

SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL — Director Mike Anstey with the silicon chip stack

Government chips in for firm's award

AN INNOVATIVE way of building with silicon chips has won a Pirton firm a share of £1m in Government cash.

Chiprack Electronic Systems Ltd were one of 17 companies which won a maximum of £45,000 in the first round of a contest run by the Department for Enterprise, the DTI.

And the Small Firms Merit

Awards for Research and Technology, or SMART, has secured the future of the project and its subsequent development. The idea to stack silicon chips on top of each other to build tiny computers was born in director Mike Anstey's home in Davis Crescent, Pirton.

He explained: "It is quite a long-standing piece of research. By stacking the chips on

top of each other we can then form systems which can be embedded into particular products. For the purposes of the award we suggested looking at environmental metering instruments to measure things like air or water pollution.

"We were absolutely delighted to win the award. There are certain types of development which it is ab-

solutely impossible to get funding for and the cash from the award was the only way we could continue."

A lot of firms are already showing an interest in the idea and it is hoped the extra funding will help find even more applications for the stacking system.

The region's firms are benefiting from a £1m Government cash boost,

after the winners beat 1,300 other entries to the awards, as part of the DTI's Research and Technology Initiative.

Each Stage One winner receives £15,000 immediately to enable projects to start quickly, with the balance being paid as they progress. A special awards ceremony takes place in Ipswich at the end of October, with all winners receiving commemorative plaques.

Tea on the lawn

IF cream teas on the lawn sound like just your cup of tea, Judy Dear would like you to be her guest on Sunday September 6.

Judy, 46, is a kidney patient at Lister Hospital's special unit, and she is holding a garden party to raise funds to buy a new £13,500 kidney machine.

There will be refreshments and stalls and games, and children will get free balloons and stickers when they arrive.

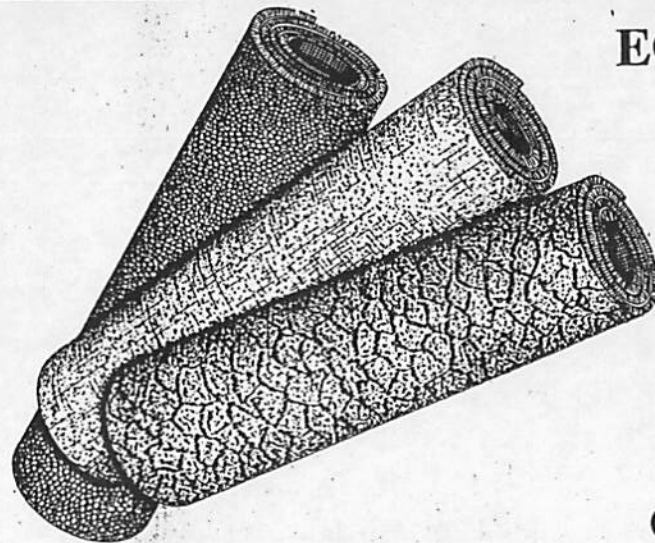
Judy will be pleased to see you between 2 and 6pm at 35, Gaunts Way, Letchworth.

Wheel steal

A STEVENAGE diner found it was meals without wheels when he had a night out at a restaurant on Wednesday night.

John Begley, of Wisden Road, Stevenage, visited the Harvester Restaurant at the Roaring Meg at 7.45pm for a meal.

But when he returned to the vehicle he had left in the car park at 10pm he discovered thieves had removed the wheels, valued at a total of £100.

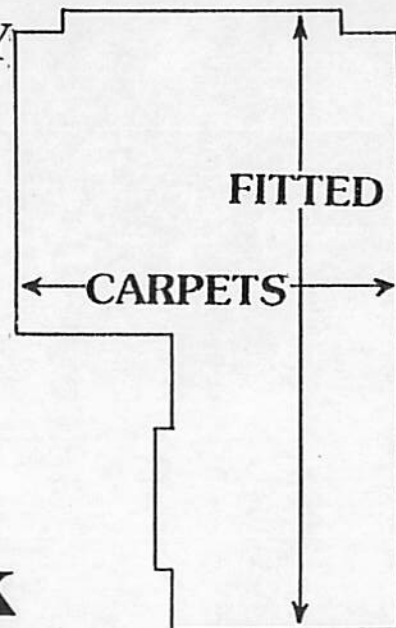


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