

eCHO

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CULHAM SCIENCE CENTRE & HARWELL BUSINESS CENTRE JULY/AUGUST 1998

Beven founder member of new federation



Harwell enterprise, Beven Recycling, has joined forces with five other companies to form the Tyre Recyclers Federation. At its launch and inaugural meeting in London a few weeks ago, the principles of the new body were laid down. In short it aims to raise the status of tyre recycling, to promote responsible recycling methods and provide a united voice for lobbying government and the tyre industry for future reforms.

"Everyone agrees that there is a real problem with tyre disposal, yet every scrap tyre could be put to beneficial use, environmentally and economically," says Ann Jervis of Beven Recycling, who is director and company secretary of the new federation. "We'd like to see a proper infrastructure to handle waste tyres as a step towards achieving that goal."

"There's also a real need for impartial, accurate and responsible information about the treatment of scrap tyres. The federation will respond to that need by providing a consultancy service to the industry, local or national government, environmental organisations and the public."

Continued on Page 2

Woman of the Year

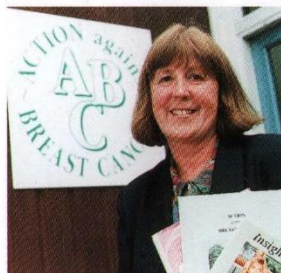
Patricia Leatham, director of the charity, Action against Breast Cancer (ABC) based at Culham Science Centre, has won Oxfordshire's Woman of the Year award. The panel of judges from the Working Women's Forum (WWF) and women's group, Zonta, chose Pat from the five finalists for the 'sheer grit and determination' she had shown in raising over £2.5 million to fund research into breast cancer.

Having set up ABC in 1993 Pat worked initially at home, moving to Culham last May when extra staff and equipment outgrew her house in Long Wittenham. Working tirelessly, the results of her fundraising have expanded the ABC team to 15 members in just five years.

Identifying the key to her success, Pat said, "From the beginning, the unique and exciting nature of the research kept me motivated and inspired. Many of our support-

ers live locally and their support and commitment has been absolutely invaluable."

Action against Breast Cancer is unusual in funding research into secondary spread; the major cause of death. The innovative research at Middlesex Hospital, which won the 1994 Queens Anniversary Award for excellence in medical research, is led by her husband, Dr Anthony Leatham. The work focuses on three factors - the biochemistry



Patricia gave up her job at Oxford's Churchill Hospital to fundraise for the pioneering work of her surgeon husband.

of breast cancer; the patient's own immunity to the disease and also the impact of diet and lifestyle on a sufferer's chances of survival.

The charity needs to raise at least £700,000 a year to enable this vital research to continue. Any staff who would like to find out more about the work of ABC should call 01865 407384.

This Month

Royal reception

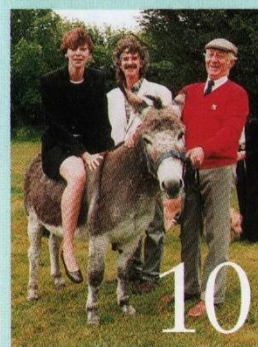
3



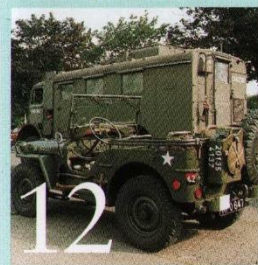
Young enterprise



Animal crackers



D-Day display



Continued...

The government hopes to increase the percentage of tyres recycled in advance of the expected EU Landfill Directive which will call for virtually all tyres to be recovered. A Scrap Tyre Working Group has been set up including representatives from the tyre industry. One of the initial priorities for the new Tyre Recyclers Federation is to secure at least one seat on this working group.

The federation does not intend to support any one particular method for recycling scrap tyres but prospective members must meet strict

standards of professionalism and there is careful vetting to exclude cowboy firms.

Beven in its independent capacity has developed a successful pyrolysis system which uses heat to degrade tyres to produce useful byproducts including oil, gas, carbon, steel and heat. The company has designed and is to build a plant to recycle up to 500,000 tyres a year. As a topical issue, Beven's ecologically sound system of tyre recycling has generated much press interest of late with radio interviews on Radio 4's programme 'Costing the Earth', Radio 5 Live and BBC Thames Valley FM.

Chinese project no.28

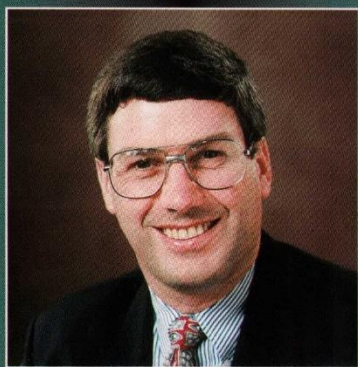
AEA Technology has been awarded a £600,000 contract by the Asian Development Bank to implement an environmental plan for Shaanxi, an interior province earmarked by the Chinese government for economic growth.

The project will promote investment in clean technology for industry and public utilities while phasing out polluting and inefficient processes. New legislation will also put in place appropriate enforcement measures.



The Shaanxi assignment is AEAT's 28th environmental project in China since 1986.

New chief constable



Bill Pryke (pictured here) has been appointed as the new chief constable of the UKAEA Constabulary, succeeding Anthony Pointer.

Bill began his police career in 1972 with the Wiltshire Constabulary where he progressed to deputy divisional commander. In 1992 he joined HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Bristol and became assistant chief officer in the States of Jersey two years later. Bill joined the UKAEA in 1996

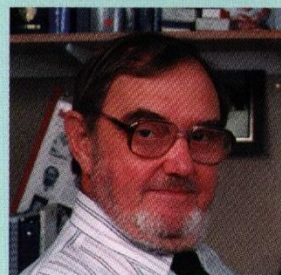
Obituaries

Ged Adams

Professor Ged Adams, former MRC director at Harwell from 1982 to 1995, has died aged 68. A world-renowned figure in cancer research and radiation science, one of his best-known contributions was the development of radio-sensitising cancer drugs - which enhance the effects of radiotherapy - with the first major clinical trial in 1974.

Prof Adams was passionately dedicated to improving patient treatment. He also raised substantial sums of money for cancer research. Following his official retirement from MRC he became the first chairman of the Gray Laboratory Cancer Research Trust at Mount Vernon Hospital, Middlesex. In recognition of his pivotal role, not only in fundraising but in stimulating scientific achievement, the Trust's new building is to be named in his honour. He was also especially proud of his work for the British Journal of Cancer and his role in its expansion.

