

1816

# On Her Majesty's Service

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# 'BIG BANG' MAKERS OF OLD DAYS

THE exhibition with a bang was officially opened on Monday by the head of the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment, Dr Alan Owen.

Entitled *the Gunpowder Plot*, Epping Forest Council officials attending were treated to a secret concoction of powdermill punch.

Dr Owen drew attention to the new developments made by RARDE for defence materials. He also reflected on the changes that had taken place in and around the area since 1787, when Sir William Congreve took charge of the seven powdermills in the Abbey.

The exhibition explains the manufacture of gunpowder

through the ages and continues up to today where the site concentrates on research into improved propellants for modern warfare.

On display is equipment used in the early days including safety work-shoes, an

● MRS Doreen Amanet, Councillor Jan Abbey, Council Chairman Reg Amanet, and Mrs Carole Owen have a 'Gunpowder Plot' preview from Dr Alan Owen, head of RARDE at Waltham Abbey.

elephant hide covered bench, and the latest videos on RARDE's work for HM government.

The exhibition is open every afternoon except Wednesday and Thursday and admission is free.

(HA382-8A)

## Holiday was a winner

WINNERS of the holiday film competition held by Epping Forest Cine Club were Ken and Sheila Easlea, of Abridge, for a film about Istanbul. Runner-up was Eric Atkins, from North Weald, with a film he made in Menorca.

The judge was Keith Morgan, of Woodford and Wanstead Cine Club.

The club meets at Pelly Court, Heronall Street, Epping, and its next event is a Christmas social on Monday (December 14).

Details of next year's programme can be obtained from Ted Ellis on Epping 74471.

## Animal care campaign

THE British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection, supported by Epping Forest Animal Welfare, has launched its "choose cruelty-free" campaign.

The group claims, 17,000 animals die in painful experiments each year.

Local campaign co-ordinator, Bruce Wiseman said: "Not only are these tests cruel but they are also unscientific and inaccurate."

Members of the group will be distributing leaflets on products available which are not tested on animals.

And Mr Wiseman will be writing to Epping supermarket manager Antony Stead asking if he will support the ideal of Tesco's stocking cruelty-free products.

A Tesco spokesman said: "Most of our products are within the cruelty-free guidelines but we are always mindful of public opinion on this sensitive issue."

# History of gunpowder

Guardian 11.12.87

AN exhibition with a "bang" opened at Epping Forest Museum, Waltham Abbey, on Tuesday.

Titled *A Gunpowder Plot*, the exhibition celebrates 200 years of activity on the site of RARDE, the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment, which, in the 18th century, was a privately owned gunpowder

mill, and is now a Government research establishment.

The site has been a part of the lives of Waltham Abbey people and the exhibition, which is on loan to the museum, has been created by RARDE to celebrate the bicentenary of the purchase of the powder mills by the Crown.

The displays include historical items and videos on

RARDE's experimental work for the Government.

The exhibition last until Sunday, January 31, and the museum is open Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays from 2pm to 5pm and on Tuesday from noon to 5pm. Admission is free.

The building will be closed from December 25 to 29, and on January 1.



## Tree for local radio garden

NATIONAL Tree Week has been important for local nurseryman Ken Crowther as it marked the planting of a weeping laburnum in the BBC Essex Radio Station Gardens in Abridge.

This is where Ken's Crowther Nurseries is based and he was able to show broadcaster Sue McGarry how to plant a container grown tree correctly.

This entails removing the bag pot, putting fertilised peat around the rootball and staking the tree to help it grow well.

The progress of the garden can be followed by listening to Sue's programme at 2pm on Saturdays.

● Sue McGarry plants a tree and is simultaneously interviewed by Ken Crowther. (1106)