

CH News

Fortnightly Journal of the Culham/Harwell Sites of the UKAEA

£8M Radioactive Waste Storage Project Starts



Not quite singing in the rain, but they managed a smile, despite the downpour, as Dr Roy Nelson (left) begins the footings for the new building accompanied by (from left) John Findlay, Project Manager; Culham/Harwell Director Dr Peter Iredale and Bob Rudham, Project Engineer (AEA Engineering). The last time Dr Nelson put on the sea boots he is wearing was in late 1981 during sea trials prior to the last successful dumping, in 1982, of some of our radioactive waste at sea. The need for the new Vault Store is partly due to the cessation of sea dumping in 1983, since when, wastes have accumulated.

Dr Roy Nelson, Corporate Decommissioning and Radioactive Waste Management Operations (DRAWMOPS) Director, cut the first sod, on 16 May, for the construction of a new Vault Store for intermediate level waste (ILW) in the complex around building 462. It heralds the start of a two-year project costing around £8 million.

The Major Projects Division of Tarmac plc will undertake construction work of the

building whose floor area of 1400 square metres contains a 19 x 25 x 9 metre high vault of concrete which will store 500 cubic metres of ILW.

The overall scheme, funded by the Department of Energy's DRAWMOPS Programme includes the Vault Store and modifying existing stores which date back to the 1950s, together with the removal of some wastes from older stores and their subsequent re-canning.

The new Vault Store, which will house ILW including material from the decommissioning of DIDO and PLUTO reactors, is a building with concrete walls 1.5 metres thick. The waste material will be handled remotely by computer controlled machinery and the entire building will be carefully ventilated through filters. Dr Roy Nelson said, 'The Vault Store is the first building whose construction has been started in the AEA since licensing by the NII.



**BUSINESS
NEWS**

Closure of the IBM mainframe

The AEA Board has decided to set up a new computer-based Financial Information System for Corporate Units, Businesses and Sites, to be in operation by 1 April 1992. This will use a network of distributed computers. This decision, together with reduced demands for technical computing, has resulted in the need to restructure the Culham/Harwell Computing Department and plan for the closure of the IBM mainframe service in 1992. The CRAY-2 supercomputing service is not affected.

Over the next 18 months there will be a reduction of up to 50 computer specialist jobs related to the IBM mainframe and associated services. Management are working hard to secure external contracts to reduce this number.

'Every conceivable effort is being made to redeploy people', said Steve Beackon, Head of Personnel & Training at Culham/Harwell. 'We achieved considerable success in this direction following the closure of the Research Reactors and we will be building on the experience we gained from that exercise in helping the computing staff.'

Alison Bourne has already been appointed as Resettlement Officer. Alison's job is to help staff affected find other jobs within the AEA. She has already met many of the staff involved and aims to see all of them by the end of June.

Redeployment, backed up by re-training of staff where necessary, will take place over the next 18 months. Applications for Special Early Release Terms are also being considered, either from the Computing Department or from other areas if this will help ease the situation by creating redeployment opportunities.

