

eCHO

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CULHAM SCIENCE CENTRE & HARWELL BUSINESS CENTRE NOVEMBER 2000

'Our most challenging project to date'

Some areas in south east England had two months of rainfall in 24 hours.



A Harwell company has been heavily involved with the clean-up work and restoration for a number of organisations and businesses in the Lewes and Uckfield areas after the terrible flooding that struck when the River Ouse overflowed.

Harwell Drying & Restoration Services managing director, Ken McKenzie, said "This is by far the largest project we have ever been involved with. Two of our longest standing 'priority users' - East Sussex Record Office and the University of Sussex - were very badly affected. At one point the record office was under nine feet of water. Logistically the damage caused by East Sussex floods will prove our most challenging project to date."

HDRS specialises in the freeze-vacuum drying of documents and books after fire and flood. The business, which began in 1979, has developed in the past two decades to become the UK leader in its field.

The devastation suffered in East Sussex last month is far from being a freak event. Environmental experts predict that such floods will increase by up to ten times over the next century. Global warming is partly responsible, having had

an impact on weather patterns.

Alan Heasman of the Met. Office in Bracknell comments, "The annual rainfall in the UK has not increased significantly in the past ten years. The greater problem is the intensity of the rainfall and the fact that the land is not being capable of adequate drainage due to development of roads, and expansion of towns. There is nowhere for the water to go."

This was certainly true in Lewes where they experienced two months' rain in 24 hours.

Global warming is not the only culprit. The pressure for housing, particularly in the South East, has led to the development of land which has been a natural flood plain for centuries. The Environment Agency estimates around two million homes and businesses are currently at risk from a disaster similar to that experienced in East Sussex. With three million more homes planned for the South East by 2016, the Association of British Insurers is concerned about the mounting costs of claims and is demanding a halt to further development on flood plains.



HDRS disaster recovery team on-call 24 hours a day.

This month

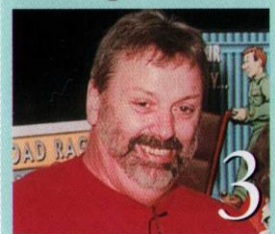
Students STEP up



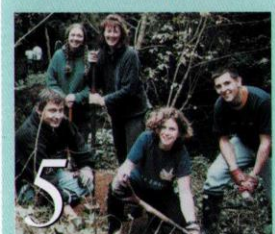
Fire safety



Strong advice



Well restored



Wildlife benefits



OBITUARY

Dr John Thresher

Dr John Thresher, former associate director of the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, has died, aged 71.

Dr Thresher began his career at the UK Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, before spending two years at the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory, in Berkeley, US, before returning to join RAL in 1963. Here he initiated a programme of experiments on the newly commissioned proton synchrotron, Nimrod. Dr Thresher became head of RAL's high-energy physics division in 1975 and associate director for particle physics in 1981.

His association with CERN, the world's biggest particle physics research centre in Geneva, began in 1968. He and his group studied the properties of short-lived elementary particles called hyperons. Between 1986 and 1991 he was CERN director of research with responsibility for a new experimental programme. He retired in 1992.

He was a member of Thames Vale Youth Orchestra and was chairman of the Thames Vale Music Trust. Dr Thresher was also an active member of the Abingdon Probus Club.

Oxford Trust helps students take first STEP

An award ceremony at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory marked the culmination of a successful work placement project for ten undergraduate students from universities across the UK.

The STEP programme is run by the Oxford Trust, an organisation that encourages the study and application of science and technology. As part of the programme ten students joined small and medium sized companies in Oxfordshire and the Thames Valley to undertake projects as diverse as market research and designing websites.

Edith Coakley, a PPP (psychology, philosophy, physiology) student from Oxford University won the Most Enterprising Student prize for her work with MindWeavers, a company developing training

software to aid children with language difficulties. Her project involved testing hearing in children and adults using a computer generated game before analysing the data and making recommendations for improvements.

