

# eCHO

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CULHAM SCIENCE CENTRE & HARWELL BUSINESS CENTRE

MARCH 2000

## AEAT maps out pollution picture

**I**n two separate contracts worth nearly £1.5m AEA Technology's Environment business will monitor levels of damaging pollutants for the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions. Pollutants released into the atmosphere can harm the development of young children, exacerbate respiratory problems and contribute to serious diseases such as lung cancer. The data will help government form effective policies to control air pollution.

Under the first contract, AEAT air quality experts will monitor the level of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) in ambient air, including dioxins and furans which the World Health Organisation has identified as having a serious effect on the development of children. The sources of HAPs include waste incineration, industrial processes, and domestic and industrial combustion of coal.

The team will also monitor



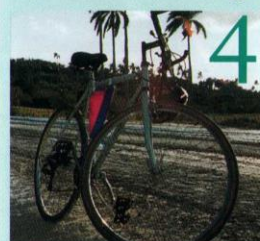
levels of PCBs. These chemicals, now widespread in the environment, were used commercially from the 1930s as dielectric and heat-exchange fluids, and other applications. Their use was banned in the mid-1980s. PCBs are thought to cause human health problems especially in young children. Trace metals

from industry and pesticides that can cause a range of health effects will also be monitored in this contract. Lead, for example, may affect the development of young children, and long-term exposure to cadmium may cause kidney damage.

*continued page 2*

### This Month

#### Cuban challenge



#### The Culham factor



#### Band land



#### Century of life



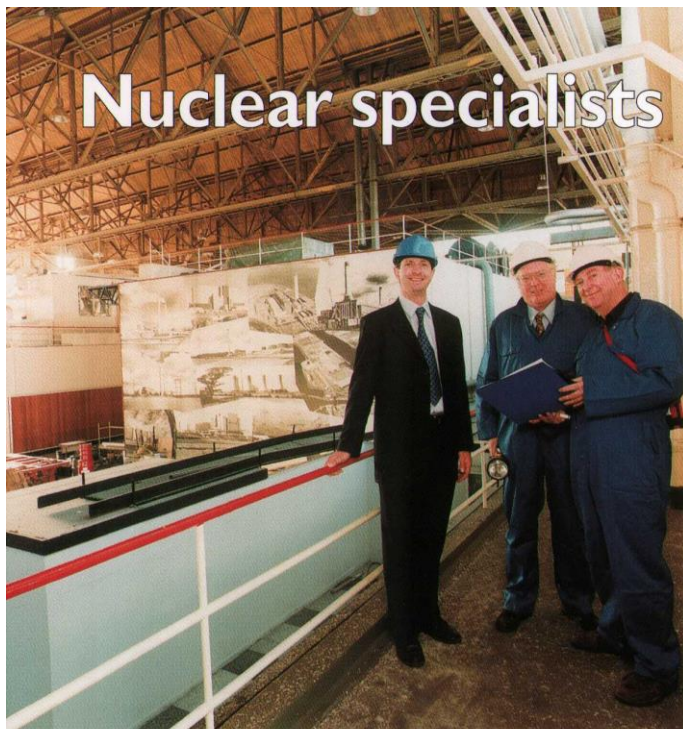
## Science Fair 2000



**F**or the third year AEA Technology is sponsoring Abingdon School's Group Science Fair, featuring interactive displays of students' work for both primary and secondary schools. The fair will be opened by Lynne Pebworth, a former teacher from John Mason School and one of the event founders. The closing address will be given by Dr Chris Wright of AEA Technology, location director for Culham and Harwell. The fair is open to the general public on Thursday 23 March, from 1pm to 5pm.



# Nuclear specialists



MD Victor Sprake (left), with principal consultants, Dr Paul Haigh (radwaste management) and John Duckworth (decommissioning). A decommissioning options study is being carried out in Hangar 7 (pictured) and H8, which contain early research reactors.

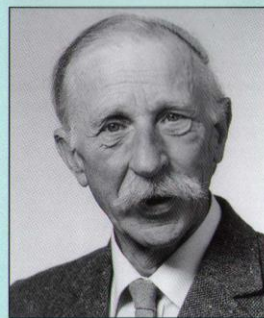
**N**ow based in B455 at Harwell, Nuclear Technologies plc is a contractor involved in some key projects as part of the site delicensing programme.