Numerous honours were awarded to him to recognise his punishing work schedule which



continued into so-called retirement. Prof Adams still found time to encourage other people, particularly young scientists, many of whom benefited from his genuine interest and enthusiasm. He was a very warm, human and generous individual and a devoted family man. He leaves a widow and three sons.

A memorial service will be held in July. Please contact Julie Cox at MRC on 01235 834393 for details.

Margaret Stott

We regret to announce the death after a long illness, of Margaret Stott, aged 52. Many will remember her as the former superintendent of Harwell's typing pool and latterly as a member of public relations before her ill health retirement in 1993.

Malta tackles pollution



The beautiful Mediterranean island of Malta, where around 450,000 British holidaymakers will spend their holiday this year, is under threat from pollution. NETCEN, part of AEA Technology, has been awarded a contract by the Maltese authorities to help monitor and control air and marine pollution.

Threats to the marine environment include the many passing oil tankers, expanding agriculture and leaching from landfills. Loggerhead turtles, a threatened species, can be found

forests and sea-grass meadows which are home to a diversity of fish, squid and other creatures.

Increasing traffic, power generation and other industry on the island has added to air

Royal reception

Two AEA Technology staff enjoyed the company of royalty, celebrities and fellow 'young achievers' at an exclusive reception hosted by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace last month.

Joining AEAT in 1995, engineer Aleks Tomczyk, 27, created, and now manages the company's 'Innovation Plus' scheme at Harwell. It aims to help people develop innovative concepts and bring them to fruition. Since its launch last June over 200 ideas for new products and services have been generated.

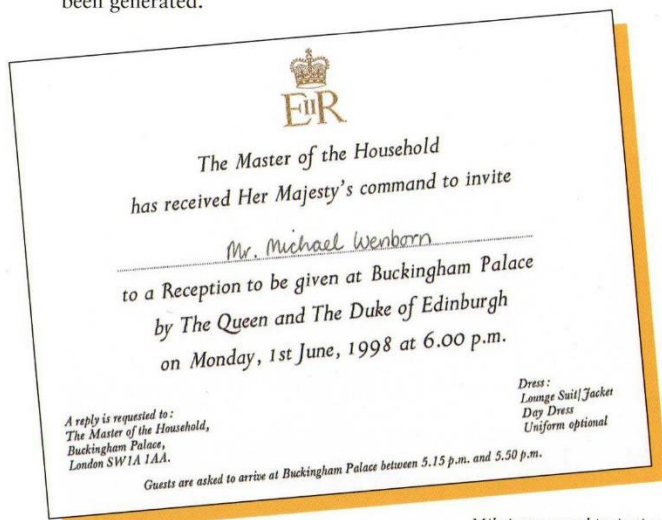
Mike Wenborn, 28, was busy spotting famous faces including Zoë Ball at the 900-strong reception, when he bumped into Aleks, whom he had met while on a management diploma course. Mike is a member of the strategic consulting team within AEA Technology Environment. Last year he spent over four



Aleks Tomczyk was AEAT's youngest employee to be selected for the company's high potential employee development scheme.

months in Bangkok with two colleagues establishing the company's new branch and promoting its services to help deal with the city's dire traffic pollution problems. He was also able to advise about the dangers of the infamous 'haze' which was approaching Bangkok but thankfully did not reach the city.

"I knew it would be a tremendous occasion but I wasn't expecting to enjoy it so much," Mike comments. "Everyone was invited singly so we had to make new acquaintances. It was fascinating to talk to members of the royal family, the palace staff and other guests, many of whom were involved in charity work".



Mike's treasured invitation.

Birthday honours

In this year's Queen's Birthday Honours List an OBE has been awarded to a scientist who helped in the Sea Empress clean-up operation and a former top naval officer, who recently became technology director for AEAT Nuclear Engineering, was made a CB (Companion of the Order of the Bath).

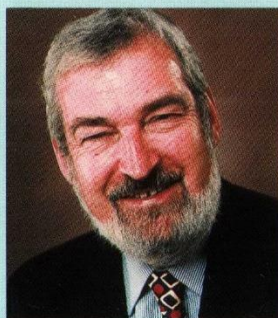


Dr McDonagh has been involved in bioremediation and oil spill computer modelling.

Dr Madeleine McDonagh works for AEAT Environment at Culham and has helped develop techniques to protect Britain's coastline and rivers

from pollution. She said, "I view the award very much as a recognition of the achievements of the AEA Technology team as a whole. Success has only resulted because of their efforts and dedication and my sincere thanks go to all involved."

Rear Admiral Paul Thomas joined the Royal Navy in 1963 and held a range of engineering and design posts associated with nuclear and conventionally powered submarines, before taking on a number of senior operational management posts, including responsibilities for nuclear safety. Among the posts he held with distinction were captain of the Royal Naval Engineering



Paul Thomas, whose experience of nuclear plant design, operations and safety will be a great asset to AEAT.

College, director of Nuclear Propulsion and latterly Chief Strategic Systems Executive.

He said, "This award is a tremendous memento of what has been 35 extraordinary and rewarding years. I now face a new challenge and will be using my expertise to help AEA Technology Nuclear Engineering maintain its reputation as a leader in the nuclear engineering field."

SAFETY FACTS

Lost time accidents

Culham/Harwell	C	H
Recorded since last issue	0	2
Total this fiscal year (98/99)	0	3*
Total reported to HSE (98/99)	0	1*
Total days lost in 98/99	0	25

Minor accidents (no time lost)

Culham/Harwell	C	H
Recorded since last issue	3	8
Total this fiscal year (98/99)	10	21

*One HSE reportable LTA incident included in last month's statistics had been removed from the table as the investigation identified it as a non-work related event.

There was one non-radiological incident, designated category 2, reportable since the last issue of ECHO.

Electrical incident

Four pumps in the B8.6 Pumphouse were found to be incorrectly wired (phases reversed) rendering them useless.

Eco-warriors wanted

Are you interested in matters ecological? If so, you may want to get involved in an ecological initiative on the Harwell site.

UKAEA wants to assemble a list of people interesting in helping with an ecological management initiative to preserve and encourage different habitats and species on the site. Simple improvements are already being made to encourage wildlife such as pollarding poplars, stacking logs as places of shelter and using wood chips as ground mulch. Help is needed for a wider range of work as the plan develops, for example, counting species numbers.

