

# eCHO

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CULHAM SCIENCE CENTRE & HARWELL BUSINESS CENTRE June 2002

## Science companies choose Harwell

Two leading science companies Voltech and Prolifix have relocated to Harwell International Business Centre, together taking a total of 10,000 sq ft of space.

Electrical engineering company Voltech, is taking 650 sq m (7,000sq ft) in B148. Previously located at Milton Park, the company is a world leader in the design and manufacture of electronic test and measurement equipment and will be using Harwell as its corporate headquarters

Stuart Chappell, Voltech sales and marketing director, said: "Harwell has always been respected as a leading technology site and we felt it would be a natural home for our company. We also believe that the future plans for developing the site will make it attractive to other technology businesses, so that we will be part of a growing and technologically focused environment."

Prolifix, one of Oxfordshire's leading pharmaceutical research and development companies, has also moved from Milton Park to take 280 sq m (3,000sq ft) of office and laboratory accommodation at Harwell in B147.

Prolifix was originally founded to exploit scientific discoveries made at MRC (Medical Research Council), a major occupier at Harwell. Today, Prolifix focuses on the discovery of new treatments for proliferative diseases such as cancer.



UKAEA's Ian Rodham, commercial property manager (right) welcomes Ken Houlden (centre), production engineering manager, Voltech Instruments Ltd, pictured with members of the removal team.

Ian Rodham, UKAEA commercial property manager, said, "Although they operate in different fields, Voltech and Prolifix are just the type of cutting edge companies we're trying to attract to Harwell.

"Our plan has always been to build on the site's reputation

for scientific and technological excellence. With the opening of the Harwell Innovation Centre in May 2000 and the signing of a development agreement with ProLogis in April 2001 we are able to deliver a range of accommodation for many more companies."

### This month

#### New role for B459



#### Innovation anniversaries



#### Orchids moved



#### Girls at work



#### 54-year history



## OBITUARY

### Harry W Izzard BEM 1922-2002

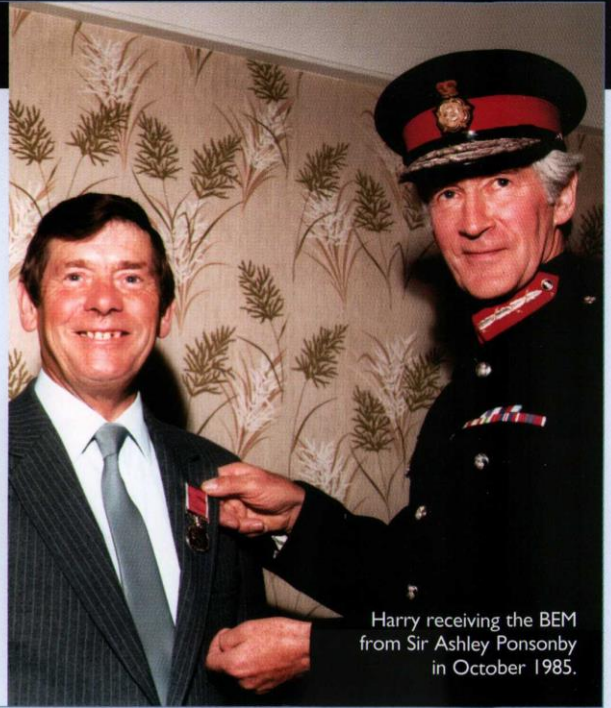
**H**arry Izzard, former Harwell shop steward of the General Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union, has died aged 79.

He was employed in the metals store at Harwell from 1954 and subsequently became an active trade unionist. His interest led him to become a shop steward and then Trade Union Side Secretary in 1980. He represented staff on a number of staff/management committees and took a particular interest in the training of young people as a member of the Laboratory Trainee board and Harwell's Youth Training scheme.

The Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire presented Harry with the British Empire Medal in 1985 at a special ceremony held at Harwell. Proud of working in the nuclear industry he took an active part in the public debate by making presentations to fellow trade unionists. He was featured in the UKAEA film "I work in atomic energy".

Harry, who retired from Harwell in 1991, was one of eight members of the Izzard family who worked at Harwell, and in a competition held in 1980, his family were outright winners clocking up 186 years between them!

He lived in Letcombe Regis where he took an active role in the local branch of the British Legion and his local football club.



Harry receiving the BEM from Sir Ashley Ponsonby in October 1985.

## GMB vacancy as Geoff retires

**A**fter nine years' service as GMB shop steward at Harwell, Geoff Axe will be retiring within the next couple of months.