Founded in 1994, the company also has offices at Bristol, Dounreay and Warrington.

Nuclear Technologies is best described as an independent supplier of consultancy and contract services to the nuclear industry. It specialises in radwaste management and decommissioning, safety assessment and regulations, health physics, radiological protection, contaminated land assessment, remediation and structural integrity and materials science.

Clients include major nuclear plant operators, regulators and government departments, together with leading nuclear technology companies. Since 1996 it has been supplying consultancy services to UKAEA at Harwell.

## OBITUARY



**Bob West MBE**

ECHO is sad to report the recent death of Bob West. Bob would have been well known to many staff on the site, having worked at Harwell since 1947 and retired from Amersham International in May 1985.

Bob West joined the Atomic Energy Directorate in 1946 and worked on isotope production in the years to follow. Initially at the Cavendish Laboratory, he subsequently helped to start up the production of tracer materials for medical use on the cyclotron located there. After his work was transferred to Harwell he joined the Isotope Division and helped to develop the use of the Harwell reactors for producing radioactive materials, first on experimental reactors and later on BEPO and DIDO.

When the Radiochemical Centre took over this work around 1960, Bob West became part of the Isotope Production Unit. There he was closely involved with organising the supply of irradiated materials to Amersham Laboratories for processing as well as supplying IPU's own customers.

After 29 years association with isotope production, Bob West was made a Member of the British Empire Order in 1975. He continued with his work until retirement in 1985 making his association with isotope production one of the longest on record. His many friends and former colleagues at Harwell will no doubt wish to send their condolences to Bob's family and friends.

# Chemical pit clean-up

from page 1

In the second contract AEAT staff will monitor the level in ambient air of polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) such as benzo[a]pyrene that are thought to contribute to lung cancer. Sources of PAHs in the UK include traffic, industrial installations, and domestic and industrial coal combustion.

During three-year contracts, reports to government will identify levels of each pollutant in the atmosphere. They will also assess how Britain is affected by sources of pollution in other countries and how much Britain contributes to European levels.

Peter Coleman of AEA Technology said: "Effective monitoring of these pollutants in ambient air allows the government to develop policies based on sound scientific data in order to protect public health. This monitoring will also give government the information it needs for negotiations with other European countries to reduce emissions."



Excavating the area to recover waste from the 1960s.

**A**s part of UKAEA's constant review of historical records a small area at Harwell was identified for remediation work. The three metre square chemical pit was located in the north west corner of the sewage farm and had been used for the disposal of non-radioactive waste during the 1960s.

Last year UKAEA began a decommissioning programme for the chemical pit, working towards the ultimate release of the area for other uses. Initial investigation found no radioactive waste but traces of a phosphorous material, a by-product of the R&D work carried out during the 1960s. At that time no restrictions controlled the disposal of such material. Old paint cans and glass bottles were also found with traces of their contents still detectable.

Safety documents were

prepared and a 25-metre exclusion zone established during excavation. The waste was transferred to a licensed landfill site and soil samples taken from the boundaries show that the area is now free from chemical contamination.

"AEA Technology was the contractor carrying out the work under UKAEA's instruction" said Dan Mistry, who was responsible for this project. "Thanks go to the management of Chilton Estate for their help and access to their land".



# 'Beauty in the bath' murder solved after 16 years

**T**he 16-year hunt for the killer of Cynthia Bolshaw is over after Forensic Alliance provided new scientific evidence to police. John Taft was jailed for life at Liverpool Crown Court at the end of 1999 for the murder which has become known as the 'beauty in the bath' case.

Based at Culham, Forensic Alliance is a joint venture between AEA Technology, Cellmark Diagnostics and Forensic Access. Launched 18 months ago it provides an unrivalled forensic service to 28 police forces and was approached after a recent scientific review of the case concluded that nothing

more could be resolved.

A body fluid stain found on a garment at the scene of the Bolshaw murder had been cut out and destroyed in tests at the time of the murder in 1983, before DNA profiling became widely used. However a chinagraph line that had been drawn around the original stain remained and

Alliance scientists identified a 0.5mm strip of stained cloth inside the line that had survived.