If you are a budding naturalist, an orchid expert or just someone who would like to get involved please contact Dawn Russell on H3669 or e-mail: dawn.l.russell@ukaea.org.uk

eCHO BRIEF

Top safety award



UKAEA at Harwell has won a prestigious award from the British Safety Council for its below average accident rates. Sir Neville Purvis (left) BSC director general is seen here presenting Allen Edwards with the award at a special ceremony attended by 1300 guests. Prime Minister Tony Blair wrote a message to award winners praising their vital contribution to the UK's corporate safety culture.

Destroying chemical weapons

The US Army has awarded a \$150,000 contract to AEA Technology and US-based CH2MHill to assess an environmentally friendly process for destroying stockpiled chemical weapons.

Under the Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment (ACWA) programme, the US Army must use two technologies which are alternatives to incineration. The Silver II electrochemical oxidation process has been successfully tested on live nerve agents and mustard gas. Recent tests show how agents and explosives are completely broken down into inert gases, liquid and solid wastes for standard disposal.

NRPB advice

A booklet on protection of the fetus during medical diagnostic procedures has been jointly published by the NRPB, the College of Radiographers and the Royal College of Radiologists. For copies contact the NRPB information office, Chilton, Didcot, Oxon OX11 0RQ.

Vectra acquisition

Vectra Technologies, which operates from the Harwell International Business Centre, has acquired an asbestos management company. To be known as Vectra N Jones Ltd, the new subsidiary will complement the company's existing services which include the decontamination and decommissioning of chemical and nuclear facilities.

Coral Adventure

Spending three months on a Cay - a coral island - may sound like paradise, but the neighbours aren't very appealing - vampire bats, mosquitoes and tarantulas!

Susie Byfield, who works for AEA Technology at Culham, left the UK at the end of June to become a 'venturer' on a Raleigh International project in Belize. The charity (previously called Operation Raleigh) arranges for 17-25 year olds to work on a variety of community, conservation and scientific assignments in challenging environments.

As a marine scientist Susie will run a coral surveying project to gauge reef damage due to agricultural practices. Land cultivation leads to soil erosion and greater sediment spilling from

rivers out onto the reef, causing ecological suffocation.

Her first task is to establish a self-made camp and train all the venturers to dive. They will then take measurements of tides, currents, turbulence, weather and reef transects. Susie will manage the project and write reports on its findings, conclusions and how the team performed.

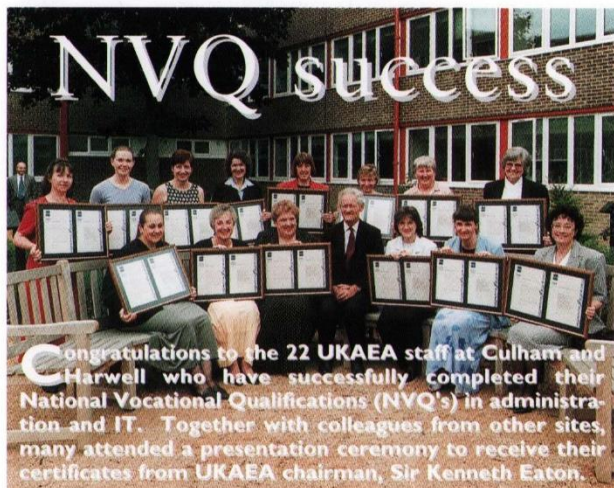
"It will prove a valuable experience and I hope to fulfil some of my own objectives such as team building, management and presentation skills and confidence building," said Susie before



she left. "I've been granted three months unpaid leave and a donation towards equipment costs by AEA Technology. There'll be no excuses for me not taking some good action shots as the Imaging Centre has lent me a waterproof camera".

Coach changes

If you use the coach service that runs between Didcot Parkway station and the Harwell campus on weekday mornings please note the following time changes. Trains previously met were those arriving at Didcot at 09:08 and 10:52, however, following timetable changes coaches will now meet the 09:13 and 10:23 trains. Should you have any queries concerning the service please contact Johnson Controls Transport office on H4589 or e-mail: tim.wright@procord.com.



Congratulations to the 22 UKAEA staff at Culham and Harwell who have successfully completed their National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ's) in administration and IT. Together with colleagues from other sites, many attended a presentation ceremony to receive their certificates from UKAEA chairman, Sir Kenneth Eaton.

Exotic visitors

A pair of peacocks took up residence on the Reactor Site behind UKAEA's HQ, B521, Harwell during June.

Property manager, Peter Greenhalgh, rapidly became the in-house authority on these exotic birds as he contacted a

variety of agencies and possible local owners seeking advice on how best to handle the avian invasion. Apparently the best way to trap them was to put out a trail of strawberries ... Their diet took in almost anything, apple cores, insects and leaves -

especially the leaves of tender shrubs and plants recently planted in the new gardens around the Marshall Building!

Staff consulted bird books to verify that, yes, they could fly and needed to roost in high trees, of which there are quite a few at the southern extremity of the Harwell campus. Exhaustive enquiries led to Ridgeway Farm, Chilton whose owner confessed to having bought a pair just a couple of weeks before.

"I feed them at breakfast time and don't see them until the next morning" she said. "That's because they prefer to lunch and dine on our shrubs!" said Peter.

Meanwhile staff are being advised not to feed them whilst devious plans are being hatched to catch them and have their wings clipped so they remain on the right side of the fence.



The peacocks made themselves at home in the HQ gardens.

YE Paradox wins at Culham

Before an audience of nearly 300 people, "Paradox", a team from Headington School, won the Oxfordshire Young Enterprise (YE) Finals at the John Adams Lecture Theatre, Culham.

UKAEA and JET co-sponsored the county event that tested the entrepreneurial skills of Oxfordshire sixth formers managing their own trading 'companies'. Six teams presented their companies, exhibited their wares and won a variety of shields and cups.

Frank Briscoe, UKAEA Culham, welcomed the guests and presented the awards. One of these, the UKAEA Cup for the best financial report went to 'Enigma', one of two teams from the School of St Helen & St Katherine, Abingdon, who made it to the final six. Larry Byrne, JET director for administration, was also present.

Since 1963, when YE became a national organisation, Oxfordshire has emerged as one of the best counties taking part, with the highest penetration in the UK in all its eligible schools. About 700 Oxfordshire pupils from 35 schools took part this year, assisted by volunteer staff from over 50 Oxon businesses.