Research has shown that small businesses that take STEP students can expect a six-fold return on their investment in the project. Any organisations who would like to take part in next year's programme should contact Anne Lechelle at the Oxford Trust on 01865 728953 or email annel@oxtrust.org.uk



Edith Coakley won first prize for her work to help children with language difficulties.

Tomorrow's breakthrough arrives today

A new scientific research instrument on the Isis facility at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory was officially inaugurated in October.

The Osiris spectrometer will provide scientists with the unrivalled combination of a spectrometer and a diffractometer in the same instrument. Using this they will be able to measure

where the atoms are and how they move in, for example, electro-active polymers, energy storage systems and magnetism.

Osiris will be one of the first instruments to use pulsed neutron polarisation analysis. This gives scientists the opportunity to discover new information necessary to unravel complex molecular diffusion in catalysts and magnetic structures such as in new high temperature superconductors and the most powerful magnetic materials.

This new technique involves the polarisation of helium gas, first developed for lung imaging. A recent breakthrough in laser technology allows much more helium to be polarised. The neutrons are polarised by passing through a large volume of the polarised gas.

"Polarisation analysis has been a technique which has long

been seen as tomorrow's breakthrough", explained John Tomkinson, Osiris project leader, "but, on Osiris, it is within our reach today".

The Osiris project is an international collaboration involving Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, India, Italy and two UK funding bodies - HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England) and EPSRC (Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council).

• Harwell Innovation Centre •

Hi2

Interactive computer games have evolved into a vast worldwide market. At the leading edge are interactive games played over the internet which create playing communities on a global scale. Each day an estimated 30 million people play on-line.

Behind the scenes there are organisations responsible for running these highly popular games channels. One of which is Hi2, a company now occupying space at the Harwell Innovation Centre. The company has grown rapidly since a buyout from Cable & Wireless a few years ago.

Hi2 is the developer of an internet games channel that is carried by leading ISPs (Internet Service Providers) around the world. ISPs including America On-

• Insight •

Line, WebQuest, Hasbro and News International, face fierce competition and constantly strive to make their websites more attractive to subscribers. The games facility provided by Hi2 can give them the edge. Hi2 offers a network that gives a global on-line gaming experience with huge audiences.



SAFETY Update

There has been one reportable incident at Harwell and none at Culham since the last issue of ECHO.

At Harwell an uninterruptible power supply unit, which is an item of safety related equipment, was overdue for its six monthly service.

FOR SAFETY'S SAKE

Did you know that nearly one in three nationally reported industrial accidents involves slips, trips and falls? At Harwell this year the proportion has been slightly higher.

We can all help to reduce this type of accident by:

1. Wiping up spills immediately; don't leave them for somebody else
2. Keeping our work area tidy; don't leave items on the floor where people can fall over them
3. Using handrails on staircases
4. Wearing suitable footwear
5. Being aware of uneven footpath and road surfaces

World's strongest man visits Harwell

Geoff Capes, former UK shot-putt champion and 'world's strongest man', visited Harwell International Business Centre as part of the European Week for Safety and Health. Invited to give lectures to staff on safe lifting and carrying, he also toured exhibition stands set up in the radiochemical facility (B220) at Harwell.

Once a former physical training instructor with the Cambridge police at Peterborough, Geoff was soon chatting with police officers from UKAEAC at Harwell promoting health and safety for officers on duty. AEA Technology, RGIT's occupational health staff, and UKAEA's southern division also mounted displays in support of the safety week.

Geoff is the most capped British male athlete of all time with 67 appearances for his country. His Commonwealth shot-putt record of just over 71

feet remains unbeaten in 20 years and he has also been European champion three times. Later he was to become the World's Strongest Man. Geoff currently spends his time on the safety lecture circuit, coaching athletes and breeding champion budgerigars.

Pictured top right (l-r) Geoff Capes holds a plastic spinal column with Nell Saunders (RGIT occupational health services at Harwell), Duncan Hardiman (AEA Technology, Harwell) and AEA Technology safety director, Rob Thomas.



