

eCHO

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CULHAM SCIENCE CENTRE & HARWELL BUSINESS CENTRE FEBRUARY 2001

Politicians put on a good show

'On air' - the audience applauds a panellist's answer.

A packed audience in the Cockcroft Hall was treated to a lively and highly entertaining exchange of views as four eminent panellists tackled questions on topical issues ranging from fish quotas to the festive season for the live broadcast of Radio 4's 'Any Questions?'



Tension grew noticeably as the minutes ticked away before the 8pm start. The occasion took on a pantomime feel as the 250-strong audience enjoyed a 'warm up' session with presenter Chris Aldridge and practised cries of assent and dissent in readiness. At the same time, the producer, Lisa Jenkinson, and her team were in another room busily selecting the ten questions that would shape the content of the programme. The fact that the panel has no warning of the questions adds much to the spontaneity of the debate.

More than 60% of the audience had submitted a question as they entered the hall that evening. In the final few moments, the 'questioners'

(l-r) Dr John McKeown, UKAEA chief executive, Rt Hon John Redwood, MP for Wokingham, Beatrix Campbell, Guardian/Express columnist, Rt Hon Jack Straw, home secretary, Sir Paddy Ashdown, former Lib Dems leader, Dr John Wilkins, UKAEA head of site at Harwell.

were asked to 'come on down' to the front row as the panel took their places on stage.

Seated either side of chairman, Jonathan Dimpleby, were the home secretary, Jack Straw, Sir Paddy Ashdown, former Liberal Democrat leader, John Redwood, MP for Wokingham, and Bea Campbell, a socialist and feminist author and journalist. A test question put everyone at their ease by tackling the tricky seasonal dilemma, 'does the panel believe that children should be told the truth about Father Christmas?'

Technicians patched into the 8 o'clock news bulletin before the lights lit up to indicate that the show had gone live. Jonathan Dimpleby welcomed listeners to "the Harwell International Business Centre for science and technology, world famous for more than half a century as the home of Britain's first atomic energy project." He continued that "The centre has evolved into a commercial hub for a host of large and small enterprises at the cutting edge of science and technology."

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Innogy update



Bee's knees



Fifteen To One



Millennium memories 8



Brian Morris, chairman of Chilton Parish Council, asked the first question, "Should fish take precedence over fishermen or fisherman over fish?" referring to the dramatic reduction of cod quotas announced that day. From the outset the panellists clashed in true political fashion with the audience noisily giving their support or opposition as the points were scored in each rally.

"Are William Hague's comments on the Macpherson report a brave challenge to political correctness or a distasteful attempt to whip up popular prejudice?" asked



(l-r) Sir Paddy Ashdown MP, Brian Finnegan, tutor in politics at Didcot sixth form, Jonathan Dimpleby, chairman of 'Any Questions?' and sixth form students.

Reverend Mary Carney, assistant minister for Harwell and Chilton. Captain John Flood, Didcot town councillor, was next with "The formation of a joint European military force was not debated by parliament. Fox hunting is to be debated. Does this show a strange sense of priorities?"

The panel gave their views on nuclear power in response to a question from Dr Mark Hinnells who

works for ETSU at Harwell. He posed "On the day that Chernobyl finally closed would the panel agree that nuclear power has no part to play in a sustainable energy future?"

Liz Morris, clerk to Chilton Parish Council, raised a human rights issue before the final humorous question from Lee Thacker who works for AEAT corporate finance. She asked, "We are now in the pantomime season. If the panel could be granted a wish by the genie of the lamp, what would it be, and why?"

Sadly not all questioners could be heard, including UKAEA's Andy Munn, who would have prompted a debate about the American election fiasco. But, as the applause died down and the panellists enjoyed some hospitality at Harwell, everyone was in agreement that it had been a most enjoyable evening.

• Harwell Innovation Centre •

Multicap UK Ltd

The future is wireless, according to Multicap, a new tenant at Harwell Innovation Centre. The business was set up last year by two experts in the field, Colin Bateman and Catherine Pullan, and specialises in wireless technology.



Colin Bateman

The name Multicap is not new to the industry. In 1993 Multicap began wireless distribution in Europe and now has offices in Antwerp, Belgium and Vienna, Austria. The new operation at Harwell is a sister organisation, serving customers throughout the UK. It acts as a distributor and, or consultancy, to resellers and dealers serving the business-to-business sector.