The 15 girls from Headington School set up a company to make and sell clocks mounted on decorated CD discs, going for a massive 250% mark-up in price. Selling for £5.99 they unexpectedly won an order for £2,350 worth of clocks from a commercial buyer!



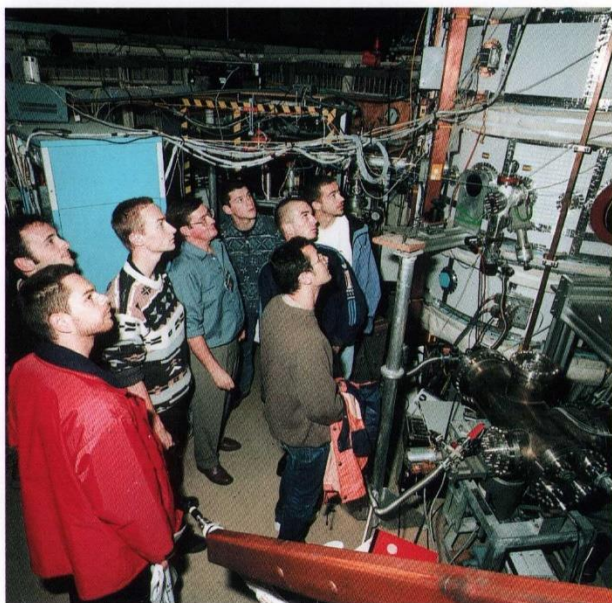
Frank Briscoe examines one of the novel CD clocks. As winners, Headington School go on to represent Oxfordshire at the regional competition in Bristol.

Overall they made a profit of £1200 resulting in a huge 205% pay-out to their shareholders!

Frank Briscoe spent an hour touring the exhibition stands and chatting to the young

company members. In presenting the prizes he said, "The lessons you have learned from the Young Enterprise competition will carry you into a successful future."

Fusion takes on the French!



Alan Sykes (fourth from left) explains about the START experiment

The Centre for Continuing Education at the University of Bath ran an intensive six-week English language programme in June for 17 French engineering students from the Institut Supérieur de Genie Technologique Atalantech, France.

As part of their programme, the students were given the opportunity to visit the UK Fusion facilities at Culham. After an introduction to the programme by Tom Todd, industry department manager, they toured the experiments, COMPASS, START and, of course, the newest, MAST. Being

engineering students, MAST was particularly interesting to them.

Course organiser, Alice Boulton, has since requested that Fusion takes one of next year's students on a six-week industrial work placement, which fits in nicely with the Fusion industry initiative launched earlier this year.

All change at Culham shop

There's a new face to welcome customers at the Culham store. After 36 years Peter Bettles has retired. Kim Hurst is the new proprietor and she has already introduced some exciting changes.

This time last year Kim was a busy sales manager for a national organisation but as she approached the big '40' decided to rethink her goals in life. She was keen to do something for herself which she could develop and take pride in. Taking over the Culham shop was the ideal opportunity to start a new challenge and she's thoroughly enjoying it.

"The freshly baked goods - bread, pastries, pizzas and pies - are really popular" says Kim, who is considering an afternoon bake so that staff can have warm bread to take home. "I've also



A fresh start for Kim who has great enthusiasm for the new enterprise.

started a video club and will soon be redecorating throughout.

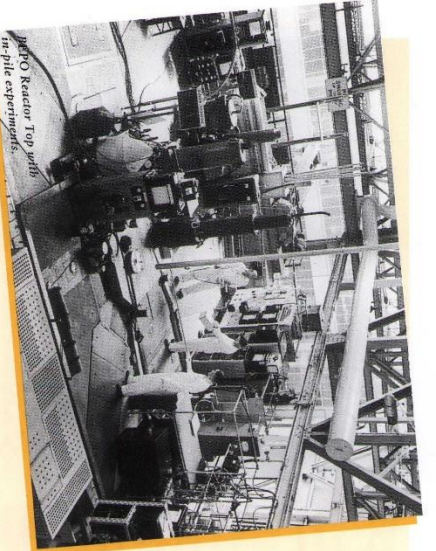
"I want this to be a convenience store in every sense - a shop which meets the needs of its customers and I'd welcome suggestions and new ideas. Everyone has been very friendly and the feedback is very positive."

Retirement wishes

Doug Cummins of AEAT, says 'Cheerio and thanks' to all those who wished him well on his retirement after 42 years at Harwell and Culham and is sorry that he wasn't able to contact everyone he knew before he left. He is pictured here (centre) with Chris Scruby, head of the NDT Centre (left) and Mike Hutchins.



BEPO is 50

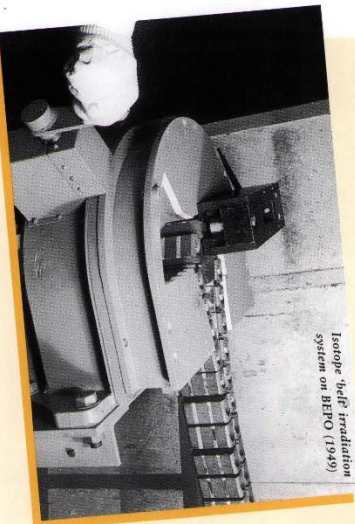


BEPO Reactor Top with in-pile experiments.

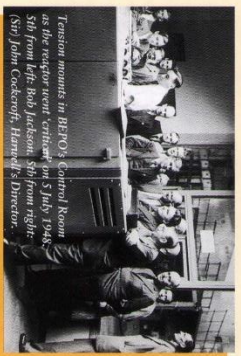
BEPO, Harwell's second reactor and Europe's first research reactor to operate at significant power (6 MW), is 50 years old. 'ECHO' is indebted to Bob Jackson, now aged 76, for details of the early days of BEPO.

BEPO was conceived by UK staff in Canada - Montreal and Chalk River - during the war and was designed and built by the Industrial Group at Risley under (Sir) Christopher Hinton. Construction started in the former RAF Hangar 10 in June 1946 and critically achieved on 3 July 1948. To accommodate the emergency shutdown rods the roof of the former RAF hangar was raised 20 feet.