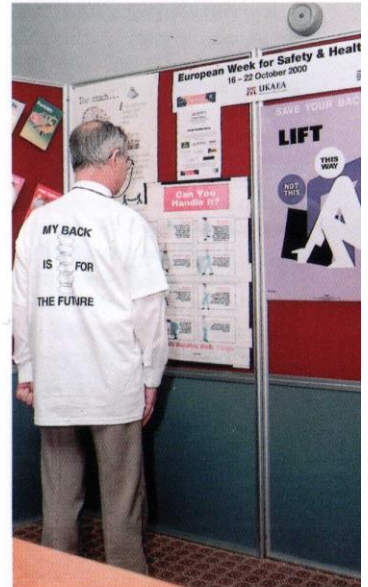
Culham exhibition

UKAEA's Culham division used this year's European Week for Safety and Health to focus on manual handling. An exhibition of safety information posters, with booklets to take away, was displayed in the D3 and K1 foyers.

A video on manual handling was shown during lunchtimes at both venues. All those attending received a free promotional t-shirt. Approximately 200 people attended these sessions. Advice was available at the showings from Sarah Nisar of RGIT.

A manual handling questionnaire and competition was run throughout with prizes donated by Alstec, Amey, Fircroft, Johnson Controls, Morson, Sovereign, The Shop and UKAEA. Organisers were extremely pleased with all the support they received and the enthusiastic response of the staff.

Trevor Hayes, Culham division safety officer, said, "I was delighted that the week was such a success - it was definitely a worthwhile exercise".



Dave Pluright, machine operations group demonstrates the message.

Harwell launches National Fire Safety Week

A successful conference organised by the Oxfordshire Fire Liaison Panel at Harwell marked the launch of this year's National Fire Safety Week.

Jim Fitzpatrick MP, chairman of the House of Commons All Party Fire Safety Committee, opened the conference in Cockcroft Hall. In his keynote speech to the 100 delegates he said that better fire safety benefited from partnerships between business, commerce and the public sector.

Graham Hatt, Johnson Controls fire protection adviser co-ordinated the conference arrangements. These included an impressive array of fire-fighting appliances drawn from county fire stations and parked outside the hall. Inside a number of safety companies exhibited fire detection and water sprinkler systems. Also in attendance was Oxfordshire's Fire Victim Support unit. Their role is to attend fire scenes to assist traumatised victims.



Children learnt some simple rules of fire prevention and were each given a free smoke alarm for their homes.

Alison Ashcroft, deputy head teacher of Chilton school brought 33 children to see fire demonstrations which included a chip pan fire.

Graham said, "It was a busy day but very worthwhile. Everyone involved is pleased that Oxfordshire was asked to launch this year's national fire safety week and I'm delighted that it was at Harwell."

First anniversary

AEAT's Analytical Services Group was sold to Scientifics (Derby) Ltd in October last year. Currently employing 60 staff, it continues to provide AEA Technology with an on-site analytical service, as well as carrying out contract analysis for a very wide customer base. After AEAT, the largest groups of customers are in the semiconductor and the pharmaceutical industries. Since the sale, work to non-AEAT customers has grown by nearly ten percent, with a significant increase coming from work for European customers. Some staff have taken advantage of the field work involved to improve their skiing and language skills, as the sites involved are in the French and Italian Alps!



NRPB reflects on the past and looks to the future



Guests and staff filled Cockcroft Hall to capacity for a special seminar to celebrate the 30th anniversary since the creation of the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB).

The audience was treated to a fascinating journey tracing the events that have shaped the organisation during the last three decades. They were also given a glimpse of the changing role of NRPB as it evolves to meet new demands in the twenty-first century.

H John Dunster, founder member and NRPB director from 1982-7, referred back to 1946 when the government embarked on a nuclear power programme. He recalled the scientific advances that spawned the Radioactive Substances Act and its advisory committee.