In simple terms the wireless technology, first developed for military applications, is used to link computers, and provide internet access, without the need for cables. It is well suited to organisations with a network of computers in separate buildings and for mobile communication via laptops. The systems are ideal for sensitive areas such as intensive care units, or manufacturing using robotics. Once installed the technology provides a wholly-owned network with zero running costs and no license is needed.



Multicap UK has already set up a customer base and has arranged a number of training and symposium events to inform dealers of the very latest products.

"Harwell offers us the flexibility to grow and a good location for product distribution across the UK," comments general manager, Colin Bateman.

For more details contact Multicap on 01235 838506 or email sales@multicap.co.uk

Seven Design Associates

Mark Baker heads up this graphic design business now run from the Harwell Innovation Centre. Mark launched the company five years ago and had been based at home but felt the move to an office would also be an important strategic move.

"I began looking for new premises through the Thames Business Advice Centre," he says. "The innovation centre is an ideal solution being serviced offices and having contact with lots

of other companies gives great opportunities for new business. This new potential means we're hoping to take on another designer in coming months."

Existing clients include Research Machines, publishers Elsevier Science Ltd, Karting Oxford and Reading College, whose promotional campaign 'The Race is On', devised by Mark, won first prize in the further education marketing awards.

Seven Design Associates also works with smaller companies to develop corporate image and marketing campaigns. "We'll be targeting small to medium and start up companies because most would benefit from a professional image but can't afford big agency fees. We have lower overheads so can offer an affordable, yet really creative approach."

Visit the website at www.seven-design.co.uk or call Mark Baker on 0870 606 1280 for more information.



Video hire

To occupy the dark winter evenings why not hire a video from the Londis shop in Curie Avenue. Around 150 films are available and prices are £2.50 for latest releases and £2.00 for all others. Staff on site at Harwell and Culham can also take advantage of a special offer to hire a video over the weekend for the single night rate. Visit the Londis store to register for the video hire service. Another new introduction this month at Londis is a hot food counter. Hot pies, pastries, sausage rolls and other food freshly prepared at the store, will be on sale.

You can bus to work



Buses on the road - John Wilkins, UKAEA head of site at Harwell (fourth from right) and representatives from Stagecoach and major site organisations give the new bus service their support.



In addition to the Stagecoach services, home to work coach services to Harwell IBC / Chilton are also operated by Tappin's Coaches (tel. 01235 819393) and a group of Newbury residents (contact Roland Broadwood at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (RAL, tie line 730, extension 6281).

Transport survey

Successful transport planning relies on an understanding of staff travel patterns and the problems they face. Working with the other organisations on the Harwell / Chilton campus, UKAEA is organising a travel survey to supplement earlier work that has been done to establish travel patterns on the site.

The survey will be issued to staff by their own organisations within the next few weeks. The format is electronic but for those without access to a PC it will also be possible to complete the survey on paper. All staff are urged to complete and return their survey as soon as possible to have an input in future transport plans for the site.

The new bus service is up and running, bringing staff from Abingdon, Didcot, Grove, Newbury, Oxford, Wantage and intermediate points, to work at the Harwell IBC / Chilton campus.

"As part of the development of the business centre, we are really encouraging green methods of transport," comments Ian Rodham of UKAEA's central property unit. "Harwell International Business Centre alone sees over 10,000 vehicle movements in and out of the site each day. Over 80% of these journeys are by car with most having only one occupant.

"In line with government policy to reduce dependence on the car, these new bus routes will improve services to the site and give staff a real alternative to car use."

Financial support to help fund the new service is being provided by major employers on the Harwell and Chilton campuses but the long term future of the service relies on customer demand. At this early stage awareness is a very important factor in increasing patronage. Everyone on site is encouraged to provide information on public transport to their visitors, contractors, temp

agencies, etc.

For this purpose a Public Transport Guide for the site has been produced and should be available in all organisations and public buildings at Harwell and Chilton. If you can't get a copy please contact Suzanne Ayres on 01235 436768 (H6768). Currently in production are credit card size timetables showing buses to and from Didcot Parkway. These are designed for staff to send to visitors arriving by train and will be issued to all organisations on site.

Nursery transport lesson



The UKAEA Constabulary, the fire and ambulance services all visited Harwell Nursery School recently. Far from an emergency, the on site services were paying a social call to give the pre-school children an insight into their work.

