THE LANGFORD LIFE

lvca

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGE

Issue 44 The Newsletter of Langford Village Community Association April 2004

Chairman's Notes.

As I stated in issue 42, we already have some committee vacancies and others will be standing down at the AGM. We are looking for a treasurer, someone to coordinate social and fund-raising activities, hall manager, minutes secretary and chairman. We also want people who are prepared to open up / lock the hall for one-off bookings, help with functions etc.

If LVCA does not have more help on the committee, the viability of the association will be at risk and the Community Centre may have to close until a new committee can be found. That means no user groups!

If you could help the committee, or know of someone that could, please let me know. Also turn up to the AGM on 9th June.

Continued....

LVCA Committee

Chairman	Ian Lawrence	241361
Treasurer	Keith Rutson	327076
General Secretary	Vacancy	
Minutes Secretary	Vacancy	
Hall Chairman	Steve Williams	247311
Hall Manager	Vacancy	
Hall Bookings	Watch this space	
Fund-raising	Vacancy	
Hall Booking Message Service		325353
Community Matters Chairman	John Broad	324008
Newsletter Editor	Ian Lawrence	241361
Newsletter Compiler	Vacancy	
Newsletter Distribution	Nick Cotter	322166
200 Club – (LVCA)	Ellie Thompson	322425
200 Club – (PTA)	Sharon Gray	320224

Details of Councillors

These will be published again after the elections on 10th June. However, please note that Cllr Dan Sames has moved to: 13 Goldcrest Way, OX26 6XS. Home Tel remains the same: 249768

Chairman's Notes continued.

It is not just the LVCA committee that needs assistance. There is a plea inside from the Guides and Brownies for helpers.

We aim to re-launch our website soon. Look for www.langfordlife.org

LVCA Annual General Meeting

Book the date for the 2004 LVCA AGM. It will be in the Community Centre on Wednesday 9th June starting at 7.30 pm. Unfortunately, because of the council elections on the following day, neither councillors nor staff from Cherwell District Council will be available for a question panel as in previous years. However, the election of the new committee, plans for the future of the association and the community centre and the proposed development on Gavray Drive will be important matters to deal with.

Ian Lawrence 241361

LVCA exists to promote a community spirit and to improve the facilities and environment in Langford Village. *Langford Life* is published quarterly by LVCA and circulated free to all residents of Langford Village. The opinions of contributors are not necessarily those of the Association.
Deadline for articles and adverts for the next issue is:- Mon 5th Jul 04.

Being a resident in Langford Village means that you are next to the parish of Ambrosden. There are two very important services in Ambrosden Parish available to you without paying for parking or queuing.

POST OFFICE

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Opening Hours

	Shop	Post Office
Mon	6.00 am - 6.00 pm	9.00 am - 1.00 pm, 2.00 pm - 5.30pm
Tue	6.00 am - 6.00 pm	9.00 am - 1.00 pm, 2.00 pm - 5.30pm
Wed	6.00 am - 8.00 pm	9.00 am - 1.00 pm, 2.00 pm - 5.30pm
Thu	6.00 am - 6.00 pm	9.00 am - 1.00 pm, 2.00 pm - 5.30pm
Fri	6.00 am - 8.00 pm	9.00 am - 1.00 pm, 2.00 pm - 5.30pm
Sat	6.00 am - 8.00 pm	9.00 am - 12.30 pm
Sun	6.30 am - 2.30 pm	closed

Here to make life a little easier!

Need to Contact the Police?

The Police have issued a new single non emergency telephone number.

It is **08458 505 505**.

The police chose the end bit because it looks like SOS.

Advertise in this newsletter

This newsletter is distributed free to 2250 residences on the Langford Village/Bicester Field Farm Developments. To keep pace with printing costs we have been forced to put up charges for adverts with effect from the next issue. Those who have pre-booked will benefit from the old rate.

The **new rates** for commercial advertisers are:

£90 for the full back page.

£72 for a full internal page and pro-rata for parts of a page.

Discounts are offered for payments with the first invoice:

10% for 4 issues

15% for 8 issues

Non profit making organisations will be charged at half the commercial rate.

At the editor's discretion, small community notices (usually 1/4 page or less) may be free of charge.