Sir Richard Southwood, NRPB chairman from 1985-1994, explored the implications

of risk and progress versus the need for protection. He explained how the balance had changed over the years. When risks to individuals become uncertain - for example, the effects of radiation, electromagnetic fields or mobile phones - protection requires an indepen-



Professor Clarke pictured right with Sir Walter Bodmer, said, "In coming years NRPB will use its wide expertise to meet the challenge of maintaining a high standard of objectivity, quality and independence and will redirect its skills to respond to the most relevant protection concerns."

dent monitor. Today, he noted, we are 'risk averse' and demand the greatest degree of protection to date. "As we live longer we have more to lose!" he noted.

Professor Roger Clarke, NRPB director since 1987, stressed that objectivity is a guiding principle. Around the world NRPB reports are regarded as definitive statements, completely independent of government or industry. He praised the staff at NRPB for their strong technical expertise, which underpins all its work, and how new skills have enabled the organisation to respond to today's new challenges.

Following the review process during the 90's Professor Clarke spoke about a revitalised organisation that had regained its momentum and seen its scientific and advisory integrity retained. This was demonstrated by the request by Tessa Jowell MP for NRPB to set up an independent committee to investigate the safety of mobile phones.

In his 'glimpse of the future' Sir Walter Bodmer, NRPB chairman, examined the ways in which the organisation was moving in new directions to tackle current and future issues.



H John Dunster, founder member and NRPB director from 1982-7.

NRPB now had a public health remit, for instance, and had seen a shift in its work from ionising to non-ionising forms of radiation. Studies included behavioural factors such as mobile phone use, and dealt with genetic susceptibility and epidemiological effects.

The Board had embraced its need to win external contracts to provide funding for its work and was successful at competing in the business arena. Finally, Sir Walter stressed how there had been a major change in NRPB's public interface. Today members of the public are more aware of its work and show a much greater interest. As a result NRPB aims to present information in a way that can be interpreted by the public. The website would be an increasingly important point of contact and NRPB would be exploring other ways of communicating such as the public meetings held as part of research for the report by the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones published in May 2000.

Nature's recycling scheme

The debate about what to do with our rubbish is gaining momentum, but have you ever wondered how the natural world copes with its rubbish disposal? Each year there are literally tonnes of leaves, twigs and branches, dead grass, and all those dead insects and animals.

The most impressive disposal is performed by the vast array of fungi which can remove whole tree trunks in just a few years. This is actually happening on the Mound, the wooded area by B521, where a number of glades have recently been created. At this time of year at least four species of fungi are visible on felled trees which have been left to rot away naturally.

As for the leaves, these are pulled into the ground by worms so that, by the arrival of

spring, most have miraculously disappeared. The team of grounds staff at Harwell speed up the process by sweeping the leaves up in some areas such as the playing fields. The leaves are left to rot down in a heap before being put back onto the flowerbeds as a mulch to retain moisture and suppress weeds.

Small animals such as rabbits will, if freshly killed, provide food for a buzzard perhaps. If not fresh they will still be eaten by scavengers such as carrion crows and magpies.



A Common Yellow Russula toadstool which can be seen on the Mound at Harwell.

In addition there is an army of beetles ready to clean the place up. Burying beetles, carrion and rove beetles all lay their eggs in the dead body. Although these

processes seem rather distasteful, evolution has devised a very efficient way of clearing up natural rubbish, and supporting other species into the bargain.

King Alfred's Well restored

Staff of UKAEA's safety & environment department at Harwell left their offices for a hard day's work at a local history site. They chose remedial work at the site of King Alfred's Well in Wantage for a team-building day. The local council was keen to make the site more accessible.

Some 26 staff cleared undergrowth, constructed steps and pathways and even built a wooden bridge across the stream that flows through the site. Expert guidance, tools and insurance were provided by staff from BTCV, the national charity supporting volunteer conservation work.

Jon Woodcock, BTCV operations manager, said, "Harwell staff have provided a month's

worth of labour today and they have made a valuable contribution to our two-year programme to restore this historic site." The mayor of Wantage visited the site during the afternoon and spoke with some members of the group.

Afterwards the local leisure centre kindly allowed the group free use of showers and changing facilities. The day was completed with a sit down buffet meal at a local inn.