Geoff, who is employed by AEAT in Health Physics Services, has helped many Harwell site employers and individuals to arbitrate and resolve diverse issues involving personnel and employment matters. In retirement he

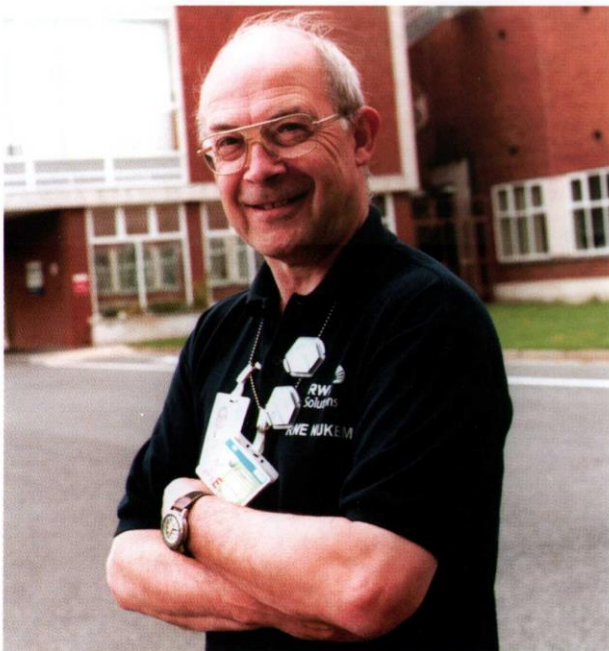
hopes to pursue more leisure activities including golf and as a tenor with the Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir.

"I have enjoyed my nine years as shop steward and hope that I have achieved something of my motto 'progression, not

stagnation'. Good luck to the new businesses and to all staff and those I have had dealings with in the past," he says.

GMB members are invited to submit proposals for the election of a new GMB shop steward. Anyone who would like to be considered for the post should apply in writing before 30 June to:

Geoff Axe  
GMB Shop Steward  
c/o Health Physics  
B220, Harwell



Geoff Axe shortly to retire from his GMB shop steward role.

## Goodbye

**A**rthur Cross writes, 'I'd like to say goodbye to those I missed when I retired on 15 April from AEA Technology Plasma Spraying after 44 years at Harwell. It doesn't seem long, compared to my grandfather who worked for the same employer from the age of 11 to 77. I started in 1958 after RAF in the Middle East. There have been interesting times, especially in plasma spraying with customers ranging from medical users to Formula One. Now I will be able to concentrate on family history.'

## Intensive training

**T**wo well known Culham staff were part of a TUC stage 1 health and safety course for Trade Union appointed safety representatives. Peter Simpson, chairman of the TUCC (Trade Union Co-ordinating Committee) and secretary, Marion Turner, joined 16 other TU representatives from southern sites to take the course.

The 10-day TUC approved course is normally held one day a week over 10 consecutive weeks. For southern sites, UKAEA has supported a more intensive course run over two one-week periods at Harwell. The TUC organisers agreed to the revised format and are also considering a course for managers on the role and function of TU appointed safety representatives.

Throughout UKAEA, there are some 100 formally appointed safety representatives. Staff at southern sites wishing to contact their TU appointed safety representative can contact Peter Simpson or Marion Turner on Culham ext C6847 or Ian McKean at Harwell on H2509 (01235 432509).

# Harwell heads up Europe-wide debate

Europe's top nuclear industry experts gathered at Harwell for a conference debating the management of radioactive discharges to the environment.

The two-day conference explored the government's aim to reduce radioactive discharges from nuclear sites to 'close to zero' by 2020. Leading scientists and engineers from the industry debated the management of low levels of radiation and whether there was any safe level of radioactivity.

More than 100 delegates attended the two-day event which provided a forum for all sides of the debate to exchange their views about gaseous and liquid radioactive discharges. UKAEA and the British Nuclear Energy Society jointly sponsored the event.

Speakers included Prof. Roger Clarke (NRPB), represen-



*Pictured from left are Stan Gordelier, Kevin Langley and Roy Manning from UKAEA.*

*Howard Rose, NRPB training centre manager (left), helps BNFL's Dick Taylor set up his presentation.*



*The two-day conference explored the government's aim to reduce radioactive discharges from nuclear sites to 'close to zero' by 2020.*

tatives from the Environment Agency and HM Nuclear Installations Inspectorate and Dr Tom Ryan from Ireland as well as speakers from Norway. Also contributing were delegates representing nuclear power providers and small users of radioactivity such as hospitals.

Stan Gordelier, UKAEA's director of Southern Division, who opened the conference said: "The fact that the conference was heavily oversubscribed showed that this is a live issue in the industry at the moment. The event provided the ideal forum for delegates from all sides of the environmental argument to air their views and a good deal of common ground was established."

Kevin Langley, chairman of Central England Branch of BNES, said: "It was clear that the increased radiation doses experienced by countries such as Ireland and Norway as a result of discharges from the UK are trivially small by any measure. Nevertheless the populations of these countries were affronted that any 'artificial' radioactivity could be measured in their waters as a result of UK discharges. By contrast, natural radioactivity from non-nuclear operations, such as fertiliser production or oil extraction, which is vastly greater than discharges from nuclear sites, is ignored."

## FUTURE ENERGY SOLUTIONS

The implications of climate change are becoming daily more evident and there is now widespread awareness of the environmental damage caused by fossil fuel usage. This means that energy-related issues remain firmly at the top of national and international agendas.

