £270 per month inclusive of bills (except telephone). Non-smokers. Phone H6806 or 01235

NORTH ABINGDON: Room to let. Non-Fri in our bed detached house. Own bathroom, double bedroom, non-smoker. £60 per week. Tel: 01235 or 07970

NORTH ABINGDON - fully furnished house: to let for 12-13 months, available 1 September. 5 beds, 2 baths, detached garage. Gardener included. Easy bus to Oxford. £1200 pcm negotiable. Council Tax and utility bills extra. Tel: 01235

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

CORNWALL: Millierrent, nr Looe. Villa within holiday village, 200 yards from beach. Sleeps 6. May to September. From £95. Sorry no pets. Tel: 01732

CORNWALL: Newquay, modernised cottage, three bedrooms, detached garage, garden. No pets. Private parking. beach, 10 mins walk, secluded garden. 0118

DEVON: beautiful South Hams self catering apartments in wing of converted stone barns. Sleep four. Rural location, beaches and Dartmoor nearby. Dogs welcome. Tel: 01548

SCOTLAND: holiday cottage, borders region. Sleeps four, bed linen etc. provided. All road costs. £130 per week. Tel: 01235

any time.

SENNEN: Cornwall, apartment sleeps 4+ child bed. Close to sandy beach and in an area of outstanding natural beauty. Per brochure prices ring 01235

SOUTH WALES: Gower holiday cottage, panoramic sea views, log burner, 89 sq ft, double front porch, sandy beaches, links, walks, castles, penicillin charm. £350-400 per week. 01403

WEYMOUTH BAY (Harwell): 2 and 3 bedroom caravans, indoor/outdoor swimming pools, bowling, entertainment, NO PETS. Phone 01235

WEYMOUTH Town Centre: one bedroom ground floor flat 100 metres from beach. All amenities. NO PETS. Phone 01235

ASTRA: J reg. 1415 injection, red, approx 60,000 miles. Reliable and in very good condition. Xax and moat. £4250. Contact Katie (01235)

FORD FIESTA GHIA: MOT failure, welding required. Engine and interior. Al. £130 or near offers. H5564 01488

MONTGOMERY: 7 seater, 2L GTI (H Reg - Dartmoor Rom). Roof bars, alloy wheels, electric sunroof & windows, PAS, tow bar, MOT Nov. 98. £2800. Tel: 01235 or (Friday) 0802

MISCELLANEOUS

AROMATHERAPY: renumerous, reflexology, holistic massage at The Pleinets, Rowstock, Lurdnham appointments available. Mrs H. Edwards TTEC, APTT 01235

MOBILE DISCO: professional, for any occasion, weddings, anniversaries, birthdays and corporate events. Tel: Rick on 01865 or 0958

PRIMARY SCHOOLING: - if you are you about to choose a primary school for your child, you may want to contact the secretary at Chilton County Primary School, Dorchester or a dedicated teacher who has been instrumental to parents, particularly working at Harwell or Chilton sites.

VISITING CHIROPDIT: enquiries/welcomes in Winchester! Didcot area. Tel: 01235

Linda White (member of the British Chiropody Association): WORKING LUNCHES & BUFFETS, freshly made and delivered free to Harwell and Rutherford. Let me cater for your needs with quality food at sensible prices. Tel: Office: 01235

YACHTING: an invitation to join a cruising fleet for my 24 foot yacht. Age and experience not a requirement. Call John on 01235 or H5319

HOUSE CLEARANCE: quality second-hand furniture, china, brass, linen, pictures, bric a brac wanted, courteous service. 01235

ARE YOU GETTING ECHO?

ECHO is the newsletter for all staff at the Cullinan and Harwell sites. Multiple copies are delivered to each building on publication. If you do not receive a copy on a regular basis or feel that the supply to your building is insufficient, please complete the form below and send to Rita Higgs, B521, Harwell.

Name

Organisation

Address

Tel no/extension