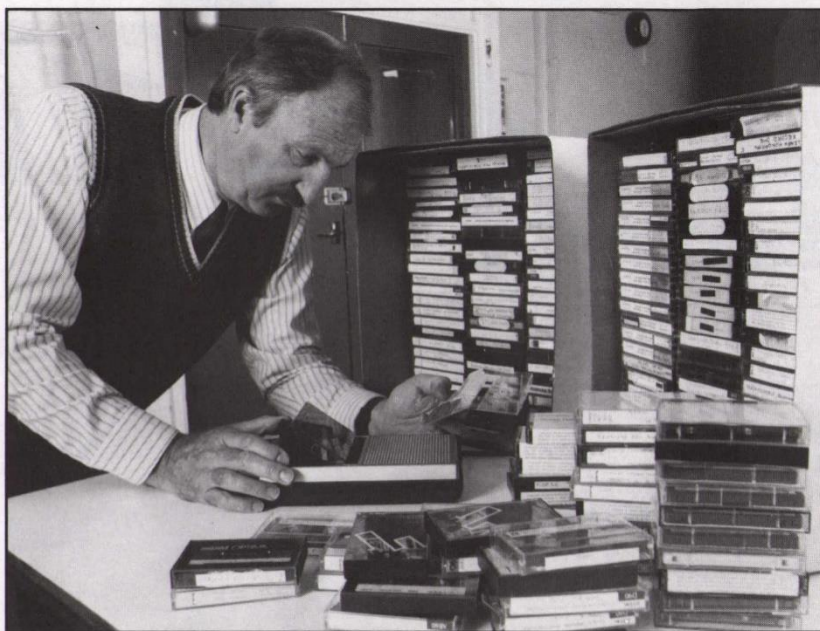
Foreign Language Tuition

Individual or our group tuition on site. Experienced teachers, native speakers - 20 years at Harwell.

Details ext. H 3313 or Malcolm Christer, Education & Training, ext. H 3161.

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InTec's Language Rescue



Colin Wood sorts the first consignment of audio cassettes DRS has been asked to dry

Nearly 800 language tapes were reduced to a soggy mess when a drinks dispenser flooded overnight and slowly soaked the audio cassettes used by hundreds of students at the Language Studies International Offices in London.

The tapes which cover 35 different languages including Russian, Brazilian,

Arabic, Japanese, Chinese and many European languages appeared irreplaceable. 'You can imagine how pleased we are that the AEA's Drying Restoration Service has restored them to good condition,' said Rachel Jones, office manager of Language Studies International. 'Apart from the cost of the tapes, which runs into thousands of pounds, and the effort required to produce them, some of the cassettes would have been impossible to replace.'

The Drying Restoration Service (DRS)'s first experience of drying magnetic media was the successful restoration of music tapes for a well-known recording company. Central TV South and ITV's local station in Abingdon then supplied tapes, a video cassette and an electrical pager which were soaked in dirty water for 48 hours before further experiments in restoration. The cleaning and drying of tapes, cassette and bleeper were all successful.

DRS pack the wet materials into a large cylindrical steel chamber along with combinations of special chemicals to control the moisture content and inhibit fungal growth. Then a gentle, dynamic vacuum is introduced to evaporate the moisture at room temperature and because no direct heat is applied, bacterial damage or paper cracking is minimized, leaving the final product close to its normal moisture content and robust enough to be handled.

The DRS now offers a 24-hour emergency hotline, expert advice, on-site assessment of water damage, refrigerated transport and use of Harwell's refrigerated storage facilities.

Organisations storing documents, audio, video and computer tapes can buy a priority-use option by contacting:

Ken McKenzie
B 404, tel 0235 or H 2245.

Lunch Launch for AEA

AEA Engineering (AEA) is preparing to launch its new business with events at Harwell and Risley designed to promote the new structure and illustrate the capabilities of the business.

The launch is on 5 July at Harwell, when AEA staff have invited existing and potential customers to lunch on the lawn.

As part of team-building events planned for the whole year, the staff are also bringing their partners to a barbecue in the evening.

JET Open Days 1991

Saturday 29 June— Sunday 30 June
10.00am until 5.00pm

Last admission to site 4.15pm

See the world's leading nuclear
fusion experiment

Tour the JET laboratories— staff will
be available to answer your
questions

It is regretted that children under the
age of ten cannot be admitted and
that all children under the age of
fifteen must be accompanied by an
adult at all times

No tickets required

For your security no hand baggage is
allowed on tours

CH GENERAL NEWS

'The Sizewell Syndrome' and 'Inside Sellafield'

Two programmes televised at the end of May are available for loan on video from Publicity and PR, B.329.

The Sizewell Syndrome—Stewart White meets the champions and critics of Sizewell's new reactor in a half an hour programme shown on BBC2.

Inside Sellafield—A 90 minute documentary made by a film crew who were granted full access to the Sellafield plant for 10 weeks in 1989; described as a record of the stresses and strains on people who work with radiation.

Anyone interested in seeing either programmes can contact Sarah Lewis, Tel H 2439.

April's Weather

Max temp: 18.5 oC (65.3oF) 12 April
Min temp: -1.3oC (29.7oF) 19/20 April
Max r'fall: 28.2mm (1.11 ins) 29/30 April
Total r'fall: 61.2mm (2.41 ins) 31 Mar/30 Apr
Average rainfall for April: 43.45mm (1.71 ins); average from 38 years data.