In response to this situation AEA Technology has set up Future Energy Solutions to provide the best possible service to both public and private sector organisations and businesses throughout the world. It is a business staffed with leading technical specialists in energy and climate change.

With its headquarters at Harwell and over 200 employees world-wide Future Energy Solutions is able to offer prompt, professional and practical solutions. Its clients come from all areas of government, industry and commerce and have in common a need for advice and specialist assistance in the fields of energy and climate change.



*From AEA Technology*

# ECHO BRIEF

## Hotel given go ahead

Following completion of the section 106 agreement, planning permission was granted for the hotel development at the end of April. The developer is now working on plans for implementation which should get under way in early 2003.

## SOLL to manage new sports complex

A new £2m community sports hall being built at Didcot will be managed by SOLL Leisure, based at Culham Science Centre, on behalf of Didcot Town Council. Willowbrook Community Sports Hall is under construction at Ladygrove Park and due for completion this autumn. SOLL will manage the new hall and is planning to add a £500,000 fitness centre as part of the new facilities.

## Avoid the queues at Culham

The 39th Culham Plasma Physics Summer School will be held from Monday 8 July until Friday 19th July this year. There will be approximately 50 students who will be using the restaurant for lunch each day at 12.45pm, so staff are advised to take lunch before this time to avoid long queues.

## Can crusher installed

Staff working in B521 can boost recycling activities by using the can crusher installed by ISS next to the Coke machine on the ground floor. ISS will collect cans regularly and identify a suitable recycling method. Depending on the success of this pilot exercise ISS hopes smaller can crushing facilities will be available in other buildings in the future.

## Thank you

Following her absence at the JR hospital, Tacina Rixon writes, 'I would like to take this opportunity to thank all friends and work colleagues, also Ashdown Faringdon Lodge of freemasons, Vale of White Horse Lodge, Faringdon, and Lloyd Lindsey Lodge, Wantage, for their generous support to help me raise £758.23 for Marie Curie Cancer Care.'



Project manager, Trevor Chambers, pictured front right with other members of the team at B459.

**A**s part of the site restoration plan a Harwell building, once due for closure, has been renovated and re-equipped for a new role, repackaging radioactive waste.

B459 was purpose-built in the 1950s as part of Harwell's Post Irradiation Examination Facilities where experimental radioactive metallographic work was carried out over the years. No longer needed for this work, the building was scheduled to begin decommissioning in the late 1990s.

The building contains ten remote handling cells with manipulators and was considered an ideal location for specialist waste repackaging activities being carried out by UKAEA, subject to a thorough interior refit.

Its new purpose includes three principal tasks. The work will involve resizing and repackaging former stored wastes, FINGAL vessels containing vitrified radioactive wastes and equipment from the manufacture of the experimental RIPPLE generators of the 1960s.

The central section of the building houses two sets of five

cells. The former stored wastes will be handled in the medium active area with solid concrete walls measuring three feet in depth while the high active cells with six foot thick walls will be used for the FINGAL and RIPPLE waste.

As much of the work involves remote cutting and repackaging, new specialist equipment has been bought from suppliers in the UK and

overseas and modified by local companies, Wantage Engineering and Pipaway at Milton.

NNC has been contracted to carry out the operational work and will provide staff under UKAEA management. The work will be handled under UKAEA's Harwell Projects department, headed by Bob Simpson, with Trevor Chambers as project manager.

## Lunar landscaping



Chris Pickford of Harwell Scientifics managed to capture an image of this Harwell visitor who clearly approves of the new name for the B551 car park.

# Innovation anniversaries

**As Culham Innovation Centre celebrates its first year of operation it also sees a 300% growth in business since opening. Sixteen companies are now based at the centre representing industries as diverse as aerospace and electronics through to business services, computer security and computer-aided design.**

"The innovation centre has been a great success," said Dr Cleve Forty, Fusion and Industry business manager. "We have a mix of technical and business services companies where there is the opportunity to share ideas and tap into both the expertise of companies in the centre as well as fusion scientists on the site. For example, Business Link was able to offer advice on SMART award submissions."

Dr Forty recently attended

an international conference where he presented a paper on the European perspective of technology transfer from fusion research. "Increasingly, the innovation centre is seen as a model for laboratories to use to manage parts of a technology transfer programme without conflicting with their fusion research commitments," he said.

Closer to home the centre was a key element in the Culham Science Centre gaining membership of the UK Science Park Association (UKSPA). The association, which represents science park managers, was particularly impressed by the UKAEA Technical Support Package for start-up businesses. The package is available for qualifying companies, and includes consultancy and access to mechanical, electrical and

electronic engineering skills, as well as computer modelling and precision engineering.

Oxford Innovation manages Culham Innovation Centre and eleven other innovation centres in and around Oxfordshire, accommodating a total of about 190 small and new companies. Oxford Innovation has now based its marketing operations at Culham.