Moraira, Costa Blanca, Spain

2

Charming 3 Bedroom Villa – Heated Pool, Central Heating

Beautiful villa - 1 Double en-suite and 2 twin with family bathroom. **Quiet location** in the hills just **2km from beach** and town with bustling restaurant and harbour .

The villa benefits from a **private pool** (with steps down), BBQ/Bar area, floodlit "boule" pitch, **TV, DVD**, dishwasher, washing machine and microwave. Ceiling fans for the summer and central heating for the winter. **Recently redecorated and new patio with Gazebo.** Filtered **drinking water** (to avoid heavy shopping trips!). Lovely terrace **with views down to the sea.** Would suit family with children or, in the winter, retired couples. Local attractions include Terra Mitica (25 mins) and fabulous beaches. Alicante and Valencia airports about an hour away. Flights and car hire arranged if required.

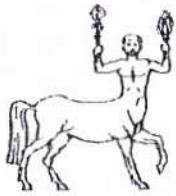
For more details go to www.holidayhome.co.uk/ALMAR or call Alex on 07785 296284 - Prices from £350 to £1100.

1st LANGFORD GUIDES NEEDS YOU

WE NEED NEW LEADERS

or LANGFORD VILLAGE WILL LOSE THIS VALUABLE COMMUNITY GROUP

If you can give up 1 ½ hours of your time per week to help run Guides,. please contact Maggie James on 01869 246346



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Social Events And Fund Raising

The 3 events scheduled for the early part of this year were all cancelled due to lack of support. We even had to pay cancellation fees!

We have no coordinator or helpers for any further events. **Why not get together with your friends and do your bit for the community.**

We suggest that future events may be managed by groups of individuals each sponsoring an event. (e.g. planning the event long enough in advance to publicise it in this newsletter and apply for an alcohol licence if necessary, booking the presenter or disco if needed, ordering bar stock, staffing the admission desk, running the bar, clearing up).

Suggested future events could be:

- Quiz Night.
- Bingo.
- Discos for:
  - Family
  - Young people 10 - 15 yr old.
  - Young people 14 – 17 yr. old
- Midsummer Ball (Adults only)
- Barn Dance / Hoedown
- Kareoke

Events could be themed on, say:

- Guy Fawkes
- Christmas

Basketball Coaching for age 7,8,9

Cooper School from 10 May
Mondays 7.00 pm—8.30 pm
£2 per session
Contact Matt Hill 01295 221720
matt.hill@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Caring for your pets as if they were our own

Petsitting
Dog Walking

Question — Working away from home, out of the house for hours, planning a holiday, going into hospital, not enough hours in a day?.....

Answer — Whatever your pet, or its needs, we will care for it in its own environment with minimum disruption to its daily routine and peace of mind for you. At the same time we will look after your home in your absence.

Contact: Rachael Hall
01869 321724 or 07960 758859

FREE
Community Transport Publications

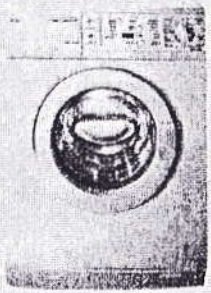
ORCC (in conjunction with the Oxfordshire Rural Transport Partnership) have produced the following information booklets:

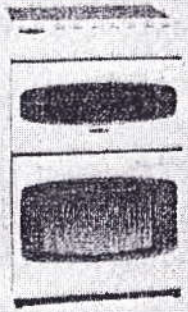
- The Directory of Community Transport Schemes in Oxfordshire
- 'How to Get There' – The alternative transport guide (including details about shop-mobility schemes, rail and bus operators and community transport)
- 'Getting started' – An advice and information starter-pack for groups/ parishes that are interested in setting up their own Community Transport scheme.