The last bus

One single-decker bus is being retained by Harwell's Transport Department in a major cost-cutting exercise that has meant all the home to work bus-runs being put out to contract.

The old familiar blue and grey double-decker buses are being sold, ending 40 years of Harwell bringing its own

Gerry's last word

Gerry Reid, (pictured right) of Culham's Lightning Test and Technology Department has retired after 36 years service with the AEA.

His first years were spent at Harwell, where he worked on klystrons in Hangar 7 and later on the ZETA fusion experiment. After fusion research moved to Culham in 1961 Gerry worked on CLEO and DITE and was mainly concerned with their safe operation.

His experience in safety became essential for his survival when he joined LTT in 1976 and embarked on a career of blowing things up! He worked on the effects of lightning strikes on carbon fibre aircraft components and fibre optic cables struck by artificial lightning using the notorious 'Sandbox' test, on one memorable occasion, leaving the whole test area and its occupants buried in sand!

In recognition of these exploits Roger Baldwin, Head of LTT, presented Gerry with an (egg?) timer filled with sand and the charred remains of these experiments. As a wine lover, Gerry also received a set of elegant glasses and side table to aid his enjoyment of fine wines.

Always renowned for getting in the last word at meetings, Gerry got the last word here, saying that he would always remember colleagues rushing around wondering why equipment wasn't working, even though he had used six oscilloscopes, where one might have done, or emerging out of liquid nitrogen 'fog' after some component had blown up!



New Telephone Directory issued

The new telephone directory has now been issued and distribution should be complete. If you have not received your copy of the new inserts, or no longer have an old or suitable A4 binder, please contact your administrative office first.

Should further supplies be required they can be obtained by contacting Harwell Telecommunications Helpdesk, G14, B.77, in writing please.

employees to work.

At one time Harwell ran nearly 40 of its own buses on two innusters and outmusters per day. After 1982 when the common innuster and outmuster for industrial and non-industrial employees was established, the number of buses was reduced and routes rationalised — some being operated by Harwell buses and others being covered by contractors.

As the numbers of employees has fallen in recent years, the need for buses has also fallen and we are sad to say goodbye to some familiar faces behind the wheel: Aubrey Hyde, after 15 years; Stan Perris, after 10 years; Dave Pitson, after 13 years; Mick Buckland, after 15 years; Charlie Boggett, after 13 years; Fred Johnson, after 11 years and Alan Firth, Vehicle Workshop foreman, after 25 years.

Pictured below: Some of the retirees and their colleagues gathered in the Harwell Bus Park for a farewell shot of the double-deckers.





Out & About

Golden - Oldies Disco

Sat 22 June - 8.00pm - 11.45pm,
Civic Hall, Didcot. Tkts £5 inc. buffet.
Tel. Didcot

Rotary Club of Wallingford

Discarded spectacles for Vision Aid Overseas: a charity whose aim is to advance visual aid to underprivileged people in the third world. Qualified opticians from Britain and the U.S.A. pay their own expenses to travel to places where eye care is not available. Please help by bringing/sending your discarded spectacles to Katie Price, Harwell, Rm 155, B77.

Appleford Gardens

Sun 30 June. Gardens open 2 - 6pm,
The Thatched Cottage, Church St.
Interesting and unusual plants to view,
plant stall, teas avail. Proceeds to
Oxford Kidney Unit Fund at the Churchill Hospital.

Car Boot Charity Sale

Sun 23 June, 10am - 12noon, Didcot
Civic Hall. Pitches available inside and
out. Proceeds to Didcot and Harwell
St. John Ambulance funds. Tel. Colin
Campbell, Didcot

Summer Fair

Sat 29 June, Downs School, Compton,
from 2pm. Win a ride on a Hot Air
Balloon, learn to drive a car, Tombola
stalls, skating, pony rides, dog show,
car boot sale (bookings in advance to
Mr Bewes, Compton 578066), help
also required tel. Mr D Campbell,
Chieveley

Vale & Downland Museum Centre

Hooray for Maps - Until Sun 7 July.
An exhibition celebrating maps and
their uses. Also:
Impressions of the past - Tues 18
June - Sun 7 July
The Old Surgery, Church Street, Wantage.
Tues - Sat 10.30am-4.40pm,
Sun 2.30pm-pm. Admiss. Free.