The school's overall theme for the term was transport and as part of the topic children were learning about modes of transport used by people who help them. As well as an opportunity to examine the police car, ambulance and fire engine, at close quarters, the children fired questions at the visitors. Pictured here, PC Rob Hughes, of the UKAEA Constabulary, Harwell, found the children were fascinated by the lights on the police patrol car and also his equipment belt with plastic handcuffs, torch, etc. "The questions came thick and fast," he said, "and I was able to introduce some basic safety advice as part of the visit."



Radon in drinking water

NRPB has been providing information about levels of radon in drinking water following a study reported in Devon that found a few supplies with levels above the proposed European Union guidelines. Radon is a natural radioactive gas originating from uranium which occurs in many types of rock. All water and air contains some radon although levels are normally too low to be of concern. However higher concentrations of radon can occur and this may present a problem in some private water supplies. Householders with a private water supply and whose radon in the air has been measured and found to be above the recommended action level are advised to arrange for their water supply to be tested. Local councils can provide details of laboratories that carry out these measurements.

Watches recalled

In the busy pre-Christmas shopping period, NRPB issued advice about watches bought in France that were found to be radioactive. French regulatory authority, Office de Protection contre les Rayonnements Ionisants (OPRI) had informed NRPB that some watches sold at Carrefour hypermarkets had radioactive metal in the bracelets. The material was found following a check on an employee at the Tricastin nuclear plant. This showed that the radioactivity was attributable to cobalt 60, a component of the watch bracelet, and completely unrelated to the operation of the nuclear plant. Some 4,500 watches had been sold. NRPB advised any purchasers to return the watches to one of three regional centres in the UK.

OUT & ABOUT

Radio and computing rally

Harwell Amateur Radio Society are holding a Radio and Computing Rally on Sunday 11 February 2001 at the Didcot Leisure Centre, Mereland Road, Didcot from 10.30am-3.30pm. Stalls will include radio and computing equipment, books and software, satellite equipment, antenna systems, a Bring and Buy Stall, and light refreshments. Admission £1 (children under 12 free).

Sounds of Wales

A gala concert to celebrate St David's Day is being performed by the South Wales Male Choir on Saturday 24 February at 7.30pm at Cheltenham Town Hall. Tickets £11, £9, £6 (concessions available). Tel. Town Hall box office on 01242 521621 / 227979.

BBOWT outings

Moths, myths and mysteries is the subject of a talk on Monday 12 February at 8pm at South Hill Park Arts Centre, Ringmead, Birch Hill, Bracknell. Contact B Ingleby 01344 427555.

A talk on **local bird conservation** by the Oxfordshire Ornithology Society on Wednesday 14 February, 7.45pm, at Oxford Brookes University, Gipsy Lane, Headington. Contact D Hawkins on 01993 880027.

MRC spring seminars

The programme of MRC spring seminars includes a presentation on Tuesday 27 February by Dr Lyndal Kearney, MRC Molecular Haematology Unit, Institute of Molecular Medicine, John Radcliffe Hospital. The topic is 'The identification and analysis of new non-random translocations in leukaemia'. On Tuesday 6 March Dr Andrew Tutt, Institute of Cancer Research, Sutton, will give a presentation on 'Brca2, DNA repair and the maintenance of genome stability'. For more details and the full list of seminars see the MRC website: <http://www.har.mrc.ac.uk/events/seminar.htm>

Changes in store for Innogy

Two years ago National Power located at Harwell to develop its novel energy storage system called 'Regenesys'. During that time, a number of changes have taken place. Last year, the business was set up as a separate company known as Innogy Limited - a combination of innovation and technology - and various public announcements were made about the work taking place to develop and assemble their system.

Last October National Power underwent a major reorganisation and, as a result, demerged its activities into two new companies. Usually parents give their offspring their name



An artist's impression of the Regenesys energy storage plant being constructed at Little Barford in Cambridgeshire.

but, in an unusual move, Innogy Ltd's parent decided to rename itself Innogy plc. So the tenants of building 418.15 now represent Innogy Technology Ventures Limited, and also Elegenix Limited, a technology management company to replace the former Innogy.