Allen Edwards, department head, commented, "I'm pleased that the department decided to take on this conservation project for the benefit of the local community. It fits in well with UKAEA's mission to restore its environment and our recent drive to achieve ISO14001 certification for environmental standards. It has been a good team-building project."

Companies wishing to benefit from community based team building projects can contact BTCV on 01628 771189.



UKAEA wildlife support recognised

This year's BBOWT annual conference saw its largest gathering of wildlife conservationists to date.

Over 120 delegates attended the third volunteer conference of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) at the Wheatley campus of Oxford

Brookes University in October.

Sir Henry Aubrey Fletcher, BBOWT chairman, welcomed delegates and said it was a fitting climax to the trust's 40th anniversary year. Director, Martin Spray, publicly thanked UKAEA at Harwell for sponsoring the conference.

Called 'Biodiversity 2000', the first session was led by Christine Bailey. She explained that conservation objectives in the three counties mirrored those at a national level, but were largely carried out by hundreds of volunteers. She specifically mentioned conservation of the water vole which had suffered an 88% decline between 1992 and 1998, and was facing extinction. The bat population has also declined over the past 20 years. On a positive note, species such as the

military orchid had thrived under the trust's care and new colonies had established in Berkshire.

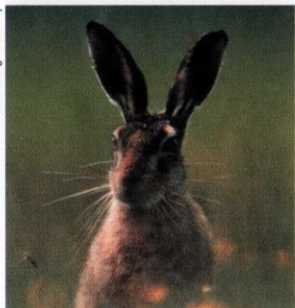
She said there was a need to dispel negative myths about bats and to encourage more bat boxes to be erected as these were helping rare species stabilise in the region. Volunteers were counting the numbers of endangered species, such as song thrushes and stag beetles, and provided data that helped BBOWT to focus its limited resources.

Nick Hance, UKAEA PR manager at Harwell, said, "UKAEA's mission is about restoring the environment and we were pleased to support BBOWT's conference. I attended the event and came away fired up by the enthusiasm of the volunteers who came from every walk of life."

Retirement after 25 years

After 25 years' service in the UKAEA Constabulary chief inspector Jack Groves retired at the end of September. Jack came to Harwell in 1997 and reached the position of operational unit commander. All UKAEA personnel at Harwell wish Jack a long and happy retirement.

Photo: George McCarthy



A brown hare. Harwell was originally named 'Harewell' due to the abundance of hares on the Berkshire Downs.

Jeans for Genes 2000

Organisers would like to say thank everyone who contributed to this year's Jeans for Genes appeal. Despite short notice B.521 staff raised over £75 for the appeal. Every contribution helped generate around £2.5m for the national appeal towards pioneering research into genetic disorders or birth defects that affect one baby in every 30 born in the UK.



OUT & ABOUT

'Dead Funny'

9-11 November

Compton Players will be performing 'Dead Funny' by Terry Johnson on Thursday 9, Friday 10 and Saturday 11 November at Compton Coronation Hall. In this comedy (NOT suitable for children) the Dead Comedians Society gathers to mourn the tragic loss of Benny Hill, with hilarious results. Box office: 01635 578821.

Christmas Craft Fairs

The Thames Craft Guild Christmas Craft Fair is being held on **Saturday 18 November** in The Abbey Hall, Abingdon from 9.30am - 4.30pm. Proceeds go to charity. Admission is adults 40p, free entry for accompanied children (under 14).

On **Sunday 19 November** there will be a Christmas Craft Fair with over 70 stalls at Hagbourne School and Village Hall, East Hagbourne, near Didcot, from 11.30am - 4.30pm. Entry: 75p (children free). Homemade refreshments available all day. Details 01235 850668.

Men demonstrate baking skills



Chemists make excellent bakers! Pictured from left, judges, Myra Hardiman and Madeleine Jefferies, with Tom Charlesworth and Steve Harding (runner up and winner respectively), and helper, Julia Reynolds.

Staff in B220 enjoyed a superb selection of freshly baked cakes to accompany their coffee as part of the 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning'. The cakes were entries in a men only baking competition, run for the second year as part of fundraising activities for Macmillan Cancer Relief that totalled over £300.

