

## NOTICEBOARD

### RAL Notices

RAL lectures  
All lectures are held in the Pickavance Lecture Theatre at 3pm.

28 Jan  
Visitors from outer space  
Dr Monica Grady, Natural History Museum

Missing equipment  
Pye/Philips FM3355 oscilloscope Sn. D003395 RAL 39582 and a pneumatic vacuum cleaner WVD 575 CV15255 Sn.M0A1323 RAL 25555, both missing from R25HDL area. Contact Alan Hopgood on ext. 6633 or email ad2@e.rl.ac.uk.

Marjorie Prior  
We regretfully report the death of Marjorie Prior on 28 December 96.

Marjorie had worked at RAL for a little over 32 years and was well known and respected by a great many people in the Laboratory. For the last four years Marjorie had worked as a Messenger covering many of the rounds on site, but before joining General Administration, she had spent several years in the ISIS Administration Office generally looking after the staff and users and even, we believe, cooking the Administration Officer's breakfast on a number of occasions. Marjorie was initially employed as a domestic worker in what was then the R9 messroom.

Marjorie lived in Harwell village and for many years cared for her parents and an elderly couple who lived next door. She will be sadly missed.

### DL Notices

Daresbury lectures  
All lectures will be held in the Merrison Lecture Theatre at 2pm.

1 February  
Prospects for Group IV nanostructures  
Professor Sue Bayliss, De Montfort University, Leicester

DCL seminars  
All seminars are held in Conference Room 1 at 2pm unless otherwise stated.

19 January  
Scanning tunnelling microscopy of the TiO<sub>2</sub>(110) surface: Solid-gas reaction dynamics and the thermal treatment of metal nano-particles  
Dr R Bennett, University of Reading

26 January  
Parallel R-Matrix Propagators  
Dr A Sunderland, DL

2 February  
Title to be announced  
Dr AC Jenkins, DL

## STOP PRESS: New Year's Honours

Congratulations to John Spencer who was awarded an MBE in this year's honours. John works in the Millimetre Technology Group at RAL. Also honoured were John Krebs, Chief Executive of NERC and Nobel prize-winning John Walker who both received a Knight Bachelor. The DTI's Mitchell Scholar received a KCB.

Articles, ideas and letters are very welcome!  
Articles to the Editor or Correspondent by 15th of the month.

LABNEWS is published by Press and Public Relations and printed by Photographic & Reprographic Services

Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Chilton, DIDCOT, Oxon OX11 1RX  
Tel: (01235) 46464 Fax: (01235) 46665  
Daresbury Laboratory, Warrington, WARRINGTON, Cheshire, WA4 4AD  
Tel: (01273) 62469 Fax: (01273) 62395

Editor: Nadine Bealing (Tel: RAL ext. 5494, e-mail: nadinebealing@e.rl.ac.uk)  
Corresponding: Jim Wilson (Tel: DL ext. 3253, e-mail: jim.wilson@dl.rl.ac.uk)

# LAB NEWS

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Fact finding visits	2	Letter to the Editor	3	Retirements	5
Snooker success	2	RRR and R	4	Snippets	6/7
New instrument for ISIS	3	RAL Computing Training	4/5	Noticeboard	8

## Royal visit to RAL

**H**RH The Duke of Kent visited Rutherford Appleton Laboratory on 10 December during a day in Oxfordshire. The Duke arrived at ISIS where he was met by Bert Westwood and introduced to Andrew Taylor who led a brief tour around the facility including the new E3M instrument, MAFS.

After leaving ISIS The Duke of Kent donned a cleanroom outfit to visit the Vulcan target area in the Central Laser Facility before proceeding to Space Science Department to hear about SOHO and A1SR.

Lunch with the Directors followed the tour where The Duke was

presented with a framed photograph of the Sun surrounded by data taken by CDS (one of the instruments onboard SOHO).

Andrew Taylor commented after the tour of ISIS, "I was impressed how up-to-date and informed The Duke was about scientific and technical matters. In turn, he was impressed to hear how ISIS is a world leader which other nations are now striving to copy".



(98RC5862)



(98RC5860)



(98RC5852)



(98RC5883)



CLRC

COUNCIL FOR THE CENTRAL LABORATORY OF THE RESEARCH COUNCILS

## Fact finding visits

Lord Thomas of Macclesfield, Chairman of the newly-formed North-West Regional Development Agency, visited the Synchrotron Radiation Department at Daresbury Laboratory on 27 November.