Innogy Technology Ventures Ltd has also announced its plans to construct an energy storage plant at Little Barford in Cambridgeshire, based on its Regenesys energy storage modules. This new plant has been called the world's largest battery, capable of storing 120 MWh of energy, which is



Some 120 of these XL modules, assembled at Harwell, will be used for the Cambridgeshire plant.

enough energy to supply a small town for a day. Innogy Technology Ventures Ltd will also be working with the Tennessee Valley Authority in the USA to build a similar size energy storage plant there. These energy storage plants will use the Regenesys XL energy storage modules, which are being assembled at Harwell.

Smooth operator on helpdesk

Any queries from UKAEA staff or tenants about Harwell site matters can be dealt with quickly and efficiently, thanks to Carol Chubb who mans the 'Helpdesk 3000'. Enquiries may include problems with buildings, roads, technical matters, or any general query.

As part of the Mainsaver maintenance system UKAEA has re-established an in-house helpdesk which streamlines all enquiries, and their solutions. Staff can use either the Lotus notes email template, or telephone Carol on H3000. She can then route the query directly to contractors where work is required, or will reply herself if the matter is not maintenance-related.

"At the moment I'm dealing with about 50 queries a day," comments Carol, "but bad weather certainly causes most problems on site. The stormy weather of late has generated queries about damage to the estate but the new system means we can respond quickly."

"Having worked at Harwell for over 10 years I am also able to help with more general questions or can refer the caller

on to the right person."

UKAEA property management is keen to remind staff and tenants at Harwell that the service is available and would encourage them to use the email form for speed.

Anyone who does not have Helpdesk 3000 as a 'favourite' on their Lotus notes should contact ISaT on H3929 to arrange installation. Helpdesk 3000 is manned from Monday to Thursday 8am to 4.30pm and 8am to 3.50pm on Fridays.



Carol Chubb, helpdesk operator.

At all other times urgent calls are directed to the emergency response team.

Entertaining science

Johnny Ball, TV presenter and Zoe's father, was the star attraction at a recent engineering open day for local schools at Culham Science Centre. The theme of the day was a celebration of the proud past and bright future of engineering. The event was one of many similar days organised across the country by the Campaign to Promote Engineering. About 150 pupils aged from 13 to 16 attended from schools in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. The enthusiastic youngsters were treated to a typically flamboyant and enter-

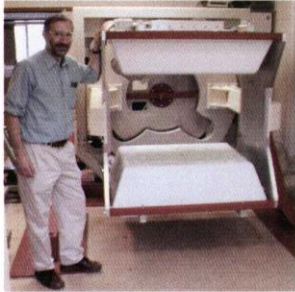


Johnny Ball makes science lessons fun.

taining lecture by the celebrity. They also had a guided tour of the JET experiment and enjoyed some interactive sessions. Later the same day Johnny presented a further lecture for teachers and local VIPs.

New body scanner

A new, low-cost, whole-body scanning technique which could revolutionise the detection and treatment of cancer and other diseases, has been developed by researchers at the Institute of Cancer Research and the Royal Marsden Hospital in collaboration with staff at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory.



Richard Stephenson, project leader at RAL, with the scanner during development.

The powerful new scanner - known as Petra - will allow doctors to detect the early onset of cancer and determine the rate of tumour growth. Scanners could be in use in hospitals within two years.

"It's very satisfying to see techniques developed for particle physics experiments being used to benefit everyone, and I've really enjoyed working alongside the doctors and scientists at the Royal Marsden Hospital on this

excellent project", said Richard Stephenson, who has led the project at RAL.

Petra is the latest instrument to be built as part of a long-standing collaboration between the instrumentation department at RAL and the physics group at the Institute of Cancer Research at the Royal Marsden Hospital, Sutton, Surrey.

The Petra body scanner is large enough to carry out a whole body scan of an adult patient in no more than two

passes using positron emission tomography (PET). PET is a more sensitive diagnostic for many cancers than conventional methods - for example X-rays - and can be far more specific about the malignancy of a tumour. Its main use will be in cancer research where its large field of view will allow secondary tumours in cancer patients to be identified and located with improved sensitivity compared with other methods.

The Night Job



After the play there were hands-on activities for the visitors including scientific games and an infrared exhibition. Youngsters pictured here learn how stringed instruments make their sound.

Advert on bee's knee



A bee carries a micro knee band with the world's smallest advert.

