

"Is it always like t



Helen Barrow (left) and Rebecca Andrews make a happy Family Day picture.

THAT'S WHAT one little lad asked as he surveyed the scene with shining eyes.

"Well, not quite," replied his father honestly. In fact, a great deal of work went into transforming the Business Park into an amusement park for Family Day on 1 November.

Within minutes of the Quality Convention ending, people were moving furniture, blowing up balloons and

making other preparations for the event which attracted close on 5,000 people of all ages.

Some staff stayed late on the Thursday and Friday and came in early on the Saturday, then willingly put in further hours of non-stop effort running the entertainments and competitions.

This meant that they never managed to get round the site themselves, so we hope this

account will help to put them in the picture, while providing a record of yet another successful event hosted by Mitcheldean.

Despite the fact that, learning from the last Open Day two years ago, the event was stretched to six hours instead of four, with attractions concentrated in fewer buildings, there was so much to see that the time flew by.

In the circumstances it didn't



This splendid steam organ docked outside the supply centre provided a musical welcome.

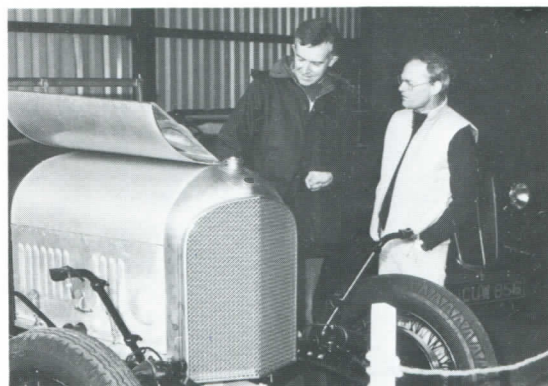


Blue and white windmills — like bunches of exotic flowers — blossomed everywhere. Here in refurbishing assembly, Norman Kear hands one to a very young visitor.



The display of working models of locomotives attracted boys of all ages — here Ernie Hancock (who used to work in the machine shop) talks trains to a group while Mike Meredith polishes his own 'Royal Scot'.

Below: Steam is raised (using firefighters and Welsh steam coal) and the 'Erlestone Manor' sets off with a load of passengers down a 120ft-long track. At the controls is Ernie's son John, a former RX apprentice, who built the locomotive, a scale model of one run by the Severn Valley Railway.



Among the collection of vintage, post vintage and classic cars on display was this 1926 Bentley, last used in 1938 and currently being restored by Peter Street, seen (left) talking with fellow enthusiast Dick Delahay.



The line-up of beautifully maintained machines included several Nortons (two restored by a blind man!) and Yamaha and Fantic trials motorcycles.

thi, Dad?"

matter too much that, because of the blustery weather, two of the planned outside events — a parachute jump and microlight aircraft display — could not take place.

Amusing the children was a programme priority. Everything came free, from films to refreshments to rides on the fire engines.

Balloons, button badges, windmills and assemble-it-

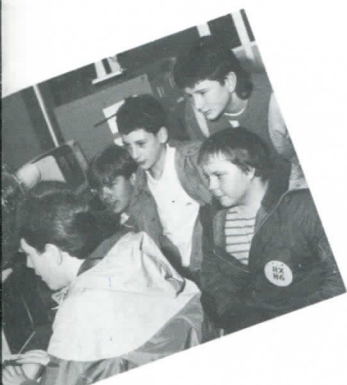
yourself caps (all in the blue and white Quality Convention colours) were a 'sell-out'.

Copies of cartoon characters, aeroplanes and suchlike for colouring or using as posters went like hot cakes; so did the plastic RX badges stamped out by a sophisticated machine in parts manufacturing.

Continued overleaf



Even the crawl gets you nowhere fast in a ball pond! But you can't drown and it's fun — even for the parents watching through the window netting. Left: This inflatable castle was equally popular with super-bouncy youngsters.



This Xerox 820 micro in control department enjoyed playing computer games with the keyboard kids.