Didcot Railway centre

Sat 22 June - Midsummer Steam:
open from 11am - 10pm. From 8pm
the music will be provided by Live
Steam and there will be a pig roast and
barbecue. For further details tel. (0235)

Please send all correspondence for
Out & About column to: Sylvia Brown,
C/H News, Rm G118, B329.

What is happening in the Harwell Library?

Low usage of the large collection of reports means that some are being sent to the British Library and the rest housed in the Ground Floor Stack where space has been created by discarding old, little-used or duplicated books and by bringing some journals upstairs.

The end result will be that the former Reports Room and the Reports Stack will be occupied by the Records Office, the Library will be in substantially reduced accommodation and, with one Enquiry Desk and most of the journals on one floor, they can offer a more efficient service.

Harwell Glass Blowing move

The glass blowing workshop is to move from B417 to B393 in room G06. Please check the old ext. H 3819 first. The new ext. will be H 4748.

Blood Donors — Culham

Monday 17 June. The session will be held in E6/G8, between 10am to 12noon and 1.30pm to 3pm. Please try to attend as the need for blood transfusions is increasing daily. Give a little of yourself to help others less fortunate in health.

Users of K2 Seminar room,

Please note that the kitchen adjacent to the K2 Seminar room at Culham is now kept locked. Seminar room users who wish to serve refreshments should obtain the key from E4/114, tel C 4106. Apologies for any inconvenience caused, but pleas to casual users of the kitchen to clear up after use have fallen on deaf ears!

Harwell Stores collections

Customers are reminded that with the closure of all divisional stores, the journey to Main Stores, B404 may not always be necessary as collection boxes are positioned at strategic points around the site. Enquiries as to locations tel. Mrs D Walters H 4103. You may also fax your order to Main Stores, fax. no. H 4106.

Travelling to Yugoslavia?

Following the recent outbreaks of violence in Eastern and Southern Croatia, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) are offering advice to visitors to Yugoslavia. Staff planning to visit Yugoslavia should therefore telephone the FCO Travel Advice Unit in advance of their journey, on 071 270 2700.

Just The Thing — Exchange and Mart



Any IBM PC compatible printer?

If you have anything suitable please tel. Peter Challis H 3455 or Alison Robinson H 3888.

Due to the relocation of the Glass Blowing Workshop an amount of surplus glassware, tools and equipment is available.

Enquiries to Dave Taylor ext. H.3819.

Distinguished Physicist retires

Dr Peter Schofield has retired from Theoretical Studies Department, InTec.



Presenting him with farewell gifts, Dr Chris Wright reminded the well-wishers of Peter's 35 years of distinguished service with the AEA. As a theoretical physicist, his work was mainly concerned with statistical mechanics, neutron physics, and neutron scattering studies of condensed matter. His contributions had substantially improved the understanding of liquids in terms of fundamental interatomic forces — his work on neutron physics still forms the basis of computer codes for all types of thermal reactors. More recently he has studied liquid-vapour systems and fractal systems.

Peter spent 14 years as leader of the Neutron and Liquid Physics Group of Theoretical Physics, ten years as leader of the Neutron Beam Applications Group of Materials Physics, and returned to Theoretical Physics to lead the Statistical Physics Group up to the reorganisation of the Authority in 1990. Since 1984 he had managed the Boron Neutron Capture Therapy programme and for the past year he had been responsible for safety within InTec.

Peter's fundamental work has brought him considerable distinction. At the same time he has consistently established the strongest possible links with a variety of important applied and experimental programmes and influenced them in unique and permanently valuable ways.

Brian chooses a watercolour

Brian Ward, Divisional Safety Advisor for Tokamak development Division and leading electrical technician of the noval tokamak experiment START,



has retired from AEA Fusion.

A large number of his friends, accumulated over the 27 years that he has worked in the AEA, gathered to wish him well in his retirement. Dr Derek Robinson, the Divisional Manager, presented him with an original watercolour of Abingdon (his own choice), a key ring and some other items including two personalised cards one drawn by another 'retiree', Humph, and the other by Derek Austin. He also summarised Brian's long career highlighting his 'destructive testing' of some large inductors and the recent successes with START.