He proclaimed himself - 'despite his background as a banker' - fascinated to see the technology and the wide range of interesting science performed with SR. He was especially



Lord Thomas of Macclesfield with David Norman in front of the 'DIAMOND at Daresbury' poster (DL 98/128/14)



Lord Thomas of Macclesfield (left) with David Norman (DL98/128/3)

been to do whatever he could to ensure that DIAMOND is built at Daresbury, and to capitalise on its potential as an 'inward attractor' for investment in the region.

A similar visit to RAL took place in December by the Chairman of the South East England Development Agency, Mr Allan Willett. The nine new agencies have been set up to integrate economic development.

Daresbury Laboratory hosted another important visitor in December: The Minister for Science, Lord Sainsbury, visited on 18 December. The visit was arranged to give him the opportunity to learn about the Laboratory and particularly about the SRS and the work it supports.



Bridget Murphy explains the mechanisms of operation of F-ATPase in the Science Minister, Lord Sainsbury, in the background is Tony Quigley from OST (DL99/128)

Accompanied by two local MPs, Mike Hall and Derek Twigg, Lord Sainsbury met with senior staff and toured the SRS.

## Stephenson's snooker success

The final of the 1998 snooker singles competition was played recently at RAL. The right to the Paul Williams Tankard was fought over three close frames. The eventual winner was Richard Stephenson, after Richard Bishop had taken the second frame to make it all square and set up an exciting finish to the competition.

A further singles competition is being considered for the New Year - anyone interested in taking part or joining the snooker group should contact David Farrell on ext. 5935.



Paul Williams presented the prizes to Richard Stephenson (centre) and Richard Bishop (left) on a recent visit to the Laboratory (98RC5789)

## New instrument for ISIS

Professor Lucio Bianco, President CNR (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche - the Italian National Research Council which promotes and coordinates scientific research) officially inaugurated Tosca, a new instrument on 15/12, in December.

Tosca was funded by the CNR with a major contribution coming from the Higher Education Funding Council for England through the Government's Joint Research Equipment Initiative in collaboration with the University of Kent at Canterbury.

Tosca will be used by scientists who want to discover how the atomic structure of materials affects their characteristics. Even as the ceremony was taking place scientists led by Dr Philip Mitchell from the Chemistry Department of the University of Reading, were continuing their experiment on catalysis, substances that speed up a chemical reaction without being changed in the process.

Dr Mitchell's team - Dr Nikki Price and David James - is investigating catalysis used in the manufacture of plastics in collaboration with Professor Mike Bowker at Reading. Catalysis are extremely important in the chemical industry and it is essential to understand how they work. 'Neutrons provide us with a unique means of probing the surface chemistry of the catalyst', Dr Mitchell explained. 'Tosca will enable us to get more results in a shorter time,

with greater accuracy'. Professor Bob Newport, head of the School of Physical Sciences at the University of Kent at Canterbury, uses the new instrument to investigate wear-resistant protective coatings, such as those found on the lenses of some watches or with potential in the field of medicine for a range of implants.

His team is also investigating novel glass materials made by the so-called route which allows metal atoms to be incorporated into these new materials. 'Tosca is a major part of our research strategy in this context when we understand why the material behaves as it does, we might be able to improve its use in an anti-reflective coating for optical lenses, or its use as a support material for chemical catalysis', he explains.



Andrew Taylor (left) and Bert Westwood (right) with Professor Lucio Bianco, President CNR, drink a toast to the newly inaugurated Tosca instrument (98RC5659)

Dear friends  
My wife and I were overwhelmed by the amazing send-off that you gave us on the occasion of my retirement. We wish to thank each and every one of you for the sentiments expressed and the wonderful gifts that we received. They will forever remain treasured possessions. (with the possible exception of the wine which may prove too much of a temptation!).

With my apologies to all those friends I was unable to see personally, please accept my heartfelt thanks for the privilege of knowing and working with you all. Sincerely yours,  
Norman Thomason



# Romance, rum, rhythm and running

**A** visit to the Caribbean island of Barbados might bring to mind a vision of sun, sea, sand and sex - not so, as DL's Pete Weatherhead recently discovered ...