More windmills, and paper hats, are handed out by Dennis Boughton in parts manufacturing. Even EMSD director Dick Holmes and his wife Paula, pictured below chatting at the police display, had some to take home.

Sirens were blaring non-stop and our works fire brigade were busy all afternoon. But there was no cause for alarm — they were doing a roaring trade taking children for rides around the Business Park on the fire engines. (They got all their helmets — and hearing — back, by the way.) There were only two emergencies when the brigade's services were called upon — to rescue a child's balloon when it escaped to a canopy roof (they got it down with the aid of a tender), and to pump up the tyres of a wheelchair.



Some youngsters, like Nathan Lewis, even had a go working the hand siren — with a bit of assistance.

More pictures overleaf



**Photos by
John Ingram**

Two slender gymnasts get into shape for the display given by the Forest of Dean Gymnastic Club whose members range from six to 16 years of age.



Games galore

Commodity operations was virtually transformed into a home-made amusement arcade, and there were some stiff backs the next day from non-stop bending down to pick up balls and hoopla rings.

Some youngsters were so determined to win a prize they just kept trying over and over again — aiming for perfection, which is what we are always encouraging people to do!

Suppliers generously supported the department with prizes ranging from surfboards to desk-pads (the suggestion that pressure might have been applied was hotly denied by our normally tough negotiators!).

The paint shop organised a colouring competition for children with prizes of watches and painting sets.

Workstations were specially programmed to run computer games in several departments, and it wasn't only the kids who sat at the keyboards.

Bob Harris told us of one elderly lady who persevered with a special course on 'mouse

control' and her pleasure when she was awarded a certificate of merit was a joy to see.

The children thought up some new games themselves too — like 'phoning each other on the internal network!'

Current and former employees contributed to the art and craft section and other displays, and the skills demonstrated, ranging from glass engraving to gardening, model engines to vintage vehicle restoration, drew people's admiration.



Not everyone could achieve perfection. But one young lad scored 100 per cent. with two balls out of six, securing the star prize of a solar calculator and ruler. Keeping his eye on the ball here is John Voss.

Esmée Halford and Janet Ensor supervise the 'Ring of Quality' game (note the QIP symbol on the hoopla cones). Some competitors were so keen to succeed they kept trying again and again — and no one went away without a prize of some sort.



Success for Richard Davies and Stuart Adams, proud winners of two of the much coveted surf-board prizes.



Parrots and palms lend a tropical island touch, while Fred Bach (centre) helps with the keyboard to the Treasure Hunt (the treasure was just to the right of the lake).



Joan Hullett watches play in the putting game — more prizes here too.

Did you know...?

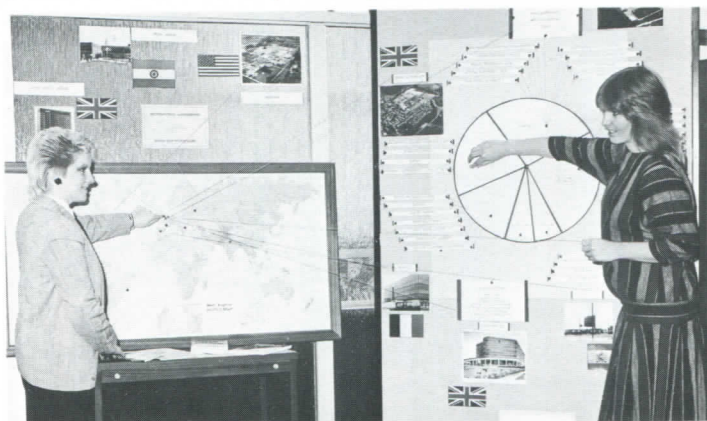
Well laid out departmental displays described the kind of work done in each area, with photographs of the people who did it, and RX/XC locations and inter-companies kindly supported us with pictures of their sites.

Even employees learned something new about

Mitcheldean's activities and connections.

Did you know, for example, that medical centre have dispensed 12,674 treatments in the year? Or that it takes just three minutes for accounts payable to transmit 300 payments to suppliers' banking accounts?