**R**eaction Engines, Oxford Scientific Ltd and Toumaz Technology Ltd, founding companies at Culham Innovation Centre, have all enjoyed success over the past year. Oxford Scientific Ltd and Reaction Engines have each won SMART awards while Toumaz Technology Ltd has received venture capitalist funding allowing expansion into larger offices at the innovation centre.

New arrivals include Acro Aeronautical Services Ltd, Agenda PR & Marketing Ltd, Business Link, Richard Butcher, Eclipse Learner Systems Ltd, Laplacian, Mgenie, N2N Neutronics, Oxford Innovation, Packaging Products Direct, RemoteSec Ltd, The Target Practice and Total Audio Visual Solutions Ltd.



One year on, sixteen companies are now based at Culham Innovation Centre.

For further details of the Culham Innovation Centre contact Barbara Allsworth on 01865 408300 or visit the Oxford Innovation web site at [www.oxin.co.uk](http://www.oxin.co.uk).

## AV specialist



Any Harwell or Culham tenants requiring AV equipment, can call Chris on 01235 865500 for impartial advice on the most suitable and cost effective AV solution, tailored to their individual needs.

**I**mage Business Systems, the Harwell based supplier of audio-visual and presentation equipment, has appointed Chris Burch as AV hire manager.

Chris brings a wealth of knowledge and experience having spent his 37-year career within the AV industry managing events for companies of all sizes.

Andy Fegan, MD of Image said "Chris's wealth of experience has already been put to good use by UKAEA who hosted the recent UK Science Park Association's quarterly meeting and entrusted Image to provide all AV equipment and technical support for the two-day event."

## and at Harwell...

**T**wo years after it opened Harwell Innovation Centre now has 41 resident companies occupying three quarters of available space and employing 150 staff in total.

New tenants include Mission Assist, Temple Millar Management Development, Data Comprehension (research phase company exploring the application of neural networks), BTS Projects (telecoms property services) and Astech Environmental Services Ltd (asbestos removal).

Balaclava Pub Company Ltd has expanded its office space at Harwell Innovation Centre from 350 to over 1700 sq ft. The pub chain launched by former Green King commercial director, Leo Murphy, is finalising a deal to buy 26 more pubs, bringing the total to over 50 and extending its territory from the Midlands to the south of England.

### SAFETY Update

There were no incidents to report since the last issue of ECHO.

**A**n exhibition held for the first time at the Culham Science Centre has been hailed a success following a deluge of visitors from both Culham and Harwell sites.

The Technology 2002 exhibition at the end of April was one of six similar events held at nuclear sites around the UK. The Culham event brought together 30 exhibitors including Olympus Industrial, Siemens Environmental Systems, Canberra Harwell, Bowtech Products, Brokk (UK) and NNC.

Visitors were able to see remote handling equipment used in decommissioning and harsh environments, plant maintenance equipment, inspection and vision systems and electronic components. Products were geared to those working in fusion, research & technology, design, maintenance, operations, decommissioning, waste management and process control.

Deniese Willis, Fusion and Industry events co-ordinator said, "We were delighted to see the Technology series of exhibitions come to Culham and were pleased that so many people from Culham and Harwell were



The Brokk (UK) Limited stand at the Culham event.

able to visit. This is an ideal opportunity for people to see not only innovative technology but also equipment which has already been used either at other nuclear sites or in other industries and has potential for new applications in the fusion and related markets."

## BNES lectures

Lectures of particular interest to those in the nuclear industry are organised regularly at Harwell by the central England branch of the British Nuclear Energy Society (BNES). Usually held in the early evening, the lectures begin with coffee from 5.30pm and light refreshments are provided afterwards. The lectures are open to members and non-members alike, and all are welcome. For information on forthcoming lectures please contact Kevin Wilson, BNES CEB secretary at UKAEA, K2/07, Culham, telephone 01235 466487, or e-mail: [kevin.wilson@ukaea.org.uk](mailto:kevin.wilson@ukaea.org.uk)

## Clothes UV test

**A**s part of Adult Learners' Week, organised by the Campaign for Learning, Thursday 16 May was earmarked as 'learning at work day'. In recognition of the occasion NRPB arranged a programme of staff visits covering various areas of work.

The Optical Radiation Group offered staff the opportunity of free sun (ultraviolet) protection testing on their family's summer clothes. These tests are quick and do not harm the clothing. Clothing is assigned a value, similar to the SPF on sunscreens. NRPB staff now know how effective their clothing will

be at reducing sun exposure this summer.

If anyone outside NRPB is interested in UV protective testing, they should visit NRPB website ([www.nrpb.org/radiation\\_topics/ultraviolet/protection\\_by\\_clothing.htm](http://www.nrpb.org/radiation_topics/ultraviolet/protection_by_clothing.htm)) or contact NRPB information office on 01235 822742.