With careful extraction a DNA profile was obtained and matched to that from a blood sample taken by police from Taft. Following disclosure to the Merseyside Police, further investigations led to his arrest. Although Taft denied the murder, Liverpool Crown Court heard that the probability of obtaining this profile, if the stain had come from an unknown person unrelated to Taft, was 1 in 160 million.



*Miniscule amounts of DNA from blood and other body fluids can now be profiled.*

## 'Flat pack' waste plant



*The innovative 'flat pack' plant design can be installed even when space is limited.*

**A**EA Technology Nuclear Engineering is working on two major contracts at Trawsfynydd, to design, supply and operate waste retrieval and packaging plants.

The first project is for the recovery of Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) in the form of Miscellaneous Active Components (MAC) stored in vaults beneath each of the Reactors 1 and 2. The other project is for recovery of ILW comprising Fuel Element Debris (FED) stored in two vaults located at the North and South ends of the Ponds building.

Conventional design of these plants would have required substantial new structures and modifications on the Trawsfynydd site. However, AEAT's innovative 'flat pack' design enables the plants to be installed in the small spaces already available on site with least modifications to existing facilities or buildings. The potential for contamination of other plant areas and the volume of secondary waste is also greatly reduced.

The AEA Technology team is working with BNFL Magnox Generation to minimise environmental impact and to comply with radiological and safety guidelines. Currently the MAC plant is undergoing inactive commissioning and the FED plant is being installed. Retrieval waste from both locations is planned to be complete by 2004.

*For more details see Nuclear Engineering International magazine (February 2000)*

## Cash boost for local school

The teaching of science and technology to primary school children has been given a boost from AEA Technology. Rush Common County Primary School has received a total of £350 to buy electronic equipment for technology projects and headphones that will allow children to listen to talking books and carry out interactive projects on computer. AEAT is supporting the work done by school governor Sharon Grossman through its Governor's Award Scheme. Sharon, whose children Mark, seven, and Jemma, five, attend the school, works as an IT administrator at AEA Technology's Harwell site.

## QSA joint venture with China

**A**EA Technology QSA has a joint venture in China with the China Isotope Corporation. Called CICAM, the joint enterprise has a factory in the Shenzhen region of China employing 60 people producing components for ionisation type smoke detectors. Mr Wang Jun, MD of the China Isotope Corporation, visited Harwell recently to discuss plans for expanding the CICAM operation. AEA Technology QSA is designing a new range of high technology products used for smoke detection and home protection and it is planned to manufacture these in CICAM. Mr Wang also believes that there is a large potential market for these products in China and is planning to sell them via a network of distributors.



*Simon Wong, MD of AEAT's Hong Kong subsidiary, Duncan Aston QSA (standing), Alan Knipe MD AEAT QSA, Wang Jun, MD of the China Isotope Corporation.*



# Cycling and cockroaches in Cuba



Any doubts were dispelled when Fiona visited a school for deaf children.

## OUT & ABOUT

### National Science Week

March sees Britain's seventh National Week of Science, Engineering and Technology (17 - 27 March) with a packed programme of fascinating lectures taking place at CLRC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory. Highlights include 'Microwave Magic' by Dr Peter Barham of Bristol University featuring a lively mix of demonstrations especially for family audiences on Tuesday 21 March. On Friday 24 March Peter Joyce of Past Present Science presents 'Antoine Lavoisier - the Father of Chemistry' and brings back to life one of the world's most famous chemists. Professor Susan Greenfield of the Royal Institution, London, and of Oxford University gives a thought-provoking lecture on Monday 27 March entitled 'The Brain of the Future'.