Did you know that divisional personnel are responsible for all RBG staff in Europe? This impressive display, to which Keren McCormick (right) and Sue Lewis are putting the finishing touches, showed visitors the activities carried out at Mitcheldean, Welwyn, Aylesbury, Venray, Lille and Coslada, for each of which locations divisional personnel provide services in various forms.



Telling the world

THE NEWS that Rank Xerox Mitcheldean was holding a Family Day event was signalled to places on the Continent and even across the Atlantic.

A few weeks beforehand, John Smith 'put out a call' to RXMP amateur radio enthusiasts to set up a demonstration amateur radio station as an attraction for all ages.

As amateur radio stations are licensed by the DTI, permission had first to be obtained from them, so an application was made for the call sign GB2RX.

This was duly granted and work started on preparing the station to be located in the electronics laboratory in bld. 3.

First John called in a contractor to erect supports for the various aerials required. When this was completed, Mike Hazell (G1EDP), Kevin James (G8PGH) and Mike Selwyn (G3TLD) set about installing the aerials for the bands that the station was to operate on.

These covered the frequencies 1.8 to 30 MHz for the HF station, 144 to 146 MHz for the VHF station and 430 to 440/1240 to 1325 MHz for the UHF station.

Using this wide range of frequencies and a very comprehensive set of both commercially and home-made equipment, communications were possible using speech, facsimile and television.

With the portable TV equipment Mike Hazell, ably assisted by Pete Cook (G8WGD), did a walk-about, sending back pictures of other events taking place on site.

These were then transmitted back over the air to the master control station in bld. 3; contacts were also made with other stations outside Rank Xerox.

Facsimile was sent and received on a converted RX 400 telecopier. Whilst all this was happening on the UHF frequencies, Kevin and Mike Selwyn were operating on the VHF and HF bands. The special call sign GB2RX attracted a lot of interest on HF bands with amateurs queuing to contact us!

During the afternoon the HF station was also operated by two visiting amateurs, Mike Rees (G3KTI) and George Johnson (G4EFH).

Altogether nearly 100 stations were contacted; most of these were in the UK but contact was also made with stations in Italy, Germany, USA, Panama and Trinidad.

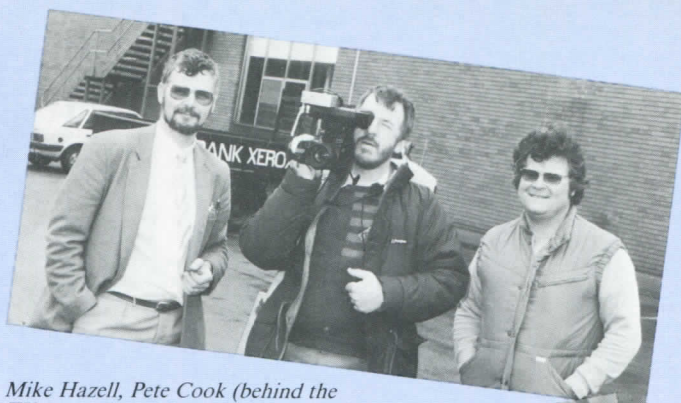
Some of our contacts said they were users of our copiers; others turned out to be former suppliers who had been to Mitcheldean many times.

To commemorate the special event, QSL (confirmation) cards have been sent to all the stations contacted; many amateurs collect

these in order to gain awards that are granted by various radio societies the world over.

Such cards give brief details of the station; and although the licence does not allow people to

advertise, we were able to get in a plug by pinpointing Mitcheldean on a map of Great Britain with the heading "GB2RX — Rank Xerox Family Day Special Event Station".



Mike Hazell, Pete Cook (behind the TV camera) and John Smith caught by our own cameraman.

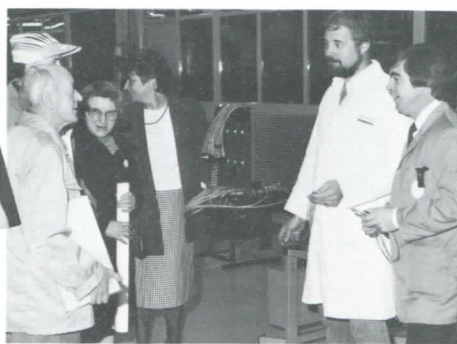


Helen and Mark Smith listen in as Kevin James puts out a call from the Special Event Station.