To order your free copies, please call Katharine at ORCC on 01865 883488 or email her at kath.may@oxonrcc.org.uk

HOMEGOODS

APPLIANCES AT DISCOUNT PRICES





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FLORIDA

Luxury 4 bed villa with solar heated screened pool, 15 mins to Disney and 1 hour to Gulf Coast and Kennedy Space Centre. Now booking 2004/05.
Special offer for Langford Village residents. For more information and brochure
Tel: 01869 244740 or email: Janmikedawes@aol.com

200 Club Lottery Recent winners of the monthly 200 Club Langford Lottery have been:

	1st	2nd
Feb	71	51
Mar	49	74
Apr	33	98

The Lottery is drawn at the start of the monthly LVCA Meeting (2nd Monday of the month in the Community Hall at 8.15 pm). New subscribers are welcome and numbers cost £1 each. Forms are available from the School Office or Sharon Gray on 320224.

Talking Science

Free open afternoon (places limited) at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory:

Isis and Particle Physics

Wednesday 21 July 2004 1330—1630

(not suitable for children under 16, pregnant women or people fitted with pace-makers)

www.circ.ac.uk

Contact Emmas Gilgunn-Jones on 01235 445553 or e.l.gilgunn-jones@ccirc.ac.uk

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A step by step approach for electric & acoustic guitars

For further details

01869 324383

LANGFORD VILLAGE COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Community Centre may be hired for private or commercial use when it is not in use by Regular User Groups or the Langford Village Community Association (LVCA) Committee. The Centre may be hired from 9.00 am to 10.30 pm on Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu or from 9.00 am to 12.00 pm on Fri or Sat. The hiring should include time to set up and clear away. Ring **325353** for a message service on how to book.

HIRE CHARGES (as at April 2004)

	Non-Profit Making LVCA Affiliated	Non-Profit Making Non-LVCA Affiliated	Commercial
	£	£	£
Mon-Thu			
Hourly rate	15	10	6
Hourly rate for 8 or more regular bookings	12	8	5
Fri to Sun			
Hourly rate up to 6pm	15	10	6
Hourly rate for 8 or more regular bookings	12	8	5
Hourly rate after 6pm	15	12	12
All evening	75	60	60
All day and evening	150	120	100

COMMUNITY CENTRE REGULAR USERS

You or your children may wish to join one of our regular user sessions or book a vacant slots for your own group. The current regular users (subject to change) are as follows with contact phone numbers given (Bicester unless shown):

Toddlers—Monday & Friday 0930-1130 *01296 738528*
Seniors Group—alternate Mondays 1345-1545 *244351 or 320848*
Cubs—Monday 1800—2000 *322425*
LVCA Meeting—Monthly 2nd Monday 2015—2200 *241361*
Ballet — sessions Tuesday and Saturday (temporarily suspended) *810586*
Beavers—Tuesday 1800—1930 *322425*
American Square Dancing—Tuesday 2000—2200 *246455*
Post Natal Exercise—Wednesday 1000—1200 *253030*
WI—Monthly 1st Wednesday 1330—1530 325834
Bizz Kids Modern Dance—Wednesday 1600—1700 *01865 371194*
Aikido—Wednesday 2000—2200 *321375*
Childrens Movement to Music - Thursday 1000—1130 *340116*
Junior Karate—Thursday 1600—1800 *07734 933175 or 07792 012625*
Guides—Thursday 1930—2100 (subject to leader volunteers) *246346*
Brownies—Friday 1800—1930 (subject to leader volunteers) *246346*

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In a warm and friendly atmosphere

Monday	9.30-4.00
Tuesday	9.00-8.00
Wednesday	9.00-8.00
Thursday	9.00-8.00
Friday	9.00-8.00
Saturday	9.00-4.00

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ON 01869 322215
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Your home is at risk if you do not keep up payments on a mortgage or other loan secured on it.
Mortgage Code Registration No. 4999176.
Life assurance may be required by certain lenders
Consumer Credit Act Registered

Redwood House, Murdock Road
Bicester, Oxon 0X26 4PP
Tel: 01869 322215
Fax: 01869 3222258

Community Matters – LVCA Sub-Committee report.

As usual with your committee's efforts to improve life on Langford Village, some we win and some we have to keep nibbling away at! Some things are outside our control but others are within resident's abilities to improve life on the estate.

Post Office – Nightingale Place.

In spite of our request for Tesco Supermarkets, who have taken over our local mini-market, to incorporate a post office within their refurbishment of the store, they decided not to! It seems to be Tesco National policy not to be involved in post offices at all! On your behalf, I will again register our dissatisfaction with their decision and hope that they will reconsider installing a counter at some stage in the future.