## NRPB course

NRPB is launching a new course for those advising on radioactive waste management issues. The course runs from 10-13 June 2002 and is based at NRPB headquarters at Chilton. Students should have attended the Foundation in Radiological Protection course and the UK Legislation and International Recommendations course or have a detailed knowledge of their contents. To book contact the NRPB training centre on 01235 822701.



Dr Colin Driscoll, leader of the Optical Radiation Group at NRPB, tests clothing for Karen Roberts and Maxine Smith during the recent learning at work day.

# Innovation company launched

A new technology transfer company has been set up by CLRC - Central Laboratory of the Research Councils which includes RAL at Chilton - to identify the commercial potential of the organisation's research. Called CLIK (Central Laboratory Innovation & Knowledge Transfer Ltd), the new company is headed by Dr Keith Winters. The CLIK team comprises eight staff across CLRC's sites with a brief to stimulate and nurture spin-out, spin-in and licensing opportunities. CLIK will have access to the newly formed £4m seed capital fund known as the Rainbow Seed Fund. The UKAEA Fusion and Industry team at Culham will also benefit from the government fund.

## Strategic role in UK science research

Science and innovation minister, Lord Sainsbury, recently announced a report as part of the quinquennial review of the Council for the Central Laboratory of the Research Councils (CCLRC). It provides a clear statement of confidence in the work of the council and establishes a blueprint for its future.

The report is the second stage of the five-yearly review and recommends:

- CCLRC should receive direct funding from the Office of Science and Technology for providing, operating, maintaining, developing and upgrading its large facilities and their instrumentation.
- There should be a common scheme for access to facilities for researchers sponsored by the research councils.
- Under the direction of Research Councils UK, CCLRC should act as the national focus for large-scale facilities for neutron scattering, synchrotron radiation and high power lasers.
- CCLRC should manage the UK subscription to the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF) and the Institute Laue Langevin, alongside its role as UK government shareholder in Diamond Light Source Ltd.
- A new evaluation framework should be developed for CCLRC activities to ensure that reviews of scientific, management and operational performance are undertaken regularly to enable benchmarking with international facilities.

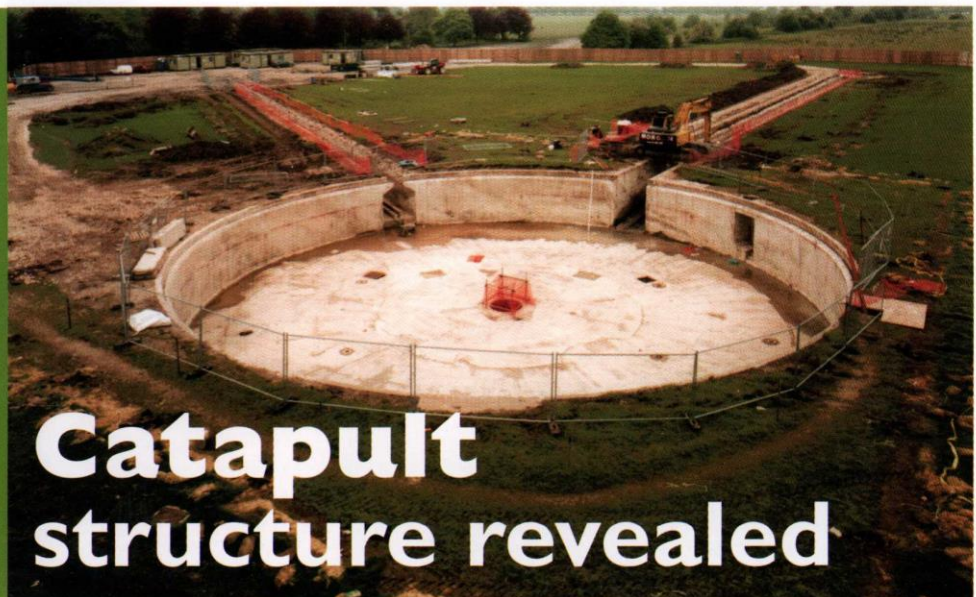


Keith Winters, CEO CLIK (left) and John Wood, CEO CLRC (right) at the CLIK launch.

## World's most intense laser

The inauguration of the recent upgrade to the high power Vulcan laser has taken place at CLRC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory. The upgrade, funded by EPSRC (Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council), makes Vulcan the world's most intense laser. The new level of performance will open up new regimes of plasma physics to the UK scientific user community and its international collaborators including photon-induced nuclear reactions, new schemes for the acceleration of charged particles and further opportunities to study fusion reactions.

Work to empty the contents of the RAF Harwell catapult system was successfully completed in May. The concrete structure will now be refilled with freshly quarried material during June. Our photograph shows the two launch channels and associated rail system for carrying the pneumatic launching arms. The hole in the centre took the bearing for the turntable and the doorway on the right shows one of two entrances formerly used to access the machinery. Once filled the area will be grassed over and form part of the southern sports field.