To book your place contact Eric Wharton, tel 01235 832335, fax 01235 820686, email [eric@eric-wharton.freemove.co.uk](mailto:eric@eric-wharton.freemove.co.uk)

### MRC Lecture

The annual MRC Harwell lecture will be given on Friday 7 April by Dr Shirley Tilghman, director, Institute for Integrated Genomics, Princeton University, USA. The subject is 'Genomic imprinting in mammals: mechanism and function'. Seats are limited so if you would like to attend please contact the Harwell lecture office for tickets and further details on 01235 824541, fax 01235 824542, email [r.clelland@har.mrc.ac.uk](mailto:r.clelland@har.mrc.ac.uk)

### Downland Passion Play

As part of the millennium celebrations, people from 17 Downland villages are joining together to perform a moving outdoor production of the Passion Play. Eric Saxton from East Ilsey, is directing this specially written production. The principal actors are well into regular rehearsals but others are still needed for crowd scenes. The 'behind the scenes' team are busy making costumes and planning lighting, sound, scenery and props. Volunteers may still be required to help source swords, shields and spears, etc.

The Passion Play will be performed on the following evenings around Easter 2000.

- Fri April 21st and Sat 22nd at Easton House, East Hendred
- Fri April 28th and Sat 29th at Hampstead Norreys (meadow alongside the village hall)

Starting times will be published in the next issue of ECHO. No tickets will be sold but donations are welcomed. For further information contact Sheila Craig on 01635 201303, or Liz Dyment H4205.

### Male Voice Choir

Wantage Male Voice Choir presents its annual concert on Saturday March 18, in the Old Mill Hall, Grove, at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £5 (£4 concessions), and are available from Millers Bookshop, Wantage, Grove Community Pharmacy, or from Nick Portsmouth (H 4287), Geoff Hopper (H 3915) or Paul Franklin (C 3594)

### Spring recital

by Julia Reynolds (mezzo soprano) and Grahame O'Connor (piano)

With Spring in mind, songs have been chosen to evoke images of country walks, bird song, blossoms and scenes of village life. 'SPRING SERENADE' - songs of the countryside - is being performed on Saturday, 8 April at 7.30pm in Challow Park Recital Hall, near Wantage. Tickets are £6.00 from Julia Reynolds on H4121 mornings, or 01235 762033, or from Wessex Press in Wantage from mid-March.

### Klondike Kalamity

For their spring production the Compton Players have chosen a comedy melodrama 'Klondike Kalamity' written by Gary Robson and David Byrne. The great Yukon blizzard of 1888 sets the scene for this madcap romp. Audiences are invited, indeed encouraged, to join in the hilarity with hissing, booing and cheering at the Coronation Hall, Compton, on Thursday 13, Friday 14 and Saturday 15 April. Box office: 01635 578821.

**T**he journey to Cuba for a charity cycle event, in the certainty that most of your fellow travellers have trained more than you, was an ordeal for Fiona Digby-Grant. The UKAEA contracts manager met her 58 colleagues at Heathrow airport and immediately began to doubt her ability to succeed on the 350km five-day endurance test to raise funds for the National Deaf Children's Society. Two had even brought their own bikes, carefully dismantled and packaged for the journey. Fiona had only packed her saddle!

Ranging in age from 20 to nearly 70, complete with hip replacement, the group flew via Madrid with a party of rowdy Spaniards who performed a karaoke show, loudly. Fiona joined in and even when she reached the hotel in Havana decided to hit the town even though she had been awake for over 19 hours.

The following day the group was taken by bus to the south of the island to be kitted out with bikes and equipment. The organisation was meticulous with mechanics, a doctor - who thankfully had little to do - and regular water and food stops. The group also had police outriders offering constant protection and forcing other road users to give way.

Fiona had done some walking for stamina and had even joined a local gym within a few days of the trip but was apprehensive about how physically demanding she would find it. After the first couple of days - one was particularly arduous with a 3km ascent - she knew that she could cope. She cycled mid-group to enjoy the chatter, camaraderie and support that was frowned upon by the serious leading cyclists who were out to notch up a fast time.

Being winter the climate was warm and sunny reaching 25°C during the day but chilly at night. One particularly cold night Fiona woke at 3am - 8am UK time - freezing cold under just a sheet but too worried to get out a blanket for fear of what might be hiding in it. She made do with a wet towel! The hotels were generally rudimentary and rich in wildlife including frogs, geckos, spiders, cockroaches and ants which Fiona had to clear from her bed.