The world's smallest advert, slightly bigger than the diameter of a human hair, was created by RAL to launch the Guinness World Records website. Guinness World Records was looking for a novel way to herald its new website and felt the microscopic advert would capture the extreme nature of record breaking. It was a delicate procedure and took half a day to complete. Evaporated gold was layered onto a piece of film through a stencil, using a laser. The stencil was removed and the film was mounted on a silicon band and attached to the bee's knee. The advert beat the existing world record for the smallest ad - measuring 17mm x 12mm - by a long way.

Flat screen boost

Printable Field Emitters (PFE) based at Chilton has received a £1.5m investment from UK venture capital company, Qeater. PFE is developing low cost electronic flat panel display technology to build a 'hang on the wall' television measuring up to 40". It will use the investment to expand its facilities and build full colour flat panel demonstration displays.

The incredible achievements of a brother and sister who combined music and astronomy were the subject of a special play and workshop at RAL.

An audience ranging in age from five to 75 years enjoyed a fascinating play about the lives of William and Caroline Herschel. William, who was described as the greatest scientific observer ever, was a celebrated organist, conductor and composer by day. In his spare time he discovered infrared and, with his sister, discovered the planet Uranus.

Caroline was a much-praised singer and, in her own right, discovered eight comets. Together they built the most powerful telescopes of the 18th century.

"On display were some of William Herschel's lab notebooks, a first edition of Newton's Principia and a piece of the tree under which Newton made his most important discovery!" says Janet Haylett

of RAL. "Thanks must go to Peter Hingley, librarian at the Royal Astronomical Society, who brought along these treasured items."

Changing climate

Rutherford Appleton Laboratory is a partner in a new multi-million pound climate change research centre. RAL is one of nine institutions that together will develop radical new responses to climate change and help policymakers make informed decisions for the future. The venture is based at the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, at the University of East Anglia, Norwich. Dr Jim Halliday, head of the energy research unit at RAL is deputy co-ordinator of one research programme exploring renewable and new energy technologies.



Annual General Meeting

The HLRA AGM will be held in the Cockcroft Hall, Maxwell Avenue, Harwell, on Wednesday 28 March 2001, starting at 12.30pm.

Members should note that the AGM has been delayed this year, pending a decision by the Vale of White Horse District Council on the planning application for a new hotel and leisure complex, which is expected by 18 March 2001. Delaying the AGM until after this date will ensure an opportunity for the most constructive discussion at the meeting on the future provision of leisure facilities at Harwell.

Nomination forms for positions on the HLRA management committee are available from the Rec. Assoc. office, B455, Harwell, or call H3296. Nominations must be seconded, approved by the nominee and

forwarded to the association office. Proposals for consideration at the AGM should be submitted in writing (and seconded) to the Rec. Assoc. office no later than Wednesday 7 March 2001.

Decisions may be taken at this AGM that will shape the future of HLRA and members are therefore urged to make every effort to attend. Please use your vote and support your association!

Tennis AGM

This is a last minute reminder that the annual general meeting of the Harwell Labs Lawn Tennis Club will be held on Thursday 8th February 2001 at 12.30pm in the Squash Club lounge. Please make an effort to attend. Your committee, who meet once every month, would welcome your attendance as a chance to have some feedback on the running of the club.

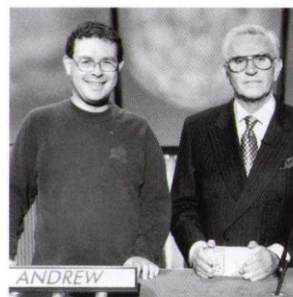
From 15 down to 2

There is a celebrity in our midst! Just before Christmas, Andrew Read of AEA Technology Environment, Harwell, made an appearance as a contestant on the Channel 4 TV quiz show 'Fifteen To One'.

It was his second appearance on the show - the first being in 1994 - and he was keen to improve on the debut performance which he readily confesses was terrible. "I only got one question right! Like most people, my general knowledge is good in parts, bad in others, and I was unlucky enough to get questions on opera and cricket, both of which I know little about."

Following a successful audition in the early autumn of 2000, Andrew attended the studio recording of the programme in London that October. This time he found that the questions asked by the steely presenter, William G Stewart, were much more to his liking - no opera or cricket!