Entering for the first time, Steve Harding stole first prize with his sticky black gingerbread. Tom Charlesworth was judged runner up for his continental concoction called Vertang's asbach fruitcake with almonds! The tasting panel of Myra Hardiman, Madeleine Jefferies, Dave

Weaver and Chris Bridger, were extremely impressed by the standard of entries and the overall level of expertise. One entrant had made a selection of Danish pastries involving yeast recipes and another baked some chocolate eclairs.

"The cakes were definitely above average," comments Myra, "with very imaginative recipes and well executed. We came to the conclusion that chemists must have a natural flair for baking as there are some similarities!"

As well as a raffle, staff found great amusement putting names to portraits of colleagues taken as babies or young children. The winner of the challenge was Kerry Hodgeson with Malcolm Cherrill runner-up. No-one correctly identified all 21 photos, which perhaps goes to show that all the subjects have aged considerably since the pictures were taken!

Thank you

A really big 'thank you' to everyone who supported the World's Biggest Coffee morning event hosted by CFX International on Thursday, 5 October. Due to your generosity we raised £223.50 for Macmillan Cancer Relief.

Thanks again, Chris Markiw

New bus service

A new public bus service will soon make regular stops serving Harwell International Business Centre and the Chilton campus. On behalf of the major employers at Harwell and Chilton, UKAEA has signed a contract with Stagecoach Oxford to add these stops to its routes as part of an overall service review in south Oxfordshire.



"UKAEA has been working with local bus companies and county councils for some years to improve services to the site and give staff a real alternative to car use," says Ian Rodham of UKAEA's central property unit. "The new Stagecoach service is a major step forward and, if demand exists, operators may consider running additional direct routes.

"These plans are also important in light of Johnson Controls' decision not to continue its home to work bus service. Since the new arrangements include frequent services to and from Didcot Parkway, the current minibus to the station will also cease. Organisations on the campus felt that a regular public service was more appropriate than a private one that only operates once, each way, per day. In addition, we anticipate that the

fares will be lower under the new arrangements" he said.

The revised Stagecoach services will run to and from Abingdon, Didcot, Grove, Oxford, Wantage and intermediate points, taking in stops at the Harwell / Chilton campus. Buses will travel up from Rowstock roundabout to serve the existing bus stops on the A4185 at North Drive and Harwell main gate, before stopping at the Harwell bus park. They will then follow the same route back to Rowstock.

Stagecoach has yet to confirm an exact start date, but this will be 2nd January at the latest. Summary timetables and fare information have already been circulated. The final detailed timetable will be announced in the near future. Considerable financial support to help fund the new service is being provided by major employers on the Harwell and Chilton campuses.

Partygoers raise



The hard-working committee members who made it all possible.

Over two hundred guests enjoyed the eleventh Charity Ball on 20 October and raised over £2,000 for local charities.

Held for the first time in the Rutherford Appleton restaurant, the ball featured three live acts headed by the new 'Unbelievables' featuring lead singer, Helen Tyler. In addition the classically trained Adua Bianchini entertained guests with a wide repertoire of songs ranging from soft ballads to dance music. The evening was rounded off by 'Electroloom' disco.

Well over £2000 was raised for local charities, namely, NSPCC Oxford branch, Ladygrove care centre for the elderly in Didcot, the Cats

Protection League Didcot branch, and the Oxford Night Shelter (for the down but not quite outs!).

Although the ball committee had a few problems on the night they have since received more plaudits than ever and wish to pass on their thanks to everyone involved.

The committee would also like to thank all the sponsors including UKAEA, AEA, JCL, Carlson Wagonlit, RAL Recreation Association and all the generous people who donated raffle prizes. Particular thanks go to Richard Lawrence-Wilson, director, administration, CLRC, who gave permission for the ball to go ahead.

• Harwell Laboratories •
Recreational Association
SORRY!
 The Harwell Rec. Association regretfully announces that, due to operational problems, there will be no bonfire and fireworks display this year. We hope that, with financial assistance and manpower from major organisations on the Harwell and Chilton campuses, we shall be able to provide a bigger and better event next year. The association offers its apologies to all members and their families who look forward to this annual event.