## Catapult structure revealed

## OUT & ABOUT

### Barbershop harmony festival

The Wantage Barbershop Singers are presenting Festival Showtime, a popular show of barbershop harmony on Saturday 8 June at St Mary's School, Wantage at 7.30pm. The event features the national champion barbershop quartet, Matrix, and others. Tickets are £7 from Barrie Bridgeman on 01235 764898 or Wessex Press in Wantage on 01235 770057.

More male and female singers are needed for the choruses which already include some ex-UKAEA, AEAT and Rutherford staff. Musical ability would be useful but not necessary. Rehearsals are held at 7.45pm every Wednesday at Stockham School, for men, and at the Methodist Hall in Grove, for ladies. Contact Graham Cox on 01235 835353 or Wendy Smith on 01865 863773.

### Walk for wildlife

Enjoy a 10 or 17 mile circular walk and raise funds for BBOWT (Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust) on Sunday 16 June. The route starts at Warburg Nature Reserve near Henley and passes through the spectacular Chiltern Hills. Although part of the route is steep and narrow - and may be muddy - walkers do not have to be 'super fit' to take part and there are regular marshal points along the route. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Walkers should bring their own food and drink but teas will be available at the finish. Call 01865 775476 for registration and information or see the website at [www.bbowl.org.uk](http://www.bbowl.org.uk). The closing date for entry is 10 June.

### Silver Jubilee

St Peter's Church, Newlands Avenue in Didcot, celebrates its Silver Jubilee on 9 June. The only service on that day will be held at 10am and will include contributions from other local churches. Later in the month on 29 June, St Peter's Day, the church holds its summer fete from 12noon to 4pm with many stalls and attractions.

Looking north from east lagoon



## Magnificent trees

**T**he estate at Harwell is well-known for its population of trees. This is largely a man-made feature. Before the last war the area occupied by the Harwell site was intensive arable, with very few trees. It was only after 1946 when it became AERE Harwell that trees were planted on any scale.

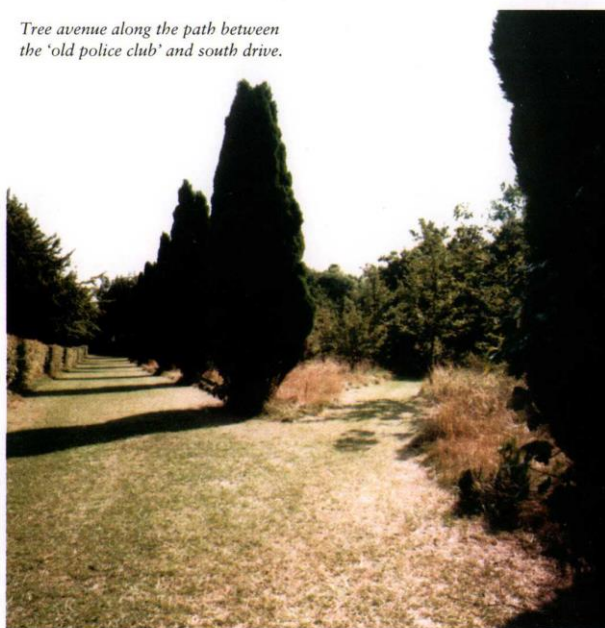
The tree planting was not only for aesthetic reasons. In some areas they provided wind protection. The trees on the mound by B521 include Norway maple, poplar and horse chestnut, and were planted to help consolidate the huge heap of rubble and spoil from wartime facilities. Measehill plantation is a little more diverse, but the almost complete absence of wild flowers testifies to its recent origin.

It is however the fine avenues of beech, lime, horse chestnut and Swedish whitebeam that catch the eye. The observant visitor will also see hornbeam, laburnum, tulip tree (by B77), tree of heaven, London plane, weeping willow, Lombardy poplar, holm oak, Persian ironwood as well as the foxglove tree featured in last September's Echo.

But does Harwell have the right trees for wildlife? Trees are

valuable to our environment not only in themselves but also in the number of associated insect species they support. Oak and willow can support over 400, birch over 300, beech around 98 with horse chestnut trailing at just nine. New plantings are incorporating insect friendly species and there is no doubt that Harwell will end up with the best of both worlds - trees for landscape and for wildlife.

Tree avenue along the path between the 'old police club' and south drive.



## Happy event

**B**ob Warner, whose bicycle basket was requisitioned by a mistle thrush for its nest is pleased to report that 'the B552 unauthorised tenant in my bicycle has successfully produced two babies which have now flown the nest.'





# Mission to move orchids

One Saturday in April, bright and early, members of the Hardy Orchid Society, with help from Harwell volunteers, began to relocate white helleborines (*Cephalanthera damasonium*) from the corner of Curie Avenue and South Drive, to an area alongside the site of the new hotel.



Bill Temple (left) and a team of volunteers relocate white helleborines.

In total about 700 plants were moved during the day to their new position behind the Main Gate. For those who were able to stay until all the orchids had been planted, it was a long, tiring but worthwhile day. The fire brigade watered the transplants twice to increase their chances of survival.