After an exciting first two



Andrew with presenter, William G Stewart

rounds, Andrew was one of the three remaining contestants in the final. It was a question on art which caused his eventual downfall but he became runner-up for the day. "I was quite happy coming second, as I never entered with the intention of trying too hard to win. I just wanted to enjoy myself and try not to appear thick in front of the nation!"

Andrew says that he must be a bit of a showman at heart, as he enjoys taking part in television programmes and would like to do more, 'Big Break' being a particular favourite.

Didcot to Dakar

The onset of his thirtieth birthday has prompted John Sedwards of UKAEA's Harwell Projects department to embark on a trans-Saharan motorbike adventure.

The self-confessed bike fanatic plans to make a 5,000-mile round trip from Didcot to Dakar in Senegal, and raise funds for the South Oxfordshire Hearing Support Service. John has travelled extensively in Europe and Ireland on two wheels but the African continent will pose a quite different challenge. Although he has chosen the most benign season to traverse the desert, he will still be faced with long days of solitude, trying to navigate across the sand dunes.

His standard Honda 650cc bike has been greatly modified for the trip with purpose built wheels, desert tyres, aluminium panniers and extended fuel tanks. Most important of all, John has fitted GPS satellite navigation. The maps he has ordered from Institute Geographic Nationale in Paris are dated 1961!



As he travels across the desert, John will rely on his trusty bike and other survival equipment like a special water filter.

"Although I was planning the trip as a personal goal, I recently learnt that my next door neighbour's daughter is profoundly deaf, so my efforts will help children like her," he says.

John sets off on 3 March and would welcome sponsorship or support from ECHO readers. He can be contacted on H5982.

Ball benefits charities

Four popular local charities each received £650 thanks to funds generated by the Chilton Charity Ball. At an informal presentation at the nearby Horse & Jockey inn, representatives joined organisers to celebrate the generous donations.

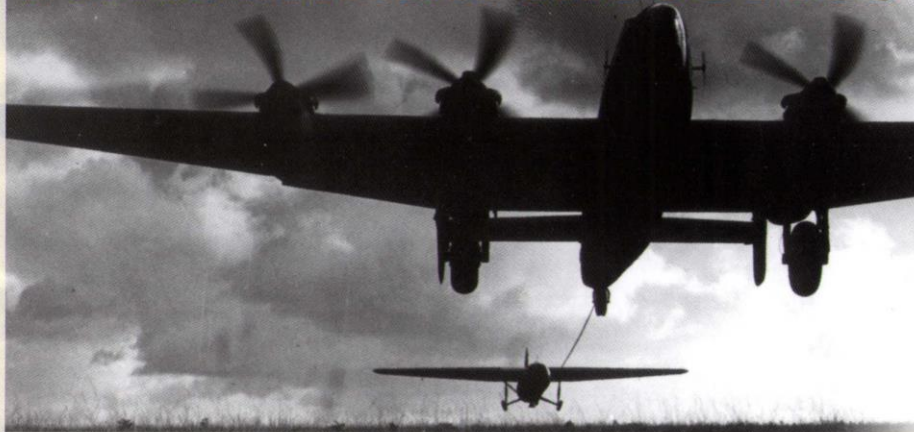
"We have already received gracious thanks from all the organisations," said AEAT's Grahame Murphy, a member of the organising committee. "The Ladygrove Care Centre will be buying a greenhouse with their donation and Oxford Night Shelter used the money for their relief fund over the Christmas period which they told us was invaluable."

The ball has been run for eleven years and has raised over £30,000 for charities within a 15-mile radius of Harwell. The 2000 event was held in the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory restaurant with over 200 guests. A provisional date for this year's ball has been set for Friday 2 November and committee members would welcome any suggestions for charities to benefit.



Pictured, front row, charity representatives (l-r) Paddy O'Hanlon, Oxford Night Shelter; Pam Organ, NSPCC Oxon branch; Sarah Day, Ladygrove Day Centre; Polly Cockburn, Cats Protection League, Oxford branch. Ball committee members are Carol Smallbone, Grahame Murphy, Janette Boram and Susan Bowman (Paula Manfredi sadly couldn't make the presentation).

Millennium histories



A Handley Page Halifax bomber towing a Horsa glider full of paratroops from Harwell on D-Day in 1944.