The reactor comprised a 26 ft cube of graphite encased in a bayonet concrete shield 6 ft thick, penetrated by many vertical and horizontal experimental holes. The 20 ft diam. core contained 40 tons of uranium bars, each one-foot long and 0.9 in diameter, canned in aluminium and



Isotope 'half irradiation' system on BEPO (1949)



Tension mounts in BEPO's Control Room as the reactor went 'critical' on 3 July 1948. (Sift from left: Bob Jackson, Sift from right: (Sir) John Cockcroft, Harwell's Director.

disposed in 888 channels. The 25,000 graphite blocks were machined at Harwell to such accuracy that the 25 ft stack was within 0.030 inches of the design figure! The air was cooled by exhaust fans discharging 5 tons of hot air per minute up a 200 ft high chimney.

The many experimental holes enabled BEPO to be used to explore gas-graphite chemistry and irradiation damage in materials critical to the power reactor programme. A pneumatic system 'shot' samples into the core and recovered them in the radiochemistry building (B220). Isotopes were made on a continuous basis and enabled Bob West, of Isotope Division (later to become Amerham International) to establish an international delivery service of radioactive isotopes for medical and industrial uses.

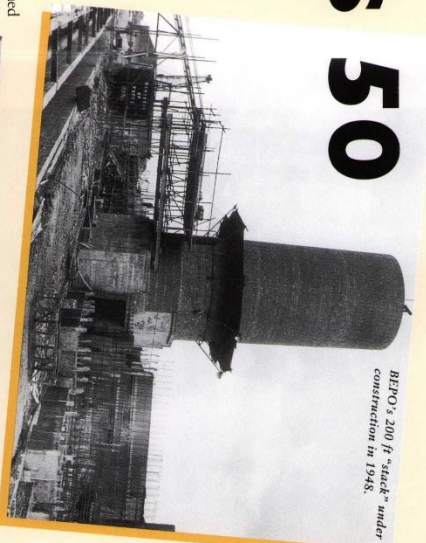
BEPO also provided, under Mony Finniston's guidance, the first UK experience of the problems of reliable fuel element design. In parallel it led to the development of the very successful 'burst cartridge' detection system used on all subsequent UK reactors.

Among other firsts on BEPO were the installation of a heat-exchanger to provide district-heating to nearby buildings and special filters in the air outlet duct. A bank of Volkes filters, using oil sprays to improve particle size efficiency, was used and the technology later incorporated in the Windscale Pile chimneys.

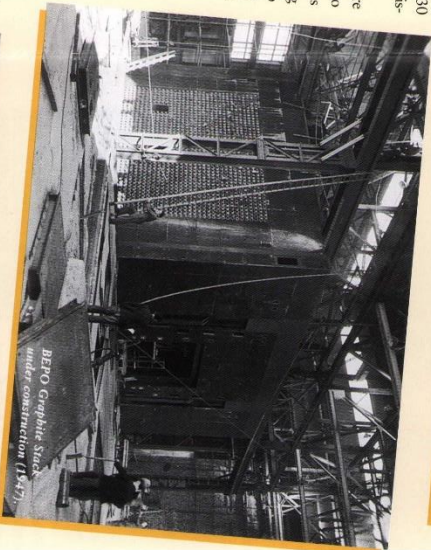
Naval engineers, Dick Moore and Bob Jackson, were appointed to head the maintenance and operations teams under Jimmy Grou. Early BEPO shift engineers included Ken Henry, who went on to manage the Dounreay Fast Reactor, and Cliff Blunfield who became director of Dounreay.

George 'Jock' Campbell had already made a considerable contribution to the start-up of the GLEEP reactor and he took charge of all the industrial staff for both reactors. He was a fund of practical advice and assistance and achieved seemingly impossible targets. Another 'character' was Betty Flew, in charge of radiation safety, who could reassure new staff about radiation concerns and gently but firmly keep the older hands in line.

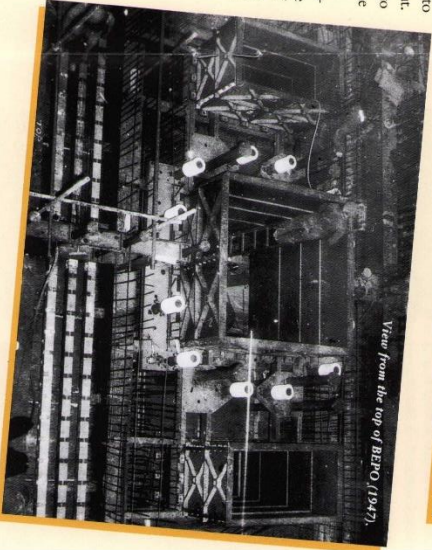
BEPO was the overall responsibility of John Dunworth and Fred Fenning, later to become a deputy director of Harwell, was the physicist in charge. Among the neutron experimenters were Peter Egglestaff and George Bacon, while Tom Fry and John Simmonds researched radiation damage in materials. Lewis Roberts, later to become director of Harwell, researched gas-graphite chemistry. BEPO operated successfully until it was shut down in 1968.



BEPO's 200 ft "stack" under construction in 1948.

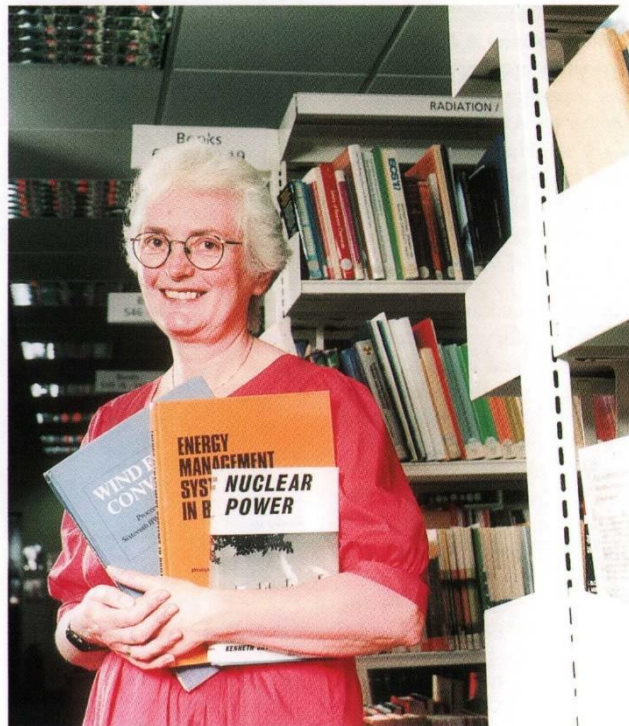


BEPO Graphite Stack under construction (1947)



View from the top of BEPO (1947).

Eve bids Harwell 'adios'!