Pete travelled to Barbados a few days after representing the Laboratory in the national CSCC cross-country championships at Birmingham (where he won two medals). He was a member of a Great Britain Veterans team guesting in the Northern and Central Caribbean athletics championships. An ambitious plan to run three races in four days nearly fell apart before it had begun, as Pete had sustained a thigh injury at Birmingham. Rising at 4.30 am on the opening day of the championship to run in the 8 km cross-country, he could have been forgiven for thinking he was on an early turn at work! Even at 7am the temperature was well into the 70's and combined with a tough, hilly course, served only to further aggravate his



injury, but despite all this Pete went on to win the gold medal in his category. Nearly three days of intense injury prevention and rest followed, allowing Pete to run in the 5 km track race on the Saturday evening. Held in the national stadium North of the capital, Bridgetown, Pete ran calmly and even-paced gaining a second gold medal.

On the final day (Sunday) Pete lined up for the 10 km road race held just after a violent storm. The hilly route and humidity necessitated five water stations during the run. Despite being knocked off the road by a fiercely-struck football when approaching the stadium, Pete completed a highly successful championships by winning his third gold medal.

The British team (all civil servants) performed brilliantly, with everyone winning a medal of some description; their ability, dedication and success was further reflected by the fact that each athlete had to fund the trip personally.

# RAL Computing Training

## What is new in Office 97 - Office97 upgrade

As PC users will know, a number of upgrades to their machines have been taking place including the installation of various Y2K fixes. In addition Office 97 will soon be installed on machines. Staff will notice some differences in functionality when converting to Office 97 from their existing software. RAL Computing, Training plans to hold a number of events which will give users an overview of Office 97 covering WORD, PowerPoint, Excel and Access, showing where the differences are and explaining the added functionality. The events will be demand-driven and will generally consist of a seminar for a small number for about one and a half hours

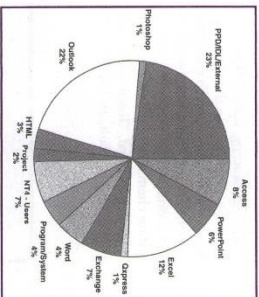
followed by individual help provided by CLEO and our trainers in offices. We are very flexible in how these training events will be designed and so would appreciate your input. Group Leaders should contact me if they are interested in group training events tailored to the needs of their staff.

## WORD 97

Going further with WORD97 will cover the new functionality in more detail plus hints and tricks and add to the skills acquired in more introductory courses.

## Some statistics

RAL computing training ran 77 courses covering 527 staff training days between April and December last



year. The pie chart shows how this breaks down in terms of courses run. We try to be as responsive as we can to the training needs of staff and also introduce new courses as new software becomes supported. If you think that there are courses which we should add to our programme or if your work group has any special training needs then please get in touch. We would also be pleased to hear from you on the training we provide and how it might be added to or improved.

## Viv Walker

Viv many of you will know as your first contact with RAL Computing Training, retired in December. She was at RAL for nearly 35 years and was a member of our team for four years. We wish her a long and happy retirement. For information on the courses, dates, contacts and facilities please see the our web pages: <http://admin-www.ral.ac.uk/admin/> [http://admin-www.ral.ac.uk/admin/training/ral\\_computing](http://admin-www.ral.ac.uk/admin/training/ral_computing)

## PC Microsoft Office hints and tips

Did you know that...

**In Outlook**, to see another user's calendar, switch to your calendar folder and choose: File, Open, other user's folder

**In Outlook**, to check names in emails and meetings invitations: Control + K in Word, Excel and PowerPoint, move to the top of your document: Control + Home

**In Word**, select all the text in your document: Control + A

**In Word and Excel**, open several files simultaneously: Control + click

## Course dates

JANUARY	
11-15	Introduction to C Programming
18-20	Introduction to Perl
25 (am)	Converting to Outlook
25 (pm)	Going further with Outlook
26	Excel for new users
27	Word for new users
28	Advanced Word
FEBRUARY	
1	HTML and Web page design
2 (am)	Email with Outlook
2 (pm)	Going further with Outlook
3	Going further with Excel
4	Going further with Word
8-9	Access for new users
10 (am)	Converting to Outlook
10 (pm)	Calendar with Outlook
11	NT4 for new users

Look out for the next computing training update in April.

Susan Hilton  
Department for Computation and Information  
[S.C.Hilton@ral.ac.uk](mailto:S.C.Hilton@ral.ac.uk)  
ext. 6154

# Retirements

## Brian Prior

Brian retired from the Laboratory on 30 November 1998 after a working career spanning 44 years. An ex-Harwell apprentice, Brian spent all his working life between the two sites, joining RAL in 1964 as an electrician and eventually becoming an HPTO in site services.