Brian came to Harwell and the new Culham site in the early '60s, working on high voltage capacitor bank and switching systems, he had a spell with Site Services (motor-generators, AC supplies) and then returned to the experimental field in 1987. A mild heart attack in 1988 seemed to raise his interest in a healthy life-style, and we hope he will make the most of this in years to come!

Our loyal milkman — every day and sometimes all night!



Working as a baker for 14 years meant that John Matthews (pictured above) was used to getting up early. Early rising meant that he was the man Smith Brothers' Dairy were looking for 34 years ago — to deliver milk to Harwell Lab.

John, who lives with his wife in Grove, has been getting up between 2 and 3am every weekday since then in order to deliver milk all over site for Smiths', then County, and now Cliffords' Dairies. Whenever asked by his changing employers about his customers at Harwell, John replied 'They are not my customers, they are my friends!'

When he first started, John delivered 1,600 pints of milk each day. His ports of call included the Authority houses, the pre-fabs, the shops, Rutherford Lab and every building inside the wire. 'Everyone wanted their milk early', says John, 'so I was on site by 5am'.

The milk order has dropped to half its original number now, but John's still here and finished before most of us arrive. He

waits at Fermi gate to be 'let out' at 7.30am! 'One winter's day I didn't need to get here early' he recalls, 'the snow kept me here all night, I slept in the Fire Station and they brought the milk in to me next morning!'

John won't be seen about on Thursdays and Fridays collecting the milk bills for much longer. He retires at the end of June and is looking forward to catching up on decorating, gardening and taking his caravan to follow his favourite sport — showjumping. Since an eye operation last year John has been waiting for some new reading glasses, which, he says will mean he can now read all those Dick Ramsay novels he keeps buying.

All his customer/friends at Harwell will be sorry not to see John's cheerful face, and will want to thank him for his sterling service over so many years, but the greatest wish of all must be that he has a chance to catch up on those long-lost morning lie-ins!

Vivien Brooks

Acknowledgements

Alan Firth would like to thank all his friends and colleagues for their generous gift and good wishes on his retirement, also for the bouquet of flowers for his wife Irene.

Mavis Street would like to thank everyone for the wonderful party and beautiful presents given on her retirement. 'Cheerio' also, to all those she was unable to see. **Phil Smith**, Contract Clean (Southern) Limited, would like to thank everyone who sponsored him in the recent Oxford Town and Gown Fun Run. £200 was raised for Muscular Dystrophy Research.

Sheila Chettle retired from Harwell at the beginning of this year. She thanks all her friends for the much appreciated gifts; the Sabatier knives are in constant use, the Wedgwood box is a handsome addition to

her collection. Sheila has recently moved to Portugal so the case was a great asset when she flew over. If anyone of her friends cares to write to Sheila she would love to hear from them. Tel. Clare Lightfoot, H 2138/3620.

Mrs M Gregson and family wish to thank all colleagues of the late **Henry Gregson** for their kindness and sympathy in their recent bereavement.

Les Bunce would like to thank all his friends and colleagues for their generous farewell presents and lovely bouquet for his wife Mary. Best wishes to everyone.

Canon(UK) Limited National Accounts wish to thank everybody concerned at Harwell for their help in making the Timeshrinker Exhibition a success. The Camera was won by: W F Bland, National Radiological Protection Board.

Diary

June

13

1615hrs

Clarendon Laboratory

Optical studies of resonant tunnelling

Prof M S Skolnick, Univ. of Sheffield

Venue: Small Lecture Theatre, Clarendon Laboratory, Parks Road, Oxford

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1400hrs

AEA Decommissioning & Radwaste

Low level generalization of 2-D patterns by the human visual system

Prof K.H. Ruddock, Imperial College of Science and Technology

Venue: Conf. Rm B. 424.4, Harwell

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The Royal Soc. for the promotion of Health and The Soc. of Chemical Industry The environmental impact of vehicle emissions — Conference

Venue: SCI, 14-15 Belgrave Square, London SW 1

Further details: tel. R S H House, London: 071-630 0121

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The Society of Chemical Industry

Risk assessment in biotechnology — one day meeting

Venue: SCI, 14-15 Belgrave Square, London SW 1

Further details from SCI Conference Secretariat at above address.