Post Boxes.

After attempting to obtain a post box on Bicester Fields Farm, a new box has been planted at the end of Corncrake Way. We are still trying to get collection times notice plate added to this box. New Post office policy states they will not put a new post box within 500 meters of an existing one so we have now lost the chance for a box in the logical position on the paved area at the junction of Mallards Way and Grebe Road!

Adoption of Parts of the Estate.

In spite of numerous requests via our Councillors for a definitive map of what has and what has not been adopted on the estate, nothing has so far appeared. This means that some of the services on Langford side have not been adopted and many parts of BFF are not adopted.

When the issue was raised at the Town Meeting on March 22nd, the Town Clerk informed us that the Linear Park has now been adopted. This means that we can get all those lighting columns working at last after all the arguments about whose responsibility it was to deal with them!

Traffic Congestion on the A41 Roundabout.

At the same Town meeting, Councillor Charles Shouler stated that he is working with the Highway Authority to investigate how the congestion can be reduced at this roundabout.

It was recognised that part of the problem recently has been the closure of the route through Launton Village. With this reopened the traffic situation at the A41 roundabout has improved. This roundabout and the A41 road towards Tesco is in the Draft Local Plan for improvement but not for many years yet. At least the housing returning to the South West option will assist with this problem as the western ring road should be completed and the potential traffic from 1020 houses will not be directed to the current bottleneck of our A41 roundabout. The improvements to the Tesco roundabout area will also help with traffic flow away from Bicester.

Land to the North of Gavray Drive.

You will have already seen the history of this site in the Langford Life Extra edition No 43. Since then, we have attended local and district Council meetings trying to get those Councillors in favour of allocating an industrial site to the edge of our estate to change their minds. The Councillors explanation that they have to put the industry somewhere and that it is to be high technology on Gavray Drive does not stand scrutiny.

Having lost the airfield for mass housing development, the Councillors seem to have completely dismissed any further use for the airfield site. The Technical buildings could be reused for high technology industries without compromising the heritage responsibilities and Gavray Drive could then be residential.

The latest planning applications shows the 60 bed care home proposed for the Gavray Drive site is now on the corner of Middleton Stoney Road and Oxford Road. This is the land originally allocated for the Bicester town Hospital before the Council changed to the airfield option. When that decision was taken the Hospital had to be crammed into the car park of the existing hospital. Now the South west is back to urban development, the council have relocated the care home rather than the hospital.

With industry on the Gavray site, we have lost the urgently needed Primary School!

Look for the Gallaghers advert which offers a consultation session on this.

Although councillors have now approved the revised local plan, it is expected there will be a public enquiry next year.

Claypits / ex OCC Highways Site.

LVCA have been aware of the intention for residential allocation for this site, but it is only recently that a draft development brief has been made available. Working with the residents of Parkland Place, we have agreed that the proposal to gain access to the proposed development via Wren Close is totally unacceptable! Representations have been made, on behalf of the residents, to CDC objecting to this part of the draft development brief. One of the items within this document states that the "built frontages should generally be unbroken but the massing should not create monolithic structures". This is rather amusing as the block of flats destined to be built on the Jubilee Garage site is shown as a 4 storey monolithic block!

Jubilee Garage Site.

Despite numerous attempts to learn more about the proposed four storey block of flats destined for this site, no firm details have been forthcoming from our Councillors. We have pointed out to the Town Councillors that this development does not appear on any of the Draft Local Plans for the Bicester area but to no avail. The site is shown on the Claypits / OCC draft development brief as one of the suggested access routes to that development and the LVCA consider that this is the only practical entrance to both sites. The Claypits / OCC Highways draft development plan states that these buildings will "not dominate the buildings in the vicinity" and yet the suggested 4 storey block planned for the Jubilee Garage site will definitely dominate the whole area!