A man of many interests he seems to have put his toe into most waters. Football refereeing, motor cycling, aeroplane modelling, renovating artefacts and old jeeps, searching and digging for aircraft brought down in the second World War and supplying vehicles for movie props ... the list goes on and we haven't mentioned his interests in the American Air Force Veteran Associations of which he is an associate and attends regular reunions. How did he find time to work?

At a farewell reception in the Rec Soc Brian's colleagues presented him with a cordless drill, a combined Mike Anthony / R12 workshop clock and a



Ken Brownfield (right) presents Brian with the clock and plaque (98RC5672)

plaque, and a Ray Roberts card depicting his own version of a 'life of Brian'. Brian's wife Norma was presented with a bouquet of flowers and awaits her turn to retire from the Laboratory.

## Eric Collie

Eric Collie retired from RAL in November after 33 years service as a mechanical craftsman. During his time at the Laboratory Eric worked in the R9, R12 and R34 mechanical workshops, with time spent on large projects such as the DELPHI coil and MUON drift chambers. His last posting in the ISIS workshop in R6 was spent giving valuable mechanical and machining support to beamline scientists and users.

John Tomkinson, who made the presentation, thanked Eric for his years of service to the Laboratory, especially the work supporting the ISIS beamlines. He presented Eric with a mobile phone, portable CD player, a Ray Roberts card and a bouquet of flowers for his partner, Pat.

Eric thanked everybody for the presents and said he felt he was not ready to retire, but would spend some



John Tomkinson presents Eric (left) with his card (98RC5439)

of his extra time at home on his hobbies (ballroom dancing and bowls), as well as catching up with some DIY jobs.

SNIPPETS

Congratulations...  
to George Kaliturnu who has been appointed as Chairman of the CERN Scientific Policy Committee for one year from 1 January 1999 by the CERN Council.

Science and Technology Media Fellowships '99

Media fellowships offer professional scientists and engineers of any discipline first hand experience of how the media works. In previous years placements have ranged from national papers (The Guardian) to television, radio and magazines (Tomorrow's World, BBC Radio Science Unit and New Scientist).

Fellows will take a full role in the news-making process leaving them better equipped to communicate science to a variety of audiences. The deadline for applications for the 4-8 week summer placement is 31 March. For further information or an application form contact:  
The British Association, 23 Savile Row, London, W1X 2NB  
Tel: 0171 975 3069/3070  
<Mkcentral.gulp@brhassoc.org.uk>  
www.brhassoc.org.uk

Little Stars

Children from the Little Stars Nursery dressed up and presented parents with their own special version of the Nativity Play. This is the Star on 18 December. Pictured (left to right) are Rachael Elock, Ella Hankins, Joseph McCall and Emma Peacock (98RC0487)



New chairmen  
Dr Robert Hawley, CBE FRSE FEng is to succeed Sir Peter Williams as chairman of the EPSRC Council.

Dr Hawley is currently chairman of the DTI's Hawley Committee on corporate governance of information and information systems, a member of the DTI's industrial development advisory board and president of Partnership Korea. He is also non-executive chairman of Rotork and INBS and a director of Tricorder Technology and the Electricity Association.

EPSRC have also announced a new chairman, Professor Anthony Ledwith CBE FRSE has a Chair at Sheffield University and is Head of its Chemistry Department. He was elected President of the Royal Society of Chemistry in 1998 and acts as a consultant to Pilkington, the glass-making company from which he retired as Head of Group Research in 1996. He is a former Council member of EPSRC and was the first chairman of the User Panel, a body of mainly industrialists which advises the chief executive and Council on future research and development requirements.

Both men take up their three year appointments on 1 April 1999.

Institute of Physics Awards 1999  
The Institute of Physics has announced its 1999 awards to 11 individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the development, management, understanding and communication of physics world-wide. Former Space Science Director, John Harris, Professor Froyd/MSoc Chrys First, Professor of Earth Observation in the Department of Physics, Imperial College, London, wins the Charles Chree Medal for his 'distinguished contributions over thirty years of work at the National Physical Laboratory and RAL, to the infrared spectroscopic studies of the Earth's atmosphere and climate change. In particular, his work has enhanced our understanding of the concentrations, spatial distributions and transport properties of water vapour, ozone and trace species of stratospheric chemistry. He has also

developed novel experimental techniques and sensitive detectors allowing global measurements to be made by satellites".