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1400hrs

Special AEA Fusion Theory Colloquium

The imaging application of magnetic resonance in medicine

Dr S Golding and Mr D Dobson, John Radcliffe Hospital

Venue: John Adams Lecture Theatre, Culham Laboratory

Advance notices:

4-9 August

Int. Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry 10th Int. Symp. on Plasma Chemistry

Venue: Ruhr-Universitat, Bochum, Germany

Further details from: Prof K R Rie, Inst. für Oberflächentechnik und Plasmatechnische, Germany. Tel 49-531 391 9406

9-13 September

AEA Reactor Services and the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency

3rd International Conference on Nuclear Criticality Safety

Venue: Christ church College Oxford

Further details from Conference Secretary, John Bentley, AEA Technology, Winfrith

21-23 September

Institution of Nuclear Engineers

2nd International Conference on Training for Operation and Maintenance in the Nuclear Industry

Venue: Stratford-upon-Avon

Further details from the Conference Secretary, Allan House, 1 Penderley Road, London SE6 2LQ

Tel 081 698 1500 or 4750

Safety Facts

Radiological Incidents

13 May-31 May

There was one radiological incident designated at Category 2n during this period. During routine measurements slightly contaminated gloves were found in a waste bin. No further contamination was found and the route that enabled the gloves to get into the bin is being investigated. On the International Nuclear Event Scale this incident is rated as below any safety significance.

Film Badge Notice

4 Weekly Films: Period 07M (Colour Stripe BROWN). Week commencing Monday 17 June.



Calling all Culham and Harwell employees. Do you have a lot of pull? Enough we hope to pull together a team from Culham and Harwell site, to enter into a sponsored Locomotive Pull at Didcot Railway Centre, 29 June, to raise money for The British Heart Foundation (for research to reduce the terrible toll of heart disease).

Teams of up to 25 (to include at least 5 ladies) wanted, sponsored to pull a steam locomotive 200 feet. Trophy for fastest pull.

Sponsor Forms and further information from John Flood. Didcot 812085 or Lyn Murray. Didcot 510206.

Faringdon Folly Fun Run

Featuring the Folly Factor Massacre in aid of Muscular Dystrophy Research, on Sunday 7 July. Full details in June Running magazine or tel. Cleveland Gibson, H 3682.



Dear Ed.

Users of stores may have noticed that a number of items have recently gone out of stock. However all may not be lost. Stores are very willing to listen to a case for the restocking of any item provided good reasons can be given.

Recently some stainless steel ferrules were made obsolete. These ferrules are small, cheap, and are an essential part of stainless steel pipe fittings. The loss of them from stock would mean buying a complete new fitting each time it was dismantled.

When I pointed out the folly of this decision, Stores were very prompt and obliging, and the items are now being restocked. I would urge all users to make use of this route for getting items restocked.

Grahame Murphy
AEA D & R
B 353, Harwell



Sport & Recreation



Once again the time has arrived for finding out if you are super-fit, fit, half-fit, or almost totally unfit? To see how you fair, get a team of four together and enter The Uranium Factor Challenge — if only for a good charitable cause.

The Challenge will be held on Sunday 30 June at Weeton Army Barracks assault course in Lancashire. To date, AEA Technology are scheduled to enter 16 teams, including 10 teams from InTec's Materials and Manufacturing Technology Department!

With over 70 teams showing interest throughout the UK Nuclear Industry the event has the makings of being very successful but there is still room for more teams — the target is for 150 teams. It will be fun and successful, but only with more support from you.

Contact Richard Johnson or Michelle Creer, Risley. Tel. extns. Risley 3240 and 3767 respectively for further details.

Croquet Club

After a long hibernation, the Croquet Club players have emerged fitfully to start regular lunchtime knockups. On one occasion 7 were seen at once in urgent discussion with the Rec. Soc. secretary, although little practice seemed to be taking place! The first Southern League match at Ryde on the Isle of Wight was played on a warm Sunday after a smooth crossing. The only excuse for failing to win was that the grass was too heavy for the ladies! Consequent victories by Stuart Daddo-Langlois and Ken Cotterell were needed to supply the customary draw.

The Longman Cup team are getting ready to play at Cheltenham.