One of the most memorable moments was a visit to a deaf school - each Cuban province has one - where the children, aged five and six, performed

dancing and poetry recitals. Much of the money raised by the trip will be shared between these schools and pay for quite basic facilities like playgrounds. Through sponsorship and other fundraising ideas Fiona collected over £3,000 for the charity.

"Having worked at UKAEA with some colleagues with hearing disabilities and knowing that the charity is not one of the most popular gave me the inspiration," says Fiona. "There were several profoundly deaf cyclists taking part and they helped us understand the barriers that face them every day."

She spent a further week in Cuba soaking up the unique atmosphere of a country that seems frozen in a different era, predominantly the 1960s. Locals are proud of their communist regime, being friendly and open with tourists who represent an important prop to the Cuban economy. Since coming back Fiona is sure she would do it again, or perhaps she is still affected by the eastbound jet-lag that can apparently compromise decision-making ability!



The warm Cuban winter was ideal cycling weather



# Unearthing the Harwell 'mound'

In the first of a series of articles which examine different aspects of nature and ecology around the Harwell and Culham sites, ECHO features past and present work at the 'mound' behind the Marshall Building.

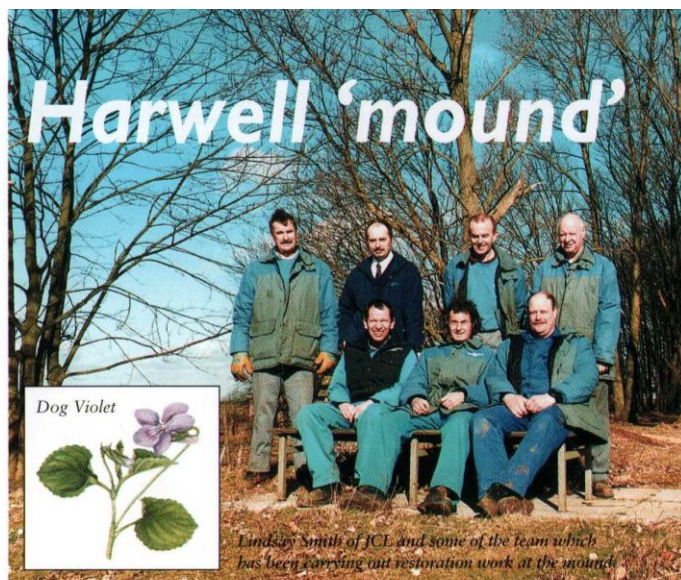
The history of the 'mound' behind UKAEA's HQ (B521) is rather a mystery. Measuring over six acres and topped with a copse of trees, some of which are at least 40 years old, it is one of the curious features of the Harwell estate.

The mound is believed to date back to the RAF days when it was a spoil tip. Since then it has seen the addition of soils excavated when the foundations were dug for reactors and other new buildings at Harwell. What will archaeologists make of it 1000 years from now? In the 1950s the mound was planted

with poplar, maple and horse chestnut trees, creating a significant landscape feature at the south west end of the site.

A closer look in 1998 revealed a more derelict situation of fallen trees and nettles with little to attract wildlife. Last autumn the nettles and fallen timber were cleared away to open up glades. Dead or fallen trees were removed selectively leaving some for fungi and invertebrates and others for the woodpeckers to use as nesting sites. A path has also been laid out.

In recent weeks a major planting operation has been



Lindsay Smith of JCL and some of the team which has been carrying out restoration work at the mound.

completed to attract the maximum amount of wildlife with trees such as oak and ash, and shrubs including dogwood, holly and blackthorn. Attractive woodland wildflowers will

complete the scheme and already bluebells and violets have been planted. All the plants are known to attract large numbers of insects which provide food for yet more species such as birds.

These activities, complemented by the rich grassland flora regained by clearing nettles and scrub along the perimeter track, will lead to greater biodiversity and illustrate, in microcosm, what is being planned for much of the Harwell estate.

## The Culham factor

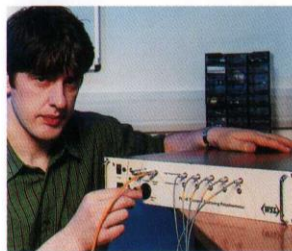
A one-stop shop for solutions to scientific problems of all kinds is how Dr Mike Walsh would describe his successful consultancy – Walsh Scientific Ltd – which will soon be celebrating ten years since formation and is shortly to launch its own website.