Dr Charles Chree a president of the former Physical Society between 1908 and 1910 had a particular interest in terrestrial magnetism, atmospheric electricity and related subjects. The silver medal named after him is awarded in odd dated years for distinguished research in one or more of these fields and is accompanied by a prize of £500.

Spreading the good news  
"Three things - preparation, preparation and preparation". This was one response to the standard question "What have you learnt on this course?", often asked just before everyone dashes off back to their offices and their email messages. The course in question is Media Skills for Senior Managers which CLRC Training section organises and pays for, and which is run by JTS (Joint Training Section) in Swindon. As the press officer I sit in on these courses and learn something new each time. And I don't have fun!

I don't know what the response from an average course is, but the response from the first three of these courses was extremely good, with all attendees on the last one giving every element top marks.

The course covers all aspects of communication with the media, from a presentation at a press conference through drafting a news release to an interview on radio or TV. To add authenticity the course is held at the Central News TV studios in Abingdon and the interviews all take place in the studio. Wesley Smith, founder presenter of Central News and a familiar face to anyone who watches Central for their early evening news, carries out these interviews. Wesley is great at putting everyone at their ease, but will also ask that slightly awkward question which keeps everyone on their toes; the feedback from him and everyone else on the course is invaluable.

The knack for effective communication with the media is

simple. The first thing is to think of your audience and choose appropriate messages (only time for one or two in a short interview). They need to be simple, and need good, simple examples and analogies to bring each message to life. It is very important to leave your audience with images - this is especially true of radio - and the choice of analogies is most important, especially when the news is fairly technical. This sounds easy, but requires quite a bit of thought, and lots of preparation. Which is where we started ...

If your project is likely to be in the public eye in the next year or two, and you would be the person nominated to talk to the media when the project became newsworthy, this course is worth attending. Contact Training section (RAL ext. 5361 or 6285) or DL ext. 3720) or talk to Jacky Hutchinson, CLRC Press Officer (RAL ext. 6482) for more information on this, and other media communications courses. If there is sufficient interest at DL we can look into the possibility of running this course nearer to home.

Safety snippets  
RAL Health and Safety Group (HSG) point out two items of particular concern this month:

Grind wheels are hazardous tools. Only staff with appropriate training should use them. Recent inspections have discovered a couple of grind wheels clogged by pencil lead and aluminium. Such mal-treated wheels can become overheated and explode or disintegrate.

Approximately 200 chairs at RAL have been found to have stress fractures in their arms. The faulty arms have now been replaced. DL have also had a batch of chairs, from a different manufacturer, with faulty backs. Please report any similar problems immediately to HSG on ext. 6249.

Surfing the skies  
A former cosmology student has unveiled plans for a 3 metre telescope which is intended for use by pupils at British schools. Dr Dill Faulkes' telescope will be built on the Hawaiian island of Maui and will be run by

SNIPPETS



RAL's Procurement Group got into the spirit of things for their Christmas party by dressing in 'bad taste'. Thanking you, the full colour version!

astronomers based at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich.  
Pupils will access the telescope via the Internet to gather pictures and data about the universe. The telescope which has a light-collecting mirror two metres in diameter will be the world's largest telescope for educational use. First light is expected in 2001.

Research Forum  
Space Science Department held a one-day Research Forum, with staff giving brief presentations on a wide variety of research topics. These included Astronomy, Solar and Planetary Science, Earth Observation and Atmospheric Chemistry.

Richard Holdaway said after the event, "The standard of both the research and the presentations was outstanding (as excellent as that given at any 5 star University Department). This type of event gives all our staff the opportunity to hear more about the research work going on in their own department, and it also gives a wide range of staff the opportunity to present their work to their colleagues and peers. We will now make this an annual event and next year we will invite other departments to come along and listen."

IOF meeting  
The Institute of Physics Quantum Electronics Group organised a half-day meeting at RAL on 9 December 1998 to discuss the present status of a number of ultra-high peak power laser systems. The programme of talks by CLF staff and visitors from LLUL, France and Imperial College covered a wide range of laser types, illustrating both the similarities and differences between them. The meeting appealed to scientists with a broad range of interests and attracted 35 delegates.

TOY SHOP Wordsearch - Solution