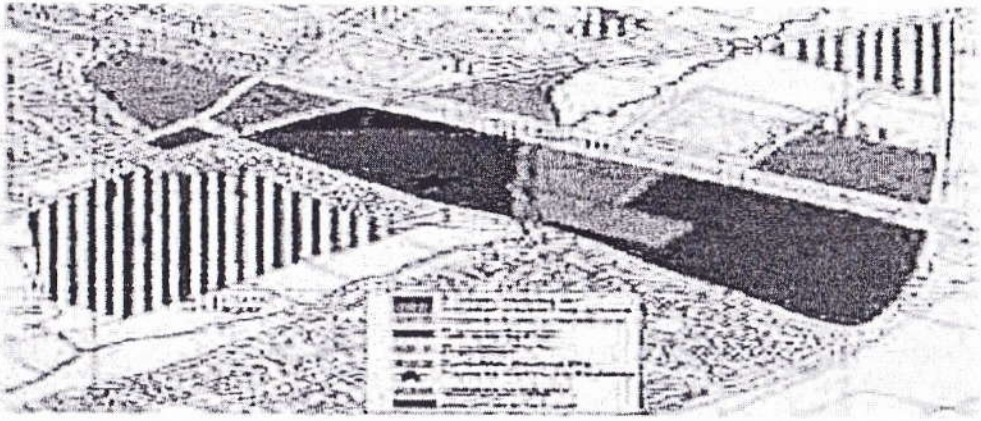
This monolithic tower block will have 56, two bedroom dwellings on a 0.5 hectare site! This will be the tallest building in Bicester and will dominate the London Road and the views from Langford Village. What with the Mars building to the North and this tower block to the South, the estate is being condemned to views of high rise walls!

Sports Pavilion

Although this proposed pavilion is within the Langford Estate, LVCA has not been not been consulted on its design or management. We have previously viewed the design and considered that in general it did try to incorporate all aspects of its potential use. Recently, however, we have heard that some modifications have been made but that the councillors have decided it was not necessary to inform LVCA of what these were or why they were required!

GALLAGHER
ESTATES

GAVRAY DRIVE BICESTER



YOU ARE INVITED

to a

COMMUNITY PLANNING DROP-IN EVENT

on

SATURDAY 5TH JUNE 2004

Between 1pm and 6pm

at the LANGFORD VILLAGE COMMUNITY HALL

Members of the team will be present

to answer your questions

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS

about the Housing proposals for the site

EVERYONE IS VERY WELCOME TO JOIN US
FOR SOME OR ALL OF THE AFTERNOON

www.communique-pr.uk.com
COMMUNIQUÉ

Litter.

Maybe I should write this in bigger letters – LITTER!

Litter is material discarded in an inappropriate manner by individuals. These individuals would not allow this material to be left in their own houses so why should they think they should mess up the local area by just dropping their drinks cans / bottles and sweet wrappers as they walk around the estate. Bins are provided at convenient places and so there is no excuse for not using them. Does it really need education to state the obvious or is it that these people are just blind to the mess they are making of their own living area? The estate is an extension of people's own house, so treat it with the respect it deserves!

LVCA requested that the council carry out a litter collection blitz prior to the leaves appearing on the bushes to make collection easier. Has this happened?

Speeding

Why this subject has to keep appearing in the newsletter is appalling! The worst culprits are you, the local residents as you hurtle through your own parts of the estate! If you have children you will be the first to complain about other motorists driving at an inappropriate speed past your property, so don't do it yourself! If you are late for an appointment or for work, going faster through the estate may make you feel like you are catching up on time but you actually save only seconds. If you are late, after you have caused anger to your neighbours by speeding and maybe struck a child, you are still late! The only answer is to set off earlier.

A child was recently nearly knocked down on Mallards Way!

Those of you living on Bicester Fields Farm Estate may not be aware that the roads are designed for a maximum speed of 20mph. The area has been laid out to identify the area as primarily residential where motor vehicles are tolerated but not dominant. This is why the junctions are not marked with priorities but have paved areas to suggest to drivers that this is an area for extra caution. Chicanes and necking sections are there to ensure your speed is lower than 20mph and pedestrians will have the right of way not vehicles.

All of Langford Village has a high density of housing where the motor vehicle is a potential hazard. The drivers of these vehicles, and that is all of us, need to remember that until you leave the estate pedestrians come first and so keep your speed very low!

John L Broad

Come-Together Festival

Come-Together is a **FREE** Community Festival with a fantastic mix of live music, stalls and arts, set in the beautiful riverside venue of Henley-on-Thames.