This game in bld. 4 had people guessing the distance from London to Mexico to Japan and back to London. (The answer: 33,775 miles.)



More pictures overleaf



Above left: Kevin Kear, and a supplier representative, explain about the new AM81 automatic harness-making machine. Above right: Danny Baglin shows a little lad the robotic arm used in training. Below: Dave and Den, the Amada Men, hand out RX badges in parts manufacturing.



The display in the dismantle & clean facility showed the process flow of refurbishing operations and listed all the countries to which the finished machines are sent.



Up in the auditorium

The auditorium in building 6 — scene of the Quality Convention awards ceremony the day before — became a focal point where people could sit down for a while and enjoy refreshment and entertainment, or wander round stalls with their displays of local art and craft, some of which were contributed by current and former Rank Xerox employees.



Magician John Hayward had his audience spellbound (we missed the magic moment when he produced a very large rabbit).



A cornet quartet in a lively rendering of '12th Street Rag' by the Cinderford Swanbrook Band who have four Mitcheldeaners among their players — Phil Turner, Mike Wilkinson, Barry Watkins and Tony Murrell. (There was more music, too, in the Court Restaurant, provided by the Forest of Dean Youth Orchestra.)



Jan Weeks spins wool from Jacob sheep for her special brand of knitwear.



The Royal British Legion Mitcheldean branch took the opportunity to boost Poppy Appeal sales; together with books, raffle tickets and donations they raised £150 plus.

Bill Broome and his team fed the 5,000 with packed eats and gallons of tea and squash. And a picnic on the carpet added to the fun.



The Rank Xerox Gardening Association members put on a superb display of their produce, and drummed up support for their 1987 show which will include a children's section.



Admiring a collection of oil and watercolour paintings by Gloucester artist Nigel Greenhalgh.

Drive and draw prize-winners



Our transport team took part in a Forklift Trial Competition sponsored by Lancer Boss; winner was Rodney Pensom who was presented with a handsome tankard and an anorak. Pete Weaving who came second and Mike Bennett who was third were also given anoraks, and there were small gifts for the other contestants.



Compere Julian Hazell gets a hand from security inspector Dave Young tipping bins of draw tickets into the tombola, and (right) visitor Sharon Duggan picks out the top prize-winning number.



Dennis Brain (materials procurement) had second prize — a crystal decanter and glasses while (right) Pete Waugh (works engineering) won third prize of a £30 Marks & Spencer voucher.



The top prize of a portable colour TV was presented later to section manager Norman Rudge (small copiers) by site director David Stokes at a little ceremony attended by Family Day co-ordinator Graham Bunt and Norman's team from the 1020 assembly line.

The big bang!



WHAT WITH multi-coloured rockets, whistle batteries, Roman candles and maroons, the display of fireworks from all over the world provided a breath-taking show, bringing the Family Day to a brilliant finish.

"It was great fun doing it and it was nice to see our efforts appreciated," said co-ordinator Graham Bunt afterwards, speaking on behalf of his organising committee.

We leave the final comment to one very satisfied young 'customer': "I'd love to work here — it's great!"

Members of the organising committee: Dave Lloyd, Bill Broome, Alan Carney, Mike Wilkinson, John East, Bob Harris, Keith Jones, Mike Bendall, Eric Tuffley, John Smith, Brian Mould, Les Kilmister, Larry Sterrett. (Special help was given by Caroline Baynham, Pearl Phelps, Charlie Walker, Julian Hazell, Mike Cooper, Mike Stevenson).

Quality Convention draw: First, second and third prizes were presented by Brian Buckland to Terence Lyall (refurbishing) — a dinner for two at the Chase Hotel, Ross; Eric Woodman (parts manufacturing) — the same at Rock House, Cinderford; and Michael Cassidy (small copiers) who won a £15 Marks & Spencer voucher.