Eve has witnessed the IT revolution at first hand.

The prospect of working with a computer was one of the perks which persuaded AEA Technology's Librarian, Eve Thornton, to join the organisation originally. Nearly 30 years later, as Eve retires, she reflects that there are now more terminals than staff!

Before coming to Harwell Eve had moved around the UK, taking library positions in York, Somerset, Stirling and Cornwall, including 18 months as a farm worker. In 1968 the Harwell library, then located in B465 near the restaurant, was a much larger enterprise, and was leading the way to automation with its punch cards and paper tape records system.

"It was an exciting time. Harwell was exchanging research information with other organisations worldwide and the library had an important role to play" recalls Eve. "The reports collection was, and still is, the nearest complete assembly of Harwell reports."

Probably the most demanding project for Eve was to organise the move to B149 in 1995. The logistics of sorting, moving and reorganising all the books, journals and reports into a smaller

space was a challenge, particularly as the library continued its lending service virtually throughout the transition.

Eve's most amusing moment in her 30-year service came during a visit to head office in London when she nipped into the WC in the underground car park. Security was tight and to her horror she heard the door being locked from outside. Only by shouting and hammering was she able to attract someone's attention and then was further embarrassed to find that she had rushed into the men's toilet by mistake!

"I'm looking forward to becoming a 'jubilada' - the Spanish term for a retired person - and I plan to spend more time cycling with the Wantage cycle club, and travelling too. My sister and one of my nieces live in Sweden so that will be a regular destination" she says.

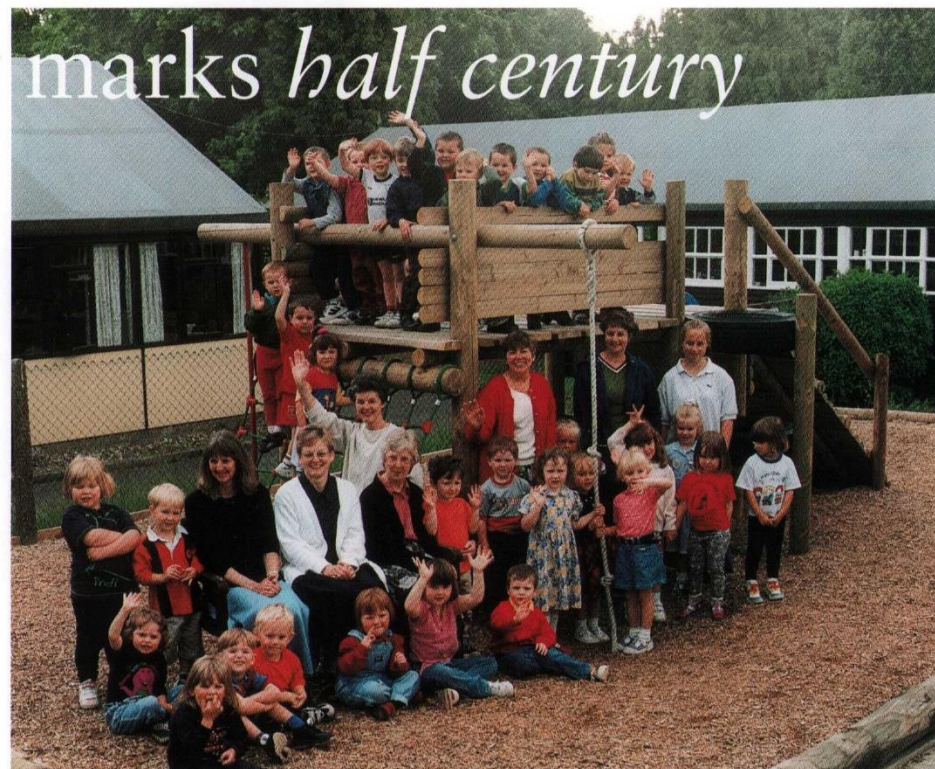
Nursery marks *half century*

Harwell Nursery School celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year. The original wooden building was purchased from the Salvation Army in August 1946 to provide nursery school facilities, opening for children in September 1948.

RAF Hut No.155 was purchased by the Ministry of Supply for £3000 and modified for use as a nursery school by WE Chivers, the on-site building contractors. They found time from their nuclear construction works to repair and improve the hut for the sum of £450. This involved installing low-level wash basins and replacing the coke stoves with a central-heating boiler.

The inventory listed "40 coat hooks; 2 fire grates; 1 enamelled bath; 10 wooden shelves ..." Considerable discussions took place between the Ministry and Berkshire County Council to decide the terms of the lease, finally resolved after two years of correspondence! The proposal, to lease the hut for a nominal rent of one shilling (5p) per annum, became a rental of £90 with most of the maintenance costs borne by the county.

It was argued that in spite of there being no statutory obligation to provide educational facilities for the under-5s, the remoteness of the Harwell site (very few had cars in those days!) meant "



Pictured with the nursery's afternoon group are (l-r) Jo Woodall, Ann Harry, Andrea Sanders, Janet Gaines (head teacher), Di Baker, Gill Stanton and Rachel Hewliss (a work experience student).

... it was a desirable amenity on a housing estate and the local education authority should be given every encouragement ..." Berks CC was encouraged enough to open the nursery before negotiations were completed and it was one of the first six opened in the county.

A new building was constructed in 1953 and, following the change in county boundary, the nursery was transferred to Oxfordshire CC in 1974. Janet Gaines, only the third head

teacher in its 50 years' history, said, "The two previous head-teachers were Enid Harrison and Mabel Willis. We have two part-time sessions for 40 children each session and we still use the original 40 brass coat-hooks!"

Children come from a wide catchment area and feed into 15 different primary schools, mainly in the Didcot, Abingdon and Wantage areas. The nursery is staffed by Janet, teachers Andrea Sanders and Jo Woodhall and nursery nurses Gill Stanton, Di

Baker and Janice King. The secretary, Ann Harry, is the longest serving staff member having started in 1983.

A 50th Birthday Celebration is planned for 9 October.