Based at Culham since 1997, the company is focussed on design and consultancy in specialised optics applications. Recent clients have included the Brazilian Space Institute, UKAEA Fusion and AEAT.

The latest WSL product is the PL5-R Thomson scattering polychromator. This diagnostic, a vital part of fusion work, uses the scattering of laser light to measure temperatures up to 100million degrees C in addition to measuring the density at

multiple locations inside a tokamak.

"There is only one other company in the world that has a similar product" says Mike, "although ours is superior in many ways. We also offer the added advantage of continued advice to ensure proper installation and operation. In fact our experts take a keen interest in the physics results gained from our products and will follow an application until the system is up and running."



Founder, Mike Walsh, with the Thomson scattering polychromator, exclusive to WSL.

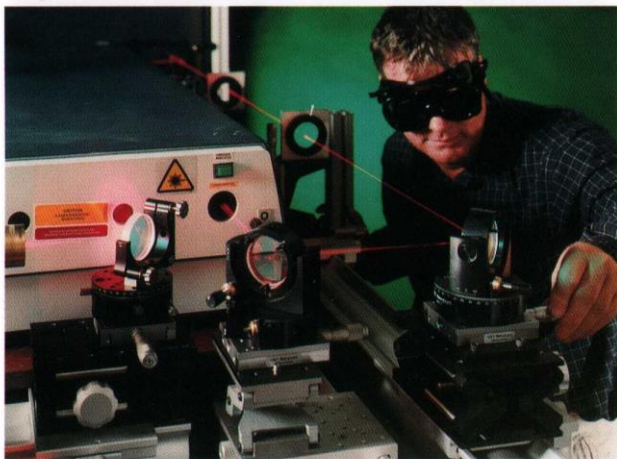
Other WSL projects currently underway include a radiation hardened optic lens for AEAT products and systems division and the provision of a Thomson scattering diagnostic to the MAST facility at UKAEA Fusion. WSL is also renting research facilities at Culham under the Industry Initiative such as spectrometry equipment and high performance data acquisition equipment which has enabled the company to take on larger projects.

"Our work has come by word-of-mouth so far but we are now ready to promote our services more actively with the website and targeted publicity", comments Mike who has a PhD in physics and gained a Euratom fellowship in 1989. "Culham provides the ideal base for a company in our field because the site is known worldwide and in 1999 more than two-thirds of our turnover came from outside the UK. We are delighted with the collaboration we have enjoyed to date".

## Contractor compound moves



Work has recently been completed on the new contractors' compound at B404. The project involved the demolition of four asbestos clad sheds constructed in 1946 by Chivers' apprentices, latterly used to house the site's term contractors. The design of the new compounds is robust yet attractive and is similar to the bin stores recently constructed elsewhere on site. Existing contractors have relocated from the previous compound at the rear of B462 to the new premises. Anyone wishing to use one of the compounds should contact Harwell property management.



Commissioning the high spatial resolution MAST Thomson scattering system.



# Reiki – stress relief and healing by Stella Thomas

**T**he pace of modern living is adding to the natural stress levels required to enable us to function. These raised stress levels can lead to blockages in the body's meridian, or energy network, causing pain, discomfort and emotional illness. Western thinking has concentrated on an assortment of drugs and interventions to deal with these symptoms but, increasingly, people are looking for simpler and more natural methods.

Reiki is a natural healing therapy which can help alleviate most illnesses and can safely be used on its own or in conjunction with conventional therapies and treatments.

Reiki healing involves the systematic placement of the therapist's hands on the client's fully clothed body, working from the head to the feet, enabling the

transfer of energy from the therapist to the patient.

During treatment the client may be aware of a variety of sensations, ranging from heat, cold, physical lightness or seeing different colours. Strong emotions may also be felt. These sensations are all perfectly natural and indicate that physical and emotional blockages are being



Stella Thomas has been practising Reiki for three years and has attained Master/Teacher status. A clinic is now held at "A Touch of Health" at Harwell International Business Centre on alternate Thursdays. Treatments are also available at home or work. Contact Stella on 0118 947 1096 or 0585 064539 to arrange for a consultation and treatment.

released. The resulting flow of energy through the correct channels will enable the body and mind to heal themselves. Reiki helps relieve the physical and mental stress in your life and boosts energy levels.