Nuclear industry family study

Some staff may have seen media coverage about the publication in *The Lancet* of an independent study examining the health of the offspring of employees of UKAEA, BNFL and AWE. The study, funded by the Department of Health, and the Health and Safety Executive, was carried out by analysing the responses from over 46,000 questionnaires sent to employees, including current and past workers of UKAEA, about their children's health. Many staff responded at the time and, overall, the response rate was about 80%.

The first part of the study dealt with cancer in children born to parents who work in the nuclear industry and the results, which were reassuring, were published last year in the *British Medical Journal*. The second results paper examines birth defects, miscarriages and stillbirths in the babies of nuclear industry workers and was published in *The Lancet* on 13 October 2000.

Respondents to the questionnaires about health of offspring were predominantly male, due to the make up of the industry's workforce, and they reported 23,676 pregnancies in their partners. Female

employees reported 3,585 pregnancies.

The study finds no increased risk of birth defects, miscarriages or stillbirths in the babies of male radiation workers. Similarly, in mothers there was no association between the radiation exposure of a mother and a child having a birth defect. The risk of early miscarriage or stillbirth was slightly higher if the mother had been monitored for radiation before conception, but this result is based on such small numbers that no clear link can be established.

The authors of the report

from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said, "Our overall findings are reassuring. The main message from this work is that men exposed to radiation at work in the UK nuclear industry do not father pregnancies with increased levels of adverse outcome. Although the statistics showed a slightly higher risk among monitored mothers, with numbers as small as these it would be hard not to rule out this as a chance finding or due to other factors not addressed in this study."

Commenting on the two reports so far published, Dr

New hotel

ECHO readers may have noticed articles in the local press about the possibility of a new hotel at Harwell International Business Centre. Although no deal has been done, UKAEA has confirmed that they are holding discussions with an operator. If these discussions are successful a planning application will be submitted in due course and more details will be included in a future edition of ECHO.

Eve Roman, an author from the Leukaemia Research Fund said, "These results, together with our previous findings of no risk of cancer in children of men working in the nuclear industry, are very good news for these workers."

Staff who would like advice about this latest report should contact the site occupational health centre.

BBC 'Any Questions?'

This is to remind readers that the BBC's popular radio programme 'Any questions?' will be broadcast live from the Cockcroft Hall, Harwell International Business Centre, on Friday 15 December at 8pm. Staff and members of the public, over the age of 14, are invited to attend free of charge. The programme, which will debate questions arising from the news that week, is to be chaired by Jonathan Dimpleby. Among the panellists will be Roy Jenkins from East Hendred. If you would like to be considered for a ticket, please contact Nick Hance (UKAEA B521 Harwell, Didcot Oxon. OX11 0RA or email: nick.hance@ukaea.org.uk) with relevant details.

MP views Harwell changes

Wantage MP, Robert Jackson, saw for himself the rapidly changing face of Harwell International Business Centre during his recent visit.

The highlight of the visit, hosted by John Wilkins, UKAEA head of site, included donning protective clothing to see progress in the environmental restoration of the Southern Storage Area. Mr Jackson later saw the rapid progress being made in the construction of AEA Technology's new Engineering Software Services building on Fermi Avenue.

Over lunch he was joined by Steve Moss, UKAEA's head of the central property development unit, and discussions centred on the development potential for Harwell within the constraints of being a licensed nuclear site.



Pictured at the Southern Storage Area (from left) Paul Atyeo (UKAEA); Robert Jackson MP, Paul Cashon (BHE) and Chris Morgan (UKAEA).

Robert Jackson said, "I am very impressed with the scale of work and thorough approach being taken to restore the Southern Storage Area. This multi-million

pound scheme is one of the ten largest 'greening' projects in the UK and is effectively dealing with the problem of 60 years of military and industrial occupation."

THE COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS: Monday 20 November for publication on Wednesday 6 December 2000.



ECHO is published by
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