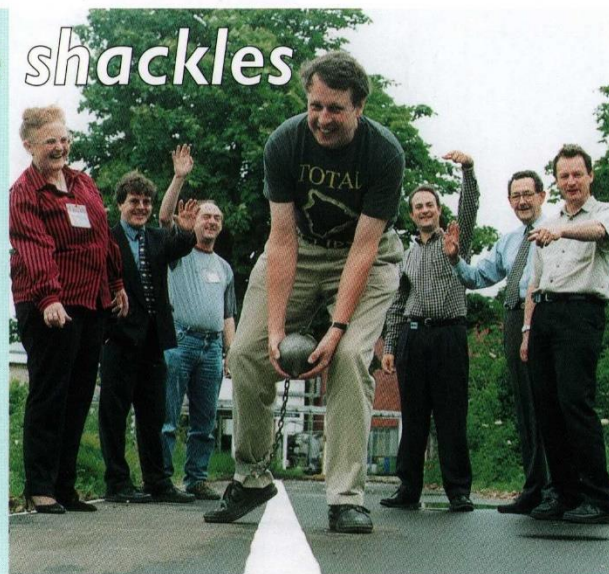
After school clubs

The September term sees the start of the After School Club at Harwell primary school. The new group runs from 3.15 to 5.45pm on school days and offers quality care and play so that working parents (many of whom will be ECHO readers) don't have to drop everything to meet the children. The club is managed by a voluntary committee of parents and there are currently spaces for 16 children per session. Donations of software and board games in good condition are welcome. To help, or to find out more, call Julia Dionian on C4366 or 01235 833347.

Also available in the autumn is a new after school club at Chilton Primary School. Run by Kids Unlimited, who operate the Harwell creche, this facility would be open from 3.15 to 6pm and costs £7 per day including tea. Contact the school on 01235 834263 for more details.

Marriage *shackles*

Judging from this photo, colleagues of Mark Bailey in AEAT's electron beams department (B418) have a rather cynical view of the institution of marriage. Mark, who has spent 18 years with the team, recently tied the knot with Diane, and spent an idyllic honeymoon in Hawaii where, being a keen astronomist, he was hoping to find time to visit the observatory. Wishing him well are (from left) Jenny Mills, Martyn Sené, Dave Webb, Geoff Oliver, Richard May and John Brisland.



RAL showcase

At least 3000 visitors were attracted to CLRC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory on the last weekend in June to see inside a world-leading scientific research laboratory. They experienced the excitement of leading-edge technology, discovered for themselves the wonderment of scientific research and were able to try out many of the hands-on displays on show.



Staff were happy to help any young budding scientist.

"The incredibly positive reaction of a young family who arrived at 10am and were still here at 5pm was typical of the views I heard and have seen on the questionnaire responses," commented Andy Kurzfeld, chairman of the group which organised the open days. "Visitors were impressed by the enthusiasm and knowledge of the staff, who were in turn impressed by the enthusiasm of the visitors wanting to find out and understand what we do", he added.

Helicopter landings at Harwell



The trend to use helicopters for business travel is increasing.

Although once a very rare event, over the last 18 months UKAEA's Property Management team has witnessed a steadily increasing number of requests for helicopters to land at the Harwell International Business Centre. Businesses are turning to this form of travel as flying costs come down and because it offers greater speed and flexibility over other forms of transportation.

The Air Navigation (Nuclear Installations) Regulations exclude commercial air traffic from approaching within a restricted fly zone of two nautical miles from the centre of the Harwell site and to a height of 2,500ft. A similar restriction applies to military aircraft. Any aircraft wishing to enter the restricted zone must first obtain a Certificate of Exemption from the Civil Aviation Authority. The CAA takes advice from Harwell and a decision and exemption can be provided in about two days, in the most favourable circumstances.

Detailed analysis of accidents

has revealed that a limited number of helicopter landings can be allowed without significant increase in risk to the facilities. Further risk assessments have been applied to the primary landing site which identified the need for the Constabulary and Fire & Emergency services to be in attendance.

Should your business have a definite requirement for an aircraft to enter the restricted flying zone, or for a helicopter to make a landing at Harwell, please contact either Ian McKean or Stuart Clark of UKAEA at the earliest opportunity for further information.



On Saturday Sir Isaac Newton paid a special visit.

One five-year old, having spent the day at RAL, announced that he wants to be a scientist when he leaves school and come and work at RAL with Mum and Dad!

On Monday 200 current and potential industrial partners visited and participated in a dis-

cussion led by Alastair Macdonald CB, director general of industry in the DTL. During the open days event over 1200 school pupils and around 1000 other visitors from academia, industry and other research establishments will also have taken the opportunity to see RAL's work.

Contact lost with SOHO

SOHU, the spacecraft which has revolutionised our understanding of the Sun, is lost in space. Scientists worldwide are trying to re-establish contact with the multi-million pound probe. Launched in 1995, SOHO had completed its two-year programme of work but it was hoped that the craft would continue to observe the build-up of solar activity in 2001.

Richard Harrison, SOHO project manager at Rutherford Appleton Laboratories, comments, "We're absolutely devastated by the news that

we've lost contact with SOHO. The mission has been such a huge success and we were all looking forward to five more years of data from SOHO. It has revolutionised our view of the Sun.

"We still haven't given up hope, and all of the stops are being pulled out to rescue the mission. Some of us have worked on SOHO for 12 years, from its conception, through its development and the flight, we have had 937 days of superb observations from space. It is like an old friend that has gone missing".

All about BUG

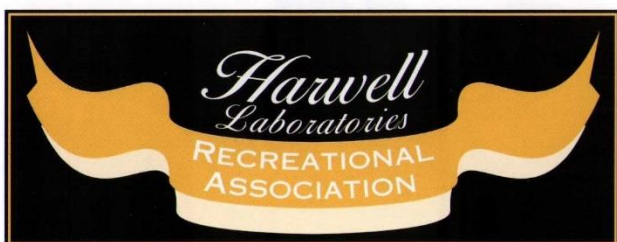
The Harwell Bicycle Users Group - BUG for short - was formed two years ago with the broad aim of encouraging greater and safer cycling for all employees at the Harwell International Business Centre.

BUG recognises that most staff choose to cycle during summer months but it would like to extend the cycle season and increase numbers by making cycle routes into work more pleasant and less hazardous. To this end BUG has been campaigning for a cycleway from Wantage to Didcot via the Northern perimeter of the site, with a safer crossing over the A4185. In addition, the proposed route has a 'branch' heading north towards the Packhorse Inn pub to help cyclists from Abingdon avoid the busy Rowstock roundabout, with a small extension to the Winaway.

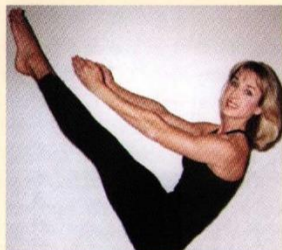
Although progress has been slow, there are regular meetings where all Harwell cyclists are welcome.