3 new members have just joined the club and if you'd like to join there is room for more. For details ring Ken Cotterell tel H 5931 or Mike Duck tel H 5606.

Harwell Mens Hockey Club A.G.M.

A reminder to all members of the Hockey Club that the A.G.M. is being held at 7.30pm on Monday 17 June in room 2 of the Social Club. Several posts on the Committee need filling and there are some important topics to be debated, the outcome of which will affect everyone in the Club. We hope to retire to the bar afterwards and make a social evening of it, so please make every effort to attend.

Social Club Services

The Social Club opens every day of the year except Good Friday and Christmas Day. Bar and Catering Services are available to members and their guests as follows:

Day	Bars	Catering
Mon -	12noon-2pm	Hot: 12noon-1.45pm
Fri	7.15-11pm	Cold: 12noon-2pm Bar Meals
Sat	12noon-2pm *7.15-11pm	Organised sports meals, Bar Meals & special events
Sun	12noon-2pm 7.15-10.30pm	Bar Meals and special events

*During the period 1 Sept - 30 Apr, the bars open at 4.30pm on Saturdays, except for the months of Nov, Dec, Jan and Feb when they open at 4.15pm).

The Club has an excellent Bar Menu, available every evening from 7.15-9.45pm and also 12 noon - 1.45pm on Sat and Sun, at very competitive prices. The range includes 'Daily Specials', steak, pizza, chicken, etc, through to seafood dishes, snacks, ice cream and children's menus. Everything cooked to order!

Photocopying Facilities

Photocopying facilities are available in the Rec. Assoc. Office for **Members Only**, Mon - Fri from 9.30am - 3.30pm (excepting 2 - 2.30). Straight copies and reductions (A3 to A4) 5p each, enlargements (A4 - A3) and straight A3 copies 10p each.

Rec. Association Subs

Members will be aware that subscription income is made up of two elements, one portion representing income to the Association, the other Value Added Tax.

As you know, the standard rate of VAT was increased from 15% to 17.5% in the 1991 budget and consequently this 2 1/2% increase in VAT must reluctantly be reflected in the subscription payments made by members; this amounts to 1p per week and will be adjusted consequentially for the monthly and annual subscription payers.

The Management Committee, at its meeting held on 16 April 1991, decided to absorb this VAT increase for the remainder of the current financial year and to defer collecting the additional VAT until the first day of the new financial year (i.e. 1 July 1991).

For members' convenience, the new subscription rates (VAT inclusive) will be as shown below:

Ordinary Members

(Harwell/RAL/NRPB/Amersham) - 40p per week - £20.80 pa.
£1.73 per month - £20.76 pa.

Ordinary Members

(Direct payment) £20.80 pa.

Reciprocal (Culham)

£11.44 pa.

Adult Family

£10.40 pa.

Junior Family (u. 18 yrs)

£5.20 pa.

Junior Family (over 18 yrs)

£20.80 pa.

Associate

£25.20 pa.

Life begins with 18 Plus

By Steve Crothers, RAL

Would you like a more active social life? Let me give you some comments about the last couple of weeks of mine and other members of the Abingdon 18 Plus group.

Saturday evening — out down the pub with a group of about 10 friends, we met up in Abingdon and shared cars, so there were more people who did not have to stay sober. We had a very nice meal while we were out and a good old chat.

Sunday afternoon — out in the park with 18 friends playing rounders. The pressure is on because we have won the area competition two years in succession and we want to be victorious again.

Sunday evening — 10 pin bowling in Aylesbury, did not do all that well, but then it is only a bit of fun so why worry.

Tuesday evening — Volleyball down the Old Gaol Leisure centre. Two teams of 6 from the group with mixed abilities, we did quite well. The group will try to retain the national volleyball trophy next year.

Wednesday evening — our regular meeting in the Family room of the Magic Midget pub. I arrived about 8.15pm and had a little chat, then around 9pm the important final details of the weekend activities were announced. We then played some silly games for about 40 minutes, concluding the meeting by going back to chatting.

Saturday — all day; we gathered early for a trip to the Malvern Hills, spent the majority of the day on an eight mile hike up and down the hills. On the way back stopped for an evening meal at a quaint little public house.