In the weeks following the 'move' a number of common spotted orchids, twayblades, white helleborines, primroses and violets

from the prefab site have also been relocated to the same area. Work will continue, in conjunction with Property Management and Scion Estates grounds staff, to identify and, if necessary, transplant further orchids affected by development plans.

Volunteers were given the opportunity to have a guided tour of some of BBOWT's nature reserves in May to see some of the rarer native

orchids. Species in flower included military, monkey, lady, fly, bird's nest and early purple orchids as well as huge numbers of twayblades, some of which were in flower. At one time a group of six red kites provided entertainment and the party also saw dusky skipper, holly blue, brimstone and peacock butterflies and a number of uncommon species of flower.

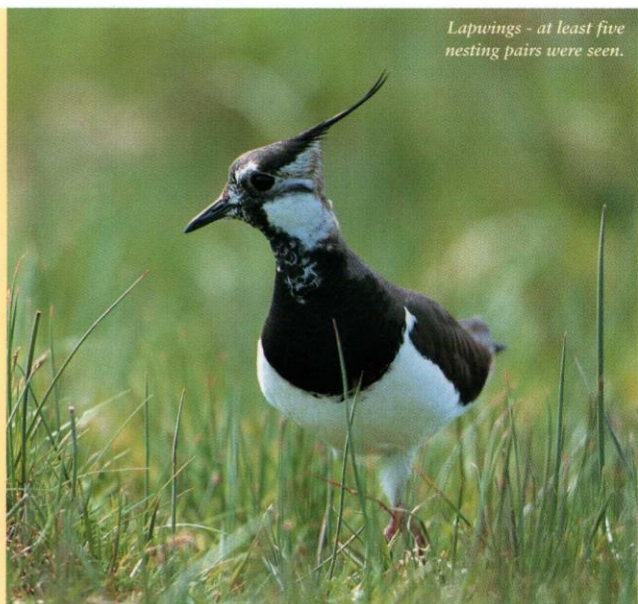
## Lapwings looking up

According to Carl Nicholson, area field officer for the RSPB, numbers of lapwings nesting at Harwell are increasing. Grant Baldwin of UKAEA's Harwell projects department, had noted the presence of lapwings while working in the Meashill area.

Carl was astonished to find at least five nesting pairs, some with chicks, on grassland near to the Meashill plantation and Rutherford Avenue. "This is a significant colony and one of just a few in Oxfordshire" he said. "Numbers of lapwings have fallen by over 60% in the last ten years since cereal farmers switched to winter sown crops. By the time the lapwings want to nest, the

cereals have grown too high for the birds to see their predators." Lapwings, also known as peewits, used to breed in large numbers at Harwell but had virtually disappeared in recent years.

In his tour of the campus Carl also spotted mistle thrushes near the site of the RAF catapult facility on the southern sports field. Concluding his visit, he said, "I am very impressed with the richness of wildlife to be found at Harwell."



Lapwings - at least five nesting pairs were seen.

On the last Thursday in April, employees at all UKAEA sites had the opportunity to take their daughters to work, as part of a national awareness campaign, to help them discover a diverse choice of careers outside the traditionally perceived 'female' job.

By linking the Harwell site, via a live video conference, with other UKAEA sites including Culham, the girls were able to exchange their ideas and views about the workplace in 2002. A day long programme of events included a visit to the partially decommissioned Dido reactor and presentations given by female staff at UKAEA including Sally Mitchell, Julie Savage, Gail Steer, Michelle Wise, Anita Row, Una Bustany and Kathryn Humphreys.

Sue Bradbury, who co-ordinated the Harwell event, said: "Since 1994 thousands of girls between the age of 11 and 15 have joined parents and relatives in the workplace for this special day. We welcomed 18 girls at Harwell and 24 visited the Culham site. The response we had was very positive indeed."



UKAEA joined this national awareness campaign to help young women learn about the many careers outside traditionally perceived 'female' jobs.

*"Thanks very much for today. I had a lot of fun. I was going to tell you my favourite part of the day, but I enjoyed everything loads!! You and the rest of the team who put today together have filled me with inspiration for whichever career I may choose to have in the future. Thanks once again,"*

**Claire Shepherd.**



*Nicola Gow helps her father Charlie with the preparation of marine samples for environmental monitoring at NRPB Scotland in Glasgow.*

■ NRPB also took part in the event with seven young women visiting NRPB headquarters at Chilton. Most shadowed their parents or guardians for the day although some spent time touring various departments within NRPB, including IT, training, safety, personal monitoring services, radiation metrology and the whole body monitoring facility. As an organisation NRPB hopes to encourage young women to consider a wider range of career opportunities. The day also raised awareness of the important role of women staff at NRPB where some 50 per cent of the workforce is female.