Organisers are currently looking for Performers, Stall Holders, and Volunteers from across Oxfordshire for their 3rd annual event on Sat 17th July 2004.

The main aim of Come Together is to provide people from all walks of life with 'fun for free' and to inspire them to try new things. It also acts as a showcase for local talent as all bands and workshop leaders are sourced from the locality. All participants, from the organising committee to the bands and stewards on the day, give their skills and time for FREE!

For more info on how to get involved visit: www.come-together.org.uk or phone Saan on 07979 664 883.

Jo-Anne's School of Dancing

♬ BALLET ♬ TAP ♬

♬ THEATRE CRAFT ♬ FOR FUN ♬

♬ IDTA SYLLABUS EXAMS ♬ SHOWS ♬

Classes in Ballet, Tap & Theatre Craft take place at Langford Village Community Centre, Bicester.

For children aged 3 years upwards.

Please call Jo Lester on 01869 810586 for more information

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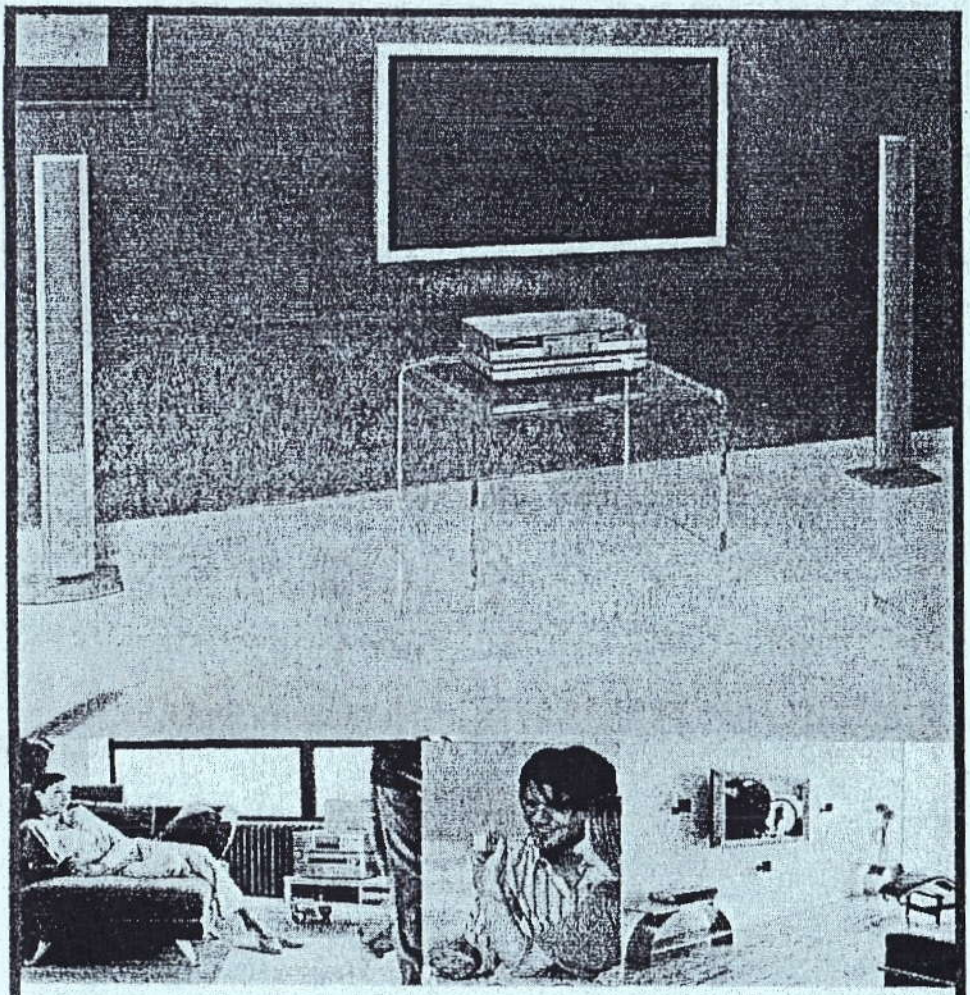

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