STOP PRESS ... AEA Technology recently hosted an evening meeting involving local town, district and county councils, Sustrans and cycle representatives from organisations on site. BUG presented its ideas for the cycle route and it is now hoped that construction will begin later this year.

The cycle route project team would welcome comments from interested parties. Please contact Marcus Jones on H3519 about this and any other BUG issues.



What is Pilates?



Pilates (pronounced pi-LAH-tees) is a way of exercising to create a strong 'centre' leading to better posture and a defined body shape. It strengthens and tones all muscle groups without adding bulk, and can be useful for preventing (and sometimes relieving) back and neck pain. Pilates moves are gentle and safe - definitely not an aerobics class - and results are usually felt quickly.

Pilates has been used for

over 70 years by dancers and gymnasts and, more recently, tennis star Pat Cash credited his return from a back injury to Pilates.

Pauline Toole would like to set up a six-week introductory Pilates course, taught by a professional dance instructor in weekly lunchtime sessions at the Harwell Social Club if there is sufficient interest. A Pilates club could be formed to continue the classes if this proves successful. If you would be interested in attending such a class, please contact Pauline on H2968 or cc:mail.

Questionnaire

In July, the HLRA Management Committee will issue a questionnaire concerning the future of the Recreation Association to all staff at the Harwell site.

Artweeks 1998

This year's annual arts festival in Oxfordshire included the artistic talents of a UKAEA member of staff. Jane Treavis, who works in the finance department, was exhibiting her beautiful embroidery as part of a paper and textile artifacts display staged at the Holford Centre, Stanton St John.



Jane takes about two weeks to complete an average design.

Although Jane has been embroidering for as long as she can remember, her present work is completely original in style. She takes her inspiration from the north African geometric patterns she first saw on a holiday in Morocco. Her intricate designs are sketched onto her own handmade felt and then machined in subtle colours, selected by eye as the work evolves.

Jane mounts the pieces onto stained plywood, designed to resemble the old doors over which the rugs are thrown for display in Morocco. A great deal of interest was shown in Jane's works of art which would enhance any wall space. Purchasers also have the satisfac-

tion of knowing that each design is truly a one-off Treavis original.

As a result of the exhibition Jane now has six works displayed in an Oxford gallery.



Colour combinations are unplanned and develop as the work progresses.

Ball benefits charities



Five local charities gathered at local Chilton pub, the Horse and Jockey, to receive donations from the proceeds of the ninth Harwell Charity Ball. Cheques for £600 were presented to each recipient. Charlie the donkey is pictured with (l-r): Paula Manfredi, Amanda (Didcot Hospital), Susan Bowman, John, Catherine and Wendy (Island Farm Riding Centre and Donkey Rescue), Grahame Murphy, two representatives from the Charlton Centre in Wantage, Janette Boram, Kit Berry (Rehoming Animals in Need, RAIN) and Roger Jackson and colleague (Abingdon Friends, ICRF).

A message from the Beauty Studio

After eight very busy and extremely happy years, the Beauty Studio in Curie Avenue will be closing its doors for the last time at the end of August in preparation for the birth of Jenna's first baby in October. We would like to thank all our clients and friends at Harwell and the surrounding area for their loyal support which we have valued tremendously.

Jenna will be offering a new mobile service to her regular clients from mid-December, details of which are available at the Beauty Studio. Perhaps then it won't be a final 'goodbye', just 'au revoir'.

Jenna, Penny and Josie



D-Day remembered



Local residents, staff and units of the RAF Associations and British Legion, totalling over 150 people, paid their respects at the annual D-Day Service of Remembrance on 6 June. Providing a backdrop of WWII memorabilia were a dozen restored military vehicles parked in a double column facing the Memorial Stone.

During the open-air service, conducted by Rev. Chris Stott, the Rector of Harwell, wreaths were laid by the British Legion, RAF associations and 38 Group HQ at High Wycombe. UKAEA chief executive Dr John McKeown and RAL's chief executive Dr Albert Westwood laid wreaths on behalf of staff. Veterans of the Guinea Pig Club, who were injured WWII aircrew needing plastic surgery, also attended.

The D-Day Stone, at the end of Frome Road, marks the runway from which six bomber aircraft towing gliders full of troops, took off the evening before the main D-Day invasion for the liberation of Europe. The first British troops to land in

Normandy left RAF Harwell on 5 June 1944 and were vital in securing bridges and laying flares for subsequent waves of paratroops that flew in that night.

After the service, Dr McKeown presented RAF 38 Group with a framed extract of The Book of the Dead listing the 72 men who took off from Harwell during D-Day and gave their lives in the invasion offensive. Group Captain John Morley MBE presented John with a replica of RAF 38 Group's crest.

The veterans enjoyed the sunny weather as they later inspected the convoy of military vehicles, organised by Keith Orpin of AEA Technology, who is a member of the Military Vehicle Trust.



Keith Orpin with his children, Daniel (8) and Paula (11)



Ex-serviceman and former senior admin UKAEA officer Ken Frere at the memorial stone.



UKAEA chief executive, John McKeown, lays a wreath.

Gate opening times

To clarify opening times for all gates on the Harwell site staff are asked to read page 3 of the Harwell Site Rules and Regulations (April 1998). Copies of these Regulations can be obtained from Sue Thomas, Property Management, H2668, or, for UKAEA and AEA Technology employees, please consult the Intranets.

Particular note should be made of the Main Gate closing times, for visitor access only, during the periods 07:30 to 08:30 and 16:30 to 17:15 (15:45 to 16:30 Friday); when access/egress for site occupants is restricted to either North Gate, Fermi Gate, or Library Gate. Some confusion may have arisen because of an error on Page 4 which incorrectly shows the closing time of the Main Gate as 07:45.

THE COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS: Monday 17 August for publication on Wednesday 9 September 1998.



ECHO is published by
UKAEA, 521 Harwell, Didcot, Oxon OX11 0RA.
Editor: Valerie Judd.
Tel. (01865) 331153 Fax. (01865) 331154.
Designed and produced by: The Imaging Centre, Harwell.

Your contact is: Culham/Harwell PR manager,
Nick Hance, RM1-72, 521 Harwell.
Tel. (01235) 436909 Fax. (01235) 436899

Copy can be sent directly to the editor via e-mail:
vjpr@globalnet.co.uk