## eCHO Brief

### Spring into life



Local sporting personality and former Olympic gymnast, Suzanne Dando, has given her support to Action against Breast Cancer (ABC) and its new fitness fundraising campaign. Called 'Spring into Life for ABC' the campaign encourages supporters to fundraise via sport and fitness related activities. Rachel Heyhoe Flint, former captain of the England women's cricket team, is also backing the campaign. To take part activities can range from walking the dog to running a marathon, even some spectator pursuits such as a sports quiz. For more ideas contact ABC for a leaflet on 01865 407384.

### Wolfson/Harwell Fellowships

Two two-year fellowships are available for those working at Harwell or Culham, or in industry. These Wolfson/Harwell Industrial Fellowships begin on 1 October 2000 and are intended to give an opportunity for collaborative research which would not otherwise take place. For an application form send a stamped self-addressed envelope, specifying the Wolfson/Harwell Fellowship, to the President's Secretary, Wolfson

College, Oxford OX2 6UD. Application forms must be returned by 27 March.

### Poppy appeal

Staff at Harwell collectively raised £871.90 - a 19% increase on the previous year - for the 1999 poppy appeal to benefit the Royal British Legion. A thank you card designed by Maureen Lipman was received by organisers showing their part in the collection.

### Call food to order

A call order menu has been introduced at the Culham restaurant, E2. All food from the menu will be freshly cooked to order between 12.30 and 1.30pm, Monday to Friday. Staff can either order food at the counter and wait while it is cooked, or call the restaurant on C3260 before leaving their desks to reduce the wait. Feedback about this and any other aspect of the restaurant is welcomed. Please complete the comment cards available in the restaurant.

### Pre-booking visitors

Over 300 visitors are booked in at Culham reception each day and over 75% arrive unannounced to the reception staff. To help reduce booking in delays, please ensure that all visitors are pre-booked by completing a form in advance and faxing it back in good time. Forms are available from the Culham main reception area.

### Correction

Apologies to Cllr Terry Frazer who, in last month's issue, was incorrectly captioned in a photograph with Cllr Bryony Neuport.

## SAFETY Update

**There have been two reportable incidents at Harwell and none at Culham since the last issue of eCHO.**

The lifting wire to an unloaded goods lift pulled through its securing arrangements. The lift fell back a few inches and the emergency braking system operated. This incident was reported to the Health and Safety Executive as a dangerous occurrence under the Reporting of Injuries Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (1995).

The annual calibration of a radiological instrument was not carried out to time and work has been stopped in this area until the instrument has been calibrated.

## Harwell Laboratories RECREATIONAL ASSOCIATION

### Equipment sale

The Harwell social club ceased bar and catering services at Christmas last year and the building will be closed on 31 March 2000. However, the club is still being used as an activities centre and is open to members from 12noon-2pm, Monday to Friday, and for affiliated club activities during weekday evenings, until the closure date.

Meanwhile, a range of catering, bar and general equipment is for sale. Everything is available for immediate collection on full payment by cheque or cash. All items are priced but reasonable offers will be considered. For a price list ring Tony Betteridge on H3296.

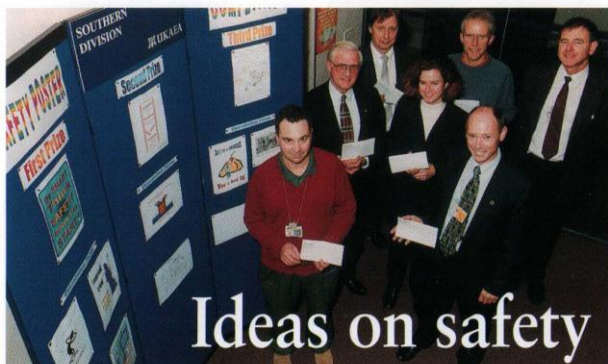
### Ladies' changing facilities

Following closure of the Air Hall on 31 March, ladies changing and showering facilities during the lunch hour (Mon-Fri 12-2pm) will be available in the rugby pavilion, located south of the main gate car park. Men are excluded during this time.