Both Chilton and West Hagbourne Parish Councils have received sponsorship from UKAEA to publish 'millennium' books. Chilton's book entitled 'Up in the Downs' also received substantial support from Rutherford Appleton Laboratory.

Not many would know that West Hagbourne got its name from 'Windsor Hakebourne' the

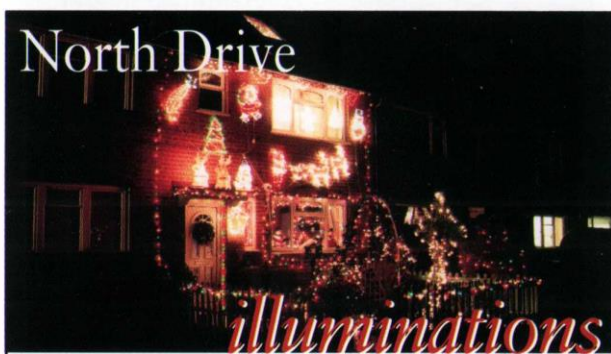
first constable of Windsor Castle in 1068 and founder of the 'de Windsor' dynasty lasting 600 years. The book, written by the West Hagbourne village history group, reflects this connection in its title although it traces village roots even further back - to a charter of Alfred the Great in 891AD. Chilton's book does not attempt this feat of historical research, limiting itself to events in the village during the 20th century only.

Both books make fascinating reading, especially if the reader has some passing acquaintance with that part of Old Berkshire that joined Oxfordshire in 1974, including the land now occupied by the Harwell-Chilton campus. Hagbourne Hill, just to the east of the Harwell site yielded substantial hoards of Bronze Age and Roman coinage and pottery over the years. Its summit reservoir, built in 1930, was a

military target fiercely defended by Hagbourne's 'Dad's Army' in the last war.

The Chilton book has a chapter on the local horse racing industry revealing what the Harwell site was used for prior to the RAF taking over the land in 1936. Another chapter details the establishment of AERE Harwell, RAL, MRC and NRPB and much of the text and pictures were supplied by these organisations. The back page consists of the Sunday Pictorial's 1947 account of "Atom Village" and try as he might, the London reporter could find no concern from the locals about the atomic research going on next door.

"Windsor Hakebourne: the story of West Hagbourne" is printed in hardback at £10 inc. p&cp from Mary Riley, 'Silva Felix', York Road, West Hagbourne. OX11 0NH. "Up in the Downs - a portrait of Chilton" is also priced at £10 inc. p&cp from Liz Morris, 6 Latton Close, Chilton. OX11 0SU.



Five years ago North Drive residents, Sue and Robert Jenkins, decided to brighten up their front garden at Christmas with a few lights in a bush. This year, the spectacular display took four weekends to erect and attracted enough passers by to cause a traffic jam! The couple were first inspired by a caravan rally in the New Forest where vans are decorated to create a magical night-time display. "Our lights went up at home in early November and this year is the most ambitious yet," says Sue Jenkins. "We were worried that the storms might cause problems but only one display was blown down. Yes, it's well worth the effort, and the higher electricity bills, to bring a bit of fun into people's lives."

Robert's father, George Jenkins, worked at Harwell for over 25 years and retired in 1977. Sadly he died at the end of last year, aged 88. Robert Jenkins is a cousin of Eric Jenkins, UKAEA image resources manager, who took this photo.

Kids Christmas party

Mike Storey, UKAEA, reports on the annual kids Christmas party ...

"UKAEA sponsored a Christmas party on 23 December for children and grandchildren of UKAEA staff. Harwell village hall was the venue for the festive mayhem. The obligatory bouncy castle required less Band Aids and Savlon than one might expect. The disco was successful in tiring children's limbs, if not their vocal chords and the standard of behaviour took an amazing upward turn when Santa arrived, resplendent in his brand new clothes provided following an accident with a reindeer. Punch and Judy beat themselves senseless following the party tea while Uncle Brian provided the magic show. Fifty three children attended and £115 was raised for charity. Many people



helped, but particular thanks go to Dave Wilkins and Trudie Evans for organising the event and to Colin Brown for helping Santa out."

Stamps, coins and cards

Frank Marshall thanks everybody who has sent used stamps, non-Christmas cards and foreign coins for the benefit of Sobell House. Your help is greatly appreciated and Frank is keen to keep them coming. Please forward to Frank Marshall, AEAT, P & F, 329 Harwell.

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