Sunday — coffee morning arranged at one of the members houses, excellent spread of cakes and biscuits for all. In the afternoon we had another rounders practice, and then played cards in the evening.

Tuesday evening — back down the Old Gaol, this time for 5-a-side football, we were thrashed.

Wednesday evening — back down the Magic Midget, the event this evening was based on the Channel 4 television series 'Whose Line is it any?', but we got everybody involved.

Saturday — Met up very early to drive down to Dorset. Dived into the tourist information office to find a camp site and after setting up our tents headed off for a walk. Spent the night under canvas.

Sunday — packed the tent away and then down for a tram ride and a browse along the prom before heading home.

'How do you arrange all this?' I hear you call. Its simple, I joined Abingdon 18 plus. There are about 35 members in the group and we all get together on a regular basis to put together a wide range of activities. One notable example recently was when one of our members arranged a talk by the Oxford Blood Transfusion Service. After that talk another 4 volunteers came forward to join the 15 in the group who already give blood.

The Abingdon group is allied with a number of other local groups (eg. Newbury, Reading, Basingstoke) to form Thames Valley Area. Various competitions and holidays are run on an area wide basis. Again a notable area holiday is when we took over 100 people to the Centre Parcs water paradise in Sherwood Forest.

Country wide there are 15 areas, the groups of which all together make up the National Federation of 18 Plus groups. Two events of note run on a national basis are the Bedford Raft race weekend - a camping weekend with a raft race around a lake in the centre of Bedford - and Caister. Caister is a holiday centre near Great Yarmouth and over the Easter weekend we take over the entire chalet complex. 1600 people attended this year, live music was provided every night, and then there is lots to do in the day as well - I needed a holiday to get over it!

As a quick aside, the National Federation was set up in 1941 so this year marks the Golden Jubilee, so some extra special events are in the pipeline.

A question I am often asked is 'How do you cope with all the events available to you?' The answer is that not everybody does everything, you can pick and chose the activities you want to do, or even better arrange some for everyone else.

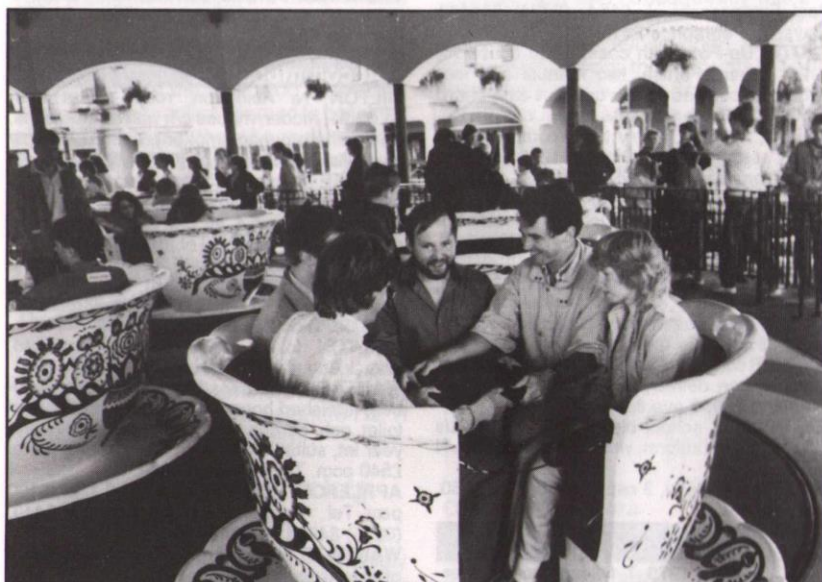
If you fancy a spot of personal development you might put yourself forward to stand on the organizing committee, a team of seven take office for a six month period to pull together all the functions of the local group. You could progress further up the ladder to the area or even the national committees.

If you think you could cope with a more active social life and you are aged between 18 and 29 then come along any Wednesday evening from 8.15pm to the family room, The Magic Midget, Preston Road, Abingdon and ask for Liz, Brian, Nicki, or me, Steve, and be sure of a friendly welcome.

Note: There are members of Abingdon's 18 Plus group working at Harwell, Culham, NIREX and RAL. Ed.



Spare Time?



There's hardly time for tea if you join 18+, although members found time to enjoy a cuppa during a trip to Thorpe Park

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