### Evening cricket

Entries are now being taken for the annual Harwell inter-departmental cricket competition. The 220 Pensioners will be going for a record fourth win on the trot and entry forms are available from Graham Dennie on H3389. The competition begins in the first week of May.

In addition the Harwell International Cricket Club (HICCC) is running indoor nets on a Sunday morning at the air hall before moving onto the Wantage sports centre. Anyone and everyone are welcome to attend. Further details from Steve Oliver on C4072 or Graham Dennie H3389.



UKAEA staff put their creative talents to the test by devising poster ideas to put across the safety message. Prize money of £800 was awarded for their winning suggestions. The £300 first prize went to Bryan Regan of JET and runner-up was Colin Bunting, both of Culham Science Centre. Bryan's winning poster urged, 'Be smart - consider safety before you start'. He is pictured here (second right) with some of the other prizewinners and organiser, Jerry Quayle, (far right).



# New arrival of

**T**wo Harwell staff who have played music together for nearly 30 years reached the climax of their musical careers in August last year when they reached number four in the charts. The European play charts that is, where their single 'She Loves Me', has started a genuine following for their band, Union Revival. Kevin Whatley, who works for AEAT products and systems, and Tony Cook of UKAEA property management founded the band in their spare time.



Pictured here in Nashville, home of country music, with Tim Barber (centre).

"Breaking into the UK charts is virtually impossible," says Tony. "The radio stations will not include independent record labels on their play lists so you don't get any airtime. However, our single appears on the newly released 'Best of British Country' from Silver Heart Records so we could get some valuable exposure by being

on a good compilation CD."

Kevin is lead singer and rhythm guitarist, Tony is lead guitarist and backing vocalist and the band also includes a bass guitarist and drummer. The pair have seen an evolution of their musical styles through rock 'n' roll, blues, folk, heavy metal, even playing in a jazz quartet. Five years ago they discovered the attraction of country music and are now hooked.

Last autumn they met songwriter Tim Barber from Blackbird Star Music in Nashville, USA, to discuss further songs written for them. While in Nashville they mingled with other songwriters and bands and are now inspired to push for



Kevin and Tony's band, Union Revival, recorded their latest CD locally at Warehouse Studios in Kennington.

greater success. There are regular gigs, many for charity, including a slot at the Fife Music Festival where they enjoyed a half-hour ovation! They are considering a tour in Denmark.

However far they travel the band always finds time to play in

Oxfordshire at the many clubs devoted to country music. You can sample their music on Saturday 18 March at the Kingston Lyle Country & Western Club. For more details about this event and the band call 01235 223362.

## Living in three centuries

**A**t 100 years old former Harwell employee, Reg Randall, has lived during the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first centuries! Born in August 1899 he has enjoyed a 35-year retirement since leaving Harwell and still manages an afternoon's fishing on the River Tamar!

Active service took Reg to Mesopotamia under Colonel Lawrence 'of Arabia'. As an army sergeant during the Second War he was granted a commission.

Reg retired from the army to start a fresh career as a technical writer at Harwell in 1948. Colleague Arthur Winter, himself retired and living in Wallingford, recalls,



Reg inspecting the Royal Marine Commando guard on his 100th birthday

"Reg and I worked in the specifications & manuals section. We were responsible for compiling and publishing the manuals for servicing electronic equipment designed at Harwell. I remember that at one time we worked in temporary buildings behind H10 and 220 but eventually we ended up in B424."

As a veteran of both world wars, Reg was recently honoured by an invitation to inspect a passing out parade of the guard of Royal Marine Commandos. He said afterwards; "I am most proud to have been asked to perform this inspection as I know from my own service in the army that this is a rare privilege." The British Legion also gave him a special tribute on his 100th birthday.

Reg doubts whether any of his friends are still at Harwell but



During active service

would like to hear from anyone who remembers him. To contact him please either email [arthur.winter@virgin.net](mailto:arthur.winter@virgin.net) or ring 01235 436909 for further details.

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