## D-Day flypast

A last minute reminder that the annual memorial service takes place on Saturday 8 June at 5.30pm. It commemorates the take-off of bombers carrying paratroops from RAF Harwell to Normandy, on the eve of the Allied invasion of Europe. The service will be held at the RAF D-Day memorial stone near the southern sports field at Harwell International Business Centre (off A4185) and local units of the British Legion and RAF associations will be carrying their colours. This year's service is being co-ordinated by Captain Robert Threapleton from the Army Air Corps at Odiham, Hampshire. He has arranged for a flypast of three Lynx helicopters at 200 feet at the start of the service.

**Image Business Systems presents in conjunction with Eurest Catering,**

BIG SCREEN COVERAGE of England World Cup 2002 fixtures, at the Conference Centre, B455, Maxwell Avenue, Harwell International Business Centre.



- **Friday 7 June 12.30 pm**  
- ARGENTINA v ENGLAND
- **Wed 12 June 7.30 am**  
- NIGERIA v ENGLAND
- **All matches will include food and drink for only £5 per head**

*To order your match day ticket, please call Andy at Image on 01235 865500 or Paul at Eurest on 01235 432598 or fax confirmation to 01235 865511.*

# Mural marks 54-year history

A collaboration between students at St Birinus School and Harwell Nursery School has produced a colourful mural to mark the 54-year history of the nursery as it prepares to close in July.

Some of the nursery children will transfer to a nursery years class at Chilton Primary School where a new building is nearing completion or to an early years unit being built in Harwell village.

The origins of the nursery date back to 1948 when it was one of the first six nursery schools in Berkshire, before the boundary changes of 1974. Berkshire County Council leased

the former Salvation Army hut as a nursery for families of staff at Harwell laboratory. When it transferred to the Oxfordshire education authority it catered for up to 80 children, 40 in the morning and 40 attending afternoon sessions.

Alison Brockliss, the present headteacher, will become nursery teacher at Chilton. She took over when the previous



The mural was completed in one cold day in April by four year 10 pupils from St Birinus School, namely Edd Nichols, Matthew Jones, Daniel Poffley and Simon Napper (a former pupil at Harwell Nursery).



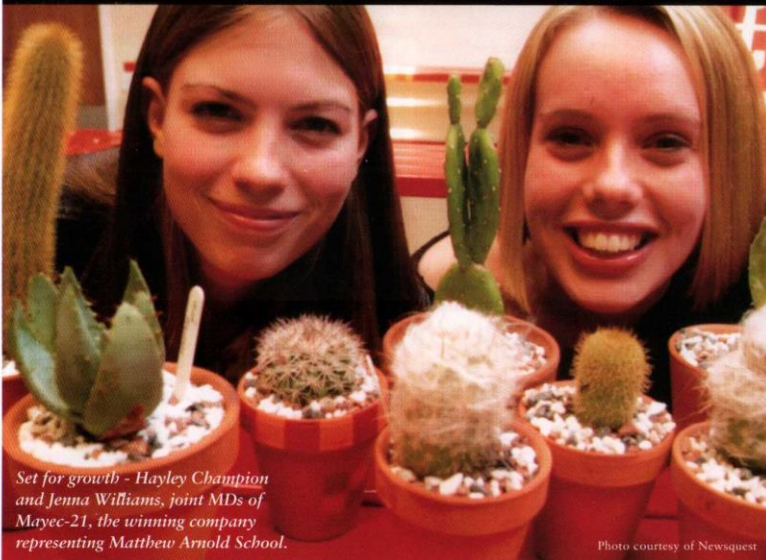
Alison Brockliss, headteacher, holds the achievement award.

headteacher, Janet Gaines, retired in 2001 after 15 years.

"We are celebrating 54 years of high quality nursery provision and were delighted to receive an achievement award for our work," says Alison Brockliss. "We are looking to the future now and our main priority is to ensure that there is a smooth transition and that the continuity of the children's education is affected as little as possible."

- The high standards maintained at Chilton Primary School have been recognised by a school achievement award. The school is located close to Harwell International Business Centre and has 125 pupils. Later this year the pupils and staff will transfer to an adjacent new purpose-built school.

## Green shoots of enterprise



Set for growth - Hayley Champion and Jenna Williams, joint MDs of Mayec-21, the winning company representing Matthew Arnold School.

Photo courtesy of Newsquest

Selling cacti proved to be the winning formula for a company formed by youngsters from Matthew Arnold School.

Eight teams from local schools and colleges took part in the finals of this year's Oxfordshire Young Enterprise awards held at Culham Science Centre last month. Mayec-21 were overall winners and will go forward to the south east regional finals in June.

The HSBC YE Innovations Awards 2002 are organised annually for students who spend six months setting up and running their own businesses. The companies are run as real businesses with real products, customers and profits and support is given by local business people.

More than 200 people attended the county finals at Culham where each company gave a 10-minute presentation about their enterprise and its performance. The UKAEA Cup for best financial report was won by students at St Mary's School, Wantage who set up a company called Yin Fa Girl selling unusual hair accessories imported from China.

THE COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS: Monday 24 June for publication on Wednesday 10 July 2002.



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